

BARN AT BROAD CORNER
BLACKWELL ROAD
BARNT GREEN
WORCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING 2017

WSM 68381



Hislop Heritage Services

For

AJ Archaeology

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**Barn at Broad Corner
Blackwell Road
Barnt Green
Worcestershire**

Archaeological Building Investigation and Recording 2017

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SUMMARY

In December 2016 Hislop Heritage Services was commissioned to undertake an archaeological building investigation and record of a farm building at Broad Corner, Barnt Green, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9998 7216) in order to discharge a condition of planning consent for conversion to residential use. The building is part of a farm complex, known historically as the Sidnalls, the origins of which are to be found in a thirteenth-century monastic grange. The building defines the south side of a foldyard and consists of an east–west aligned range, which was probably built to accommodate cattle, and a north-east cart-shed wing.

Much of the brick shell of the main range dates from the eighteenth century, but there are several subsequent phases, ranging in date from the mid nineteenth to mid twentieth century, which have involved a considerable amount of rebuilding and internal remodelling; this has resulted in difficulties of interpretation as to the changing function of the building, and has lessened its historic significance. In all, six structural phases have been identified, and the present character of the building owes most to the nineteenth century.

Despite being comparatively early in origin, the current building is undistinguished in appearance and architectural quality, and, with the possible exception of the cartshed, is neither a good nor rare example of a particular building type. Nor, owing to the intangible nature of the evidence, is it very instructive in reflecting economic or social change. Its main interest lies in being a sympathetic component of the wider farm complex and in its vernacular aspects, notably, the early brickwork and the mid nineteenth-century cart-shed roof structure which retains aspects of a long standing carpentry tradition; the later nineteenth-century roof structure of the main range provides a lesser point of interest in being a well-preserved example of a widely used structural type.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Project

1.1.1 In December 2016 Hislop Heritage Services was commissioned by AJ Archaeology to undertake the archaeological investigation and recording of a farm building at Broad Corner, Barnt Green, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9998 7216) in order to discharge a condition of planning consent for the conversion of the property to residential use (Bromsgrove District Council application 16/0879). The recording was made according to a written scheme of investigation (Hislop Heritage Services 2016, Appendix 1), which was based on a brief issued by the Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service. The brief stipulated a Level 2 record, as defined by Historic England in *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (Historic England 2016). The project adhered to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (CIfA 2014a) and *Code of Conduct* (2014b).

1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 Broad Corner is on the east side of Blackwell Road, approximately ½ mile east of the village of Blackwell, in the civil parish of Tutnall and Cobley, Worcestershire, which parish was formerly a township of the parish of Tardebigge (Figure 1). The building that is the subject of this report forms part of a farmstead known historically as the Sidnalls (Sidenhale, Sydenhale, Sydnalle, Sydnall, Sydnalls, Sidnals), and is situated at NGR SO 9998 7216.

1.2.2 The farm complex is situated on an eminence above Blackwell Road and is arranged around a foldyard with the farmhouse to the west facing towards the thoroughfare. The building that is the subject of this report defines the southern side of the foldyard (Figure 2).

1.3 Designations

1.3.1 The farm building is an undesignated heritage asset, appearing in the Historic Environment Record (HER) as WSM 55123: 'Outbuilding at the Sidnalls (Sidnals), Tutnall and Cobley' (Figure 3), and forming part of a farmstead also listed on the HER (WSM 62773). Two other buildings at the Sidnalls are also listed on the HER; these are the adjacent farmhouse (WSM 01935) and a stable (WSM 30734). The farmstead is also described as a 'clustered settlement' (HWR9427) in the Historic Landscape Characterisation (Figure 4).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 To obtain a record of building equivalent to Level 2 as defined by Historic England in *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (2016).

1.4.2 To identify and record the developmental history, visual and structural character, date, functions of the building and record its general setting/context through

photographs, written description and measured survey drawings. To record evidence for fixtures, fittings and phase changes within the structure.

1.4.3 To produce a high quality archive suitable for long-term deposition in order to preserve the building by record in its current form prior to alteration.

1.4.4 To secure appropriate reporting and publication of the results.

1.5 Methodology

Documentary Search

1.5.1 Prior to the fieldwork being carried out searches were conducted of the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) and relevant and readily available published and unpublished documentary source material held by Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service and other relevant repositories as appropriate. Information garnered was used to inform the interpretation process during the recording of the building.

Building Recording

1.5.2 Making use of existing architectural drawings, a measured survey was compiled comprising floor plans, all exterior elevations and two full-height cross-sections. The existing drawings were checked for accuracy and annotated with archaeological detail, including evidence for phasing. Architectural details that could not be adequately recorded by photography alone were drawn to scale by hand.

1.5.3 A photographic survey was undertaken, comprising 35mm monochrome print photography using Ilford HP5 (ISO 400) film. A standard 50mm lens was used supplemented by wide angle or long distance lenses as appropriate. The survey included general and detail shots, and contextual views. For internal and low-light shots the camera was mounted on a tripod and/or artificial lighting was employed where necessary. Where possible, photographs included graded photographic scales. All photographs were recorded on pro-forma recording sheets detailing subject, orientation, scales included, photographer and date.

1.5.4 An analytical written description was prepared to supplement the drawn and photographic record, summarising context, feature, materials and date.

2 HISTORY

2.1 Historical Summary

2.1.1 The historical name of the property is ‘The Sidnalls’, which is probably derived from the Old English *sidanheale* meaning ‘broad corner of land’ (Hanks *et al.* 2016).

2.1.2 The estate was in existence by the thirteenth century when the grange of ‘Sydenhale’ was added to the royal forest of Feckenham by Henry III (Dickins 1931, 7). In the early fourteenth century the grange of ‘Sidenhale’ was acquired by Bordesley Abbey

(Dickins 1931, 189), and in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1535, the ‘farm of the manor or grange called Sydenhale’, then held by an Abbey tenant, was valued at £6. 4s. 0d. (Dickins 1931, 27–28).

- 2.1.3 In 1528 Robert Tybbot came into possession of a ‘meadow called Sydnalle’ (Dickins 138), and in 1533 John Mens (Menske) obtained ‘A parcel of land called Sydnalles except le nether Sydnalles, a close extending by the common way to the watering place which close is excepted out of le myddle Sydnalles’ (Dickins 1931, 136). In 1535 Thomas Paitwyn held Sydnall Grange with all lands belonging to it, and in 1550 also had the herbage of Sydnall Grove (Dickins 1931, 170).
- 2.1.4 At the Dissolution, the lands of Bordesley Abbey, including the Sidnalls, which was part of the manor of Tardebigge, were surrendered to the king, and in 1542 came into the possession of Andrew Lord Windsor (Willis-Bund 1913). His descendants became earls of Plymouth and Tardebigge became part of the Plymouth Estate.
- 2.1.5 In 1639 a probate inventory relating to the property of Richard Payton (presumably a relative of Thomas Paitwyn) includes the lease of Sidnold Grange, which is described as ‘yet in being’ (Dickins 1931, 171). In a survey of the manor of Tardebigge undertaken in 1649, Sydnalls was valued at £50 (Dickins 1931, 51–2).
- 2.1.6 The present farmhouse was described as ‘new built’ in 1752 (Dickins 1931, 167), and in 1780 ‘a house and land called Sidnalls’ was held by John Moore, Gentleman, who had ‘seizin by rod’ (Dickins 1931, 167), indicating that he was a copyholder.
- 2.1.7 From 1833 the manor of Tardebigge was held by Robert Henry Clive through his wife, Lady Harriet Windsor, co-heiress to the Plymouth Estate, then in abeyance.
- 2.1.8 The name Sydnalls appears twice in the 1844 tithe apportionment for Tardebigge. Firstly, a long field called Sydnalls Meadow lay on the east side of Blackwell Road opposite Broad Corner, being shown on the tithe map as plot 1080 (Figures 5 and 6). Secondly, ‘Sydnalls Homestead’, which is shown on the tithe map as plot 1097, occupied the position of the present Broad Corner farm complex (although the buildings themselves are not depicted).
- 2.1.9 Both items were part of the tenancy of Jonathon Haynes, who appears in the 1841 census returns under Blackwell, where he is described as a farmer. Apart from his wife and four children there were three female and four male servants living in the same establishment, but there is no indication in the returns as to the occupants, if any, of the Sidnalls.
- 2.1.10 Jonathon Haynes is not listed in the 1851 census returns for Tutnall and Copley, and he had probably been replaced by John Mander, a farmer of 270 acres employing twelve labourers, who is listed at Blackwell Farm. Again, the Sidnalls are not mentioned by name.
- 2.1.11 Robert Henry Clive died in 1854, and in 1855 his widow, Lady Harriet Clive, now heiress of the Plymouth Estate, became Baroness Windsor. It was during her tenure (1855-69) that the farmhouse of the Sidnalls was converted into three worker’s cottages (Dickins 1931, 107). These cottages are identified in the census returns

from 1861 to 1911 when they were occupied mostly by farm workers and their families (See Appendix 2).

- 2.1.12 The buildings of the Sidnalls (spelt ‘Sidnals’) are first depicted on the Ordnance Survey First Edition 25 inch map of 1884 (Figures 7 and 8). All components of the building under investigation were in existence by that date with the possible exception of the buttresses against the south elevation.
- 2.1.13 In February 1901, John Holliday (75), a farm labourer living at the Sidnalls, ‘went into an adjacent stable and hung himself by attaching a rope to a beam’ (*Worcestershire Chronicle* 23 February 1901). This John Holliday was probably the father of Charles and Edward Holliday, who are listed in the 1901 census returns in separate establishments at the Sidnalls, and the husband of Elizabeth Holliday, widow, who was living with her son Edward (see Appendix 2).
- 2.1.14 In 1954, the Sidnalls was bought by a Mr and Mrs Amatt, who restored the cottages to a single dwelling. Tom and Judith Knowles bought the property in 1975 and it was taken over in the late 1980s by their daughter and son-in-law Philip and Roberta Matulijas (*Birmingham Evening Post* 26 January 2012).
- 2.1.15 The property was purchased by the present owners, Mr and Mrs Bromley, in 2014.

3 DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

3.1 General Characteristics

- 3.1.1 The buildings that make up the nucleated farmstead of the Sidnalls are arranged around a foldyard, the barn that is the subject of this report defining the southern side of the yard. It is aligned east north east to west south west facing west north west towards the fold yard, but for ease of understanding will be treated in the following description as though it is orientated east–west facing north.
- 3.1.2 The building comprises an east–west aligned stable range with a north–south aligned cart shed wing extending northwards from the east end of the north front. Primarily, this is a red-brick structure with plain tile roof, but it is immediately evident that there are several different phases of brickwork, and that it represents a much modified structure.

3.2 Exterior Description

North elevation (Figure 11)

- 3.2.1 The main range is to the right (west) with the slightly lower gabled cart-shed wing to the left (east) projecting from the range (Plate 1).
- 3.2.2 This elevation of the main range (Plate 2) is built of 9½ x 4¾ x 3 inch bricks of mid to late nineteenth-century date, laid to mixed garden bond and surmounted by two rows of headers. There are three doorways and two windows, all with pegged timber frames, and all apparently primary. The two outer entrances and the two windows are closed by vertical-board doors/shutters with strap hinges hung on pintles (Plate

3); the middle door is missing, but the frame and pintles survive. Most of the strap hinges are plain, and of later nineteenth-century or twentieth-century date. The exception is the left-hand (eastern) window, whose spear-head hinges may date from the eighteenth-century, and which are, therefore, re-used (Plate 4). At the right-hand (western) end of the elevation is a vertical joint in the brickwork extending from approximately 1.45m above ground level to the eaves (Plate 5). It may represent a former opening, but could equally be indicative of reconstruction of the north-west corner of the range.

- 3.2.3 This elevation of the cart-shed wing is devoid of brickwork and the front was formerly open beneath a chamfered and stopped tie beam, though it is now closed to the left (east) by late twentieth-century vertical boards, and to the right (west) by a late twentieth-century low gate. The gable is clad with weather boarding (Plate 6).

South elevation (Figure 12, Plate 7)

- 3.2.4 The contrast in brickwork between the north and south elevations is marked. Here the bricks are 9 x 4¼ x 2¼ inches, are less regular, are set within wider mortar joints, and although the bonding is not consistent throughout, perhaps indicating a degree of rebuilding, the principal pattern is English garden wall bond. The bricks themselves are earlier than those of the north front, and the main aspect of this elevation is not inconsistent with an eighteenth-century date, but it incorporates the north elevation feature of two header rows just below the eaves. Owing to the fall of the land from north to south, the south elevation stands on a high brick plinth, which is interspersed by a row of sandstone blocks. There are two late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century buttresses to the far right (east) and right of centre, and, between them, two inserted windows of late twentieth-century date. To the left-hand (west) side of the elevation are two inserted openings, also of twentieth-century date, set beneath timber lintels and now boarded over. The left-hand (western) one is a window and the right-hand one a wide doorway extending down to the top of the plinth.
- 3.2.5 Set back to the right (east) is part of the cart-shed wing with its sloping roof line.

East elevation (Figure 13a, Plate 8)

- 3.2.6 The east elevation comprises two main components: the gable end of the main range to the left (south) and, breaking forward from the line of the gable to the right (north), the lower and stratigraphically later side elevation of the cart shed.
- 3.2.7 The principal feature of the gable end is a segmental-arched cart entrance, now filled in with breeze blocks and two small windows. The other main characteristic is that the walling comprises a patchwork of brickwork styles. To the right (north) of the arch the bricks are 8½ x 4½ x 2½ inches with wide mortar joints laid to English garden wall bond, similar to the brickwork of the south wall. To the left (south), the corner of the building appears to have been rebuilt with similar bricks in stretcher bond. Above, extending over the arch are several tiers of bricks of more regular character measuring 9 x 2⅞ x 4⅜ inches and laid to mixed garden bond. Finally, the main part of the gable is built with lighter coloured late nineteenth- or early

twentieth-century bricks measuring 9 x 3 x 4³/₈ inches and also laid to mixed garden bond.

- 3.2.8 The dimensions of the cart-shed brick are 9 x 4¹/₂ x 3 inches; they are laid to stretcher bond and there are flat buttresses to the centre and right-hand (north) end, denoting the position of the roof trusses, and a cogged eaves band.

West elevation (Figure 13b, Plate 9)

- 3.2.9 The west gable end is blind, and consists of more than one phase, the main division being between the lower wall and the gable. The bricks of the lower wall measure 9¹/₄ x 4¹/₂ x 2¹/₄ inches and are laid principally to English garden wall bond, like their counterparts at the east end.
- 3.2.10 To the right (south), a possible former opening is indicated by vertical joints (the right-hand one obvious, the left-hand one more ragged) and a timber lintel (Plate 10), but there is no obvious correspondence on the interior face of the wall and interpretation of the anomaly is inconclusive. To the left (north), another vertical joint appears to represent the bond between the east wall and a rebuilt north elevation (Plate 11).
- 3.2.11 The gable bricks match those of the lower part of the eastern gable and are also laid to mixed garden bond.
- 3.2.12 In front of the main range, infilling a space between two walls that abut the east elevation, is a roofless single-storey brick-built structure comprising two cells each with its own external entrance. It probably dates from the mid twentieth century.

3.3 Interior Description

Ground floor (Figure 9)

Room G1

- 3.3.1 Room **G1** has a poured concrete floor and partially limewashed brick walls to the north, south and west. The eastern partition comprises two spur walls extending to tie beam level, and, between them, a much lower dwarf wall, above which is a secondary partition of vertical planks rising to and covering the tie beam of the roof truss; at the north end is a doorway, now blocked with horizontal planks (Plate 12). The north spur wall appears to be contemporary with the north wall, but the structural relationship between the south spur wall and the south wall is uncertain. The dwarf wall is structurally later than the south spur wall but uses bricks of similar character to the south wall, and may, therefore, be early.
- 3.3.2 In the south wall is the inserted window, and, to the left (east) of it, a hung slate on which is recorded the message: 'NO. 16\10 BORN\19/5/68'. The meaning has not been ascertained but it represents part of the history of the building and is recorded here for posterity as part of the archaeological record (Plate 13).

- 3.3.3 In the north wall is the primary window, the frame of which has chamfered jambs (Plate 14).
- 3.3.4 The roof truss is of king-post construction (Plate 15), the king-post being bolted to the tie beam. A pair of struts extends from the base of the king-post to the principal rafters, and the truss carries two pairs of purlins supported on cleats, and a plank ridge piece. All members are of machine-sawn timber and date from the late nineteenth-century.

Room G2

- 3.3.5 Room **G2** has a poured concrete floor and limewashed brick walls to the north and south. The partition with Room A to the west has already been described, but here the simple timber framework that supports the planks is visible. In the south wall is the inserted doorway and in the north wall the entrance from the foldyard (Plate 16).
- 3.3.6 The eastern partition comprises a pair of spur walls rising to the tie beam, and, between them, a slightly lower late twentieth-century breeze-block infill, at the north end of which is a doorway, now boarded over (Plate 17). Owing to obscuration by later cladding the relationship of the spur walls to the outer walls is uncertain. Above, the roof truss is identical to that already described under Room **G1** (Figure 14a; Plate 18).
- 3.3.7 Room **G2** has been partitioned in the later twentieth century by a low breeze-block wall that extends from north to south.

Room G3

- 3.3.8 Room **G3** also has a poured concrete floor and is divided by later twentieth-century low breeze-block walls. In this case they now form a central feed passage extending from north to south with two gated pens on each side (Plate 19). In the north wall are the entrance and window described under the north elevation, and, further to the east a wide blocked entrance only faintly discernible under the limewash but quite visible in Room **G4**. In the east wall, straddling the partition between pens, is the blocked cart entrance (Plate 20). The largely breeze-block west wall has already been described under Room **G2**; the doorway at its north end is blocked with horizontal planks (Plate 21).
- 3.3.9 Above this room is a secondary loft floor carried on a series of narrow machine-cut transverse joists. Access is via a fixed ladder through an open hatch over the north end of the feed passage.

Room G4

- 3.3.10 The cart shed contains a single room (**G4**). It has a poured concrete floor at two levels, stepping up towards the south. There are brick piers at each end and in the centre of the east and west walls.
- 3.3.11 The principal area of archaeological interest is in the south wall, where several phases are evident (Plate 22). Towards the left-hand (eastern) end of the wall is a

somewhat ragged, but essentially vertical, line extending from the floor to the top of the brickwork. To the left (east) of this line is the Phase 3 brickwork forming the north wall of the cart shed, which was added in the mid nineteenth century; the bricks measure 9 x 4½ x 3 inches. To the right of the line is a narrow area of re-used brickwork, then a large opening on the western side, now filled with breeze blocks, showing that the room formerly communicated with **G3**.

- 3.3.12 The central roof truss is of king-post construction with raking struts extending from the base of the king-post to the principals. It supports a single pair of trenched purlins and a plank ridge piece (Figure 14b; Plate 23). The king-post is bolted to the tie beam, but there is a single wooden peg at each end of the tie beam and on each side of the king-post head in order to secure the joints with the principal rafters. There are also carpenters' marks (Roman numerals) on the north face of the truss at selected junctions. Twinned marks are as follows: tie beam and east principal (Plate 24), east strut and principal (Plate 25), west strut and king post (Plate 26); king post and west principal (Plate 27) and there is a single mark on the tie beam beneath the king-post (Plate 26).
- 3.3.13 There is a second king-post truss at the north end of the building (Plate 28), only visible from the interior, but, if this too has carpenters' marks they would be on the outer (northern) face and therefore obscured by the external weatherboarding. This roof frame is identical to its central counterpart in its structural essentials, but it also incorporates a series of vertical struts to facilitate the fixing of the weatherboarding.

First floor (Figure 10)

Room F1

- 3.3.14 A third king-post truss, identical to the other two in the main range, is visible to the east of the loft entrance (Plate 29). Apart from the top of the cart entrance arch in the east wall there are no other features of interest.

3.4 Phasing and Function

Phase 1

- 3.4.1 The earliest phase of the building is the brickwork laid to English garden wall bond noted on the south, east and west elevations, showing that the footprint of the main range has not appreciably altered. Given that the farmhouse was built *c.* 1750, and considering the nature of the fabric, it would not be unreasonable to infer an eighteenth-century date.
- 3.4.2 Unfortunately, the fragmentary and largely featureless character of the fabric in this Phase 1 does not allow the function of the structure to be determined with any degree of certainty. One aspect to take into consideration is that the entire north face of the building is of a later phase to the other three walls, so it is worth considering that this side was formerly open-fronted. Farm buildings embodying this characteristic include the cart shed, and accommodation for cattle, both the shelter shed and the Worcestershire (open fronted) cow house. As the north elevation faces the foldyard, it may be that accommodation for cattle is more probable.

Phase 2

- 3.4.3 The second main phase probably relates to the rebuilding of the north front and the gables. The characteristics of the bricks suggest the mid to late nineteenth-century, and the door and window frames are not inconsistent with such a date. The spur walls suggest that the interior was divided into four bays, the divisions coinciding with the roof trusses.
- 3.4.4 There is some reason to suppose that the easternmost bay (**G4**) served as part of a cart/implement shed (see below), but otherwise the three doors and windows towards the foldyard suggest stables or a cow house. The positions of the doorways intimate that **G1** and **G3** could have housed stalls along the north or west walls whereas **G2** would only have been able to house stalls along the north wall.
- 3.4.5 However, the structural evidence for internal divisions between the four bays is unclear, so that it is not certain whether **G2** and **G3** were partitioned from one another, or whether **G3** was subdivided.

Phase 3

- 3.4.6 Phase 3 is confined to the construction of the cartshed, which abuts the north and east walls of the main range. The details of the roof trusses suggest a mid nineteenth-century date, so it came soon after the reconstruction of the north front. Of interest is the wide blocked entrance which formerly gave access to the eastern end of the main range, suggesting perhaps that this now formed part of the cart shed.

Phase 4

- 3.4.7 In Phase 4 the gables of the main range were reconstructed, and it was, presumably, at this time that the roof trusses were replaced. The brickwork point to a mid to late nineteenth-century date, and the roof trusses, which are stylistically later than those of the Phase 3 cart shed, would suggest the latter half of the century.

Phase 5

- 3.4.8 Phase 5 comprises the rebuilding of the east gable, the insertion of the cart entrance in the east wall of the main range, and the construction of the buttresses on the south front; all this was done making use of the same type of brick. A late nineteenth-century or early twentieth-century date is probable. The insertion of the cart entrance is corroborative evidence that the eastern end of the main range was used as an annexe to the cart shed. The insertion of the new entrance would have provided more convenient access.

Phase 6

- 3.4.9 The final archaeological phase was the blocking of the eastern cart entrance and the re-flooring and partitioning of the interior with poured concrete and breeze blocks respectively. The two large insertions in the south wall (**G1** and **G2**). This work

probably dates from the mid twentieth century and is likely to be associated with the restoration of the farmhouse to a single dwelling.

Conclusion

- 3.4.10 The documentary and archaeological evidence gives reason to suppose that the building was raised in the eighteenth century as open-fronted accommodation for cattle (Phase 1), and that in the mid nineteenth century it was converted into either stables or a closed cow house, possibly with a cart/implement shed element in the east bay (Phase 2). The cart shed was erected very shortly afterwards (Phase 3).
- 3.4.11 The farmhouse also retains structural evidence of these dates (Plate 30). In the south wall the bricks measure $8\frac{3}{4}$ –9 x 4 – $4\frac{1}{4}$ x $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches, dimensions that are compatible with the putative eighteenth-century phases of the farm building. The west wall, in contrast, is built with bricks measuring 9 x $4\frac{1}{4}$ – $4\frac{3}{8}$ x $2\frac{3}{4}$ – $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches, sizes that are compatible with the mid nineteenth-century work of the farm building. The farmhouse seems to have been refurbished in the 1850s to accommodate farm workers, and it seems reasonable to deduce that the farm buildings also received attention at the same time. The details of the cart shed, for instance would be consistent with such a date.
- 3.4.12 Phase 4 activity centred around the replacement of the original roof later in the nineteenth century. Subsequent structural work on the building involved the rebuilding of the eastern gable, the insertion of the eastern cart entrance and the addition of the buttresses (Phase 5). The final phase involved the remodelling of the interior, including the insertion of the loft floor, and the blocking of the eastern cart entrance. These changes represent the reversion of the complex to a single occupancy homestead in the mid twentieth century.

4 APPRAISAL

4.1 Assessing Significance

- 4.1.1 In assessing significance, the most important indicator of perceived status is classification as a designated or non-designated heritage asset. Government policy, as enshrined in the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) (NPPF) defines a heritage asset as: *A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage assets include designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).*

4.2 Heritage Asset

- 4.2.1 None of the buildings at Broad Corner is statutorily listed, nor are any listed as buildings of local significance, but they do appear on the HER and must be considered as heritage assets.

4.3 Review of the Evidence

- 4.3.1 Despite the antiquity of the estate known (in its various spellings) as Sidnalls, the existing farm complex at Broad Corner appears to date from no earlier than the eighteenth century. The shell of the building currently under discussion appears to belong to this period, but apart from the brickwork itself, which embodies a vernacular interest as an example of local building materials and techniques, this element is devoid of architectural detail, or indeed archaeological evidence that would indicate conclusively its original form and function, and has suffered from the insertion of several late nineteenth-/twentieth-century openings. The eighteenth-century remains, therefore, are limited in their scope to contribute to our knowledge of architectural development and agricultural practices.
- 4.3.2 Indeed, the general character of the present building is derived from its nineteenth-century aspects. The best preserved and most easily understood component is the cart shed wing, which is almost entirely of one period, and which provides a little altered example of a recognizable type of agricultural building dating from the mid to late nineteenth century. Although such structures are not rare, this particular example is unusual in opening onto the foldyard; usually, cartsheds face away from the yard, and it may be that this has something to do with the terrain whereby the ground slopes away steeply to the south.
- 4.3.3 The interest of the cart shed roof truss is that it represents a late phase in the transition from the vernacular timber-framing tradition to the timber products of the machine age. Vestiges of ancient practices are to be found in the pegged joints, carpenters' marks and trenched purlins which appear here in concert with the more recently introduced iron-bolted king-post and plank ridge piece, both of which are essentially nineteenth-century phenomena.¹
- 4.3.4 The main range is less coherent as an architectural entity, and, owing to wholesale remodelling of the interior so that the nineteenth-century arrangement has been lost, and no contemporary fittings have survived, the main interest of the range is, firstly, the north front, which apart from the replacement of the primary doors, is comparatively unaltered, and, secondly, the roof structure, which is almost entirely of one (late nineteenth-century) period. Architecturally, the former is of unremarkable quality, and the latter, while being a sound piece of workmanship and a rewarding sight, is typical of its period, and lacks rarity value.
- 4.3.5 In conclusion, despite being comparatively early in origin, the current building is undistinguished in appearance and architectural quality, and, with the possible exception of the cartshed, is neither a good nor rare example of a particular building type. Nor, owing to the intangible nature of the evidence, is it very instructive in reflecting economic or social change. Its main interest lies in being a sympathetic component of the wider farm complex and in its vernacular aspects, notably, the early brickwork and the cart shed roof structure; the roof structure of the main range

¹ One of the earliest examples of a bolted king-post in the west midlands was at George Tollet's model farm at Betley, north-west Staffordshire built *c.* 1810 (Hislop *et al.* 2008, 53), while Peters (1988) found that in central Staffordshire iron bolts began *c.* 1820; plank ridge pieces were probably introduced shortly before 1800.

provides a lesser point of interest in being a well-preserved example of a widely used structural type.

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

5.1.1 The project was commissioned by AJ Archaeology. Hislop Heritage Services carried out the fieldwork and also compiled the report.

6 SOURCES

6.1 Primary Textual Sources

Census returns 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911

Tardebigge tithe apportionment 1844

6.2 Secondary Textual Sources

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014a. *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014b. *Code of Conduct*.

Dickins, M. (1931) *A Thousand Years in Tardebigge*. Birmingham: Cornish Brothers.

Historic England 2016. *Understanding Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*.

Hanks, P., Coates, R. and McClure, P. (2016) *The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland*. Oxford University Press.

Hislop, M., Kelleher, S., and Wade-Martins, S. (2008) 'Vernacular' or 'polite'? George Tollet's farm buildings at Old Hall Farm, Betley, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire. *Vernacular Architecture* 39: 50–62.

Peters, J. E. C. (1988) Post-medieval roof trusses in some Staffordshire farm buildings. *Vernacular Architecture* 19: 24–31.

Willis-Bund, J. W. (1913) *The Victoria History of the County of Worcester, Volume 3*. London: Constable.

6.3 Cartographic Sources

Tardebigge tithe map 1844

Ordnance Survey County Series 25 inch map 1884

Ordnance Survey 6 inch map 1904

APPENDIX 1

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

**BARN AT BROAD CORNER
BLACKWELL ROAD
BARNT GREEN
WORCESTERSHIRE
B60 1PU**

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING INVESTIGATION AND
RECORDING**

Client:
AJ Archaeology

Archaeological Contractor:
Hislop Heritage Services
Project No. 054

16 December 2016

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**Barn at Broad Corner
Blackwell Road
Barnt Green
Worcestershire
B60 1PU**

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Building Investigation and Recording

7 INTRODUCTION

7.1.1 The following document represents a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological building recording of a farm building at Broad Corner, Barnt Green, which is a non-designated heritage asset. The building, which comprises an unconverted lofted stable and cart/shelter shed dates from the eighteenth or nineteenth century, and is to be converted into residential accommodation.

7.1.2 The proposed archaeological recording is in response to conditions 12 and 13 of the planning permission (planning reference 16/0879) issued by Bromsgrove District Council, which state that:

12) *No development shall take place until a Programme of Historic Building Recording and Interpretation including a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:*

a) The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording.

b) The programme for post investigation assessment.

c) Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording.

d) Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation.

e) Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation

f) Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.

Reason: In accordance with the requirements of paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

13) *The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A) and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.*

Reason: In accordance with the requirements of paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

7.1.3 The WSI is informed by and the project will be conducted in accordance with the *Brief for Archaeological Building Investigation and Recording: Broad Corner, Blackwell Road, Barnt Green, Worcestershire, B60 1PU* (WAAS 2016).

8 SITE LOCATION

8.1 Site Location

8.1.1 Broad corner is on the east side of Blackwell Road, approximately ½ mile east of the village of Blackwell in the civil parish of Barnt Green, Worcestershire. The building to be recorded, which forms part of a farmstead known historically as the Siddalls, is situated at NGR SO 9998 7216.

8.2 Designations

- 8.2.1 The barn is neither statutorily listed nor does it lie within a conservation area. A local heritage list has yet to be compiled.

9 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 9.1.1 To obtain a record of building equivalent to Level 2 as defined by Historic England in *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (2016).
- 9.1.2 To identify and record the developmental history, visual and structural character, date, functions of the building and record its general setting/context through photographs, written description and measured survey drawings. To record evidence for fixtures, fittings and phase changes within the structure.
- 9.1.3 To produce a high quality archive suitable for long-term deposition in order to preserve the building by record in its current form prior to alteration.
- 9.1.4 To secure appropriate reporting and publication of the results.

10 METHODOLOGY

Documentary Search

- 10.1.1 Prior to the fieldwork being carried out searches will be conducted of the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER), and relevant and readily available published and unpublished documentary source material held by Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service and other relevant repositories as appropriate. Information garnered will be used to inform the interpretation process during the recording of the building.

Building Recording

- 10.1.2 A measured survey comprising plans, all exterior elevations and a full-height cross-section will be compiled, making use of existing architectural drawings. These will be checked for accuracy and annotated with archaeological detail, including evidence for phasing. Architectural details that cannot be adequately recorded by photography alone will be drawn to scale by hand.
- 10.1.3 A photographic survey will be undertaken, comprising 35mm monochrome print photography using Ilford FP4 (ISO 125) and/or HP5 (ISO 400) film as appropriate. A standard 50mm lens will be used supplemented by wide angle or long distance lenses as appropriate. The survey will include general and detail shots, and contextual views. For internal and low-light shots the camera will be mounted on a tripod; artificial lighting will be employed where necessary. Where possible, photographs will include graded photographic scales. All photographs will be recorded on pro-forma recording sheets detailing subject, orientation, scales included, photographer and date. Photograph locations will be marked on a plan.
- 10.1.4 An analytical written description will be prepared to supplement the drawn and photographic record, summarising context, feature, materials and date.

11 REPORTING

- 11.1.1 Upon completion of the archaeological programme the results will be presented as a bound report containing the following information:

Text

- Non-technical summary
- Introduction
- Site location
- Aims and objectives
- Methodology

- Historical background
- Historical development of the building
- Analytical description
- Statement of significance
- Acknowledgements
- References

Illustrations

- Location map related to the national grid
- Historic maps sequence
- Scaled site plan, floor plans, all exterior elevations and cross-section based upon site survey made in June 2016, and supplementary drawings of architectural details as necessary
- A selection of colour plates to supplement the drawn record

- 11.1.2 An OASIS online form will be completed and a copy included in the report.
- 11.1.3 One bound copy and one digital PDF copy of the report will be issued to the Worcestershire Historic Environment record within one month of completing the project.
- 11.1.4 In addition, a summary report will be prepared for publication in the next edition of the journal, *West Midlands Archaeology*.

12 TIMETABLE

- 12.1.1 The documentary research and fieldwork for the projected will be completed over the next three weeks. It is intended that the draft report be submitted for review during the third week in January, and the final report within 2 to 3 days of receiving comments.

13 STAFFING

- 13.1.1 The project will be undertaken by Malcolm Hislop BA, PhD, MCifA (Membership No. 583), a buildings archaeologist of many years standing. Member of the Vernacular Architecture Group since 1984.

14 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

- 14.1.1 The work will be carried out in accordance with *Requirements and Guidelines for Archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WAAS 2012), *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (Historic England 2016), *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings and Structures* (CifA 2014). *Code of Conduct* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA 2014).

15 ARCHIVING

- 15.1.1 The full site archive will be prepared in compliance with the principles espoused in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE: Historic England 2015) and the *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (CifA 2014) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for Deposition of Archaeological Archives into the Worcestershire County Museum Collection*.
- 15.1.2 Within six months of completing the fieldwork the archive will be deposited with the Worcestershire County Museum Service, subject to permission from the landowner.

16 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 16.1.1 All current health and safety legislation, regulations and guidance will be complied with. A risk assessment will be carried out prior to the commencement of fieldwork. Work will be carried out in accordance with guidelines laid out in the *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology Manual* (SCAUM (now FAME) 2007).

APPENDIX 2

OCCUPANCY OF THE SIDNALLS 1861–1911 ACCORDING TO THE CENSUS RETURNS

Date	Name	Relation to head	Condition	Age	Occupation	Birthplace	
1861	Frederick Tracey	Head	Married	38	Agricultural labourer	Warwickshire, Grafton	
	Sarah Tracey	Wife	Married	42	Agricultural labourer's wife	Warwickshire, Haselor	
	Hannah Tracey	Daughter		11		Worcestershire, Tardebigge	
	George Tracey	Son		9		Worcestershire, Tardebigge	
	Mary Ann Tracey	Daughter		7		Worcestershire, Tardebigge	
	Emma Tracey	Daughter		3		Worcestershire, Tardebigge	
	Elizabeth Tracey	Daughter		3 months		Worcestershire, Tardebigge	
	Thomas Turton	Head	Married	53	Agricultural labourer	Warwickshire, Spearnall	
	Sarah Turton	Wife	Married	53	Agricultural labourer's wife	Worcestershire, Alvechurch	
	Hannah Turton	Daughter	Unmarried	20		Warwickshire, Tardebigge	
	Thomas William Turton	Son	Unmarried	13		Warwickshire, Tardebigge	
	Richard Tilt	Head	Married	51	Brick layer	Worcestershire, Bromsgrove	
	Sarah Tilt	Wife	Married	43	Dressmaker	Warwickshire, Birmingham	
	Amelia Tilt	Daughter	Unmarried	12	Scholar	Worcestershire, Tradebigge	
	Elizabeth Tilt	Daughter		11	Scholar	Worcestershire, Tradebigge	
	Sarah Ann Tilt	Daughter		8	Scholar	Worcestershire, Tradebigge	
	Richard Tilt	Son		6	Scholar	Worcestershire, Tradebigge	
	William Henry Tilt	Son		3		Worcestershire, Tradebigge	
	1871	Thomas Turton	Head	Married	63	Farm labourer	Warwickshire, Spearnall
Sarah Turton		Wife	Married	63		Worcestershire, Alvechurch	
Charlotte Stockley		Step sister	Widow	65		Worcestershire, Alvechurch	
Frederick Tracey		Head	Married	57	Farm labourer	Warwickshire, Temple Grafton	
Sarah Tracey		Wife	Married	54	Laundress	Warwickshire, Haselor	
Emma Tracey		Daughter		13	Scholar	Worcestershire, Tardebigge	
Elizabeth Tracey		Daughter		10	Scholar	Worcestershire, Tardebigge	
Richard Tilt		Head	Married	61	Brick layer	Worcestershire, Bromsgrove	
Sarah Tilt		Wife	Married	52	Dressmaker	Warwickshire, Birmingham	
Elizabeth Tilt		Daughter	Unmarried	21	General servant	Worcestershire, Tardebigge	
Richard Tilt		Son	Unmarried	16	Agent's clerk	Worcestershire, Tardebigge	
Ellen Tilt		Daughter		8		Worcestershire, Tardebigge	
1881		Charles Holliday	Head	Married	29	Agricultural labourer	Worcestershire, Feckenham
	Emily Holliday	Wife	Married	33		Warwickshire, Aston Cantlow	
	Ellen Holliday	Daughter		2		Worcestershire, Tardebigge	
	Frederick Tracey	Head	Married	67	Agricultural labourer	Warwickshire, Grafton	
	Sarah Tracey	Wife	Married	65		Warwickshire, Haselor	
	Mary Tracey	Daughter	Unmarried	26	Domestic servant	Worcestershire, Blackwell	
	Emma Freeman Tracey	Daughter	Married	24		Worcestershire, Blackwell	
	Anne Tracey	Grand daughter		5		Worcestershire, Blackwell	
	William Gibbs	Head	Married	61	Agricultural labourer	Warwickshire, Haselor	
	Elizabeth Gibbs	Wife	Married	61		Warwickshire, Benton	
	1891	William Gibbs	Head	Married	72	Labourer	Warwickshire, Haselor
		Elizabeth Gibbs	Wife	Married	71		Warwickshire, Benton
		Selina Gibbs	Daughter	Unmarried	38	Dressmaker	Worcestershire, Tardebigge
Margaret Gibbs		Grand daughter		4		Worcestershire, Bromsgrove	
Frederick Tracey		Head	Married	72	Labourer	Warwickshire, Temple Grafton	
Sarah Tracey		Wife	married	62		Warwickshire, Haselor	
Ann Tracey		Grand daughter		18	Scholar	Worcestershire, Blackwell	
Charles Holliday		Head	Married	34	Labourer	Worcestershire, Tardebigge	
Emily Holliday		Wife	Married	40		Warwickshire, Birmingham	
Ellen Holliday		Daughter		2		Worcestershire, Blackwell	

Date	Name	Relation to head	Condition	Age	Occupation	Birthplace	
1901	Charles Holliday	Head	Married	50	Cowman on farm	Worcestershire, Bentley	
	Emily Holliday	Wife	Married	55		Warwickshire, Birmingham	
	Nellie Holliday	Daughter	Unmarried	22	Sewing	Worcestershire, Tardebigge	
	William Timms	Head	Married	49	Shepherd on farm	Gloucestershire, Broadwell	
	Emma Timms	Wife	Married	50		Worcestershire, Evenlode	
	Harold Timms	Son		13	Poultry boy (domestic)	Warwickshire, Woolton	
	Walter Timms	Son		12		Gloucestershire, Forthampton	
	Bessie Timms	Daughter		10		Gloucestershire, Forthampton	
	Edward Holliday	Son	Married	46	Ordinary agricultural labour	Worcestershire, Bentley	
	Elizabeth Holliday	Mother	Widow	77		Worcestershire, Coyne	
	1911	Charles Holliday	Head	Married	62	Farm labourer	Worcestershire, Tardebigge
		Emily Holliday	Wife	Married	64		Warwickshire, Birmingham
		Ellen Holliday	Daughter	Single	31		Worcestershire, Tardebigge
Hannah Randle		Head	Widow	62	Home duties	Worcestershire, Tardebigge	
Albert Deakin		Visitor		33	Farm labourer	Worcestershire, Catshill	
Edward Holliday		Husband	Married	55	Labourer, farm	Worcestershire, Upper Bentley	
Rhoda Holliday		Wife	Married	33	House duties	Herefordshire, Acton Beauchamp	
Albert Cyril Holliday		Son	Scholar	8	Scholar	Worcestershire, Bromsgrove	
Francis Henry Holliday		Son	Scholar	6	Scholar	Worcestershire, Sidnalls, Blackwell	
William George Holliday		Son		8 months		Worcestershire, Sidnalls, Blackwell	