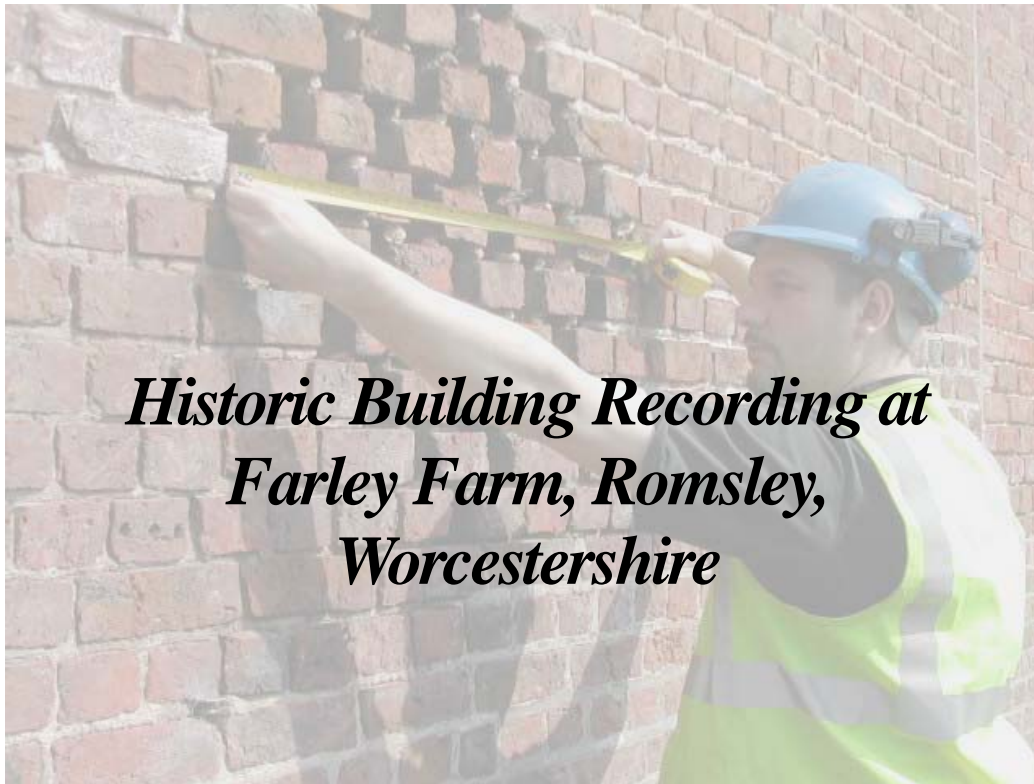




# Mercian Archaeology

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*Historic Building Recording at Farley Farm,  
Romsley, Worcestershire*



*Historic Building Recording at  
Farley Farm, Romsley,  
Worcestershire*

*A report for Mr Philip Marsh*

April 2005

Paul Williams

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**Project: PJ 137**

**WSM:34310**

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# 1. Project Background

## 1.1. Location of the Site

Farley Farm is located on the eastern side of the steeply sloping Farley Lane (NGR SO 9572 7809), which runs from the B4551 Bromsgrove Road to the north-east, southwards towards the A491 Stourbridge Road. The village of Romsley lies less than 2 kilometres to the north of Farley Farm. Romsley village is mainly of modern build interspersed with older scattered cottages and farmsteads. It was noticeable that many of the farmsteads in the immediate area were un-occupied and semi-derelict. On the opposite side of Farley Lane lies Farley Hill Grange, a complex of apartments that has been formed from the buildings that were formerly Romsley Sanatorium.

## 1.2. Development Details

A planning application has been made to Bromsgrove District Council by Vanessa Greenhouse RIBA, Architect, for conversion of existing farm buildings to provide domestic accommodation and associated infrastructure (reference B/03/0792). The planning process determined that the proposed development was likely to affect a building listed on the Worcestershire County Historic Environment Record (HER). As a result, the Planning Archaeologist, Worcestershire County Council, placed a 'Programme of Building Recording' planning condition on the application, for which a brief of work was written (WHEAS 2005).

## 1.3. Reasons for the Historic Building Recording

The data contained within the Sites and Monuments Record suggested that the building conversion work would affect a building contained on the local list of historically important buildings. The brief of works states that:

*'Buildings of this type form an integral and significant part of the counties agricultural heritage' (WHEAS 2005).*

In such circumstances a programme of archaeological work is attached to planning conditions for any development. In this instance, an historic building recording was suggested to record the building prior to its conversion.

## 2. Methods and Process

### 2.1. Project Specification

- ❑ The project conforms to the Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (IFA 1999).
- ❑ The buildings were recorded to at least Level 1 as defined by the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments of England (RCHME 1996).
- ❑ The project conforms to a brief prepared by the Planning Advisory Section, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Section, Worcestershire County Council (WHEAS 2005) and for which a project proposal and detailed specification was produced (Mercian Archaeology 2005).
- ❑ The project conforms to the service practice and health and safety policy as contained within the Mercian Archaeology Service Manual (Williams 2003)

### 2.2. Aims of the Project

The aims of the historic building recording were to compile an archive of the buildings within their topographical setting. This was to consist of both written and photographic records. The results of the fieldwork were to be used to produce a report chronicling changes and development within the building(s) and where possible, to attach relative dates to individual phases of building. The documentary survey was to be used to assist the chronological phasing of the complex and also, to ascribe function and use to the building(s).

### 2.3. Background Research

Prior to the commencement of fieldwork all the relevant available cartographic sources were consulted and a search of the County Sites and Monuments Record commissioned.

Documentary research was carried out at Worcestershire Record Office (WRO) and the following sources were specifically consulted and were of use:

#### Cartographic Sources

Source	Reference Number
Tithe Map and Apportionment of Romsley (1842)	WRO BA 1572, AP r760/533

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25". Worcestershire Sheet IX .12 (1884)	
Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 25". Worcestershire Sheet IX .12 (1902)	

Other sources used are referenced within the report.

## 2.4. The Fieldwork Methodology

The building recording was undertaken on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2005 prior to any development work being carried out at the site.

A full photographic survey was carried out using digital photography. A 2-metre scale was used where possible.

Proforma Building Record Forms were used to record the structure in tandem with site notes and reference to site photographs, to produce the final record contained within this report.

The methodology adopted and the favourable working conditions meant that the aims and objectives of the brief could be fully met and the fieldwork was successfully concluded.

## 3. The Documentary Research

### 3.1. Background

Farley Farm lies on the slope of a shaded valley between Farley Wood to the west and Little Farley Wood to the east. The Donny Brook flows from the north on the western side of Farley Wood, providing invaluable waterpower for at least one (known) mill; there has been a mill on or near the site of Shutt Mill since at least the 13<sup>th</sup> century (Hunt 1991). The early Ordnance Survey maps show the brook used extensively in this area, with sluices, fishponds, millponds and a sheep wash marked along its course. It is almost certain that the lower levels of the valley were heavily wooded and it is possible that Farley Lane began as a haul track to remove timber from the cleared valley; the clearance was probably undertaken during the medieval period by the monastic holding of Farley Grange, an outlying farm of Halesowen Abbey (see below). The valley is well shaded and has provided extensive permanent pasture for both sheep and cattle, with likely movement of animals from the surrounding lower land during the summer.

The earliest recorded settlement at Romsley appears to have been adjacent to the parish church of St Kenelm, which lies to the north of Farley Lane. The settlement is referred to as 'Kelmestowe' in a charter of 1254, which licensed a regular fair (Hunt, 1991).

At Domesday, Romsley was within the Clent Hundred, which was held by Roger the Huntsman from Earl Roger de Montgomery, being of one hide and a half, containing one

carucate, six villans, and four bordars, with five ploughs worth 25s yearly. The township of Romsley has followed the same decent as Halesowen since the 12<sup>th</sup> century (*Ibid*), Romsley being a former township within Halesowen (VCH III, 1913).

The Historic Environment Record for Worcestershire contains 3 records for the vicinity of the site. It is recorded that the Abbey of Halesowen held 10 granges (outlying farms belonging to the foundation) at Pyrcote, Warley Grange, Hill Grange, Owley Grange (Quinton), Whitley Grange, Uffmore Grange, Rudhall Grange, New Grange, Blakeley Grange, and *Farley Grange* (WSM 01885). Farley Grange has not yet been located, but must have been in the vicinity of the present Farley Farm.

Hayes Farm is also contained on the HER list (WSM 31859). It is located some 300 metres to the south-west of Farley Farm on Farley Lane and appears to be of similar construction to the buildings at Farley Farm.

The former sanatorium, referred to above is also on the HER list (WSM 11256). The sanatorium was opened in 1913 to provide 50 beds for those suffering from tuberculosis. The institute was founded by the Birmingham Saturday Hospital Movement and was built as a memorial to Sir William Cook, a founder member of the movement, who died in 1908. An anonymous donor donated the site of the sanatorium adjacent to Farley Farm to the Birmingham Saturday Hospital movement.

On October 10<sup>th</sup> 1953 Farley Farm was struck by fire, when a 5 bay Dutch barn containing 60 tons of un-threshed wheat burnt down. The then occupier of the farm, Mr John Hodgetts was assisted in fighting the fire by a team of volunteers from the adjacent sanatorium (This is Bromsgrove website).

The present farm buildings are of brick and tile surrounding a central farmyard, as is fairly common across the region.

### 3.2. Cartographic Evidence

In 1836 the Tithe Commutation Act was passed by Parliament, resulting in an extensive survey of land across England in order to produce a series of Tithe Apportionment Maps that relayed information about land ownership and use, aimed at converting the commutation of tithe in kind to land taxation (Hoskins 1972, 37). The Tithe Apportionment Map for Romsley was produced in 1842 (Figure 2). The map shows farm buildings at Farley Farm arranged around three sides of a central yard. It is unclear from the plan of the use of space, as the apportionment lists the buildings together as 'Farley Farm house, buildings and garden'. The Farm was occupied by John Potter and owned by the Lord of Romsley Manor, George William Littleton. The farmland was around 50% arable with 50% pasture and could be best described as a mixed smallholding. There are three ponds shown in the fields to the north, adjacent to the buildings. It is likely that these were originally quarries, either for clay or for sandstone; the northern most field is named 'Pit Leasow'. To the east, between the buildings and Little Farley Wood, there is a field named 'Sawpit Leasow' (number 423 on plan; Figure 2), indicating it was once the site of timber processing (WRO BA 1572, AP r760/533), highlighting exploitation of the local woodland as a resource.

The 1884 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 25" map of the area shows the buildings in a slightly different configuration, more like the layout today (Figure 3). This is further discussed below. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, which was published in 1902, shows the subject buildings to take a similar plan (Figure 4).

### 3. The Historic Building Recording

The subject buildings could be easily divided into four separate structures for ease of recording, these are shown in Figure 5. Recording the farmhouse itself was not part of this project, however, a brief analysis based on the accessible visible external elevations, was made.

#### **The Farmhouse**

The farmhouse stands slightly elevated from the central farmyard and is constructed of handmade brick with a handmade clay tile roof. The building is of at least two phases; the earliest is the north-east to south-west aligned section, which probably dates from late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The north-west to south-east aligned section is a later 19<sup>th</sup> century addition (based on brief external observation only). The newer build is rendered and may mask further detail regarding the association between the two phases. It is, however, apparent that a section of the original north-west (front) elevation of the earlier farmhouse has been rebuilt where it is butted by the later build (Plate 18).

#### **Building 1**

Building Number 1 is of a single phase and is likely to date from the latter decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Map evidence indicates a date of between 1842 and 1884. Lately the building has been used as garaging and storage, but originally the building contained three separate elements, a granary over cartshed at the north-western end, a hackney carriage shed at the opposite end and a central stable, probably for two hackney horses (Plate 7). It was fairly common in farms of the 19<sup>th</sup> century that the best horses and carriage were kept close to the farmhouse. The building is constructed of 9" solid brick walls with a clay tile hipped roof cover over the granary and pitched roof above the remainder. The bricks used are fairly large at 3 1/4" x 9 1/4", highlighting that the building was constructed after the introduction of the first brick tax in 1784 when larger bricks then became standard in order to reduce the tax outlay, although frequently this general rule may be disproved. The bricks are hand made orange bricks, probably from locally sourced clay. The bricks are bonded with a whitish sandy lime mortar in a mixed/random bond.

Half of the upper floor of the granary (above the present garage) has been removed and it is only remnant in the central portion (Plate 8). There is a window over the garage doors to the north-western elevation, which was the only light source to the first floor; light and ventilation were important within a granary, as was the requirement to keep down vermin, hence they were always in an elevated position. Access to the granary is via an external flight of steps, which encompasses a dog kennel below, which was a common feature to a granary (Plate 8). Dogs would be used to guard the valuable produce. The entrances to the Hackney shed and stable are set below elliptical arched brick lintels. Internally, the stable has a brick floor with a central drain gully; the other bays have a more modern concrete floor. There are no other features of architectural significance within the building.



## Building 2

Building Number 2 lies on the western side of the road fronting Farley Lane (Plate 3). The building is difficult to phase as the northern end has had much rebuilding, but it is proposed that the remaining fabric is of two periods. The structure is of tile over randomly coursed brick and mortar, the bricks being smaller than those used in Building 1, above earlier much thinner bricks measuring 2½". It is impossible to tell if the smaller bricks at lower level were simply re-used, or that an earlier building has been extensively rebuilt and it may be a combination of both. The earliest phase of the building, along the roadside (see Figure 5) was originally a four bay threshing barn with attached cart shed with granary above at the northern end. The barn had an offset stone flagged threshing floor, which is now partially concreted over (Plate 4) and storage bays to either side. Ventilation was supplied by pierced brickwork and access and exit was via a pair of opposed floor to wall plate opening cart doors (Plate 5), the aperture to the westernmost is now bricked up. The cartshed was accessed from below a Florentine arched lintel, which is now concealed inside the building by the added extension to the eastern elevation (Plate 6). Access to the granary above was via the doorway in the northern end gable, probably via timber steps, which are now gone and the doorway is bricked up when a later phase was added to the structure (Plate 9). The barn area has lately been used as a granary and the concrete storage bins are shown in Plate 10.

The later phase build juts off the northern end of the structure towards the farmhouse on the east. This space and the now redundant cartshed was then converted to a cowhouse, with a hay/fodder loft above, where grain was formerly stored. The external doorway (referred to above) would have been bricked up at this time when the cartshed became obsolete and access was made available from inside the building (second phase of build). At the same time that the door was bricked up, slots were created (Plate 9) to take a shaft or belt from a portable steam engine, which would have been hooked-up outside, this was probably used to power fodder processing machinery located in the floor above the cowhouse. There is also bricked-up window, or possibly a sack hoist opening at the upper level. A 20<sup>th</sup> century lean-to has been added to the building at this end. The later build has a pigeon loft inside the eastern gable at the upper level (Plate 11), pigeons eggs then being a valuable commodity.

An upper half floor has been added to the southern end bay of the barn and there are remains of machinery located on this platform (Plate 12), with part of a central shaft carried though the southern end gable and several flywheels connected to the shaft. This set-up was progressively used to power threshing machinery and later, crop processing machinery such as belt driven threshing, dressing and winnowing machines. The machinery was not closely inspected, as the stability of the floor was unsure.

The central threshing or 'thrashing' bay is where the threshing process would take place to separate the wheat from the chaff, or the grain from the stalks of the crop. This process involved thrashing the crop on the floor with hand flails. After the separation had taken place, the threshed crop would be thrown into the air to separate out the chaff. This was known as winnowing and the bay doors would be opened to allow a through draught, which would aid the process as the heavier grain would fall to the floor and the waste would be blown away. It has been logically suggested, that for this reason the barn, which was the most important building on the early farmstead, would be aligned to take advantage of the locally prevalent wind (Wade-Martins 1991, 167). However, little research has been carried out with respect to this suggestion (Kenworthy 1988). Winnowing was a lengthy process and may have taken several weeks a year to complete. The gradual introduction of mechanisation and acceptance of the 'improvements' by farm workers, meant that threshing floors became redundant by the

mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century and barns reverted to processing plants and storage facilities, as in this case.

Dating the building phases is subjective, but it is likely that the standing structure dates from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, with extensions/alteration in the late 19<sup>th</sup> (pre-1884) and the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The tithe map (Figure 2) shows a building along this side of the site, but its footprint differs and it may be that the smaller bricks at the lower level of the structure represent an earlier 18<sup>th</sup> century phase (pre 1784 brick tax), although this can only be conjecture.

The building appears to have suffered some movement during its lifespan, as there are brick buttresses to the west and south sides.

### **Building 3**

Building 3 is opposite Building 2 on the eastern side of the central yard (Plate 13). It is of randomly coursed brick construction with some sandstone at lower levels. Again, like Building 2, thinner bricks are used at lower levels indicating re-use of bricks (Plate 14), or extensive rebuilding. The roof has been replaced with corrugated sheet. The building (as it stands) was also mid-19<sup>th</sup> century three-bay storage barn with central cartway and storage to either side, the cartdoor opening in the western elevation has been bricked up and the opposite opening is still open, with timber cladding at the upper level (Plate 2). The northern end of the building was, probably during the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century (based on the style of inserted windows), converted to stables with a hayloft inserted above the stable area has a brick built manger with elliptical arches below and is now two separate units separated by a timber-constructed partition (Plate 15). There has been an extension added to the southern end, which was incorporated into the fabric of the barn and lately used as a cowhouse together with the southern bay of the former barn (Plate 16). The combined space was not originally used to house animals; there is a bricked-up doorway in the southern end gable through which, the central drain now runs and there is a large iron window above (Plate 16), indicating light was needed for the function of the space, not a usual trait for cowhouses. This end of the building is in poor condition. A modern breezeblock bullpen has been attached to the eastern elevation at this end (Plate 2) and an original piggery still remains attached to the barn further to the north past the cart door opening (Plate 17). This is of brick and tile construction and appears contemporary with the barn structure. The piggery houses a small 'swill processing house' with a hearth and chimney under which, pigswill would have been boiled up.

### **Building 4**

Building 4 stands along the southern end of the complex, traversing the space between Building 2 and Building 3 (Plate 18). The building is now used partially as a kennel and this area was inaccessible. The eastern side of the building has been lately used as a cowhouse, and was probably converted for this purpose during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century (Plate 19). Although the northern elevation of this building has been totally rebuilt, it is likely that it is on the footprint of a building formerly used as a shelter shed, with the northern (internal) side open. There is a substantial remnant sandstone wall to the rear (southern elevation) of the building and the original build may be 18<sup>th</sup> century or earlier (Plate 20).

## 4. Phasing of the Buildings and Dating

### *Discussion of the Fabric and Dating Evidence*

Accurate dating of farm buildings is often problematic as dateable architectural features are often changed, modified or re-used. This is usually more pronounced within commercial or agricultural buildings than in domestic architecture. It may also be that architectural fashion takes longer to manifest itself within the fabric of buildings reserved for animals or produce. Consequently, any evidence for close dating is problematic without substantiating documentary evidence. In this instance, the dating and phasing of the buildings has to be subjective. Where brick farm buildings are dated to within a quarter of a century without substantiating documentary evidence, a certain amount of conjecture will almost certainly have been used.

It appears, from the fieldwork evidence that there were originally sandstone buildings below the footprint of Buildings 3 and 4, although as outlined above, it may be that the buildings utilised sandstone blocks from elsewhere within the construction. This was often common to use a different material at lower levels of a building, a recent watching brief at the late 18<sup>th</sup> century Button Factory in Bromsgrove noted the extensive use of sandstone foundations below the brick built structure (Mercian Archaeology 2005b) and, for example, many of the brick buildings of the Ironbridge Gorge in Shropshire, use industrial slag waste as foundation material. However, the sandstone visible at Farley Farm indicates that there is a fair likelihood that there were earlier sandstone buildings on the same footprint. This is based on the randomness of the use of the stone, giving the appearance of remains of demolished (or collapsed) buildings rather than built foundation. It is highly unlikely that these remains relate to the proposed Farley Grange, outlined above as part of the monastic holdings of Halesowen Abbey, although only below ground investigation could prove or disprove these theories.

The association between Building 3 and the farmhouse may also be confused. At first sight the farmhouse (the section of it that joins Building 3) appears architecturally earlier than the farm building and may be dated on this basis to the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, inspection of the joint between the two builds shows a well made corner to the barn and it appears that the farmhouse butts up to the northern wall of the former barn, therefore it would be later than the barn (Plate 21). This area is confused as the brickwork of the farmhouse has been repointed and the joint between the two mortared in. The explanation seems to be that the farmhouse is, indeed earliest and has been tied into the *inner* skin of the barn gable end, suggesting that the barn only has a single skin wall at this end and that the western elevation ends slightly overlapping the western elevation of the farmhouse wall.

Building 2 could also have been ascribed a single phase as there were no visible joints between the added northern projection and the main build. Also the brickwork is of similar random build. The evidence to suggest otherwise appears in the redundant cartdoor within the original wall of the earliest build and the blocking off of access to the upper floor from outside the building.

Building 4 has been extensively rebuilt and patched and its internal space altered to incorporate a 20<sup>th</sup> century cowhouse. This again presents problems with regard to date, as the fabric has evolved piecemeal, rather than as a planned structure.

It is often argued that the style of roof truss can indicate a date range for a building, however, where a series of buildings have a narrow period of construction between them, this is of little use, especially where timbers may have been re-used. The roof trusses at Farley Farm vary, with mass-produced king-post trusses to Building 1, 3 and 4 (Plates 22 & 25) and a combination of queen-strut (Plate 23) and queen-post half truss (Plate 24) in Building 1. The central trusses in Building 1 appear to be re-used items and are likely to be 18<sup>th</sup> century, whereas the remainder may all be dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The map evidence is fairly clear regarding the early edition Ordnance Survey maps, as they show the buildings in their current configuration, although again it must be borne in mind that there appears to have been earlier structures on the same footprint. The Tithe Apportionment Map of 1842 shows a different configuration along the western side of the complex with a projection westwards instead of eastwards as is the case now. This cannot be explained from the fabric analysis and it may be that this entire side of the complex was rebuilt soon after this date.

Overall, the farmstead as it stands is a product of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and is comparative with many smaller farmsteads of this period in form and function.

Based on the evidence collected we are able to suggest the phases and dates for the buildings at Farley Farm as shown in Figure 5.

## 5. General Discussion

Much has been written regarding the ‘progression’ of farming, although the majority relates to the agricultural revolution of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, when there was large scale parliamentary enclosure resulting in change of use of vast tracts of land, although inclosure (enclosure) was well under way during the previous two-centuries (English Heritage 1997, 3). The focus of such studies has been to categorise the use of space on a farm and tie it into the type of architecture used. This has resulted in a wealth of papers focusing on ‘model farms’ of the mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> century, which were basically the response to improvements afforded by mechanisation and increased profits revealed in planned farms with high architectural elaboration. A similar glut of papers dealing with ‘high farming’ of the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century also dominates the record. High farming came after a period of agricultural depression at the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815, when the monetary impact of imported had brought down the price of grain resulting in lower profits and therefore, lower rents from tenanted farms (Wade-Martins 1991, 60). A growing population over the following 30 years meant that a market was created and agriculture began to get back on its feet. It was during this time that owners of large farms and smaller estate owners must have realised that they needed to invest in farming in order that the decline would not be repeated. Progressive farming saw changes and improvements in crop rotation, fertilisation, use of space, use of machinery, soil science and produce processing (Wade Martins 1991, 62). In actuality, farming had become industrialised.

So we must look at Farley Farm in this light as it spans this period of innovation and agricultural development. However, the farm falls into a category that is generally overlooked, as all farms are sometimes lumped together as if there were no variations regionally, locally or from farm to farm. This is like talking about modern farming but not recognising the fundamental differences between western and northern hill farms and the extensive 'high-plains' farming of the lowlands, where hedgerows are a thing of the past. Farley Farm is best described (during the period before the 20<sup>th</sup> century) as a tenanted farm, more akin to a smallholding. The tenant would have had responsibilities to the estate owner (The Littleton Estate) not only for rent, but also to maintain and improve the land, hedgerows, waterways and buildings. It is clear from the construction of all the buildings, that the estate had not lavished more than necessary capital outlay on the buildings and it seems that the standing buildings were erected on top of the remains of earlier buildings with randomly coursed brickwork and no elaboration or architectural detail. Repairs and later 'improvements' to the buildings appear to have taken on the same 'Heath-Robinson' approach (Plate 26). This probably reflected the economy of the farm, and probably the general economy of the surrounding farms in the valleys of Romsley, where to a great extent the landscape has dictated the way that the farmsteads have developed, operated and survived until recent times.

The layout of the farmstead has also been variously discussed in an attempt to categorise. While there are patterns in use of space, i.e. enclosed central foldyard sheltered on the north by the barn, east facing stables to catch the morning sun etc (Peters 1969). Whilst generally acceptable, these wide sweeping assumptions may be questioned, as the use of space on individual farmsteads is likely to have evolved in response to local situations. For example, the barns at Farley Farm face north-east and south-west, which is likely to be into the prevalent wind, to provide a through draft for the winnowing process (although the easternmost barn may have been for storage only); the stables face south and west, which may be the direction best sheltered from the elements. In fact, out of all the recent projects carried out by Mercian Archaeology, only one farmstead has had a barn on the northern side of the foldyard. What can be maintained from the evidence at Farley Farm is that the position of the farmhouse closely relates to the 'working area' of the farmstead, being set facing into the foldyard with a view to all the buildings. This may have been partly for security purposes, partly to save time travelling from home to work and partly so that it overlooked the workforce, as the farmhands would be uncertain when they were being observed, '*servants and stock cannot be too much under the eye of the master*' (Waistell 1827, quoted in Cook 2004). Although the compactness of the farmstead may suggest that the farm, which was probably always intended to be tenanted, was built in such a way to save on initial outlay.

The granary stable and cartshed block (Building 1) on the north of the site, is of slightly better construction than the remaining farm buildings and may have been constructed at the same time that the farmhouse was extended, probably in the 1870-80 period. This is an indicator of either improvement, or possibly a change in ownership (although no documentary evidence was found for this).

The decline of the use of a threshing barn is also in evidence at Farley Farm. Threshing floors became obsolete as mechanised threshing became widely accepted and utilised into the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. After this, barns were not built and existing barns were used for other purposes (Harvey 1997, 8). The westernmost barn has been converted to a grain processing and storage area during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but is likely to have reverted to a storage barn after the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, probably at the same time that the incorporated cartshed became obsolete and was replaced by the cowhouse with hayloft above. The evidence from the eastern barn suggests that stabling and fodder processing became the new use, with later use as stables and cowshed.

## 6. Conclusion

*The results of the historic building recording at Farley Farm determined that there were probably two earlier phases of building on the same footprint of the current standing buildings, these are indicated by sandstone blockwork remaining in some areas and coursing of thinner 2 ½ inch brick at lower levels to both barns. It cannot be determined without doubt that the earlier style bricks were not simply re-used during construction of the barns. There is no definitive evidence within the fabric of the upstanding structures of Farley Farm that this was the location of the buildings of Farley Grange, a medieval holding of Halesowen Abbey, although it is likely that present farm stands within the bounds of the monastic land holding.*

*The farmstead is a typical small tenanted holding of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, with improvements and changes into the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Most of the buildings date from the early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, although the better constructed granary stable and cartshed on the north of the site is of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.*

## 7. Acknowledgements

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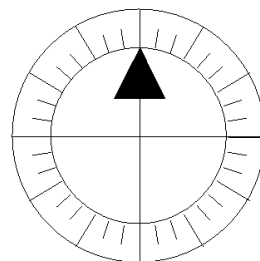
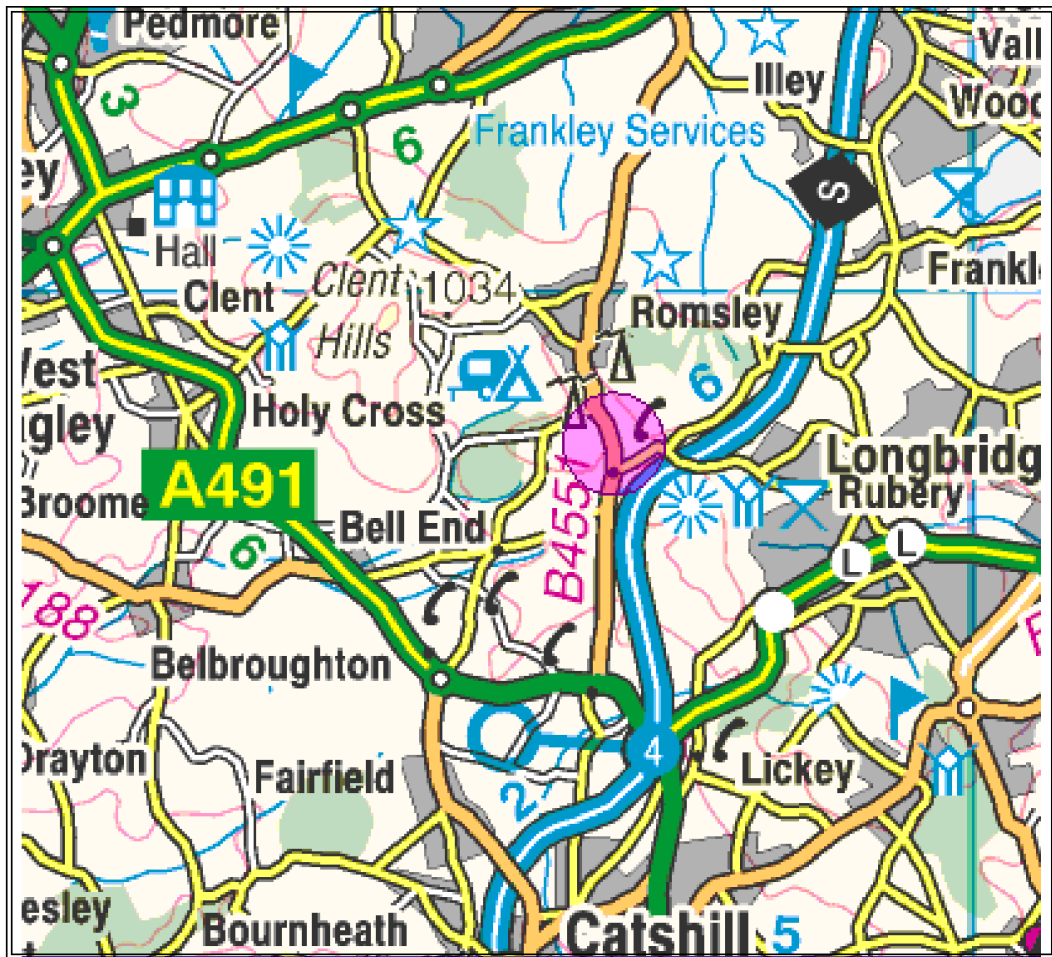
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Figure 1: Location of the Site



Location of the Site at Romsley

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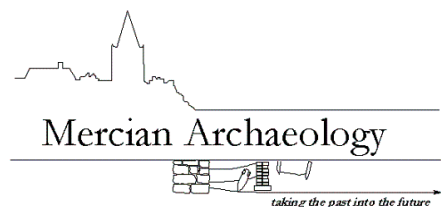
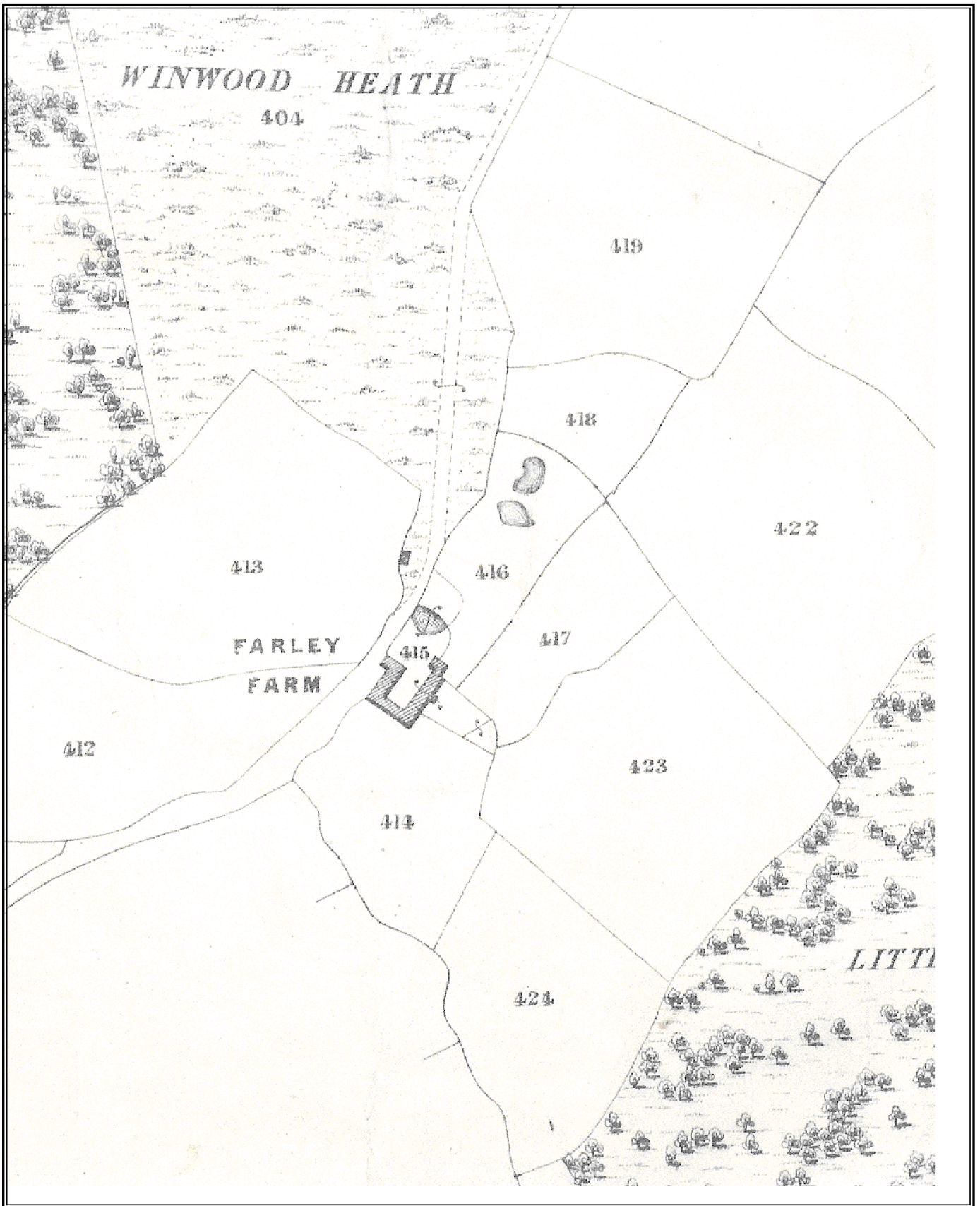


Figure 2: Extract from the Tithe Apportionment Map of Romsley (1842)



The Tithe Apportionment map showing the layout of buildings at Farley Farm in 1842.

Scale unknown

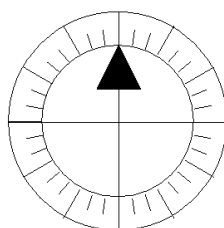
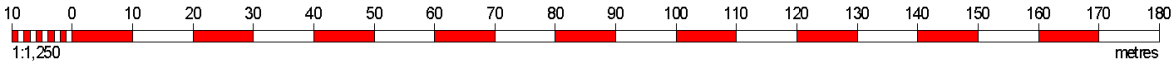
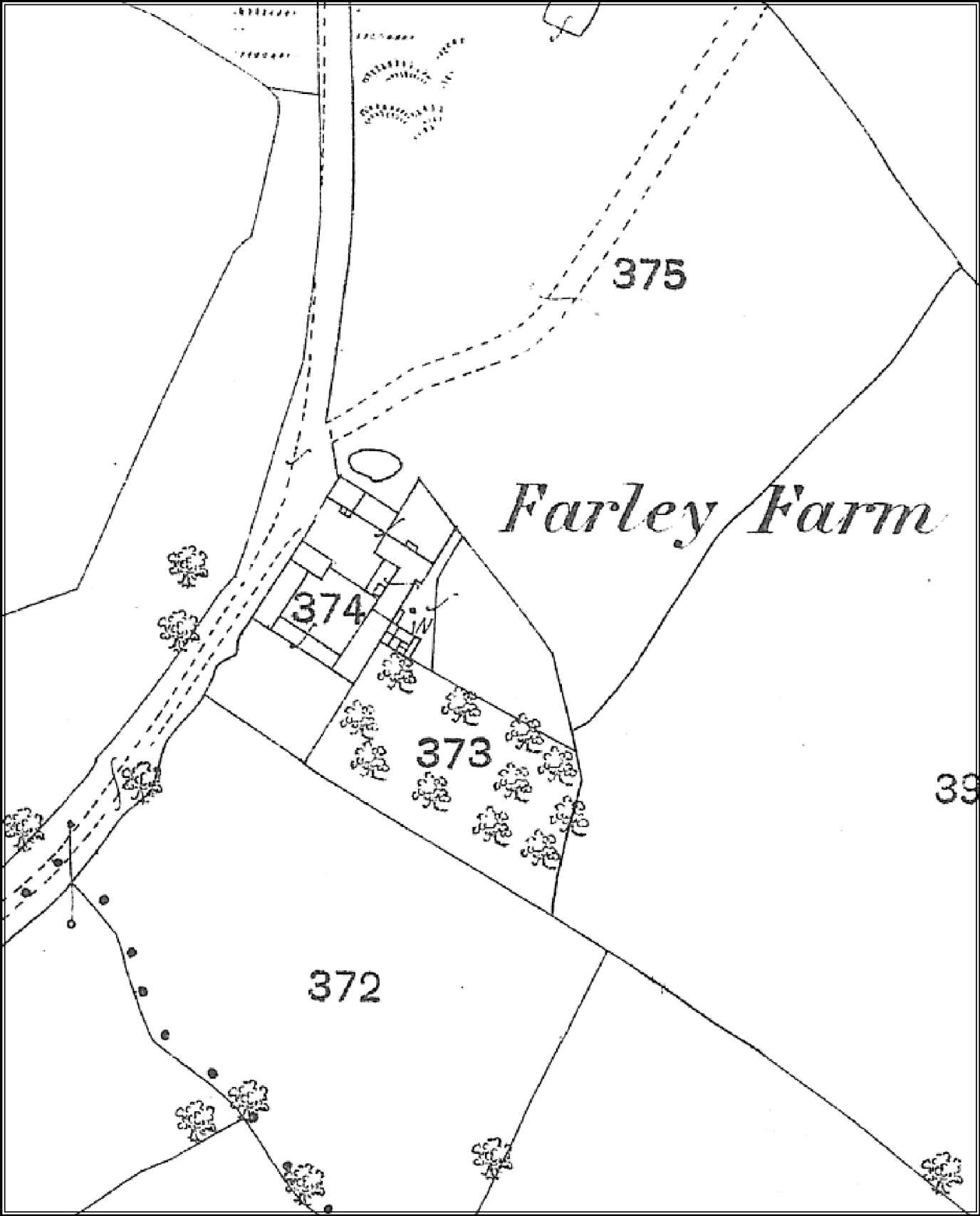


Figure 3: 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (1884)



The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map showing the layout of buildings at Farley Farm.

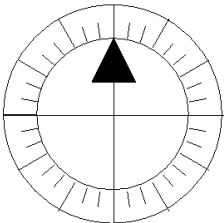
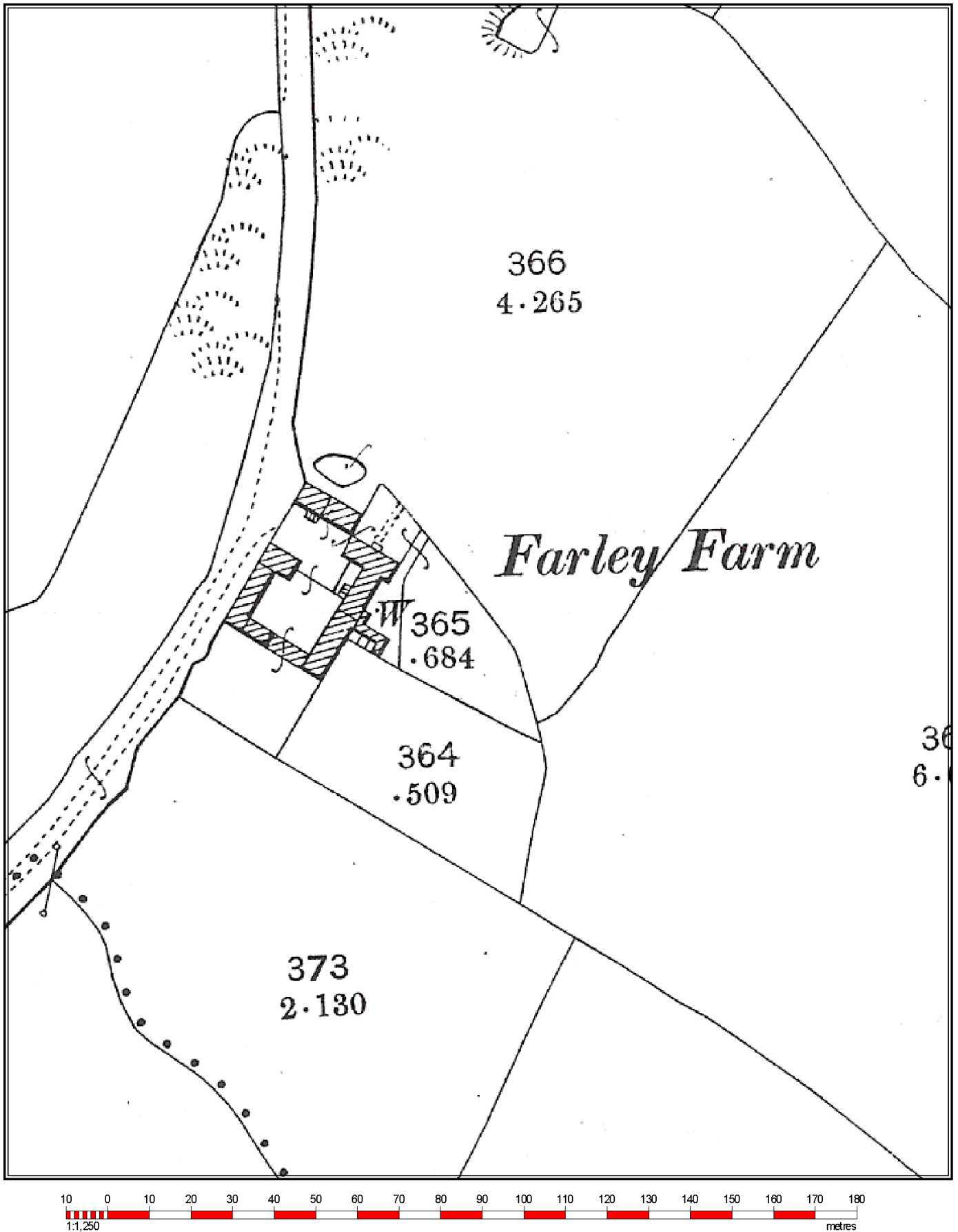
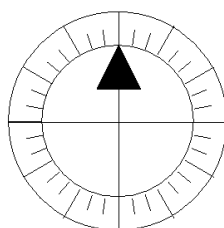


Figure 4: 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey (1902)



The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map showing the layout of buildings at Farley Farm.





COLOUR KEY	
	Mid 19th century circa 1860-80
	Mid to late 19th century
	Later than red
	Late 19th and 20th century

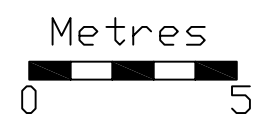
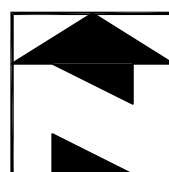


Figure 5: Building Identification and Phasing

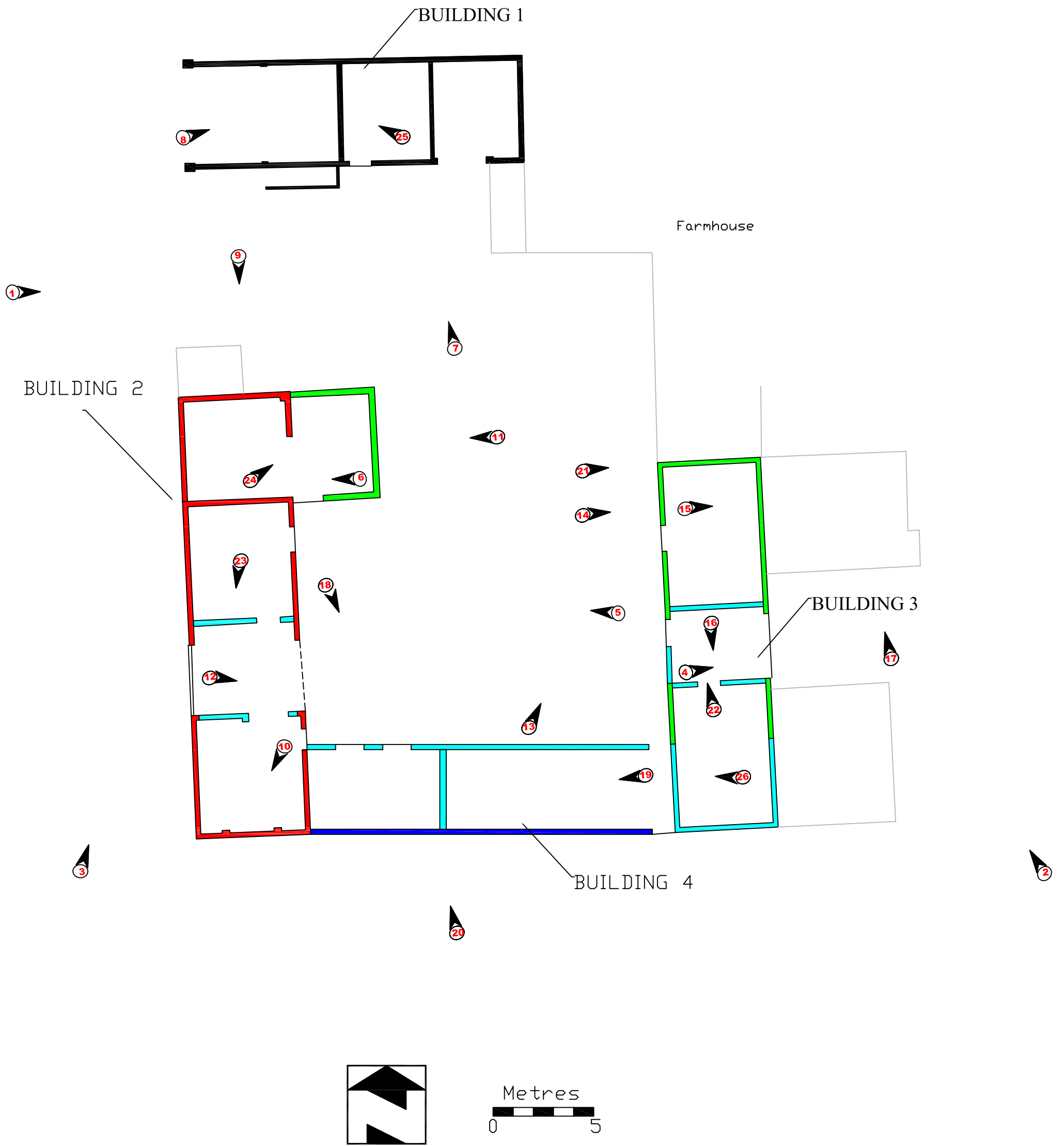


Figure6: Direction of Photograph in Report

# Plates

## Plate 1



*Farley Farm looking eastwards from Farley Lane*

## Plate 2



*Farley Farm looking north*

# Plates

## Plate 3



*Building 2 viewed to the north-east*

## Plate 4



*Threshing floor in Building 2 (scale 2 metres)*



# Plates

## Plate 5



*Building 2 viewed to the north-west*

## Plate 6



*Former cart- door in the eastern elevation of Building 2. The doorway is now obscured by a later phase of building (scale 2 metres)*

# Plates

## Plate 7



*Building 1 viewed to the north*

## Plate 8



*Upper floor (former granary) in Building 1 has been partially removed, note the gap for a joist (left) and sawn off floorboards (sections on scale 0.50 metres)*

# Plates

## Plate 9



*Later addition built against the eastern elevation of Building 1. Note the blocked doorway and window to the obsolete granary and the holes for shafts for portable steam engines (scale 2 metres)*

## Plate 10



*Modern grain processing infrastructure in Building 2 (scale 1 metre)*

# Plates

## Plate 11



*Pigeon loft in the gable of the northern projection of Building 2 (scale 2 metres)*

## Plate 12



*Flywheels and shaft for 19<sup>th</sup> century machinery power train in Building 2*

# Plates

## Plate 13



*Building 3 looking north-east. Note the bricked up cartway (scale 2 metres)*

## Plate 14



*Smaller bricks used at the lower level of Building 3, indicating a possible earlier phase (scale 1 metre)*

# Plates

**Plate 15**



*Inside stable within Building 3 (scale 2 metres)*

**Plate 16**



*Extension to the southern end of Building 3 (scale 2 metres)*

# Plates

## Plate 17



*The piggery on the eastern side of Building 3 (red on scale 0.5 metres)*

## Plate 18



*Building 4 looking south (scale 2 metres)*

# Plates

## Plate 19



*Interior of cowhouse, Building 4 (scale 1 metre)*

## Plate 20



*Sandstone wall within the fabric of Building 4, looking north (scale 2 metres)*



# Plates

## Plate 21



*Joint between Building 3 and the farmhouse*

## Plate 22



*King-post trusses in Building 3, looking north (scale 2 metres)*

# Plates

## Plate 23



*Queen strut trusses in Building 2*

## Plate 24



*Queen-post half truss in projection at northern end of Building 2*

# Plates

## Plate 25



*King post truss in Building 1*

## Plate 26



*Rough construction of the extension at the northern end of Building 3*