

**A Historic Building Appraisal (Rapid Assessment) of barns at Park House, 4  
Main Street, Stoke Golding, Leicestershire (NGR SP 398 970).**

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**A Historic Building Appraisal (Rapid Assessment) of barns at Park House, 4 Main Street, Stoke Golding, Leicestershire (NGR SP 398 970).**

**Gerwyn Richards**

***Summary***

*University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned to undertake an historic building appraisal (rapid assessment) of three barns at Park House, Main Street, Stoke Golding. Outline planning permission has been granted to convert the barns into three residential units and Park House into three apartments.*

*Although much altered the barns are late eighteenth or early nineteenth century in date and are of local historical interest and further limited examination and recording should be carried out prior to alteration work being carried out.*

*Although subject to planning permission Park House itself was not included in this historic building appraisal.*

**1. Introduction**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by the Burton Emery Partnership to undertake an historic building appraisal (rapid assessment) of three barns at Park House, 4 Main Street, Stoke Golding, Leicestershire (SP 398 970). Outline planning permission has been granted for the conversion of Park House into three apartments and the conversion of the barns into three dwellings (Planning Application 06/00211/4 and 06/00212/4).

The Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council, as advisor to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council advised that the proposed works would impact significantly upon the historic buildings. As a result it was recommended that an historic building appraisal (rapid assessment), equivalent to an English Heritage Level 2 survey, should be carried out prior to a final planning decision being made.

All work will follow the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing buildings or Structures*. In addition, Leicestershire County Council's *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire* was adhered to. *Understanding Historic Buildings* (English Heritage 2006) has been used as a basis for defining levels of recording.



**Figure. 1.** Site location Scale 1:50000

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## **2. Aims and Methodology**

The aim of the historic building appraisal (rapid assessment) is to provide a written document which provides an overview of the site ensuring its importance is recognised. It highlights areas of risk or uncertainty and establishes the need for further work if necessary (Clark 2001).

The historic building appraisal (rapid assessment) was undertaken by Gerwyn Richards. Photographs, in digital format recorded general exterior images of all the buildings and occasional additional details, the equivalent to items 1-6 of the English Heritage guidelines (2006, 4; Appendix 4.1.2). The site visit was carried out on December 15<sup>th</sup> 2006, at the request of the client, covering only the three barns and not Park House itself.

The proposed development consists of four buildings, three barns, probably nineteenth century in date and Park House itself, apparently late eighteenth early nineteenth century in date, but most likely earlier. Each building has been allocated a number for identification purposes, in the following notes the terms 'left', 'right', 'rear' and 'back' are used in relation to the front elevation of each building.

### **3. Description of the Buildings**

#### **3.1 Building 1**

Building 1 is located at the eastern edge of the proposed development area, fronting onto Main Street, it consists of a single storied red brick building, in an “L” shaped plan, with an open north west facing gable. Closer examination indicates the brick work is multi phase most likely as a result of repair and renewal and there is evidence of blocked windows. The earliest brick work appears to be within the wall fronting Main Street. The wing fronting Main Street has a hipped roof while the second wing has a simple mono-pitched roof, there is a significant coverage of moss on the roof, but it is likely that the tiles are Staffordshire Blues.

Internally, with the exception of the roof timbers, there is very little of architectural significance. The only feature of interest is the fact that the front walls of the two wings do not appear to be tied together; this suggests that the two may not be contemporary. There is no evidence of a straight joint on the rear wall, but the demolition of a wall would have left a ragged edge to which new brick work could have been joined, leaving no trace. As mentioned earlier, the roof timbers are the only diagnostic internal feature, the trusses within the Main Street wing are roughly shaped timbers in a bolted King Post design with raking struts, some of which are pinned. The left hand tie beam has been inscribed with the Name “T HALL” and the date 1861, there is another, much fainter inscription on the same beam, reading “AH 8” or “A 18”. Oral evidence suggests that Park House was owned by a family called Hall in the past.

The building is clearly identified on the early edition Ordnance Survey and the County Series, First Edition 1849. It is possible and indeed likely, however, that the building is earlier still.

#### **3.2 Building 2**

Building 2 is located to the right of building 1 and abuts building 3, again further to the right. As with building 1, it is a single storey red brick building of three bays with a tiled roof, two modern “up and over” type garage doors have been inserted into the front walls of the central and right hand bay, the left hand bay has an older stable type door. The brick work appears largely original and unaltered.

The internal partitions appear original, the right hand bay has wooden double stalls against the rear wall and the step up suggests a milking parlour, the right hand stall is much narrower, less than a normal single stall and there is a recently blocked doorway within the partition wall leading from this small stall into the central bay. The central bay is much altered leaving little of architectural interest, ; there is, however, a large diameter wooden spoke wheel on inserted beams at eaves level. The wheel was probably originally used to haul up carcasses for butchering; the narrow stall next door being where the slaughtering took place.

The final right hand bay again is devoid of architecturally significant features and once again much altered. The roofs throughout are simple rafters, the size of the building requires requiring nothing more. In all likelihood and due to its proximity to

the house, the building was originally built as a milking parlour and was converted into garages in the later part of the twentieth century.

Finally to the right there is a two storied red brick stable with loft over and a through passage to the right. There are perches and blocked pigeon holes on the left hand gable. Internally there has been much alteration and little if any original features remain, ; there are two dates, both 1877 inscribed on the left hand partition wall. This part of the building is clearly later as the original roof line can be seen of the single storey building to the left within the wall; it also blocks an arched entrance on the rear wall of Building 3 to the right. It was probably added to tie together buildings 2 and 3 to create more of an enclosed farm yard.

### **3.3 Building 3**

The final agricultural building within the proposed development area is building 3, a two storied red brick barn which abuts the right hand wall of Park House, some of which has already been converted into residential use, housing the central heating for Park House. There has been much alteration, concealing or destroying most of the original architectural features; the first floor is almost certainly a recent insertion. Two arched entrances have been in filled on the rear wall, the left hand one may originally have been a window, but the other is far too small, so its original purpose is unclear.

As with the earlier buildings, it is the roof structure which has remained the most diagnostic feature within the building. It has remained largely unaltered and is likely to be original and along with the others would require additional recording work prior to any alteration work.

Although with the appearance of a nineteenth century house, Park House could and probably is earlier in date, at least early eighteenth century. However, without a more thorough examination it is impossible to rule out even earlier elements surviving within the structure. Further examination and recording work is essential before any major alteration works are carried out.

## **4. Conclusion**

Although much altered Park House and the associated agricultural buildings is a fine example of Midlands agricultural architecture. Unlike other farms, however, Park House did not expand greatly during the nineteenth century and the agricultural buildings appear to be those which were on site in the beginning of the nineteenth century. This lack of agricultural development may have been caused by the apparent gentrification of Park House; the house appears to have had a considerable amount of money lavished upon it at that time leaving the house we see today.

This undoubtedly changed it from a working farm to a residential house it is this gentrification of the house which has allowed the preservation of the barns in a relatively unaltered condition, structurally, but having been much altered internally.

These agricultural buildings, although much altered are a characteristic feature of the agricultural landscape and an integral part of the greater Park House complex. Such

farm complexes, and especially relatively well preserved examples such as Park House are a rapidly diminishing resource. and should, therefore, be recorded as a whole and not on an individual building level and should, therefore, be the subject of further recording.

## 5. Photographic Index

Digital Image	Building No	Description	Dir
001	01	Inscribed Tie Beam, Reading "T HALL 1861"	
002	01	Inscribed Tie Beam, Reading "T HALL 1861"	
003	01	General View of Roof Timbers	
004	01	General View of Roof Timbers	
005	01	General View of Replaced Roof Timbers	
006	01	General Internal View	
007	01	General View of Rear Wall	N
008	01	General View of Gable Wall	NE
009	01	General View of Front Elevation	E
010	01	General View of Front Elevation	E
011	01	Main Street Frontage.	SW
012	01	Main Street Frontage.	SW
013	01	Detail of Brick Work on Main Street Frontage.	
014	01	Blocked Window, Internal View.	
015	01	Variety of Brick Work on Front Elevation.	
016	01	Possible Brick Built Column.	
017	01	Second Faint Inscription, Reading AH 8.	
018	01	Second Faint Inscription, Reading AH 8.	
019	02	General View of Front Elevation	SW
020	02	General View of Front Elevation	SW
021	02	General View of Roof Timbers	
022	02	Detail View of Roof Timbers.	
023	02	Detail View of Roof Timbers.	
024	02	Detail View of Roof Timbers.	
025	02	Pulley Wheel in Roof Space.	
026	02	Carcass Hooks.	
027	02	Second Pulley Wheel.	
028	02	Detail of Pulley Wheel.	
029	02	Pulley Wheel in Roof Space.	
030	03	General View of Roof Timbers	
031	03	General View of Roof Timbers	
032	02	Blocked Pigeon Holes.	
033	02	Original Roof Line.	
034	02	Inscribed Bricks, Reading 1811 or 1877.	
035	03	Blocked Small Arched Opening In Rear Wall.	
036	03/02	Rear Wall of 02 Blocking Arched Entrance on 03.	
037	03/02	Rear Wall of 02 Blocking Arched Entrance on 03.	
038	02	Blocked Archway in Rear Wall.	
039	02/03	General Rear Elevation/Gable.	N
040	03	General View of Front Elevation	NE
041		General Characterisation Shot.	S
042		General Characterisation Shot.	S
043		General Characterisation Shot.	S
044		General Characterisation Shot.	S

## 6. Archive and Publication

The site archive consists of

1 A2 permatrace sheet containing building plans  
CD containing 61 digital images  
1 A4 contact sheet  
A4 Photo Index Sheet  
Unbound Copy of This Report  
The archive will be held at Leicestershire County Council

A version of the summary (above) will be published in *Transactions of Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.

## 7. Bibliography

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- Richards. G. 2006. *An Archaeological Standing Building Survey of The Former Fernie Hunt Stables, Nether Green, Great Bowden*. ULAS Report 2006-112.
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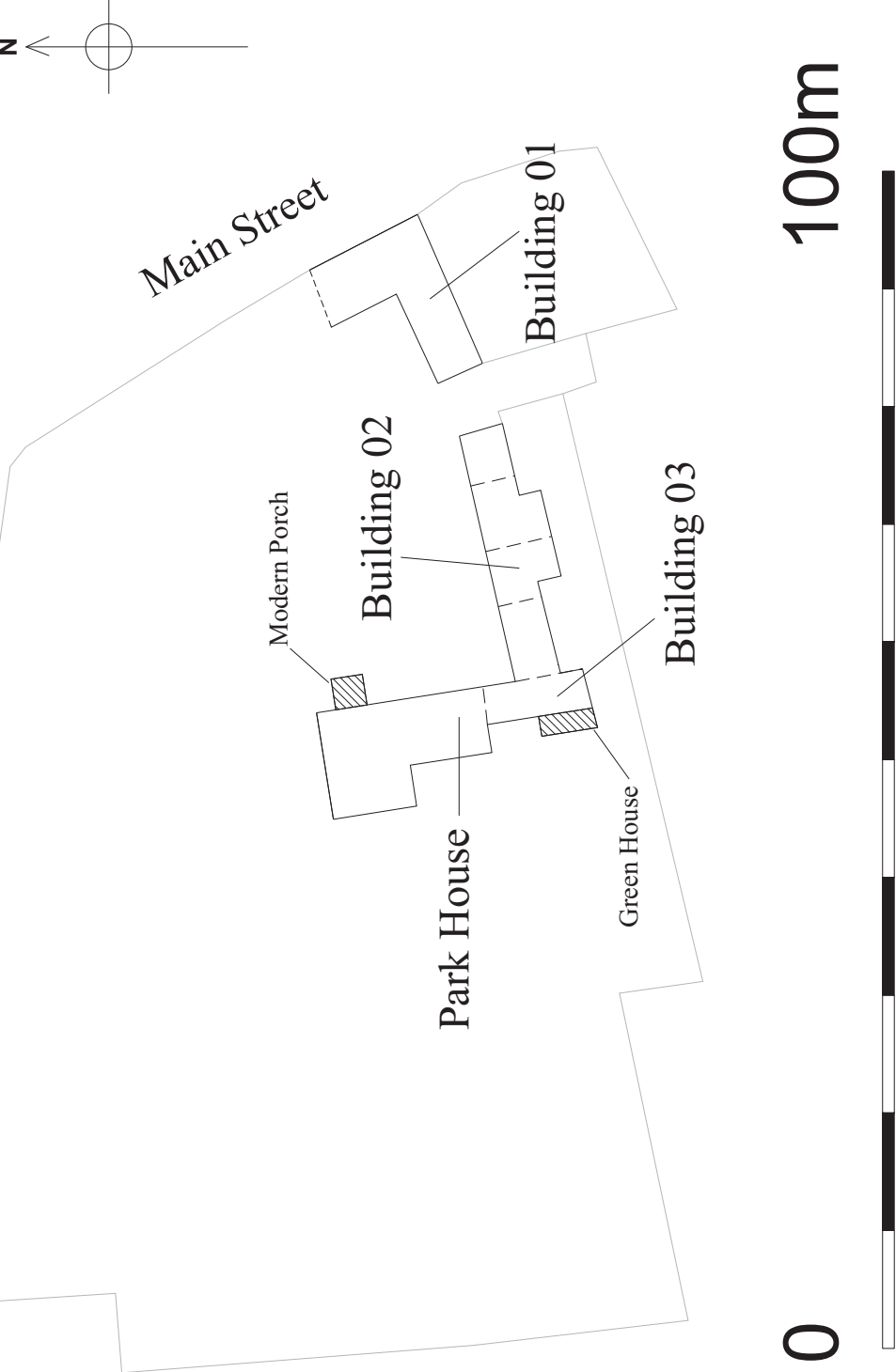


Figure 2 Building Plan.





**Colour Plate 1** Building 1 from the North West



**Colour Plate 2** Building 2 from the North



**Colour Print 3** Building 3 from the South West



**Colour Plate 4** General View of Buildings 2 & 3 and Park House to the Right





**Colour Plate 8** Inscribed Tie Beam