

**A Photographic Survey of An Outbuilding
To the Rear of View Farmhouse
Sharnford, Leicestershire
(NGR SP 480 916)**

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Coventry Road, Sharnford, Leicestershire, (NGR SP 480 916).**

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A Photographic Survey of an Outbuilding to the Rear of View Farmhouse Coventry Road, Sharnford, Leicestershire, (NGR SP 480 916).

Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr. D. Cardew to undertake a photographic survey of an outbuilding to the rear of View Farmhouse, Coventry Road, Sharnford, Leicestershire (SP 480 916). Planning permission has been granted for renovation of the outbuilding as part of an ongoing programme of works at the property.

The house is a Grade II listed timber-framed building, originally constructed in the mid seventeenth century. There are a range of outbuildings to the rear, the largest of which was recorded by this photographic survey. The outbuilding has been altered on a number of occasions and has a relatively complex structural history. The earliest elements are two timber roof trusses trapped within later brick walls that no longer serve a structural function. Roof trusses of this design were common in Leicestershire in the seventeenth and earlier eighteenth centuries. It is possible, therefore, that these trusses are all that remains of an earlier timber-framed structure, that was rebuilt in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, to judge from the brickwork of the lower walls. Later in the nineteenth century the walls were raised in height and the roof re-laid to a shallower pitch. There is evidence to suggest that the ground floor room immediately adjacent to the house served a domestic function, possibly as a pantry/scullery or dairy. The southern part of the building was in use as a tack room at some stage.

The photographic survey provided a permanent visual (photographic) record of the building in its current state. The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, under the museums accession number X.A159.2008.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr. D. Cardew to undertake a photographic survey of an outbuilding to the rear of View Farmhouse, Coventry Road, Sharnford, Leicestershire (SP 480 916). In response to planning application 09/0176/1/PX, planning permission has been granted for alterations to an outbuilding to the rear of the Grade II Listed house.

The Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council, as advisor to Blaby District Council advised that the proposed works would impact upon the historic Listed

building. As a result it was recommended that a photographic survey should be carried out to record the building prior to any works being carried out.

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct and adhered 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.

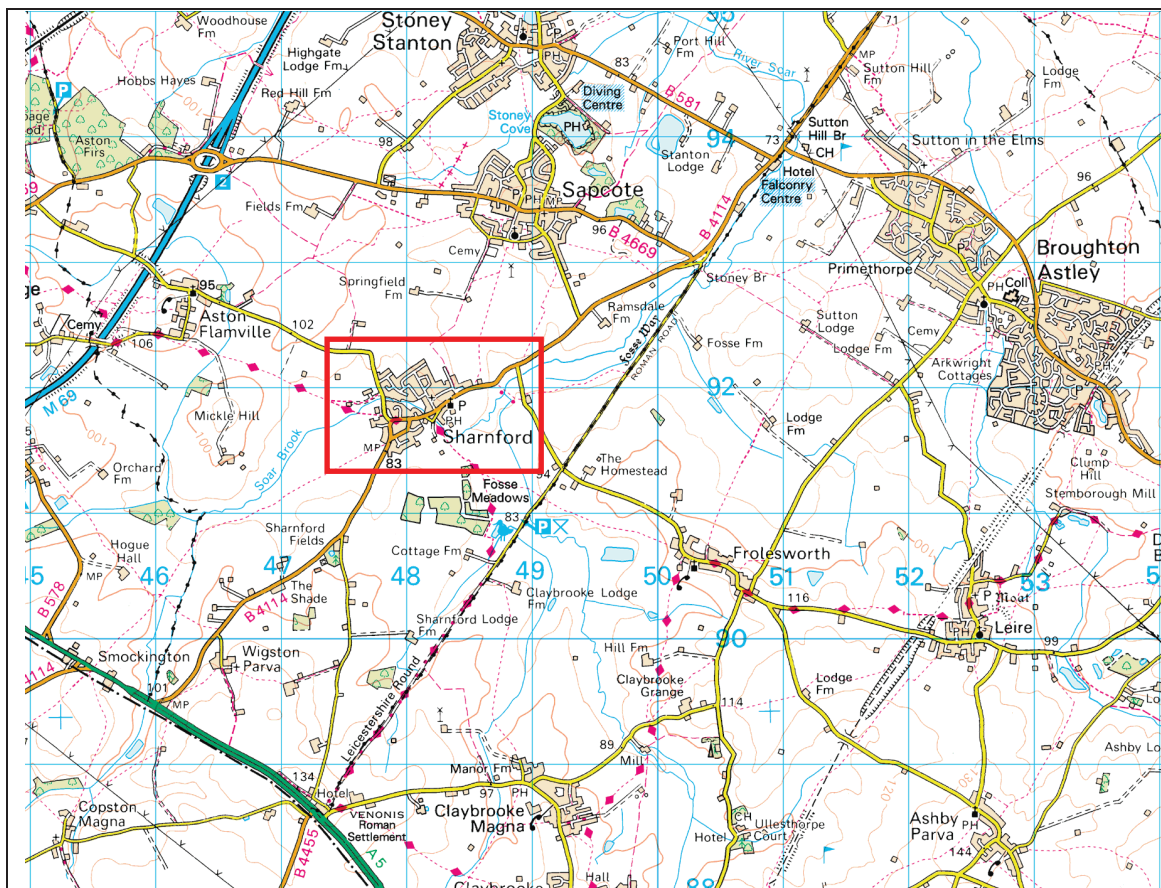


Figure 1. Site location

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2. Aims and Methodology

The aim of the survey was to provide a permanent photographic record of the building in its current state, prior to alteration or repair, to standards set down by English Heritage (2006).

The photographic survey was undertaken by Gerwyn Richards. Photographs, in 35mm monochrome negative and digital format taken as raw image files and converted to

TIFFs (Tagged Image File Format) covered items 1-6 of the English Heritage guidelines (2006, 4; Appendix 4.1.2). The site visit was carried out on April 30th 2009.

The proposed development area contains a number of buildings of interest, but only the outbuilding to the rear of the house is covered by this photographic survey. A previous photographic survey was carried out during the removal of the render on the rear and side elevations of the house in 2008 (Richards 2008).

Orientation: The long axis of the building detailed in this report is orientated approximately north-north west to south-south east, for ease of description this taken hereafter to be north to south, with the principal front being the east facing elevation. Where the terms 'left', 'right', 'front' and 'back' etc. are used in the report, this is in relation to the principal east facing elevation.

3. Description of the Building

View Farmhouse is a Grade II listed building consisting of a three-bay timber box frame with brick nogging (*Figure 2*) with stables and outbuildings to the rear forming an L plan. It is the larger of these rear outbuildings, adjoining the house, which was recorded during this phase of work.

The surveyed building is constructed in red brick of several phases with a plain tile roof. There is a small lean-to on the northern side of the front elevation (*Figure 3*), to the south of which there is a recently-inserted opening. The lower courses of brickwork consist of 2 ½ inch hand made red bricks, probably late eighteenth or early nineteenth century in date. The upper ten courses of the east and west walls are 3 inch machine made bricks, indicating the eaves height has been raised by approximately 2' 6" (750mm), probably in the late nineteenth century. The bricks used in the lean-to are the same eighteenth/early nineteenth century bricks as the lower courses of the main building.

Internally, few historic architectural details remain. The only evidence for the former use of the main part of the building is three projecting timbers on the inside face of the front wall, wear on two of which suggest they were originally saddle trees (*Figure 8*). These suggest that this part of the building was in use as a tack room at some stage.

The most significant structural remains are the two timber roof trusses (*Figures 4 & 5*), one trapped within the southern gable wall, and the other within a partition wall. Both are similar in design, they are principal roof trusses of collar and tie beam form, the principals are ogee shaped and halved together at the apex. The feet of the principals, tenoned into the tie beam, are inset some distance from the tie beam ends. Both tiebeams are cambered. There are queen struts framed between the tie beam and the collar in each truss. Notches in the principals above the collar indicate original purlin positions, now infilled with brick. There are carpenters marks on the joint between the collar and principal (*Figure 6*). The roof has subsequently been raised in height and the existing purlins may be those removed from the frame and reset at a higher level. This design of roof truss was common in Leicestershire throughout the seventeenth century and into the first half of eighteenth century. The lowest courses of brickwork in the

walls date to the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, and the brickwork may have replaced the walls of an earlier fully timber-framed structure.

The building was originally of three bays, a stub wall projecting from the rear wall indicating the division of two of the bays. The third bay is still intact, abutting the rear of the house and is rather complicated. A limited view of some rafters (*Figure 7*) within the first floor loft space suggests the lean-to against the front wall is, in fact an earlier building onto which the larger building has been constructed. Further evidence of this can be seen in a straight joint within the brickwork on front wall and a possible scar of a removed wall visible in the floor.

Immediately adjacent to the house, this third bay appears to have served a domestic function, there are thralls within two of the rooms (*Figure 9*) and there is a doorway into the main house. It is possible, therefore that this space was originally a dairy or pantry/scullery and was accessed from either the house or the door on the front elevation and isolated from the agricultural main building.

4. Conclusion

Despite its relatively simple appearance, the outbuilding has a rather complicated history. The roof trusses are likely to be the earliest element dating from either the seventeenth or early eighteenth century, but successive phases of rebuilding have left them serving no structural use. The brick built lower side walls are likely to date to the later eighteenth or early nineteenth century. The eaves were lifted during the later nineteenth century, possibly at the same time as the house itself was extensively remodelled. Further alterations in the twentieth century has removed much of the evidence of the building's original form and function and there is limited evidence that the building was built incorporating an earlier single storey building, of which only the lean-to and limited partitions within the northern most bay remains.

5. Photographic Index

Digi	B&W	Discription	Building
039	039	Front Elevation, Oblique.	O'Building
040	040	Front Elevation, Oblique.	O'Building
041	041	Lean-To, Front Elevation.	O'Building
042	042	Lean-To, Front Elevation.	O'Building
043	043	Lean-To, Left Hand Elevation.	O'Building
044	044	Lean-To, Left Hand Elevation.	O'Building
045	045	Timber Frame in Left Hand Gable.	O'Building
046	046	Timber Frame in Left Hand Gable.	O'Building
047	047	Timber Frame in Right Hand Gable	O'Building
048	048	Timber Frame in Right Hand Gable	O'Building
049	049	Straight Joint & Possible Wall Plate, Front Elevation.	O'Building
050	050	Straight Joint & Possible Wall Plate, Front Elevation.	O'Building
051	051	Carpenters Marks on Right Hand Frame, Rear Beam.	O'Building
052	052	Carpenters Marks on Right Hand Frame, Rear Beam.	O'Building
053	053	Limited View of View House Frame & Earlier Roof Frame.	O'Building
054	054	Limited View of View House Frame & Earlier Roof Frame.	O'Building
055	055	Second Set of Carpenters Marks on Right Hand Frame, Rear Beam.	O'Building

056	056	Second Set of Carpenters Marks on Right Hand Frame, Rear Beam.	O'Building
057	057	3inch Bricks in Right Hand Rear Wall.	O'Building
058	058	3inch Bricks in Right Hand Rear Wall.	O'Building
059	059	2 1/2inch Brick in Main Rear Wall.	O'Building
060	060	2 1/2inch Brick in Main Rear Wall.	O'Building
061	061	3inch Bricks Above 2 1/2inch Bricks in Rear Wall.	O'Building
062	062	3inch Bricks Above 2 1/2inch Bricks in Rear Wall.	O'Building
063	063	Joist Holes in Front Wall.	O'Building
064	064	Joist Holes in Front Wall.	O'Building
065	065	Right Hand Room, General View.	O'Building
066	066	Right Hand Room, General View.	O'Building
067	067	Thrall.	O'Building
068	068	Thrall.	O'Building
069	069	Rear House Wall.	O'Building
070	070	Rear House Wall.	O'Building
071	071	Outbuilding Floor.	O'Building
072	072	Outbuilding Floor.	O'Building
073	073	Yard Surface, General.	O'Building
074	074	Yard Surface, General.	O'Building
075	075	Yard Surface, Detailed View.	O'Building
076	076	Yard Surface, Detailed View.	O'Building
077	077	Rear House Wall, @ Groundfloor Level.	O'Building
078	078	Rear House Wall, @ Groundfloor Level.	O'Building

6. Bibliography

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Brunskill. R.W. 1981 *Traditional Buildings Of Britain*. Victor Gollancz.

English Heritage. 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*. English Heritage.

English Heritage. 2006 *The Conversion of Traditional Farm Buildings: A Guide to Good Practice*. English Heritage.

Harris. R. 1978 *Discovering Timber-Framed Buildings*. Shire Publication.

Peters, J.E.C. 1981 *Discovering Traditional Farm Buildings*. Shire Publication.

Rawlins, J., *Brickmaking Sites In Leicestershire*.

7. Archive & Publication

The site archive consists of

1 A3 permatrace sheet containing sketch plan of rear elevation & site notes
81 Black & White Negatives and Contact Prints

CD containing 81 digital images

3 A4 contact sheet

2 A4 photo index sheet

Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report Number 2009-062)

Unbound copy of ULAS Report Number 2008-174, A Photographic Survey of View Farmhouse Coventry Road, Sharnford, Leicestershire During Removal of Existing Render to Rear and Side Elevations (NGR SP 480 916).

The archive will be held at Leicestershire County Council under the Accession Number X.A159.2008

A version of the summary (above) will be submitted to the editor of the local journal *Transactions of Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* for inclusion in the next edition.

7. Colour Plates



Figure 2 View Farmhouse, Front Elevation (Looking Southeast).



Figure 3 Front Elevation of Outbuilding (Looking North West).



Figure 4 Southern (Left Hand) Roof Truss.



Figure 5 Northern (Right Hand) Roof Truss.



Figure 6 Detailed View of Carpenters Marks on Northern Roof Truss.



Figure 7 Limited View of Roof Trusses from Possible Earlier Building.



Figure 8 Possible Saddle Tree on Front Wall.

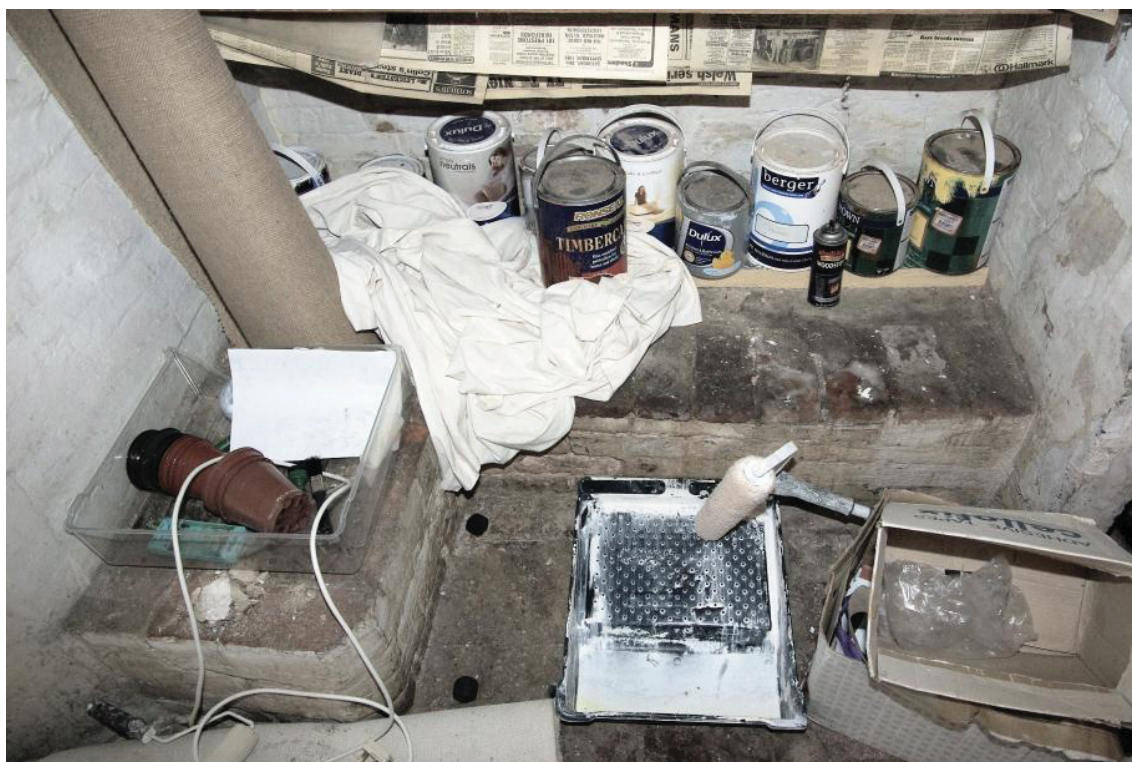


Figure 9 Thrall.

APPENDIX: Listing description

VIEW FARMHOUSE, 8 COVENTRY ROAD (south east side)
SHARNFORD, BLABY, LEICESTERSHIRE

Date listed: 06 December 1978

Date of last amendment: 27 April 1988

Grade II

SHARNFORD COVENTRY ROAD SP 49 SE (south east side) 3/39 No.8 with adjoining outbuilding and stable (formerly listed 6/12/1978 as No 8 View Farmhouse) II House and outbuilding. Mid C17, raised C18, with early and mid C19 alterations and additions. Timber box frame with granite rubble plinth and brick nogging, with slated hipped mansard roof. Dentillated wood eaves, rendered brick ridge and gable stacks. 2 storeys plus attics, 3 bays. L-plan. Front has an off-centre C20 close boarded door, flanked to left by a 2 light casement and to right by 2 early C20 hipped square bay windows. Above, 3 C20 glazing bar casements. To the left, a rendered 2 storey addition. In the return angle, a rounded lean-to oven enclosure. Rear elevation has an off-centre blocked doorway with hood, containing a C20 casement. To its right, a large C20 lean-to porch with slate and plastic sheet roof. Beyond, single bay C19 rendered additions, single and 2 storeys. To the left, a 3 light C20 casement. Above, 2 C20 casements. Above again, 3 two light hooded casements in the roof. To the left, a 2 storey brick outbuilding, 2 bays, containing 2 pairs of crucks. To the left, garage doorway with wooden lintel. To the right, a lean-to porch and 2 close boarded doors. Beyond, to the left, a mid C19 stable, brick with slate roof, with 2 stable doors flanked to right by a pair of carriage doors. To the left, a stable door flanked by single slatted casements. The interior has a framed partition wall, chamfered span beams and fireplace bressummer, and 2 winder staircases, late C18 and early C19, the latter with stick balusters. Keystoned round headed passage with 6 panelled door. 2 early C19 4 panel doors. 4 C18 panelled cupboard doors. Early C19 hob grate in Classical wooden surround. 2 late C19 painted slate fireplaces.