

**An Archaeological Building Recording at
Bagots Bromley Farm, Abbots Bromley,
Staffordshire**



View of the central lane of Bagot's Bromley Farm, looking north

ARS Ltd Report 2010/16
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ARS Ltd Report 2010/16

Archaeological Research Services Ltd

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Executive Summary

In January 2010 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Michael Congreve of Bi Design Architecture Ltd to undertake an Archaeological Building Recording at Bagots Bromley Farm, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire, prior to the proposed development of the site.

The archaeological building recording established that the site contains some buildings of architectural and/or historical significance. Buildings B, western side of D, F and K appear to date from the early to mid 19th century. Buildings L and M were built around the third quarter of the 19th century. Buildings A, D (east side thereof) and F were erected around the latter part of the 19th century. These buildings possess architectural merit and local historical importance. The rest of the buildings are modern in date and have no architectural value.

1 Introduction

Scope of work

- 1.1 A planning application for the development of the Bagots Bromley Farm, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire has been submitted to the Local Planning Authority of East Staffordshire Borough Council (Application Number: CU/11168/006/RS). The application proposed the demolition and conversion of some agricultural buildings to form five or six dwellings with associated garages.
- 1.2 The Council has advised that an archaeological building recording (English Heritage level 2) should be undertaken prior to the proposed re-development of the site.
- 1.3 The Archaeological Building Recording has been carried out in accordance with government guidance on archaeology and planning (PPG 16) in line with 'The Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Building Recording' (Institute for Archaeologists 2008) and in compliance with East Staffordshire Local Plan Policy BE10.

Location and topography

- 1.4 Bagots Bromley Farm lies on the northern side of Newton Hurst Lane, 400 metres west of the junction with the B3014 (centred at NGR: SK 06540 26041). Bagots Bromley is a hamlet, which lies above the Tud Brook valley, c. 2 km north-west of Abbots Bromley and 12 km east north-east of Stafford, Staffordshire. The site lies directly adjacent to Bagots Bromley Moated Manorial Enclosure, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 13512). Bagots Bromley Farm is approximately 0.8 ha in extent and comprises thirteen buildings to be affected by the proposed development. (Fig. 1).
- 1.5 The solid geology of the study site consists of Mercia Mudstone Group. The superficial geology is comprised of glaciofluvial deposits (sand and gravel) of the mid Pleistocene epoch (British Geological Survey). The site itself is on level ground, but is situated on a sloping terrace, which rises up from the south. The site is situated at a height of c. 120 metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

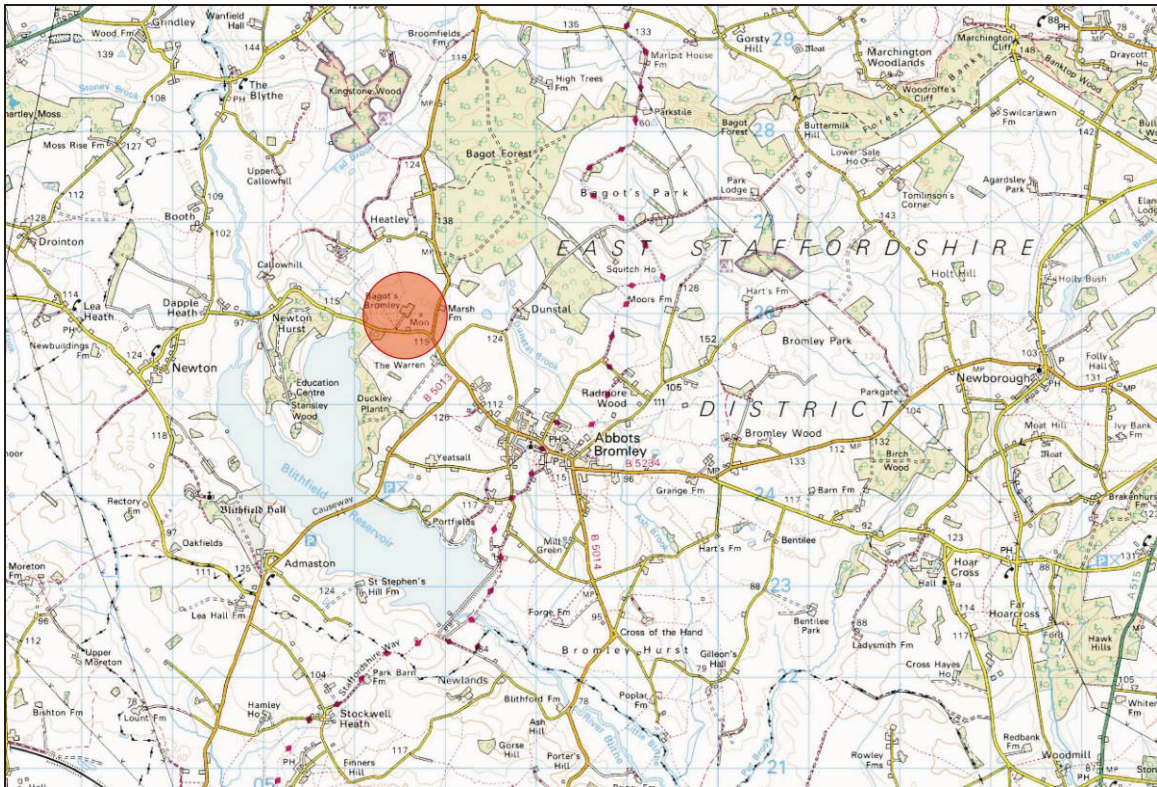


Figure 1: General site location

2 Aims and Objectives

2.1 The objective of the building assessment was to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information on the upstanding buildings' fabric, the known and potential archaeological interest, and the likely impact of the proposed development to enable informed planning decisions regarding the significance of the upstanding buildings.

2.2 All aspects of the Building Recording were conducted according to the guidelines in 'Recording Historic Buildings' published by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (1996) and 'A Guide to Good Recording Practice' by English Heritage (2006).

3 Methodology

3.1 The archaeological building recording was carried out by Alvaro Mora-Ottomano and Jessika Sheppy in February 2010. This consisted of the following:

- A written record of the buildings was carried out by annotating plans and elevations and by completing Archaeological Research Services Ltd pro-forma building recording sheets. Descriptions and terms used follow Brunskill (2000) and Lynch (1994) wherever possible.
- A photographic survey composed of 35mm black and white print (400 Ilford HP5 Plus) and colour slide (200 Fuji Sensia). Photographic survey of

general exterior and interior views was conducted using a Canon EOS 3000 N SLR camera fitted with a 28-90mm lens and a Canon EOS 3000 V SLR camera fitted with a 28-90mm lens respectively. Moreover, high resolution digital photographs (7.1 megapixels) were also taken using an Olympus 790 SW camera with a 20.1mm lens and a Minolta DIMAGE A1 with a 7.2-50.8mm lens. Where possible, photographs included a graduated scale and cameras were mounted on tripods for extra stability. Details of the photographs were recorded on pro-forma index sheets, which included location, subject and orientation. The location and direction of the photographs were plotted on scaled plans.

4 Results

- 4.1 The development site consists of thirteen ranges built parallel or perpendicular to the central lane of Bagots Bromley Farm (Fig. 2).
- 4.2 An archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) has been produced which examined the historical and archaeological background of the development site (Hunt 2007). This included cartographic regression analysis and discussed the results of documentary studies of the historical evolution of the site based on a compiled document located at the Historic Environment Records held at Staffordshire Historic Environment Records, Staffordshire Records Office, University of Leicester Geology Department and Library (*ibid.*).
- 4.3 The DBA has already been submitted as a separate document, and should be consulted in conjunction with this report. The result of the historical research together with the archaeological building assessment successfully identified clear evidence of different phases of construction within the site. A phased plan has been prepared in order to exhibit the surviving sequential development of the farm (Fig. 3). The assessment of the buildings and their sequential developments are considered below. A photographic selection is included in this reports and plotted on a separate plan (Fig. 4).



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Figure 2
 Site location showing the building codes and their proposed development.

Key:

- Buildings to be retained
- Buildings to be demolished
- Site Boundary

Site Code: BAGOTS 10
 Drawing Ref:
 Date: 27.02.10
 Drawn: JS
 Scale: 1:600 at A4

Notes:

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Figure 3
 Phased plan based on cartographic evidence

Key:

- Buildings that appear on the 1848 Tithe map
- Buildings that appear on the 1882 OS map
- Buildings that appear on the 1901 OS map
- Buildings that appear on the 1973 OS map

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Notes:



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Figure 4
 Location and direction of selected photographs

Key:
 → Ground Floor Shots
 → First Floor Shots

Site Code: BAGOTS 10
 Drawing Ref:
 Date:
 Drawn: JS
 Scale: 1:600 at A4

Notes:

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Building A

- 4.4 This building is an open-fronted shed which might have been used for storage (Pl. 1). It is a single-storey brick-built range of two bays with a pitched roof with close verge and plain eaves. The roof is made of corrugated asbestos sheeting supported by a central steel 'W-shaped' truss and the eastern and western gable walls. Its overall dimensions are 9 metres in length (east/west), 6.70 metres in width (north/south) and 5.50 metres in height. The northern elevation is the open-fronted side which has a central brick pillar.
- 4.5 The south elevation appears to have incorporated an earlier wall (up to 2.90 metres high) built with brownish red hand-made bricks (9" x 4 1/4" x 3") bonded with flush medium-coarse pinkish brown lime mortar (up to 10mm thick) and laid to Flemish Garden Wall bond (Pl. 2). This wall has two external pilasters with chamfered top. Between the pilasters there are two small cast-iron vents.
- 4.6 The upper section of this wall as well as the gable walls and the pillar are built with modern red bricks laid to the same bond type. The floor is made of concrete.
- 4.7 This building was built in around the 1900 but does not bear architectural merit or historical significance. However, it incorporated the remains of a boundary wall which is shown in the 1882 OS map.



Plate 1: North elevation of Building A with open front



Plate 2: South elevation of Building A incorporating an earlier brick wall with pilasters

Building B

- 4.8 This is a one-and-a-half storeys high brick-built range of five bays with a pitched tiled roof with barged close verge and projecting eaves with cast-iron guttering (Pl. 3). This building was used as a mill, powered by electricity, but the millstones and driving machinery have been removed. Its overall dimensions are 14 metres in length (east/west), 5.60 metres in width (north/south) and 6.70 metres in height.
- 4.9 The lower twelve brick courses consist of hand-made red bricks (9" x 4¹/₄" x 2¹/₄") bonded with flush medium-coarse pinkish white lime mortar (up to 10mm thick) and laid to English Garden Wall bond. The rest of the building is built with standard bricks (9" x 4¹/₂" x 3").
- 4.10 The main south elevation has four large doorways and a window opening on the easternmost bay of the ground floor. The doorways in the first and second bays from the west have a continuous timber lintel. The third has an RSJ lintel and the fourth a concrete lintel. The doorways are devoid of doors except for the second bay from the west which has a large soft-wood door. There is a window opening on the fifth bay with a concrete lintel and a projecting tapered sill made of blue engineering bricks. The opening has a steel 'Crittall-type' window with an upper inwards hopper opening. The east and west elevations have an oculus on each gable built with chamfered bricks and containing cast-iron vents.

- 4.11 On the ground floor, the first two rooms (from the west) have a different ceiling from the rest of the building. This consists of two east/west timber bridging beams with chamfered edges (2.50m to the underside) carrying exposed joists which bear floor boards for the upper storey (Pl. 4). The walls consist of bricks with partitions and the floor is made of concrete. There is an electric winnower threshing machine inside the second room from the west and above it a boarded-up ceiling hatch from which grain would have been hoisted up to the floor above in sacks (Pl. 5). However, no evidence of a hoist was identified.
- 4.12 The eastern section of the building is a large room which would have contained mill machinery. The only surviving signs of the machinery are four metal tubular vertical drives protectors placed in the ceiling structure for the upper storey (Pl. 6). The ceiling structure consists of sawn timber joists reinforced with herringbone strutting. The entire structure is supported by an RSJ frame which would have been added at a later stage in order to reduce the vibrations from the millstones in the upper storey. The floor is also made of concrete but is higher than the western side.
- 4.13 The upper storey is accessed from an external staircase on the west elevation which leads to a doorway with a ledged door (Pl. 7). The staircase is made of bricks and the steps are topped with blue engineering bricks. There is an opening with a segmental arched head which enables access under the stairwell. The interior of the upper floor was only viewed partially due to the unsafe condition of the building. The western section has two sawn timber king-post truss carrying two tiers of trench purlins which extend throughout the entire building (Pl. 8). The western side has a modified truss consisting of a sawn timber tie-beam supporting two raking struts. The principal rafter has been removed.
- 4.14 This building appears to be illustrated in the 1848 Tithe map and although it does not bear architectural value it is of local historical importance.



Plate 3: South elevation of Building B



Plate 4: Timber ceiling structure in Building B



Plate 5: Electric winnower threshing machine on the ground floor of Building B



Plate 6: Ceiling with circular apertures for former drive of millstone



Plate 7: West elevation of Building B



Plate 8: Detail of king-post truss

Building C

- 4.15 This building is situated on the south-east corner of the development site. It is a long single-storey brick built range with a pitched roof made of corrugated asbestos sheeting with eight (four on each side) corrugated PVC skylights. Its overall dimensions are 18.85 metres in length (east/west), 15.15 metres in width (north/south) and 6.20 metres in height.
- 4.16 Internally there is a concrete structure composed of twelve posts linked with a continuous wall plate which is supporting five 'W-shaped' steel trusses (Pl. 10). The arrangement of the posts divides the interior into three east/west bays. The main doorway is positioned on the east elevation which consists of a large steel sliding door. The east elevation appears to have incorporated an earlier brick wall with pilasters equivalent to the ones observed in Building A (Pl. 9). The upper section is built with corrugated asbestos sheeting integral with the roof structure.
- 4.17 There is a lean-to aisle like extension on the southern end built with similar fabric to the main building.
- 4.18 This building incorporated an earlier boundary wall depicted in the 1882 OS map however its current construction lacks architectural or historical value.



Plate 9: East elevation of Building C



Plate 10: Inside Building C, looking east

Building D

- 4.19 Building D is a long rectangular single-storey brick-built range of five bays with a pitched tiled roof which has close verge and plain eaves. It adjoins the eastern elevation of Building C forming an eastern wing of Building B (Pl. 11). The walls are built with brownish red hand-made bricks (9" x 4 1/4" x 3") bonded with flush medium-coarse pinkish brown lime mortar (up to 10mm thick) and laid to Flemish Garden Wall bond. The top of the external walls are decorated with a dentilled cornice. The building is comprised of a central passageway dividing two areas on the west and east which are built internally slightly different. Its overall dimensions are 20.70 metres in length (east/west), 4.30 metres in width (north/south) and 4.20 metres in height.
- 4.20 The southern elevation consists of five timber posts supporting an east/west timber wall plate which in turn carries the southern end of the roof structure. The posts are placed over raised stone pads (Pl. 15). This building would originally have been an open-fronted shed for cattle.
- 4.21 The western elevation has two external doorways with segmental arched heads which lead to Building B on the west and to the central passageway on the east (Pl. 12). The only surviving door is on the eastern side which is a timber ledged-and-brace type with external iron strap hinges (Pl. 14). Internally the building has a continuous trough along the northern wall. The roof structure is of two timber king-post trusses carrying two trenched purlins reinforced with cleats. The king post is bolted to the tie-beam (2.32 metres in height to the underside). The brick walls are lime washed and the floor is made of concrete.
- 4.22 The eastern side is similar to its western counterpart except for the roof structure which consists of three king-post trusses built with narrower timber and without cleats (Pl. 15). The interior has a north/south brick partition and an inserted doorway on the north-eastern corner.
- 4.23 This range dates originally to the mid 19th century and is of local historical importance. The western section seems to be depicted in the 1848 Tithe map and its eastern section, built with similar style and fabrics, is shown in the 1901 OS map. The whole range is in moderate state of preservation but its architectural construction bears noteworthy merits.



Plate 11: North elevation of Building D



Plate 12: Doorway on the western end of Building D



Plate 13: Internal view of the western side



Plate 14: Doorway of the western side of Building D



Plate 15: Internal view of the eastern side

Building E

- 4.24 Building E is a long rectangular single-storey brick-built range of five bays with a pitched tiled roof which has close verge and plain eaves (Pl. 16). Its overall dimensions are 24.35 metres in length (north/south), 6 metres in width (east/west) and 5.10 metres in height. The walls are built with brownish red hand-made bricks (9" x 4 1/4" x 3") bonded with flush medium-coarse pinkish brown lime mortar (up to 10mm thick) and laid to Flemish Garden Wall bond. The top of the external walls are decorated with a dentilled cornice.
- 4.25 Building E has three original doorways with segmental arched heads on the western elevation of which one is currently blocked with bricks and three later inserted doorways with concrete lintels (Pls. 17, 18 and 19). On the eastern and western elevations there are several inserted window openings with concrete lintels and projecting tapered sills made of blue engineering bricks. Each opening has a steel 'Crittall-type' window with an upper inward hopper opening. On the eastern elevation there is a distinct construction break in the brickwork which may indicate that the building incorporated an existing boundary wall on the southern section which is also part of Buildings C and D (Pls. 21 and 22).
- 4.26 Internally the building has four (9") brick partitions which appear to be later as they are not aligned with the timber trusses. The roof structure of the northern half of the building has two timber king-post trusses supported by brick pilasters (Pl. 24). The trusses carry two tiers of trenched purlins which are fairly thick in nature. The tie-beams have chamfered edges with run-out stops (2.40 metres in height to

the underside) and the king posts are bolted (Pl. 24). The brick walls are lime washed and the floor is made of concrete (Pl. 25).

- 4.27 The southern section of the building has a similar roof structure but the timbers are narrower and without chamfered edges (Pl. 23). The brick partitions are built with brown bricks (9" x 4½" x 3") laid to English Garden Wall bond.
- 4.28 This range was probably built during the end of the 19th century as it is shown on the 1902 OS map. Despite unsympathetic insertions such as later doorways, the building has some architectural value.



Plate 16: West elevation of Building E, looking south-east



Plate 17: Southern end of the west elevation of Building E



Plate 18: Doorway on the west elevation of Building E



Plate 19: Blocked-up doorway of Building E



Plate 20: Northern end of west elevation of Building E



Plate 21: Construction break on the east elevation of building E, indicated with an arrow

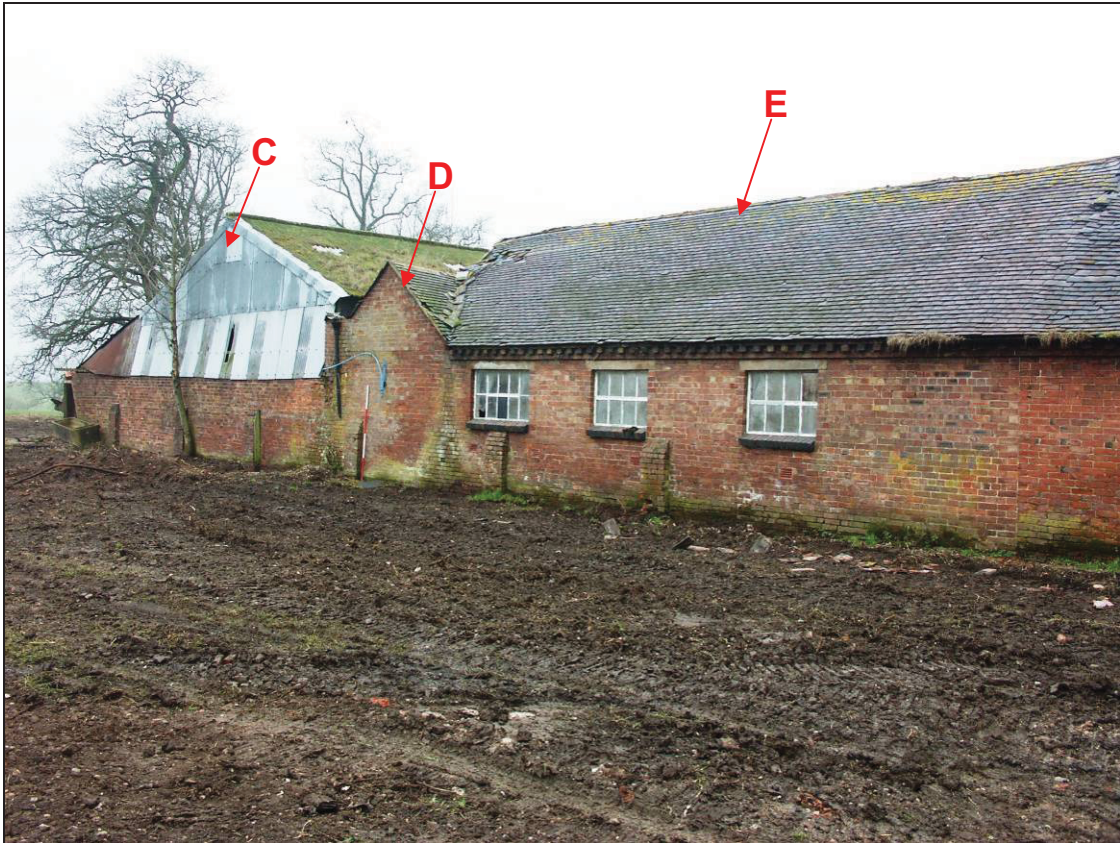


Plate 22: East elevation of Buildings C, D and E, looking south-west



Plate 23: Timber king-post truss within the southern side of Building E



Plate 24: Northern side of Building E, looking south



Plate 25: Southern side of Building E

Building F

- 4.29 Building F is a one-and-a-half storey high brick-built range of one bay with a pitched roof composed of clay tiles which have been dismantled (Pl. 26). Its overall dimensions are 6 metres in length (east/west), 5.50 metres in width (north/south) and 6.50 metres in height. The roof has close verge and plain eaves. The walls are built with brown hand-made bricks (9" x 4½" x 3") bonded with flush medium-coarse pinkish brown lime mortar (up to 10mm thick) and laid to Flemish Garden Wall bond.
- 4.30 The northern elevation shows signs of having been heightened at a later stage (Pl. 27). There is a large window opening which might have been used as a loading bay. Above the window opening there is an inscribed brick with initials and date (1864) which may indicate the year the upper section was raised (Pl. 28).
- 4.31 Internally the ground floor has a brick floor and a timber ceiling with a bridging east/west beam with chamfered edges, exposed joists reinforced with herringbone strutting and lath-and-plaster (Pl. 29). This building might have been used as a mill, powered by electricity, as there is a hole in the ceiling and a metal tubular vertical drive protector which is currently on the floor of the building, similar to those recorded in Building B. The whole structure is supported with an RSJ beam which would have been inserted at a later stage in order to reduce the vibrations from the millstone in the upper storey.

- 4.32 The upper storey was not accessible, however it was partially observed from the northern window opening. The roof structure consists of a central queen-post truss without principal rafters (Pl. 30).
- 4.33 This building is depicted in the 1848 Tithe map and the current upper storey might have been added to the original structure in 1864 as an inscribed brick indicates. It has little architectural merit but is of local historical importance.



Plate 26: West elevation of Building F



Plate 27: North elevation of Building F showing construction break (red dots)



Plate 28: Inscribed initials and date on the north elevation of Building F



Plate 29: Ceiling structure of Building F

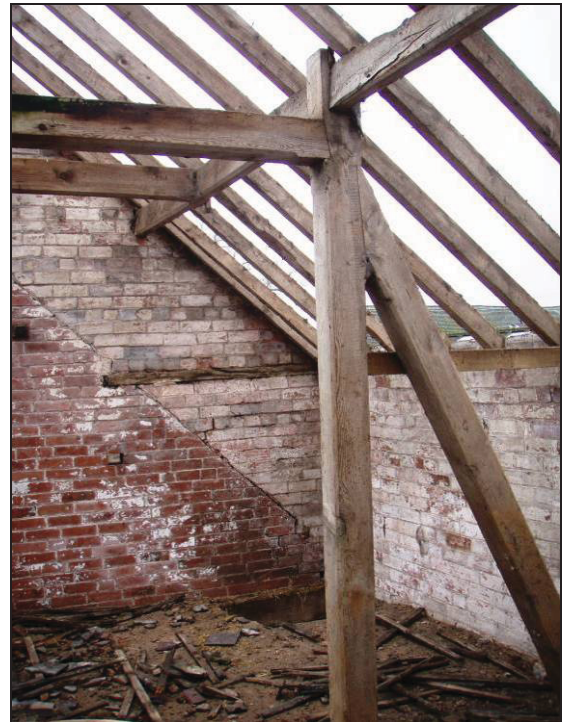


Plate 30: Truss structure of Building F

Building G

- 4.34 Building G consists of four north/south opened storage sheds made of concrete posts supporting steel 'W-shaped' trusses which carry four pitched roofs with central valleys (Pl. 31). The material of the roofs is corrugated asbestos sheeting and the floor is made of concrete. Its overall dimensions are 42.50 metres in length (east/west), 32.60 metres in width (north/south) and 6.75 metres in height.
- 4.35 This building is modern in date and of no architectural or historical significance.



Plate 31: South elevation of Building G

Building H

- 4.36 Building H is a long rectangular single-storey brick-built range of six bays with a pitched roof which has close verge and plain eaves (Pls. 32 and 33). Its overall dimensions are 24 metres in length (north/south), 10.30 metres in width (east/west) and 5 metres in height. The walls are decorated with pilasters which divide it into six bays. Each bay has a window opening with a concrete lintel and a projecting tapered sill made of blue engineering bricks. The window opening has a steel 'Crittall-type' window with an upper inward hopper opening. This range is built with red machine-made bricks ($8\frac{3}{4}'' \times 4'' \times 2\frac{3}{4}''$) bonded with flush medium-coarse light brown lime mortar (up to 10mm thick) and laid to Flemish Garden Wall bond.

- 4.37 This building appears to have been used as a cow shed (Pl. 34). Internally it has a concrete floor and the roof consists of five steel 'W-shaped' trusses supporting asbestos corrugated sheeting with twelve skylights (six on each side) and cast-iron guttering. On the north elevation there is a large doorway which would have had a sliding door which is no longer present.
- 4.38 This building is modern in date and of no architectural or historical significance.



Plate 32: North elevation of Building H on the left and Building I on the right



Plate 33: East elevation of Building H



Plate 34: Inside Building H, looking north

Building I

- 4.39 Building I is a single-storey brick-built range of two bays with a pitched roof which has close verge and plain eaves (Pl. 35). Its overall dimensions are 9.25 metres in length (north/south), 4.80 metres in width (east/west) and 4.20 metres in height. It is built with similar fabrics as Building H except for the lack of pilasters on the wall. It has two windows on the side walls and PVC guttering which appears to be a later replacement.
- 4.40 Internally the building is accessed from a doorway on the north elevation which has a concrete lintel and a framed ledged-and-brace timber door (Pl. 36). It has a concrete floor and a ceiling composed of a north/south timber bridging beam and exposed joists supporting wooden boards. The roof is supported by a central steel 'W-shaped' truss.
- 4.41 This building is modern in date and of no architectural or historical significance.



Plate 35: West elevation of Building I on the left and Buildings J and B on the right



Plate 36: Inside Building I, looking north

Building J

- 4.42 Building J is situated between the south elevation of Building I and the north elevation of building B. It is a single-storey brick-built range of one bay with a pitched roof which has close verge and plain eaves. Its overall dimensions are 5.90 metres in length (north/south), 4.70 metres in width (east/west) and 4.20 metres in height. It is built with similar fabrics as Building I.
- 4.43 The building is accessed from a doorway on the west elevation which has a concrete lintel (Pl. 37). This elevation also has a window equivalent to those in Buildings H and I. Internally it has a raised concrete floor, a false ceiling made with wooden boards and the walls are rendered with cement.
- 4.44 This building is modern in date and of no architectural or historical significance.



Plate 37: West elevation of Building J

Building K

- 4.45 Building K is a one-and-half storeys high brick-built range of three bays divided by brick pilasters which had been used as a stable (Pl. 38). It has a pitched tiled roof with close verge and projecting eaves with PVC guttering. Its overall dimensions are 14.40 metres in length (east/west), 5.90 metres in width (north/south) and 6.40 metres in height. It is built with dark red hand-made bricks (9" x 4½" x 3") bonded with flush medium-coarse beige lime mortar (up to 10mm thick) and laid to Flemish Garden Wall bond.
- 4.46 The walls are decorated with dog-toothed brick cornices at the eaves of the side walls and the verge of the western gable. The south elevation has two doorways and windows on the western and central bays. The doorways have segmental arched heads and stable timber doors with iron strap hinges (Pl. 43). There is a brick with inscribed initials and date (1819) over the western doorway (Pl. 39).
- 4.47 The west elevation has an external staircase built with bricks and two inserted windows with segmental arched heads on each floor (Pl. 41). The east elevation has an original central window opening on the upper floor with semi-circular head and another inserted steel window on the ground floor (Pl. 42).

- 4.48 There is a lean-to extension along most of the northern elevation built with similar fabrics to the main building (Pls. 40 and 44). It is accessed from the western side which has a brick wall containing another brick with initials and date (1851). This date may indicate the year the lean-to extension was erected (Pl. 45).
- 4.49 Internally there are three rooms on the ground floor. The western room has a brick floor. The ceiling consists of a north/south bridging timber beam (2.30 metres in height to the underside) with chamfered edges supporting exposed joists and lath-and-plaster (Pl. 46). There are two brick partitions dividing the rooms. The brick walls are built with hand-made brown bricks (9" x 4½" x 3") bonded with flush medium-coarse beige lime mortar (up to 10mm thick) and laid to English Garden Wall bond. The central room has a raised concrete floor (150mm high) and the ceiling arrangement is similar to the western room but it has two north/south bridging beams instead (Pl. 47). The main doorway has single bullnose brick jambs. The eastern room is similar to the central one but the ceiling structure has an east/west bridging beam and the joists are later replacements.
- 4.50 The upper storey is accessed from an external staircase on the west elevation which leads to a doorway with a ledged door. The staircase is made of bricks and the steps are topped with blue engineering bricks. The interior of the upper floor could only be partially viewed because of the unsafe condition of the building. The floor is made of screed over wooden boards. The roof structure consists of continuous side purlins supported by the brick partitions. The common rafters appear to be later replacements.
- 4.51 This building may date to the first quarter of the 19th century as it seems to be depicted in the 1848 Tithe map and there is an inscribed brick with the date of 1819. The lean-to northern extension might have been added in the mid 19th century as indicated by the inscribed date on one of the bricks. Moreover, the lean-to is shown on the 1882 OS map. There are signs of repairs and some of the windows might not be original. However, this building can be considered of some architectural merit and is of local historical importance.



Plate 38: South elevation of Building K



Plate 39: Inscribed initials and date over the doorway head on the western bay of Building K



Plate 40: North elevation of Building K



Plate 41: West elevation of Building K

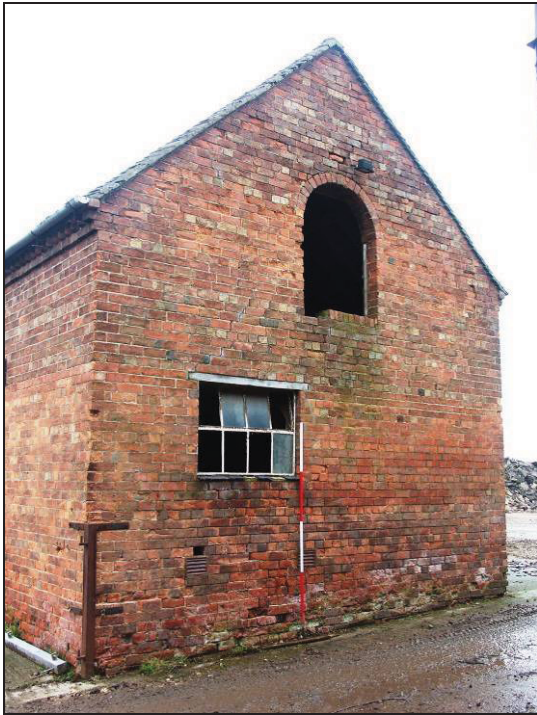


Plate 42: East elevation of Building K

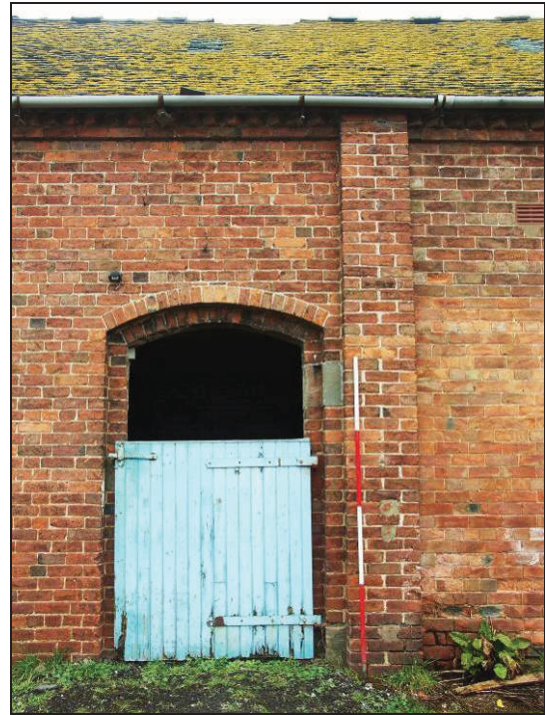


Plate 43: Detail of stable doorway



Plate 44: Lean-to on the north elevation of Building K

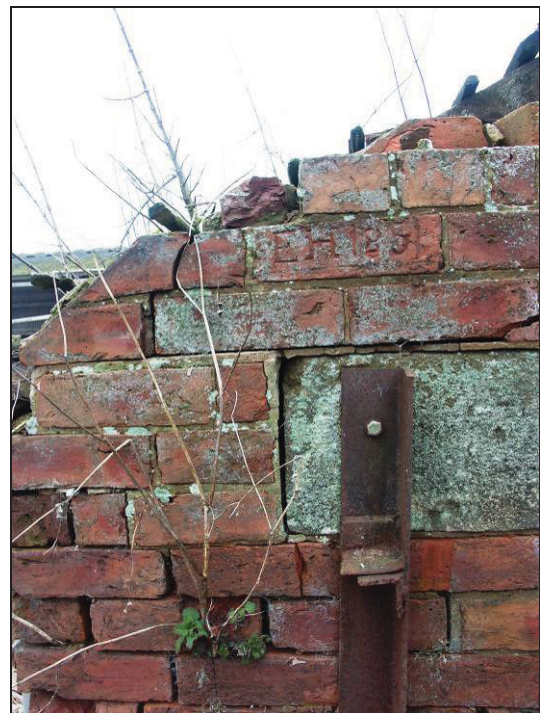


Plate 45: Detail of inscribed initials and date



Plate 46: Inside western room on the ground floor of Building K, looking north



Plate 47: Internal view of the main central room on the ground floor of Building K

Building L

- 4.52 Building L is a single-storey brick-built range with a pitched tiled roof with projecting verge and plain eaves with PVC guttering (Pl. 48). Its overall dimensions are 11 metres in length (east/west), 2.80 metres in width (north/south) and 3.80 metres in height. It is built with brownish red hand-made bricks (9" x 4½" x 3") bonded with flush medium-coarse beige lime mortar (up to 10mm thick) and laid to Flemish Garden Wall bond. There is a continuous honeycomb brick course under the eaves of the side walls which would have acted as ventilators. There are two doorways with concrete lintels on the north and east elevations and two window openings on the gables.
- 4.53 Internally the building is divided by an inserted brick wall. The floor is considerably raised (350mm high) and is built with bricks laid on edge. The roof structure consists of timber common rafters with upper collars (Pl. 49). This building might have originally contained ovens for burning, baking and/or drying as there are four apertures with semi-circular heads blocked with bricks on the south wall which resemble ovens or similar features and the brick floor is slightly stained with charcoal (Pl. 50).
- 4.54 This building appears depicted in the 1882 OS map and although is not of architectural merit, it is of some local historical importance.



Plate 48: North elevation of Building L



Plate 49: Internal view of Building L

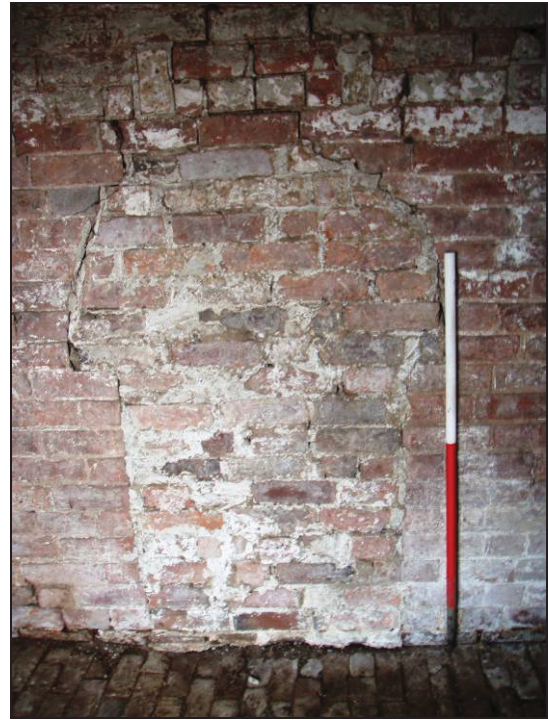


Plate 50: Detail of former oven blocked up

Building M

- 4.55 Building M is a single-storey brick-built range of five bays with a pitched roof which has projecting verge and plain eaves (Pl. 51). Its overall dimensions are 17 metres in length (east/west), 6 metres in width (north/south) and 6.40 metres in height. It is built with brownish red hand-made bricks (9" x 4½" x 3") bonded with flush medium-coarse beige lime mortar (up to 10mm thick) and laid to Flemish Garden Wall bond. The walls are decorated with dog-toothed brick cornices at the eaves of the side walls and the verge of the gable walls. The roof consists of metal sheeting which is a later replacement of the original tiles.
- 4.56 The northern elevation is an open-fronted arcade composed of four large doorways with elliptical arched heads and elegant pillars with bullnose jambs (Pl. 51). The eastern bay has a common doorway with segmental arched head and a ledged timber door which leads to a room latterly used as a stable.
- 4.57 The southern elevation is plain although with decorated cornice. There is a doorway on the eastern bay which leads to a small toilet and adjacent toilet which is accessed from a doorway on the east elevation (Pl. 53). The west elevation has a window opening with semi-circular arched head built with bullnose brick jambs and *intrados* (Pl. 52).
- 4.58 Internally the main area was used as a coach house/cart shed. The floor is made of concrete at the same level as the farmyard. The walls have a brick plinth with chamfered tops. The roof structure consists of three king-post trusses carrying two tiers of trenched purlins reinforced with cleats (Pl. 54). The king posts are bolted to

the tie-beam which is 2.95 metres in height to the underside. The trusses are the only example within the entire farm which have carpenter's marks (Pl. 55).

- 4.59 This is an elegant range which, although the roof has been replaced with metal sheeting, bears particular architectural merit. The building was probably built during the mid 19th century and is exhibited in the 1882 OS map. Thus it is of local historical importance.



Plate 51: North elevation of Building M, looking north-east



Plate 52: West and south elevations of Building M



Plate 53: Eastern bay on the south elevation of Building M



Plate 54: King-post truss



Plate 55: Detail of carpenter's marks on king-post

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The archaeological building survey provides a descriptive record of Bagots Bromley Farm, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire. It established that the site contains some buildings of architectural and/or historical significance.
- 5.2 Building A is an open-fronted shed which might have been used for storage. It was built around the 1900 but does not bear architectural merit or historical significance. However, it incorporates the remains of a boundary wall which is shown in the 1882 OS map.
- 5.3 Building B was used as a mill but the millstones and driving machinery have been removed. The building appears to be illustrated in the 1848 Tithe map and although it does not bear architectural value it is of historical importance.
- 5.4 Building C is a large modern range which incorporates the remains of an earlier boundary wall depicted in the 1882 OS map, however its modern construction lacks architectural or historical value.
- 5.5 Building D would have originally been an open-fronted shed for cattle. This range dates originally to the mid 19th century and is of local historical importance. The western section seems to be depicted in the 1848 Tithe map and its eastern side, built with similar style and fabrics, is shown in the 1901 OS map. The whole range is in moderate state of preservation but its architectural construction bears noteworthy merits.

- 5.6 Building E is a long range built with bricks decorated with a dentilled cornice. This range was probably built during the end of the 19th century as it is shown on the 1902 OS map. Despite unsympathetic insertions such as later doorways, the building has some architectural value.
- 5.7 Building F is a one-and-a-half storey brick-built range which is depicted in the 1848 Tithe map. This building would have been used as a mill when the current upper storey was added to the original structure in 1864 as indicated by an inscribed brick and structural scars on the brickwork of the northern gable wall. It has little architectural merit but is of local historical importance.
- 5.8 Building G consists of four large opened storage sheds which are modern in date and of no architectural or historical significance.
- 5.9 Building H is another large cow shed built with modern fabrics in around the mid 20th century and is no architectural or historical significance.
- 5.10 Building I is used for storage and is built virtually with the same fabrics as Building H and has no architectural value.
- 5.11 Building J is also used for storage and of similar attributes to Buildings H and I and thus bears no architectural or historical significance.
- 5.12 Building K is a one-and-a-half range used as a stable with storage on the upper floor. It is built with bricks decorated with dog-toothed cornices at the eaves of the side walls and the verge of the western gable. This building may date to the first quarter of the 19th century as it seems to be depicted in the 1848 Tithe map and there is an inscribed brick with the date of 1819. The lean-to northern extension might have been added in the mid 19th century as indicated by the inscribed date on one of the bricks marked with the year of 1851. Moreover, the lean-to is shown on the 1882 OS map. There are signs of repairs and some of the windows might not been original. However, this building can be considered of some architectural merit and is of local historical importance.
- 5.13 Building L is a small single storey range which might have contained ovens used for burning, baking and/or drying. This building appears depicted in the 1882 OS map and although is not of architectural merit, it is of some local historical importance.
- 5.14 Building M is a tall single storey brick built range which was used as a coach house/cart shed. The brickwork is decorated with dog-toothed brick cornices at the eaves of the side walls and the verge of the gable walls. It has an elegant open-fronted arcade supported by pillars with bullnose jambs. There is also a semi-circular window with bullnose jambs and *intrados*. The roof structure is well-preserved and consists of three king-post trusses carrying two tiers of trencled purlins. Although its original tiled roof has been replaced by modern metal sheeting, the majority of the building bears particular architectural merit. The building was probably built during the mid 19th century and is exhibited in the 1882 OS map. Thus it is of local historical importance.

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8 Acknowledgements

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