# T V A S NORTH MIDLANDS

# Home Farm, Besford, Worcestershire

**Building Recording** 

by Genni Elliott

Site Code: HFB17/199

(SO 9123 4474)

# Home Farm, Besford, Worcestershire

**Building Recording** 

For Armour Heritage

by Genni Elliott

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WSM 68488

October 2017

#### **Summary**

Site name: Home Farm, Besford, Worcestershire

Grid reference: SO 9123 4474

Site activity: Building Recording

Date and duration of project: 22nd September 2017

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site code: HFB17/199

**Summary of results:** In its earliest form the farm probably consisted only of the farmhouse and north barn, built in the late 16th or early 17th centuries. The barn was later extended and converted into a threshing barn with a new door in the south elevation. Prior to 1865 the farmyard was further developed with the addition of three barns to form a farmyard, including a cartshed open to the fields to the south. The east barn was subsequently rebuilt on the same footprint in the 20th century.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Worcestershire Museum in due course under accession number WSM 68488.

OASiS Rerefence: thamesva1-303691

This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website: www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 08.11.17

Steve Preston ✓ 07.11.17

## Home Farm, Besford, Worcestershire Building Recording

by Genni Elliott

**Report 17/199** 

#### Introduction

This report documents the results of building recording at Home Farm, Besford, Worcestershire (SO 9123 4474) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Sue Farr of Armour Heritage, Foghamshire Timber Yard, Foghamshire Lane, Trudoxhill, Frome, Somerset BA11 5DG.

Planning consent (app W/15/01979/PN) has been gained from Wychavon District Council for the conversion of a listed range of traditional barns to residential use including a new linking addition. The consent includes a condition (15) which requires a programme of archaeological works to be agreed in advance of the development. It was determined that this should consists of two strands: a watching brief during the works (to be reported on separately) and a building recording of the barns in order that the historic fabric of the structures can be preserved by record. This report documents the results of the building survey.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Council's policies on the historic environment. The building recording fieldwork was undertaken by Genni Elliott and Danielle Milbank on 22nd September 2017 and the site code is HFB17/199. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Worcestershire Museum under accession number WSM 68488 and a copy sent to the National Monuments Record in due course.

#### Location, topography and geology

Besford is a small village, located to the south-east of Pershore in Worcestershire. Home Farm is located in the centre of Besford, immediately to the east of St Peter's Church, on the south side of St Peter's Lane (Fig. 1). The site lies at approximately 43m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is recorded as the Fourth (Ailstone) Terrace of the River Avon above Lower Lias Clay Formation (BGS 1993).

#### **Historical Background**

The history of the site has been covered in a historic building appraisal (Baker 2015). In summary, Besford was first mentioned in a charter restoring its ownership to Pershore Abbey by King Edgar. By the time of the Domesday survey this had been passed to Westminster Abbey along with the manor of Pershore by Edward the

Confessor. Domesday Book records the manor as being assessed at 10 hides; of these, four in demesne, held from the Abbot by William the priest and consisting of arable land for 1 1/2 ploughs, 10 acres of meadow and woodland, all being worth 20s. Five hides were held by Urse, formerly held by Edward and Leofric. That portion of the manor consisted of arable for 2 ploughs, 10 acres of meadow and woodland, and was worth 30, The population consisted of four families with 1 plough, and 6 slaves. The final hide was held by Walter Ponther, and was wasteland worth 16d (Williams and Martin 2002).

The existing settlement is of medieval origin with the manor house, Besford Court, dating to the early 16th century with considerable rebuilding and extending in 1912. The manor house is located at the northern end of the village, whilst the Church and its estate (Church Farm and the vicarage) lie at the southern end of the village. The church supposedly dates from the early 13th century with a timber framed nave dating to the 14th or 15th century and the south porch slightly later. Church farmhouse was built *c*. 1800 with the small barn to the southwest of 17th-century date (VCH 1924). Worcestershire HER records the remains of a medieval settlement immediately to the west of Home Farm, with earthworks, house platforms and a holloway (WSM 16517).

Home Farm is recorded in the Farmstead Characterisation Project (WSM 43249) as a 17th-century farmstead with unconverted buildings laid out in a loose courtyard with an L-plan range and detached buildings, with the farmhouse separate (WSM 60216). The main barn is grade II listed and recorded as 'C17 timber frame and whitened brick barn.' The farmhouse is of mixed date with a timber-framed wing with later extensions to the north and south. The southern extension bears the date 1885 and the arms of the Beauchamp family.

Sale particulars for the Besford Court estate dating to 1914 cover the entire parish of Besford including Besford (Home) Farm, which is referred to as one of eight farms within the parish. Lot 37 refers to Besford Farm itself with the farmhouse described as an 'old manor style of residence' with some 'very fine farm buildings'. The farm buildings comprise a bull house, piggery, fodder store and pump, open cattle shed for 10, cow houses for 18, calf pen, cart-horse stable for 8 with loft, nag stable of two loose boxes, harness room and loft, open cattle shed for 12 and loose box, calves house, barn, soft water tank and pump, root house, chaff house and loft, granary with windlass, three implement sheds, poultry house, two wagon house, seven-bay Dutch barn (one bay enclosed to form implement shed), calves house and poultry house. Some of these buildings will be those present on the opposite side of the road.

A range of maps was studied at Worcestershire Record Office and online in order to ascertain the site's more recent history. The earliest map is the parish plan of Besford of 1861 (Fig. 2). It suggests the same arrangement of buildings as is present today with the north barn, north barn extension, an east barn and a south

barn adjacent to the farmhouse. The farmyard does not appear to be enclosed but open to the west. The first Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885 (Fig. 3) is clearer and shows the buildings in more detail. Again it shows the same arrangement of buildings as is present today, though there are minor differences such as an additional small building to the rear of the North barn, between the two outshots and possibly a pen-like arrangement to the south of the western outshot. The farm is labelled Besford Farm. No changes are seen by 1904, nor by 1955.

The 1966 map (Fig. 4) however, shows considerable change with a substantially enlarged south barn, appearing to cover the majority of the farmyard and a further two buildings present in the fields to the southwest of the yard. The name of the farm has also changed to Home Farm. The 1994 map (Fig. 5) gives more detail as to the nature of the enlarged south barn and suggests that it is actually two buildings; the barn as existing today and a covered area over the farmyard without any walls. The modern map (Fig. 6) no longer shows the covered area, the barns buildings to the south-west are no longer present and the east barn is labelled as a ruin.

#### Methodology

The building survey was carried out in accordance with guidelines set out by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments for a level 3 record (RCHME() 1996). The survey comprised a fully analytical record of the building's development, a comprehensive photographic survey, paying attention to the methods of construction, chronological development and alterations, and features of special interest. The building has been recorded photographically using digital media which are catalogued in Appendix 1. The locations and directions of each photograph are shown on the plans (Figs 7, 8 and 12), by catalogue numbers.

#### **Description**

There are four distinct barns in total, arranged in a loose courtyard formation. The barns are set back from the road, with the main wing running parallel to the road. The farmhouse is set perpendicular to both the main barn wing and the road, encapsulating the space between road and barn (Pl. 1). It is understood that in its original form the farmhouse consisted of a timber-framed wing parallel to the road, that has subsequently been extended to the north and south leaving only a narrow passageway between the house and barns. For ease of reference the barns will be discussed separately and have been named; north barn, north barn extension, east barn and south barn (Fig. 7).

The farmyard has buildings located on three sides; north, east and south. On the west side is a concrete block wall with a pedestrian and vehicle gate (Pl. 2). To the west of the farmyard is an enclosed garden. The yard itself is made up of slabs of concrete with a gutter aligned east-west down its length.

#### The North Barn (Figs 8, 9, 10)

The north barn is of two distinct phases of construction, the earlier four-bay barn and a two-bay extension to the east. The bays are therefore numbered from west to east 1-4 belonging to the earlier barn form and 5 to the later extension. The principal posts are similarly numbered from west to east.

#### Phase 1

The earlier barn is rectangular in form with a gable end type roof covered in red tiles. It is four bays long and the walls are of timber box-frame construction infilled with brick. Each bay contains panelling four squares wide by three high sat on a low brick or stone plinth. The principal posts have a scantling of 185mm (7½") with short, straight braces present at the roofline on the majority of them. The brick within the panelling is almost certainly a later infill with a large variety of types and sizes being present as well as a distinctive type with a small, raised, central band present, found in later buildings around the farmyard.

Bay 1 (Pl. 3) contains a door at its western end, a ground floor window at its eastern end and a window located between posts 2 and 3 at first floor level. The door is of simple timber plank construction and is a later addition with empty peg holes in post 2 at the height of the rail. The ground floor window consists of three vertical panes in a wooden frame. It is also a later insertion with an empty mortice in principal post 5. The first floor window is older and fills the space of a panel (Pl. 4). The window contains a pair of casement type windows with iron bars internally. The fenestration is of leaded rectangular panes of glass, arranged in 4 over 7. The westernmost window is entirely missing and many of the panes of glass are broken or missing in the eastern window. The location of the peg holes in the rail beneath the window may suggest that the window is a later insertion with the upper part of the rail reduced in thickness to accommodate it.

Principal post 1 is missing the straight brace at the roofline. Post 2 has no other distinctive features, however the rail between posts 2 and 3 has a carpenters mark of a scribed half circle. Post 3 has a number of carpenter's marks on it, with corresponding ones in the rails between posts 3 and 4. The marks take the form of 'IIb' interpreted as being number 3; again with the inscribed half circle (Pl. 5). The half circle is found along the length of the north side of the building and was most probably used to differentiate it from the south side of the building (no carpenters marks were seen on this side of the building). Post 4 contains the same mark as post 3, but it is possible that the additional I was present and not visible, the only example being at first floor height.

Principal post 5 was also missing the short brace at the roofline but two empty pegholes were present showing that it had been removed at a later date. Two examples of carpenters' marks were seen, each of the number V.

Bay 2 (Pl. 6) contains a door at its western end and two windows, both located between posts 7 and 8; each located above the mid-rails. The door is of simple plank construction and may well be a later insert as suggested by the presence of a pair of empty peg holes in principal post 5. Any present within post 6 were obscured by a later archway between the barn and house. The two windows are of the same style, though the lower one is two panes high whilst the upper one is three panes high; each is two panes wide. The window frame itself is wooden with a small wooden window sill.

Both principal posts (5 and 9) contain a straight brace at the roofline. No carpenters marks, empty peg holes or mortices are present on posts 6-8. Principal post 9 contains the carpenters mark VIIII at the location of the straight brace. Apart from the insertion of the door and rail above, the posts and rails within this bay appear to be a true reflection of what the barn originally looked like.

Bay 3 (Pl. 6) contains a pair of doors at its eastern end. These are of simple plank construction with large, plain hinges. The framing within this bay has undergone substantial change to accommodate these doors, possibly altering the location of an earlier door. The timber framing, whilst of the same style as the rest of the barn, varies in size, the eastern two sets of panels being wider than the western pair. This alone suggests that posts 10-12 are of later date. None of these three posts appear to have carpenters marks, empty pegholes or mortices. Principal post 9 is missing the straight brace but contains a pair of empty pegholes just below the roofline (Pl. 7). These are higher than the brace on the west side of the post and suggest the former presence of a rail. Principal post 13 has the straight brace present at the roofline as well as a carpenter's mark in the same place. This appears to show the numerals XI. The empty mortice and pegholes in the post beside the door are the former location of the hinge for the existing door as seen by the shadow in the paintwork on the door itself.

The missing brace in principal post 9 and raised pegholes suggest the location of a door in this location. That the principal post 13 has a brace and that the carpenters marks suggest that it is actually post 11 in the sequence indicate that the door was not the full width of the bay and that post X has been removed.

Bay 4 (Pl. 6) contains a door at its eastern end and a window between posts 15 and 16 between the two rails. The door is of simple plank construction with an upside down horse shoe on it. Within the adjacent principal post 17 is a pair of empty pegholes suggesting that the door is a later insertion. The presence of the horseshoe (also found elsewhere around the building) relates to the supernatural, hanging it upside down or the right way up varies from region to region, as to whether it holds good luck, showers it upon you or wards off

evil. The window consists of two panes of glass within a simple wooden frame, constructed to fit the size and shape of the panel.

Principal post 13 (XI) has a straight brace at the roofline as does principal post 17. There are no features on posts 14-16. Principal post 17 and the former eastern end of the barn has the carpenters mark XV at the height of the straight brace. This is in agreement with principal post 13 actually being number XI in the original barn.

The former eastern gable end (Pl. 8) is now an internal partition between bays 4 and 5. It is five panels wide by three high, to the height of the tie beam. Above the tie beam it has been boarded over, but it can be seen that further vertical posts are present, slightly offset from those beneath the tie beam. On the underside of the tie-beam can be seen stave holes indicating the former wattle and daub infill to the panels (Pl. 9).

The south elevation is partially obscured by a later outshot at the western end. The framing is of the same construction as the north elevation, though no carpenters' marks were observed.

Bay 1 (Pl. 10) is entirely obscured by the later outshot. The framing appeared to be original with no additional insertions. Principal posts 1 and 5 both contained straight braces at the roofline.

Bay 2 (Pl. 11) is partially obscured by the outshot. A pair of windows has been inserted into the structure; one between posts 6 and 7 and the second between posts 8 and 9. The western window is located above the first rail but does not extend the full height of the panel. No glazing is present or any other part of a window frame. The eastern window is positioned in the location of the first rail, the rail having been substantially reduced in thickness. The window itself is of simple wooden three-over-two construction. Above the window is wooden weatherboarding to the height of the panel. Principal posts 5 and 9 each have a straight brace at the roofline.

Bay 3 (Pl. 11) has been substantially altered, similar to that found on the north elevation. A window is present at the west end between posts 9 and 10 and a former opening has been bricked up, the opposing opening to that in the north face. The window is located at the first rail height and is of a simple wooden frame with no glazing present. A piece of timber weatherboarding obscures the principal post adjacent to the window so it is not possible to see whether any empty pegholes are present. At the roofline is a horizontal timber, located between posts 9 and 12 and may suggest the location of a former opening. It is however a later opening due to the presence of empty pegholes at the location of the straight brace and second rail height on principal post 9. Principal post 13 has the straight brace present as well as an empty mortice and pegholes at the first rail height. Nothing could be seen at second rail height but this may be obscured by mortar.

Bay 4 (Pl. 11) has a simple wooden plank door at the west end, the width of the panel. The timber framing within the bay has deteriorated, leading to the loss of post 14 above second rail height. The second rail is still

present between posts 13 and 14 and it is possible to see the tenon joint set on the remains of the post. The corresponding rail is missing between posts 14 and 15. Principal post 17 has the straight brace.

The west gable end (Pl. 12) is five panels wide by three high to the tie beam, above which is timber weatherboarding. The two principal posts have gunstock jowls, with that at the south end surviving better than its northern counterpart. Within the central panel is a small timber window with timber mullions resting on the first rail (Pl. 13), and at the southern end is a door. The door is of simple large plank construction and may be of some age, though the presence of pegholes in the two posts either side show that it is not original and that a rail was once present in this location (Pl. 14). Within the panels either side of the window the joists from the inserted first floor can be seen resting on an additional horizontal timber. The timber (behind the weatherboarding) above the tie beam does not appear to be original, though this could not be studied in detail (Pl. 15).

Internally the barn is divided into four separate rooms along the lines of the trusses.

Bay 1 is currently used for storage. Upon entrance to the room there is a set of stairs immediately to the east before stepping down to a combination of flagstones and cobbles on the floor. The internal wall dividing bays 1 and 2 is of brick, predominantly laid in header bond (Pl. 16). A first floor has been inserted, resting on a pair of chamfered beams running east-west. No access was available to the first floor but holes in the ceiling/floor are sufficient to show that the walls are plastered (Pl. 17).

Bay 2 (Pl. 18) is currently used as a workshop and has a brick floor. The dividing wall between bays 2 and 3 is of brick construction with a central pair of modern plank doors giving access to bay 3. The floor joists from bay 1 appear to continue into bay 2 and have the same chamfered edges. These terminate at truss 3 where they are jointed into a substantial, second, tie beam which in turn rests on the brick wall (Pl. 19).

Access to the first floor is from stairs within bay 3 (Pl. 19). Once again the room is plastered on the north and south walls. The truss between bays 1 and 2 can be seen to be infilled with brick (Pl. 20). Above the tie beam are three studs supporting a raised collar which in turn supports a further stud. Small rails are present between the studs. The truss between bays 2 and 3 is boarded over within the room. Supporting the purlins is a pair of telegraph poles; one with the identity number '68' still visible (Pl. 20).

Bay 3 is entered via the double doors which give access to a corridor that would previously have finished at the opposing doors (Pl. 21). The floor is brick. To the west of the doors are the stairs to the first floor of bay 2, central doors to bay 2 and a small storage area that was not accessible on the day (Pl. 19). A small mezzanine is located above the eastern side of the corridor area to which there is no access (Pl. 22).

The truss between bays 2 and 3 (Pl. 23) could be seen to be of a different design as compared to that between bays 1 and 2, most likely due to it supporting the end of the first floor to bays 1 and 2. It has an additional lower tie beam into which the first floor beams are jointed. At its southern end the upper tie beam is supported by a brace that has additional spurs up and to the left as reinforcement. Above the upper tie beam the arrangement of studs consists of a pair of queen struts, a pair of princess struts and an additional two studs centrally to support the raised collar. The collar in turn supports a further three studs.

The truss between bays 3 and 4 is brick beneath the tie beam with diagonal braces between the tie beam and sill. Above the tie beam has been boarded over (Pls 21 and 22).

Bay 4 (Pl. 24) is currently used for storage. It has opposing doors and windows. The floor is brick. A first floor has been inserted with the joists running east to west. These are reused with a large number of empty mortices. The northernmost beam is supported on a telegraph pole. The floor is bowed and at least one of the joists has failed. No access was available to the first floor, but an earlier photograph showed the truss between bays 3 and 4 to have at least some newer studs above the tie beam supporting the raised collar.

The roof (Pl. 25) consists of a trenched purlin sat on the principal rafters upon which the common rafters are located. These appear to meet at a ridge purlin. Wind braces are present between the purlin and principal rafters are present in some positions in bay 1, and in bay 2. Those within bays 3 and 4 may have been removed.

#### Phase 2 (Fig. 11)

The second phase of construction is a large single-bay extension to the east end of the north barn. In plan it is approximately square, extends beyond the southern limit of the earlier part of the barn, but maintains the front façade. The barn is of timber, box frame construction with a half-hipped roof covered in red clay tiles (Pl. 1).

The north (front) elevation (Pl. 1) consists of two unequal size areas of box framing either side of a door. The western end consists of a raised brick and stone plinth, approximately 5-7 courses high, upon which rests the sill. The box framing consists of 3 by 4 high panels. The framing is different construction than the earlier building with a more substantial mid rail running between the two principal posts and smaller studs between the mid rail and sills. Adjacent to principal post 18 is a small unglazed window, the size of a panel. Above the mid rail can be seen the ends of the first floor joists.

The eastern end contains the stable type door immediately adjacent to principal post 18. Immediately to the east of the door is a second principal post. To the east of this post, the panelling is the same as that to the west at ground floor level including the window adjacent to the door, though the width of this section is slightly smaller

than the other. At first floor level a door is present, sat on the mid-rail and located to the east of principal post 19. Either side of the door the two remaining panels are divided with a rail.

The eastern gable end is now partially located within the north barn extension. The framing, whilst of approximately equal size appears to make use of whatever timber was available leading to differences in the size of the posts and rails as well as empty pegholes and mortices. Within the centre of the framework, above the tie beam, is an opening for a window, though no glazing is present.

The south (rear) elevation is enclosed within the later outshot. It is of similar construction to the front elevation with timber box framing but arranged in a 3 x 3 pattern. At the western end are timber posts separated by two sets of rails. Whilst at the eastern end the westernmost set of panelling has been replaced and the rails removed (Pl. 26).

Internally is one large open space with a central path between the opposing doors (Pl. 27). The space is currently used for storage, covering the majority of the floor. The floor is of brick with a central cobbled path with a drain leading down to the outshot. The first floor rests on two substantial chamfered joists running north-south (Pl. 8). The southern ends of the joists have been truncated and are now supported on jowled posts. Smaller joists run to the south wall and the westernmost one of these has failed structurally (Pl. 28). Common joists running east-west support the plank floor above. These have been truncated at both walls to allow for feed shoots from above. The ends of the joists are now supported on quarter rounded poles (Pl. 8).

No access was available to the first floor but it could be seen to be an open space, with partial division along the line of truss 6 using timber planking. The truss itself is of queen strut construction with princess struts. This supports a pair of substantial purlins which in turn support the common rafters which meet at a central ridge purlin. The underside of the tie beam shows a number of empty mortices indicating its reuse (Pl. 29).

#### Phase 3

The final phase of construction to the north barn consists of two outshots: one at either end, on the south side.

The easternmost outshot is located to the rear of bay 5 (Pl. 30). It is of timber frame construction, though this appears to have been modified more recently. At the western end is the remains of a wooden sill propped on bricks whilst the eastern end has a concrete base. A stable door is located centrally with three slightly smaller panels of brickwork on either side, with considerable loss of brickwork on the western side. The timber framing consists of vertical studs supporting the wall plate. There is one rail present, immediately to the west of the door. At the eastern gable end is a small brick extension, currently unroofed. The western gable end consists of a pair of rails separated by a stud and infilled with brick (Pl. 31). Internally the floor is cobbled, sloping down to the

door from the north barn. At the eastern end is a brick trough (Pl. 32) whilst at the western end is a separate stall divided off with a brick and timber wall containing a square opening (Pl. 33)

The westernmost outshot is located to the rear of bays 1 and 2 of the main barn. It is entirely of brick construction with three openings, irregularly spaced along the south wall (Pl. 34). The brickwork is predominantly stretcher bond with occasional rows of header bond. The bricks themselves measure 212mm x 108mm x 65mm ( $8^{3}/_{8}$ " x  $4^{1}/_{4}$ " x  $2^{1}/_{2}$ "), have central shallow ridges and ammonite inclusions in the clay.

Internally the outshot is divided into three stalls, with the central one being slightly smaller than those at the ends. These are divided by low brick walls. The floor was originally of brick and this is still present in two of the stalls, but in the westernmost stall has been replaced with concrete.

#### The North Barn Extension (Figs 9, 10, 12)

The north barn extension is located to the east of the north barn and has access both to the farmyard and externally. The barn itself is in a dilapidated state with no roof, though the structure still exists. The barn is rectangular in shape, brick built and butted up against the north barn. The bricks measure 220mm x 110mm x 65mm ( $8^{5}/8$ " x  $4^{3}/8$ " x  $2^{1}/2$ ") and are distinctive with a central, shallow ridge caused by being stacked whilst green. They are laid in stretcher bond with lime mortar. Below the roofline is dentilated brickwork, found elsewhere around the farm. The eastern end of the roof is half-hipped.

Within the northern elevation are two doors and three windows, arranged to provide three areas with passageways between, with each bay illuminated by a window with wooden plank doors. In front of the building is a brick path (Pl. 35).

The eastern elevation (Pl. 36) is entirely of brick with no existing openings. An opening near the roof line has been bricked up but this is not visible externally; the brickwork having been made good. The brickwork itself is a mixture of stretcher bond with occasional rows of Flemish bond.

The southern elevation also contains two doors, opposite those in the north elevation and the same three windows. The easternmost window is now an internal window into the east barn. The same dentilated brickwork is present below the roofline (Pl. 37).

Internally the barn is subdivided by a central wooden stall creating a 'U-shaped' passageway around it. The walls are more of a mixed bond with rows of headers, rows of stretchers and rows of both headers and stretchers.

Two wooden rails are also present around the inside.

At the western end of the barn is a raised area of concrete flooring and a brick and concrete manger. The central stall is constructed of wooden planking attached to timber posts located beneath the two main trusses (Pl.

38). On the western wall is a timber panel door. The eastern wall is identical with an opposing door: internally there are no features. At the eastern end of the barn is a raised concrete platform with a brick and concrete manger against the gable wall. Above the manger is a wooden hay rack. The length has been partitioned with a wooden wall, projecting out to the secondary truss (Pl. 39).

Roof construction (Pl. 40) consists of four trusses supported on a wooden wall plate: it is uncovered. The two central trusses are of king post type with trenched purlins and appear to have been cut with a band saw. The eastern and westernmost trusses are of queen post construction. The rafters meet at a ridge plank.

#### The East Barn (Figs 9, 10, 12)

The east barn fronts onto the farmyard (Pl. 41), situated on a raised concrete platform above the main yard area and butts onto the north barn elevation. It is in a dilapidated condition, with no roof remaining and the windows and doors in the west elevation missing.

It is rectangular in plan with brick walls built on a concrete base. The bricks measure 226mm x 110mm x 70mm (9" x 4" x 2 3/4") and are laid in stretcher bond with cement mortar and Flemish garden wall bond in the gable end. Within the north barn extension are the remains of valley rafters and at the south end of the building the remains of the wall suggest that the roof was either of gable end type or half-hipped (Pl. 42). Within the east wall are four windows with a fifth in the gable end. The windows are of metal, Critall type, divided into six panes, the lower pair of panes has been bricked up internally. Within the west wall is space for a central door with indications of two large windows either side, divided by a brick pillar: all of these are no longer present.

Above the wall and windows is a wooden wall plate with empty mortices indicating re-use.

The brickwork and style of the windows suggest that this barn dates from around the 1930s and is a replacement for an earlier barn in the same location.

#### The South Barn (Figs. 9, 10, 12)

The south barn is open to the fields to the south of the farmyard. It is also in a dilapidated state, the trusses and roof having collapsed and making it unsafe to enter. All recording was done externally.

The barn is rectangular in shape, predominantly open to the fields but with an enclosed room at the east end. In total it is 7 bays long; 5 open to the fields and 2 smaller bays that are enclosed. The rear (north) wall is brick built, as is the base of the west wall and the eastern end of the south wall forming part of the enclosed room. The bricks measure 222mm x 103mm x 75mm (8 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" x 4" x 3") and are laid in various bond, with cement mortar. The south wall is laid in Flemish garden wall bond, though there is some discrepancy between the

number of stretchers between the headers, ranging from 3-4. At the west end of the building is a small section of concrete blockwork (within bay 1) which at one point supported a set of three metal windows.

The north wall (Pls 43 and 44) is more complex with the lowest courses built in a variety of bonds, altering along the length. At the east end is concrete, equivalent to six courses of brickwork. The lowest six courses of brickwork at the east end are a variation of English garden wall bond with two courses of stretchers to one of headers, this is then capped by a seventh row of headers. Further along the wall this changes to the initial five courses capped with a tile course and a rowlock course. In the next section, the bottom five courses remain the same and are capped with a tile course and a header course, changing to stretchers at the west end. The next section finishes a brick course higher, with the initial five courses capped with a tile course and rowlock course. The last section at the west end has a tile and header bond course above the lower five courses, though this finishes at the same height as the coursing immediately to the east. These lowest courses of brick appear to be levelling layers. This is capped by a header course.

The upper courses of brickwork are more consistent being of Flemish garden wall bond. At the roofline is a course of dentilated brickwork of the same style as found in the north barn extension and farmhouse. Within the wall is a door at the eastern end, giving access to the enclosed bays, and within bay 3 is a window with door.

The same coursing continues round in the lower levels of the west elevation (Pl. 45), equivalent to the floor level within the shed. Above this is a central post, attached to which is timber weatherboarding. Within the gable end is the remains of a square door. Much of the timber weatherboarding is missing at the lower levels, along with all the support for the northern end of the gable.

The east gable end (Pl. 46) would also have been constructed of a central timber post and weatherboarding; however, it has entirely collapsed. The post was positioned on a concrete foundation at the east end of the shed.

The floor is of concrete with a small step in it. Dividing the open section from the enclosed section is a timber, weatherboarded wall consisting of vertical posts with diagonal braces; the wall has collapsed.

The trusses are supported on the rear brick wall, set on brick pillars and a wooden wall plate, on the south side are a row of timber posts set on concrete padstones which support the timber wall plate (Pl. 47). The posts have a scantling of 140mm (5 ½"). The trusses themselves are of king post construction with trenched purlins supporting the rafters which meet at a ridge plank (Pl. 48). The wood appears to be of oak construction though no analysis was undertaken and on the second truss (including the gable end) is a carpenter's mark 'II' gouged onto both the raking strut and the main beam. A small number of slate roof tiles remain between bays two and three indicating the former roof covering.

Roof construction within the enclosed section appeared to be the same, though it has collapsed.

#### Interpretation

The farm in its original form consisted of a single (north) barn, presumably adjacent to the farmhouse. The original barn was four bays long and likely contained a door within bay 3 at its western end, less than the full width of the bay. This is confirmed through the numbering of the posts and the presence of a straight brace on principal post 13. The timber framing on the south side of the barn suggests that there was no opposing door originally but that one was probably inserted at a later date, the straight brace having been removed from principal post 9 and replaced with a horizontal rail just below the roof line. The barn was subsequently extended to the east with bay 5, of a similar but different build which made use of reused timbers. Most likely at a later date the barn was modified again and the doors within bay 3 reduced in height and moved to the eastern side of the bay against principal post 13. A first floor was inserted at the eastern end of the barn within bays 1 and 2 probably in the 18th century, at which time the wattle and daub was probably replaced by brick.

The rest of the farmyard is of a later date and present on the 1865 map. The north barn extension and the south barn have the same dentilated brickwork detail, also seen on the main house on part of the frontage and a gable. This may suggest that they are all of the same period. They also both have king post trusses however these trusses are slightly different with that in the north barn extension of the traditional type and that in the south barn a variation, with the struts attached not to the knees of the king post but to the tie-beam.

The east barn is a fairly modern addition, likely to date to the 1930s with the metal windows. It is built on the footprint of an earlier barn, hence the absence of any changes in the historic maps.

#### Conclusion

In its earliest form the farm likely consisted of a farmhouse and a four-bay north barn, probably of late 16th- or early 17th-century date. This barn was soon extended to the east by an extra bay in the 17th century and at some point an opposing door was inserted within bay 3 to create a threshing barn. This was subsequently replaced with later, smaller opposing doors. A first floor was also inserted within bays 1 and 2, probably in the 18th century and it is likely that the wattle and daub panelling was replaced by brick at the same time. Prior to 1865 additional barns were built to the south and east, and the eastern barn was subsequently rebuilt on the same footprint, probably around the 1930s.

#### References

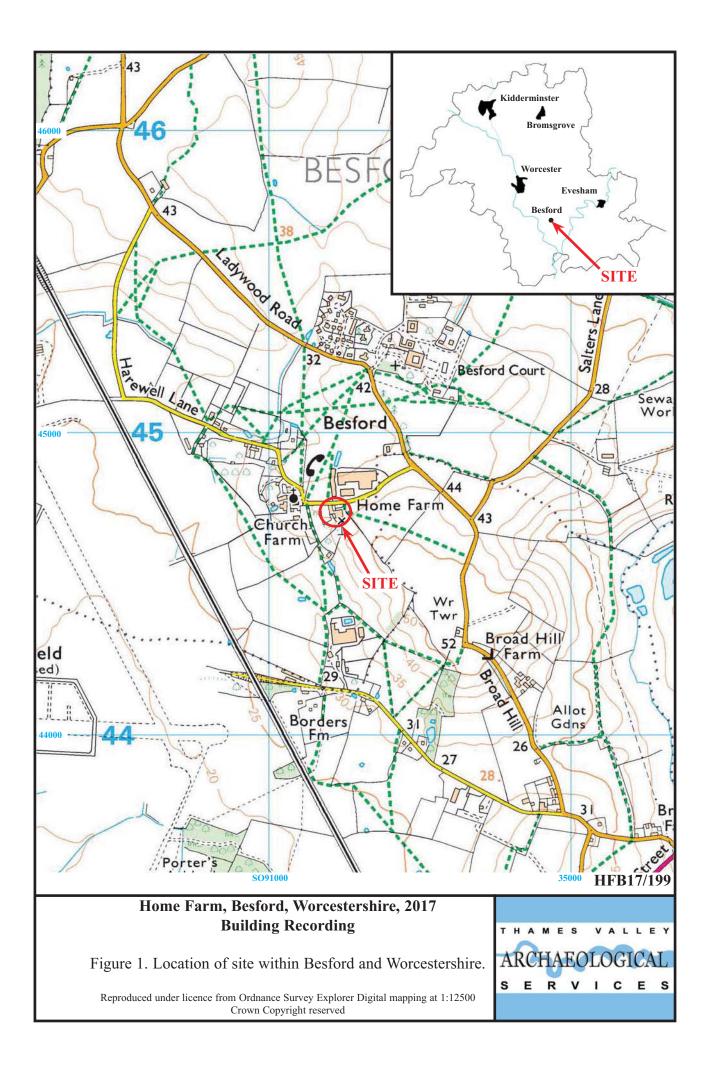
Baker, N, 2015, A Historic Building Appraisal of the barn range at Home Farm, Besford, Worcestershire BGS, 1993, British Geological Survey, 1:50,000, Sheet 199, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth NPPF 2012, National Planning Policy Framework, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London RCHME, 1996, Recording Historic Buildings: a descriptive specification, 3rd edn, Roy Comm Hist Monuments (England), London

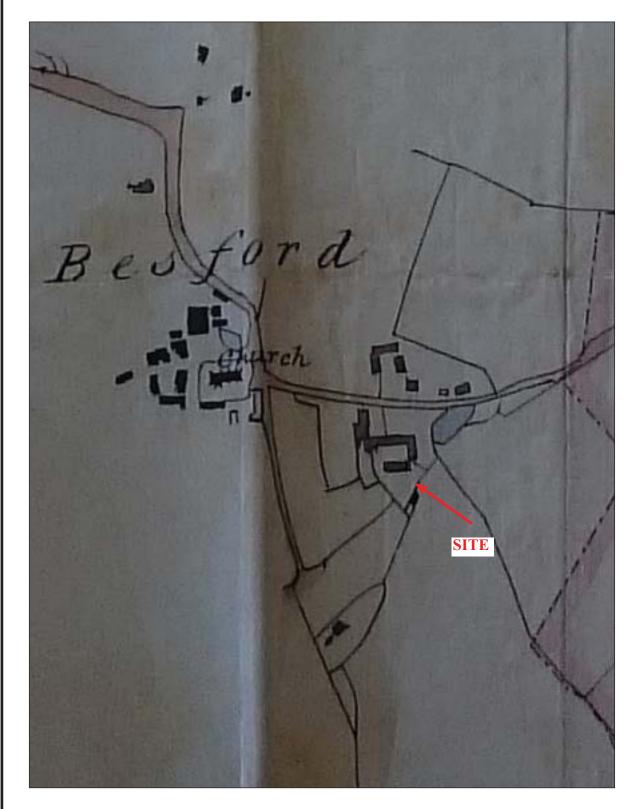
VCH, 1924, *Victoria County History of Worcester*, vol **iv**, London Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, A complete Translation*, London

**APPENDIX 1:** Photographic Catalogue

G . M	G 1	T	D	D
Cat. No.	Scales	Location	Direction	Description
1	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	S	Frontage [Pl. 1]
2	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	S	Extension [Pl. 35]
3	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	SW	Gable end Oblique of frontage [Pl. 6]
5	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	SW SW	
6	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn N. Barn	SE	Oblique of frontage [Pl. 3] Oblique of frontage
7	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	SE	Carpenters mark 'IIb' W end of building [Pl. 5]
8	-	N. Barn	S	
8A		N. Barn	S	Window, W end of building Window, W end of building [Pl. 4]
9	-	N. Barn	S	Carpenters mark on doorframe, 'V'. W end of building
10	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	NE	W gable end, oblique [Pl.12]
11	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	E	Window, W gable end [Pl. 13]
12	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	SE	W gable end, oblique
12A	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	E	W gable end, oblique
13	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	NE	Door, W gable end
14	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	NE	Outshot and W gable end
15	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	N	W. outshot [Pl. 34]
16	1x1m, 1x2m	Farmyard	E	Farmyard [Pl. 2]
17	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	N	Rear [Pl.11]
18	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	N	Windows in bay 2/3
19	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	N	Blocked later door and missing rail
20	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	NE	W gable wall of E outshot [Pl. 31]
21	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	W	E gable wall of W outshot
22	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	N	E outshot [Pl. 30]
23	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn ext	N	Rear [Pl. 37]
24	1x1m, 1x2m	N/E Barn	N	N/E barn and valley rafter
24A	1x1m, 1x2m	N/E Barn	N	N/E barn and valley rafter
25	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn ext	W	E gable end [Pl. 36]
26	1x1m, 1x2m	E. Barn	W	E elevation
27	1x1m, 1x2m	E. Barn	N	S gable end [Pl. 42]
28	1x1m, 1x2m	E. Barn	E	W frontage [Pl. 41]
29	1x1m, 1x2m	S. Barn	S	N frontage, E end [Pl. 43]
30	1x1m, 1x2m	S. Barn	S	N frontage, W end [Pl. 44]
31	1x1m, 1x2m	S. Barn	SE	Oblique N and W end
31A	1x1m, 1x2m	S. Barn	SE	Oblique N and W end
32	1x1m, 1x2m	S. Barn	E	W gable end [Pl. 45]
33	1x1m, 1x2m	S. Barn	N	S side E end
34	1x1m, 1x2m	S. Barn	N	S side W end [Pl. 47]
34A	1x1m, 1x2m	S. Barn	NE	Oblique S and W end
35	1x1m, 1x2m	S. Barn	NE	Interior detail
36	-	S. Barn	N	Roof structure
37	-	S. Barn	N	To 'door'
38	-	S. Barn	N	Internal, oblique [Pl. 46]
39	-	S. Barn	SW	Roof structure [Pl. 48]
40	-	S. Barn	Е	Carpenters mark 'II'
41	-	-	Е	Not used
42	1x1m, 1x2m	E. Barn	Е	Window detail
43	1x1m, 1x2m	E. Barn	S	S gable end
43A	-	S. Barn	SW	N wall, oblique
44	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn ext	Е	Along length [Pl. 38]
45	-	N. Barn ext	Е	Truss 'II' [Pl. 40]
	Scales	Location	Direction	Description
46	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn ext	Е	Manger [Pl. 39]
47	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn ext	N	Door
48	-	N. Barn ext	Е	Blocked window in E gable
49	-	N. Barn ext	S	Queen truss E end
50	-	N. Barn ext	W	King truss E end and gauged carpenters marks
51	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn ext	S	S wall
52	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	W	E gable wall
53	-	N. Barn	W	E gable wall, upper section
53A	-	N. Barn	W	E gable wall, upper section
54	-	N. Barn	NW	Carpenters mark 'cccc'
55	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn ext	W	N wall, W end
56	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn ext	N	S wall, W end
57	-	-		Not used
58	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	Е	E gable wall, N end

Cat. No.	Scales	Location	Direction	Description
59	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	Е	E gable wall, S end
60	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	N	Floor and N wall [Pl. 27]
61	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	S	S wall and floor
62	1x2m	N. Barn	SE	S wall oblique [Pl. 26]
63	1x2m	N. Barn	N	S wall oblique [Pl. 23]
64	1x1m	N. Barn	S	Outshot floor join
65	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	Е	Outshot [Pl. 32]
66	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	W	Outshot [Pl. 33]
67	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	N	Outshot/rear wall of barn
68	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	W	Original gable wall, E end
69	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	SW	Original gable wall, E end oblique [Pl. 8]
70	-	N. Barn	SW	Original gable wall, E end looking up [Pl. 9]
70	-	N. Barn	N	Outshot looking up  Outshot looking up
72	-	N. Barn	W	Along outshot [Pl. 10]
73			E	
	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn		Along outshot
74	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	S	S wall
75	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	W	W wall [Pl. 24]
75A	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	W	W wall
76	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	N	N wall
77	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	Е	E wall (old gable end)
78	1x2m	N. Barn	SE	Oblique E and S walls [Pl. 21]
79	-	N. Barn	NW	Oblique W and S including stairs [Pl. 19]
80	-	N. Barn	W	Division at truss [Pl. 23]
81	-	N. Barn, 1st floor	S	To south wall
82	-	N. Barn, 1st floor	SW	Gable end [Pl. 20]
83	-	N. Barn, 1st floor	S	N wall
84	-	N. Barn, 1st floor	SW	Gable end
85	_	N. Barn, 1st floor	SW	Roof structure [Pl. 25]
86	_	N. Barn, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor	E	Across to mezzanine [Pl. 22]
87	_	N. Barn	N	Wall plate
88	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	S	Workshop, S wall [Pl. 18]
89	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	W	Workshop, W wall
89A	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	W	Workshop, W wall
90	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	E	Workshop, E wall
91	131111, 132111	N. Barn	NE NE	Chamfer and strap end on beam
91A		N. Barn		Chamfer and strap end on beam
91A 92		N. Barn	NE W	*
	1x1m, 1x2m			Workshop, W wall
92A	-	N. Barn	W	W gable end, looking up
93	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	S	S wall, bay 1
94	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	Е	E wall, bay 1 [Pl. 16]
	Scales	Location	Direction	Description
95	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	W	W gable end
95A	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	W	W gable end
96	1x1m, 1x2m	N. Barn	N	N wall
97	-	N. Barn, 1st floor	SW	Gable end [Pl. 15]
98	-	N. Barn, 1st floor	S	N wall [Pl. 17]
98A	-	N. Barn, 1st floor	S	N wall
99	-	N. Barn, 1st floor	S	E wall
99A	-	N. Barn, 1st floor	S	E wall
100	-	N. Barn, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor	S	Straight up at roof
101	_	N. Barn	S	Detail of straight brace [Pl. 7]
102	-	N. Barn, 1st floor	E	Truss detail [Pl. 29]
102	-	N. Barn, 1st floor	E	Detail of tie beam
103		N. Barn, 1st floor	E	Detail of the beam  Detail of roof
104	-	N. Barn, 1st floor	E	Roof detail
	-			
106	-	N. Barn, 1st floor	E	Gable end
107	-	N. Barn, 1st floor	E	Gable end
108	-	N. Barn	N	Detail within bay 3



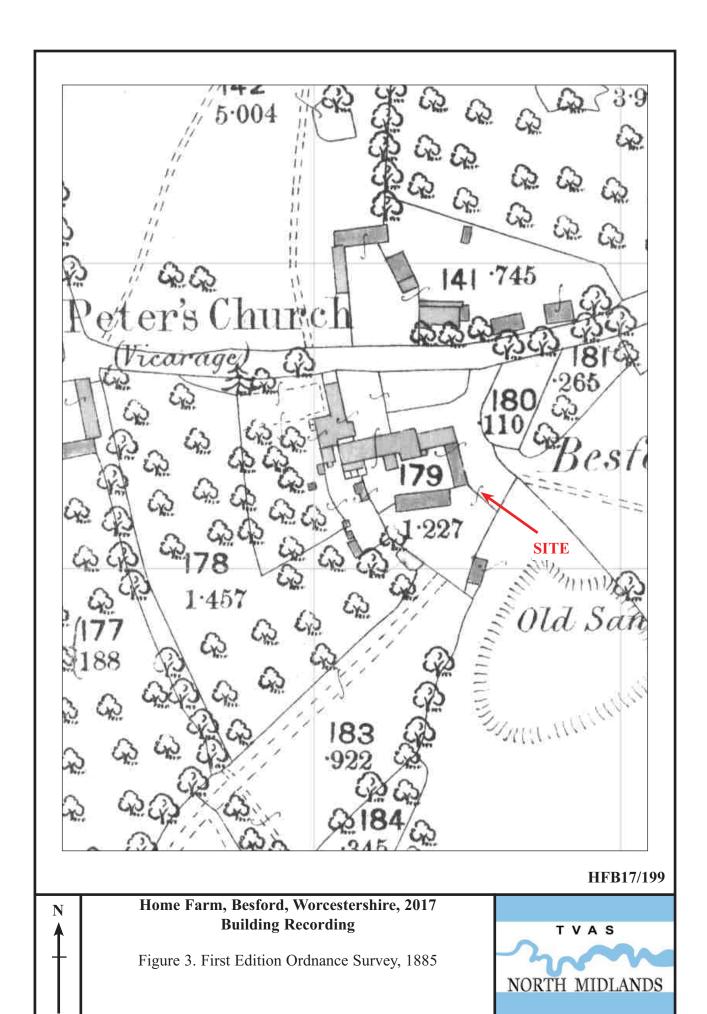


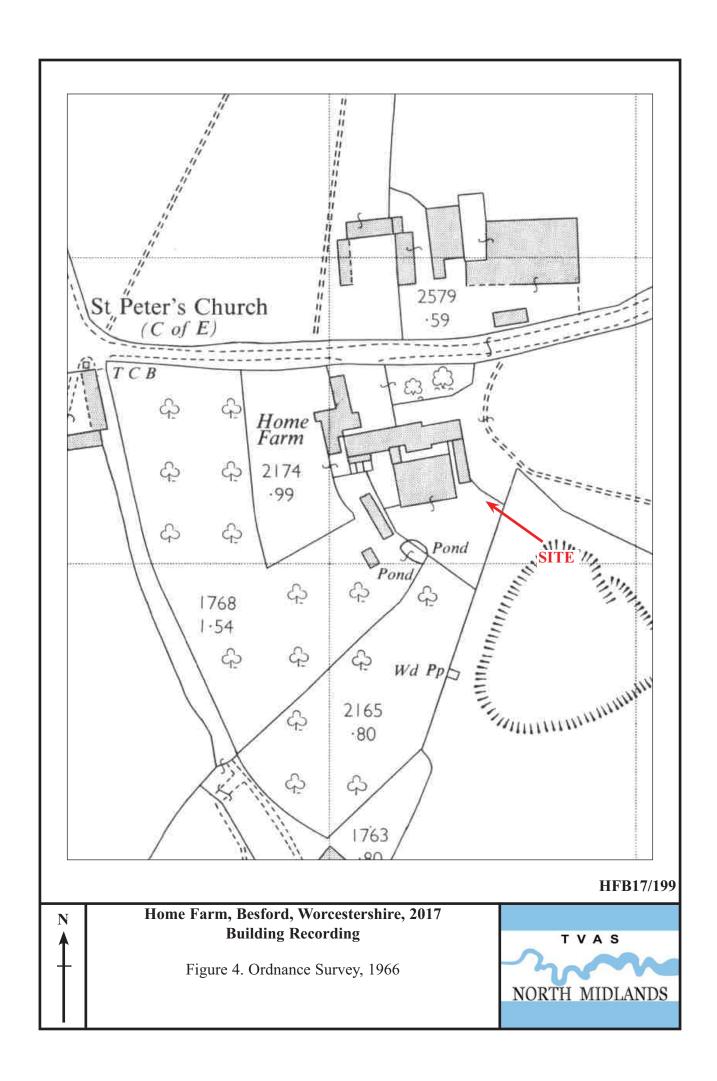
N <del>|</del>

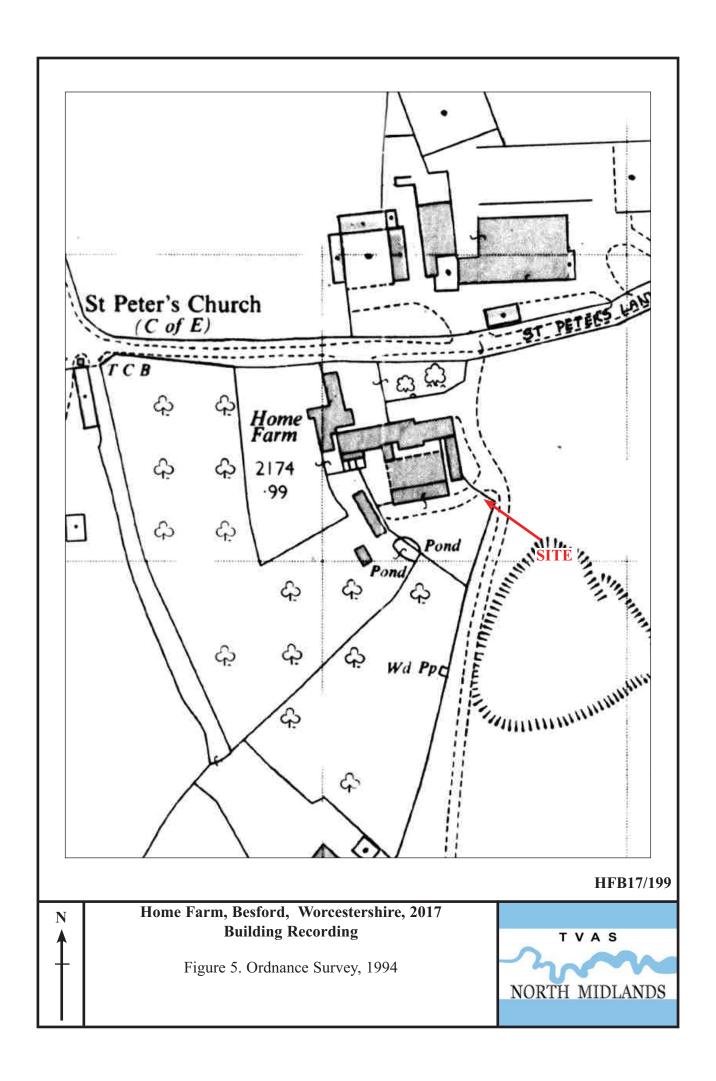
## Home Farm, Besford, Worcestershire, 2017 Building Recording

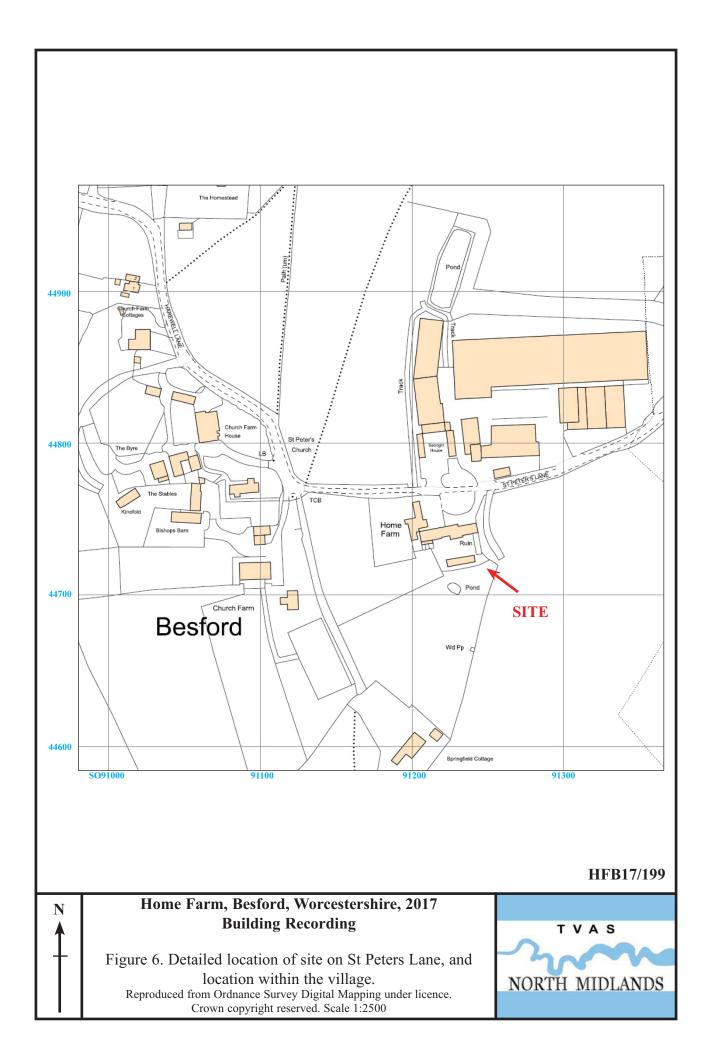
Figure 2. Besford Parish Plan, 1861

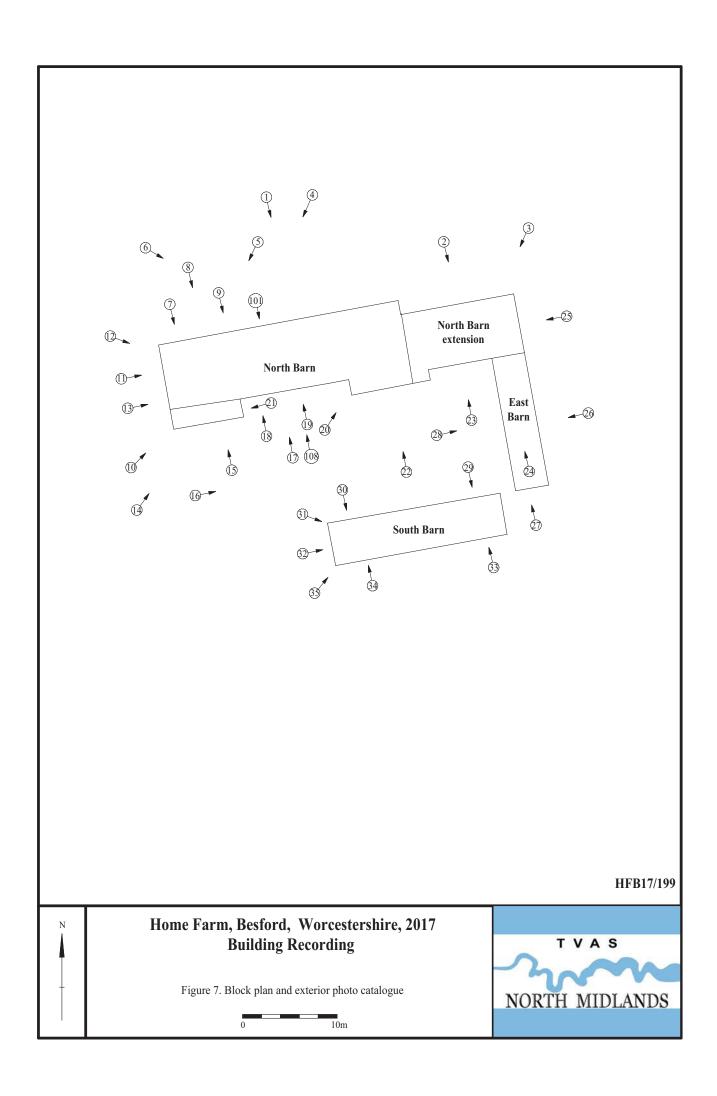


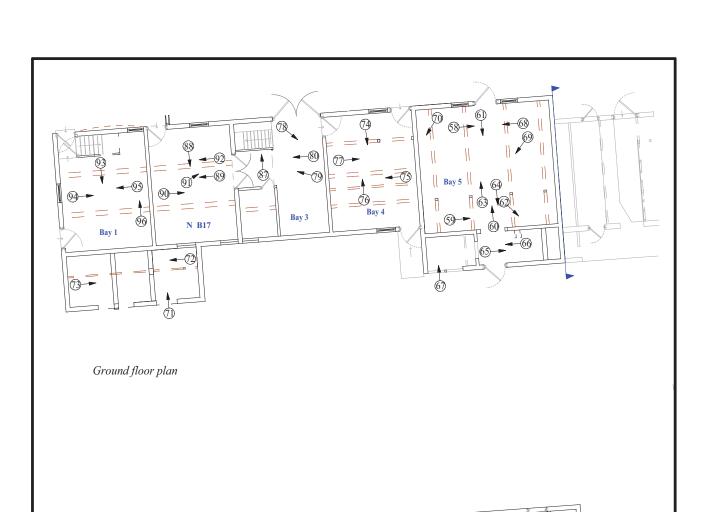


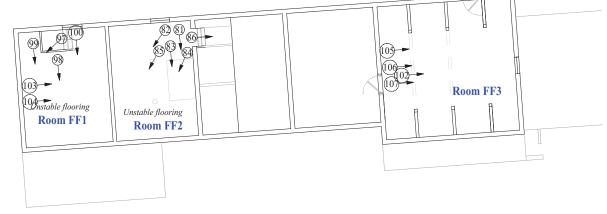






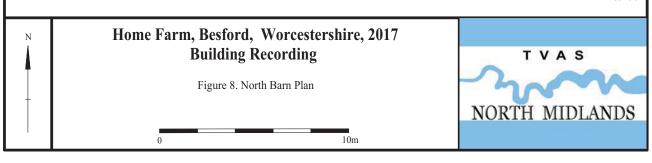


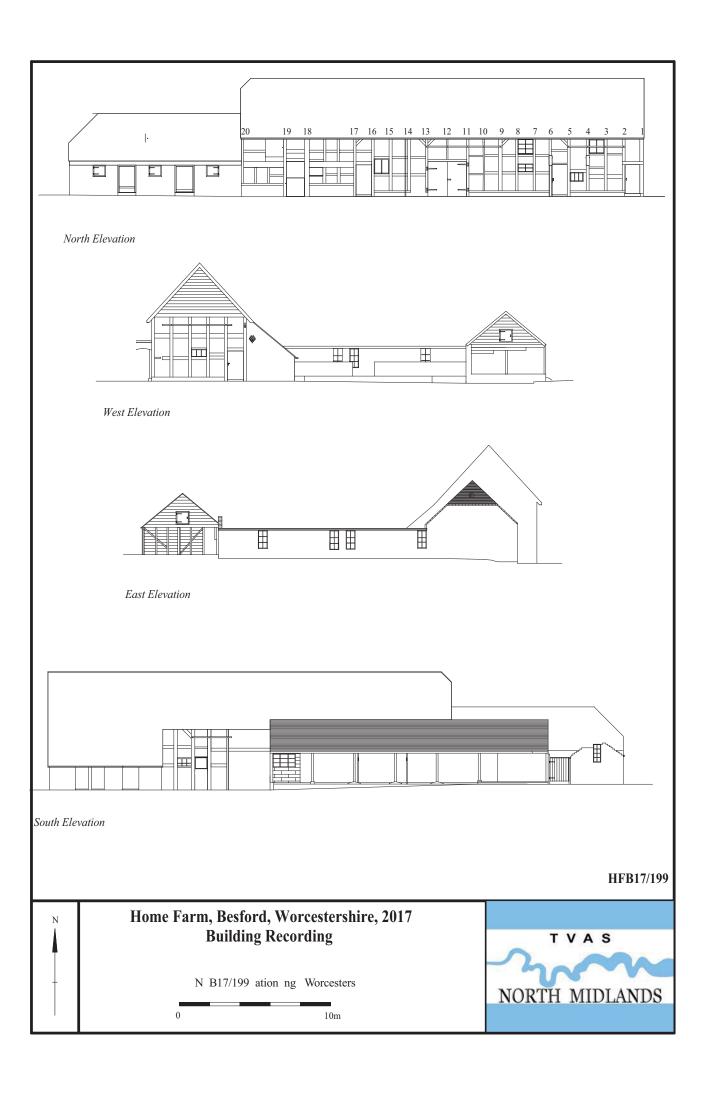


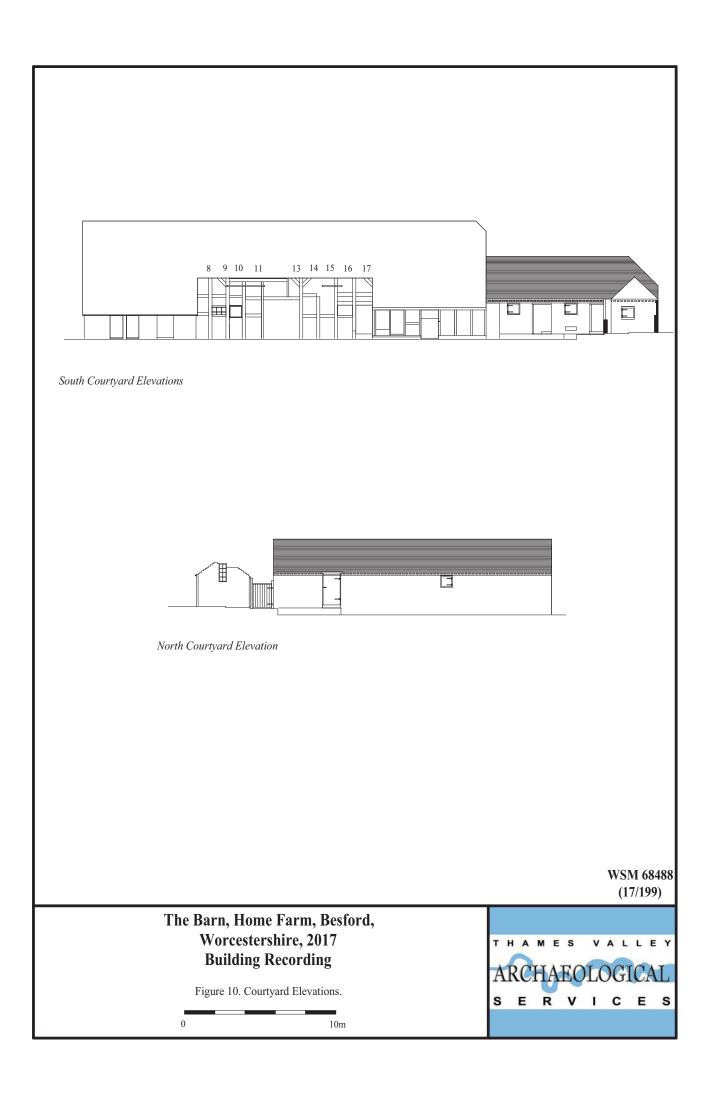


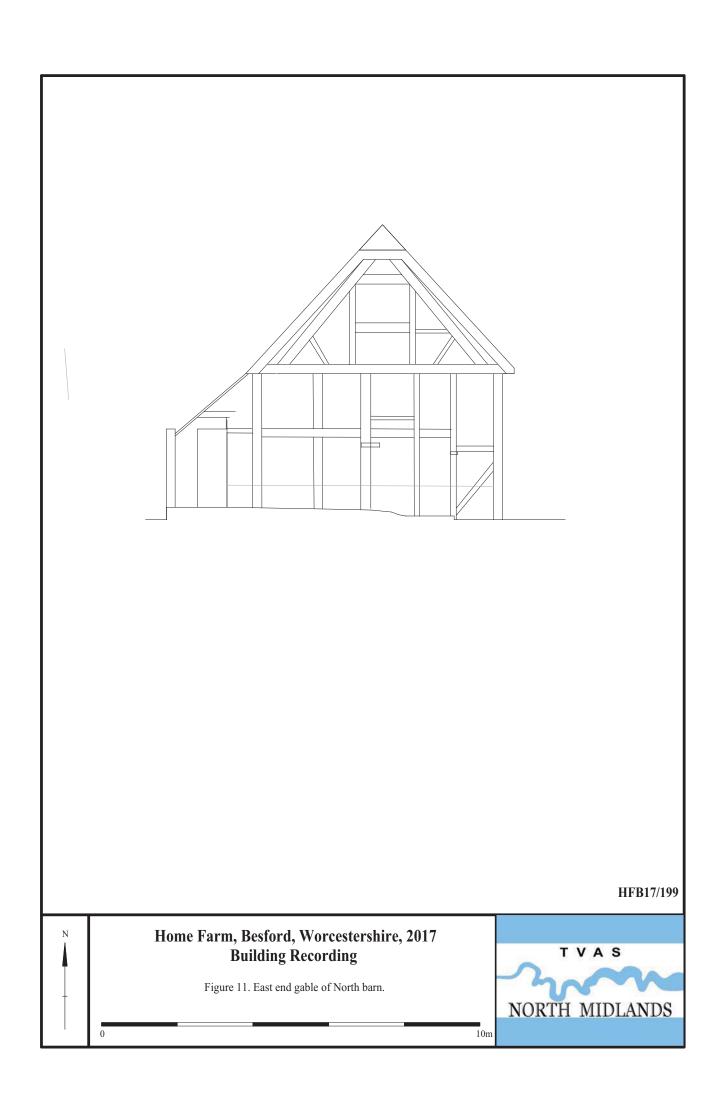
First floor plan

HFB17/199









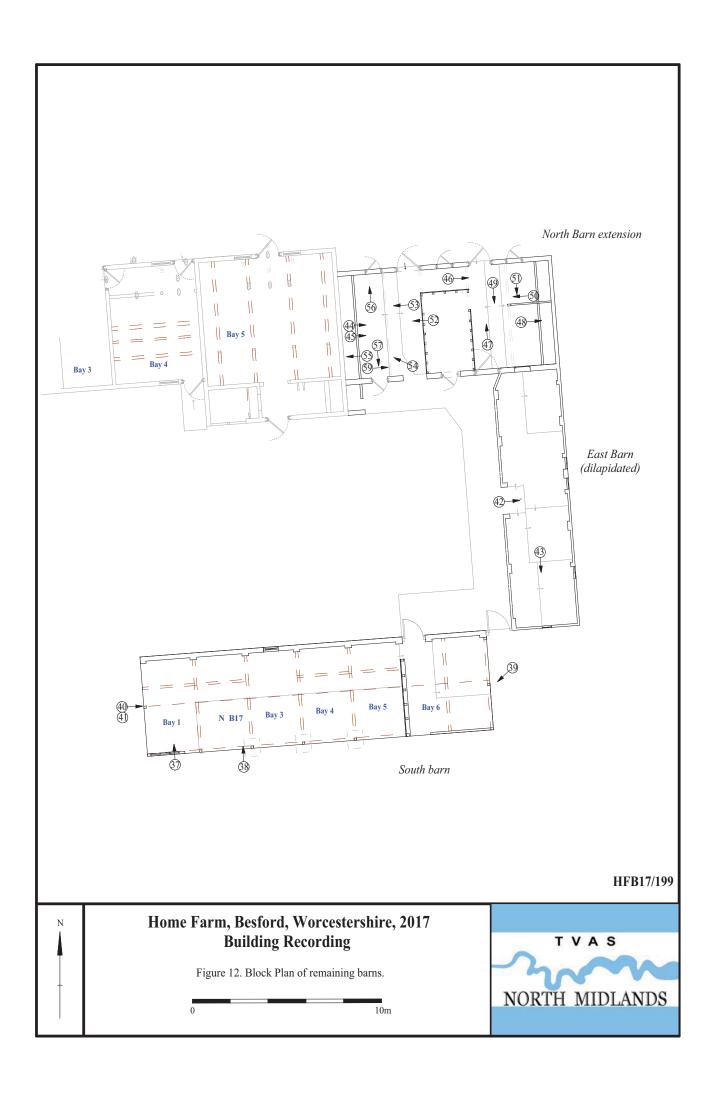




Plate 1. Exterior, north barn, looking south, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Exterior, Courtyard, looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 3. Exterior, entranceway link between Home Farm house and north barn looking west, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Exterior, north barn, first storey original window condition,

## Home Farm, Besford, Worcestershire, 2017 Building Recording

Plates 1 to 4.





Plate 5. Exterior, carpenters marks of exterior beams.



Plate 6. Exterior, north barn north elevation, looking south west, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 7. Exterior, detail of beams on north elevation of north barn.



Plate 8. Interior, north barn, Bay 5, looking south west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

Home Farm, Besford, Worcestershire, 2017 Building Recording

Plates 5 to 8.





Plate 9. Interior, north barn, Bay 5, roof space looking at Bay post and truss (4).



Plate 10. Interior, western lean-to of Bay 1, detail of roof space, looking west.



Plate 11. Exterior, Courtyard, north barn, south elevation, looking north, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 12. Exterior, north barn, western gable, looking north north east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

Home Farm, Besford, Worcestershire, 2017
Building Recording

Plates 9 to 12.





Plate 13. Exterior, north barn, western gable, frame detail, looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 14. Exterior, north barn, western gable, doorway detail, looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 15. Interior, north barn, western gable from stairs to first floor (FF1).



Plate 16. Interior, north barn, Bay 1, looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

Home Farm, Besford, Worcestershire, 2017
Building Recording

Plates 13 to 16.





Plate 17. Interior, first floor (FF1) from Bay 1 stairs to south wall.



Plate 18. Interior, north barn, Bay 2, looking south, Scales: 2m and 1m.





Plate 19. Interior, north barn, Bay 3, looking north west. Plate 20. Interior, north barn, first floor (FF2) above Bay 2, looking south west to Truss 2.

Home Farm, Besford, Worcestershire, 2017 **Building Recording** 

Plates 17 to 20.





Plate 21. Interior, north barn, Bay 3, looking south east, Scale: 2m.



Plate 22. Interior, north barn, from Bay 3 stairs looking at Truss 3, looking south east.



Plate 23. Interior, north barn, Bay 3, top of Truss 2, looking west.



Plate 24. Interior, north barn, Bay 4, looking west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

Home Farm, Besford, Worcestershire, 2017 Building Recording

Plates 21 to 24.





Plate 25. Interior, roof beams from FF2 over Bay 2.



Plate 26. Interior, north barn, Bay 5, looking south east, Scales: 2m.



Plate 27. Interior, north barn, Bay 5, looking north, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 28. Interior, north barn, Bay 5, looking south west, Scales: 2m.

Home Farm, Besford, Worcestershire, 2017
Building Recording

Plates 25 to 28.





slots on underside of roof truss.



Plate 29. Interior, north barn, roof detail, removed post Plate 30. Exterior, Courtyard, north barn, south elevation, looking north, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 31. Exterior, Bay 5 lean-to addition, looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 32. Exterior, north barn, east lean-to, looking west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

Home Farm, Besford, Worcestershire, 2017 **Building Recording** 

Plates 29 to 32.





Plate 33. Interior, north barn, east lean-to, looking west, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 34. Exterior, north barn, south elevation, west lean to, looking north, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 35. Exterior, east barn, looking west, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 36. Exterior, east barn gable, looking north, Scales: 2m and 1m.

## Home Farm, Besford, Worcestershire, 2017 Building Recording

Plates 33 to 36.





elevation, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 37. Exterior, Courtyard, north barn extension, west Plate 38. Exterior, north barn extension, Truss 1, looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 39. Interior, north barn extension, south wall, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 40. Interior, north barn extension, roof structure, looking north.

## Home Farm, Besford, Worcestershire, 2017 **Building Recording**

Plates 37 to 40.





Plate 41. Exterior, east barn, west elevation, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 42. Exterior, east barn, south gable, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 43. Exterior, south barn, looking south, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 44. Exterior, south barn, looking south west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

Home Farm, Besford, Worcestershire, 2017 Building Recording

Plates 41 to 44.





Plate 45. Exterior, south barn, west gable, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 46. Exterior, south barn, collapsed roof.



Plate 47. Exterior, south barn, looking north, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 48. Interior, south barn, roof structure.

Home Farm, Besford, Worcestershire, 2017
Building Recording

Plates 45 to 48.



## **TIME CHART**

### **Calendar Years**

Modern	AD 1901
Victorian	AD 1837
Post Medieval	AD 1500
Medieval	AD 1066
Saxon	AD 410
Roman Iron Age	AD 43 AD 0 BC 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC
Ţ	1



TVAS (North Midlands), 2B Stanton Road, Meir Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 6DD

Tel: 01782 595648 Email: northmidlands@tvas.co.uk Web: www.tvas.co.uk/northmidlands

Offices in:
Reading, Brighton, Taunton and Ennis (Ireland)