



Standing Building Recording Survey

**Trelough Farm Barns
Whitfield Estate
Wormbridge
Herefordshire**

NGR SO 432 312

Report No. 2003-06-07

SMR No: 34706

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REPORT SPECIFICATION:

Standing Building Survey undertaken by Dr George Nash

Draft report compiled by Dr George Nash

Edited by George Children MA



Non-Technical Summary

The two barns stand within a rectangular courtyard approximately 50m north-east of Trelough House, a converted Georgian building.

The oldest is a two-phase building dating from the late 17th or early 18th century. A series of weatherboarded oak frames resting on a plinth of locally quarried sandstone represent the first phase of construction.

The later phase comprises a brick cattle stall extension that may be contemporary with the second barn, which, although referred to as a barn, is in fact a dairy and maintenance shed, with a cellar located at the western end. The latter building is constructed of red brick in a style typical of early to mid 19th century farm buildings.



Standing Building Recording Survey of Trelough Farm Barns, Whitfield Estate, Wormbridge, Herefordshire

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Border Archaeology was instructed by Mr. W.R.A. Shuttleworth of Berringtons Chartered Surveyors and Land Agents on behalf of the Whitworth Estate to undertake a standing building recording of two barns at Trelough Farm, Wormbridge (NGR SO 432 312) prior to conversion (planning application no SW 2001/12413/F; Listed Building planning consent no SW 2001/1415/L).
- 1.2 The criteria for this scheme of works are described within the requirements issued to Berringtons by Mr Julian Cotton of Herefordshire Archaeology in May 2003 and a written scheme of investigation was submitted to and approved by him. It should be noted that no archaeological observation was undertaken as construction work had already begun on site prior to instruction.
- 1.3 The purpose of the standing building survey was to assess and record the construction methodology and important archaeological features of the two buildings. A photographic survey of the elevations has been included.
- 1.4 The report has been produced according to guidelines issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) and reflects planning legislation and guidance notices issued by English Heritage and local planning authorities.
- 1.5 This programme of archaeological work followed usual on-site procedures complying with standards set by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).
- 1.6 A copy of this report will be submitted to the client, with further copies to Herefordshire Archaeology and the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standing Building Recording Strategy

- 2.2 The aim of the standing building recording was to allow for the preservation by record of architectural remains and any remains whose presence and/or nature could not be established in advance of development.
- 2.3 Primary and secondary documentary sources (where applicable) were used in order to assess the historical importance of the buildings, one of which (Barn II) comprises a dairy and maintenance shed. The building phases were then identified prior to photographic recording. Both barns appear to have been purpose built, Barn I some time around the late 17th/early 18th century and Barn II during the early 19th century. Barn I has additional early to mid 19th century phasing.
- 2.4 Following guidelines set within Planning Policy Guidance 15 (PPG 15) and standards set by the Royal Commission [RCHME] - now English Heritage - Border Archaeology undertook a level 1/2 building survey programme incorporating a detailed written description of each construction phase, including rooms/spaces with original features, and a photographic survey of all significant internal and external features.
- 2.5 A 1:250 plan of the existing building was supplied by the client.
- 2.6 The photographic survey used 35mm format monochrome, colour negative and colour transparency film. Individual features were photographed as separate items and in detail. Each feature was also photographed within the context of the surrounding elevation.

3.0 GEOLOGY

- 3.1 The drift geology of the site and surrounding area is classified as BROMYARD 571b comprising well-drained, reddish, fine silty soils overlying Devonian shales and siltstones. There are some similar soils with slowly permeable subsoils that are prone to slight seasonal waterlogging. There are also some well-drained soils overlying sandstone. Within areas where watercourses are present, soils may be prone to water erosion (Soil Survey of England & Wales 1983).
- 3.2 Trelough Farm lies within a slightly undulating landscape, standing between 77m and 80m AOD. To the north of the site, and running westwards, is the Worm Brook, flowing into the River Dore. Approximately 4km west of Wormbridge is the extensive Black Mountains hinterland, in particular, the southern extent of the Golden Valley.

4.0 BRIEF HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The barns are located approximately 50m north-east of Trelough House within the early medieval settlement of Wormbridge, which lies 9km south of Hereford. The hamlet of Trelough lies immediately south of the A465(T) and approximately 0.3km south of Wormbridge. The historically important settlement of Kilpeck lies 2km south-east of the farm. Trelough House, now a series of residential units, dates to the Georgian period, much of the external Georgian fabric being in place.
- 4.2 Pevsner (1962:325) recognises only two buildings in Wormbridge that are worthy of further discussion. The parish church of St Peter, located south of the A465(T), dates to early 13th century (the nave door dates to 1200 and the unbuttressed west tower to around 1275). The church was refurbished during the latter half of the 19th century. Wormbridge Court, on the north side of the A465(T), is a ‘dignified brick farmhouse’ (ibid.) partially covering a Jacobean element, including a chimney piece. The brickwork is probably 18th century.
- 4.3 The place-name evidence is limited. Trelough is first mentioned in 1335 when the settlement is referred to as *Treyloghe* (Coplestone-Crow 1989:175). Later forms include *Trillocke* (1367) and *Traillough* (1388). The ‘Tre-’ element is probably of Welsh origin, the name perhaps meaning ‘settlement by a pool’ (ibid.). The earliest documentary evidence dates to 1199 when the settlement is recorded as *Wineburge*, probably referring to a bridge over Worm Brook.

5.0 STANDING BUILDING RECORD

- 5.1 The standing building survey comprised a photographic record accompanied by annotated (supplied) plans. Two buildings, a part timber-framed barn and a red brick dairy, are included within this report and are referred to as Barn I and Barn II.



- 5.2 Barn I is a two-phase building oriented NW-SE and probably dates to the late 17th or early 18th century (**Plate 1**). The larger section of the building is a traditional timber-framed construction supporting a ceramic tile roof with straight-edged weatherboarding on the eastern and western elevations and southern gable. Abutting the northern gable end is an early-mid 19th century cattle shed and hay loft (**Plate 4**).
- 5.3 The timber framing sits on a plinth of locally quarried Old Red Sandstone, recorded along the north and south gables (**Plates 5 & 6**). In the case of the

northern gable, now incorporated into the Phase 2 construction, the plinth stands around 0.40m above the existing ground level.

- 5.4 A double-door opening is located at the northern end of the Phase 1 construction. However, it is probable that the doors were once situated in a central position along the western elevation. Associated with the position of the doors would have been a centrally placed threshing floor (based on Harris 1979:58).
- 5.5 There is in several places along the southern section of the west-facing elevation evidence of the reinforcement of ceiling joists. Railway sleepers have been inserted either side of the studs and support the wall-frame that runs along the southern section of the barn.
- 5.6 Some of the oak and pine timbers supporting the ceramic tile roof - in particular several queen posts and purlins located within the northern section of Phase 1 - appear to be re-used. Mortises cut into some of the truss collars suggest the barn once comprised two floor levels; both were probably used for straw and grain storage (**Plate 3**). The timber construction methods are, according to Woodforde (1983), late medieval in date. However, these methods appear to continue into the post-medieval period with A-frames rather than aisled beam construction methods being used (Harris 1978:67). Furthermore, Brunskill (1981:92) suggests that the method of fixing the purlins and the common rafters onto the A-frames (or principal rafters) is used during this period. A total of six A-frames are equally spaced along the length of the building. Pine ceiling joists are used to create a two-storey building within the 19th century Phase 2 section, there being a clear change in timber-frame methodology between the two phases.
- 5.7 The early-mid 19th century extension (Barn I) is of unfrosted red brick and is similar in construction methodology to Barn II. Identical blue-brick lozenge designs appear on both buildings. This building represents Phase 2 and consists of an enclosed ground-floor room with access from the courtyard (from the west), access being through two bays with segmental arch openings. It is possible that the keystones of the arches bore a date. However, the poor quality of the stone means that any inscription has long since disappeared. The roof, supported by both Phase 1 and 2, appears to be a later element as there is no visible break within the laying of the tiles. As stated, the later phase abuts the timber-framed section of the building. Visible on the north-facing gable of the Phase 1 construction is the sandstone plinth supporting squared timber-framed panels. At some time, the panels were infilled with unfrosted brick.
- 5.8 Barn II is oriented approximately east-west and comprises two phases. Technically, these phases constitute a dairy and maintenance shed rather than a barn (**Plate 7**).
- 5.9 Phase 1 is the most substantial and earliest phase consisting of a two-storey building with symmetrically set central door and window openings either side. The window openings retain slatted wooden shutters and central encased mullion

(**Plate 9**). Each window opening, supported by a sandstone plinth, is firmly set into the brick surround. The building, constructed of unfrosted red brick, is elevated above the level of the courtyard and stands on a lime mortared sandstone plinth. The pitch of the roof is typically medieval in appearance.

- 5.10 Located within the western section of the building and underlying the ground floor is a cellar, the entrance to which lies adjacent to the western gable end (**Plate 8**). The cellar entrance appears to comprise a series of steps cut into the geology that have been infilled with concrete. A small recess cut into the sandstone plinth represents the only visible access to the room, which was probably used for cold storage or the production of butter and cheese.
- 5.11 The first floor of Phase 1 consists of an open room coterminous (in plan) with the dairy. There is at the eastern gable end a centrally placed door or window opening which is flanked by splayed slits, suggesting that the first-floor room was used for drying. The ceiling timbers are arguably robust enough to support large quantities of grain (**Plate 10**).

- 5.12 Phase 2 comprises a two-storey extension to the western gable end of Phase 1. This second phase is of red unfrosted brick and is similar in construction to Phase 1. Unlike Phase 1, however, Phase 2 does not rest on a sandstone plinth. The north-facing elevation features two window openings, both located at the eastern end. Slightly off centre on the north-facing elevation is a single doorway, to the west of which is a set of external brick steps to a first-floor door opening. The steps have been subjected to some alteration and show evidence of concrete repairs. The rear of the building features a ground-floor and first-floor window opening. Slightly offset west of centre of the south-facing elevation was a single door opening.



- 5.13 The interior of the building consists of open ground-floor and second-floor rooms with a king-post construction visible within the second-floor roof space. Evidence of an earlier roof line is visible on the western gable end of Phase 1.
- 5.14 Incorporated into the western gable end of Phase 2 is an unfrosted brick lean-to extension. This extension has a door opening on the northern elevation and a small rectangular window opening in the south-facing elevation. The form and use of the extension seems to have changed, with considerable alteration and re-pointing visible on the upper parts and western end of the north- and south-facing elevations. Above the extension on the western gable end of the main element of

Phase 2 is evidence of a blocked first-floor door opening either side of which is a decorative string course.

6.0 SUMMARY

- 6.1 The two barns stand in a rectangular courtyard. Barn I, the earliest of the two, is oriented approximately NW-SE and dates from the early post-medieval period. The barn shows evidence of two construction phases, the later phase probably being contemporary with Barn II. The earliest phase comprises a set of oak timber frames which extend to a brick cattle stall extension at the north-western end of the building. Most of the timber framing is weatherboarded and rests on a sandstone plinth. The present double door leading into the storage area was originally blocked.
- 6.2 Barn II is constructed of unfrosted red brick and oriented approximately east-west. The building, although referred to as a barn, is in fact a dairy and maintenance shed. The brickwork, which is in the stretcher-header style, sits on a sandstone plinth and is indicative of the early to mid 19th century farm vernacular. Located at the western end of the building is a cellar. It must be assumed that the plan of the courtyard was in place prior to the construction of Barn II.

7.0 REFERENCES CONSULTED

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FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION

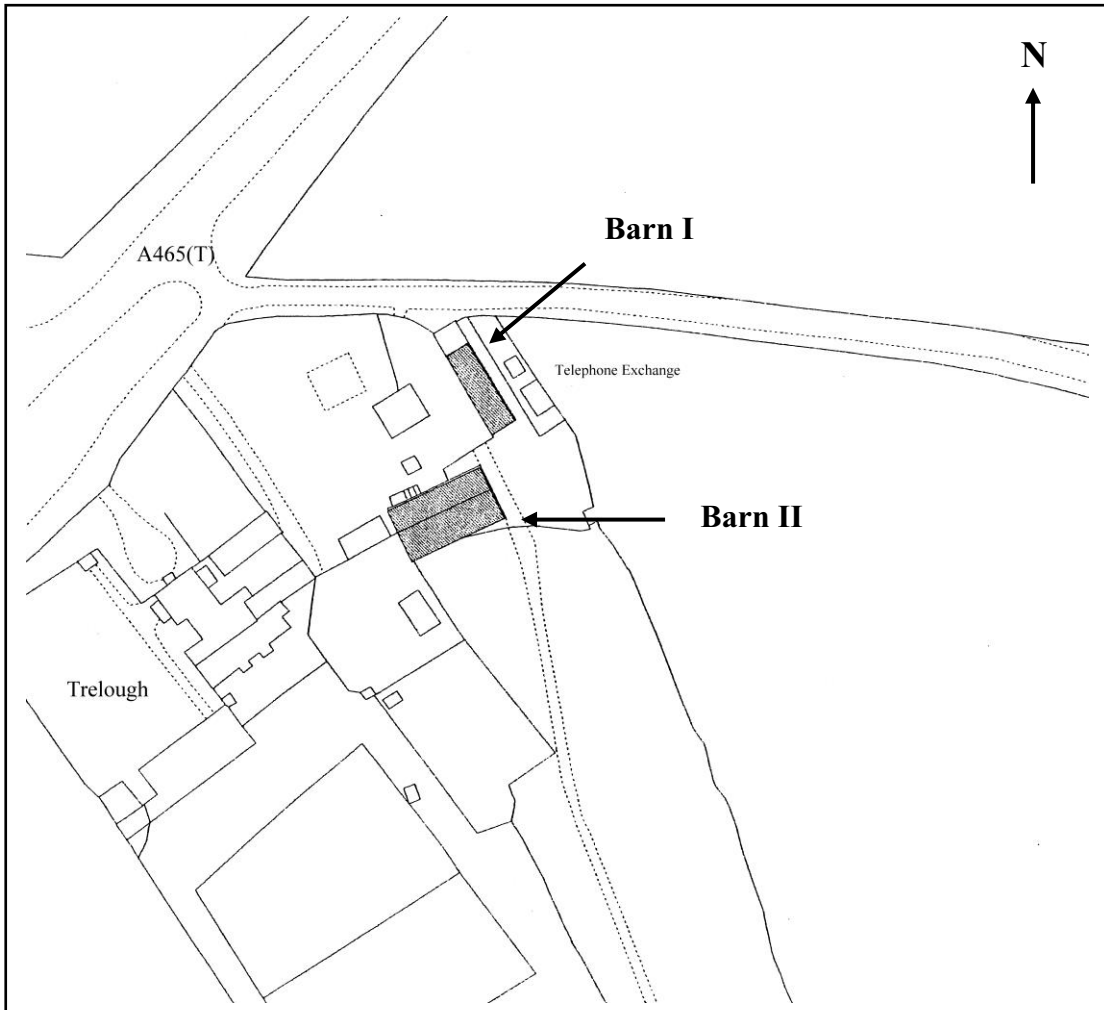


PLATE 1 BARN I LOOKING NE SHOWING CONSTRUCTION PHASES 1 & 2



PLATE 2 BARN I SHOWING THE SOUTHERN BAYS



PLATE 3 BARN I SHOWING OAK TIMBER A-FRAME CONSTRUCTION WITHIN THE ROOF SPACE OF PHASE 1



PLATE 4 BARN I SHOWING 19TH CENTURY EXTENSION



PLATE 5 BARN I SHOWING PLINTH AND TIMBER FRAMING OF PHASE 1



PLATE 6 BARN I SHOWING PLINTH ALONG THE SOUTHERN GABLE END



PLATE 7 BARN II SHOWING NORTHERN ELEVATION



PLATE 8 BARN II SHOWING CORNER OF WESTERN GABLE AND CELLAR OPENING



PLATE 9 BARN II SHOWING WINDOW OPENING ON THE NORTHERN ELEVATION



PLATE 10 BARN II SHOWING TIMBER CEILING WITHIN THE DAIRY



SITE SUMMARY

Report Name and Title	Standing Building Recording Survey of Trelough Farm Barns, Whitfield Estate, Wormbridge, Herefordshire
Contractor's Name and Address	Border Archaeology, PO Box 36, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 OYQ
Site Name	Trelough Farm Barns, Whitfield Estate, Wormbridge, Herefordshire
Grid Reference (8 fig)	NGR SO 432 312 Planning Application No: SW 2001/1413/F Listed Building Consent: SW 2001/1415/L
SMR number/s of site	34706
Date of Field Work	June 2003
Date of Report	June 2003
	NUMBER AND TYPE OF FINDS
Pottery Other	Period: N/A Number of sherds: N/A Period: N/A Quantity: N/A
	NUMBER AND TYPE OF SAMPLES COLLECTED
Sieving for charred plant remains	No of Features sampled: N/A No of buckets: N/A
C14/scientific dates	No and Type: N/A Result: N/A
Pollen	No of Columns/spot samples: N/A Name of pollen specialist: N/A
Bone	Number of buckets sieved for bone: N/A <i>Quantity Recovered: N/A Period: N/A</i>
Insect	No of Columns/spot samples: N/A Name of pollen specialist: N/A
Other	Type and specialist: N/A
Summary of the report	The two barns (Barn I and II) are set within a rectangular courtyard north-east of Trelough House, which dates to the Georgian period and now comprises a series of dwelling units. The oldest barn is Barn I, which is oriented approximately NW-SE and dates from the late 17th or early 18th century. The earlier of two construction phases consists of a series of weatherboarded oak frames that sit on a plinth of locally quarried sandstone. The later phase - a brick cattle stall extension - is located at the north-west of the building and is probably contemporary with Barn II. Barn II is oriented approximately east-west and constructed of unfrogged red brick laid on a sandstone plinth. Although referred to as a barn, it is in fact a dairy and maintenance shed. The brickwork is laid in the stretcher-header style indicative of the early to mid 19th century farm vernacular. Located at the western end of the building is a cellar. It is probable that an earlier structure once stood on the site of the present building. It must be assumed that the plan of the courtyard was in place prior to the construction of Barn II.

