# WOODCOCK ROAD FARM, SHEFFIELD ROAD, GLOSSOP, DERBYSHIRE:

#### HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING OF THE THRESHING BARN

2019

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## Summary

- During 2019 Matt Hurford Historic Buildings and Archaeology Services was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Coulthurst to undertake a historic building record of a former threshing barn at Woodcock Road Farm, Sheffield Road, Glossop, Derbyshire centred on National Grid Reference SK 05352 94215. The work was carried out in advance of the buildings change in use from a store into two residential holiday units (Planning Application No. NP/HPK/0619/0582). It follows a heritage assessment of the building by Ranfield Associates.
- The farm is recorded on the Peak District National Park Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments Record (MPD13194) as a non-designated heritage asset described as a partially extant nineteenth century farmstead of L-plan with the farmhouse attached to the agricultural range. It is located within the Dark Peak of the Peak District National Park with the market town of Glossop just over a mile away to the west.
- A building originally extended from the west gable of the threshing barn forming a U-plan range with a two-unit barn extending from the east gable to the farmhouse a later addition. The farm was therefore originally of Dispersed Cluster plan form, a common plan form in the Dark Peak and strongly associated with seventeenth century and earlier irregular enclosures and small-scale regular enclosures of later eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The farmstead was subsequently expanded becoming a U-plan type by 1880 prior to becoming an L-plan type with the demolition of the westernmost building by the middle of the twentieth century.
- The barn is a three bay building of two storey height and gritstone built, beneath a gable roof of stone with a V-type ridge tile. It has a central threshing floor with opposing doors comprising a set of much altered double cart doors and a winnowing door which is blocked. The west gable has been rebuilt. There are numerous former doorways suggesting that the building once housed livestock. Two pitching holes were inserted in the north elevation when the farm was remodelled between 1880 and 1898. The roof is supported two oak principal rafter trusses, the tie beams of which have chamfers and runout stops and an original set of purlins. The roof has been repaired with the insertion of a softwood plank ridge, purlins, common rafters and wall plates. A low stone partition partially survives dividing the western and central bays. In the north and south walls are recesses, probably designed to house a lamp or the horn containing grease for the joint of the flail used to thresh the corn. The flooring of the eastern bay is of earth and stone with the threshing floor and western bay of flagstones and stones laid on edge.
- Woodcock Road Farm is likely to be broadly contemporary with Whitfield Enclosure of 1813, typical of isolated farmsteads of the Dark Peak built following the enclosure of moorland. This would also fit with the pattern of farmstead construction in this part of the Dark Peak with the nearest recorded seventeenth and eighteenth century farmsteads to Woodcock Road Farm being restricted to the south of Glossop around the edge of Matley Moor and to the south-east around Edale. In contrast there are a number of nineteenth century ones in close vicinity to the farm. The threshing barn however has an oak principal rafter roof truss more in keeping with the previous century; a nineteenth century barn is likely to have a king post roof of softwood, the timbers possibly having Baltic origins. It may be the case that the barn was originally part of an outfarm or farmstead that was largely remodelled following enclosure in the early nineteenth century and the construction of the turnpike road, Sheffield Road, by 1821.

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## Acknowledgments

The project was managed and the fieldwork undertaken by Matt Hurford. Monitoring was by Natalie Ward, Senior Conservation Archaeologist at the Peak District National Park Authority. Thanks are extended to Mr & Mrs Coulthurst for commissioning the work.

### 1 Introduction

#### 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 During 2019 Matt Hurford Historic Buildings and Archaeology Services was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Coulthurst to undertake a historic building record of a former threshing barn at Woodcock Road Farm, Sheffield Road, Glossop, Derbyshire centred on National Grid Reference SK 05352 94215 (Figure 1). The work was carried out in advance of the buildings change in use from a store into two residential holiday units (Planning Application No. NP/HPK/0619/0582). It follows a heritage assessment of the building by Ranfield Associates (Ranfield Associates 2019)
- 1.1.2 The farm is recorded on the Peak District National Park Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments Record (MPD13194) as a non-designated heritage asset described as a partially extant nineteenth century farmstead of L-plan with the farmhouse attached to the agricultural range. It is located within the Dark Peak of the Peak District National Park with the market town of Glossop just over a mile away to the west. The building is on a roughly east-west axis with a two-unit barn abutting the east gable and extending to the farmhouse.

#### 1.2 Building Recording Methodology

- 1.2.1 Where specific briefs are supplied by relevant planning authorities with regard to buildings they may require a survey based on classifications as outlined in Historic England's *Understanding Historic Buildings* (Menuge and Lane 2016). In this instance, a Level 2/3 report (principally a descriptive survey of the building with an analysis of the buildings development and use) was proposed.
- 1.2.3 Where an existing building/structure is protected by listing or deemed to be of local architectural interest and permission is sought or granted for major alteration, including demolition, the local authority may require the production historic building record.

#### 1.3 The Report

1.3.1 The building recording has involved a basic visual record of the exterior and interior of the barn. This has allowed for a written description and analysis of the building with 11 figures and 12 plates as illustrations. In addition, there is a further section at the back of the report (Section 7: Archival Record) which comprises a list of illustrations to support the archival record. The latter consists primarily of 33 digital images and prints from part of two films, comprising 33 negatives and prints held in archival quality sleeves. The report includes copies of the digital images together with plans showing their viewpoints.

#### 1.4 The Archive

1.4.1 The archive, comprising a copy of the report, written scheme of investigation, 36 negatives and prints from two films, one photographic register, two photographic location plans and 12 drawings will be retained by Matt Hurford Historic Buildings and Archaeology Services until final deposition at Derbyshire Record Office. Copies of the report will be lodged with the Derbyshire HER and the Peak District National Park Authority HBSMR. An OASIS online archive record has been initiated (OASIS ID: matthurf1-390428) with the full report to be uploaded once approved by Natalie Ward, Senior Conservation Archaeologist at the Peak District National Park Authority.

# 2 Planning Background

2.1 Mr & Mrs Coulthurst proposes to convert the former threshing barn at Woodcock Road Farm, Sheffield Road, Glossop, Derbyshire (Ordnance Survey Grid Reference SK 05352 94215) into two residential holiday lets (Planning Permission No. NP/HPK/0619/0582).

- 2.1 Due to the status of the site the Peak District National Park Authority requested a Level 2/3 historic building survey of the barn undertaken prior to its conversion based on classifications outlined in Historic England's guide Understanding Historic Buildings (Menuge and Lane 2016). The work adheres to Former Threshing Barn, Woodcock Road Farm, Sheffield Road, Glossop, Derbyshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Historic Building Record (Hurford 2019) which was guided by Condition 9 in the Approval of Planning Permission NP/HPK/0619/0582 and reflects recent consultations with Natalie Ward, Senior Conservation Archaeologist at the Peak District National Park Authority to ensure that works are conducted to an appropriate standard and in line with the expectations of the Peak District National Park Authority.
- 2.4 The archaeological work will offer an opportunity to address research priorities highlighted in the recent publication East Midlands Updated Research Agenda and Strategy (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012) notably:

Section 6.9 Modern (1750 – Present) 9.2 Buildings in Town and Countryside

1. Can we establish a typology of modern buildings......and how does this vary regionally?

Research Objective 9H Characterising the rural environment: *identify and record historic buildings and landscape features* in particular the desire for a more thorough assessment of architectural details and local distinctiveness (for example barn ventilation slot arrangement, type of roof structure and internal configuration).

## 3 Historical Background

- 3.1 Extending across the moorland to the north of Woodcock Road Farm is Doctors Gate, a stretch of Roman road extending between Navio, a settlement at Brough near Castleton to the fort at Glossop. The road passed behind Shire Hill, which lies immediately north of the farm, entering Old Glossop which is around a mile north-east of the centre of modern Glossop. The route remained in use becoming known as Doctors Gate since at least 1627 (Dodd and Dodd 1980, 38) and was part of the principal network of tracks and roads between Sheffield from Glossop. The route was superseded by a new turnpike road over the Snake Pass, sanctioned in 1818 by Parliament and completed by 1821 by Thomas Telford, with the stretch on the Glossop side of the route, by Woodcock Road Farm, being an entirely new road (Dodd and Dodd 1980, 150).
- 3.2 During the nineteenth century the Woodcock Road Farm was known as Cold Harbour, a name shared with the moorland to the east. (Ranfield Associates 2019, 3). The Whitfield Enclosure plan of 1813 (D5066/2) depicts a number of the fields to the south of Woodcock Road Farm, though the farm itself is just outside of the drawing. The farm is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1880 as a U-plan courtyard farmstead, the building extending from the west gable of the threshing barn (Figure 2) demolished between the publication of the 1921 and 1954 edition Ordnance Survey maps creating the L-plan farmstead present today. The farmhouse had been extended to the south by the 1898 edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 3). The farm was leased in 1885 to the Glossop Golf Club by Lord Howard and part of the land re-developed as a golf course. Farming ceased in 1922 when the farm became the headquarters of the golf club prior to becoming the residence of the ground keeper a few years later. In the 1960s it was sold to a private owner and used as a domestic residence (Ranfield Associates 2019, 3).

## 4 Building Description (*Figures 4-11 and Plates 1-12*)

#### 4.1 Exterior

- 4.1.1 The barn is a three bay building (numbered 1–3 east to west), of two storey height and gritstone built, the walling comprising coursed irregular sized angular stone, beneath a gable roof of stone with a V-type ridge tile.
- 4.1.2 The south elevation has a wide, tall central opening closed by a set of double doors which have been reduced in height for the insertion of a four-light window (Plate 1). The doors have iron strap hinges with plain ends. The doors have later planks attached to the bottom, originally they did not extend to the threshold, the gap being around 30cm. This is a typical arrangement for threshing barn doors with the gap filled by removable boards set into grooves in each door post of the door jambs. The design was intended to both keep grain in when the sheaves were being threshed and to keep hens outside to prevent them feeding on the valuable grain. The east window is a modern insertion with a concrete lintel and cill. To the west of the barn doors is a former doorway with oak lintel. From the interior it is clear that the west gable wall partially overlays it, thus indicating that the west gable wall is later than the south elevation (Plate 2). Beneath the eaves the plastic guttering is carried on cast iron brackets.
- 4.1.3 The north elevation (Plate 3) has a central winnowing door which is blocked (Plate 4). Two inserted pitching holes are present, one either side of the winnowing door, which have the same style cill as those found on the extension to the farmhouse dating to between 1880 and 1898. Timber plank and batten shutters, probably original features, are present (Plate 5). A building joint is clearly visible between the threshing barn and the two-unit barn to the east indicating two building phases though the roof is of one built and so has been renewed (Plate 6). The exposed common rafters carry the plastic guttering. Though the barn is built into a slight natural slope the difference in the higher ground level to the north has been accentuated by the raising of the road through resurfacing and the construction of the footpath.
- 4.1.4 The west elevation is white washed though internally it can be seen that there was originally a ground floor doorway at the south end and a first floor loading door.

#### 4.2 Interior

- 4.2.1 The three bay roof is carried by two principal rafter trusses of pegged mortice and tenon construction in oak (Plate 7). The principal rafters rise from the tie beam to cross at the apex supporting the later softwood plank ridge and are linked by an oak collar, possibly a later insertion, attached with iron ties. On the east face of the west truss carpenters' marks II are present on the tie beam and northern principal rafter (Plate 8). The back purlins are supported by cleats with the upper set being oak and the lower set softwood, probably replacement timbers. The wall plates and common rafters are softwood. The roof therefore appears of two phases, the earlier one of oak partially renewed using softwood timber. Of particular note the tie beams have crude chamfers and runout stops, a detail usually restricted to houses of the late sixteenth to early eighteenth century (Hall 2005, 160). There is no evidence to suggest that the beams are re-used timbers but such a possibility cannot be ruled out.
- 4.2.2 In Bay 1 the east wall has a blocked ground floor door with oak lintel at the north end and a central upper floor doorway, formerly a pitching hole (Plate 9). It is unlikely that a pitching hole would have been present in the wall if it was abutted by another building as they were principally designed to enable the unloading of crops from a fully laden cart. Therefore, the east wall is the former gable of the barn which pre-dates the building that extends from it to join the farmhouse to the east. The pitching hole was probably enlarged once the barn to the east had been built allowing easy access to stored crops between the two buildings.

4.2.3 The flooring of the barn comprises one of earth and stone in Bay 1 and flagstones and stones laid on edge in Bays 2, the threshing floor (Figure 10), and Bay 3. A low stone partition, again typical of threshing barns, divides Bays 2 and 3 (Figure 11). In the north and south walls are recesses, probably designed to house a lamp or the horn containing grease for the joint of the flail used to thresh the corn which needed lubrication two or three times a day (Figure 12).

## 5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The barn at Woodcock Road Farm was a three bay a threshing barn where the sheaves of corn were beaten with a flail to separate the grain from the straw, the latter being stored in the bays to either side of the threshing floor. The grain and chaff (the husks) were then winnowed to separate them from by throwing the grain into the air, the through-draft from the opposing cart doors and winnowing door blowing the chaff away from the grain. The barn would have also stored unprocessed crops and farm equipment.
- 5.2 A building originally extended from the west gable of the threshing barn forming a U-plan range with the two-unit barn extending from the east gable a later addition. The farm was therefore originally of Dispersed Cluster plan form, providing the two-unit barn was not a rebuild, which is a common plan form in the Dark Peak and strongly associated with seventeenth century and earlier irregular enclosures and small-scale regular enclosures of later eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (Lake et al, 2017, 24). The farmstead was subsequently expanded becoming a U-plan type by 1880 prior to becoming an L-plan type with the demolition of the westernmost building by the middle of the twentieth century. These changes have affected the fabric of the barn, the most notable alteration being the west wall which post-dates the north and south elevations, and has undoubtedly affected the function of the building as suggested by the number of ground floor doorways. Threshing barns of this size only usually have the cart entrance and opposing winnowing door with extra doors usually inserted when converted for cattle, something which happened predominantly in the late nineteenth century (Lake 2013, 4).
- 5.3 Barns with a central threshing floor flanked either side by a single bay is the commonest type of threshing barn and the one with the earliest origins. This design is widely distributed throughout England and Wales (Peters 2003, 20-1). The majority of existing threshing barns in the East Midlands date from the later eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. They are typically built of red brick when local stone was unavailable, their construction often accompanying enclosure of common land (Lake and Edwards 2006, 47). In the Peak District single-function threshing barns are relatively rare, the processing and storage of crops usually combined such as housing livestock and their fodder, carts and farm equipment (Lake *et al* 2017, 39).
- Woodcock Road Farm is likely to be broadly contemporary with Whitfield Enclosure of 1813, typical of isolated farmsteads of the Dark Peak built following the enclosure of moorland (Lake et al 2017, 17). This would also fit with the pattern of farmstead construction in this part of the Dark Peak with the nearest recorded seventeenth and eighteenth century farmsteads to Woodcock Road Farm being restricted to the south of Glossop around the edge of Matley Moor and to the south-east around Edale. In contrast there are a number of nineteenth century ones in close vicinity to the farm (Lake et al 2017, 16). The threshing barn however has an oak principal rafter roof truss more in keeping with the previous century; a nineteenth century barn is likely to have a king post roof of softwood, the timbers possibly having Baltic origins. It may be the case that the barn was originally part of an outfarm or farmstead that was largely remodelled following enclosure in the early nineteenth century and the construction of the turnpike road in by 1821.

## 6 Bibliography

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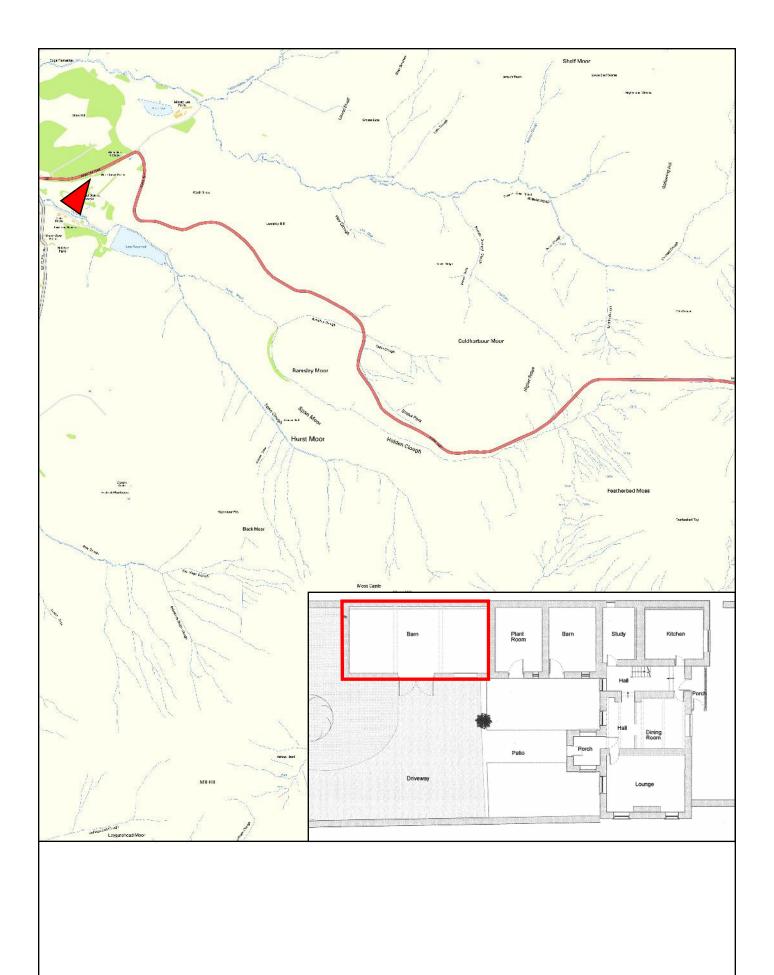
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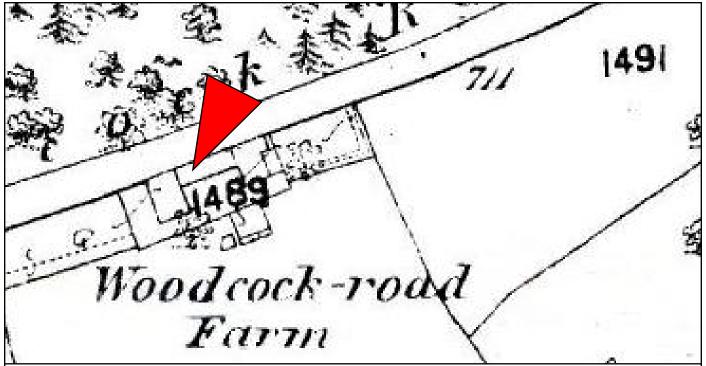
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Menuge, A. and Lane, R. 2016 Understanding Historic Buildings. Historic England, Swindon.

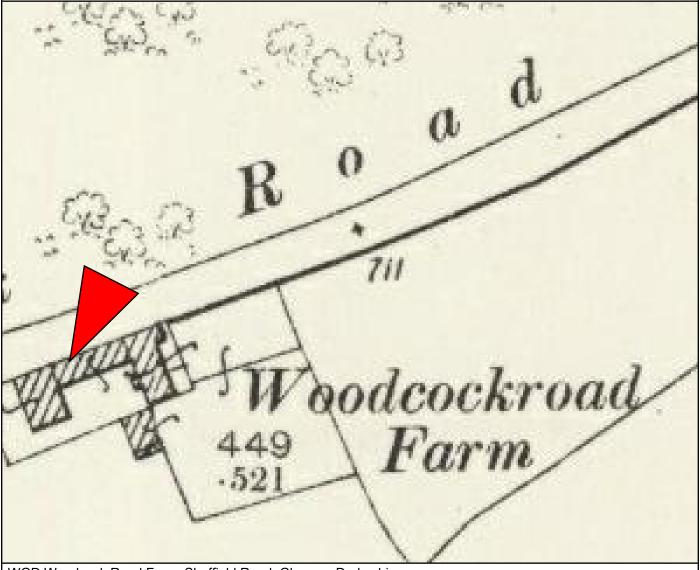
Ranfield Associates., 2019 Farmstead Assessment Woodcock Road Farm, Sheffield Road, Glossop, Derbyshire SK13 7PU



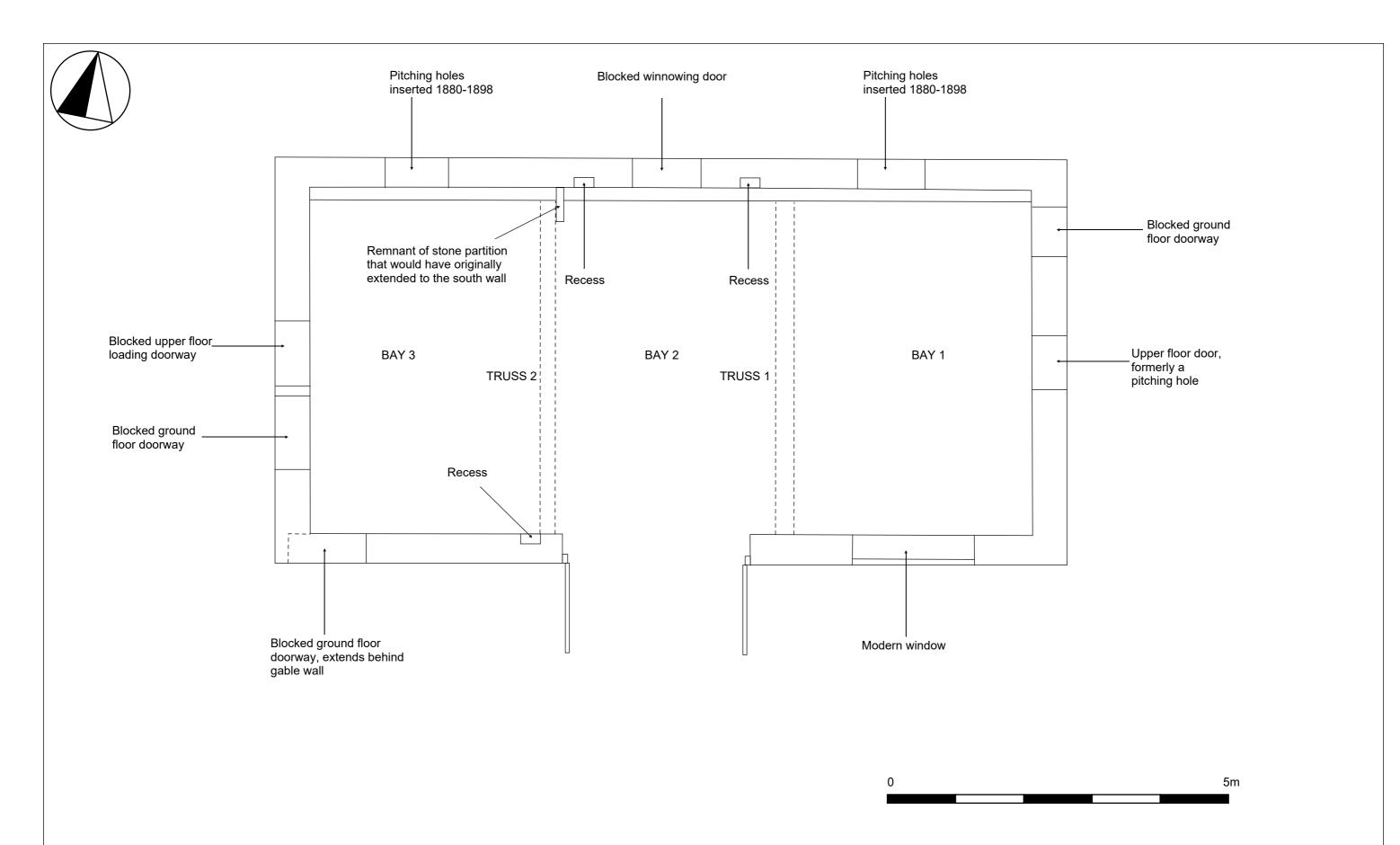
WGD Woodcock Road Farm, Sheffield Road, Glossop, Derbyshire Figure 1: Site location. Scale 1:25,000 at A4. Insert depicts the former threshing barn which is outlined in red, not to regular scale.

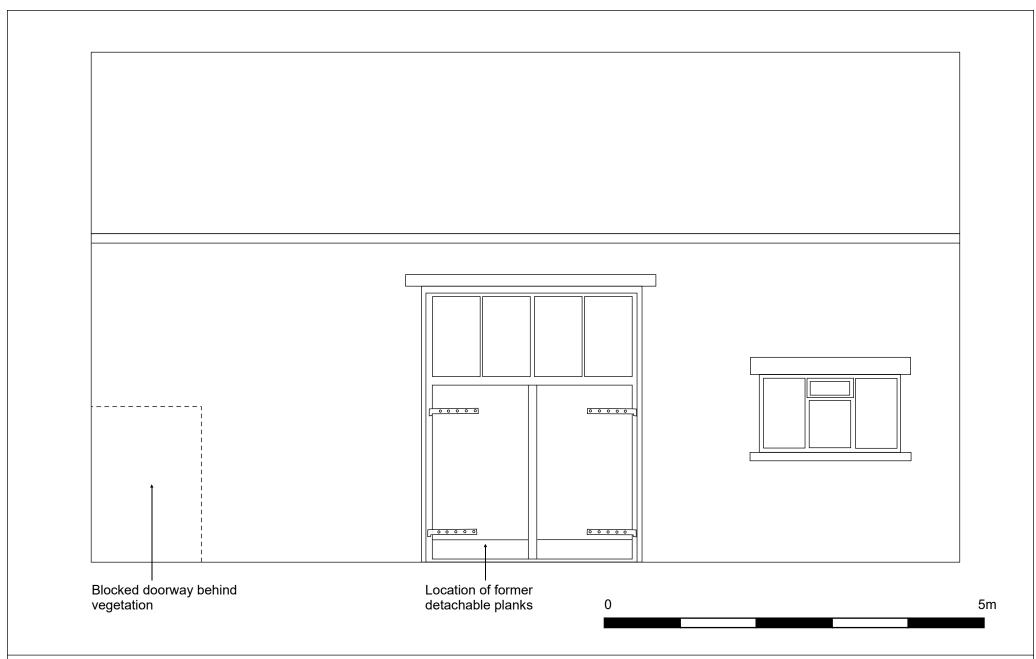


WGD Woodcock Road Farm, Sheffield Road, Glossop, Derbyshire
Figure 2: The threshing barn depicted on the Derbyshire III.9 25 inch First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1880.
Not to regular scale.

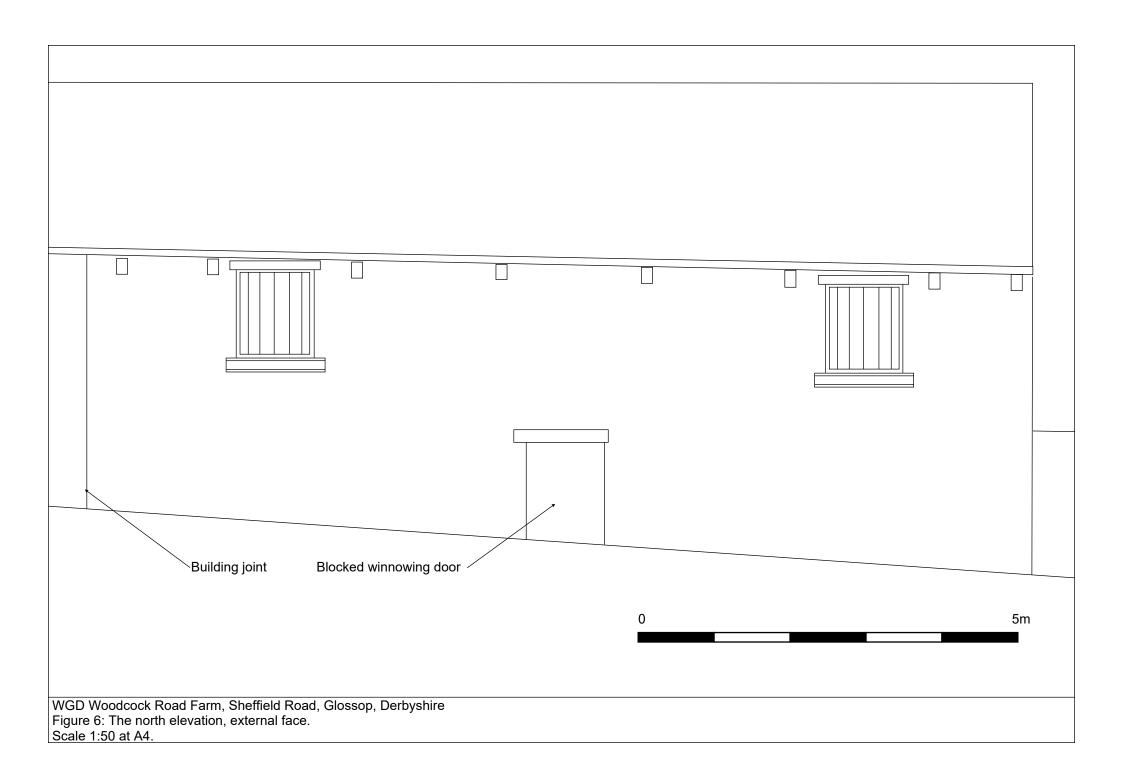


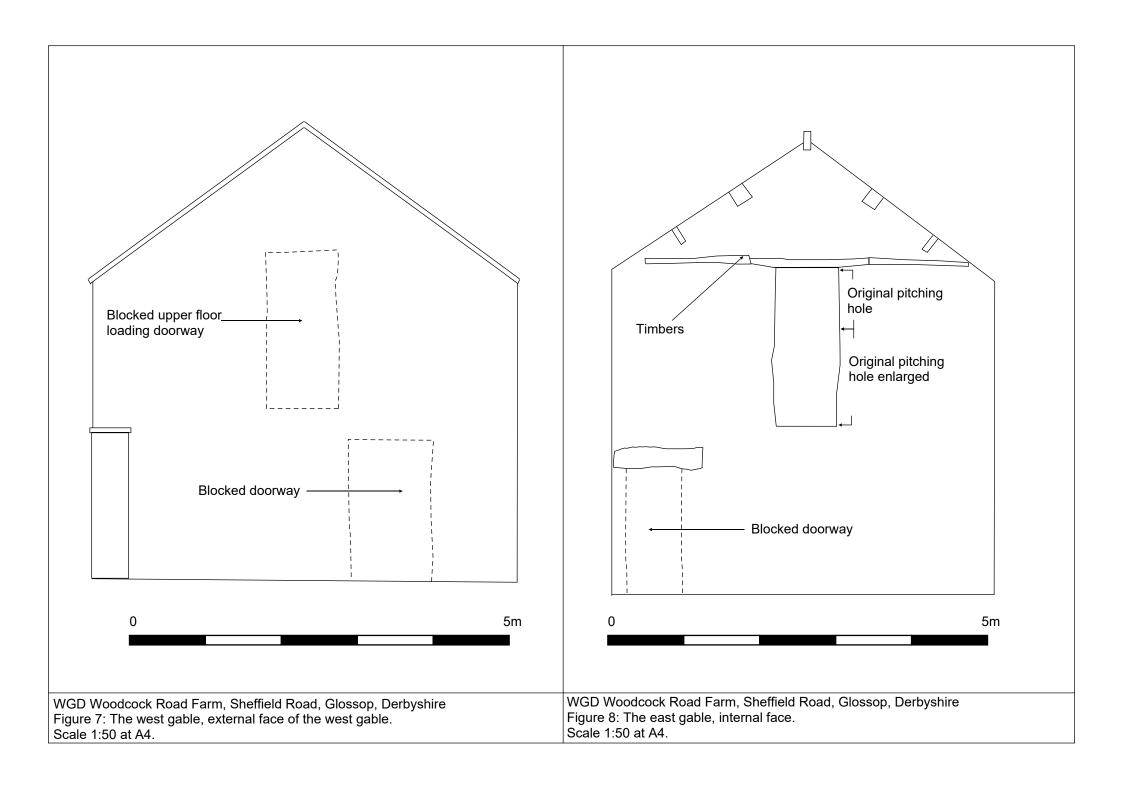
WGD Woodcock Road Farm, Sheffield Road, Glossop, Derbyshire Figure 3: The threshing barn depicted on the Derbyshire III.9 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1898. Not to regular scale.

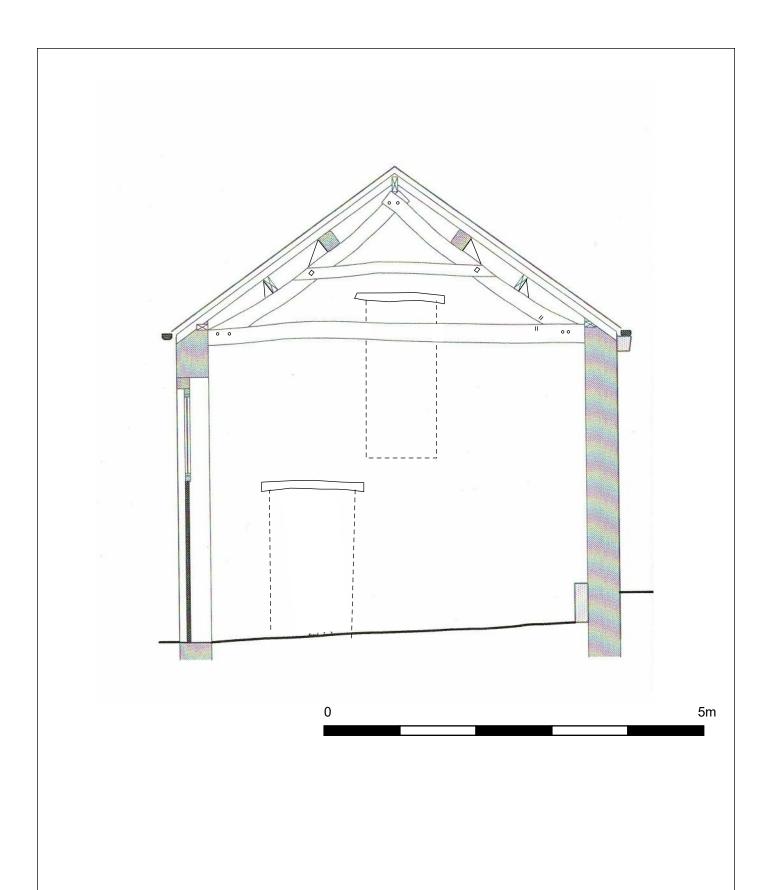


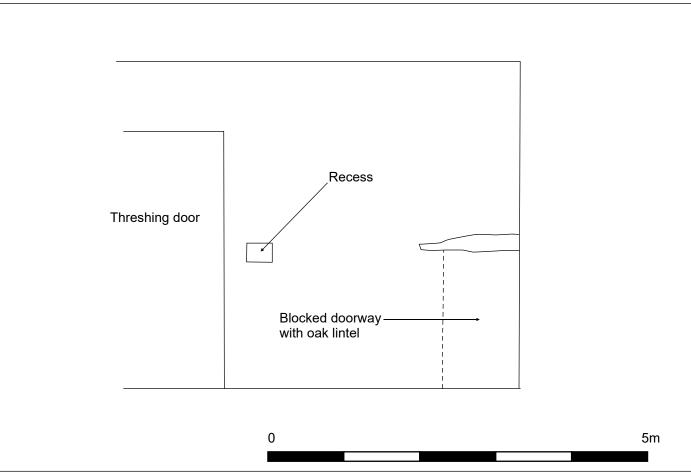


WGD Woodcock Road Farm, Sheffield Road, Glossop, Derbyshire Figure 5: The south elevation, external face. Scale 1:50 at A4.

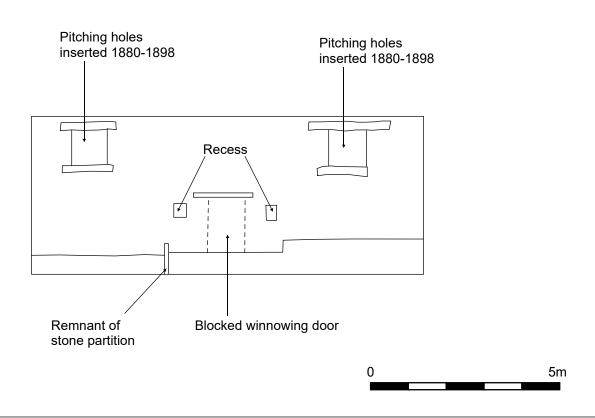








WGD Woodcock Road Farm, Sheffield Road, Glossop, Derbyshire Figure 10: South elevation, west end, internal face. Scale 1:50 at A4.



WGD Woodcock Road Farm, Sheffield Road, Glossop, Derbyshire Figure 11: North elevation, internal face. Scale 1:100 at A4.



**Plate 1:** The south elevation, viewed looking north.





**Plate 2:** The west gable wall overlaying the blocked door in the south elevation south elevation, viewed looking south-west.

Plate 3: The north elevation, viewed looking south.





**Plate 4:** The blocked winnowing door in the north elevation, viewed looking south. **Plate 5:** The inserted pitching hole in the north elevation, viewed looking south. **Plate 6:** The building joint in the north elevation between the threshing barn and the barn to the east.





Plate 7: The east face of Truss 2, viewed looking south-west.



Plate 8: The east face of Truss 2, north end, viewed looking west.









Plate 9 The east wall, viewed looking south-east.

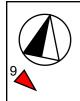
Plate 10: The threshing floor of Bay 2, viewed looking west.

Plate 11: The stone partition dividing Bays 2 and 3, viewed looking north-west.

**Plate 12:** The winnowing door flanked by recesses with the stone partition to the left, viewed looking north.

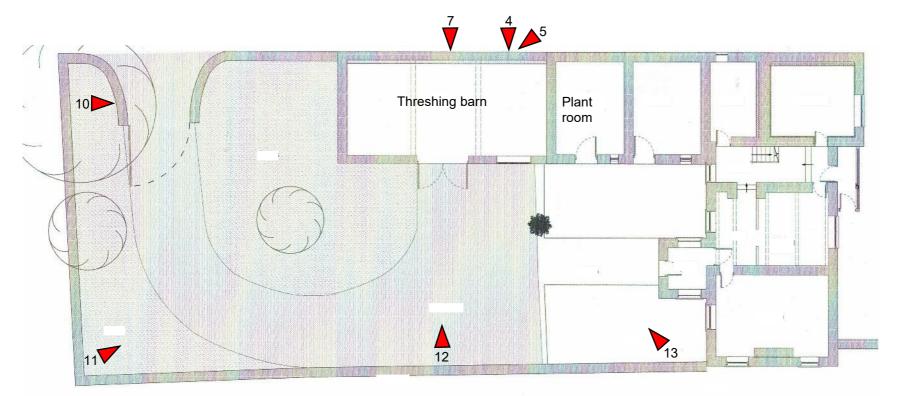
# Threshing barn at Woodcock Road Farm, Sheffield Road, Glossop, Derbyshire Photographic Register

Photo No	Description	Looking
Exterior		
0001	North elevation of threshing barn, range and house	SW
0002	North elevation of threshing barn and plant room of the range	SW
0003	North elevation building joint between the threshing barn and the plant room	S
0004	North elevation, east window	S
0005	North elevation, east window	SW
0006	North elevation general view	S
0007	North elevation winnowing door	S
8000	West gable and north elevation of the threshing barn and the range and house	SW
0009	West gable and north elevation of the threshing barn and the range and house	SW
0010	West gable	E
0011	West gable, south elevation of the range and the west elevation of the house	NE
0012	South elevation	N
0013	South elevation of the threshing barn and the range	NW
Interior	•	
0014	General view from the north-east corner	SW
0015	East face of Truss 1	SW
0016	East face of Truss 2	SW
0017	East face of Truss 2 north end – note the chamfer and stop and carpenters assembly marks	W
0018	South-west corner former doorways in south elevation and west gable	SW
0019	West gable wall general view, note the former doorway	NW
0020	North wall, west end	NW
0021	North wall general view with blocked winnowing door	N
0022	General view from the south-west corner	NE
0023	Recess in the south wall to the west of the threshing doors	S
0024	North wall western window	N
0025	North wall eastern window	N
0026	North wall western recess	N
0027	North wall winnowing door	N
0028	North wall eastern recess	N
0029	East gable wall general view	SE
0030	East gable wall northern former doorway	E
0031	East gable wall upper floor doorway	SE
0032	Floors of Bays 2 and 3	W
0033	Floors of Bays 2 and 3	W





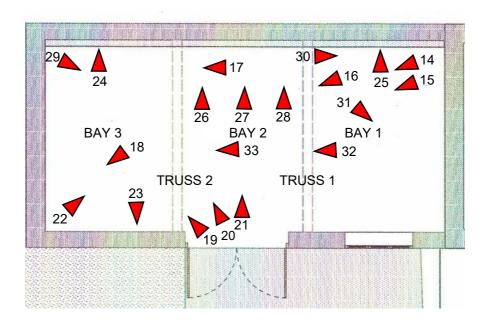




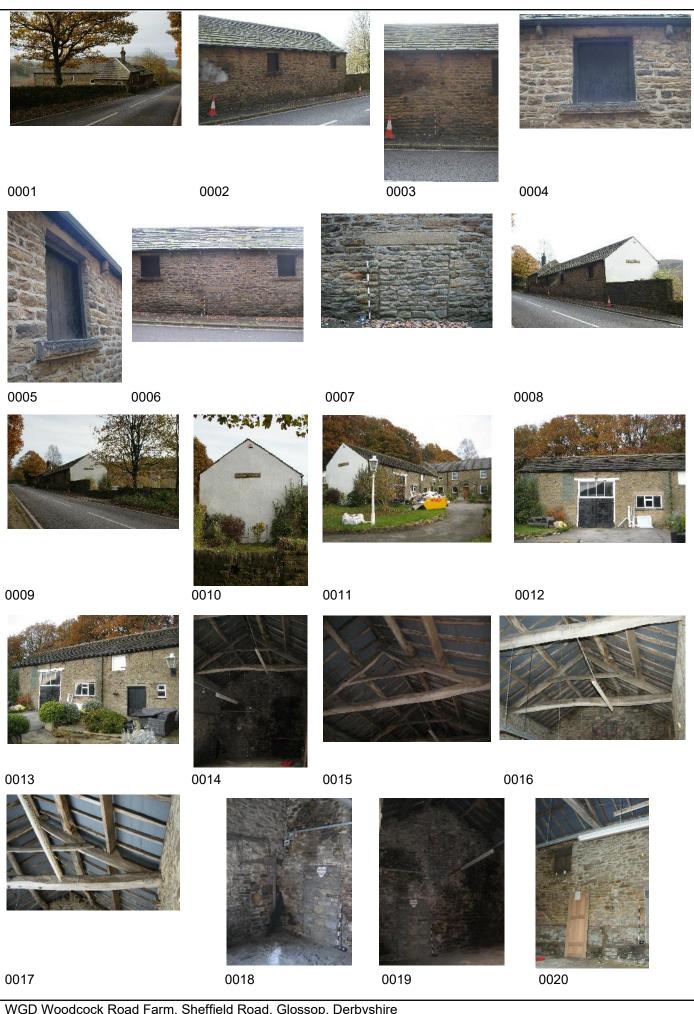


WGD Woodcock Road Farm, Sheffield Road, Glossop, Derbyshire Figure 12: Plan showing the photographic viewpoints 1-13 based on a drawing produced by Ranfield Associates Ltd. Scale 1:200 at A3.









WGD Woodcock Road Farm, Sheffield Road, Glossop, Derbyshire Figure 14: Digital photographs 1-20.

