

Pound Farm, Kington, Herefordshire
archaeological building survey and monitoring

Daniel Lewis and RC Williams
2004



archenfield archaeology ltd

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Archenfield Archaeology Ltd is a multidisciplinary archaeological consultancy, offering a complete range of archaeological advice and services to the public and private sector. We specialise in giving archaeological advice to developers, housing associations and private individuals. We also undertake archaeological intervention, from monitoring to full-scale excavation; building survey; landscape and geophysical surveys and community based historical and archaeological projects.

*Pound Farm, Kington, Herefordshire: archaeological building recording and monitoring
Report number 03/50*

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Cover Photograph: Details of cruck 3 next to the north stack



Contents

Summary.....	4
1.0 Introduction	5
2.0 Geological, historical and archaeological background	7
2.1 Geological background and land use	7
2.2 Historical background.....	7
2.3 Archaeological background.....	13
3.0 Project aims and objectives	16
4.0 Methodology	16
4.1 Field methodology.....	16
4.2 Processing methodology.....	17
5.0 The results	18
5.1 The buildings.....	18
5.2 The stratigraphy	36
6.0 The finds	41
Pottery.....	41
Glass.....	41
Fe objects	41
Clay Pipes.....	41
7.0 Conclusions	42
8.0 Archive deposition	43
9.0 Publication and dissemination proposals	43
Appendix.....	44
Bibliography	47
Cartographic material	47
Copyright	47

Figures

Figure 1: Location plan.....	6
Figure 2: Bryant's map of Herefordshire, 1835, with Pound farm and the Kingswood	7
Figure 3: Outline of the southern area of the Kingswood on the 1927 OS map	8
Figure 4: Bryant's Kingswood overlain with the Kingswood drawn from field patterns on the ground.....	9
Figure 5: Tithe map from the 1840's	10
Figure 6: 1909 plan for the sale of Pound farm	11
Figure 7: The tithe map overlain with 1909 sale plan of 1909.....	11
Figure 8: Sale document of 1909.....	12
Figure 9: Archaeological sites in the Pound farm area.....	13
Figure 10: The house and farm buildings at Pound farm.	18
Figure 11: Ground plan of Pound Farm.....	19
Figure 12: Floor plan of Pound farm	20
Figure 13: The south gable wall	21
Figure 14: East elevation of the house showing the collapsed south wall.....	22
Figure 15: Longitudinal cross section of the house	24
Figure 16: The east elevation of the pantry.....	24
Figure 17: The open cruck frame of the hall.....	27
Figure 18: Cruck 5	28
Figure 19: Cruck four	29
Figure 20: Phase plans of the north chimney stack	30
Figure 21: Reconstruction of cruck four with three tiers of purlins trenched into the blades.	31
Figure 22: The east truss.	32
Figure 23: Medieval carpenters numerals on the east face of the intermediate frame.....	33
Figure 24: Intermediate frame.....	33
Figure 25: Trench location plan. The numbers mark the position of levels taken around the site.	36
Figure 26: Archaeological features within the building.	39
Figure 27: Sketch of the west cross section of feature 10.....	40

Figure 28: Stamps on the base of clay pipes from the drain within the house	41
Figure 29: Part of the roof plan at Penros Court.	42

Plates

Plate 1: The south gable wall with wooden support.	21
Plate 2: The east elevation of the house	22
Plate 3: The west elevation of the house while under reconstruction.....	23
Plate 4: The stone, west wall of the cider house	25
Plate 5: Door in the east wall of the granary	25
Plate 6: The decorated cruck (3) of the open hall	26
Plate 7: The baking oven and copper wash pot on the north side of the stack	30
Plate 8: Fireplace in the bedroom	31
Plate 9: The foundations of barn C with the Dutch barn in the background	34
Plate 10: Building E in 1937. All that remains of the building are the stone foundations.....	35
Plate 11: The stone foundation and floor of building E.....	35
Plate 12: Example of pits dug for the underpinning of the walls.....	37
Plate 13: The stone lined drain within the house.....	38
Plate 14: Passing wind brace in the restored roof at Pound farm	42

Summary

Archenfield Archaeology conducted a programme of building recording and archaeological monitoring at Pound Farm prior to the restoration of the house and farm buildings. The work was carried out, in various stages, during the spring, summer, and autumn of 2003.

The house at Pound Farm is a grade II listed timber-framed building (Herefordshire SMR number 6188) with what the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments described as the remains of five 14th or 15th century cruck trusses (RCHM, 1931). The house was completely re-faced in the 19th century (DOE, 1987).*

Dendrochronology dating indicates that the timbers used in the construction of the building were felled between 1451 and 1461 AD (Nayling, 2002).

The survey comprised of structural recording and archaeological monitoring of all building activities and ground work disturbance at Pound farm.

The house comprises the remains of a four bay hall building of which four of the five original crucks survive in-situ. A bay added in a later phase of the history to the house, at the southern end, now makes this a five bay house.

At the time of the survey one of the original cruck frames, and most of the western stone elevation had collapsed, bringing down with it parts of the first floor and the middle section of the stairs. The whole of the building at the north end had collapsed.

The archaeological monitoring of ground works revealed no in-situ archaeological features. However, the area around the farm is likely to preserve possible archaeological features associated with the early occupation of the house, and associated land-use.

1.0 Introduction

NGR SO 28925 54180

Planning authority: Herefordshire Council

Ref: NW2002/0337/F

Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record - Event No 32136

Hereford City Museum Accession No 2002-40

Mr C Boylett (the client) commissioned a programme of archaeological building recording and archaeological monitoring at Pound Farm, Kingswood, near Kington, Herefordshire. The work was carried out in various stages during the summer and autumn of 2003 and followed the details stipulated in the brief issued by Herefordshire County Council.

This condition of works was in response to planning application NW2002/0337/F that was validated by Herefordshire Council on 31/01/02. The planning application proposed the repair of the farmhouse at Pound Farm, the conversion of an adjoining Byre and Cowshed, and the construction of a link between the buildings. The applicant was Mr C Boylett. The applicants' formally nominated agent was Mrs J Demaus.

Herefordshire Archaeology advised that the development proposal had significant archaeological implications and accordingly, a standard archaeological 'survey and recording' condition was required for planning permission to be granted. The condition is to follow national government guidance (PPG 15 and 16), and is in accordance with local government (Herefordshire) plans.

The survey was carried out to level II (RCHME) standard and was comprised of scaled ground plans and elevations with detailed drawings of the archaeological features of the building. A photographic survey to level II (RCHME) standard was carried out with a medium format camera, using black and white film.

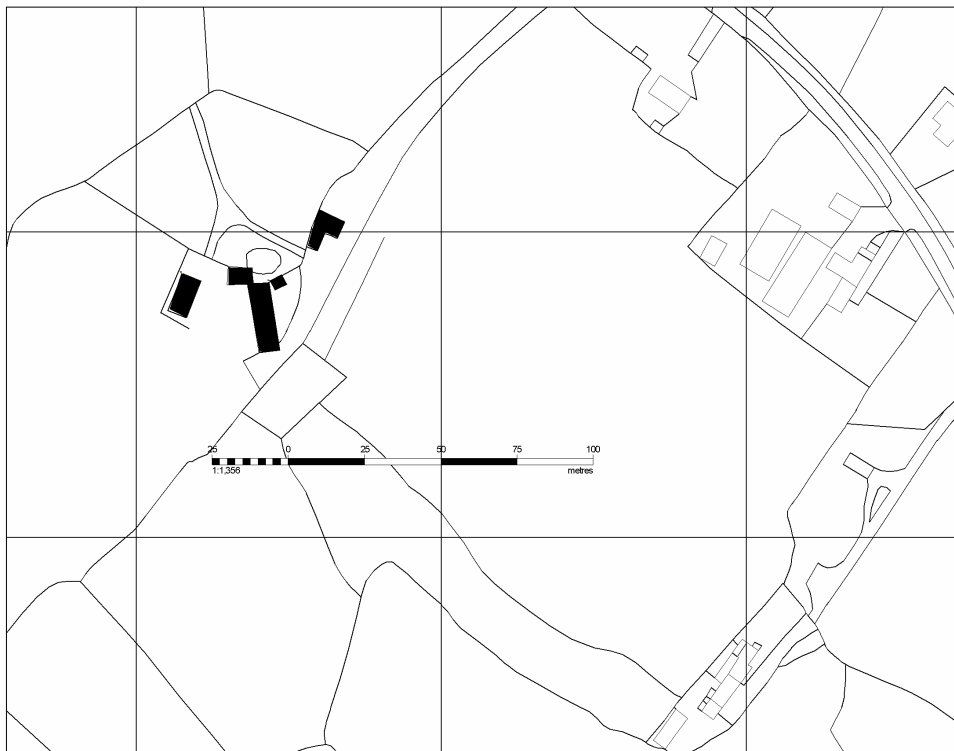
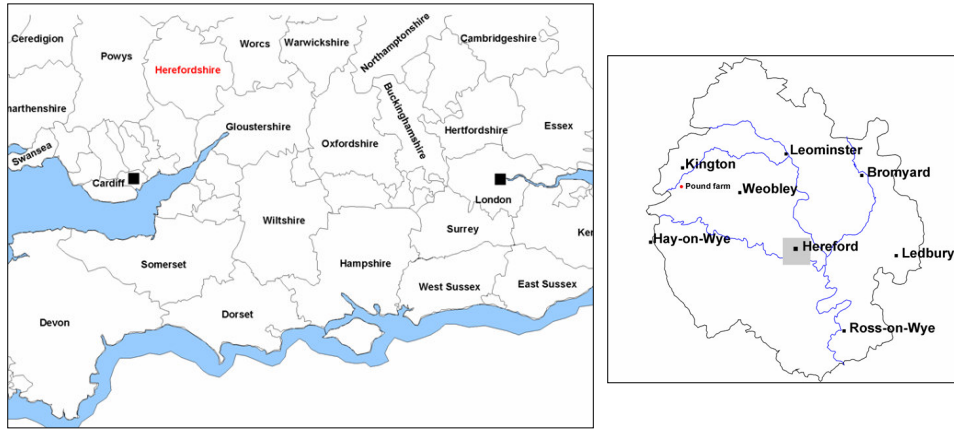


Figure 1: Location plan Ordnance Survey Super-plan data reproduced under license. Drawing reference number 26105647

Pound Farm is situated in the Arrow Valley to the east of Kingswood Common at roughly the 250m contour line, and south of Kington on the A 4111. The town of Kington is in north-east Herefordshire.

2.0 Geological, historical and archaeological background

2.1 Geological background and land use

The underlying geology of the area is predominantly Lower Old Red Sandstone (OS Geological Survey 10 mile map, 3rd edition 1979) and the land around Pound Farm, at the time of the survey, was mainly grassland pasture and unkempt farmland.

2.2 Historical background

Areas around Pound farm are mentioned in Domesday. Villages were grouped into administrative districts called hundreds, which formed regions within shires or counties. Some of these survive today, with only minor boundary changes.

Domesday (1:69) records that [Earl] Harold held land in Chickward (1 hide) Welson (2 hides) Huntington (3 hides) Bollingham (1 hide) Hergest (1 hide) Bredward (2 hides) Kington (4 hides) and Rushock (4 hides).

King Edward held three manors that paid tax. These manors were Hergest (paying 3 hides) Barton (2 hides) and Rushock (1 hide). King Edward held these. Now the King has them: they are waste.

Hugh Donkey held land in Elesdon Hundred in Chickward to the size of 1 hide and 1 virgate. 'Earl Harold held this land, but Earl William gave them to Hugh himself'.

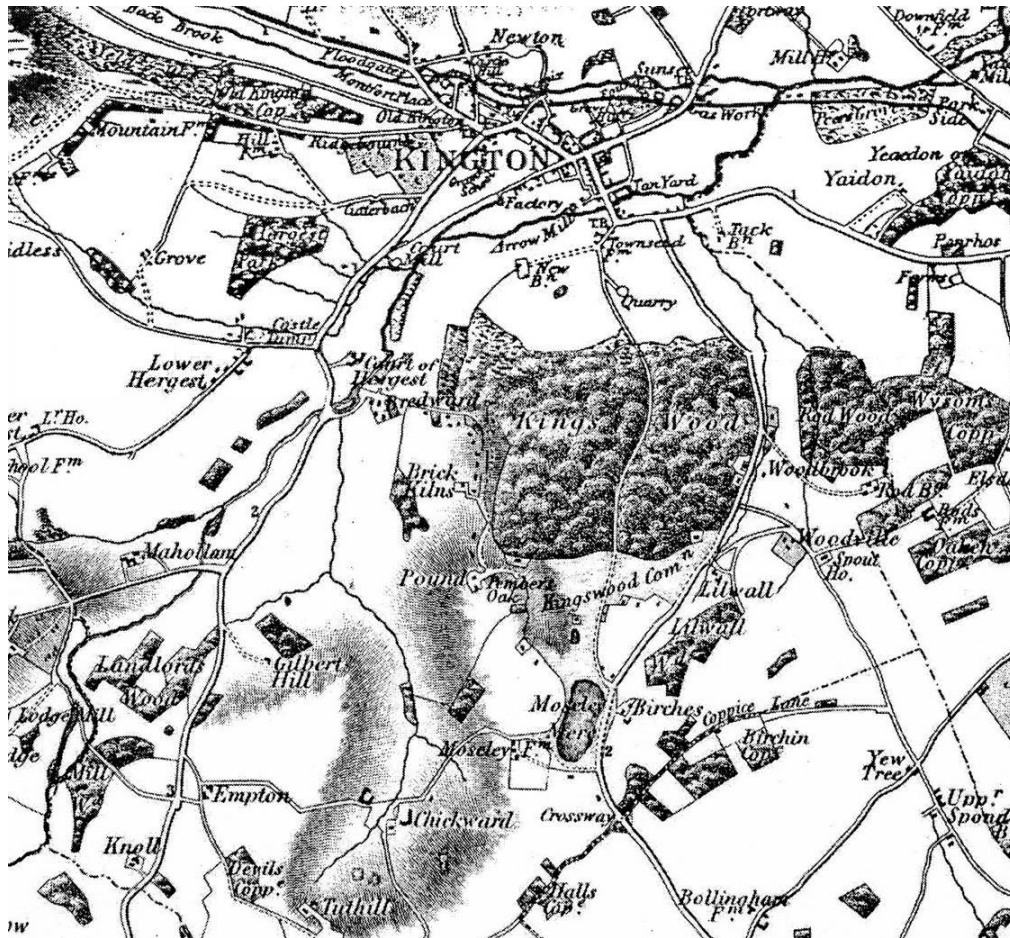


Figure 2: Bryant's map of Herefordshire, 1835, with Pound farm and the Kingswood

Kingswood is first mentioned as Kynges Wode in 1268 in the Cartulary of St Guthlac's Priory, Hereford and Kyngwodd in an Inquisition post Mortem of 1337 (Copleston-Crow). Kingswood is shown as a large oval area on the tithe map, undivided by boundaries and no doubt used as wood pasture common. By the time of the first edition Ordnance Survey map (1902) it had been enclosed into regular rectangular fields with a road running through the centre of it.

Bryant's map shows Pound Farm just south of the Kingswood. The enclosures of the smallholdings and rectangular fields mirror exactly the boundary of the Kingswood during the 19th century.

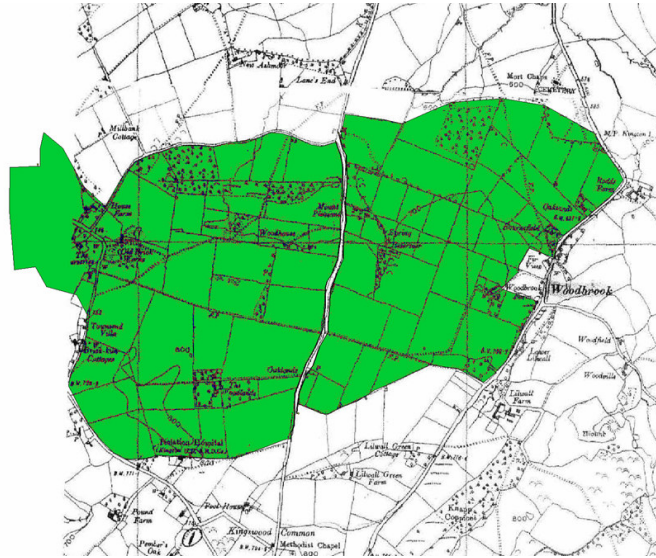


Figure 3: Outline of the southern area of the Kingswood on the 1927 OS map

The outline of the Kingswood (and Kingswood common) can be traced in field patterns on the ground. The straight, surveyed outline of recent fields in the Kingswood area, differ from the irregular, earlier pattern.

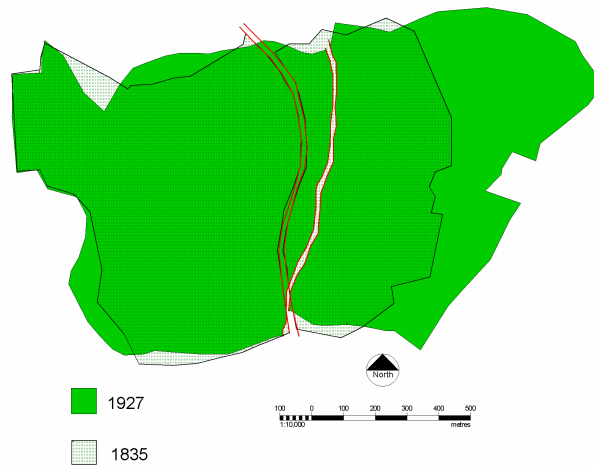


Figure 4: Bryant's Kingswood overlain with the Kingswood drawn from field patterns on the ground.

Some of the oldest buildings in Kingswood are the farm houses and one of the oldest farms of the area is Apostles Farm. The name has no biblical connection but legend has it that St. John preached from a stone in the lane leading to the farm. The stone is called Apostles and may mark an ancient track way. The old spelling of Apostle is Postle. It is probable that the welsh 'ap' was added to denote 'son of'. The early part of the house is dated 1400-1430 and is of cruck construction that would have been originally open from the floor to the roof with an open central hearth. Additions in the 17th century included a second floor with stairs to serve. The house was enlarged at this time. The farm was once owned by the Pember family and deeds of 1788 show a Thomas Stevenson as tenant paying a fee of 15s to the Manor of English Huntington at a special court. Later that year Stephens brought Apostles for £1,300 and in 1885 left it to his nephew Richard Meredith, who was about to marry.

The Pembers were an important family of the area and local tradition is that Walter (Pember) planted the oak to divide off Bredward, Chickward and Kingswood. The tree is traditionally thought to be roughly four hundred years old and stands to the east of Pound farm (Kingswood Local History Group). Examination of the ancient oak (Nayling, 2002) determined that the tree's age could not be established by dendrochronological analysis, but narrow ring sequences possibly suggest stress to the tree through past pollarding events to the tree canopy. The size of the tree possibly suggests that a more realistic age of between seven hundred to a thousand years.

The tree was killed in 1960's after being struck by lightning (Colin Boylett pers comm.).

On the 9th October, at the Oxford Arms in Kington, the Apostles farm and The Rodd were sold by auction to Thomas Carleton Skarratt for £3,600.

Thomas Griffiths, formerly of Moseley (south of Pound farm) made a donation of several parcels of land to the Vicar of Kington and his two church wardens so that out of the rents and profits they should; buy good and sufficient wholesome bread to the value of the yearly rent, for the use and benefit of the poor people of the parish. The donation was made on the 29th May 1699. The bread was distributed four times a year for the feasts of the Nativity of Our

Lord and Saviour, the feast of Easter, the feast of Pentecost and the feast of All Saints. William Bengough first leased the land on the 13th December, 1699 for 21 years for a yearly rent of £5. A further lease was granted to Richard Lilwall for 21 years for a fee of £6 10s. The lease was granted on 2nd February, 1752.

Tuthill farm, south of Pound farm, possibly derives its name from 'Tothulle' or 'the look-out hill'.

The name 'Pound farm' is of interest as it suggests (as with every Parish) that stray animals were impounded and might only be claimed on payment of a fine (Kingswood Local History group, pg 26). The drive to the farm is thought to be an old drover's road that linked the old turnpike road after crossing the common of Kingswood. The drover's road possibly came from Kington, to Woodbrook and Lower Woodvile and alongside Lilwall to Spond, to Bollingham, Quebb, Welson and to the Witney toll.

Pound farm was owned by the Whitcombe family from 1783 to 1830, but in 1843 the tithe appointment mentions a Robert Coke as owner.

The Whitcombe family did not live at the Pound, but leased it to farmers. John Bishop is listed as an occupier in 1783 in the Land Tax Assessment. The Jones family were occupiers from 1797 to 1812. David Morgan is named in 1816, and the Chandler family from 1817-1843.

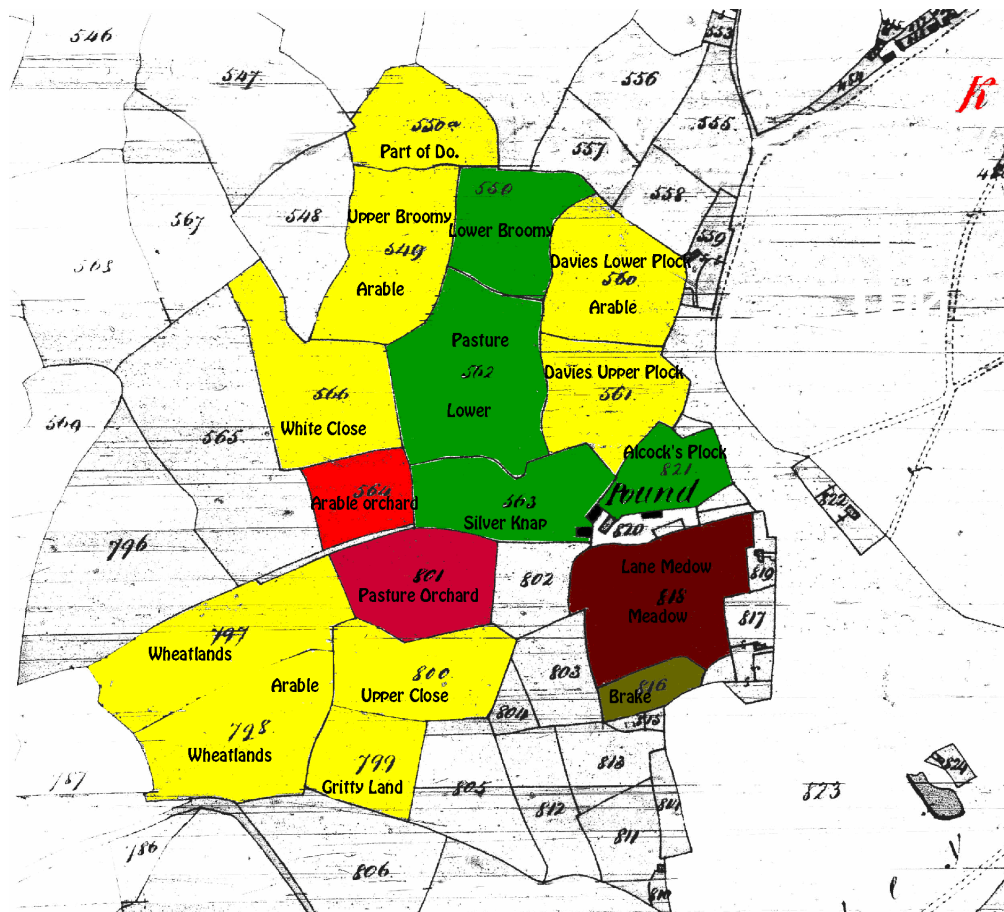


Figure 5: Tithe map from the 1840's

The tithe map shows the land-use for the fields of Pound farm. Most of the fields were either arable or pasture. There are also 2 orchards, a meadow, and a brake. Between the arable and pasture orchards is a thin strip of land, a possible scar from an old road or path leading to Pound farm. The scar follows the line of the field boundaries, with the boundary of Silver Knap field following the line of road/path towards the farm buildings.

Pound farm was put up for auction by Mr. C. F. Blakely on Tuesday, 8th day of June, 1909.

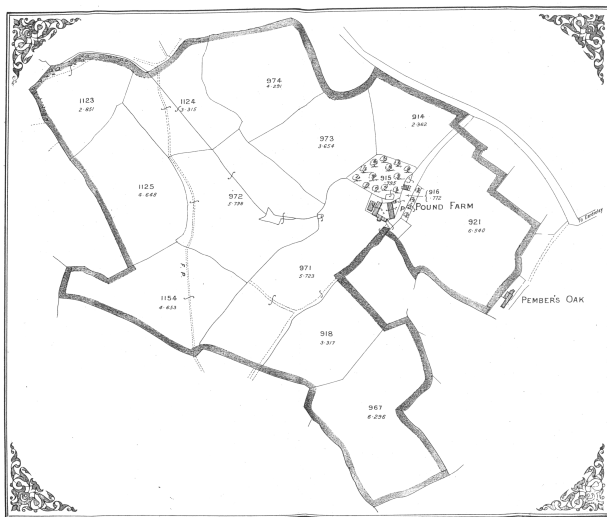


Figure 6: 1909 plan for the sale of Pound farm

The sale plan (figure 6) shows all of the standing buildings recorded in the ground plan, including the Dutch barn. This was probably one of the last buildings to be added to the complex. The total area of land sold in 1909 was around 48.52 hectares.

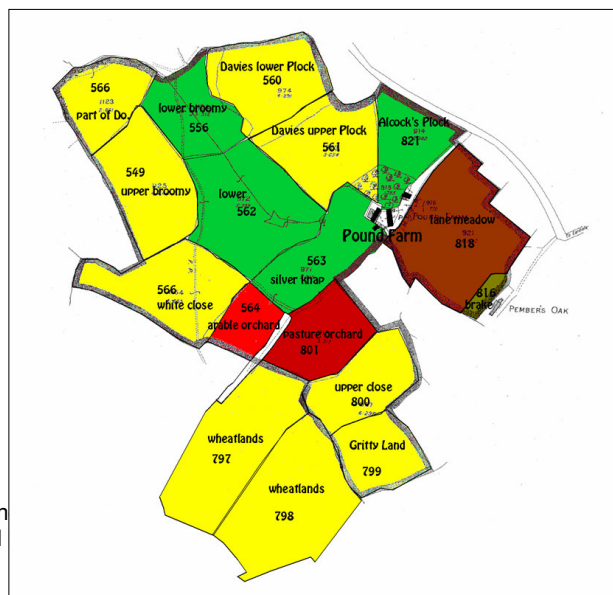


Figure 7: The tithe map overlain with 1909 sale plan of 1909

Two fields, numbered 725 and 797 on the title and listed in the apportionment as Wheatlands and belonging to Pound farm, are not on the later sale plan.

There have been no major changes to the field boundaries. The boundary between Gutty lane and Upper close, and the brake and the meadow were removed along with an orchard from the southern areas of Davies Upper Plock and Plocks Fields. No other boundaries changed from the time of the title to the 1909 sale.

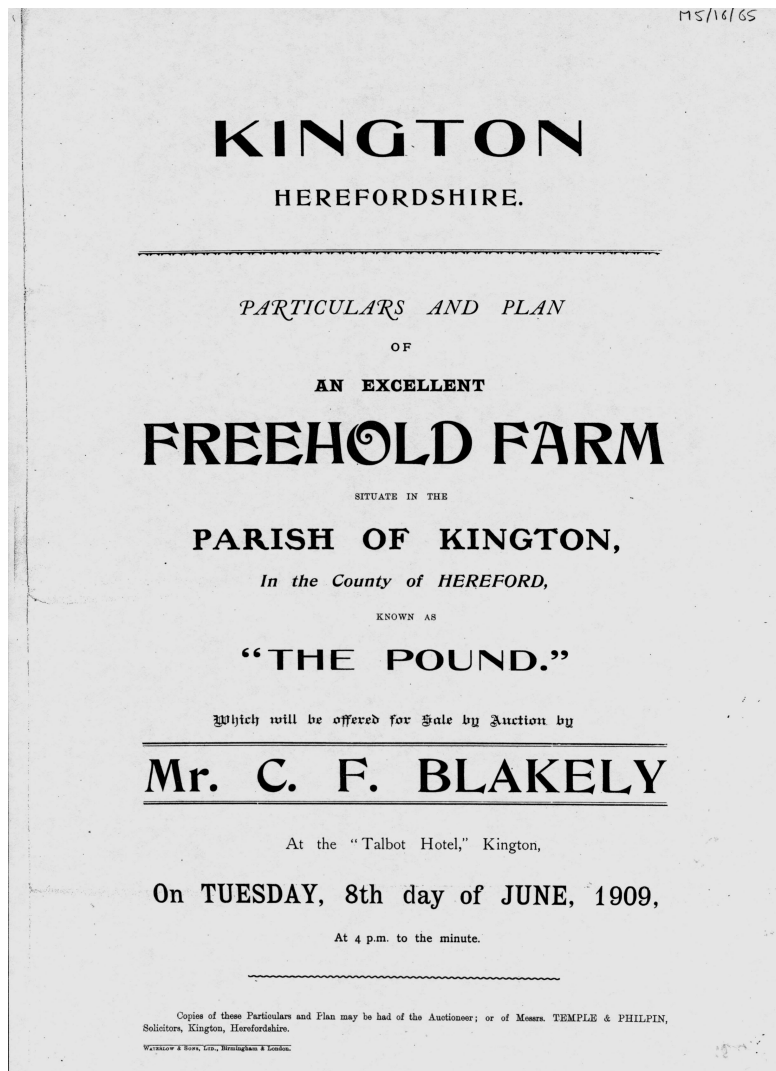


Figure 8: Sale document of 1909

The farm was possibly sold to Herbert D Pritchard, who is listed (Kelly's Directory) as farmer in 1913 and 1917.

Thomas Mainwaring is named as farmer in 1926 and Thomas Albert Mainwaring in 1941.

2.3 Archaeological background

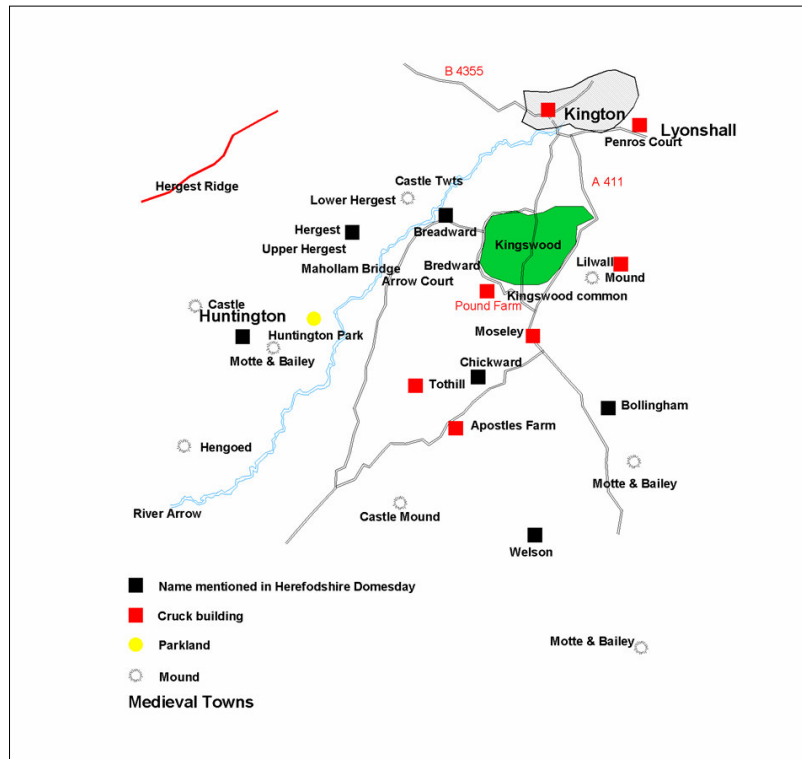


Figure 9: Archaeological sites in the Pound farm area

Prehistoric activity has been demonstrated in the area by flint finds. Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flints¹ including a Gravettian knife and a Palaeolithic blade tool fragment, a Mesolithic core chisel and chert blade² and a later Neolithic scraper and stone axe³ have been found at Arrow Court, Kington.

Prehistoric field systems have been recorded by the recent landscape study of the Arrow Valley (White 2004). Along the south facing slopes of Hergest Ridge linear boundaries demarcate rectangular fields established on a north-west to south-east orientation. These field boundaries are comparable to other field patterns in Britain that have been dated to the Bronze Age (c 1000-800 BC). Further sub-divisions of the major boundaries into fields occurred during the Iron Age. The same orientation of field boundaries can be seen around the Lyonshall village.

Possible Roman farmsteads have been identified through aerial photography of cropmarks within the Arrow Valley. Rectangular enclosures have been located around Kington, Lyonshall and Titley to the north (White, 2004, 23).

Norman timber and stone, motte and bailey castles are scattered around the area. A series of irregular earthworks⁴ near Chickward, Huntington include a circular mound that is approx. 1m high and is possibly a house platform or motte. The mound is surrounded by a ditch on the north, east and west sides. There is a triangular enclosure to the west and a larger enclosure to the north. The remains may represent low level house site common to the Eardisley

1	Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record No	8373
2	Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record No	8376
3	Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record No	8374
4	Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record No	33733

Lordship estates (Halliwell, P.R. ed 1992). Further earthworks⁵ around Chickward, include a possible motte and bailey with a wet moat to the south-west and west. A castle just north of Lower Hergest is a possible motte and bailey with buried foundations with a small outer court, and possible outer enclosures marked by banks. The castle and the nearby Hergest Court were owned by the Vaughn family who may have lived in the court and kept the castle for times of trouble (Sterling-Brown 1989, 10).

Alongside these defended sites are manorial sites, some of which were relatively rich, judging by the quantity of imported pottery from the 12th century from recent excavations at Burton Court (White, 2003, 21).

A mound on Lilwall farm lies to the south of Woodbrook. It is approx 25m in diameter and a 1m high. It is encircled by a dry ditch and has traces of an outer rampart and outer enclosure. The monument is probably a fortified house platform with the remains of low stone walls and a pattern of shallow ditches across the field. The field has been ploughed and drained. There are also two low mounds in the field that are relatively undisturbed. These have been termed 'pillow mounds' or rabbit warren earthworks. A series of 'lawns' names from the tithe possibly indicate that there was a deer park in the area during medieval times. Warrens were often under the control of the gamekeepers and would normally lie close to a manor house or castle, with dovecotes and fishponds, for protection against poachers.

Medieval towns in the area include the market town of Kington and the shrunken settlement of Lyonshall that was once almost a kilometre in linear extent but now shrunken to a small settlement at the south end. Huntington, mentioned as a hundred in the Domesday Book, is now almost entirely deserted.

Some of the oldest medieval buildings in Kingswood are the farm houses that date in part to the 13th century. Many were timber framed and still retain oak cruck trusses. Many of these have been incorporated into later building additions. Lilwall Farm is a partly timber framed building with the oldest part probably dating to the medieval period, with one cruck truss being partly visible. Additions to the building were added in the 17th century: these include a second floor and an extension that formed the present L-shape of the building. Moseley farm is not listed by the Royal Commission but probably dates to the 13th century with cruck arch beams that are now hidden by later additions. An open cruck building (not listed by the RCHME) at 13 High Street, Kington is probably 15th century (Tonkin, JW, 1974). The farm yard is possibly shared by two houses and this may also be true of Apostles farm. This is a feature often found in hilly parts of the country (Tonkin, JW, 1974).

A park in Huntington is first mentioned in 1295 and was possibly extended in the post medieval period to include an area of land that is undulating and round in shape, and contains parkland trees adjacent to Landlord's Wood and Huntington Park. This area may be an extension of the park⁶ that lies west of the Arrow.

Post medieval brickworks⁷ near Kington are not shown on the tithe map, but the cottages south of it are, though not specifically marked as Brick Kiln Cottages, as they are on the 1964 map. On the 1st edition OS map the brickworks are shown with a clay pit, and the cottages, but not named. Further brickworks at Bredward⁸, at the top of a hill above Red Wood are associated with clay pits. The area is now partially wooded and the field boundaries have been lost. The area is marked as brickworks on the 1st edition OS map. Information concerning the brickworks is very limited. Brick-kiln Common is marked on the OS map of 1833 and the 1881 census names Llewellyn Hancock as a brick and tile maker of Kingswood but, by 1900 the brick works were not in use. Many of the cottages in Kingswood were built from the local bricks and until quite recently the old brick kilns could still be seen on the site.

5	Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record No	33732
6	Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record No	30286
7	Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record No	31589
8	Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record No	31581

To the west of Pound farm are a military hospital and camp⁹ near Mahollam bridge, on the River Arrow. During WWII, this was the US 107th General Hospital at Kington. It was built as a hospital in 1944 for the Ministry of Works, but some buildings were occupied temporarily by the US 693rd Field Artillery Battalion around the time of D-Day. Detachment A of the 1st General Hospital then arrived, occupying the south-west part of the camp. The US 107th General Hospital officially opened on 18th August 1944, occupying the western half of the main camp; the first patients arrived that day. Many patients arrived on hospital trains to Kington (average 300 per train) and were then brought to the hospital by coach and ambulance. Accommodation for doctors and medical staff was in the south-east part of the camp; it was shared with the 122nd US General Hospital which occupied the east half of the main camp complex. After WWII, the camp accommodated members of the Polish Resettlement Corps, and was then mostly cleared. Some local authority housing was built. The main surviving hospital building is the large emergency water supply tower. A few huts also survive, but these are in poor condition.

⁹ Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record No 22841

3.0 Project aims and objectives

The aims of the project were: -

- To record the buildings to establish the historical and structural development of the Pound Farm complex.
- To produce a site location plan linked to the OS national grid to include all out-buildings within the farm complex and to be drawn at a preferred scale of 1:500.

The plans are to include the fallen northern bay and the footings of the out-building slightly north east of the house.

- To produce a ground floor and first floor plan annotated from the Architect's plans and drawn at a scale of 1: 50. The plan will include archaeological details and different phases of the building history.
- Elevation drawings of all the cruck frames at a preferred scale of 1: 20 or 1:50.
- Longitudinal cross section through the building to show floor levels, inserted partitions and the roof structure.
- Example truss drawing of the barn to the north-west of the house at a preferred scale of 1: 20 or 1:50.
- Ground floor plan of surviving timber framed barn. Scale 1:50.
- To conduct a photographic survey of all the major components of the building that would be directly affected by the development. To meet this requirement photographs were taken using a medium format camera using black and white film, of general views of the exterior of the building, all exterior and interior elevations and selective internal views. The photographic survey was to be conducted in accordance with the stipulations laid down in 'Recording Historic Buildings' (RCHME 3rd ed. 1996) to meet the requirements for a level 2 building recording project.

4.0 Methodology

4.1 Field methodology

The following methodology was employed: -

- The standing buildings were recorded to level II (RCHME) standard.
- The building and its setting were assessed and analysed by suitably qualified employees of Archenfield Archaeology.
- A plan at a scale based on the architect's drawings, along with truss drawings, was annotated to include archaeological features such as peg holes and empty mortices.
- Part plan at ground floor to show excavation features
- Scaled photographs were taken of all areas where alterations were to be made both internally and externally using a medium format camera using black-and-white film.
- Additional photographs indicating architectural features and alterations were taken using a 35mm camera with black & white and colour film.
- The building was visited during the period the spring, summer and autumn of 2003.
- Suitably qualified archaeologists monitored all activity that involved disturbance of the ground surface.
- An assessment of the archaeological significance of finds, structures and deposits was made and appropriate action taken.
- Structures and stratigraphic sequences observed were recorded on scaled drawings and the position of all work disturbing the ground, and any archaeological features, was located on them.

- The presence of artefacts and was recorded with a description of their type, quantity and original location. The spoil was scanned for significant finds but in fact none were observed.
- All descriptions of structures and deposits, photographic records and drawing numbers were recorded on the relevant data capture documents in accordance with Archenfield Archaeology's standard site recording procedures.
- Significant features were, where possible, photographed next to an appropriate scale rule, and a board displaying a unique context number. Each photographic exposure was recorded in the photographic log.

Staff carrying out the monitoring of the groundwork followed the guidelines laid down in the Archenfield Archaeology Health and Safety Policy

Archenfield Archaeology conforms to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual arrangements in Field Archaeology. All projects are, where applicable, carried out in accordance with IFA Standards and Guidance or Draft Standards and Guidance.

4.2 Processing methodology

- All data were entered into a Microsoft ©Access relational database

5.0 The results

5.1 The buildings

In a cruck building the main structure is based on pairs of crucks (blades) that are usually cut from the same piece of timber. This enables virtually identical size, shape and alignment of timbers. The timbers are joined at the top and usually tied with horizontal collars and form an 'A' frame structure that supports the ridge piece and purlins of the roof structure. The feet of the blades are usually set onto stone padstones set into the ground. The side walls carry little load and are linked by horizontal timbers (spurs) to the main cruck frames. The walls are virtually freestanding and could be made of a variety of materials.

Variations occur: jointed blades are made up of more than one timber, while raised crucks have blades raised above ground level from a masonry wall. Base crucks are where the blades do not join but are linked by a tie-beam or wall-plate.

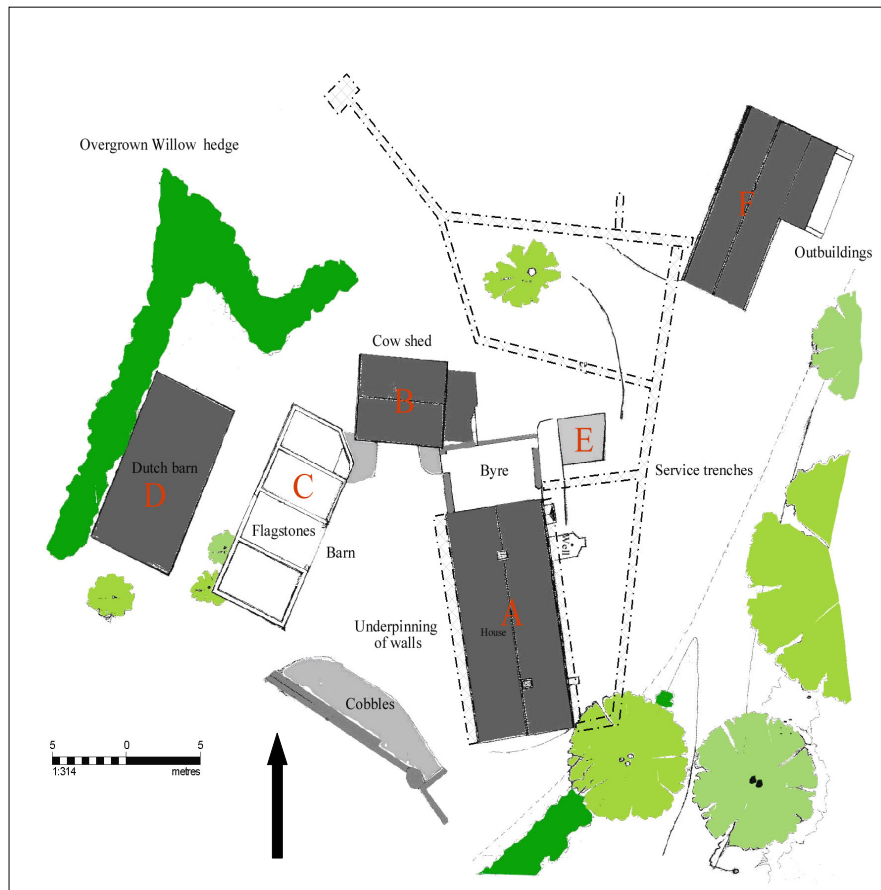


Figure 10: The house and farm buildings at Pound farm.

The main house of Pound farm is a cruck building with four standing cruck frames that date to the mid 15th century. A fifth cruck at the north of the building had collapsed prior to the survey.

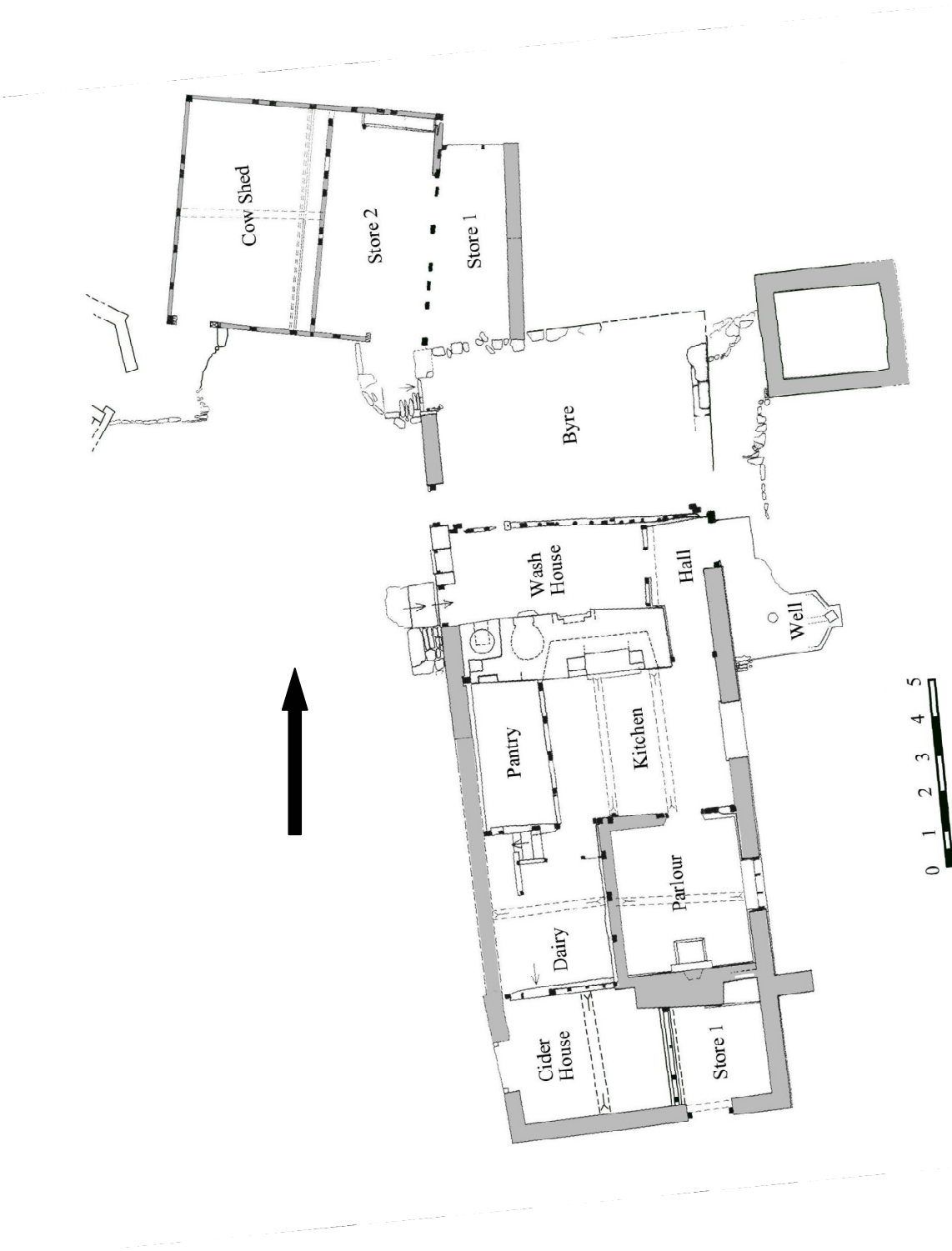


Figure 11: Ground plan of Pound Farm

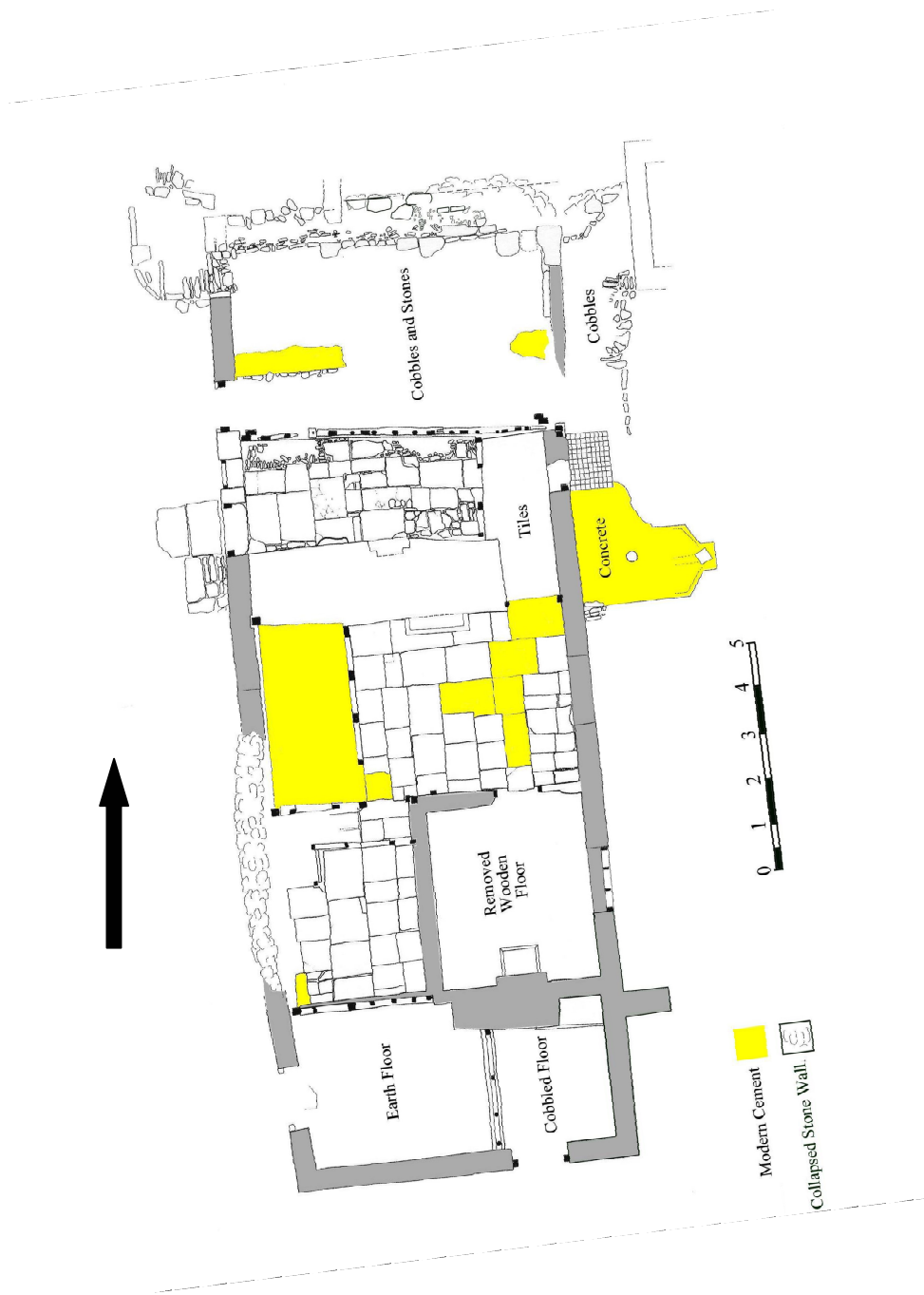


Figure 12: Floor plan of Pound farm

The house (building A)

exterior

The house was refaced in the 19th century with rubble and coursed sandstone. The north wall had collapsed down to ground level. It was probably a low plinth type wall that supported a cruck frame (cruck 1). The frame was filled with square panelling and covered in horizontally laid weatherboarding.

The southern gable wall was built of rubble coursed sandstone all the way to the apex of the roof

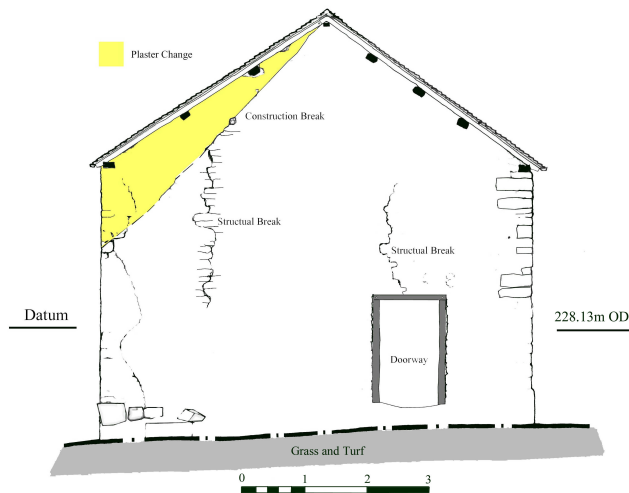


Figure 13: The south gable wall

To the east, a slightly off-centre doorway leads into a storeroom. The scar of an earlier roof line can be seen on the west pitch of the gable end (figure 13)



Plate 1: The south gable wall with wooden support.

The main entrance to the house is situated at the north-east end of the east elevation. There are two segmented window openings on the ground floor with two more directly above at the

first floor level. The top two windows are directly under the wall plate, and have flat heads. The window frames are wooden and are of a modern date. On the upper level is a south door that leads to the granary. A short stub wall sticks out just north of the door at ground level. The west wall is has a shallow stone plinth that is 600 mm above the present outside ground level. The well to the house is also situated on this side of the building.



Figure 14: East elevation of the house showing the collapsed south wall



Plate 2: The east elevation of the house

The west elevation of the house is in a poor state of repair due to collapse of some of the stonework. A photograph taken in 1937 by the RCHM shows the features of the wall.

At the southern end there was a doorway leading into the cider house and directly above, a squared window with shuttering to light the granary. The west wall had two sets of windows that mirrored the positions on the east elevation. The two windows also had openings directly above and were of the type described for the east wall. The cross passage doorway has a small window to the north. There are two doors into the byre with a centrally placed opening similar to the one over the granary, being square in shape with a shuttered door.

Plate 3: The west elevation of the house while under reconstruction



The house contains two stone chimney stacks. The earlier stack is to the north and replaced a central hearth that heated the hall. The stack originally had a fireplace on the south side and a later 19th/20th century fireplace inserted into the north face. Attached to the later fireplace was a baking oven and copper washer.

The later south stack heated the parlour and one of the bedrooms above.

The pitches of the roof have been heightened in two separate phases and most of the original common rafters and purlins have been reused. The roof is now covered by modern concrete tiles.

A wind brace passes the three tiers of purlins between crucks 4 and 5 (figure 15 below).

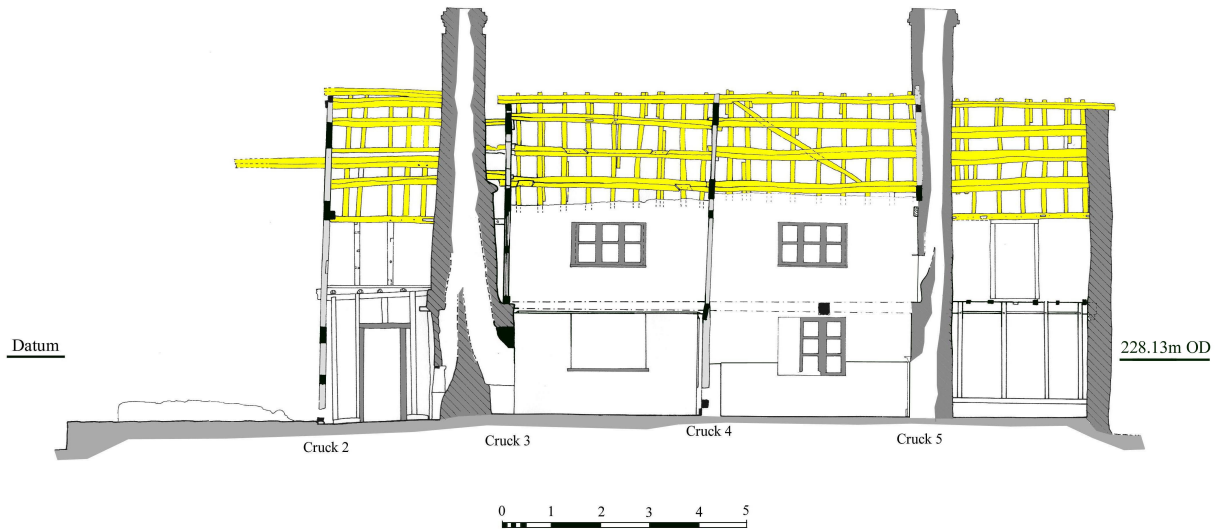


Figure 15: Longitudinal cross section of the house showing the heights of the roof and the passing wind brace. The north stack is to the left of Cruck 3.

interior

The main entrance to the house is from the north-west side in what was probably the original cross passage. The bay on the north end of the house has been used as a byre. The next bay heading south was the cross passage and contained a wash room with a small fireplace, baking oven and copper washer. All were housed on the north face of the main stone stack. The bay (wash room) had the roof rafters exposed, while all other bays had inserted ceilings.

South of the passage was the kitchen and pantry. This was divided by a square panelled cross frame with two doorways in the southern wall of the bay that lead to the buttery and parlour. The bay was divided by an inserted timber cross wall set on a stone plinth.

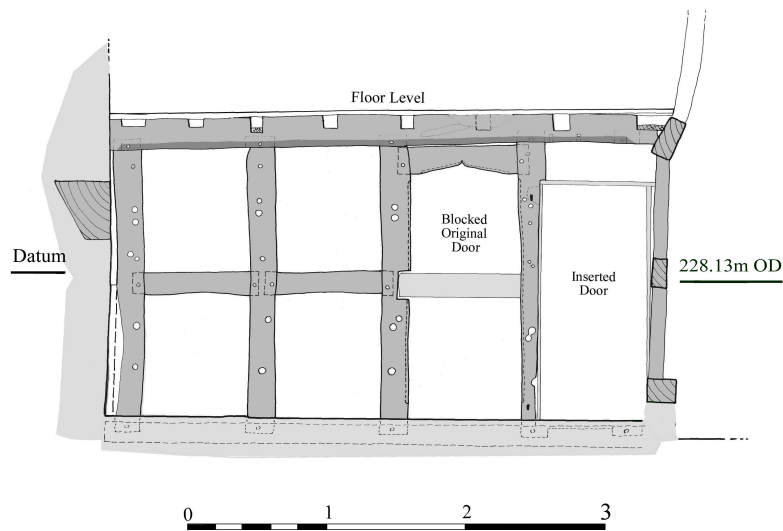


Figure 16: The east elevation of the pantry.

A door leads to the cider house located in the last bay at the south end of the farmhouse. The bay was divided by a modern cross wall. The east half had been used as a store, with a granary on the second floor.



Plate 4: The stone, west wall of the cider house

first floor

From the buttery, the remains of a dog legged stair lead to the first floor where the upper level has been divided into three bedrooms, with a landing at the top of the stairs. The bedroom over the buttery was partially collapsed, along with much of the landing. A granary store at the southern end of the building still retains lime wash/plaster that covers the walls. The lime plaster would have helped prevent the stored crop from going off.

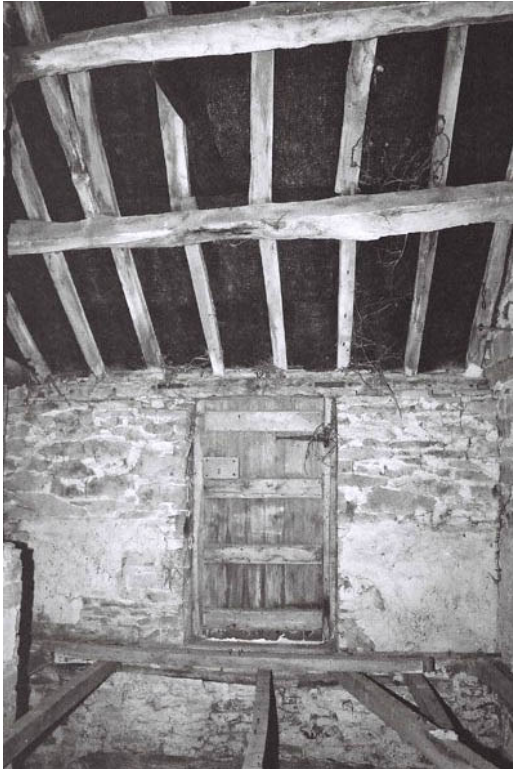


Plate 5: Door in the east wall of the granary

Phasing of the main house (building A)

phase 1 (Mid 15th century)

In its original form the house had four bays with five cruck frames. Crucks 1 and 5 would have been truncated, with the blades cut back from the top collar, indicating that the roof was hipped at the ends, probably to take a thatched roof. Each cruck had three tiers of purlins with the top two were trenched into the cruck blades and the lower, trenched into a packing piece.

With the exception of the open cruck frame of the hall, each cruck had three horizontal timbers, a lower tie beam, upper tie beam and a collar. The external frames to the house were of timber and were held to the blades by a cruck stud or post, pegged to the elbows of the cruck. The post held the wall plate for the pitch of the roof.

The only evidence for any window openings was in the fallen cruck (1) where a two mullion window was situated directly beneath the collar.

Entry into the house was by the cross passage. The hall, with its open cusped cruck frame, was a sign of wealth for all that entered. The southern end of the house was the high end, with the solar in the last bay. It is difficult to say whether this was divided into two rooms on the ground floor at the first phase of construction. Heating for the house was by an open hearth near the open cusped frame. The louvre was lost when the roof was redone, so the actual placement of the hearth is uncertain. The crucks all have a collar.

Plate 6: The decorated cruck (3) of the open hall



The open frame (cruck 3) has a central quatrefoil flanked by two trefoils above the collar. The moulding on the inside edge is chamfered on both sides and has a step with two more chamfers. Trefoil decoration is normally a feature found on the central cruck of a building.

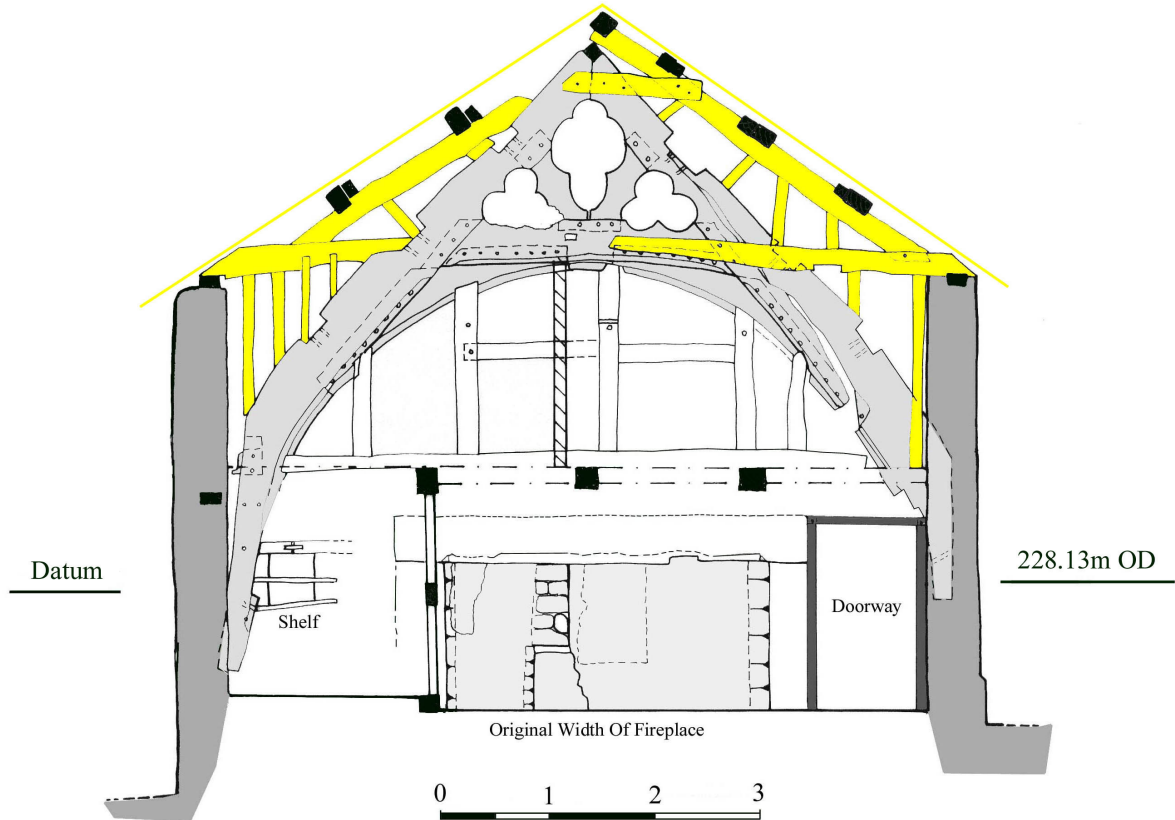


Figure 17: The open cruck frame of the hall

The lower north end of the house was either a byre or service area, possibly a kitchen.

There is an opening for a doorway with a crudely cut back door head from the passage to the service end. It is possible that the tie beam has been replaced at a later date and the opening was the door from the house to the byre.

phase 2 (16th-17th century)

In phase 2 floors were added and the chimney stack in the hall replaced the hearth. The pitches of the roof were heightened to accommodate the extra head space needed for the upper rooms. The hipped ends of the roof were built up to form gable ends and the thatch roof may have been replaced by stone tiles (there was evidence of stone tiles found around the house during the excavations). The byre end of the house retained its original roof line with an original purlin still in-situ on the western pitch. There was no indication or evidence to show where the original stairs were, but according to building tradition, they were probably to one side of the chimney stack.

Two ceiling beams with chamfered, stepped stops, held the floor over the original hall. A timber cross framed wall divided the ground floor hall into two halves. A four centred headed door leads into what was to become the pantry. The chamfer on this beam was only evident on the western side. A doorway through cruck 4 (on its western side) led into the parlour. It is possible that the cross wall gave entry from the hall to the stairs and, also closed off the internal entry to the parlour.

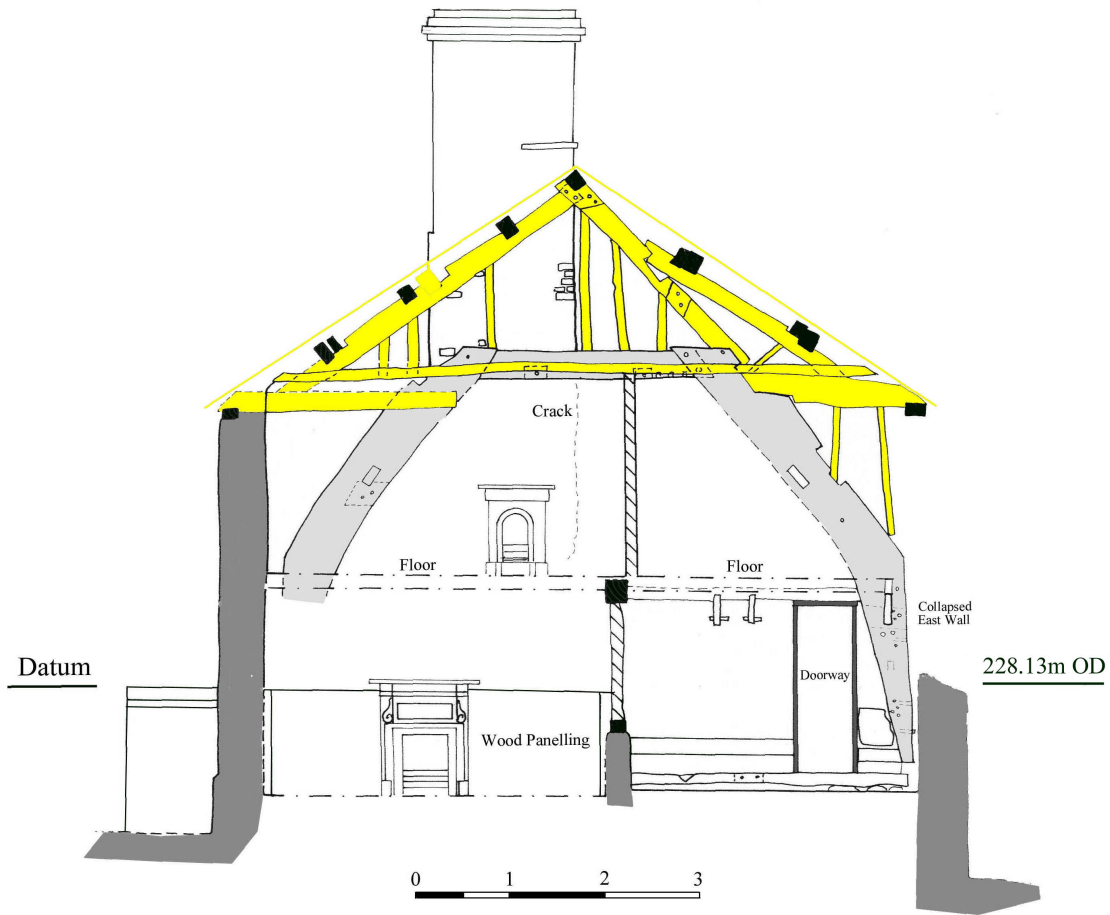


Figure 18: Cruck 5

There are through cuts on the blades of the southern cruck 5, just above the upper tie beam, which probably indicates that there was some sort of building placed on the end of the house running south. The angles of these cuts indicate that they would have probably held purlins.

phase 3 (19th-20th century)

During this phase the external walls were rebuilt in stone and whatever building was added to the south of the house was demolished. An extra bay was built on the southern end that became the cider house, with a granary above.

The pitches of the roof were heightened to accommodate the need for more bedrooms. The central first floor doorway in cruck 4, was blocked and moved to the east, becoming the landing where the stairs are today. The bedrooms were divided into three rooms by lathe and plaster partitions. Two rooms are above the hall with the third east of the landing. Each bedroom had a door and a small glazed window for light. Ceilings were put in to hide the roof but the cross passage remained open to the roof.

The whole roof was replaced and many original timbers were reused, some being covered by the stone walls.

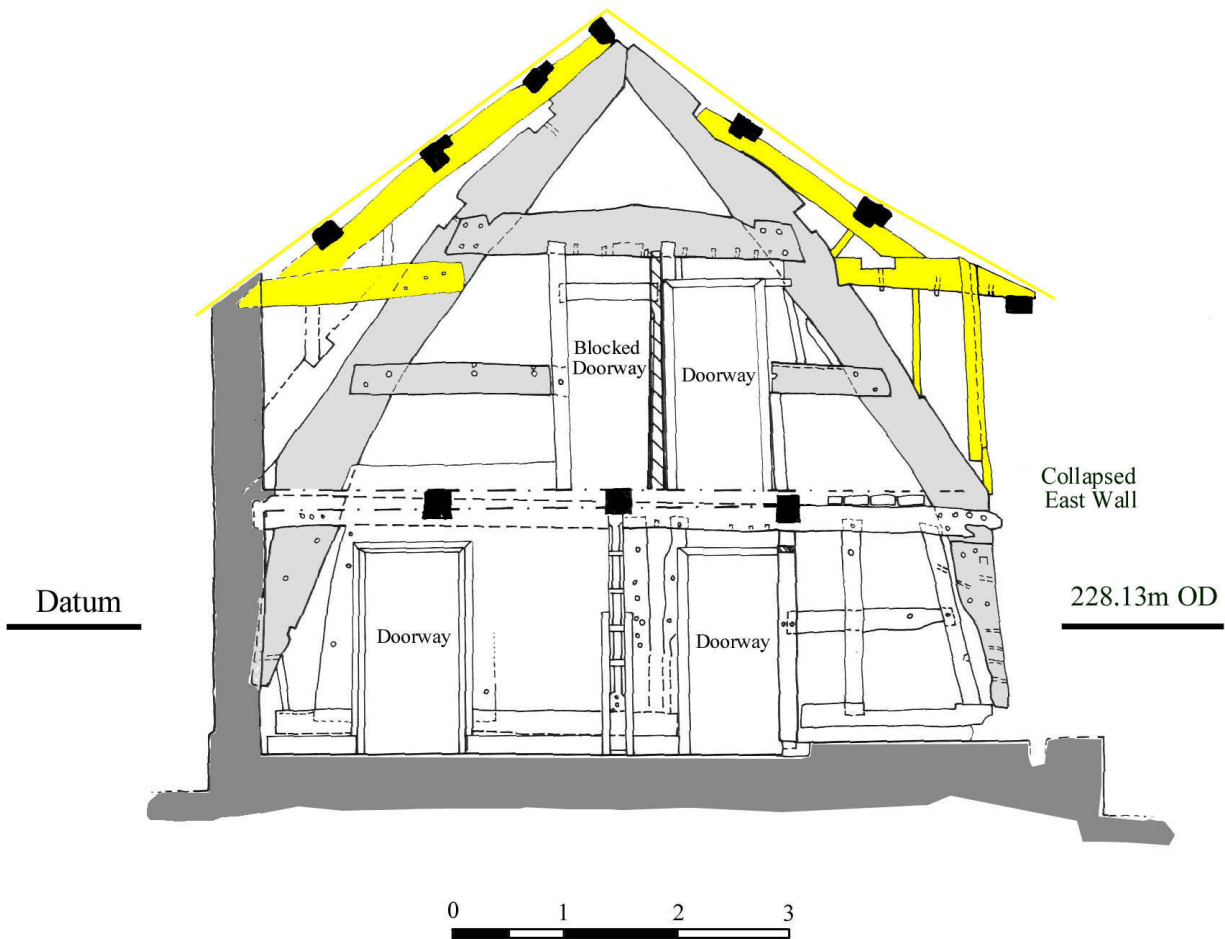


Figure 19: Cruck four

The doorway in cruck 4 was blocked, and a new doorway inserted to the east on the outside the pantry. This new doorway led to the stairs with a further doorway closing off the dairy.

In phase 3 the original hall fireplace was made smaller with the insertion of two shelves either side of the fire (see figure 20). A brick surround fireplace was inserted on the north side of the stack along with a brick baking oven and copper washer, making the cross passage area a washing room. A second phase of blocking within the hall fireplace occurred with the insertion of an iron range.

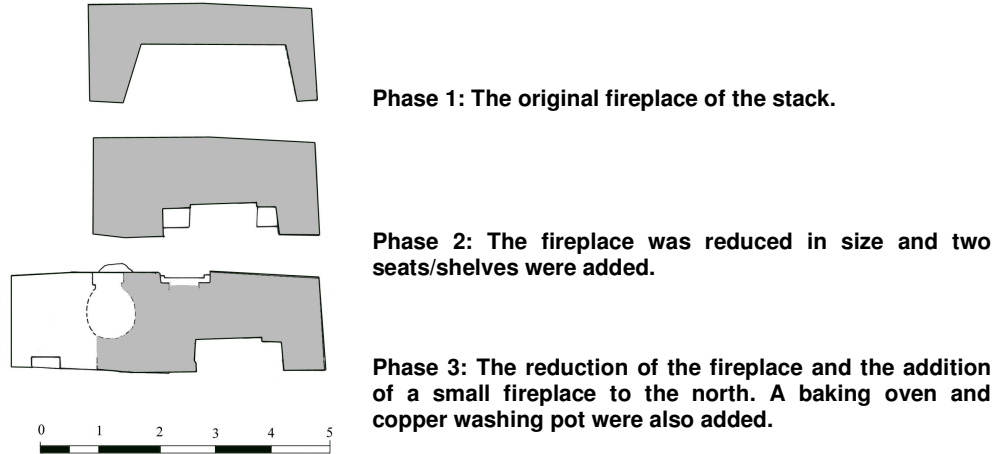


Figure 20: Phase plans of the north chimney stack



Plate 7: The baking oven and copper wash pot on the north side of the stack

A new chimney stack was built on the south face of cruck 4, and a fireplace heated the new parlour and the bedroom directly above.



Plate 8: Fireplace in the bedroom

The doorway from the cross passage to the byre was blocked and vertical panelling, weatherboarding, and lathe and plaster were added to cruck 3, to completely cut off the byre from within the house.

The blades of the crucks were adzed within the bedrooms where new plaster covered the walls. This did not occur above the ceilings.

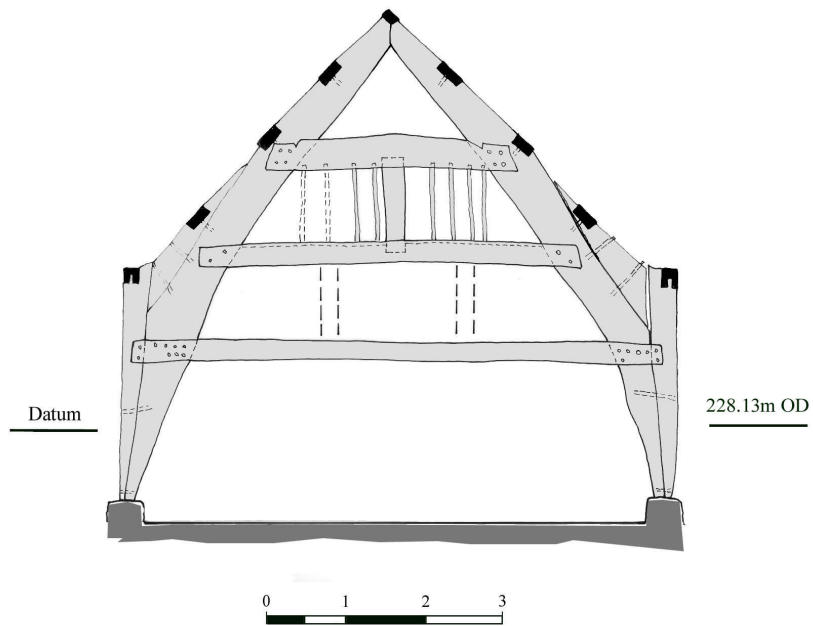


Figure 21: Reconstruction of cruck four with three tiers of purlins trenched into the blades.

North barn (building B)

The two bay barn is attached to the main house and is situated slightly north west. It is generally made up from reused and modern timbers set on a shallow plinth of stone and brick.

The roof was covered in modern corrugated iron sheets and the three trusses carry 2 tiers of purlins plus a ridge beam at the apex. There are three entrances into the barn, 2 from the south at the east and west ends, and a 3rd central to the east truss leading into the lean-to. The floors were covered in cobble stones. The west bay has an upper floor, probably used for storage. The barn retained some fittings, including a simple wooden manger situated within the north east corner and running parallel with the intermediate truss. On the west face of the truss is another wooden manger with a hay rack over.

The east truss

The east truss (See figure 22) has a tie beam and collar with studs above and below. The north-west post has a jowled head that is tapered with a curved return. Such jowls are common from the 13th century but decline in the 16th and 17th centuries. The south-west post is missing.

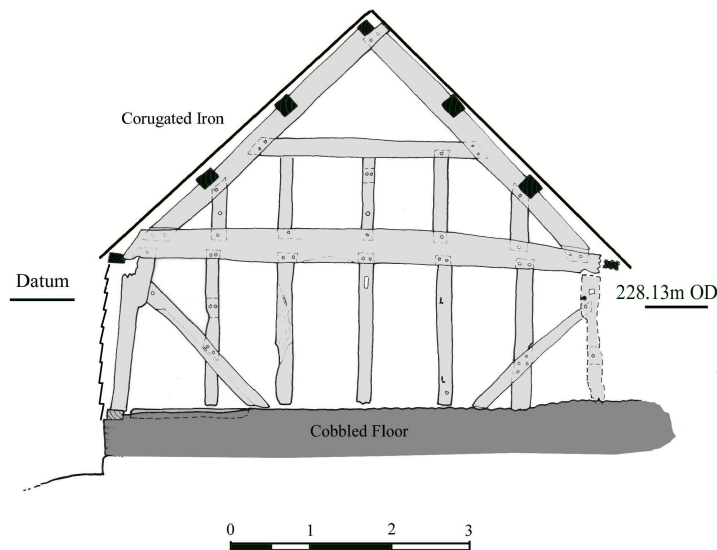


Figure 22: The east truss

Diagonal bracing from the jowled posts to the now rotten sill beam were evident. The western truss is of the same design, although it does have a shuttered squared window opening above the collar.

intermediate frame

The intermediate truss (figure 23) has been junked together using reused timbers.

It has a tie beam and four raking struts of different lengths. Beneath the tie beam are studs with two diagonal braces to help stabilise the whole frame. Some of the timbers on the frame have carpenters marks that are approx 3 inches in length, usually indicating a 17th century date.

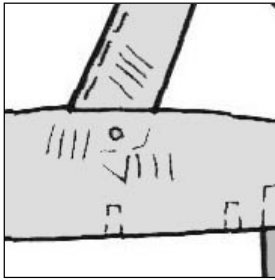


Figure 23: Medieval carpenters numerals on the east face of the intermediate frame

The system was based on various combinations of I, V, and X, with the V sometimes inverted. The marks were used to assist in the erecting of the frames on site. Marks were added by the carpenters to denote a particular section of the dwelling, so enabling the timbers to be easily sorted prior to erection.

The marks do not conclusively tell us the period in which these timbers were first assembled.

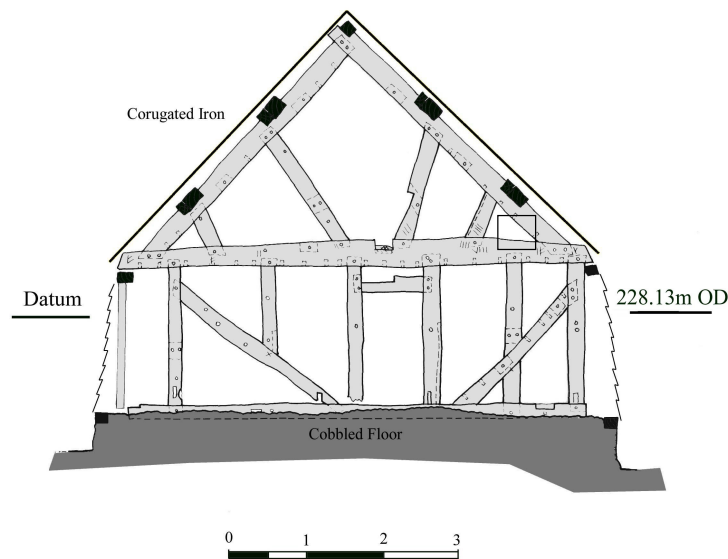


Figure 24: Intermediate frame

The modern cut timbers that form the box frame around the trusses (north, south, east and west elevations) were made to take weatherboarding. There are no visible stave holes or grooves.

lean-to

There was a small lean-to on the east elevation that butted the north end the byre. The lean-to, like the north end of the house, had fallen down. Only a small section of stone wall remained. The roof was possibly covered with corrugated iron. An entrance on the north elevation is still just visible.

Building C

All that remains of this four bay barn is a shallow stone plinth and sill beams. The sill beams have been reused, with the amount of empty scarf joints making it difficult to place the position of the original posts. There are also empty mortice joints. The barn has 3 bays with a central threshing bay, with large flagstones on the floor. The bays either side have earthen floors and were closed off from the threshing bay by shallow stone plinths and simple timber frames, usually consisting of a central stud with angled timbers either side. This type of framing dates from the 17th century.

A bay has been added at the north end of the barn and has a cobbled floor, and probably housed cattle. A possible early date for the barn is suggested by lap joints on some of the fallen timbers.

Building D

A typical Dutch barn with a curved metal roof of corrugated iron that is supported on cast iron posts, and probably dates to the late 19th-early 20th century.



Plate 9: The foundations of barn C with the Dutch barn in the background

The barn has now been relocated in one of the fields to the north of the house, orientated east-west.

Building E

This square shaped building measures 3.30m x 3.40m.

Only the stone footings remain. It was a square building (plate 10 & 11) that was still standing in the 1930's. The internal frame was probably of timber and was coated with weather boarding. The roof was of corrugated iron.



Plate 10: Building E in 1937. All that remains of the building are the stone foundations



Plate 11: The stone foundation and floor of building E

The foundations showed no evidence of an entrance apart from possible steps on the north-west side.

Building F

These outbuildings had already undergone restoration prior to the survey. They are, however, recorded on the 1903 Ordnance Survey map and are of some antiquity.

5.2 The stratigraphy

Four engineer trial pits were excavated against the north external wall and against the west gable end of the house. These were excavated to expose the footings of the 19th century rubble built wall of the house. Observations revealed no archaeological features within any of the pits excavated. The pits eventually enabled the full underpinning of the walls of the house.

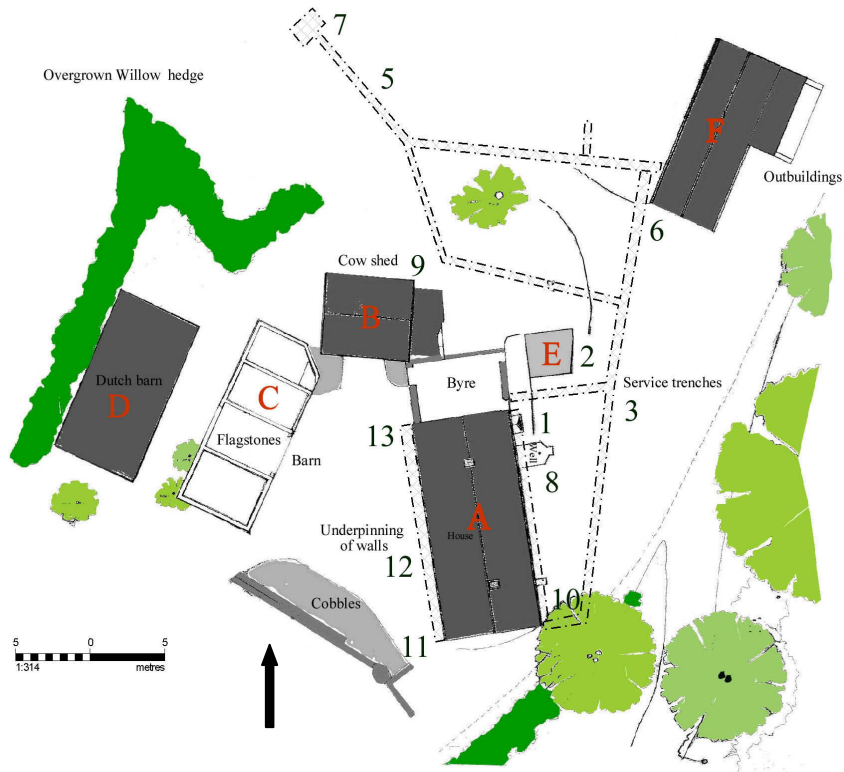


Figure 25: Trench location plan. The numbers mark the position of levels taken around the site.

The levels are given in metres above sea level and were transferred from a known spot height on the road just south of the former Methodist chapel, east of Pound farm.

1: 226.83m OD 4: 226.77m OD 7: 226.40m OD 10: 223.95m OD 13: 223.90m OD

2: 227.41m OD 5: 226.75m OD 8: 227.47m OD 11: 223.72m OD 14: 223.72m OD

3: 227.12m OD 6: 227.39m OD 9: 226.71m OD 12: 223.45m OD 15: 223.64m OD

Trial pit 1

Trial pit 1 was excavated to a depth of 0.40m below the current ground surface. The topsoil (1) was a dark silty loam and was 0.10m thick. Below this was a mixed layer with cobbles and small irregular stones in a mid reddish-brown silty clay matrix.

Trial pit 2

Trial pit 2 was 0.40m deep and a single layer (16) was recorded. No archaeological features were observed but nails were found in the spoil heap.

Trail pit 3

Trail pit 3 was 0.45m deep and excavated through a dark silty loam (16) that contained no cobbles.

Trail pit 4

Trial pit 4 was 0.50m deep and cut through (16).



Plate 12: Example of pits dug for the underpinning of the walls

Six further pits were excavated along the rear, south wall of the house through layer 1. This layer was similar to that recorded at the front of the house and was excavated to investigate the wall footings. The excavation showed that the wall foundations were shallow, with stone courses extending just below the current ground surface.

Stone slabs were recorded outside what would have been the cross-passage of the house, and were laid in rough courses directly onto the subsoil.

No finds were recovered from the excavated pits.

Internal floors

The lowering of internal floor levels revealed archaeological features associated with the house, with some of the features possibly pre-dating the late standing walls. The lowering of the floor in the room south of the fireplace exposed a stone lined drain. The floor was laid on topsoil (1) with a thin skim of mortar (6). Below the mortar was a 0.20m thick layer of compact, red silty clay (7). The drain (2) was orientated north-east south-west and consisted of upright stones approx. 0.70-0.30m laid in two rows and capped by stone flags, possibly old roof tiles. The drain was approx. 0.30-0.40m deep with two fills. The upper fill (3) was of loose, well mixed rubble that was dark black and the lower fill (4) was compact beige silty clay.



The drain ran diagonally from the window to the door and at the north-east, appeared to be cut by the wall. Finds within the fill of the culvert consisted of 19th century pottery including some black slipware and clay pipe bowls, 3 with stamps, dating from 1660-1710.

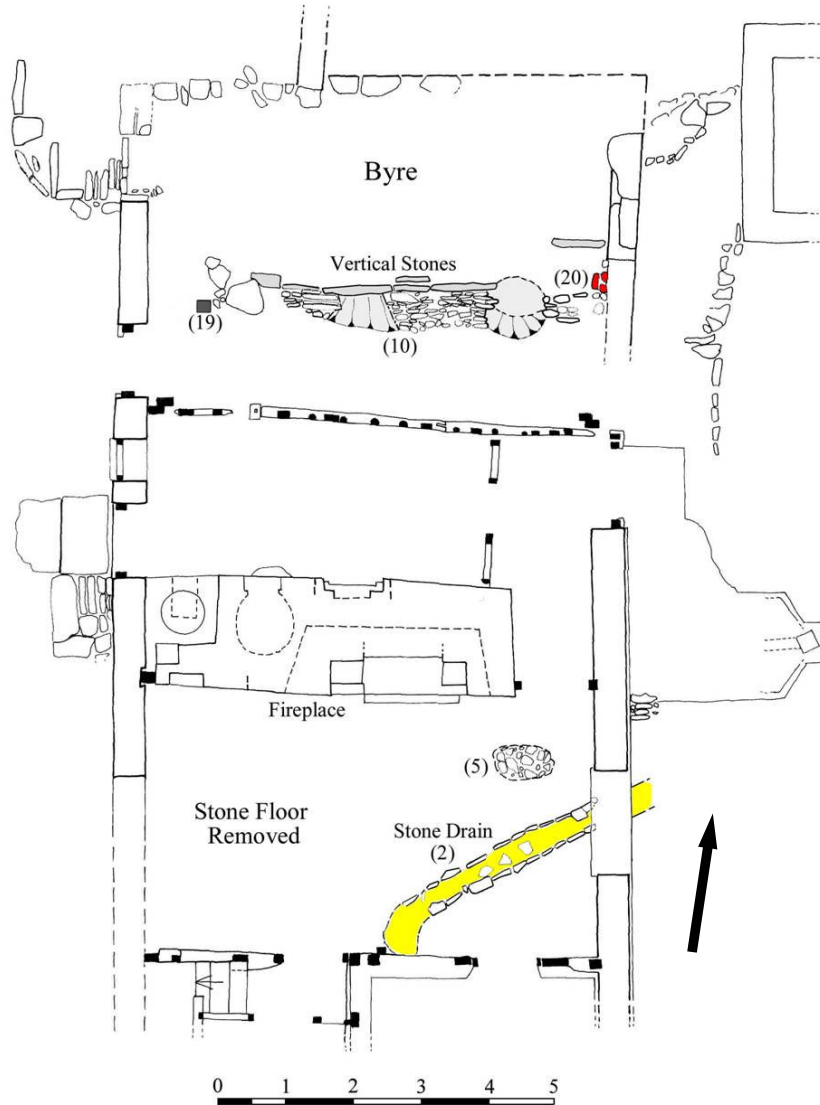
Plate 13: The stone lined drain within the house

An area of discolouration (5) was also recorded within the room. This was located slightly north of the drain and had a high concentration of black charcoal.

Within the room a hearth stone from the main fireplace was removed. This stone was substantial, measuring 1m x 0.50m x 0.10m thick. The area below the stone was cleaned, and a small fragment of 19th century pottery and a button were retained.

The floor level within the byre, at the north of the house was lowered. The removal of red clay (9) revealed an archaeological feature orientated east-west. The feature (10) consisted of laid stone flags and cobbles (11) that were boarded by large stone slabs embedded vertically in the ground. The vertical stones formed a boundary on the north side of the surface.

Figure 26: Archaeological features within the building. The pathway is to the north and the stone



lined drain to the south.

To the north of the vertical stones were three possible surfaces. The latest of the surfaces was compact red clay (12) that overlay a layer of small stone flags (13). Below the stone flag surface was green clay (14).

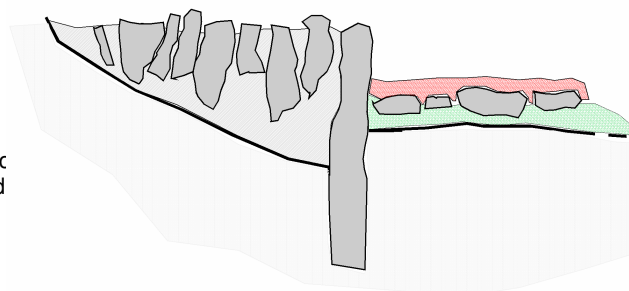


Figure 27: Sketch of the west cross section of feature 10 with the large stone slabs forming a boundary on the north side of the feature

The feature was a pathway or boarder that separated two areas of the room, possibly the kitchen from the area where cattle were housed in the byre.

Two possible post holes were located close to the area of cobbles. To the west is a post hole (19) possibly the remains of a frame for a door into the byre. Against the west wall was the stone packing of posthole 20, possibly from a timber of the west frame.

Service trenches and storm drains

A series of trenches to the immediate north-east of the front of the house were monitored.

A trench running east from the house south of the stone plinth, then north towards the barn was excavated by machine to a depth of 0.80m. The machine cut through a layer of hardcore and rubble (15). The layer varied in depth from 1m in the north to 0.45m in the south.

A second trench was excavated running east-west, and below the hardcore was a mid reddish-brown silty clay with some stones (16).

No archaeological features were observed in the trenches and no finds were recovered.

6.0 The finds

Pottery

In all, 45 fragments of pottery were recovered weighing 1,337 grams and consisting of mainly 19th and 20th century sherds.

Some of the older fragments are internally glazed, black Staffordshire slipware, dating from the late 18th/19th centuries.

Glass

The glass retrieved from the site consisted of broken fragments and 3 bottles, with a milk bottle from the Newtown Central Dairies.

Fe objects

Fe objects from Pound farm include a Cu alloy axe with a Fe handle and bronze head, an Fe hammer, a small silver bracelet, saddlery rings, and various small containers, including a talc tin from Yardley. Window fittings were also recovered and have been logged as small finds (an appendix of the small finds has been kept with the site archive). Selected small find items will be assessed by a recognised artefact specialist.

Clay Pipes

Four clay pipes were recovered from deposits within the stone culvert in the house. Three of the bowls are initialled on stumps at the base of the pipe.

The manufacture of clay pipes in Herefordshire started in the 17th century and peaked (in quantitative production and design form) at the end of the 17th century. Locally produced pipes were still in use in the 18th century but were gradually superseded by Bristol pipes (Peacey, 1985).



Morric Shaw possibly belongs to the pipe making family of Ironbridge. Stamps of Morris Shaw and a stamp of 'Shaw Ironbridge' have been recorded in Hereford (Thomas, 2002). The pipe dates from 1680-1710 and was possibly produced in a local factory.



Thomas Perton possibly made this pipe in Lingen, near Kington, around 1660.



The stamp 'WC' possibly belongs to pipe makers from the Bristol area and dates to the late 17th century.

Figure 28: Stamps on the base of clay pipes from the drain within the house

The clay pipe bowls from the trench probably date from 1660-1710, and show a distribution from factories in the north Herefordshire area.

Ten fragments of clay pipe stems were recovered from the trenches excavated around the farm.

7.0 Conclusions

Cruck construction is one of the simplest forms of any type of timber framing and was not limited to wholly timber-framed buildings. It is a technique once considered fairly primitive and ancient but recent research has shown could be extremely sophisticated and capable of surviving far longer than could have been anticipated. Many medieval cruck buildings were of high status, particularly in the west Midlands and the Welsh Marches¹⁰. The standards of base-cruck halls in Herefordshire, whose origins have been discovered, were of manorial status¹¹. Many bear names such as; Manor Farm, Old Hall and Old Rectory and were originally the capital messuage of a manor.

Pound Farm possibly fits into this model of high status medieval cruck buildings.

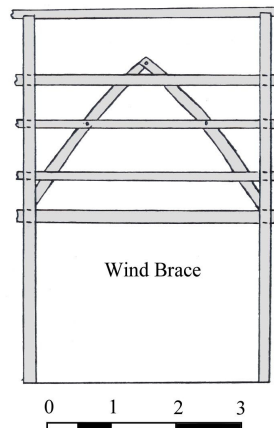
Cruck frame buildings are contemporary with the more common framing techniques and share many of the developments in jointing techniques and changes in decoration, and in a much debased form, continued in some poorer parts of Britain until the nineteenth century.



Something of a local tradition is possibly suggested by the wind-brace passing the three tiers of purlins. They are normally separated between the tiers. Other houses in the area with a similar passing brace feature include the cruck frame at Penros Court, Lyonshall, the Forge at Eardisley, Carter's Croft at Stapleton, and Black Hall at King's Pyon. It is possible that this could be a local tradition, but as there are a number of other houses in the area, including Great Quebb, Little Quebb, the two houses at Apostles, the Wren at Brilley, and Dairy Farm, Weobley, that follow a 'normal' cruck tradition, it may be possible that this type of wind brace is of a greater age (Tonkin 1973).

Plate 14: Passing wind brace in the restored roof at Pound farm

Figure 29: Part of the roof plan at
The plan of the roof shows two



Penros Court (ibid, 72)
passing braces

The positive thing about the lack of modern amenities in the house prior to restoration is that the preservation of the house has allowed a clearer understanding of its development through the ages.

The restoration of the house will not only add to the buildings history, but enable the cruck frame to stand for the foreseeable future.

¹⁰ Morriss, R. K. 2000 Pg 65

¹¹ Tonkin, J. W. 1973 Pg 7-11

8.0 Archive deposition

The primary project archive, consisting of the excavated material and any original paper records, will be prepared and stored in accordance with the guidelines laid down in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' guidelines for the preparation and storage of archives. The primary archive will be stored with Herefordshire Museum Services.

A copy of the digital archive, stored on CD and consisting of context, artefact and ecofact data, together with the site plan and selected photographs, will accompany the primary archive.

The client, in consultation with the project manager, will make provision for the deposition of all finds from the excavation, to be retained in a safe environment at Pound Farm. The finds will be made publicly assessable, with prior written agreement with the client. On completion of the fieldwork and the processing, collation, recording and analysis of the finds from the excavation, all finds will be handed over to the client. The project archive, on completion of all work, will be handed to staff of Hereford city Library.

9.0 Publication and dissemination proposals

Paper copies of this report will be lodged with the Archaeological Adviser to Herefordshire Council, Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record and Hereford Library. A short note on the project will be prepared for publication in the Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists Field Club.

CDs of this report, together with the supporting archival material will be available from Archenfield Archaeology.

The complete photographic record, including the negatives, will be retained by Archenfield Archaeology.

Appendix

Pound Farm, Kingswood – land ownership/occupancy on Tithe Apportionment and Land Tax Assessments

OWNERS:

Year	Name	Source
1783	Mr Whitcombe	Land Tax Assessment ¹
1795	Rob't Whitcombe, Esq	Land Tax Assessment
1797	Rob't Whitcombe, Esq	Land Tax Assessment
1802	Rich'd Whitcombe	Land Tax Assessment
1804	Richard Whitcombe, Esq'r	Land Tax Assessment
1811	Richard Whitcomb Esqr	Land Tax Assessment
1812	Richard Whitcombe Esqr	Land Tax Assessment
1816	Richd. Whitcomb Esq	Land Tax Assessment
1817	Richd. Whitcombe	Land Tax Assessment
1818	Richd. Whitcom Esqr	Land Tax Assessment
1819	Richd. Whitecombe Esqr	Land Tax Assessment
1820	Rd. Witcombe Esqr	Land Tax Assessment
1821	Richard Whitcombe Esqre	Land Tax Assessment
1821/1822	Richard Whitcombe Esqr	Land Tax Assessment
1823	Richard Whitcombe Esqre	Land Tax Assessment
1824	Rich. Whitcomb Esqr	Land Tax Assessment
1825	Richd. Whitcombe Esqr	Land Tax Assessment
1826	Richd. Whitcombe Esq	Land Tax Assessment
1827	Richd. Whitcombe Esqr	Land Tax Assessment
1829	Richard Whitcombe	Land Tax Assessment
1830	Richard Whitcombe	Land Tax Assessment
1843	Robert Coke	Tithe Apportionment

¹ HRO Q/REL/5/4/1-21 & Microfilm 30

Occupiers:

Year	Name	Source
1783	John Bishop	Land Tax Assessment
1795	John Jones	Land Tax Assessment
1797	John Jones	Land Tax Assessment
1802	Thos. Jones	Land Tax Assessment
1804	Thoma[s Jones] ¹	Land Tax Assessment
Year	Name	Source
1811	Thos. Jones	Land Tax Assessment
1812	Thos. Jones	Land Tax Assessment
1816	Daved Morgan	Land Tax Assessment
1817	James Chandler	Land Tax Assessment
1818	James Chandler	Land Tax Assessment
1819	James Chandler	Land Tax Assessment
1820	James Chandler	Land Tax Assessment
1821	James Chandler	Land Tax Assessment
1822	James Chandler	Land Tax Assessment
1823	James Chandler	Land Tax Assessment
1824	James Chandler	Land Tax Assessment
1825	Jas. Chandler	Land Tax Assessment
1826	Jas. Chandler	Land Tax Assessment
1827	James Chandler	Land Tax Assessment
1829	James Chandler	Land Tax Assessment
1830	James Chandler	Land Tax Assessment
1843	Anne Chandler	Tithe Apportionment

¹ Damaged.

Year	Name	Occupation	
1913	Herbert D Pritchard	farmer	Kelly's
1917	Herbert D Pritchard	farmer	Kelly's
1926	Thomas Mainwaring	farmer	Kelly's
1941	Thomas Albert Mainwaring	farmer	Kelly's

Tithe Apportionment

No	Field name	Land use			
549	Upper Broomy Close	Arable			
550	Lower Broomy Close	Pasture			
550a	Part of Do.	Arable			
560	Davies Lower Plock	Arable			
561	Davies Upper Plock	Arable			
562	Lower	Pasture			
563	Silver Knap	Pasture			
564	Lane Orchard	Arable Orchard			
566	While Close	Arable			
797	Wheat Lands	Arable			
798	Wheat Lands	Arable			
799	Gritty Land	Arable			
800	Upper Close	Arable			
801	Rogers Grove Orchard Wainhouse Close	Pasture Orchard			
818	Lane Meadow	Meadow			
816	Wood in Lane Meadow	Brake			
820	Homestead				
821	Alock's Plock	Pasture			

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