archenfield archaeology ltd

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Merryhill Farm, Haywood, Herefordshire: archaeological monitoring and building recording

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2004

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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.

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Cover Photograph: The east gable end of the barn

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Summary

Archenfield Archaeology conducted a programme of archaeological monitoring and building survey at Merryhill Farm, Herefordshire, preceding the conversion of the buildings into residential units.

The excavation of service trenches around the farm buildings showed no signs of archaeological features, deposits or datable finds. The lowering of the concrete floor surface within the cattle shed revealed an extensive area of cobbling, probably of an earlier floor of the shed.

The farm buildings probably date to the 18th century and were surveyed (to level 2 RCHME) from architect drawings supplied by the client, and revealed three phases of alterations to the farm yard complex associated with the continued modernization and industrialization of farming techniques. The stable has remained relatively untouched while building scars on the barn show that the west end of the building is an extension to an original threshing barn. The original threshing barn is defined, on the outside, by vertical ventilation slots that would have helped to preserve the stored crop. A later floor was inserted into the threshing barn, supported by iron beams.

Added to the later barn was a north-south building attached to the south elevation. This north-south building (no longer standing but suggested by a scar) would have housed an engine, probably steam driven, that would have powered farm machinery. An iron wheel and drive shaft, as well as a "Clipper" chaff cutter of late 19th century design, survive in-situ. The west barn was also used for crop storage, suggested by cross-shaped ventilation holes and a through-way door, used for loading.

A further phase of modernization replaced the steam engine and its building. A cattle/storage shed, suggested by a scar on the north elevation of the added west barn, could also have been demolished. The north entrance of the through-way door was in-filled and replaced with a smaller door that would have been used as an entrance into the new cattle. The new cattle shed was standing at the time of the survey.

1.0 Introduction

NGR SO 4854 3715

Merry Hill lies to the south of Hereford and the A465 Hereford to Abergavenny road and east of Clehonger.
It is around the 100m contour line, with land gradually rising towards the south-west.
The farm at Merry Hill is Merryhill (one word) Farm.

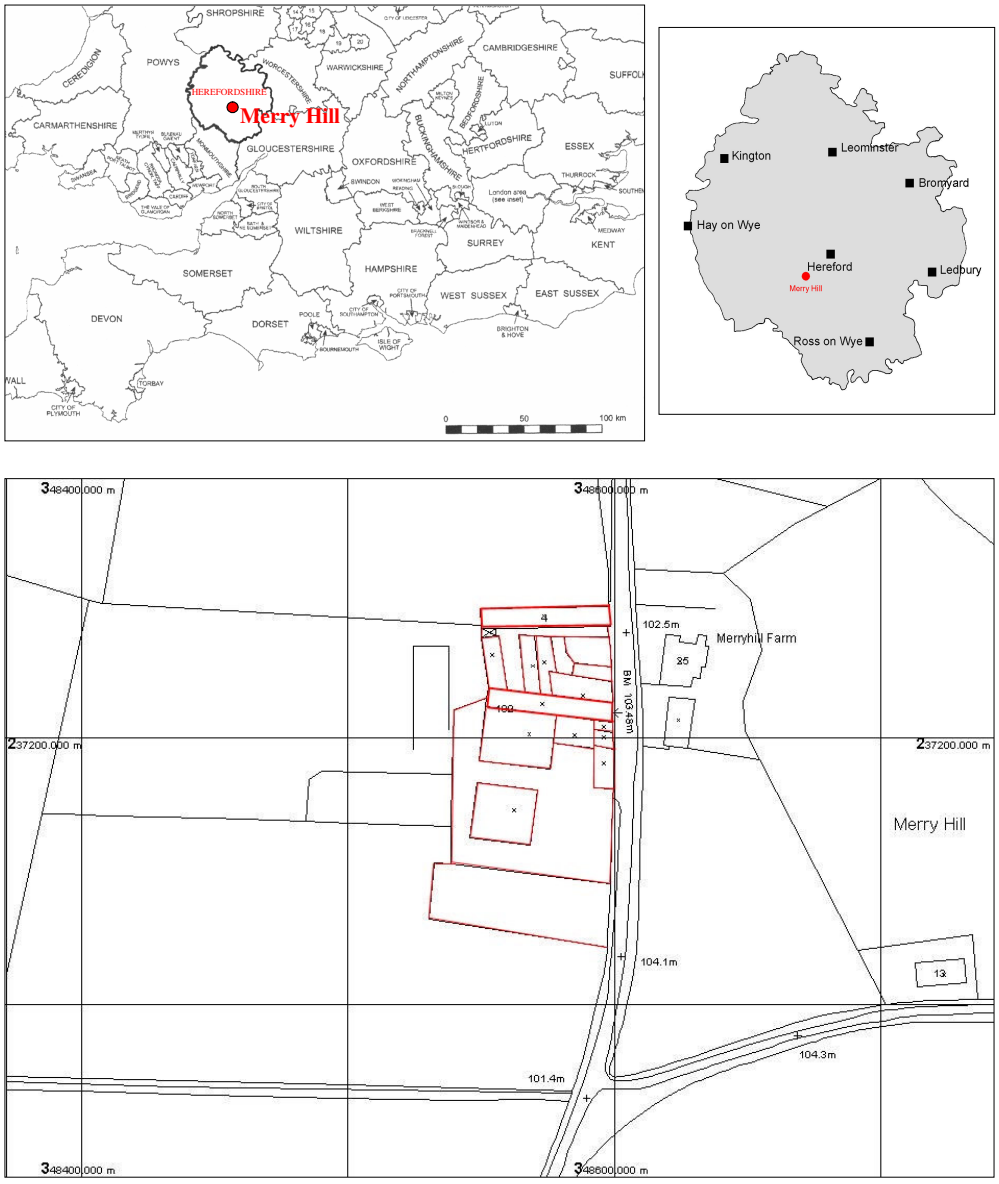


Figure 1: Location Plan. Ordnance Survey Superplan Data reproduced under license drawing reference number 00002349

Mitchell Building Ross-on-Wye (the client) commissioned building recording (to RCHM level 2) and a programme of archaeological monitoring at Merryhill Farm, Herefordshire. This was carried out in late 2003 following the details stipulated in the condition from the client and through further consultation with the archaeological advisor to Herefordshire County Council (Julian Cotton).

This condition of works was in response to planning application SW2001/2841/F to convert the farm buildings at Merryhill Farm into housing accommodation.

This document gives details of how the archaeological project was conducted.

2.0 Geological, historical and archaeological background

2.1 Geological background and land use

The solid geology of the area consists of the Lower Old Red Sandstone (OS Geological Survey 10 mile map, 3rd edition 1979). The redundant agricultural buildings are undergoing renovations and the surrounding landscape is of open farm land.

2.2 Historical background

Haywood was a Royal Forest until the late 16th century and was never tithed. Thomas Blount (1675) recorded that:

> **[The King] has the castle of Hereford and the forest of Hay in his hands, and most of the City of Hereford, which parts the citizens have in fee of our lord, the King, for £10 per annum-the other parts are in the hands of the bishop-those of the Chapter and the hospitallers Webb (1854) editing the household expenses of Richard de Swinfield, Bishop of Hereford, during part of the years 1289 and 1290, recorded that the Royal forest of Haywood extended from: the Wye Bridge in the town of Hereford, to Putson-the King's Highway, to Callow, to the windmill outside Dewsall, to the bridge at Kivernoll, to the place called Stockwell, King's Highway to Webtree-to Hunderton, and to the Wye Bridge.**

Figure 2: Speed's map showing Haywood Forest

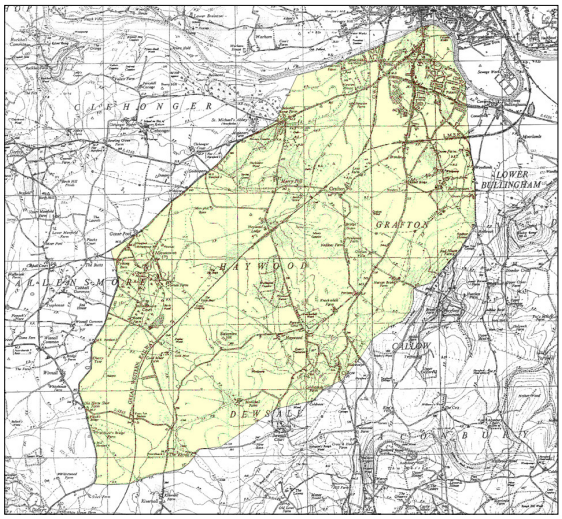


Figure 3: Outline of the Royal Forest of Hay on the 1950 Ordnance Survey

On the 5th or 6th September 1783 Thomas Brewster of Hereford leased Merryhill Farm to George Lewiss.[1] In 1826 the mansion of Belmont, the Lordships of Grafton and Haywood and their associated farms were brought by the Rev(d) Dr Prosser.[2] At this time the deeds for the farm were conveyed by Mathews to the Rev(d) Prosser. Kelly's directory (1900) records that, Haywood was almost entirely owned by Francis Wegg-Prosser of Merry Hill House, near Hereford. The inhabitants attended the churches at Clehonger and the Callow.

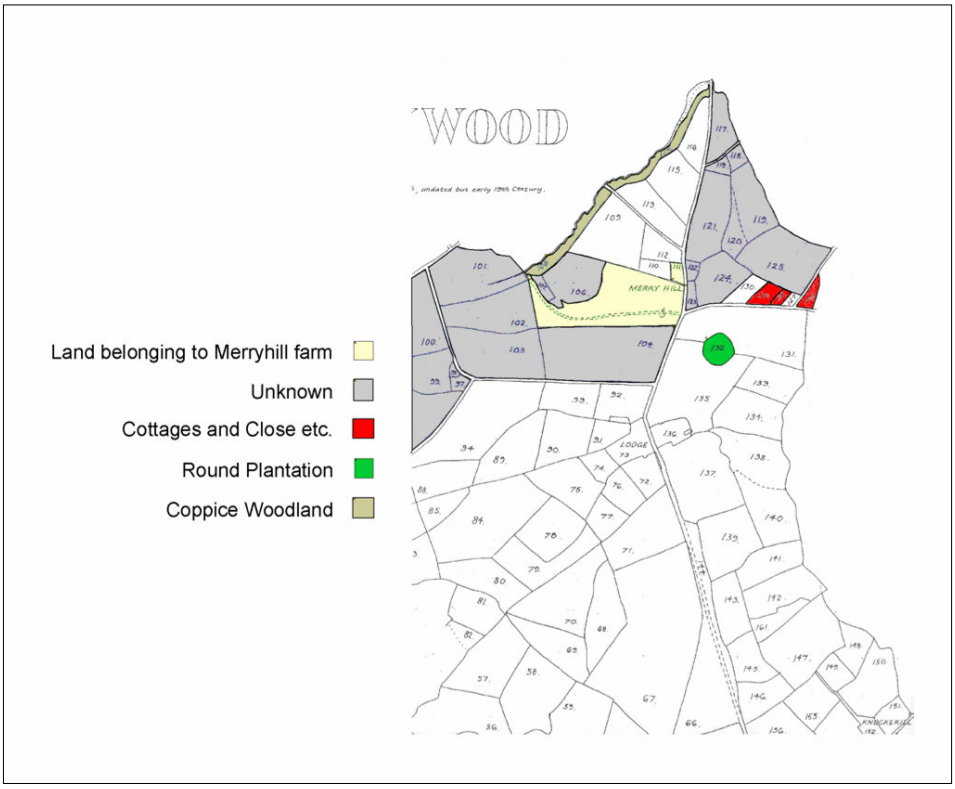


Figure 4: An estate map for Haywood Lodge and Knockerhill Farm, with woods and other lands, Undated but early 19th century.

During the ownership of Rev (d) Prosser the agricultural landscape was changed with the addition of tram roads and railway that was used for the transportation of coal from the Welsh mines in the south. The remains of both these lines can be seen to the east of Merryhill Farm.

Under the Act of 26th May 1826 permission was given for the construction of the Hereford Tramway between Grosmont Railway at Llangua Bridge and the Wye

[1] Hereford County Record Office No C38/3/22
[2] Hereford County Record Office No C38/49/1-6

Bridge. The tramway was just less than 12 miles in length and linked the South Wales' coalfields and Hereford.

The tramway was constructed using 4ft rails resting on cast iron sleepers that weighed 53lb and were 4ft 4in in length. The rails were retained by troughs on each end with a wooden wedge to give flexibility. The sleepers, in turn, rested on (but were not attached to) stone blocks. Chippings held the track in place and gave good gripping for horses. The Tram opened on the 21st September, 1829, with 33 trainloads of coal being transported, 15 from Blaenavon and 18 from Pontypool (Gladwin 1991, 60).

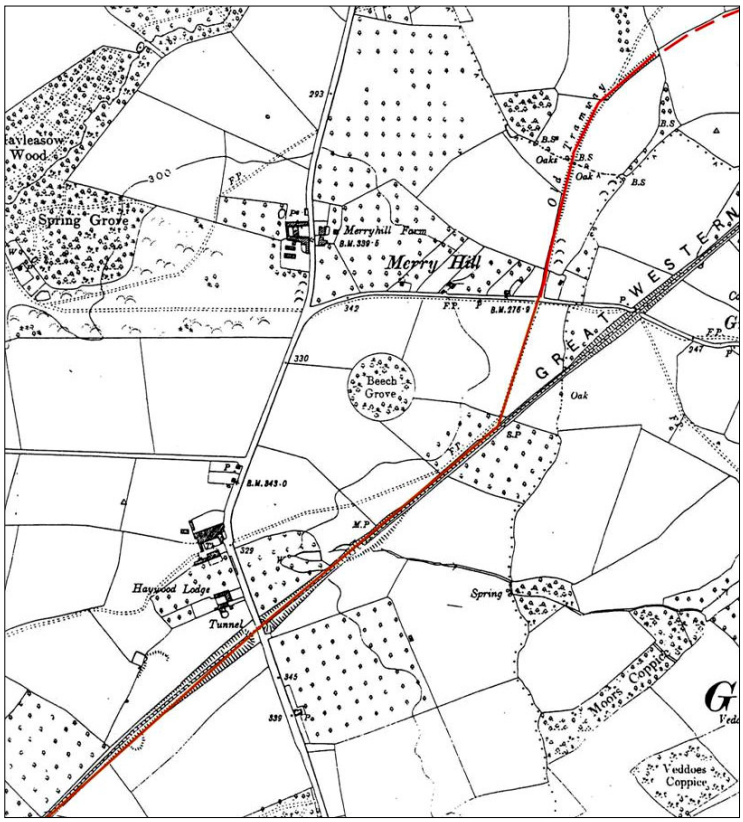
An act of Parliament of 1846[1] empowered the Newport, Abergavenny and Hereford Railway Company to buy out three tramway companies;

The Llanvihangel Railway of 1811 ran from Brecknock and Abergavenny Canal to the Llanvihangel Crucorney, at a cost of £21,750

The Grosmont Railway Company of 1812 ran from Llanvihangel to the 12th milestone on the Abergavenny Hereford road, at a cost of £16,250.

The Hereford Railway Company of 1826 ran from the Grosmont Railway at Monmouth Cap to Wyebridge in the Liberties of the City of Hereford, at a cost of £19,460.

It was along this route that the Newport Abergavenny and Hereford Railway Company built its new line, with a small deviation to the east of Merryhill Farm.



[1] Hereford County Record Office No C38/42-43

Figure 5: 1930 OS Map showing Merryhill farm and the Old Tramway. The Old Tramway could have been used to transport material for the new line.

2.3 Archaeological background

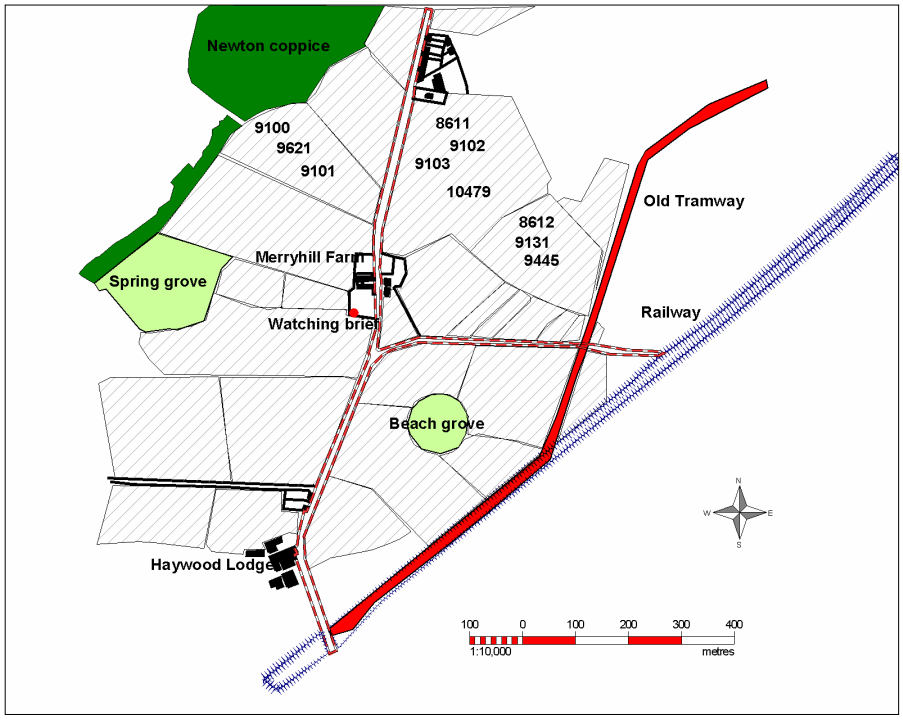


Figure 6: Archaeological findspots around Merryhill farm and the 1998 archaeological monitoring.

The presence of ancient settlement around Merryhill Farm has possibly been demonstrated by field walking as part of the Hereford Bypass feasibility study (Dinn & Hughes 1990). The field walking of land around the site showed large quantities of prehistoric flint and Roman and Medieval pottery.

Prehistoric flints have been found to the north,[4] east[5] and north-west[6] of Merryhill Farm. Roman finds have been found to the north[7] and Romano British to the north-west.[8] Medieval finds have been located to the north-west,[9] north[10] and to the east.[11]

North-east of Merryhill Farm an enclosure[12] has been identified under the southern boundary of a field. The enclosure is possibly octagonal with a single defining ditch. A further crop enclosure has been identified in the middle of the same field.

In 1998 Archaeological Investigations Ltd. carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring for the construction of a radio mast at Merryhill Farm (Williams, 1998). This concluded that the deposits encountered were primarily the result of natural deposition, being Old Red Sandstone and subsoil. The only evidence of human activity was a modern dump of building material laid down as hardcore in the entrance of a gate.

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4 Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record No 8611
5 Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record No 8612
6 Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record No 9100
7 Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record No 9102
8 Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record No 8621
9 Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record No 9101
10 Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record No 9103
11 Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record No 9131
12 Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record No 10479

3.0 Project aims and objectives

The aims of the project were: -

- to make a record of the standing buildings at Merryhill Farm.
- to monitor all groundwork undertaken by the contractor.
- to make a record of the extent and depth of all such groundwork.
- to make a record of any archaeological features or deposits exposed.
- to record the presence of archaeological material within the trenches and in the spoil removed during excavation, and to retrieve any potential dating evidence.
- to make a record of all finds and any environmental material recovered.
- to ensure that if any environmental evidence was preserved, that a sufficient sample be retained to allow for further analysis.
- to ensure that the location and the area excavated was accurately recorded on a suitably scaled plan.
- to record negative evidence and to consider its implications.
- to conduct a photographic survey of all the major components of the building that were to be directly affected by the development. To meet this requirement photographs were to be taken using a 35mm SLR camera using black and white and colour print film of general views of the exterior of the building, all exterior and interior elevations and selective internal views and any detailed coverage deemed to be fitting with the character and setting of the building. 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.
- to produce, or oversee the production of, the following site drawings to RCHME Levels 2 and to produce a full set of inked drawings to publication standard:
- to make an annotated plan linked to the OS national grid (based on the ground plan prepared by the architects and amended to include specific archaeological details).
- To make annotated external elevations to show any construction breaks, blocked doorways etc (based on the elevation prepared by the architects and amended to include specific archaeological details).
- to record sufficient cross sections through the buildings to allow the recording of any structural component of the building that was affected by the development. These drawings were also annotated once the repairs and alterations were completed to ensure that an accurate record of the completed work was included with the archive.
- To make suitably scaled excavations of any internal partition walls or other features that were to be removed during the alterations and repair work.

4.0 Methodology

The following methodology was employed: -

The buildings and their setting were assessed and analysed by suitably qualified employees of Archenfield Archaeology.

A scale plan (1:100) based on architect drawings was annotated to include archaeological features. Truss drawings were annotated to include features such as peg holes and empty mortices. The list of drawings is as follows: -

Plans
Ground floor plans
Stable

South elevation	Scale 1:200
South elevation with detail	Scale 1:200
North elevation	Scale 1:200
North elevation with detail	Scale 1:200
Cross section	Scale 1:200
Cross section with detail	Scale 1:200
East and west elevation	Scale 1:200
East and west elevation with detail	Scale 1:200

Barn

9. South elevation	Scale 1:200
10. South elevation with detail	Scale 1:200
11. North elevation	Scale 1:200
12. North elevation with detail	Scale 1:200
13. Garage and barn east elevation	Scale 1:200
14. Garage and barn east elevation	Scale 1:200
15. Cross section	Scale 1:200
16. Cross section	Scale 1:200

The site archive retains scaled elevations of the garage and cattle shed.

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 and colour film.

The building was visited during late 2003.

HD Sherlock, D Lewis and B Morley were variously in attendance.

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.

Scaled drawings were made of the position of all work disturbing the ground.

No artefacts were observed from any of the ground disturbing works.

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. 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.

5.0 Results

5.1 The Stratigraphy

Four service trenches were monitored.

Trench 1

Trench one was located at the southern side of the stable running east west and was approximately 60m long and 0.60m wide. It was excavated with a toothed, narrow bucket excavator, to a depth of roughly 100-101m O.D.

The trench cut through the topsoil (1) and what appeared to be previously undisturbed reddish-brown clay with lenses of grey clay and occasional mudstone. The horizon (2) carried through to the base of the trench and had no visible archaeological cuts or features.

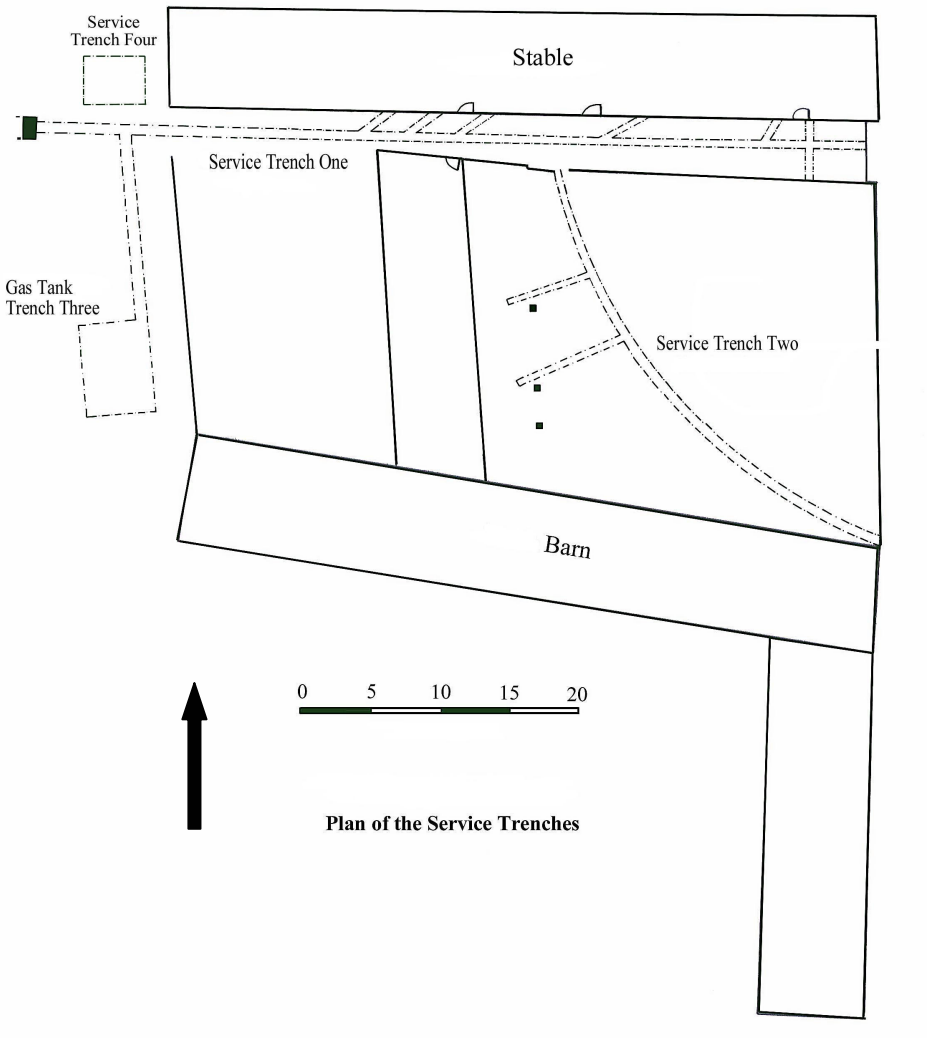


Figure 7: Location plan of service trenches in the fold yard and to the west of the stable and barn

Trench 2

Trench two was located running from north to the south-west along the front (east) yard of the building complex. The main north to south-west trench had two smaller trenches running from it to the south-east. The trench was approximately 40m from north to south-west and 0.60m wide. It was excavated to a depth of 101.73m O.D. The two trenches running to the south-east from the main trench were approximately 8m in length.

Plate 1: The west (back) yard and the Barn and Cattle Shed. The make up of the front yard had a similar concrete surface and rubble make up.

Trench two cut through a concrete yard surface and its rubble makeup (3) and what appeared to be natural reddish brown clay (2) that was relatively undisturbed. The two south-east running trenches were of a similar makeup.

Trench 3

Trench three was located to the east of the stable and barn. The trench ran south from trench one and ended in a square cut that was to house a gas tank. The south running trench was approximately 8m long by 0.60m in width and ended in a square cut that was 6.6m north-south and 5m east-west. The square cut was excavated to a depth of 100.84m O.D.

The trench cut through a topsoil layer (1) that was approximately 0.20m in depth. Below this was mid grey-brown clay with some silt (4) that covered what appeared to be a natural mid red clay. At the base of the west section of the cut sandstone bedrock was visible. In the southern section a cut for a field drain [6] was recorded. No further archaeological deposits were observed.

Trench 4

Trench four was located at the west end the stable and was approximately 6m by 4m and excavated to a depth of 97.70m O.D.

The trench cut through a 0.4m layer of loamy topsoil (1) that was over what appeared to be natural red clay with sandstone bedrock inclusions (7). This became increasingly mixed below 1.6m, with the base of the trench being natural sandstone and gravel (8). In the north-west corner of the trench a field drain [9] was observed running north-west from the trench.

Little direct evidence of archaeological features or deposits was found during the monitoring of the service trenches.

5.2 The finds

There were no finds observed in the excavated trenches or in the spoil heaps.

5.3 The building survey

The survey of the Merryhill Farm buildings consisted of two phases of work: a detailed photographic survey using medium formatted black and white film and the annotation of architect drawings to include, archaeological features, such as empty mortice scars and peg holes. The stable, cattle shed, barn and the front garage/shed were surveyed.

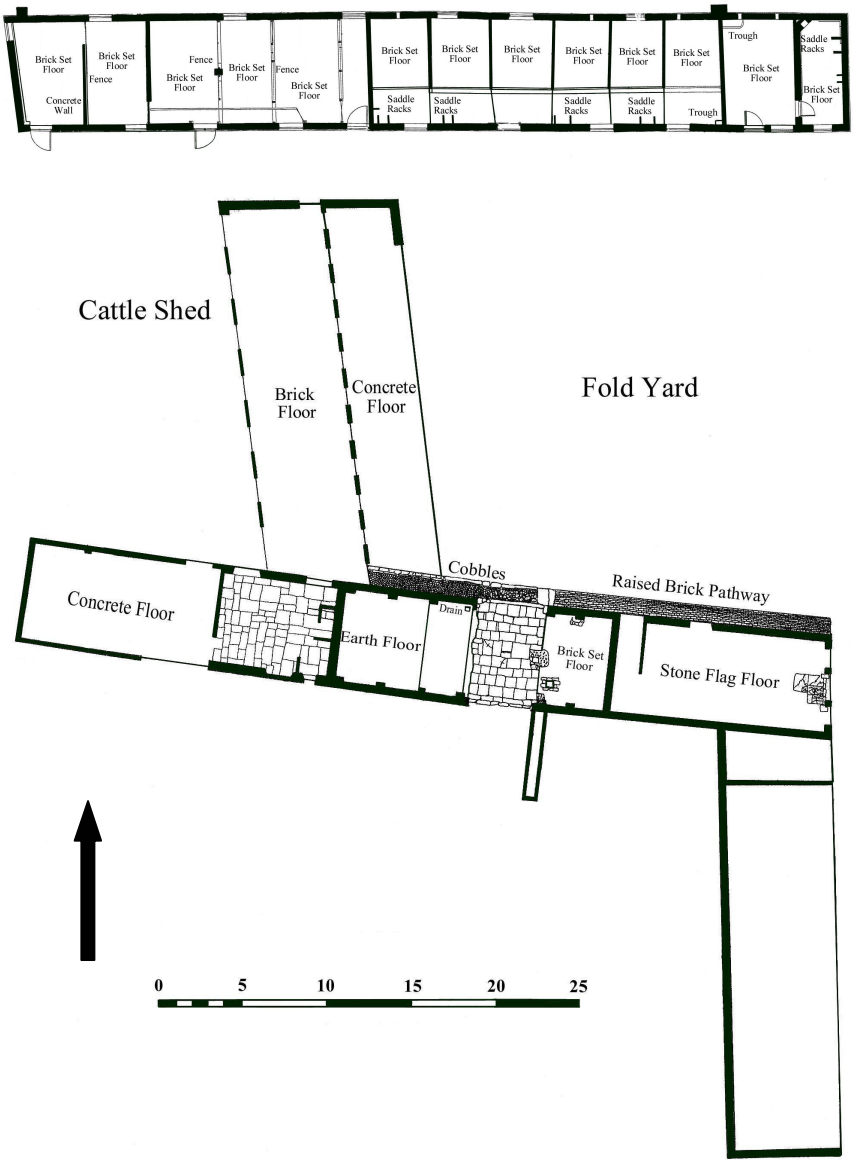


Figure 8: Plan of the Merryhill farm buildings showing the stable and barns, the cattle shed and front garage

The Stable

The Stable was constructed of red brick on a stone plinth foundation and had an internal timber frame. The wall plate of the timber frame sits on the brick wall at 104.91m OD. The Stable was orientated east-west with the east gable end fronting onto the road (drawing 7 and 8).

All surfaces on the ground floor were brick set and, in the central section of the building, were angled down to a central east-west running drain.

The room at the east end could have been for storage or a rest room for workers, with the chimney on the north elevation (drawings 3 and 4) for a fireplace. The room has a ground floor and 1st floor window facing south onto the fold yard.

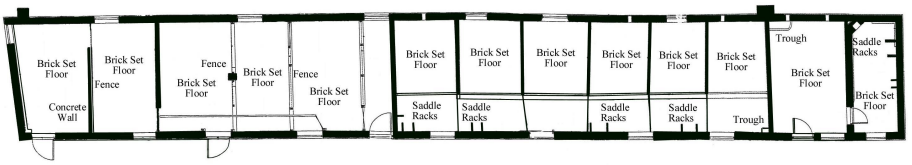


Figure 9: Ground floor plan of the stable

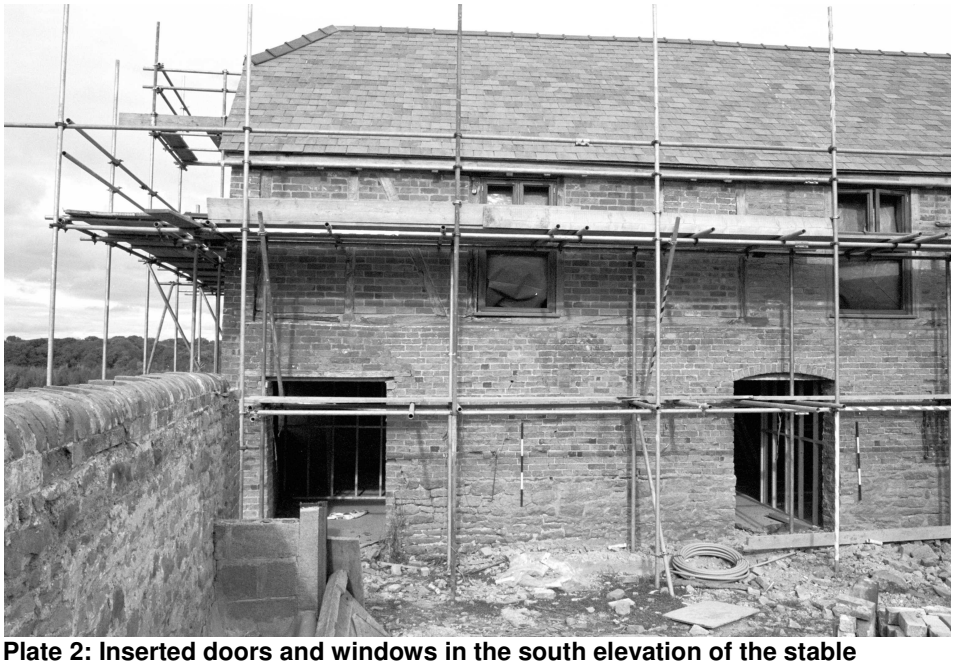


Plate 2: Inserted doors and windows in the south elevation of the stable

The south elevation of the stable (drawings 1 and 2) originally had five doors, three of which were stable doors opening onto the fold yard. Six windows rested on the stone plinth. The window of the store room at the east of the building is of a different form, being above the stone plinth and narrower and taller.

There are also cross shaped ventilation slots in the upper wall, between the timber framing. These slots (and the framing) are similar to the west extension of the barn (north elevation drawings 11 and 12). The upper floor of

the stable may have been a loft, or storage space. The slots would have both allowed the circulation of air and helped to prevent mould.

Plate 3: Internal A frame truss (cross section L-K) in the stable

At the time of the survey the stable was undergoing conversion. The internal wooden frames of the barn and the rafters from the roof were all cleaned using a sandblaster. The truss and roof detail above and below show cleaned timbers. A wind brace can be seen to the left in plate 3 and 4.

Plate 4: An A-frame truss in the stable

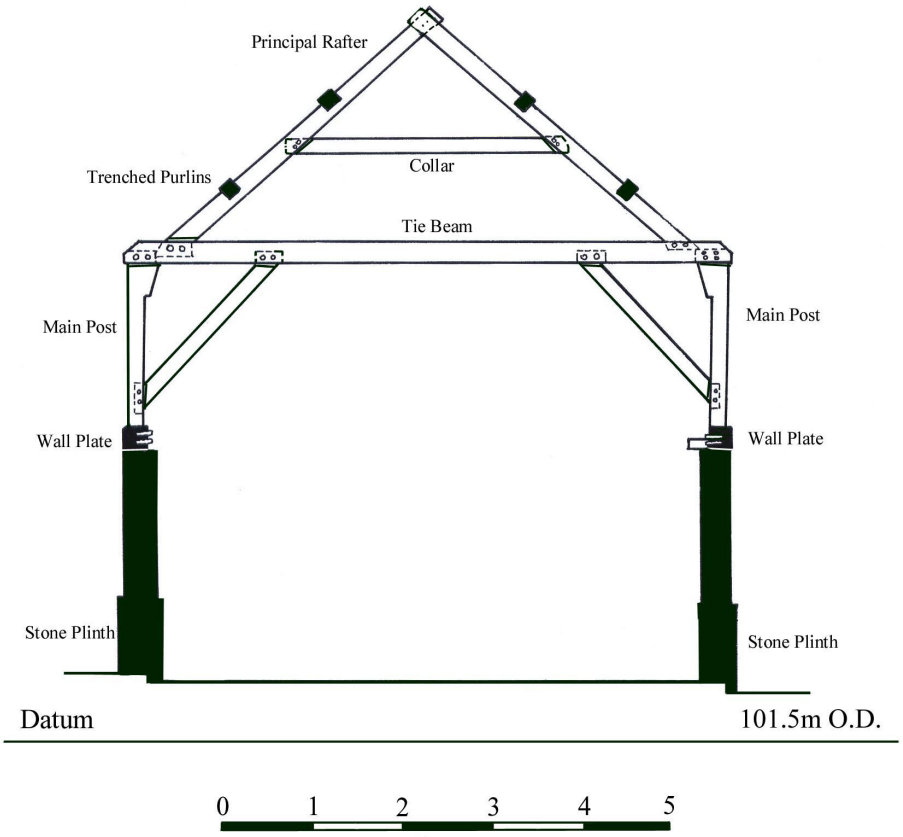


Figure 10: Section K-L. An example of one of the truss frames in the stable. This truss type, with the jowled stops on the post and struts from post to tie-beam, became increasingly common in the 16th/17th centuries.

An example of one of the truss frames from the stable was recorded to show construction detail. The two main posts are attached to the wall plates with mortice and tenon joints. The construction detail of the tie beam, post and wall plate is shown in Figure 9. The collar was attached to the principle rafters with a mortice and tenon joint while the purlins have been trenched into principle rafters.

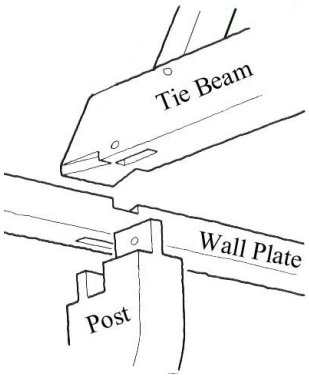


Figure 11: Tie beam lap dovetail assembly. Construction detail of the tie beam, post and wall plate from section K-L.

The stable had 12 simple A-frame trusses similar to section K—L. The trusses had no scars, such as empty mortice joints or peg holes, suggesting that they are all original timbers.

Drawing 1: South elevation of stable

Drawing 2: South elevation of stable with detail

Drawing 3: North elevation of stable

Drawing 4: North elevation of stable with detail

Drawing 5: Cross section of stable

Drawing 6: Cross section of stable with detail

Drawing 7: East and west elevations of stable

Drawing 8: east and west elevation of stable with detail

The cattle shed

The cattle shed was brick built with timber framing and a central brick wall that ran down the spine of the building separating an east and west side. It was orientated north-south and attached to the north of the barn. A recent concrete floor overlay an earlier cobbled surface.

Plate 5: The east side of the cattle shed

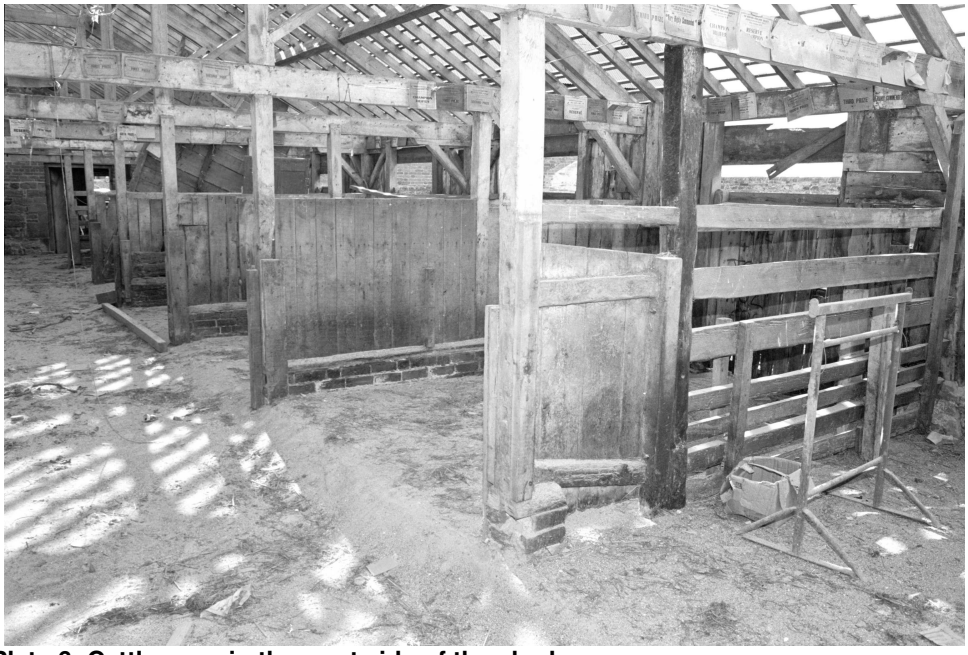


Plate 6: Cattle pens in the west side of the shed

The west side of the cattle shed (plate 6 and drawing 21) was occupied by 6 pens with doors that opened west into a yard. The pens were constructed of

wood on a small brick foundation wall and ran east-west. A feeding passage ran north-south down the central brick wall, with an inserted door (tied-in with brick) in the north gable end of the building (plate 7).

The east of the building was opened fronted and had a feeding/water trough along the central wall. The wall had 10 evenly spaced windows/feeding doors for cattle to access the trough. A passage way with a door on the east side ran along the north wall of the barn.

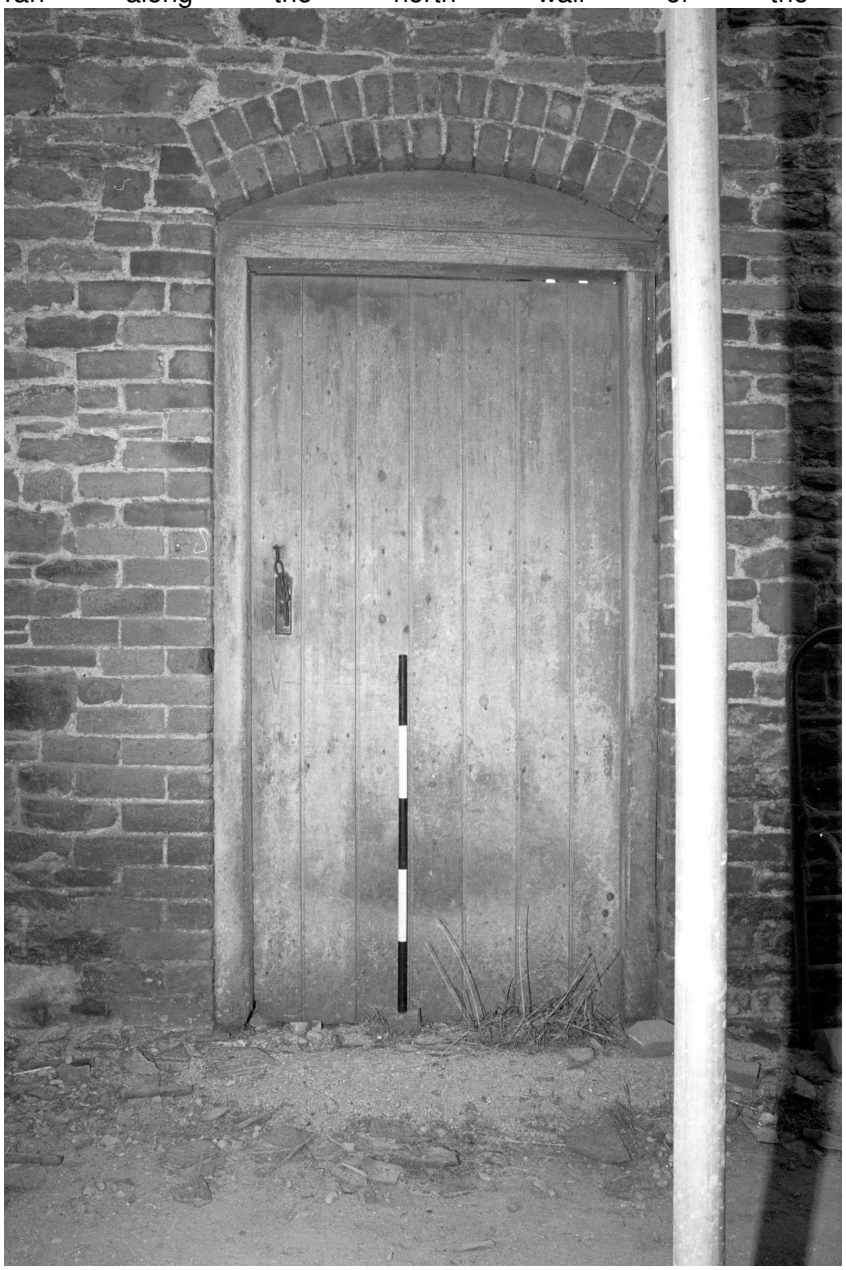


Plate 7: Inserted doorway in the north end of the cattle shed

A later doorway was added to the north end of the cattle shed. The door was wooden with brick was used to tie it back into the original stone construction.

The north wall of the cattle shed is the only one that was stone built and on the west side, the brick foundation of the wall of the northern most cattle pen butts the stone wall (see plate 7 and drawing 32).

Stone pads support timber post along the east and west sides of the building. On the west side (drawing 21) the post supported doors and timber planking that enclosed the cattle pens.

Plate 8: The north end of the west elevation of the cattle shed. A stone support can be seen on the wall in the right of the picture, and a stone pad for the timber post.

The Barn

The barn was constructed of red brick on a stone plinth foundation and had an internal timber frame. The barn was orientated east-west with the east gable end fronting the road. A later building was added to the west of the original barn to accommodate industrialised farm machinery. A scar on the south of the later barn suggests a north-south building was once attached, possibly to house an industrial steam driven engine.

Plate 9: The east end gable of the barn

The east gable end of the barn (plate 9 and drawings 13 and 14) had four windows that were timber framed and either side of two timber doorways. The

ground floor door opened into what was, at the time of the survey, a store room for tools. The floor of this building was stone flagged. The second door opened immediately above the ground floor door and was probably used for loading.

Above the windows and the upper door was a circular 'Owl hole'. This would have would have allowed easy access and nesting opportunities for birds acting as pest control within the barn.

Plate 10: The through-way (from the yard) of the barn

The largest building in most farmyards was the barn and was mainly used for the process and storage of corn. The entrance needed to be large enough to admit a high loaded wagon that was usually unloaded into bays either side of the door. These bays, to prevent the crop from becoming mouldy, or from overheating, needed good ventilation. Ventilation holes are a common feature of stone and brick barns and come in a variety of forms. Plate 10 (above) and drawings 9 to 12 show vertical slots in the original barn that would have allowed air to circulate within the storage bays.

The floors of threshing barns were made from a variety of materials. In two storey barns thick oak planks were used. For the ground floor threshing, brick, earth or clay, stone flags and cobbles were be used. Threshing floors were usually situated in the centre of the barn, in the through-entry, but it was also common to site the floors to one side of the barn, leaving a small bay for the storage of the threshed straw (Lake 1989, 21).

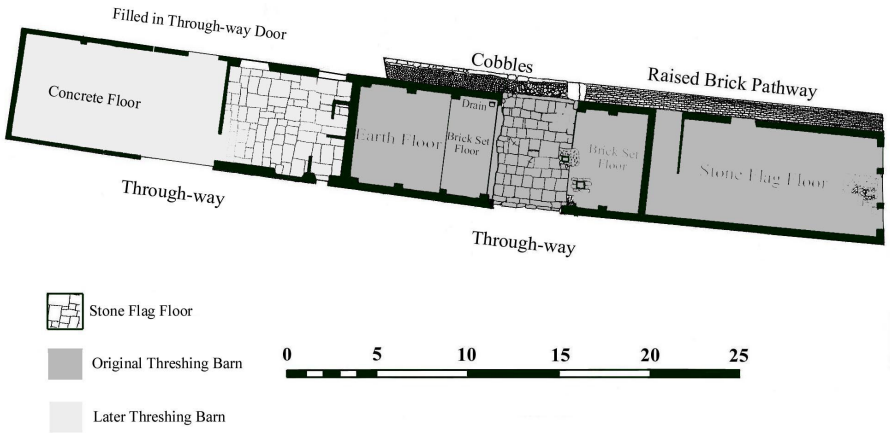


Figure 12: The floor materials from the barn

Floor surfaces of stone, brick and earth were recorded in the barn. The through-entry was of stone flags with rooms either side having brick sets. The west end of the original barn building had, at the east end, approx. 5m. of brick set flooring while the room to the east had a compact earth floor. On the north wall of the building was a hayrack and manger for the feeding of animals.

The threshing barn has an inserted upper floor (see drawings 15 and 16) that is supported by four iron girders that run north-south across the building. The upper floor of the east room, separated from the threshing barn by an internal brick wall, had an entrance and stairway from the fold yard, and was probably used as a storage bay. A doorway opening inwards from the east end gable would have been for unloading/loading goods to carts parked on the road. The upper floor of the west and east rooms either side of the through-way, would have been used for loading carts parked below.

Plate 11: Brick set flooring within the barn

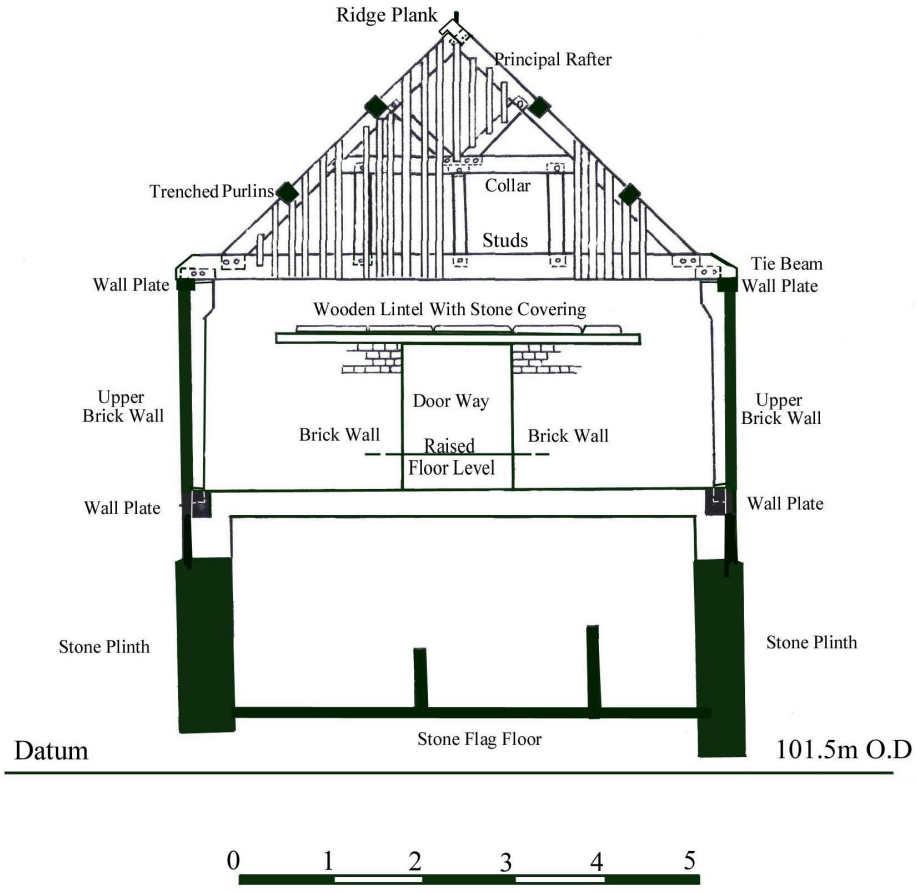
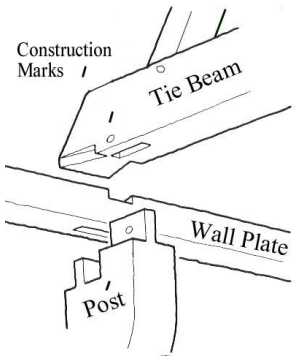


Figure 13: Section (G-H) of the exterior west gable end of the original threshing barn. The elevation was recorded from within the later west barn (see plate 12). The inserted floor in the original threshing barn can be seen through the doorway.

The A-frame truss has three studs between the tie-beam and the collar and two struts above the collar that are jointed to the rafters by mortice and tenon. Four purlins are trenched into the rafters and a thin central plank runs down the ridge. Planks have been added to the west of the frame, probably when the later barn was added. The two main posts have been partly covered by brick infill. The top of the tie-beam was grooved and stave holes were in the rafters and the underside of the collar.



Builder's construction marks were present on the timbers in Roman Numerals. The north tie-beam and principle rafter was marked I, and the south tie-beam and rafter, II. The three post and tie-beam were also marked, from north to south, I, II and III.

Figure 14: Tie beam lap dovetail assembly. Construction detail of the tie beam, post and wall plate

Plate 12: Shafting for the drive wheel. The machine to the right is a Bomford & Son's "Safety" chaff cutter, of late 19th century design. The shafting and drive wheel suggests that there was provision for a steam engine to power the chaff cutter, and possibly others, such as a root slicer or corn grinding mill.

The west barn had a through-way similar to that of the original barn and would have been used for a similar purpose. However, the barn would have been industrialized with a probable steam engine housed in a building that would have been attached to the south of the building. The chaff cutter (Plate 11) is on the second floor of the room to the east of the trough-way and at the east end of the barn. The ground floor is stone flagged, but the through-way and room to the west is concrete.

The west room of the barn would have been for the storage of grain, suggested by the ventilation holes in the north, south and gable end brick walls. The ventilation holes are cross shaped, with two in the north and south walls and three in the west end wall. These ventilation slots are similar to those in the upper walls of the stable.

Plate 13: An iron drive wheel on the south wall. The wheel is inside the line of a building scar suggesting, that at some stage, the engine that powered the wheel was housed in a building attached to the barn. The square holes in the brick wall would have been for the roof purlins of the north-south building. A construction break, where the later west barn was added to the original threshing barn, can be seen just to the right of the lower window.

A scar on the south elevation (see plate 13 and drawings 9 and 10) suggests a north-south building was at some stage attached to the standing building and would have housed a steam engine that powered farm machinery. A late 19th century date for this industrialized area of the farm is suggested by the spot date of the chaff cutting machine.

Inside the building scar from the north-south building is an area of inserted bricks within the stone plinth. Within this scar is a window, between the height of the stone plinth and the bricks.

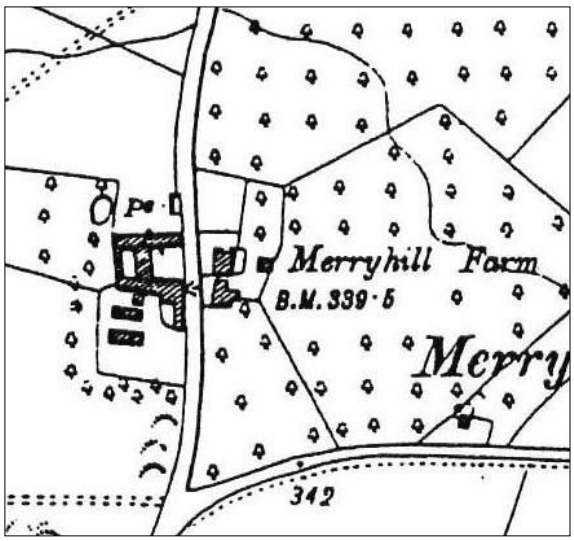


Figure 15: 1930 OS map of Merryhill Farm showing a standing building attached to the south and north of the barn.

Two out lying buildings are also shown on the 1930 OS map. These two buildings are aligned east-west are to the south of the barn, and were not standing at the time of the survey.

Plate 14: Building scar on the north elevation of the barn. A stone support can be seen below and to the right of the scale and slates (possibly from the original roof of the barn). A cross shaped ventilation hole and a construction break to its left can also be seen. The construction break is a scar from the in-filled through-way door of the barn. To the east of the in-filled door is a section of timber framing similar to that of the stable (drawings 11 and 12).

The building scar (see plate 14 above and drawings 11 and 12) is the scar of a building that was possibly a smaller version of the standing cattle shed. No evidence of the foundations of the former building was observed in the survey, but the stone support (see plate 13 above) in the north elevation was identical to supports used in the cattle shed. Two cattle sheds would have not only housed more stock, but with a central yard between the sheds, would have made the gathering and storing of manure (possible in a shed or a dung-pit) more efficient.

This building may have been knocked down in the final (third) phase of alterations to the farmyard complex.

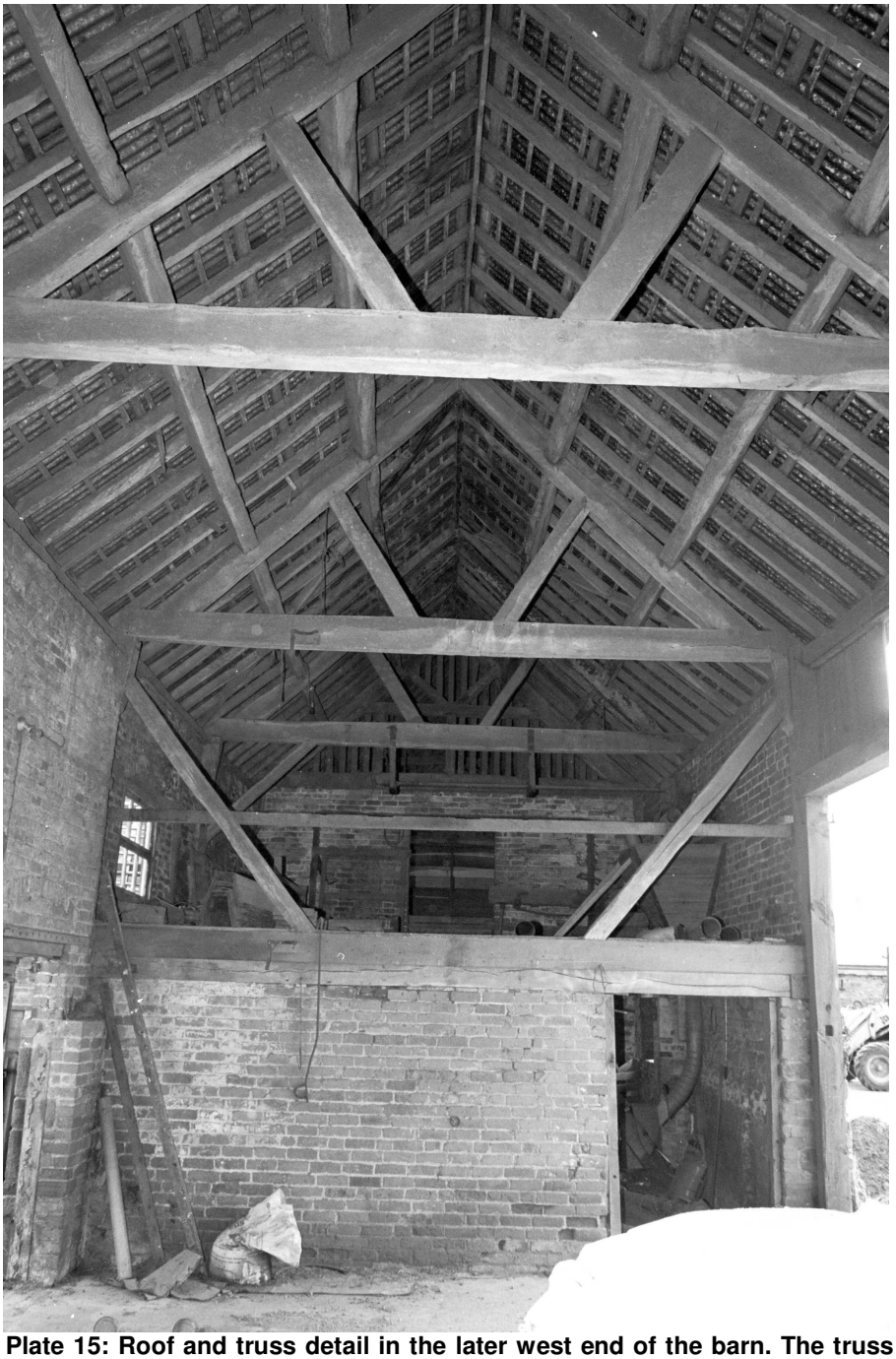


Plate 15: Roof and truss detail in the later west end of the barn. The truss from section G-H can be seen in the background, as can the top feeder and tubes from the chaff cutting machine. The in-filled brick door of the through-way can be seen of the left.

Truss G-H is the west gable end of the original threshing barn and can been seen in the background, with a doorway through the brick wall on the upper floor. The later west barn had four simple A-frame trusses. Two of these trusses can be seen in plate 13.

Drawing 9: South elevation of barn

Drawing 10: South elevation of barn with detail

Drawing 11: North elevation of barn

Drawing 12: North elevation of barn with detail

Drawing 13: Garage and barn east elevation

Drawing 14: Garage and barn; east elevation with detail

Drawing 15: Cross section of barn

Drawing 16: Cross section of barn with detail

The Front Garage

The front garage is attached to the east end of the barn, and fronts onto the road. Its walls are stone built on the west and south ends. The front of the building (see drawings 13 and 14) is mostly open, supported on eight wooden piers buried into the ground. The northern most end of the building had two double doors.

The floor of the garage was of compact earth and the roof of corrugated iron.

Plate 16: The garage doors on the east (road) side

Plate 17: The wooden piers that support the front of the garage and the roof trusses

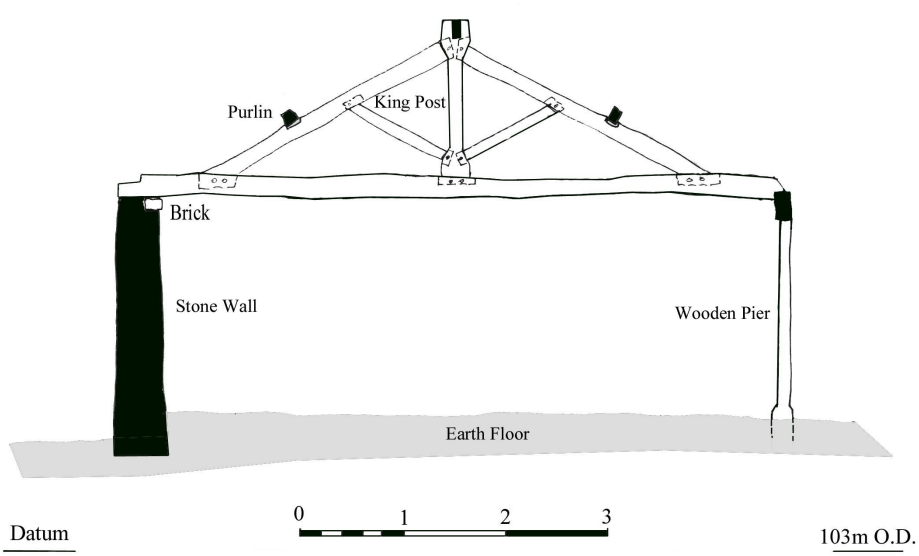


Figure 16: Cross section through the garage. The truss consists of a king post with struts from the tie-beam to the principle rafters. The king post truss dates from the late 18th/19th century.

6.0 Conclusions

In the 18th century great effort was put into boosting agricultural production. Enclosure acts brought together wasteland and remaining open fields into farm complexes with increased productivity. This increase in productivity led to attempts to improve and standardise the farmyard plan.

The main incentives for the improvement of production came with the rising trend of prices between 1750 and 1813, as the population grew from 5.7 million to over 10 million: this age of agricultural improvements has bequeathed us with many of our finest farmsteads (Lake 1989, 102).

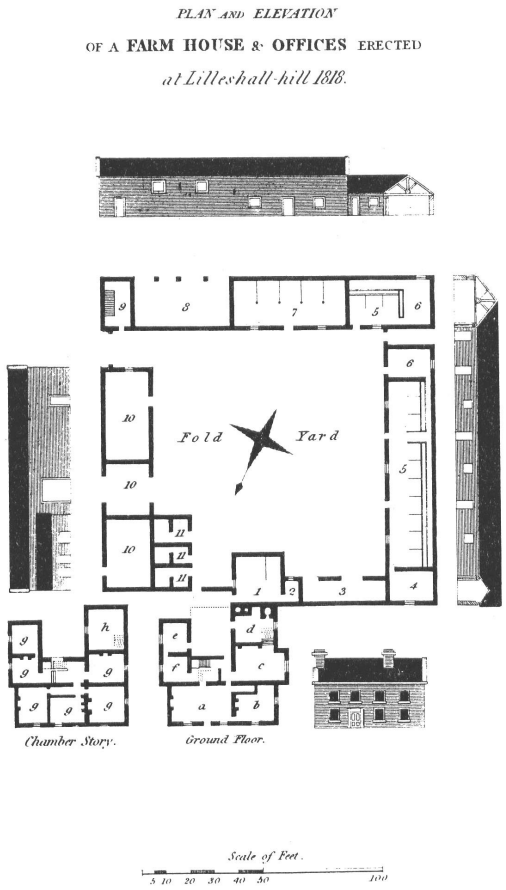


Figure 17: Plan of Lilleshall hill 1816. h = men's room over brewhouse; e = dairy; l = hackney stable; 2 = harness room; 3 = shalter shed; 4 = calf house; 5 = cowhouse; 6 = turnip room; 7 = working horses; 8 = granary over cartshed; 9 = tool house and grain store; 10 = barn; 11 = pigsties.

The plan of Lilleshall Hill Farm was published in James Loch's *Improvements on the Estates of the Marquess of Stafford*, 1820 (from Lake 1989, 110) and shows a brick and tile barn with timber framing built for a newly enclosed farm. The layout of the farm is similar to square shaped plan of the farm buildings at Merryhill Farm, with a stable building on the opposite side of the yard to the barn.

Merryhill Farm was not built in one phase. The original threshing barn of the south building is probably the oldest of the complex. Additional buildings were erected to cope with improved industrialized farming techniques, with a new barn constructed in the late 18th century. The new barn is similar to the stable and it is possibly they are contemporary.

By the early 19th century a building was added to the south of the new barn to house a steam engine that powered machines working in the new barn. Parts of this phase of industrialization are still visible, with one of the machines, a Bomford chaff cutter, and a wheel and drive shaft surviving *in-situ.*

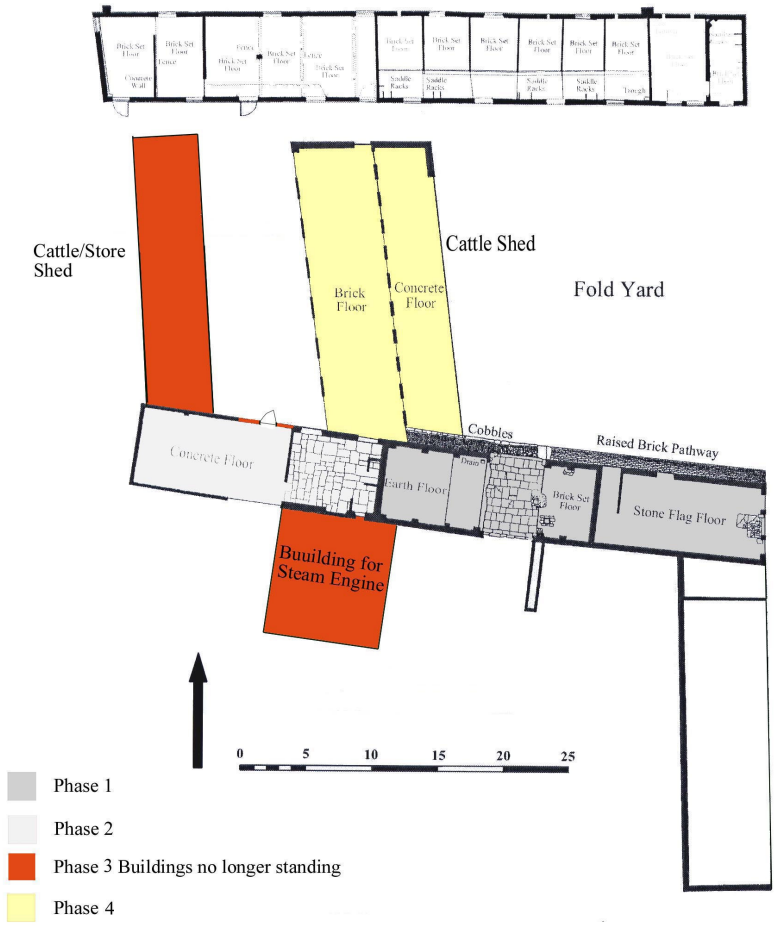


Figure 18: Phase plan of Merryhill Farm. The phase 3 buildings (shown in red) were, at the time of the survey, only visible through scars on the standing building. The width of the buildings is accurate but the length has been estimated from the 1930 OS map.

A building was also added the north of the new barn, possible a cattle/store shed.

A further stage in the modernisation would have seen the steam power replaced. The building that housed the steam engine was demolished (post 1930) and the north entrance to the through-way door in the later barn was in-filled with brick and a smaller door. The standing cattle shed was possible the last of the buildings to be constructed.

7.0 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 Hereford City Museum.

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 with the Hereford City Museum. 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 museum staff, along with the project archive. Arrangements will be made with the museum for the transfer of title.

8.0 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 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.

General bibliography

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British Geological Survey 1979	Geological survey 10 mile map, south sheet, 3rd edition (solid) 1979 1:625000
Lake, Jeremy 1989	*Historical Farm Buildings,* An Introduction & Guide In association with the national Trust
Webb, John, 1854 ed.	*Roll of the Household expenses of Richard de Swinfield, bishop of Hereford, During part of the years 1289 and 1290*
Williams, D. 1998	*Merryhill Farm, Belmont, Hereford,* A Report on Archaeological Salvage Recording Hereford Archaeology Series 346

Cartographic material

Undated but early 19th century	An estate map for 'Haywood lodge and Knockerhill farms with woods and other lands. HRO C38/49/2/5A
Ordnance Survey, 1930	2nd edition 1:2500 plan. County Series, Herefordshire Sheet xxx111 S.E (HCRO 39b)
Ordnance Survey, 1950	3rd edition 1:25000 plan. County Series, Herefordshire Sheet xxx111 Hereford Library.