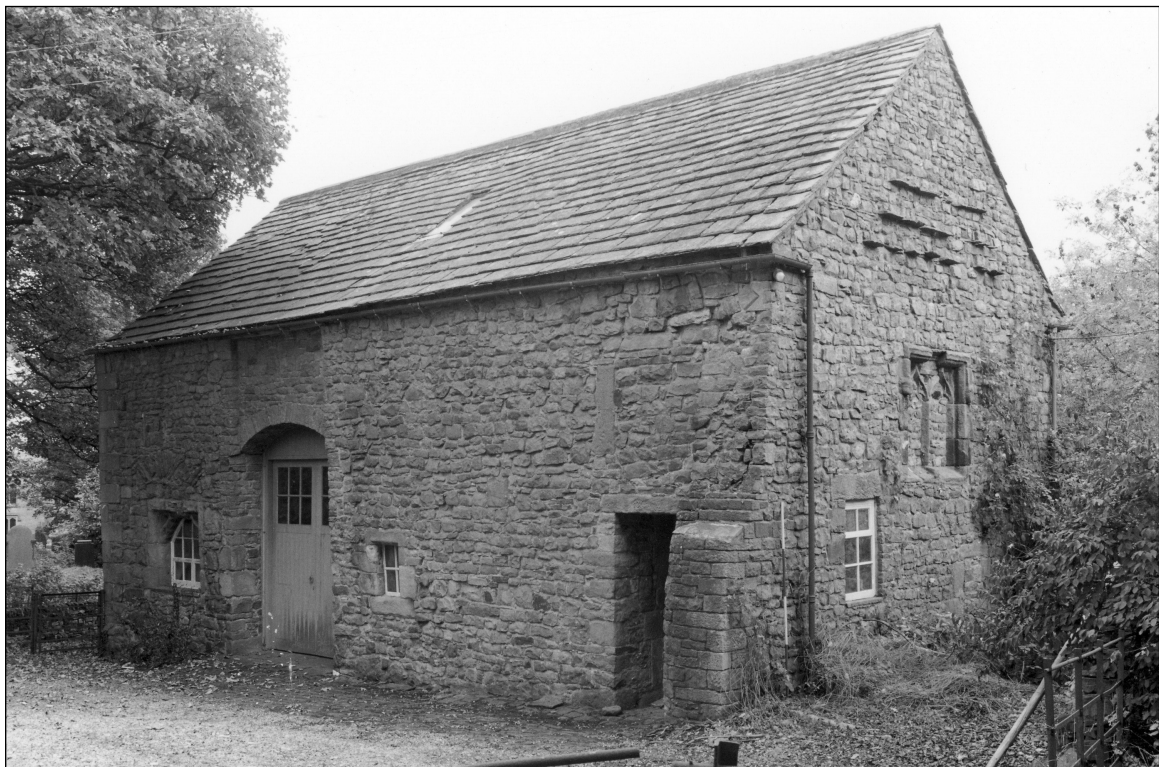


King Henry's Parlour  
Bracewell, Lancashire:  
Archaeological Building Recording



November 2007

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## SUMMARY

King Henry's Parlour is a barn converted from part of a high status house, probably of 15th century date and closely associated with the former Bracewell Hall, north of Barnoldswick (NGR: SD 86254840). Numerous early features survive within the building including stone doorway and window surrounds and early king-post roof trusses, but the layout of the original building remains uncertain. The recording was carried out for the owner Mr T Smeeth in October 2007, to inform an anticipated planning application for its conversion to a dwelling.

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## KING HENRY'S PARLOUR, BRACEWELL, LANCASHIRE:

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

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# **KING HENRY'S PARLOUR, BRACEWELL, LANCASHIRE:**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING**

### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 This report presents the results of archaeological building recording at a barn known as King Henry's Parlour, a grade 2 listed building which was created from the remains of part of a 15th century house of high status, at Bracewell near Barnoldswick in Lancashire. The work was carried out in October 2007 and commissioned by the owner Mr T Smeeth via the architect Mr John Wharton, to inform an anticipated planning application to Pendle Borough Council for the conversion of the barn to a dwelling.
- 1.2 The building is rectangular in plan with a small late 18th or 19th century projecting wing, and the main structure appears based on the original footprint of part of the early house, which continued beyond the extent of the present building, where it no longer stands above ground level. There are original openings within the medieval fabric at ground and first floor levels, and although some rebuilding has clearly taken place, the four roof trusses are thought to be in their original positions. The building is also of some interest as it contains a largely intact 19th or early 20th century stable.
- 1.3 The work was carried out in accordance with a specification from the Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) (Appendix 1), and involved drawn, written, and photographic recording, and historical research. This report will be submitted to the client and his architect, Pendle Borough Council, the Lancashire County Archaeology Service and the English Heritage National Monuments Record, while the project archive will be deposited with the Lancashire Record Office.
- 1.4 While this report is believed to provide a good record of the building in its present form, in the event that planning consent is given for any development of the site, it is recommended that an archaeological mitigation strategy is implemented, the scope and nature of which will depend on the proposed development.

### **2 Location and current use**

- 2.1 King Henry's Parlour is located at NGR: SD 8625 4840, in the small village of Bracewell, 2km north of Barnoldswick on the B6251 road, some 12km west of Skipton (Figure 1). The site is in the civil parish of Bracewell and Brogden and is now in Lancashire, but historically lay within the Craven area of the West Riding of Yorkshire.

- 2.2 The building stands about 30m south-west of St Michael's Church, as a detached structure close to Priory Cottage and Bracewell Lodge, of which the latter was once part of a rebuilt Bracewell Hall, of the late 19th century (Figure 2).
- 2.3 The building's long axis runs from south-west to north-east, with the present front facing north-west onto the drive by which it is approached; at the rear is a short wing projecting to the south-east.
- 2.4 The building has been in use only for storage for several years, with its previous use having been as a stable and general farm building.

### **3 Planning background**

- 3.1 King Henry's Parlour is listed (grade 2) as having special architectural or historic interest, under the name "Barn incorporating remains of King Henry's Parlour, Bracewell Hall":

Barn, probably adapted from a house. C15. Stone slate roof. Rubble, stone quoins. Large segmental-headed cart entry, with to left a window using the surround but not the mullion or sill, of a C15 window with 2 ogee-headed lights. Relieving arch over. Above this a small blocked chamfered light. Left hand return (facing church) has weathered plinth which continues for 1 metre to rear. Rear has lintel and right hand jamb of chamfered shouldered doorway, now blocked. Later wing then abuts, but above it massive corbelling may be seen under the eaves. Right hand return has blocked window of 2 ogee-headed lights with hoodmould and stops. Said to be the remains of the hall in which Henry VI rested after the battle of Hexham.
- 3.2 At the time of writing it is anticipated that a planning application will shortly be made to the local planning authority (Pendle Borough Council), for the conversion of the building to residential use. The planning authority, and LCAS as their advisor, have requested that any such application be accompanied by a detailed archaeological record of the building (which this report is intended to constitute), to allow the potential implications of any such proposals on the building to be assessed.

### **4 Historical background**

- 4.1 As part of this study research was carried out at Barnoldswick Library and the Lancashire Record Office, and enquiries made at the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (where it has the primary record number 319), and the National Monuments Record (the latter proving negative). The web-site [www.oneguysfrombarlick.co.uk](http://www.oneguysfrombarlick.co.uk) was also consulted, as a valuable resource on the local history of the district.



- 4.2 At the time of the Norman Conquest Bracewell contained two Saxon manors belonging to Ulchil and Archil, which became part of the fee of Roger of Poitou, and were subsequently granted to Roger de Tempest, whose descendants continued as lords of the manor until the mid 17th century. There was evidently an early manorial settlement at Bracewell although its remains do not appear to be well documented. The church, dedicated to St Michael, contains some Norman elements and would no doubt have been situated close to the original settlement.
- 4.3 The earliest map of the village dates to 1717 and shows the former Bracewell Hall to the south of the church, depicted as a central range with two chimneys flanked by taller wings, with a yard to the rear (Figure 3). A house stands on the east side of this yard, apparently adjoining the rear of the east wing, and another building, without a chimney, stands on the west side, with a different orientation. A third building stands to the north, with an L-shaped range continuing to the north and west. It is not clear which of these, if any, represents King Henry's Parlour or its predecessor.
- 4.4 The Bracewell Hall which stood in 1717 was of brick, which was extremely unusual for a building in west Craven where stone is plentiful in the glacial drift or underlying bedrock and can be easily won by quarrying or from field clearance, and this choice of material must have been an ostentatious one. The Hall is generally thought to have been built in the 15th or 16th century; Whitaker writes that it was probably built in 1493, when Sir Richard Tempest became Sheriff of Yorkshire, and closely resembled the First Court of St John's College, Cambridge, which is of a similar date; while another source attributes it to the time of Henry VIII, ie 1509-47 (Lewis (ed) 1848, 326). In either case it was derelict by the late 17th century, due to debts on the part of a later Richard Tempest, who inherited the estate in 1639 but mortgaged it in 1656 and subsequently gave orders for the hall to be pulled down. On his death the estate passed to a cousin, John Rushworth and later to one Mrs South, and in 1717 it was sold to the Weddell family, on which occasion the map described above was compiled (Whitaker 1878, 96).
- 4.5 Bracewell Hall stood in a ruinous state from the 1650s until 1869 when the remains were demolished, in part by being blown up, when the owner replaced it with a new hall in a Scottish baronial style, which was itself demolished in the 1950s. There are a number of sources of evidence for the form of the ruined hall before its removal however: Whitaker describes it as having a hall in the centre, 45 feet long with two "deep and lofty wings", with to the north the remains of an older house, "in which is an apartment called King Henry's Parlour". The ruins of the hall were photographed and drawn before being rased: they show the west wing as standing mostly to three storeys, and a fragment of the central range to a similar level, with the east wing more extensively demolished or collapsed

(Figures 6-8). The west wing has a relatively large first floor window with mullions and transom, suggesting a 16th century date. Both photographs (but not Whitaker's drawing) show a roofed building close to or adjoining the rear of the hall, which must be the present King Henry's Parlour. A map made in 1796 (Figure 4) appears to show the latter building with its present outline, ie with its south-east wing, albeit unnamed, but the buildings which seem to represent the ruins of the Hall do not have the same outline as those apparent from the photographs. This is also true of the Ordnance Survey's first edition 6" to the mile map, surveyed in 1848-50, which seems not to depict the ruins fully, but shows King Henry's Parlour (named) as an L-shaped building with a small adjoining structure at its east corner, no longer extant (Figure 5). By 1892, when the Ordnance Survey surveyed the site at 1:2500 scale, the building had the outline it has today, and the new Bracewell Hall had been built to its south-east, obliterating any above-ground traces of its predecessor (Figure 9). The same scene is also depicted on a later edition of this map, revised in 1907 (Figure 10).

- 4.6 Pevsner described King Henry's Parlour as a "ruinous pre-Reformation house" in the 1950s, but the adjective must have been intended for the house of which the present barn formed a part, rather than the roofed building which then stood largely as now (Pevsner 1959, 119). At around the same time a local historian surmised that the "ruin" known as King Henry's Parlour was a possible extension to or partial replacement of the "original" house, with features dating to the 13th or 14th century, and that the brick hall was a later structure, probably of the 16th century (Gibbon 1953, 13).
- 4.7 In summary, the relationship between the present building known as King Henry's Parlour and the former Bracewell Hall remains unclear. On the understanding that the former is stone-built and the latter is recorded as having been of brick, the larger, stone house of which King Henry's Parlour once formed a part can be assumed to have been the earlier of the two, and architectural features within it (see below) support this theory. However the paucity of evidence for the Bracewell Hall demolished in the 1860s makes it unlikely that few further details will come to light regarding it.
- 4.8 The association of the present building with King Henry VI relates to the "War of the Roses", and his association with the Tempests of Bracewell. The Battle of Hexham took place in 1464 between the Lancastrian forces of the Duke of Somerset on the king's behalf, and Montagu, younger brother of the Earl of Warwick Richard Neville, on the Yorkist side. The defeat of Somerset at Montagu's hands led to Henry's flight and he is reputed to have taken refuge at Bracewell with the Lancastrian Tempests, before moving to Waddington, where he was betrayed by the Talbots.

## 5 Recording methodology

- 5.1 The programme of archaeological building recording took place during October 2007 and was carried out broadly in accordance with the specification issued by the LCAS (Appendix 1). The recording comprised drawn, photographic, and written elements.
- 5.2 The drawn record involved the production of ground and upper floor plans of the building at 1:50 scale, by hand measurement using tapes and a hand-held electronic measuring device. Drawings at the same scale were also made of the four elevations of the main building (ie not of the later wing), with detailed drawings at a larger scale of two medieval windows. Four sections were also produced to show the form of the roof structure and relative heights within the building. The drawings show all significant archaeological detail, with conventions based on those specified by English Heritage<sup>1</sup>.
- 5.3 A photographic record was also made, using a medium format camera with perspective control and other lenses, and black and white film for the sake of archival permanence. External and internal photographs were taken, in most cases using either a 1m or 2m ranging pole marked with 0.5m graduations as a scale, and their locations are shown on copies of the plan. A total of 89 individual photographs were taken, all of which have been printed to a size of 5 x 7", with four at 10 x 8", and these will be deposited with the project archive. Selected photographs are reproduced in this report, where they are referred to by numbers in bold. As well as the black and white photographs, a small number of 35mm colour slides was taken and are to be included with the archive.

## 6 Building description

### General

- 6.1 In the following description reference should be made to the accompanying drawings (Figures 11 to 15).
- 6.2 The building stands as a detached structure, L-shaped in plan, with no visible links to any other standing remains in the vicinity. For the purposes of this description the front of the present barn is the north-west elevation, which faces onto the gravel drive running to the north-west (**1**); ground level to the south-west of the building is approximately level with this drive, and is bounded by the stone wall defining the edge of the adjacent Priory Cottage property. The north-east and south-east elevations face onto vegetated ground some 1.5m above the drive to Bracewell Lodge, retained by a stone wall (**2**).

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<sup>1</sup> English Heritage 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*

- 6.3 The medieval part of the present building has a rectangular plan, 14.65m by 7.61m (48' 0" by 25' 0"). There is clear evidence that its south-west side, probably an external wall originally, formerly continued to both north-west and south-east (3) but less convincing evidence for other walls continuing from the present building, so that the relationship of the surviving remains to the former, larger building of which it once must have formed part is obscure. The present north-west and north-east sides of the building appear always to have been external walls, but there is some suggestion that there was an adjoining medieval structure on the south-east side, where the present wing, built in the 18th or 19th century, now stands.
- 6.4 There are no internal divisions within the main part of the building, with the exception of a 19th or early 20th century brick wall enclosing a stable at the south-west end, although the limewash coating which covers most of the internal wall surfaces hinders the analysis of the interior. It is however clear, from the positions of openings, that the building was of two storeys originally and that the upper floor was open to the roof, although nothing remains of this early floor structure.
- 6.5 The building's walls are primarily of local sandstone rubble with some limestone and other erratics, laid randomly, with dressings of gritstone and sandstone, and it is not possible readily to distinguish between phases of masonry on the basis of coursing or stone size, although some discrepancies are apparent which are taken to indicate differences between medieval and later work. A principal feature of the building is the thickness of the walls however, particularly at ground floor level, where all four sides measure around 1.0m thick, taken to indicate an early date as most stone buildings from the 17th century and later have walls 0.6m thick or less. This is not the case at upper level however, where small set-backs in the north-west and north-east walls exist, the latter apparently resulting from modern rebuilding, but the former thought to be original. The thick walls of the main building contrast strongly with those of the later wing, which average 520mm thick, a thickness typical of 18th or 19th century buildings.
- 6.6 The roof of King Henry's Parlour is of particular interest (4). The medieval building contains four pegged oak king-post trusses with moulding and other decoration, one of them of slightly different form from the others; the intact ridge bracing is a good indicator that all occupy their original positions, although there has been some re-arrangement of purlins, probably in the second half of the 20th century when the present stone slate roof was laid with a slightly shallower pitch than the building had formerly, achieved in part by the raising of the wall tops inside the building with brickwork. The present roof pitch is nonetheless relatively steep at around 42°, whereas stone-slatted buildings generally have a pitch of around 35° (eg the 16th century aisled barn at Great Stone Edge, Blacko

– see Haigh 2007), although it is thought unlikely that this indicates a different original roof covering, such as thatch or tiles, as early king-post roofs in the region are generally associated with stone slate coverings.

## **External walls**

### **North-west elevation**

- 6.7 The north-west side of the building forms its present front elevation (5) and is faced with random rubble which is mostly of uniform appearance, but contains several features of interest. At the right-hand end (the west corner of the building) the wall breaks forward, where it has squared stone facing at ground floor level, forming a buttress, but remains as exposed core above (6, 7). This indicates that the present south-west gable wall of the building formerly continued to the north-west. Further evidence for this is the blocked first floor doorway immediately adjacent (D1), which suggests that the north-west side of the present building was formerly an internal wall; the outer face of this opening's surround has been partly lost, with only two stones in the jamb and part of the lintel visible, but on the inside face of the wall the surround remains intact and has a shouldered head (8), with one of the quoins in the east jamb bearing an unusual mason's mark (9). The form of the opening below this, the present doorway to the stable (D2) (10), suggests that this lower entrance is an insertion or has been altered, as its exterior lacks dressings, although the internal face of the opening has projecting quoins, which have been chiselled flush on the north-east side.
- 6.8 Another feature of this elevation is a window with chamfered surround and quoined jambs, to the right of the main cart entrance (W1) (11). This has the appearance of an original opening, although the first floor doorway noted above suggests the wall was once an internal division. It is deeply splayed on the interior, although one side has been altered with later brickwork (12), and it contains a late 20th century window frame, as do all the windows in the building.
- 6.9 The main cart entrance to the building (D3), in the third bay from the south-west (13, 14), has rubble jambs which narrow above the recessed segmental arch, and is clearly a secondary feature which has been cut through the wall, no doubt as part of the conversion of the building to a barn in the 18th or 19th century. To the left of it is a much earlier feature, but one which may not be in its original position. This is a former two-light window, with a much weathered, chamfered and rebated surround, and the outer halves of two trefoil heads with sunk spandrels (rather than ogee, contrary to the listed building description), but much of its tracery and mullion are missing (W2; see Figure 14) (15). Trefoil windows are associated with Perpendicular architecture, in favour during the period 1350 - 1530. The present sill is clearly recent, but both jambs return at their bases. To

the inside of the building the window is splayed and has a low arch with keystone (16), and its general appearance suggests it is an original opening in its original position, although its location so low within the wall may suggest otherwise, or that ground level has been raised significantly. Above the window is a relieving arch, off-centred slightly and of poor quality flaggy rubble. There is a blocked, square opening above this, with roughly chamfered surround, of undetermined purpose and which does not appear to pass through the thickness of the wall as it cannot be seen inside the building (17). Neither of these features can with certainty be said to be medieval or otherwise, although the relieving arch is no doubt contemporary with the lower window.

- 6.10 The left-hand end of this elevation has a good quoin of squared gritstone blocks which are thought to be original, as is the chamfered plinth which runs for only 0.6m along this elevation. The most likely reason for the short length of the plinth is that it has been truncated by rebuilding below the window, and may indicate that that opening has been re-sited.

#### South-west elevation

- 6.11 This gable wall now faces onto a small, overgrown yard (3) and formerly extended beyond its present length in both directions. The evidence for this at the north-west end has been discussed above, but at the other end of the gable, where the later wing adjoins, a poorly defined ragged joint is visible at ground level, on both sides of the wall (18, 19). At a higher level, the outer face of the wall continues slightly above the roof of the adjoining wing.
- 6.12 The fabric of this wall is similar to the north-west elevation, being of random rubble, with a subtle change approximately at eaves level, above which are three rows of projecting slates in the manner of a dovecote, but without recesses, which is taken to indicate rebuilding in the 18th century or later. Below this are three features of interest: the principal one is a blocked, traceried two-light window at first floor level, while below it are two plainer openings.
- 6.13 The two-light window (W3; see Figure 14) has gritstone surrounds with chamfered and rebated jambs similar to those on the north-west window W2, a sloping sill, and a hood mould (the central part repaired with stone flags), with carved heads as stops (20-23). The mullion has a plain chamfer and sits uneasily on its plinth within the sill, but does match the pair of cusped arches. The window is only partly visible inside the building because of stored hay (24), but here it has splayed jambs and a shallow arch again similar to the north-west window, taken to indicate that it is an original feature of the medieval building, and that this was an external wall from the outset.

- 6.14 At ground floor level is an altered window (25), which seems based on an original opening but has been enlarged, as its sides are now mostly of random rubble and it has a thin, plain sill. Its appearance within the building, where it has an asymmetric splay and two level sill, supports the theory that it has been altered, although how it appeared previously is not clear (26). To the right of it is a window blocked with stone externally and brick internally, with chamfered surround, and resembling the small window in the north-west elevation, but with straight reveals rather than splayed sides internally (27); it is likely that this was an original window.

#### North-east elevation

- 6.15 The opposite gable has fewer features than the south-west, but the presence of a chamfered plinth across most of the elevation is a clear indication that the lower part of this wall is original; approximately 2m above it is a slight change in the character of the masonry, taken to indicate the rebuilding of most of the wall (but not the quoins) above this line (28, 29).
- 6.16 The existing window in this gable (W6) occupies a former doorway, thought to be an original opening although much altered, and the plinth breaks cleanly at one side but not at the other (30). Inside the building this opening has been much altered and has two large, relatively modern pintles for a door (31). Above it, largely hidden by ivy, are the remains of what appears to have been a tall window (W7). Externally this is represented only by two stones of the jamb, the remainder having been rebuilt, but internally the north-west jamb is around 2m tall (32), and its form suggests that it may also have served an adjoining window or other opening in the north-west elevation.

#### South-east elevation

- 6.17 Most of this side of the building appears to be medieval fabric, containing several features of interest, although as elsewhere there is an incomplete picture of the early building and all the original openings have been altered to some degree. The presence of the later adjoining wing also masks the fabric to some extent, in particular where it is plastered.
- 6.18 The chamfered plinth visible on the north-east gable returns for a short distance along this side of the building, but lacks an original ending and appears to have been disturbed by alterations to the opening now occupied by a window (W6) (33). The window opening itself is modern, but appears to lie within an earlier, taller and wider opening, as can be seen from its form inside the building (34), where it has deep splays.

- 6.19 Close to this is a blocked, shouldered doorway whose left jamb has been removed (D4) (35, 36), and which is not visible within the building although whether this arises from rebuilding of the internal wall face, or because of the limewash, is not clear. To the right of the doorway, a projecting limestone block may be the remains of a wall projecting at right angles. The OS map of 1853 shows an adjoining structure at the east corner which may relate to such a projecting wall, but no other evidence for this structure was identified. Further up in this elevation is a rough diagonal line within the masonry, perhaps indicating partial rebuilding, or scar of a former roof line.
- 6.20 Two more blocked openings are present within the south-east elevation, mostly within the later wing, although their original forms are not certain. They are both positioned next to the south corner of the building, one at ground level and one directly above, at first floor level. The lower (D5) has a clear jamb on its north-east side where quoins are visible, although the opening itself is obscured by the later butting internal wall of the wing (37); beyond this only part of the opening is fully blocked with rubble walling (38), the majority now forming a recess (19). The opening lacks a lintel so its original height cannot be ascertained, but there appears to be a considerable overburden here so that the original ground level may be up to 1m less than at present. Within the building the opening has been sealed with an area of modern brickwork 2.5m long, which has an irregular upper edge including a stone lintel for only part of its length (39). The width of this opening suggests it may have comprised two openings, or was enlarged to its present size.
- 6.21 The opening above this (D6) is of slightly clearer form but is nevertheless rather enigmatic. Below the roof of the later wing, the threshold and chamfered jambs of the opening are set back from the main wall face (40), and their upper parts are hidden by 18th or 19th century masonry, supported by a short beam spanning the opening and with three nesting boxes above it (41-43). The remains of the top of the opening are visible above the roof of the wing (44, 45), just beyond the core of the formerly longer south-west wall, where they are much disturbed but include a weathered arch below a wide corbel and lintel. The doorway is also visible inside the main building, where it has a flat stone lintel, quoined jambs, and mortared rubble infill (46).
- 6.22 There is another feature within the south-east wall of the building, visible only on the interior, which may be a blocked fireplace as there is some blackening on the wall above it (47); if a fireplace it may have been served by a flue within the thickness of the wall, or by a projecting external stack, although there is no evidence for the latter. No other possible location for a fireplace has been identified within the building, and a lateral position such as this would be expected in a stone-built gentry or nobility house of this date. There is also a



timber within the wall, at a higher level but below the smoke blackening, which may relate to former heating arrangements.

- 6.23 The doorway to the south-west of the putative fireplace, leading into one of the upper rooms in the later wing, is no doubt an inserted opening put in when the wing was added.

#### **Interior: roof**

- 6.24 Adaptation of the remains of the building to a barn in the 18th or 19th century means that apart from the outer walls, the only medieval fabric known to survive is in the roof structure, although potentially there are further significant remains below the present floor.
- 6.25 The roof structure comprises four king-post trusses of fifteenth or perhaps 16th century form, of pegged oak and with cambered, moulded tie-beams, chamfered and stopped king-posts, trenched purlins and substantial ridge bracing which remains intact, indicating that the trusses are unlikely to have been moved or re-used in their present positions. For the purposes of the following description the trusses are numbered from 1 to 4 from the south-west to the north-east, although no numbers or obvious carpenter's marks appear on them.
- 6.26 Truss 1 has a different form from the others (**48**), suggesting that this end of the building was to be distinguished from the remainder at first floor level, but quite why this was the case is not clear: the south-west end of the upper floor would have been lit by the two-light window and had opposing doorways in the other two walls, but little else can be determined about its character.
- 6.27 The tie-beam to truss 1 is of heavy scantling, with bark surviving in the central part on the upper face, and has a moulded soffit (essentially two ovolos and a double ogee), stopped at the north-west end (**49**) but with the moulding running to the wall face at the other side, where the foot of the principal rafter is set within the masonry, suggesting the south-west wall has been thickened, a possibility for which there is no other evidence however. At the other end, the tenon of the principal rafter is pegged to the tie-beam, and in the centre the king-post and two raking struts are similarly joined (**50**). The king-post has plain chamfers with stops about 200mm above the tie-beam, and rises to a head which is jowled only towards the upper face (ie the north-east) (**51**). The south-west side of the king-post supports a short collar held in place by mortice and tenon, with the principal rafters being tenoned into this collar, while the ridge, set square rather than in diamond fashion, rests on the top of the king-post. A heavy ridge brace with chamfered lower edges runs from the king-post on its north-east side where six pegs hold its tenon in place (**52**), but is not matched in the south-west end bay, where there is no evidence for there having been such bracing (**53**). There are

however further ridge braces towards the centre of the building (54) and there is one within the north-east bay (55).

- 6.28 The other three trusses (2 to 4) have standard king-posts, ie which run to the ridge, where their heads are jowled to the sides rather than longitudinally; in other aspects they are generally the same as truss 1 however (4, 56-61). Trusses 2 and 3 have shaped stone corbels at their south-east ends, with modern iron or steel plates supporting them (62-65). Truss 3 is positioned at a set-back in the wall over the ground floor opening W7 (66); it has two circular holes some 40mm in diameter bored in the tie-beam (one filled with wood), and one in the principal rafter, all of unknown purpose (67).
- 6.29 The side purlins are trenched into the backs of the principal rafters and run for either one or two bays; the majority are the original oak members which show no evidence for re-use, but a number have been replaced or supplemented by softwood timbers; many have also been moved to create the shallower roof pitch, probably in the 19th or 20th century. All the common rafters and laths are modern.

#### **Interior: the present barn**

- 6.30 The present arrangement within the main building results from its conversion to a barn and although of relatively modern date, there are features of historic significance relating to this use, particularly in the south-west end which is occupied by a stable, thought to be of the 19th or early 20th century. This is enclosed within a thin brick wall which also supports a hay loft (68, 69), and through which a narrow passage links the stable with the main barn area (70). The stable has a floor of stone setts laid with drains to the individual stalls (71), which are separated by softwood partitions (72, 73). Each stall is served by a hatch through the brick wall and a ceramic trough, with a later iron manger above (74, 75); the troughs are stamped with the maker's name Oates & Green of Halifax (76), a firm known to have been active in the 1930s. Other features in the stable (in addition to those described in preceding sections) include two recesses in the wall (one to the rear of the stalls and one within the passage) and a row of turned harness pegs fastened to a rail below the loft (77).
- 6.31 The central part of the barn, between the brick stable wall and the north-east end, has a flagged floor (78) and is open to the roof, where it would have allowed carts to be brought in to unload onto the hay loft. Beyond here the floor is of concrete (79) and there are no fixtures or fittings; the present loft is of very recent date (80).

## The later wing

- 6.32 Map evidence indicates that this wing had been added by c.1850 and it is thought to be of late 18th century or early 19th century date, built without reference to any structure which it replaced. The walls are of rubble similar to those of the main building, although around half their thickness; and the roof is similarly stone slated, having been re-laid in the 20th century (**81**). The building comprises three rooms on both of the two floor levels (although the upper floors in two of these rooms have been removed), mostly intended for use as agricultural outbuildings, but with one serving as a heated tack room or office.
- 6.33 In the south-west side are two entrances (**18**) leading to two small rooms separated by a stone wall and probably used as kennels or fowl houses, to judge from the small blocked opening over the north-west doorway and the nesting boxes incorporated inside the room (**42**). There is a connecting doorway between the two at upper floor level, and a blocked doorway in the south-east gable which would have given access to these two upper rooms (**82, 83**). Other openings in this gable include a doorway to the larger ground floor room and a blocked doorway directly over it, as well as a first floor window (**84**). A window in the north-east elevation lights the ground floor, and there is a blocked window at first floor level (**85**). The largest ground floor room has no features of interest bar the flagged floor, and the timber first floor structure is a very recent replacement (**86**). The room over it, now only accessible from the main building via the timber stairs, has whitewashed walls and a fireplace in the south-east side, fitted with an ornate cast iron grate marked "Excelsior No 3" (**87, 88**) (although no chimney or flue is now visible externally). The room appears to have been intended as an office or mess room for workers, or a tack room for the horses' equipage.
- 6.34 The roof structure of the wing is simply constructed from oak purlins laid between the walls (**89**); the purlins show no sign of previous use.

## 7 Discussion

- 7.1 There are several features of King Henry's Parlour which clearly indicate the building's early origins, but a full understanding of its development is far from possible given the evidence presently available. There are sound historical grounds for there being an early building on the site: its association with the prominent Tempest family up to the 17th century; its location next to the former Bracewell Hall, thought to be of 16th century date; and the tradition linking the present building with Henry VI in the mid 15th century. Several structural aspects of the building are also clearly late medieval or very early post-medieval, including the thickness of the walls, the form of some of the openings, and the roof. The two ornate windows are highly significant, particularly that in the south-

west gable which bears two carved heads, a feature more commonly found on churches, and although both windows are in poor condition and have been altered, essentially they appear to belong to the building, rather than having been introduced at a later date. The forms of these openings suggest they belong to the Perpendicular period, so are unlikely to be later than around 1530. Another good indicator of date is the roof structure, believed to be contemporary with the building's original walls as the ridge bracing is intact, which would probably not be the case if the trusses were re-used. The king-post roof truss appeared during the late medieval period, in modern West Yorkshire after 1450, where by the end of that century it had become largely standard in houses both of the gentry and yeomanry (RCHME/WYMCC 1986, 21); it seems to have been favoured in part because of its ability to support heavy stone slate roofs. The steep pitch of the roof at Bracewell can probably be attributed to its early date, as can the moulded tie-beams which are a significant feature of the roof.

- 7.2 The difficulty in understanding the relationship of the extant remains with other, demolished structures means the role of the present building within the site cannot be ascertained, but given the superior features, specifically the windows and moulded tie-beams, it is clear that it was of relatively high status, rather than intended for a service function. The south-west end of the present building certainly contained an upper floor, and probably the remainder of the building too (although evidence for it is less clear); possible functions include a solar or chamber, but the absence of evidence for any partitions or divisions at first floor level, and the common treatment of the tie-beams, suggests the first floor was a single, large room open to the roof, possibly a hall, but as no indubitable evidence for heating has been identified this is far from certain.
- 7.3 Further investigations during any development of the building or alterations to it may reveal hitherto unidentified features or remains which contribute to an understanding of the building and the wider site. The scope of such investigations will depend in part on the potential impact of any proposals but might include dendrochronological analysis of the roof structure, recording of masonry, and monitoring of any excavations.

## 8 References

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