

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeological Services WYAS undertook building recording at Langold Stables, Langold Farm, Letwell. The survey was conducted on behalf of Justin Lewis, Lewis Holdings Limited.
- 1.2 The building recording work is based on a brief (Appendix 1) prepared by Peter Thornborrow, Conservation and Urban Design Officer, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, on behalf of the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service.
- 1.3 The archaeological building recording was carried out in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the farm buildings into residential dwellings. The record is required as a condition of planning approval. Planning application RB2005/478 and RB2005/479.
- 1.4 The farm complex is situated in South Yorkshire approximately 1.0km to the south-west of Langold village (Figure 1). The remaining farm buildings lie to the south of Barker Hades Road which joins Letwell village to the west and Langold to the east (Figure 2). The buildings are centred on Grid Reference SK 572 864.

2. Methodology

- 2.1 The building survey and photographic record took place over a two day period on the 8th and 9th August 2006. Access to most of the farm buildings was available. However, some first-floor areas and stairs were in a hazardous condition.
- 2.2 Weather conditions on the survey days were good for the exterior general photography.
- 2.3 Photographic record. A medium format (Mamiya 645) camera was used to record in general and in detail, the exterior and interior of the farm buildings and the surrounding environment. The photographic survey was made with black and white film for archival stability. The photographic record was supplemented with colour transparencies.
- 2.4 Rectified photographs were taken of the external elevations of the stable range and were printed to an appropriate scale.

- 2.5 Existing plans produced by Haycock and Todd Surveyors were used as a base for the drawn record of the buildings. The plans were supplemented with archaeological detail and measurements taken with a Leica reflectorless electronic distance meter. Notes were also made on site relating to the form and function of the buildings.
- 2.6 The site survey information was processed in the offices of Archaeological Services WYAS according to the brief for archaeological building recording. Plans and sections were produced to the required scales.
- 2.7 Additional recording was undertaken by the developers on the first-floor room to the south of the west wing of the stables. The recording work was requested by Peter Thornborrow, Conservation and Urban Design Officer. The above room was stripped out and photographed. The results are bound into the rear of the photographs appendix.

3. Construction Sequence and Building Use

- 3.1 The southern range of buildings is U-shaped with a barn to the north and stable wings to the east and west (Figure 3). The buildings are a fine example of the Palladian Revival style of architecture and date from the mid-18th century. The barn to the north has a substantial central semi-circular arched cart entrance with a former threshing floor below. The entrance jambs retain the thresholds (Photograph 87). The barn also formerly housed stables and a granary floor (Photograph 84). Little further original detail survived, the floor was a 20th-century concrete insertion and former dividing walls within the barn had been demolished (Photographs 83 and 88).
- 3.2 The stable wings to the east and west of the barn retain cart entrances and evidence of cart entrances in the south elevations of the west and east wings respectively (Photographs 58 and 59). The wings also retained evidence of stabling, accommodation and a tack room (Figure 3).
- 3.3 The east wing, although altered from its original form, retains evidence of stabling to the north of the wing (Photographs 97 and 99). A tack room (Photograph 104) is situated to the north of the central yard entrance. The southern part of the wing formerly housed cart/coach entrances, which were blocked in the 19th century. The south of the wing, was altered to form a dedicated cottage (Photographs 58 and 110). The first floor of the cottage has a wall division, which interrupts an 18th-century fireplace (Figure 5), showing the

upper floor was used for accommodation in the mid to-late 18th century (Photographs 117 and 119).

- 3.4 The west wing retains the cart/coach entrances in the south elevation and unlike the east wing these remain open (Photograph 59). Above is an inserted dovecote with timber-built nesting boxes dating from the early 20th century (Photograph 121). The room was originally heated, showing its former use, again like the east wing first floor was as labourers accommodation (Figure 4). The north of the west wing was again like the east wing used for stabling. To the north of the cart entrances are two inserted cart entrances in the east elevation. The original use of the three-bay space was as stabling. This is indicated by the walls which retain the positions of former stalls and feeding racks (Photograph 71). The floor has the original stone setts and a drainage channel to aid mucking out (Photograph 74).
- 3.5 The north range of buildings was built onto the north of the barn in the 19th century. The buildings are single storey and L-shaped with north and west linear wings. A wall to the east forms an enclosed yard. The yard is covered with a concrete raft and was formerly covered by 20th-century sheds. These are now demolished (Figure 6).
- 3.6 The north range is divided into two by a central cart entrance to the yard (Photograph 1). Each building has six bays and were originally open fronted to the north. The original use of the buildings was probably as cart/machinery sheds. Some original timber posts survive in both of the sheds; these define the extent of the former openings into the sheds (Photograph 143). The entrances are now blocked with 20th-century brick and blockwork (Photograph 2). Both the north and south elevations have inserted doors and windows (Photograph 5).
- 3.7 The interiors of the sheds retain little original detail, however, the western part of the north range has some surviving 19th-century stone setts and 19th-century king-post roof trusses (Photograph 141). No internal divisions were apparent; presently the sheds are used for storage (Figure 6).
- 3.8 The western range opens into the yard and has a large central blocked door and seven segmental arched former openings into the linear shed (Figure 6). Only one of the entrances remains open. The remainder are blocked and have inserted windows, dating from the early 20th century (Photograph 12). The building was originally in use as a combined shelter and cart shed.

- 3.9 The interior retains little original detail but like the north range, the 19th-century king-post roof trusses survive (Photograph 137). The floor is a modern concrete raft and obscures all detail (Photograph 138).

4. Architectural Design and History

- 4.1 The southern range of buildings is a fine example of Palladian Revival architecture. Andrea Palladio was a 16th-century Italian architect whose work was influenced by classical ideas. The Palladian Revival was popular in the early to mid-18th century.
- 4.2 The south range clearly shows the classical influences within the structure of the buildings. The east elevation of the east wing formerly faced the house and was regarded as the most important. There is a central semi-circular arched entrance with deeply rusticated stone and a raised and dropped plain keystone. Above is a pediment formed from the deeply projecting cornice, with a *cyma recta* moulding above a plain frieze (Photograph 23). The entrance is flanked by two shallow recesses to either side which form a semi-circular arch at first floor height. The arches match and complement the central entrance arch. Each of the recesses has a first-floor window (Photographs 24 and 28). The elevation also has a plain projecting string course which defines the springing of each arch. The roof is hipped with pyramidal ends (Photograph 20). The elevation achieves a symmetrical effect. The design and quality of the southern range of buildings would have enhanced the status of the former house within the countryside at Letwell.
- 4.3 The courtyard elevations follow the same pattern as the east elevation with the deeply projecting cornice and pediments above the entrances. Each has a Diocletian window (Photographs 41, 43 and 48). The first-floor windows are square and reflect the ground-floor doors and windows (Photograph 50). Although the yard elevations are intended as show elevations they do not have the same degree of symmetry as the east elevation of the east wing. However, the cornice, raised keystones and string course are the same as the east elevation (Photographs 43 and 49). The roofs are again hipped and have pyramidal ends (Figure 7).
- 4.4 The north range of buildings is intended to be purely functional. The only form of decoration is a dressed raised keystone to the former openings in the east

elevation of the west wing (Photograph 13). The entrances are wide with segmental arched heads, these are ideal as both a cart and animal entrances.

5. Analysis and Discussion

- 5.1 The south range of farm buildings at Langold Farm consists of a barn with flanking stable wings (Figures 7 and 8). This group of buildings are a fine example of Palladian Revival architecture, which found popularity in the buildings of mansions and country houses in the early to mid-18th century. The design of the buildings draws on classical influences from a triumphal arched entrance to pyramidal hipped roofs and pediments with deep cornices. The level of design and decoration on the elevations that are intended for viewing is of a high standard. The west elevation of the west wing, the only elevation not intended for show, is plain in comparison, with only the plain string course continuing from the show elevations. Only the scar of a former attached building survives to the south of the west elevation of the west wing stables (Figure 9).
- 5.2 The group of farm buildings at Langold which include the barn, stables, coach/cart houses and workers accommodation are high status. This is illustrated in the level of decoration to the buildings. The stables and barn are a reflection of the former house at Langold which was demolished in the early 19th century.
- 5.3 The house and stables (Figure 10) were a dominant feature in the mid to late 18th century and early 19th-century countryside around Langold and Letwell. The surrounding land is still devoted to farming, a role unchanged from the early days of Langold Farm. The substantial size of the barn and stabling indicates that Langolds played a significant role within the farming environment.
- 5.4 Also surviving at Langolds is an 18th-century walled garden, a cottage (Photograph 65) and, like the barn and stables, a Palladian inspired pavilion designed to complement the farm buildings (Photograph 66). The presence of these estate buildings and the walled garden adds to the importance and status of Langolds. This again emphasises Langolds dominance in the surrounding countryside (Figure 11).
- 5.5 The substantial size of the barn at over 27m by 6m up to an original 7.5m to tie-beam height gives a vast amount of space for the storage and processing of crops. The opposing doors and the surviving thresholds (Photograph 87; Figure 12) show that the process of hand threshing took place within the barn. Hand threshing was common up to the mid-19th century. This was carried out on the

threshing floor in between the large entrances (Photograph 88). The size of the barn also allows some stabling use (Figure 13), together with crop processing and storage.

- 5.6 The stable wings with coach/cart entrances and rooms for accommodation are again a substantial size. Each of the east and west wings is over 32m by 6m approximately and has a first floor (Figure 14). The wings retain evidence of a large amount of former stabling (Figure 10), giving substance to their dual service both to the household and the farm. The original first-floor accommodation in both wings probably housed farm labourers and grooms to the household. The entrances in the south elevations of the wings also allow a dual farm/household use as cart sheds and coach house. When the house fell from use in the 19th century the need for coach accommodation and stabling lessened, consequently the south of the east wing was turned exclusively to accommodation and part of the west wing was changed from stabling to cart sheds (Photograph 71).
- 5.7 The nature of the mid-18th-century south range of buildings at Langolds implies the farm was originally devoted to arable/crop production. There was no evidence of livestock/shelter sheds. However, the 19th-century north range did retain evidence of former animal shelter sheds showing a partial change of use in the 19th century to a combined arable and livestock farm.

6. Acknowledgements

6.1 *Photographic Survey/Captions*

P. Gwilliam

Building Survey

J. Prudhoe

M. Chisnall

Illustrations

M. Chisnall

P. Gwilliam

Report

J. Prudhoe

7. Bibliography

Brunskill, R. W., 1971, *Illustrated Handbook of Vernacular Architecture*

Lee, R., 2005, *Historical Appraisal and Proposals for Repair, Alteration and Conversion*

Appendix 1
Brief for Archaeological Building Recording

Appendix 2:
Photographic Register

Appendix 3:
Photographs