Archaeological building investigation and recording and archaeological watching brief at

Church Farm Church Lane Whittington Worcester WR5 2RQ

Martin Cook BA MCIfA

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Sundowner Circus Field Basin Stocklake Aylesbury HP20 1AP

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Contents

Introduction

Summary

The documentary material

Historic mapping

The Worcestershire Historic Environment Record

Trade directories

Commentary on historic sources

The fieldwork

General

Description - the building recording

Description - the building recording

The finds

Description

Interpretation

Interpretation

General

The layout of the farmstead

Relationship of the house to the farmyard

The cow shed

Loose boxes

Feed preparation and storage rooms

Mangers and racks

The stalls and floor

Ventilation and lofts

Pig sties and piggeries

Granaries

Oast houses or hop-drying kilns

Bibliography

Acknowledgements

Archive

List of the illustrations

Fig 1:	Location plan
Fig 2.1:	Whittington tithe map 1842
Fig 2.2:	Ordnance Survey historic mapping
Fig 3.1:	Ground floor
Fig 3.2:	First floor
Fig 3.3:	North-east elevation
Fig 3.4:	North-west elevation
Fig 3.5:	South-east elevation
Fig 3.6:	South-west elevation
Fig 3.7:	Location of watching brief and recorded features
Fig 3.8:	Typical section of deposits
Fig 3.9:	Truss designs in the cow shed
Fig 3.10:	Truss design in the oast house
Fig 4:	North-east elevation
Fig 5:	North-west elevation
Fig 6:	South-west elevation
Fig 7:	South-east elevation
Fig 8:	Phase 4 oast house, first floor, hop drying floor; showing wooden panelling
C	around lower part of walls
Fig 9:	Phase 4 oast house, first floor, hop sorting and bagging floor; showing upper part
Ç	of hop press
Fig 10:	Phase 4 oast house, first floor, hop drying floor; showing groove for removable
C	boards to contain drying hops
Fig 11:	Phase 4 oast house, first floor, hop sorting and bagging floor; hop press showing
Ç	detail of operating wheel and latch
Fig 12:	Phase 4 oast house, first floor, hop sorting and bagging floor; hop press showing
8	detail of maker's plate – 'J L Larkworthy and Co Worcester
Fig 13:	Phase 4 oast house, common rafter roof with mid-height purlins and 'scissor'
8	braces clasping a 'collar' brace between them
Fig 14:	Phase 4 oast house, first floor, hop sorting and bagging floor; showing stair to hop
8	drying floor
Fig 15:	Phase 1 hay loft
Fig 16:	Phase 1 hay loft showing closed truss with wattle and daub panels
Fig 17:	Phase 1 hay loft showing feeding opening in floor
Fig 18:	Phase 4 oast house; ground floor showing lower part of hop press
Fig 19:	Phase 4 oast house; ground floor showing lower part of hop press
Fig 20:	Phase 4 oast house; ground floor showing lower part of hop press
Fig 21:	Phase 4 oast house; ground floor showing arrangement of hop pocket hole
Fig 22:	Phase 1 cow shed; ground floor, part of cow shed showing brick manger with
8	wooden fittings
Fig 23:	Phase 1 cow shed; ground floor, part of cow shed showing restraining bar and
8	chain
Fig 24:	Phase 1 cow shed; general view of compartment
Fig 25:	Phase 1 cow shed; general view of compartment
Fig 26:	Phase 1 cow shed; view of hay rack and manger
Fig 27:	Phase 1 cow shed; view of hay rack and manger
Fig 28:	Phase 1 cow shed; ladder access to hayloft
Fig 29:	Harness hook improvised from forked branch
Fig 30:	Phase 2 outshut; general view of compartment
Fig 31:	Roughly fashioned harness hooks
Fig 32:	Small hay racks and mangers
Fig 33:	Phase 1 cow shed; cobbled floor surface
Fig 34:	Phase 1 cow shed; grooves for wattle and daub
Fig 35:	Phase 1 cow shed; general view of compartment
Fig 36:	Phase 2 outshut; general view of compartment
Fig 37:	Phase 5 outshut; general view of compartment
0 - / .	

Phase 3 outshut; general view of compartment

Stone setts

Fig 38: Fig 39: Fig 40: Fig 41: Fig 42: Fig 43: Pully wheel for shaft drive Staddle stone and cap

Ceramic finds

Process flow in the oast house

Archaeological building investigation and recording and archaeological watching brief at Church Farm, Church Lane, Whittington, Worcester, WR5 2RO

Introduction

Historic building recording of Church Farm, Church Lane, Whittington, Worcester, WR5 2RQ (SO 87668 52873), and a watching brief on site stripping was undertaken at the request of Mr Lee Patrick. This was done according to a written scheme of investigation provided by Martin Cook BA MCIfA, based upon a brief from Adrian Scruby of Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service (dated November 2016; planning ref 17/02436/FUL). The written scheme of investigation was approved by Adrian Scruby. However, before the project took place, responsibility for specifying and monitoring archaeological work in Wychavon became the responsibility of Aidan Smyth, Archaeology and Planning Advisor, of Wychavon District Council and the WSI was modified to take account of this change. The revised WSI was subsequently approved by Aidan Smyth.

The project was undertaken to level three standard, in advance of and during the refurbishment of the property.

Summary

Historic building recording and a watching brief was undertaken at Church Farm, Church Lane, Whittington, Worcester, WR5 2RQ. The building recording demonstrated that a building described as a 'barn' in the Historic Environment Record was in fact a cow shed, originally of timber-frame and wattle and daub construction. Various small extensions, some of which were pig sties, were added to this building before an oast house was constructed near its north-east end. The oast house is remarkable for having a surviving hop packing press, which appears to be substantially, if not completely, intact.

The watching brief took place on the site of a demolished farm building which formed one side of an enclosed farmyard, and fragmentary remains of this building were found. Other deposits included a road-side boundary ditch.

The documentary material

Documentary research at the Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service took place on the 8th August 2018 and a search of the Historic Environment Record was received on the 23rd April 2018.

Historic mapping

The earliest available map was the Whittington tithe map of 1842 (Fig 2.1). This shows the cow shed and a small extension on its south-west end. These two buildings form one side of a 'U' shaped farmyard fronting the road. Immediately to the south-west is a large oval pond to which access seems to have been maintained by a narrow gap between the cow shed and the farmhouse, which forms the south-west side of the farmyard. The Ordnance Survey map of 1885 shows a small extension on the south-east side of the cow shed and the farmyard almost completed enclosed, with the addition of two more buildings on the road frontage. The small extension shown on the tithe map of 1842 appears to be a pair of pig sties, as they are shown on the later map with attached walled enclosures. The later map also shows a wall separating the farmhouse from the farmyard. The Ordnance Survey map of 1904 shows that the walled enclosures associated with the pair of pig sties have gone and a larger enclosure has been added to the southern corner of the cow shed. What are apparently three pig sties have been added to the south-east side of the cow shed. Further buildings have been added to complete the enclosure of the farmyard. The Ordnance Survey map of 1904 is the last available map and by this time the oast house had not been built.

The Worcestershire Historic Environment Record Geology and topography

The site lies within an area of low rolling topography based on mudstone geology with clay soils. The historic landscape character is that of field reorganisation with some piecemeal enclosure to the north with the clustered settlement of Whittington and its modern expansion forming the focus of the search area. The A4440 and M5 run through the area which has had an impact on the historic character of the area. Crookbarrow Hill which is just outside the boundary of the search area forms a dominant feature within the landscape.

The site itself

Buildings

WSM 27865 - Barn and hop kiln

Early 19th century, four-bay barn and hop kiln. Timber frame and brick, with tile and slate roofs. Visible on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey and the 1842 tithe map. The 1999 aerial coverage shows the cowl still in place.

WSM 51839, WSM 59489 and WSM 80315 - Church Farm, Whittington

Farm buildings at Church Farm which is a partially extant 17th century listed farmstead with unconverted buildings. It comprises a loose courtyard with three sides of the courtyard formed by working agricultural buildings with the farmhouse on the fourth side. There has been a partial loss (less than 50%) of traditional buildings. Located within or in association to a village. Hop kiln located within the farmstead. Large modern sheds are located to the side of the site.

Farmhouse - 17th century. Timber framed, later brick, tile roof. Working building(s): 19th century (?). Brick, tile roof. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map records a later agricultural building butting the farmhouse. This building is not recorded on the 1842 tithe. The farm appears to have developed in a more piecemeal fashion, although this requires verification.

WSM 50135 - Church Farmhouse, Whittington

Long painted 18th century brick building of one storey and attic with 17th century timber frame cross wing with close set studding. Casement windows and tile roof.

Historic landscape characterisation HWR 13538 - Clustered settlement

In the near vicinity of the site

Buildings

WSM 00965 - St Philip and St James, Church Lane, Whittington

Grade II listed Sandstone church of 1842 by A Perkins. On site of medieval church. Chalk, rock faced. Nave, chancel and thin stone bell turret. Lancet windows, box pews. On site of ancient chapel. Small Western tower, nave, Southern porch and chancel. Coursed rubble with sandstone dressings in 13th century style. Advowson - started as a chapel to St Helens, then went to Pershore Abbey, with St Peters. Medieval chapel pictured in 1784 (HWRO) and 1842 (in possession of church of 14th to 15th century). Both show a two-celled timber framed building with bellcote above the west end. Several monuments moved from old church on its demolition. Medieval floor slabs seem to have been replaced on/near their original position on central isle of nave, which suggests that the present church occupies a similar footprint to the medieval chapel.

The Church of St Philip and St James, Whittington, of 1842-44 is listed at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

- Historic interest: the building represents very well the period of transformation between the 18th and early 19th century type of church, with box pews and gallery, and the type of church, advocated by the Cambridge Camden Society, with archaeologically-ordered chancel, complete with furnishings;
- Intactness: the building has lost little of its original fabric from the time that it was completed in 1844. The few alterations, such as the insertion of the organ to the gallery, the north-western vestry and the moving of the altar have all been achieved with minimal

disturbance to the original fabric;

 Architectural interest: an essentially modest building, which was carefully designed by Abraham Perkins, a noted local architect who became surveyor to the fabric of Worcester Cathedral, to reflect the previous parish church on the site.

History:

The church is believed to stand on an ancient site, and the present building appears to have been built on the foundations of an earlier church which also had a nave and chancel. A watercolour in the present church shows this to have had a timber framed body, with south porch and clap-boarded bellcote at the western end. The present church was designed by Abraham Perkins and built 1842-1844. It appears to contain parts of the flooring of the former church. The north-west vestry was added by Yeates and Jones in 1890. An organ by Nicholson was also added to the gallery in the later 19th century. In 1996-7 the eastern end was re-ordered and the altar was moved forward from the east wall of the chancel and some of the seating re-arranged

WSM 67091 - Whittington War Memorial Lychgate, Whittington

A churchyard lych gate, of c. 1920, erected as a memorial to the fallen in the First World War; the gate is of carved oak with a plain tiled roof and limestone flank walls to its lower body.

WSM 00967 - Whittington Lodge, Church Lane, Whitttington

Early 19th century. Regency character. Stucco. 'L' shaped. Two storeys. Shorter wing on north had curved three light end with cast iron verandah. Inner face of this wing has curved Roman Doric tetra style cornice hood porch. South wing has short verandah windows have generally lost their glazing bars. Quoins on all angles. Parapet. Hipped slate roof.

WSM 44785 - 1-6 Church Terrace, Whittington

Unlisted mid 19th century terrace of back to back housing. Allegedly this building first appears on the 1871 census. It consists of six cottages with diaper pattern brickwork with iron frame windows. It has a well, now capped. Each cottage had a privy and a coal house, but they shared a communal washhouse.

Monuments

WSM 58288 - Ridge and furrow, south of Church Farm, Whittington

WSM 09463 - Ridge and Furrow, east of church, Whittington

Aligned south-west to north-east, ridge and furrow as earthwork, narrow ridge to south of road.

WSM 69543 - Ridge and furrow earthworks in the churchyard at St Philip and St James, Whittington

Trade directories

Kelly's Directory of Worcestershire 1868

Two farmers are listed in Whittington:

Grooves, George, Crookbarrow Farm, which is at the foot of Crookbarrow Hill, to the south-west of Whittington and Mrs Ann Page, at an unspecified location

John Lavington Larkworthy and Co, listed under mechanical engineers, Lowesmoor iron works

Kelly's Directory of Worcestershire 1884

no reference to Church Farm but there is a Chapel Farm - However, this could relate to a different farm about 900ft, 275m, to the north of Church Farm, which is adjacent to Chapelry House Hillery, William, farmer

John Lavington Larkworthy and Co, listed under mechanical engineers, Lowesmoor iron works

Kelly's Directory of Worcestershire 1892

no reference to Church Farm but there is a Chapel Farm -

Hillery, William, farmer

John Lavington Larkworthy and Co, listed under mechanical engineers, Lowesmoor iron works

Kelly's Directory of Worcestershire 1900

no reference to Church Farm but there is a Chapel Farm -

Hillery, William, farmer

John Lavington Larkworthy and Co, agricultural engineers, between Lion Walk and Barber, Henry, turncock Catholic Schools at no 15

Kelly's Directory of Worcestershire 1908

no reference to Church Farm but there is a Chapel Farm -

Hillery, Louisa (Mrs), farmer.

J L Larkworthy and Co, agricultural engineers, between Lion Walk and Barber, Henry, turncock Catholic Schools at no 15

Kelly's Directory of Worcestershire 1912

Church Farm - Hill, William, farmer

J L Larkworthy and Co, agricultural engineers, between Lion Walk and the National Holy Trinity School

Kelly's Directory of Worcestershire 1916

Church Farm - Hill, William, farmer

J L Larkworthy and Co, agricultural engineers, between Lion Walk and the National Holy Trinity School

Kelly's Directory of Worcestershire 1928

Church Farm - Tanner, Jr, farmer

J L Larkworthy and Co, Ltd, agricultural implement makers, Sansome Place

Kelly's Directory of Worcester and neighbourhood 1937

J L Larkworthy and Co, Ltd, agricultural engineers (Lowesmoor iron works) Sansome Place, north side, adjacent number 50

Kelly's Directory of Worcestershire 1940

Church Farm - Tanner Jr farmer; farm marked as being over 150 acres

Larkworthy does not appear in this directory

Worcester Directory 1955-1956

J B Tanner, Church Farm, Whittington

Commentary on historic sources

The Historic Environment Record (WSM 27865) refers to an early 19th century, four-bay barn and hop kiln. It is clear from the historic mapping that the 'barn' predates 1842 but the hop kiln post-dates the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1904. The building recording (see below) shows that the 'barn' is in fact a cow shed with a hay loft.

The first available trade directory to mention Church Farm is the 1912 edition of *Kelly's Directory of Worcestershire*, which lists William Hill, as the occupier. The farm clearly has much earlier origins but may have been called something else. The 1908 edition of *Kelly's Directory of Worcestershire* lists a Chapel Farm. The church of St Philip and St James, which gives its name to Church Farm, is built on the site of an ancient chapel (WSM 00965) but it is also possible that 'Chapel Farm' refers to another establishment, some 275m to the north of Church Farm, which is adjacent to Chapelry House.

The firm of John Lavington Larkworthy and Co, whose plaque appears on the hop press, are listed as mechanical engineers in the 1868 edition of *Kelly's Directory of Worcestershire*. They were based at the Lowesmoor Iron Works in Sansome Place, Worcester and remained there until around the outbreak of the Second World War. The last available trade directory to list them is the 1937 edition of *Kelly's Directory of Worcester and neighbourhood* which describes them as agricultural engineers.

The fieldwork

General

Fieldwork took place on the 3rd and 4th September 2018. The building recording comprised a walk-over survey of the building with 'as existing' architect's plans and elevations. The plans and elevations were annotated with historic information relating to the construction and sequence of development of the building with photographs taken as appropriate (Figs 3.1 to 3.6 inclusive; Figs 3.9 to 39 inclusive and Fig 43). The watching brief followed the progress of the site strip from the boundary with the public highway to the north-east side of the recorded building (Figs 3.7, 3.8 and 40 to 42 inclusive).

Description - the building recording

Phase 1: timber frame and wattle and daub cow shed - pre 1842

This is a rectangular building with all its original openings facing the farm yard to the north-west (Fig 3.1). There were no original openings in its north-east, south-east or south-west elevations. All the openings are small in size, being typical farm-sized windows and doors, and there is no evidence for an opening in either the north-west or south-east elevations for openings suitable for the entry of a cart or wagon. These facts alone make it unlikely that it was ever a barn.

It was originally, solely of timber-frame construction, which remains visible in a few places on all its elevations (Figs 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 4, 5, 6 and 7) with wattle and daub infill to the panels. The wattle and daub infill survives in a number of panels in one of the roof trusses (truss 3; Figs 3.2, 3.9 and 16). Elsewhere, the former presence of wattle and daub is evidenced by grooves in the posts, braces and rails of the surviving timber frame (Fig 34).

The building comprises four bays, at ground and first floor level (Figs 3.1 and 3.2). At ground level, the two bays to the north-east have independent entrances, and the two bays to the south-west share one entrance between them. The windows, now partially glazed, are small and were originally simply slatted with wooden sliding shutters.

The original flooring seems to have been a mixture of stone cobbles, stone setts and stone flags. Three drainage gullies were provided, transversely across the building, exiting at each of the doors (Fig 3.1 and 33). Fixtures and fittings, principally, comprised mangers and hay racks, originally also running transversely across the building, on both ends of each bay (Figs 3.1, 22, 26 and 27). Subsequently, some reordering of this arrangement was undertaken, with the bays being sub-divided into several, separate, smaller compartments, the hay racks and mangers being rearranged accordingly. Other fittings included bars and chains to enable the animals to be secured but still be able to reach their food (Figs 3.1 and 23) and somewhat improvised harness hooks (Figs 29 and 31).

A vertical ladder, fixed against the wall, (Figs 3.1 and 28) gave internal access to a hayloft on the first floor. Two doors at first floor level (Figs 3.4 and 5) gave external access to the hayloft and provided the facility of 'pitching holes'. No access was possible to bays 1 and 2 (Fig 3.2) but bays 3 and 4 had the facility of allowing the filling of the hay racks directly from the hayloft (Figs 3.2 and 17).

There are three roof trusses visible in the hayloft (Figs 3.2, 3.9, 15 and 16). Two of these, trusses 2 and 3 appear to be original and comprise two principal rafters, a tie beam and a ridge beam (Fig 3.9). Common rafters are carried on four purlins, two on each side. These trusses are 'closed', having posts and rails set within them and, originally, filled with wattle and daub. Truss 1 (Fig 3.9) appears to be a later replacement but close inspection was not possible.

Phase 2: construction of outshut - pre 1842

A two cell outshut was constructed in brick against the south-west elevation of the phase 1 structure (Figs 3.1, 3.6, 6 and 36). It was recognisably Flemish garden wall bond, although it was somewhat irregular. The two cells were floored with stone flags and brick setts respectively. There were no internal fixtures and fittings.

Phase 3: construction of outshut - between 1842 and 1885

A single cell outshut was constructed in brick against the south-east elevation of the phase 1 structure (Figs 3.1, 3.5, 7 and 30 and 31). It was constructed in Flemish garden wall bond, had a door at a high level in its south-east elevation and had an earthen floor. The timber frame of the phase 1 building was cut through to provide access to it. There was an irregularly shaped hole in the wall of the phase 1 building at hayloft level (Fig 3.2).

Phase 4: construction of outshut - between 1885 and 1904

A two cell outshut was constructed in brick against the south-east elevation of the phase 1 structure (Figs 3.1, 7 and 38). It was constructed in an irregular bond, mostly stretcher, and originally had a low wall around its south-east side (Fig 3.1).

Phase 5: construction of walled enclosure associated with blocked opening in phase 2 structure - between 1885 and 1904

A walled enclosure was built in stretcher bond at the south corner of the phase 1 building and between the phase 2 and phase 3 structures (Fig 3.1, 3.5, 3.6, 6 and 7). At the same time, an opening was made in the south-east wall of the phase 2 building to connect with it.

Phase 6: construction of oast house, under-building of phase 1 structure and replacement of wattle and daub panels in brick - post 1904

A substantial brick building in Flemish bond was constructed at the north-east end of the south-east elevation of the phase 1 building (Figs 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 4, 6 and 7). This was of two stories and each storey had two main compartments. On the ground floor (Fig 3.1) there was a combustion chamber with an open hearth and a steel, guillotine door and a circulating area for the ingress of raw materials and the egress of the finished product. At its north-west end there was the lower part of a hop press (Figs 3.1, 18, 19 and 20). On the first floor, above the hearth (Figs 3.2 and 8), was a drying floor. It was not possible to closely examine the example at Church Farm but, typically, these floors were generally formed of 11/4 inch (32mm) square battens nailed at right angles across the joists, placed so that there was a similar gap between each batten, and then covered with a horsehair cloth. The walls of the drying chamber were lined with wooden panelling (Fig 8) and there was a pair of grooves in the lower part of the entrance doorway (Figs 3.2 and 10) for the insertion of a removable board or boards to retain the drying hops. There was a circulation area for the movement of the fresh hops to the drying floor and for the dried hops to the hop press (Figs 3.2 and 14). At the north-west end of the first floor there was the upper part of the hop press (Figs 3.2, 9 and 11). This included a maker's name plate with J L Larkworthy & Co Worcester cast upon it (Fig 12). The upper of the hop press sat above the hop pocket hole (Fig 21).

The roof of this building was supported by 'scissor' trusses, which supported two purlins, one each side (Figs 3.10 and 13).

Phase 7: roofing of phase 5 structure and blocking of opening from phase 2 structure - post 1904. The phase 5 walled enclosure was raised and roofed over (Figs 3.5, 6, 7 and 37). At this time the opening in the south-east wall of the phase 2 building was blocked.

Description - the watching brief

General

The watching brief, which comprised monitoring of the excavations, took place, in the main, over an area to the north of the recorded buildings (Fig 3.7). This area is intended to provide vehicular access to the converted buildings. A broad area was therefore uncovered at a depth propitious for the exposure of archaeological deposits. A full description of the contexts is given in Appendix 1. Contexts are described in summary form below.

The watching brief

It soon became apparent that the area had been extensively disturbed in the past with a very thin topsoil which was integral with a layer of demolition rubble (context 001). A typical section was drawn (Fig 3.8). Context 001 overlay two surviving features.

On the north-west boundary of the site was a linear, rectangular fill (context 003) of light grey slightly clayey sand. No excavation took place through this deposit but it may reasonably be presumed to be a highway/property boundary ditch (context 004) dating to the enclosure of the parish. The centreline of this feature lay at a distance of approximately 31 feet from the estimated centreline of the highway boundary hedge opposite.

Public roads through enclosed common land were made to an accepted width between boundaries. In the late eighteenth century this was at least 60 feet, but from the 1790s this was decreased to 40 feet, and later 30 feet as the normal maximum width. The road width might also decrease where it entered an existing village, where buildings and other features imposed constraints upon it, and this may be the reason for the somewhat narrow width seen adjacent to Church Farm, where St James's Church and its grounds would have presented an insurmountable obstacle.

A fragmentary, linear stone alignment was recorded (context 006). It was clear from an early stage that this was the remains of a building which defined the north-east edge of the farmyard, is shown on all the available historic maps (Figs 2.1 and 2.2) and is noted in the Historic Environment Record (WSM 80315).

Both of these features were cut into the natural subsoil, a mid reddy orange sandy clay (context 002).

A further feature was recorded on the opposite side of the farmyard and this was an area of stone setts between the cow shed and the farmhouse (Figs 3.7 and 39; context 005).

In a previous section (**Historic mapping**), it was noted that immediately to the south-west of the farmyard was a large oval pond to which access seemed to have been maintained by a narrow gap between the cow shed and the farmhouse. It is thought that this was used as a means of providing a source of drinking water for animals loose in the farmyard and elsewhere. There is a significant difference in height between the level of the farmyard and the (now vanished) pond and a properly made-up surface would have been necessary to prevent the area from becoming a quagmire, with the constant passing and re-passing of animals.

The finds

A summary of the finds report is given below. The full finds report can be found in Appendix 2. All the finds came from the topsoil, context 001.

Description

Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem date* was produced for each stratified context. All information was recorded on a pro forma Microsoft Access 2007 database.

The pottery was examined under x20 magnification and referenced as appropriate by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology (Hurst and Rees 1992 and www.worcestershireceramics.org).

Results

The assemblage recovered from the site totalled 10 finds weighing 274g (see Appendix 2, Table 1 and Fig 42). All material came from the topsoil (context 001) and was modern in date. Level of preservation was good, with finds displaying low levels of surface abrasion and a notably higher than average pottery sherd weight of 23.4g, all suggesting relatively little disturbance since deposition.

Interpretation

All finds were connected to porcelain production at nearby Royal Worcester. Finds included six biscuit-fired sherds (fabric 83.1), including pieces from bowl and plate forms, three small glazed

fragments, thought to be chemical porcelain (fabric 83.1) and a piece of sagger (kiln furniture). All could be dated from the 19th century onwards.

Significance

Porcelain waste from Royal Worcester is commonplace in agricultural areas bordering the city, as the works provided a ready supply of sherds for a variety of uses, such as soil improver or hardcore.

Interpretation

General

The work of Peters in Staffordshire (1969) has been drawn upon heavily in this section for comparative material. His studies of post-medieval, lowland, farmsteads resulted in a classification of the common buildings to be found on such establishments. This classification is, currently, unavailable for other parts of the country and forms a valuable basis upon which to draw comparisons. This is particularly true for Worcestershire since, before the creation of the City of Birmingham, this county shared not only a boundary with Staffordshire but is also similar topographically.

The layout of the farmstead

There were two reasons for which the overall plan of the farmstead was considered important, both connected with the farm yard (Peters 1969). The first concerned the provision of shelter for the cattle. Some contemporary pundits advocated arranging the buildings to shelter one or more yards, 'that the cattle may be totally secure from the wind' For this purpose most writers from 1790 onwards advocated a 'U' plan for the farmstead and this is the arrangement seen at Church Farm. The second concerned the collection of manure which was usually done in the farm yard. Presumably to facilitate its collection into only one heap it was generally felt that the yard should be central to the stables and cow houses. Taking into account the demolished building, this was clearly the case at Church Farm.

Most early writers considered that too little attention was paid to the overall design of the farmstead - buildings being 'scattered about' and often laid out in a 'straggling and confused' manner. This scattered arrangement was not generally replaced by a more sensible and economical grouping of buildings until after 1815. The 'U' plan, as seen at Church Farm, was first seen in Staffordshire in 1762 (Peters 1969), but it is the only example known there before the late 18th century, there being, in general, insufficient buildings before then to justify so extensive a layout and it is notable, in the case of Church Farm, that the historic mapping suggests that the fully enclosed arrangement was arrived at over a period of time.

Relationship of the house to the farmyard

There was a considerable degree of unanimity amongst the agricultural writers on this theme. It was generally agreed that the house should be so placed that it could overlook the yard, onto which all the buildings were to open and this was the case at Church Farm. This arrangement was felt to ensure better work, as the men were uncertain when they were being observed. On four fifths of the farms in Staffordshire, the house overlooked at least one of the yards, whether it was for cattle, manure or horses.

The yard might be overlooked by the front or the back of the house. In only a fifth of the examples in Staffordshire did the house open directly onto the yard; a garden, small yard or drive provided a certain separation as at Church Farm.

The cow shed

Cattle were kept on all farms, their number and use depending on the kind of farming practised, as well as on the size of the farm (Peters 1969). They served one of four primary purposes: in all cases they were to provide milk, either for use as such or for conversion to butter and cheese; on grazing and mixed farms, depending upon the type of land and availability of transport, they were to provide calves or to be fattened for beef; on arable farms they were to use up the straw as fodder and litter, converting it into manure. Their use as draught animals, common in the 17th century, had largely ceased by the end of the 18th. Thereafter, unless on a purely dairy farm which had no straw, they served in general all four purposes.

The number of cattle which could be over-wintered depended entirely on the amount of fodder hay or straw principally - which could be amassed and preserved for use during the winter months (Brunskill 1982). It was not until a combination of root crops, plentiful hay from improved grassland and well-irrigated meadows, and imported cattle cake could became available that anything like the present-day number of cattle could be kept on the farm. Planning of the cow shed depended on the numbers of cattle, provision for feeding and mucking-out, and what, if any, provision was made for the storage of hay. Probably the oldest arrangement was that in which the cows were tethered nose on to a wall and fed from behind. This was the arrangement at Church Farm. Cattle were arranged in stalls and tied in such a way that they could stand, eat or lie down without too much discomfort. In the most common arrangement cattle were placed in pairs with a low partition of timber boarding, stone or slate slabs or, eventually, iron or concrete in between. Sometimes the cattle in each pair were separated by one or two posts so that they could not lie on each other or bump or butt each other. The floor surface of the cow shed required care in its dimensions, its divisions and materials. Two surfaces were important: the sloping surface on which the cow stood or lay and the flat or slightly inclined passageway or drainage channel whereby the cow reached its stall and its dung was deposited, collected and transferred to the midden. Until well into the 19th century, the cow house was a low, dank, ill-lit and ill-ventilated place. The example at Church Farm may be an example of this with its few and small windows. Often there were no windows at all, light and ventilation coming from the open top half of a split door and from slit ventilator openings, where provided, such as at Church Farm. The cow shed was low in height and snug in atmosphere because hay was stored in the loft above, also as at Church Farm.

Openings between the beams, or specially placed hatchways, gave ladder access and allowed the cowman to draw and drop the daily supply of straw. This was the case at Church Farm. Hay in the loft was well protected and, with some attention to ventilation, could be kept in good condition. Pitching holes were provided in the cow-house gable or under half-hipped thatched roofs and by way of a dormer in the front wall facing the farmyard. At Church Farm there were two doors at hay loft level, facing the farm yard, for this purpose.

The cow shed at Church Farm falls into Peters's type 2 classification (Peters 1969). The type 2 design is the oldest surviving type of cow shed in Staffordshire, the earliest surviving examples dating from the 17th century. They provided complete shelter for the animals which were tied facing along the building. Most farms seem to have had a cow house by the mid-18th century.

The cow shed could be used to house milking cows or fat stock. Initially it seems to have been used for the former. The use of the cow shed for fat stock was a late development: in 1812 a well-known agricultural pundit suggested that they were still kept in the open although by 1842 he was advocating housing all the cattle, the increased warmth enabling them to fatten faster on less food.

The advantages and disadvantages of type 2 cow houses were discussed at some length during the first half of the 19th century, during which time the use of the type declined. Referring to the larger examples for housing two or more rows of cattle, it was noted that they housed more cattle at only a slightly greater cost than if they faced across the same building. This arrangement also reduced the labour in feeding and cleaning out.

The larger type 2 cow shed had a number of disadvantages however. As many of the cattle breathed on each other, disease could spread much more readily than if they were tied in a single line. As a result of its compartmented nature, cleaning out was less easy than in other designs, where it could be done in a single run with a barrow.

Loose boxes

The earliest surviving example dates from about 1750 with examples continuing to be built until the present day (Peters 1969). Initially all loose boxes were for calves or use as calving pens, but later for us as bull pens, hospitals or for fat stock as well. At Church Farm loose boxes were created by sub-dividing parts of the original cow shed.

Feed preparation and storage rooms

At first most of the cattle feed was stored in the barn or hay lofts, although some may have been kept in the rick yard. Apart from the presence of the hay loft, the practice at Church Farm is unknown as a major building has been lost. From 1785, special rooms appeared in Staffordshire for the preparation and storage of feed, being on the same level as the cow house and usually connected to it.

At Church Farm there may have been such a room in the hay loft. It was noted above that there was an irregularly shaped hole at hay loft level, opening off of the phase 3 outshut. This hole is of a suitable size for the housing of a 'bearing box' for the transmission of power from a stationary steam engine, *via* a belt, to a turnip or chaff cutter. From the watching brief came a pulley wheel of the kind commonly used for this purpose (Fig 40).

Mangers and racks

Very little was written about mangers and racks for cow houses. Owing to Ministry of Agriculture regulations only a few original ones remained in Staffordshire.

Initially, cattle were fed on hay or straw. The manger became necessary with the use of turnips and of chaff, the rack not being used for the latter. As some hay and straw was still given whole, the rack remained, sometimes with a vertical front to prevent seeds falling into the cows' eyes and ears. The examples at Church Farm slope.

The use of bought feed and the preparation of home grown sustenance developed from 1800. From their nature they had to be served in a manger. The use of whole hay or straw seems to have gone out of favour, for no rack was provided in some cow houses built after 1840. After 1855 most of the cow houses on the Anson estate had only a manger and published, rackless designs appear from 1864

The manger was always placed low-down for cattle, unlike that for horses. It was thought that it should be sufficiently low for the cattle to feed lying down, a height which lies between 18 and 20 inches above ground level, and the examples at Church Farm are compatible with this (Fig 22). The pre-1880 mangers surviving in Staffordshire were of four types, three being of brick and tile. The most common surviving type had a brick front wall with a wooden cap and was lined with glazed tiles. It was divided up into compartments, one for each cow, to prevent poaching. This type dates back at least to 1831. A later variation replaced the wooden front, the top course of bricks and the front tile by a shaped brick. Some other troughs were made up from bricks and lined with mortar.

The examples at Church Farm were of much more casual construction, being formed of brick with what appeared to be an old railway sleeper taking the place of the wooden cap.

The stalls and floor

In Staffordshire, milking and fattening cattle, if kept in a cow house rather than in boxes, were always tied, in all surviving examples, to a stake, the fastening being free to slide up and down with the animal's head. There is an example of this at Church Farm (Fig 23). They stood in double stalls with the partitions about six to six and a half feet apart. This was also the case at Church Farm.

The floor of the stall invariably sloped in the area, thus draining to the gutter behind the cows. This was sometimes objected to on the grounds that it produced lameness and abortion but as with the stable there was probably no danger if the slope were only slight. The surviving floors were all brick. At Church Farm there was a slight slope towards the gutter and, where the surfaces survived, they were mostly cobbles or setts.

Ventilation and lofts

The need for good ventilation in the cow house was stressed by many writers. By 1770 the bad effects of lack of ventilation had been noted and that cows subjected to this recovered in a well-ventilated building. At the same time draughts were to be avoided, especially along the feeding passage. The best method of ventilation was considered by all writers to be through the roof, thus avoiding the dangers of draughts. In consequence lofts were undesirable and most of the cow houses did not have them. Ridge ventilators were considered ideal but a more usual practice was to have special ventilating ridge tiles. A third and less satisfactory method was to have ventilation holes or

windows in the gables: these date from the second quarter of the 19th century in the area. At Church Farm the cow shed was of an old-fashioned design and ventilation was limited.

It was considered bad practice, at least until the mid-19th century, to have much light in the cow house. The windows were intended to give light for cleaning and feeding but otherwise the blinds were to be kept shut to keep out the light as it brought flies and stimulated the animals, which should be resting. The need for light in the cow house seems to have been realized about the middle of the 19th century. After 1853 glazing appears over the louvres and such glazing exists at Church Farm.

Lofts were found in only a fifth of the surviving cow houses in Staffordshire and most were used for hay or straw. This was the case at Church Farm.

Pig sties and piggeries

From the mid-18th century onwards, under pressure from the enclosure of common land, the main home for the pigs shifted from the woodland to the farmyard (Brunskill 1982). Selective breeding changed the pig into an animal vulnerable to draughts and cold weather and best suited to a sty. The standard pigsty developed as a low, loose box, big enough to accommodate one or two pigs and with a small exercise yard with some trough and feeding arrangement. The pig sties at Church Farm seem to have followed these arrangements.

Granaries

The only evidence for a granary is the presence of a staddle stone and cap, found during the watching brief (Fig 41). While the yield of grain crops was low there was no need for a special building in which to store the grain (Brunskill 1982). On the ordinary farm the precious grain was kept in the house for the short time between threshing and consumption or sale at the market, or for the rather longer time until a significant proportion of the crop was used as seed in the following season. As yields increased a separate place was needed in which the grain could be stored in secure, dry and well-ventilated conditions until sold, consumed or sown. A granary gave the farmer the chance to hold his crop until the best market opportunity, rather than having to release it as soon as it was available, whatever the price. There were four main types but the type indicated by the find at Church Farm was the typical free-standing granary (Fig 44). This was a square, single-sided box raised on nine or more saddle stones. Usually timber framed, the interior was plastered or timber lined, the exterior was weathered-boarded, tile or slate hung, or there were panels of brick nogging. The roof might be thatched but more often was covered with slates, stone tiles, plain tiles, or pantiles. Within, the floor was divided by low timber partitions between which the grain could be stored loose or kept in sacks or chests (grain stored loose was less easy to steal). The boarded floor was tightly tongued together both to keep in the grain and to keep out rats and mice. A single carefully made and hung door opened, when unlocked, onto a removable platform leading to steps. the platform allowed for a gap between steps and door which vermin could not jump. Grain is heavy so the floorboards and their joists were carried on stout beams with short spans between the supporting saddle stones. Each of these was made normally of stone, sometimes of cob and, in later instances, of cast iron. In every case, the smooth curving pillar, giving no grip to the feet of mice or rats, was surmounted by a projecting cap which could not be climbed.

Oast houses or hop-drying kilns

Hops were introduced to this country possibly as early as the late 14th or the 15th century and their cultivation developed during the 16th century, first in Kent and Sussex and then in the west midlands including Herefordshire and Worcestershire (Brunskill 1982). Natural drying proved unsatisfactory for large quantities of hops and artificial drying in a hop kiln was recommended as early as 1574. A complete oast house consists of space for the storage of green hops, a kiln and a place for the storage for about ten days of dried hops before they are packed tightly into long sacks called 'pockets'. The oast house at Church Farm is small by local standards (eg Cook and Bretherton 1998, Robson-Glyde 2009) and may have not have had such extensive storage. The storage space is located on an upper level in a small rectangular building while the kiln is a tall building on a square or circular plan. The kiln itself consists of three parts:

- 1) the combustion chamber at ground level
- 2) the drying floor above

3) and the working area and cowl on top.

Early combustion chambers consisted of a brick fireplace or furnace with a lath and plaster flue widening out like an inverted pyramid to meet the underside of the drying floor. From about 1780 onwards the lath and plaster flue was superseded by a brick continuously covered flue again widening from furnace to drying floor. The fuel was charcoal or anthracite. Alternatively the flue gasses were led through brick or metal flues to a chimney, heating the hop-drying floor on the way. The drying floor consisted of a horse-hair cloth stretched on slats or joists. Hops were spread on the cloth to a depth of around 300mm and were regularly turned by a labourer using a specially shaped shovel. A full-height working area was needed. Above there was in earlier hop houses a roof with a saddle type louvre to let out the moist air, but later the roof was converted into a tapered flue which met a cowl, an invention of the 1790s. The hop-drying kiln may be incorporated into a building or may be a separate part of the farmstead complex and may have either a square or circular base. The oldest and smallest kilns are incorporated in buildings; older separate kilns tend to be square on plan; from about 1835 round kilns were introduced because it was thought that they were more economical to construct and produced the best draught. From about 1875 there was a return to square kiln shapes as it was realised that the round shape made little difference.

Most hop kilns are found in Kent and Sussex. The building type is also found in Herefordshire and Worcestershire, since the counties had, by 1880, come to supply a quarter of the hop harvest. There the structures are often combined, rather incongruously, with provision for cider making, the kiln being at the end of a building whose upper level stored green hops and whose lower level housed the cider mill. At Church Farm the oast house was added to the end of the cow shed.

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Acknowledgements

The author would particularly like to thank Lee Patrick, Brian the machine operator, Adrian Scruby, formerly of Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service and Aidan Smyth of Wychavon and Malvern Hills District Councils for their kind co-operation.

Archive

The physical archive consists of:

17 x A4 pages The text of the report 45 x illustrations of various sizes Illustrations for the report

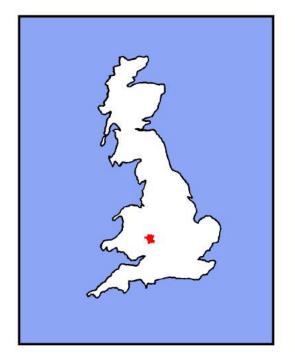
It has been deposited at Worcestershire County Museum, Hartlebury.

The digital archive consists of:

17 x A4 pages The text of the report (.doc format)
45 x illustrations of various sizes Illustrations for the report (.bmp format)

1 x copy of the combined report (.pdf format)

These have been deposited with OASIS and ADS





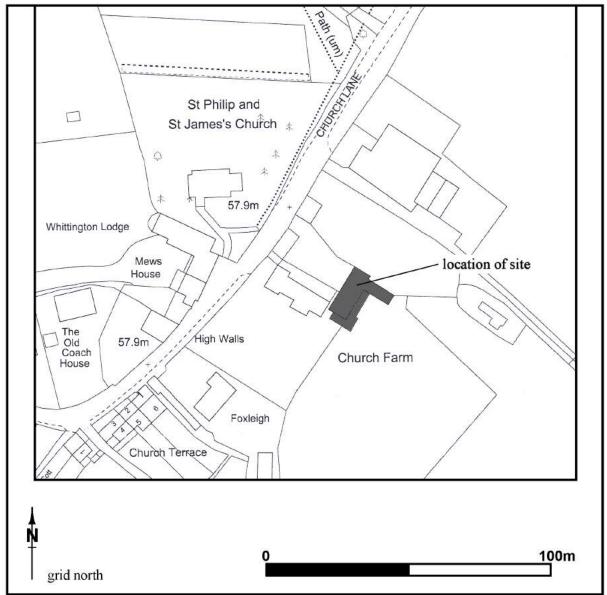
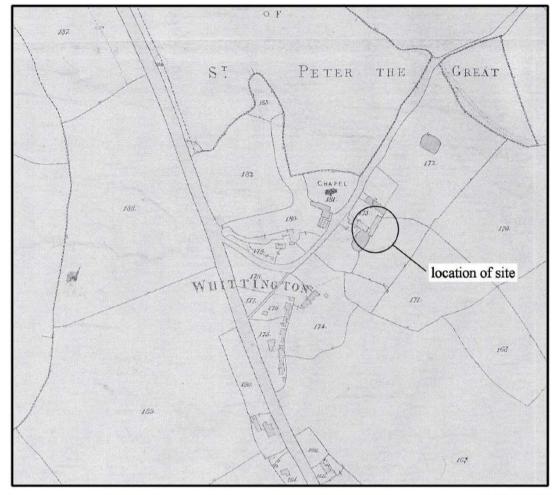


Fig 1: Location of site

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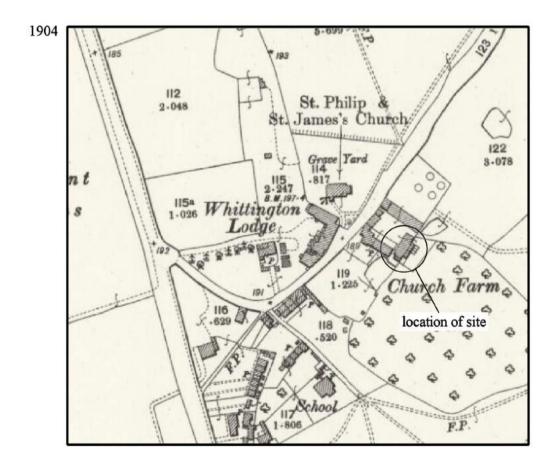




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




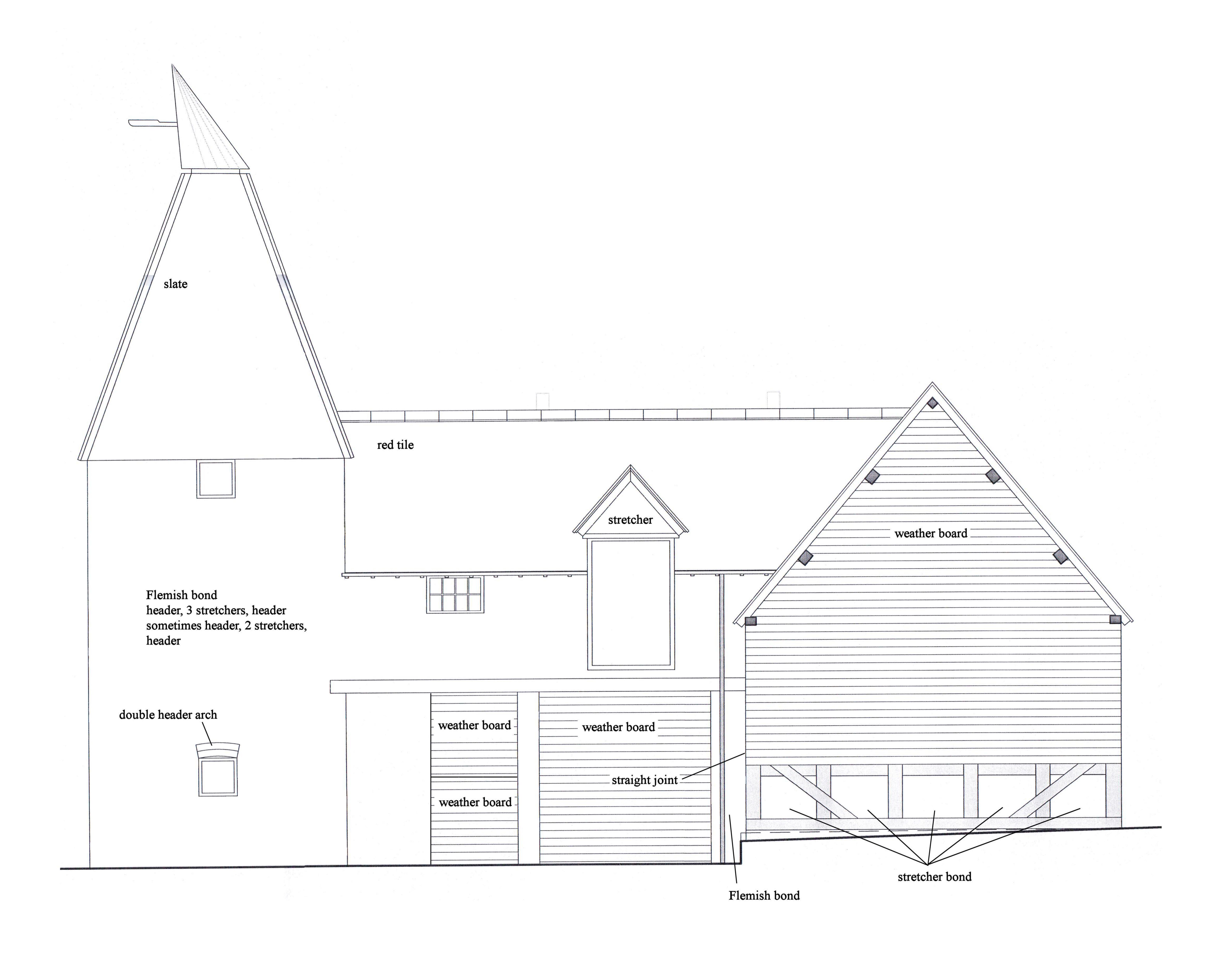



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


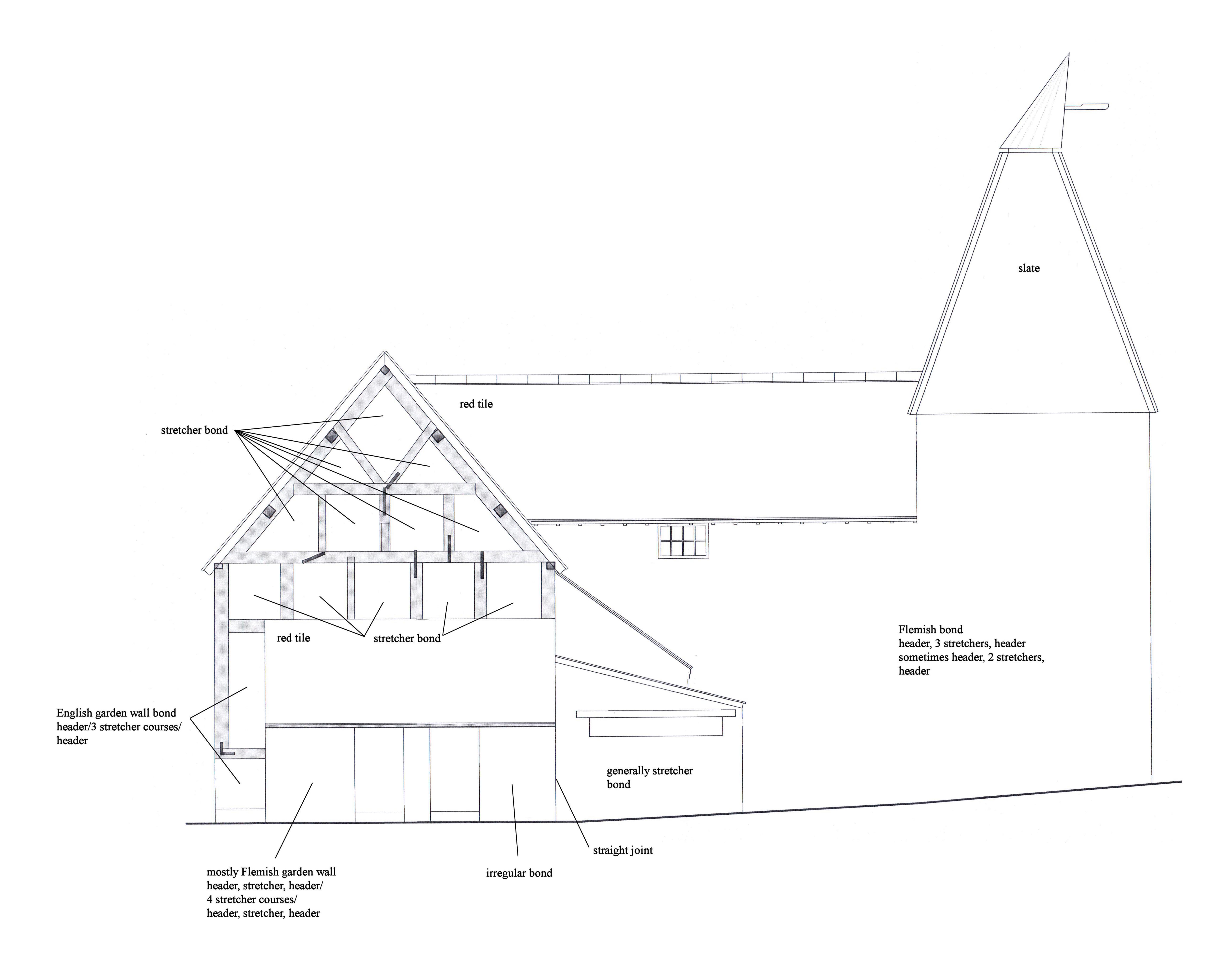












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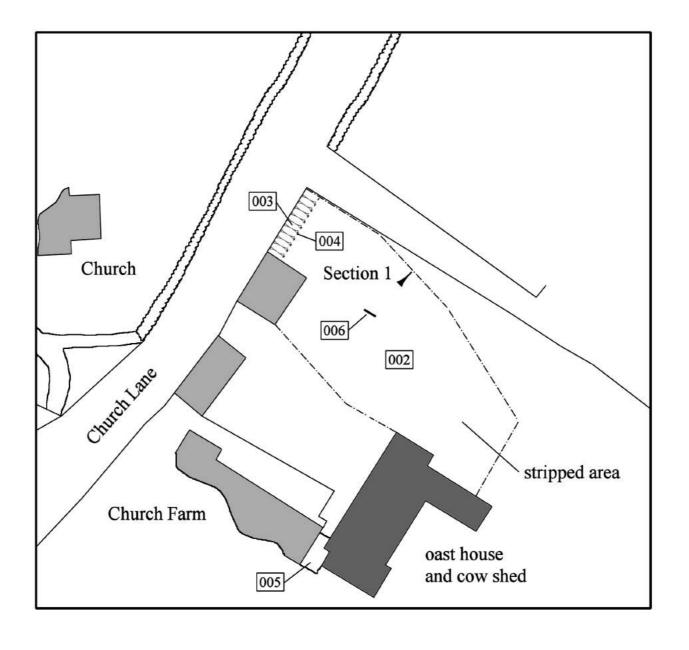
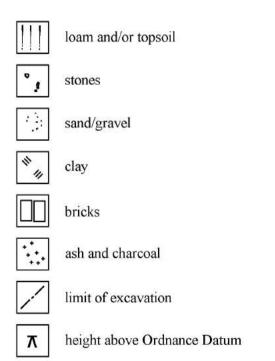






Fig 3.7: Location of watching brief and recorded features

limit of excavation



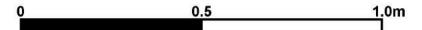
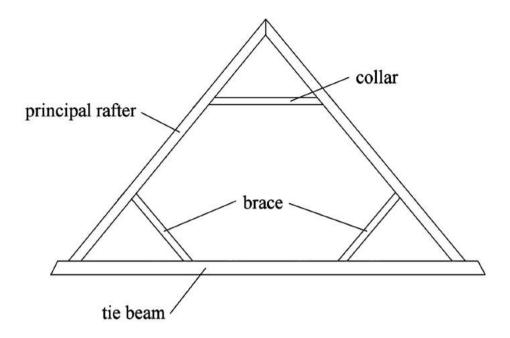


Fig 3.8: Typical section of deposits



Cow shed trusses 2 and 3 nb only truss 3 has surviving wattle and daub

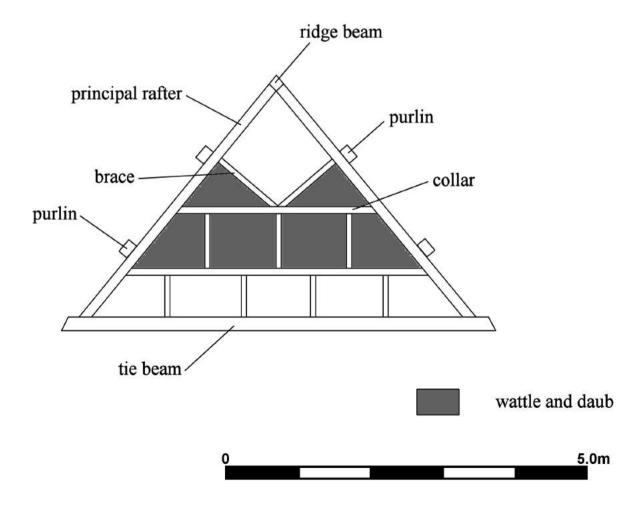
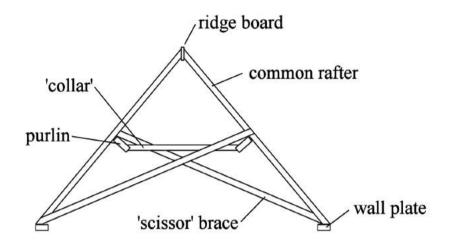


Fig 3.9: Truss designs in the cow shed



5.0m

Fig 3.10: Truss design in the oast house



Fig 4: North-east elevation



Fig 5: North-west elevation



Fig 6: South-west elevation



Fig 7: South-east elevation



Fig 8: Phase 4 Oast house; first floor, hop drying floor; showing wooden panelling around lower part of walls



Fig 9: Phase 4 Oast house; first floor, hop sorting and bagging floor; showing upper part of hop press

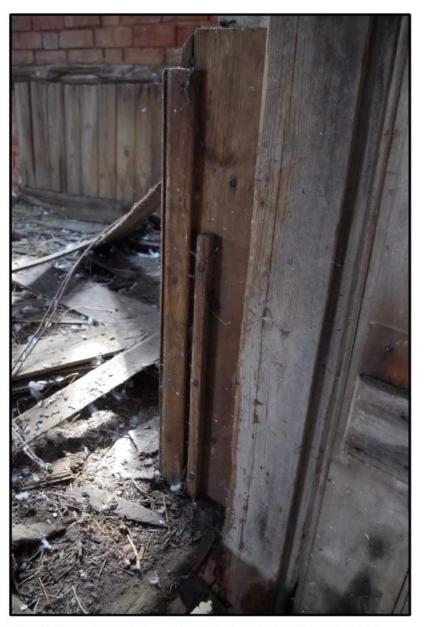


Fig 10: Phase 4 oast house; first floor, hop drying floor; showing groove for removable boards to contain drying hops

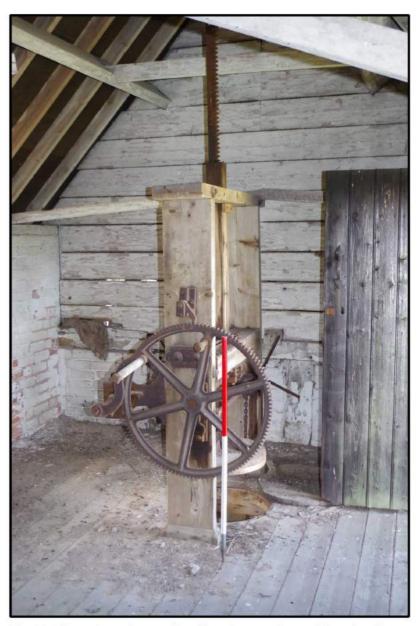


Fig 11: Phase 4 oast house; first floor, hop sorting and bagging floor; hop press showing detail of operating wheel and latch



Fig 12: Phase 4 oast house; first floor, hop sorting and bagging floor; hop press showing detail of maker's plate - 'J L Larkworthy & Co Worcester'



Fig 13: Phase 4 oast house; common rafter roof with mid-height purlins and 'scissor' braces, clasping a 'collar' brace between them



Fig 14: Phase 4 oast house; first floor, hop sorting and bagging floor; showing stair to hop drying floor



Fig 15: Phase 1 hay loft



Fig 16: Phase 1 hay loft showing closed truss with wattle and daub panels



Fig 17: Phase 1 hay loft showing feeding opening in floor

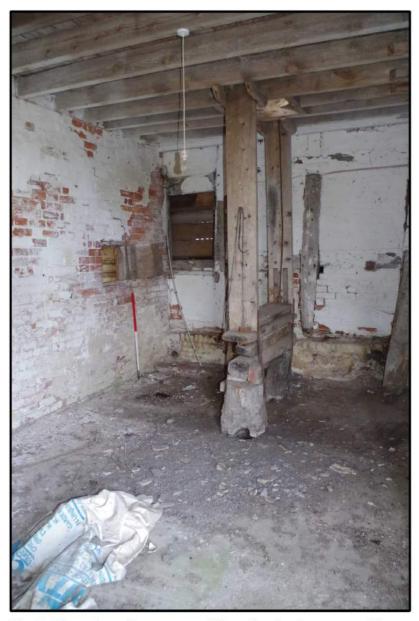


Fig 18: Phase 4 oast house; ground floor showing lower part of hop press



Fig 19: Phase 4 oast house; ground floor showing lower part of hop press



Fig 20: Phase 4 oast house; ground floor showing lower part of hop press



Fig 21: Phase 4 oast house; ground floor showing arrangement of hop pocket hole



Fig 22: Phase 1 cow shed; ground floor, part of cow shed showing brick manger with wooden fittings



Fig 23: Phase 1 cow shed; ground floor, part of cow shed showing restraining bar and chain



Fig 24: Phase 1 cow shed; general view of compartment



Fig 25: Phase 1 cow shed; general view of compartment



Fig 26: Phase 1 cow shed; view of hay rack and manger



Fig 27: Phase 1 cow shed; view of hay rack and manger



Fig 28: Phase 1 cow shed; ladder access to hayloft



Fig 29: Harness hook improvised from forked branch



Fig 30: Phase 2 outshut; general view of compartment



Fig 31: Roughly fashioned harness hooks



Fig 32: Small hay racks and mangers

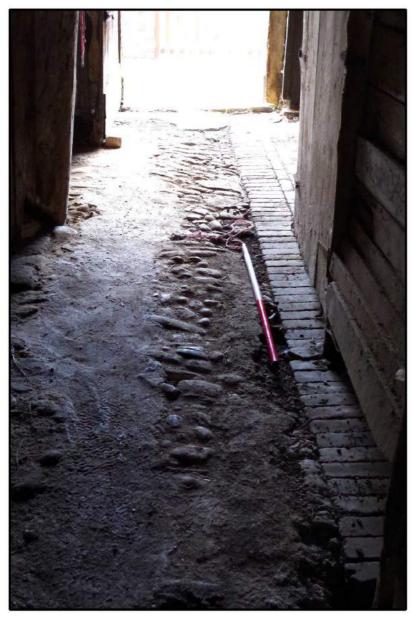


Fig 33: Phase 1 cow shed; cobbled floor surface



Fig 34: Phase 1 cow shed; grooves for wattle and daub



Fig 35: Phase 1 cow shed; general view of compartment



Fig 36: Phase 2 outshut; general view of compartment



Fig 37: Phase 5 outshut; general view of compartment



Fig 38: Phase 3 outshut; general view of compartment

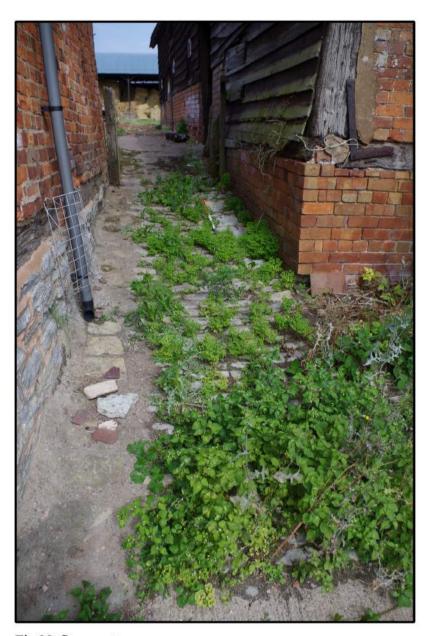


Fig 39: Stone setts



Fig 40: Pully wheel for shaft drive



Fig 41: Staddle stone and cap



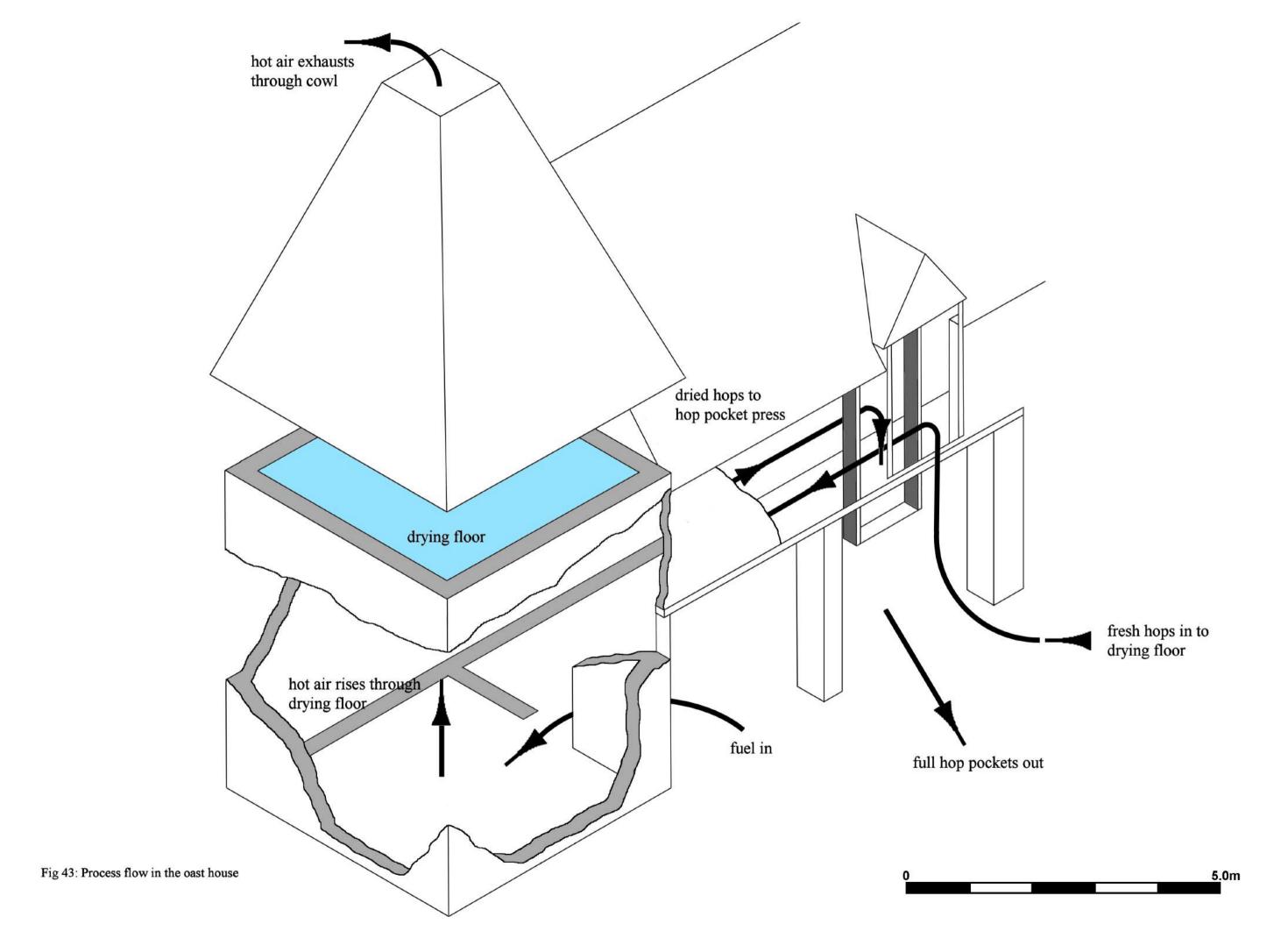




Fig 44: Granary of the type suggested by the find of a staddle stone and cap; Weald and Downland Museum

Appendix 1: List of the contexts

Context number	Description
001	Very thin sandy loam in matrix of concrete lumps, brick, sand and other debris
002	Mid reddy orange sandy clay
003	Light grey slightly clayey sand with occasional to common brick and concrete fragments
004	Presumed linear cut
005	Stone setts
006	Fragmentary alignment of rubble stone

InterpretationTopsoil and demolition layer from 006 Natural subsoil Fill of roadside ditch Roadside ditch Surfacing adjacent to cattle drink
Remains of footings of former building
on this site – demolished 20 or 30 years ago

Appendix 2: The finds

Artefactual analysis by Laura Griffin

The finds work reported here conforms to the following guidance: for finds work by CIfA (2014), for pottery analysis by PCRG/SGRP/MPRG (2016), for archive creation by AAF (2011), and for museum deposition by SMA (1993).

Aims

- To identify, sort, spot date, and quantify all artefacts;
- To describe the range of artefacts present;
- To preliminarily assess the significance of the artefacts.

Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem date* was produced for each stratified context. All information was recorded on a pro forma Microsoft Access 2007 database.

The pottery was examined under x20 magnification and referenced as appropriate by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology (Hurst and Rees 1992 and www.worcestershireceramics.org).

Results

The assemblage recovered from the site totalled 10 finds weighing 274g (see Table 1). All material came from the topsoil (context 001) and was modern in date. Level of preservation was good, with finds displaying low levels of surface abrasion and a notably higher than average pottery sherd weight of 23.4g, all suggesting relatively little disturbance since deposition.

period	material class	object specific type	count	weight (g)
modern	ceramic	pot	9	211
modern	ceramic	sagger	1	63

Table 1: Quantification of the artefactual assemblage

Summary artefactual evidence by period

All material has been dated and quantified (see Table 1). Pottery has been grouped and quantified according to general fabric class (Table 2). Sherds were datable by fabric type to their general period or production span.

Modern

All finds were connected to porcelain production at nearby Royal Worcester. Finds included six biscuit-fired sherds (fabric 83.1), including pieces from bowl and plate forms, three small glazed fragments, thought to be chemical porcelain (fabric 83.1) and a piece of sagger (kiln furniture). All could be dated from the 19th century onwards

Significance

Porcelain waste from Royal Worcester is commonplace in agricultural areas bordering the city, as the works provided a ready supply of sherds for a variety of uses, such as soil improver or hard-core.

Recommendations

No further work required.

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Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

WSM 70314 (event HER number)

CFW/18

Artefacts

period - note 1	materia I class	object specific type	count	weigh t	start date	end date	spec ialist repo rt? (note 2)	key asse mbla ge? (note 3)
modern	ceramic	pot	9	211	19C	20C	N	N
modern	ceramic	sagger	1	63	19C	18C	N	N

Notes

In some cases the date will be "Undated". In most cases, especially if there is not a specialist report, the information entered in the Date field will be a general period such as Neolithic, Roman, medieval etc (see below for a list of periods used in the Worcestershire HER). Very broad date ranges such as late Medieval to Post-medieval are acceptable for artefacts which can be hard to date for example roof tiles. If you have more specific dates, such as 13th to 14th century, please use these instead. Specific date ranges which cross general period boundaries can also be used, for example 15th to 17th century.

period	from	to
Palaeolithic	500000 BC	10001 BC
Mesolithic	10000 BC	4001 BC
Neolithic	4000 BC	2351 BC
Bronze Age	2350 BC	801 BC
Iron Age	800 BC	42 AD
Roman	43	409
Post-Roman	410	1065
Medieval	1066	1539
Post-medieval	1540	1900
Modern	1901	2050

period specific	from	to
Lower Paleolithic	500000 BC	150001
Middle Palaeolithic	150000	40001
Upper Palaeolithic	40000	10001
Early Mesolithic	10000	7001
Late Mesolithic	7000	4001
Early Neolithic	4000	3501
Middle Neolithic	3500	2701
Late Neolithic	2700	2351
Early Bronze Age	2350	1601
Middle Bronze Age	1600	1001
Late Bronze Age	1000	801
Early Iron Age	800	401
Middle Iron Age	400	101
Late Iron Age	100 BC	42 AD
Roman 1st century AD	43	100
2nd century	101	200
3rd century	201	300
4th century	301	400
Roman 5th century	401	410
Post roman	411	849
Pre conquest	850	1065
Late 11th century	1066	1100
12th century	1101	1200
13th century	1201	1300
14th century	1301	1400
15th century	1401	1500
16th century	1501	1600
17th century	1601	1700
18th century	1701	1800
19th century	1801	1900
20th century	1901	2000
21st century	2001	

- 2. Not all evaluations of small excavation assemblages have specialist reports on all classes of objects. An identification (eg clay pipe) and a quantification is not a specialist report. A short discussion or a more detailed record identifying types and dates is a specialist report. This field is designed to point researchers to reports where they will find out more than merely the presence or absence of material of a particular type and date.
- 3. This field should be used with care. It is designed to point researchers to reports where they will be able to locate the most important assemblages for any given material for any given date.

Appendix 3: The OASIS form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

Printable version

OASIS ID: martinco1-331726

Project details

Project name Church Farm Whittington

Short description of Building recording and watching brief at Church Farm

the project Whittington

Project dates Start: 08-08-2018 End: 30-11-2018

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated

project reference WSM 70314 - HER event no.

codes

Any associated

project reference W/15/01936/PN - Planning Application No.

codes

Type of project Building Recording

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Other 2 - In use as a building

Monument type OAST HOUSE Modern
Significant Finds POTTERY Modern

Methods &

"Measured Survey", "Photographic Survey"

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country England

Site location WORCESTERSHIRE WYCHAVON WHITTINGTON

Church Farm Whittington

Postcode WR5 2RQ

Study area 1000 Square metres

Site coordinates SO 87668 52873 52.17357343829 -2.180350110276 52 10

24 N 002 10 49 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 58.3m Max: 58.3m

Project creators

Name of Martin Cook BA MCIfA Organisation

Project brief Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning

Authority/advisory body originator

Project design Martin Cook BA MCIfA originator

Project

Martin Cook BA MCIfA director/manager

Project supervisor Martin Cook BA MCIfA

Type of

sponsor/funding Developer

body

Project archives

Physical Archive Worcestershire County Museum recipient

"Ceramics" **Physical Contents**

Digital Archive ADS recipient

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media "Images raster / digital photography", "Text" available

Paper Archive

Worcestershire County Museum recipient

"Ceramics" Paper Contents Paper Media "Report" available

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) Publication type

Archaeological building investigation and recording and

Title archaeological watching brief at Church Farm, Church

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Author(s)/Editor(s) Cook, M.

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