

# HALLOW HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND FARMS AND MILLS PROJECT – FARMS REPORT



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The Hive  
Sawmill Walk  
The Butts  
Worcester  
WR1 3PB

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Author: Mrs Shona Robson-Glyde, Historic Buildings Archaeologist, 01905 765376

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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Aims and methods .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Farmsteads information.....</b>	<b>1</b>
3.1	Eastbury Manor (Great Eastbury Farm).....	1
3.2	The Fieldy .....	1
3.3	Greenhill.....	2
3.4	Greenstreet .....	2
3.5	Headways .....	3
3.6	Heath Farm .....	3
3.7	Holywards .....	3
3.8	Little Eastbury .....	4
3.9	Park Farm .....	4
3.10	Retreat Farm.....	4
3.11	Shoulton Farm .....	5
3.12	Shoulton House Farm .....	5
3.13	The Well.....	5
<b>4</b>	<b>Analysis and discussion.....</b>	<b>5</b>
4.1	Statistics.....	5
4.2	Distribution .....	7
4.3	Dates.....	8
<b>5</b>	<b>Acknowledgements and personnel.....</b>	<b>8</b>



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## Hallow Heritage Lottery Fund Farms and Mills Project – Farms Report

Shona Robson-Glyde

### 1 Introduction

The Hallow Heritage Lottery Fund Farms and Mills Project is a long term project being carried out by Hallow History Group and Hallow Village Community Group. The project is looking at the history of Hallow village.

The project was divided into separate parts. Initially, documentary research was carried out to research the history of various farms and mills around the parish. This was followed by basic recording of the sites. This report is a presentation of the results of recording a number of farms in the area of the parish.

### 2 Aims and methods

The aim of this part of the Hallow HLF Farms and Mills Project was for the Hallow History Group and Hallow Village Community Group to record a number farms within the area of Hallow. The volunteers of the group carried out documentary research into the history of thirteen farms in the area. Following this, basic training into the recognition of farm buildings was given by the staff of Worcestershire Archaeology.

The volunteers of the group then undertook a basic survey of the thirteen farms. Recording forms were used to document the number and type of buildings found on each of the farms. The results were then analysed by Worcestershire Archaeology and presented to the group at a meeting with this report being the final product of the analysis.

### 3 Farmsteads information

#### 3.1 Eastbury Manor (Great Eastbury Farm)

Recorded by Liz Flack  
NGR SO 828 568

Farmhouse  
Granary  
Stable  
Shelter shed  
Fold yard  
Milking byre / parlour  
Coach house  
Dairy  
Pond  
Store  
Hay loft  
Dutch barn  
Worker's housing

All of the elements of the farmstead are still in use except the pond.  
All buildings have been converted with the exception of the worker's housing.  
Brick sizes give a range of dates from 17<sup>th</sup> century to 19<sup>th</sup> century.  
Oldest part of house 17<sup>th</sup> century with rest late 19<sup>th</sup> century.  
Walls of fold yard date from 18<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 3.2 The Fieldy

Recorded by Jacquie Hartwright.

NGR SO 8118 5869

Threshing barn (converted)  
Milking byre (converted)  
Cart shed

Formerly called Fieldy Place and Fieldy Place Farm before Fieldy Farm. The farmhouse was demolished in 1964 but photographs show it to be a brick cottage of late 18<sup>th</sup> century date. The timber-frame threshing barn and milking byre are now converted. Cart shed now a car port. Originally had a shelter shed, milking byre, fowl house and Dutch barn as well.

### **3.3 Greenhill**

Recorded by 'Stark'.  
NGR SO 8281 5892

Farmhouse  
Granary  
Stable  
Threshing barn  
Shelter shed  
Fold yard  
Milking byre  
Fowl house  
Cart shed  
Dairy  
Pond  
Store

All elements of the farmstead are still in use except the granary, milking byre and cart shed. Only the farmhouse and stable still have their original function.  
Georgian farmhouse.

### **3.4 Greenstreet**

Recorded by Barabara Holmes.  
NGR SO 7965 5918

Farmhouse  
Granary  
Stable  
Threshing barn  
Shelter shed  
Fold yard  
Pig Sty  
Fowl house  
Hop kiln  
Dutch barn  
Cart shed  
Dairy  
Pond  
Store

All elements of the farmstead are still in use except fold yard and dairy. Also the hop kiln is now ruined.  
Only the farmhouse and fowl house still have their original function.  
17<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse with remains of other building of similar near to house.  
Cider mill formerly on farm.

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Interesting 1940s Dutch barn with raising roof.

### 3.5 Headways

Recorded by Brian Boswell.

NGR SO 8108 5885

Farmhouse

Only element recorded was farmhouse, even though other buildings still exist but have been converted and taken out of same ownership.

Farmhouse of late 18<sup>th</sup> century date.

### 3.6 Heath Farm

Recorded by Ann Finn.

NGR SO 8244 5917

Farmhouse

Granary / Mill

Stable

Threshing barn

Shelter shed

Milking byre

Dutch / hay barn

Cart / implement shed

Dairy

Ponds

Store

Cattle shed

The farmhouse, threshing barn, shelter shed, hay barn, implement shed and cattle shed are all still in use. The granary/mill, milking byre and dairy are derelict and these last two are also out of use.

Only the farmhouse, hay barn, implement shed and cattle shed still have their original function.

The farmhouse is of 17<sup>th</sup> century date with other buildings of 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

### 3.7 Holywards

Recorded by Joy Fulcher

NGR SO 8109 5951

Farmhouse

Granary

Threshing barn

Shelter shed

Fold yard

Milking byre

Pig sty

Dutch barn

Dairy

Pond

All elements of the farmstead are still in use except the threshing barn which is out of use, the fold yard, which is derelict and the pig sty, which is ruined.

Only the farmhouse still has its original function.

The farmhouse is 17<sup>th</sup> century in date and the granary has a date of 1865. Granary is unusual as it appears to be a conversion of a stable.

### **3.8 Little Eastbury**

Recorded by Ann Finn.  
NGR SO 8306 5694

Farmhouse  
Granary  
Stable  
Shelter shed  
Milking byre  
Pig sty  
Fowl house  
Dutch barn  
Cart shed  
Dairy  
Store  
Linhay

Only the farmhouse is still in use with all other buildings being derelict or ruined.  
Possibly 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse. Farm buildings being left to decay.

### **3.9 Park Farm**

Recorded by Jeanette Roe.  
NGR SO 8309 5818

Farmhouse  
Stable  
Threshing barn  
Fold yard  
Dovecote  
Hop kilns  
Dutch barn  
Cart shed  
Pond  
Worker's housing

The farmhouse, stable, threshing barn and hop kilns are the only buildings still in use and these have been converted.  
Farmhouse is late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Threshing barn probably of same date.

### **3.10 Retreat Farm**

Recorded by Joy Fulcher.  
NGR SO 8341 5937

Farmhouse  
Stable  
Threshing barn  
Pig sty  
Dutch barn  
Cart shed  
Dairy

Worker's housing All of the buildings, with the exception of the Dutch barn, which is derelict, are still in use. However, they have all been converted to other uses.

The farmhouse is 18<sup>th</sup> century in date.



### 3.11 Shoulton Farm

Recorded by A D Unwin and Jacquie Hartwright.  
NGR SO 8113 5879

Farmhouse

Only element recorded was farmhouse, even though other buildings still exist but have been converted and taken out of same ownership.  
Farmhouse 18<sup>th</sup> century in date.

### 3.12 Shoulton House Farm

Recorded by C R Reeve.  
NGR SO 8113 5896

Farmhouse  
Worker's housing  
Store

All buildings are still in use, with only farmhouse still in original use.  
Farmhouse looks 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### 3.13 The Well

Recorded by Jacquie Hartwright.  
NGR SO 8123 5862

Farmhouse

Only farmhouse left. Now called Beechmount House, was previously called The Well or Well House Farm and recorded on the Bishopric Estate records as Churchey from 1647.  
Grade II listed 17<sup>th</sup> century timber frame.  
Had a dairy.

## 4 Analysis and discussion

The results of the recording carried out by the volunteers has been presented here. Analysis of the information has allowed graphs and a map to be produced which have been included below. A number of conclusions have been drawn from the information provided. Given that the data is subjective and has been drawn from a small number of sites these conclusions are likely to change if further data was included within the analysis.

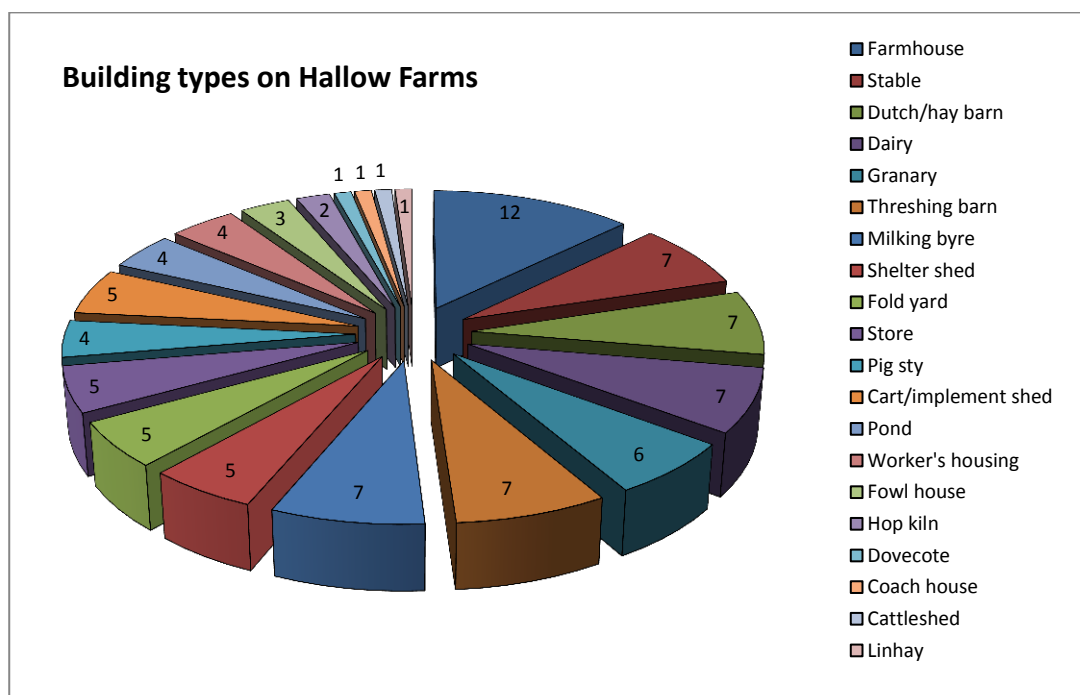
### 4.1 Statistics

The table below shows the number of type and numbers of buildings, based upon the record forms. This shows that of all the structures, the most common was the farmhouse, with twelve recorded; only the one at The Fieldy has been demolished. This is obvious as a farmhouse existed on each of the farms. However, it seems that not all the farmhouses are still in use as they were first intended with only eight recorded as having their original function.

Building Type	Number recorded	In use	Original function
Farmhouse	12	12	8
Stable	7	6	1
Dutch/hay barn	7	4	1
Dairy	7	4	0
Threshing barn	7	5	0
Milking byre	7	3	0
Granary	6	5	1
Shelter shed	5	4	0

Fold yard	5	4	0
Store	5	4	0
Cart/implement shed	5	4	1
Pig sty	4	2	0
Pond	4	2	0
Worker's housing	4	3	1
Fowl house	3	2	1
Hop kiln	2	1	0
Dovecote	1	0	0
Coach house	1	1	0
Cattleshed	1	1	1
Linhay	1	0	0

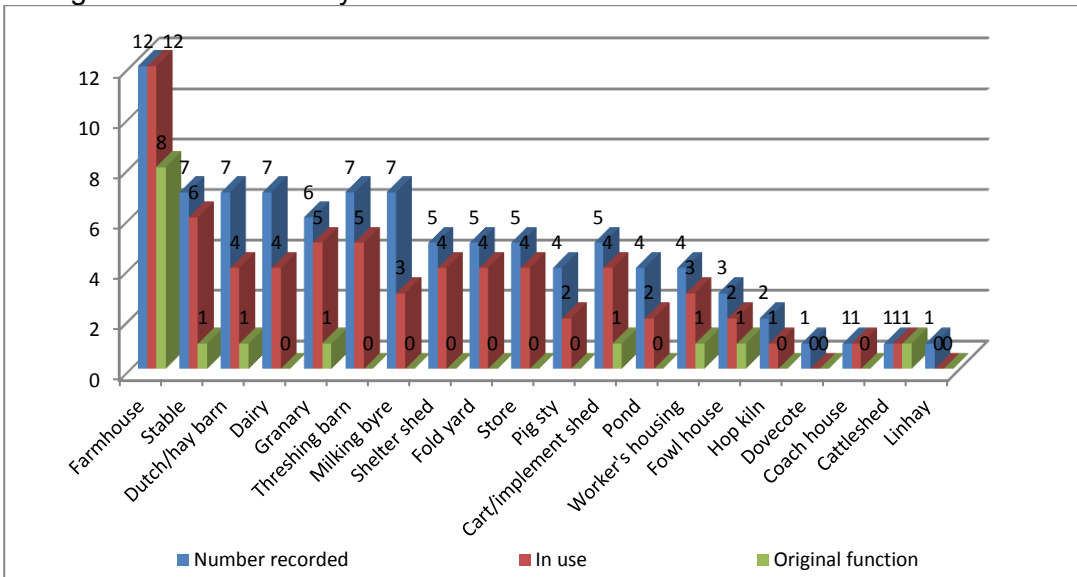
The next most common building types were the stable, dutch/hay barn, dairy, threshing barn and milking byre. There were seven of each of these building types recorded on the thirteen farms. The majority of these buildings were still in use, with six stables still being used, four dutch/hay barns, four dairies, five threshing barns and three milking byres. However, only one stable and one dutch barn were still used for their original function. There were six granaries recorded, with five of them still being used. However only one of the granaries was in use for its original function.



There were five shelter sheds, fold yards, stores and cart/implement sheds recorded on the thirteen farms. Of these four of each were still in use but only one of the cart/implement sheds was used for its original function. There were four each of pig sties, ponds and worker's housing recorded on the farms with two pig sties, two ponds and three worker's housing still in use. Only one of the worker's houses was still in use for its original function.

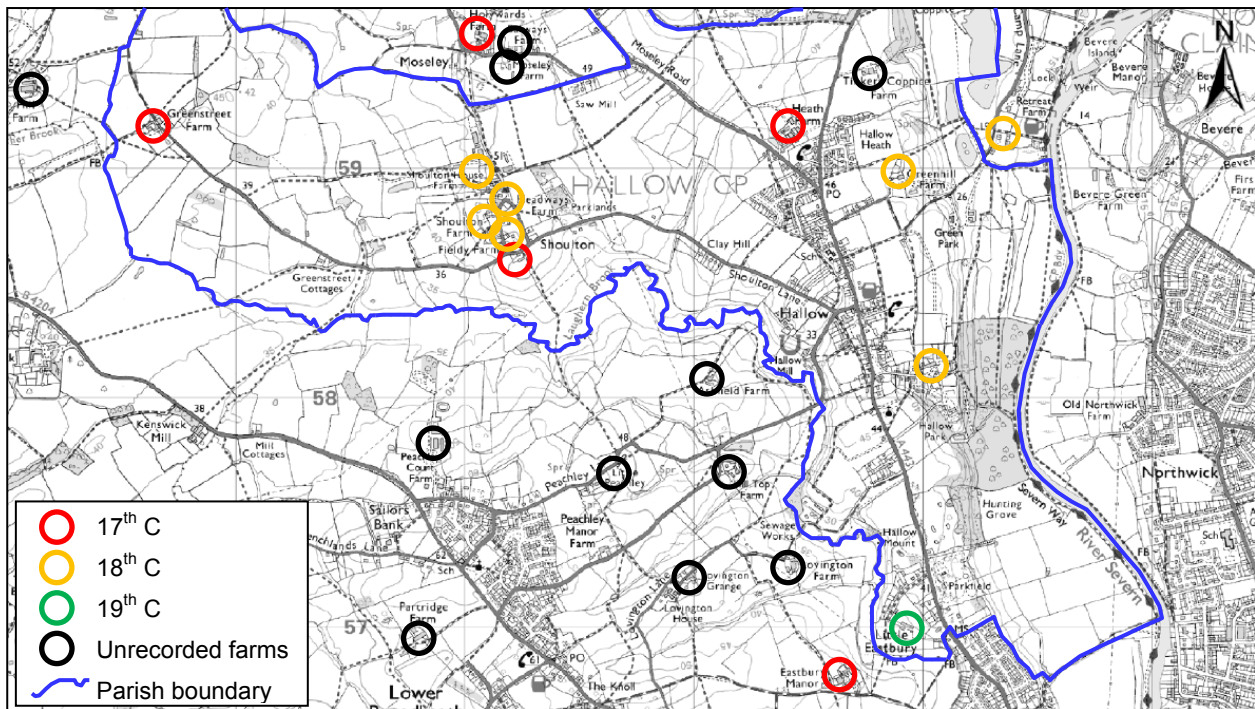
The other buildings recorded were three fowl houses, with two still in use and one for its original function, two hop kilns, with one still in use but not as originally, and one each of dovecote, coach house, cattleshed and linhay. Of these only the coach house and cattle shed are still in use and only the cattleshed is still being used as originally intended.

Whilst there has been loss of original function, the historic farm buildings of the Hallow area have in the main survived the disuse of the farms. Their continued use however, has come about mainly through conversion usually to a domestic use.



### 4.2 Distribution

The farms recorded were spread across the whole of Hallow with three of them just outside the parish boundary. The farm situated the furthest north, Holywards, and that the furthest east, Retreat, are both just over the parish boundary into Grimley parish. The farm situated the furthest south, Eastbury Manor, is just over the boundary into Broadheath parish. Of the other ten farms recorded, there was a cluster located in the north of the parish around Shoulton with Greenstreet beyond this to the west. Heath Farm and Park Farm were the only recorded farms located within the Hallow settlement itself.



The most striking thing you notice when looking at the map of the farms recorded, is the cluster of farms in the north of the study area, around Shoulton. It is very unusual for this number of farms to be still discernible today in such a small and isolated settlement. There is likely to be a catalyst for this pattern of settlement that may be found in the documentary histories of the farms. This is also true of the farms to be found at Moseley, in the far north of the study area.

Aside from this, the pattern of farmsteads in the area is typical of dispersed settlement in the landscape, as can be seen from the map showing the recorded and unrecorded farms in the area. Further research into the farm types and layouts, as produced in the Historic Farmsteads Project, would give more information about the historic farming techniques in the area and could be compared with the Historic Landscape Characterisation information to get a broad picture of the history of Hallow.

### **4.3 Dates**

Farm buildings, by their nature, are utilitarian and vernacular structures and therefore are usually devoid of the architectural features that can date a structure. These architectural features are usually found on farmhouses though, and it is therefore possible to ascertain a date by looking at the farmhouse and using its architectural features to establish its age. By association and comparison of building materials and techniques, the farm buildings can then be dated also. This does not assume that an earlier farm did not exist on the site, only that the latest incarnation of the farm buildings will probably date from the time of the farmhouse or soon afterwards.

There will however be some exceptions, such as The Fieldy where the still surviving timber-frame threshing barn is of 17<sup>th</sup> century origin but the farmhouse was around 1800 in date. In this case the documentary evidence shows that The Fieldy has a more complicated history than previously thought. It is likely that the 17<sup>th</sup> century barn was originally an outfarm belonging to one of the numerous farms in Shoulton.

Twelve of the thirteen recorded farms date from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries with only Little Eastbury dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, although this cannot be said for sure without detailed study at the Little Eastbury buildings. Five of the farms date to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. These are Eastbury, The Fieldy, Greenstreet, Heath Farm, Holywards and The Well. Although The Fieldy is dated from its threshing barn with its farmhouse (now demolished) being of c1800 date. Greenhill, Headways, Park Farm, Retreat Farm, Shoulton Farm and Shoulton House Farm are all of 18<sup>th</sup> century date.

When looking at a map of the area, the majority of the 17<sup>th</sup> century farms are found in the north of the area with just Eastbury Manor Farm in the south. There is a cluster of 18<sup>th</sup> century farms in the north of the area with the rest being down the east side of the parish.

The recording at a basic level of the other farms in the study area, such as Salways or those in the northern part of Broadheath parish may refine or change this concentration of farm dates. The map above shows that at least a further eleven farms are in the area. The data produced by recording these farms also would double the available information and allow much more exact conclusions to be made about the pattern of agriculture in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## **5 Acknowledgements and personnel**

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the Hallow History Group and Hallow Village Community Group for the successful completion of this project.

The project was undertaken by Shona Robson-Glyde (BA, Post-grad Dip Arch); who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 1998 and has been practicing archaeology since 1996. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Derek Hurst (BA, Dip Arch). The survey fieldwork was completed by volunteers from the Hallow History Group and Hallow Village

Community Group. Training was given by Shona Robson-Glyde and Emily Hathaway. Presentation of results and report production was carried out by Shona Robson-Glyde.