

# Building recording at Sharrow, Bidford Road, Cleeve Prior, Worcestershire

Worcestershire Archaeology  
*for Douglas Carr*

January 2021



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# SHARROW, BIDFORD ROAD, CLEEVE PRIOR, WORCESTERSHIRE

Building recording report

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## SITE INFORMATION

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Site name: Sharrow, Bidford Road, Cleeve Prior, Worcestershire  
Local planning authority: Wychavon District Council  
Planning reference: 19/00283 and 19/00284  
Central NGR: SP 08902 49244  
Commissioning client: Douglas Carr  
WA project number: P5609  
WA report number: 2884  
HER reference: WSM71620  
Oasis reference: fieldsec1-412305

<b>DOCUMENT CONTROL PANEL</b>				
Version	Date	Author	Details	Approved by
1	19/01/2021	Tim Cornah	Draft for comment	Tom Vaughan

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## Building recording at Sharrow, Bidford Road, Cleeve Prior, Worcestershire

By Tim Cornah

### Summary

Building recording was undertaken of a former stable at Sharrow, Bidford Road, Cleeve Prior, Worcestershire (NGR SP 08902 49244). It was commissioned by Douglas Carr, in advance of proposed conversion of the existing building into a residential annexe. A planning application has been submitted.

The building was constructed between 1905 and 1924, as illustrated by the historic maps. Its function was initially that of a single stable, with an internal division that is likely to have been a small tack room. Probably not long after its construction, the tack room was removed and another internal partition was added to create two stables, along with a hay rack. The former building adjoining the western gable end appears from the cartographic sources to have been short lived and removed in the mid-20th century. In the later 20<sup>th</sup> century, a staircase was added to access the first floor, and the building was used for storage as opposed to stabling.

# Report

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Background to the project

Building recording was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA) in January 2021 of a former stable at Sharrow, Bidford Road, Cleeve Prior, Worcestershire (NGR SP 08902 49244). The project was commissioned by Douglas Carr, in advance of proposed conversion of the existing building into a residential annexe. A planning application has been submitted to Wychavon District Council (planning reference 19/00283 and 19/00284).

The building is an undesignated heritage asset, within the terms used by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), though associated with the Grade II listed 17<sup>th</sup> century house (List Entry Number: 1155507). The building was not previously registered with the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record before this project.

No brief was provided but the project conforms to the generality of briefs. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2019) and approved by Aidan Smyth of Wychavon District Council. The building recording also conforms to the industry guidelines and standards set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists in *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (CIfA 2014a), as well as *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2019).

## 2 Project Aims

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists defines the aims of building recording as 'a programme of work intended to establish the character, history, dating, form and archaeological development of a specified building' (CIfA 2014a).

The aims and scope of this building recording were to record the existing structure in advance of any proposed alterations.

## 3 Project methodology

### 3.1 Documentary sources consulted

#### *Cartographic sources*

- 1884 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey Map
- 1905 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey Map
- 1924 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey Map
- 1952, 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey Map

#### *Documentary sources*

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

### 3.2 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed WSI has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2019).

Fieldwork was undertaken on 4 January 2021. The site reference number used by the Historic Environment Record to record archaeological "events", and site code used in the archive is WSM71620.



Building recording consisted of a photographic survey of the interior and exterior of the buildings, analysis of their development, annotation of existing survey drawings and measured survey. All photographs were taken with photographic scales visible in each shot. The photographic survey was carried out with a Canon EOS 200D digital SLR camera. All photographs were recorded on a pro-forma Photographic Record Sheet. Annotation of existing ground plans and elevations complemented the photographic record.

The project conformed to the specification for a level 2 survey as defined in the Historic England document *Understanding historic buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (HE 2016). A level 2 record is a descriptive record. This is a visual record supplemented by the minimum of information needed to identify the building's location, age and type. The record will produce enough information to produce conclusions about the buildings development and use.

The record will include the following elements of survey:

#### Photography

- General view or views of the building in its wider setting or landscape
- External appearance of the building, using oblique and right-angle shots
- Overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas

#### Drawings

- Roughly dimensioned sketched plan, section, or elevation
- Measured plans as existing
- Measured drawings recording the form or location of other significant detail (when required)
- Measured cross-sections, long sections or elevational sections illustrating the vertical relationships within the building (when required)
- Measured drawings showing the form of any architectural decoration (when required)
- Measured elevations (when required)

#### Written account

- A summary of the building's form, function, date and sequence of development, including builders, architects, owners or patrons names where known

### 3.3 Building analysis

Analysis of the building was based on the study of the photographic record and annotated drawings (Plates 1-11, Fig 2). It was also informed by the documentary sources listed above.

## 4 Site context

### 4.1 Site location, topography and geology

The building is located to the rear of the house known as Sharrow within the centre of the village of Cleeve Prior. Cleeve Prior itself located between Evesham and Bidford upon Avon. The site is broadly flat and at a height of approximately 44m AOD, with the immediate geology recorded as Wilmcote Limestone Member, interbedded mudstone and limestone. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2021).

## 5 The building

### 5.1 Building description

The building (Plate 1 to Plate 2) comprises a small brick rectangular structure with decorative timber facings, aligned broadly east to west with gabled ends and a tiled roof. It has a single door on the ground floor facing to the south, flanked by two casement windows. Directly above the door was a hatch which opened into the first-floor space. The building is currently used as a storage space.

### 5.2 Historic information

Sharrow is a former farmstead of 17<sup>th</sup> century date onwards, with an 18<sup>th</sup> century threshing barn to the north of the house, as well as further agricultural buildings to the east of the house visible on the historic mapping, some of which no longer remain.

The building recorded within this project was not present on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1905, but was illustrated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of 1924. The latter also indicates an adjoining building extending west from the gable end and a further large rectangular building to the north-west, possibly a barn, neither of which now remain. The latter appears on the Ordnance Survey map of 1952, which was revised between 1938 and 1950 (NLS, 2021).

### 5.3 Building development

Three phases were identified during the investigation of the building, which are described as follows:

- Phase 1: Early 20th century
- Phase 2: Early to mid-20th century
- Phase 3: Late 20th century

The aim of the following section is to describe the building sequence from the earliest elements to the most recent.

#### 5.3.1 Phase 1: Early 20<sup>th</sup> century

The basic layout of the building and majority of its fabric dated to this period. The door, window and hatch positions on the frontage on the south elevation are original. The metal window frames on the ground floor and the wood of the hatch on the first floor are original. The door appears to be later (Plate 3). It is unclear if the external timber frame effect planking on the south and west elevations is original.

Internally, within the ground floor, a drain (Plate 4) extended for most of the length of the room, which was laid with purple engineering brick, excepting at the west end where a strip of red brick was used as flooring. This area corresponded with timbers sunk into the wall in the north-west corner (Plate 5), indicating a former internal division which corresponded with the smaller of the two exterior windows. A gap along the northern side of the first floor above was for dropping hay to a feeding rack below, though the remaining element was of Phase 2, indicated by a sawn off floor joist which was present in the north-west corner that was not present at the north-east corner. It is likely that the ground floor was spilt into a stable along with a small tack room.

The first floor (Plates 6 and 7) was accessed by a ladder from behind the later staircase, as well as the external hatch above the door, from which hay would have been loaded.

The extant white paint on the lower half of the external gable end wall of the building, along with the more weathered condition of the brickwork above, which also corresponds with the lower edge of the timber plank framing, indicates that the previously adjoining building to the east was of a single storey (Plate 10). Traces of black paint or bitumen across the wall indicate that at some stage the roof line sloped down from north to south. A horizontal line of black paint or bitumen across the external north

elevation corresponds with that on the west elevation (Plate 11). There is no other evidence of an adjoining structure on this elevation, so the line appears to be purely decorative.

### 5.3.2 Phase 2: Early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century

The possible tack room was removed, with the hay rack added and the ground floor split into two with the addition of a timber division (Plate 8), creating two stables.

The former building adjoining the western gable end appears from the cartographic sources to have been short lived and removed in the mid-20th century.

### 5.3.3 Phase 3: Later 20<sup>th</sup> century

The function as a stable ended once the reused staircase was added in the position of the earlier ladder access (Plate 9), as well as a water tank and associated plumbing at the top of the roof (Plate 6). Part of the roof was replaced at this time on the southern side.

## 6 Conclusion

The building was constructed between 1905 and 1924, as illustrated by the historic maps. Its function was initially that of a single stable, with an internal division that is likely to have been a small tack room. Probably not long after its construction, the tack room was removed and another internal partition was added to create two stables, along with a hay rack. The former building adjoining the western gable end appears from the cartographic sources to have been short lived and removed in the mid-20th century. In the later 20<sup>th</sup> century, a staircase was added to access the first floor, and the building was used for storage as opposed to stabling.

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

## 7 Project personnel

The fieldwork was led by Tim Cornah, ACIfA, who also produced and collated the report. The project was managed by Tom Vaughan, MCIfA.

## 8 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for the successful conclusion of the project: Douglas Carr (the client) and Aidan Smyth (Archaeology and Planning Advisor, Wychavon District Council).

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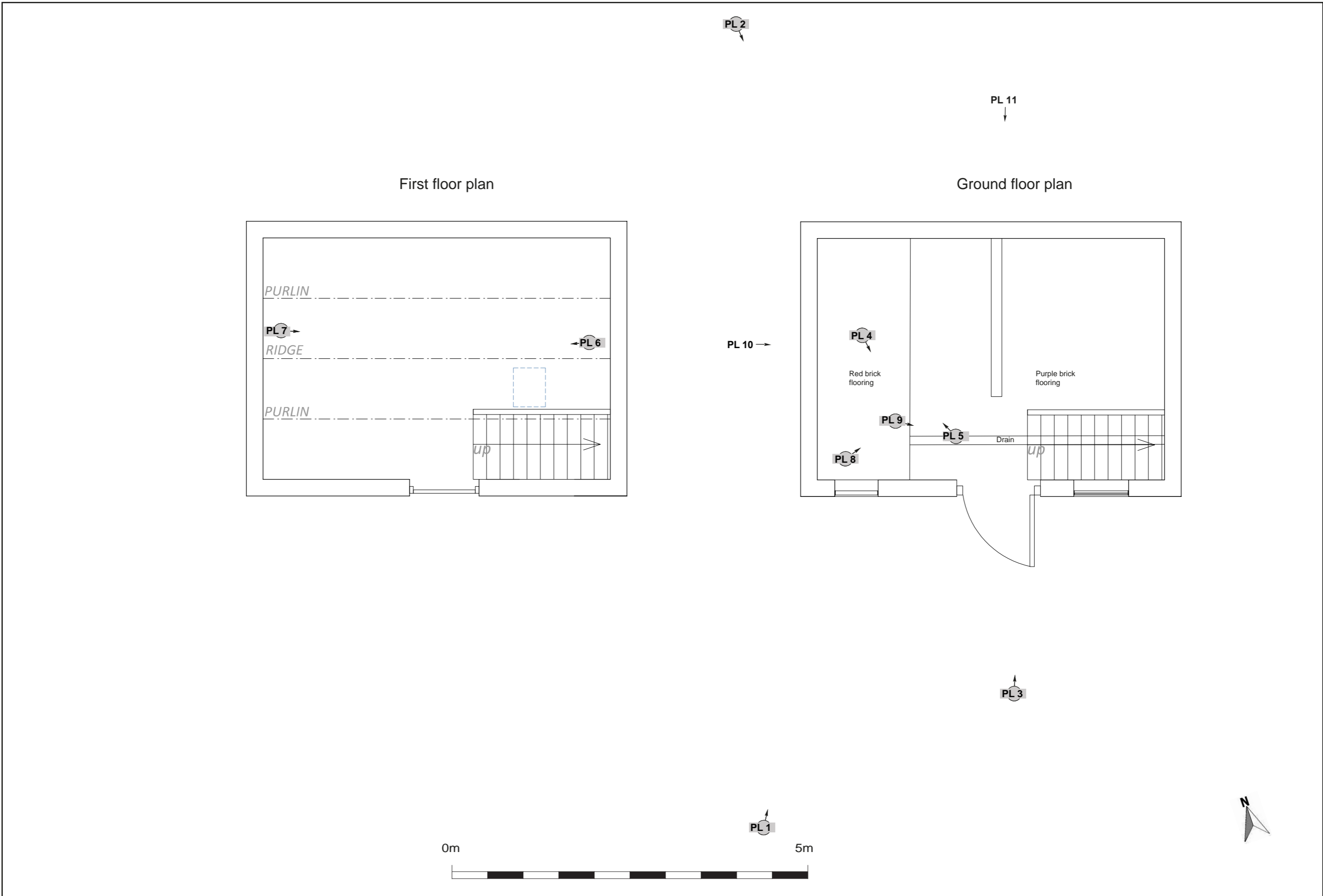
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## Figures



Location of the site

Figure 1



Floor plans with plate locations (After HA Planning drawing number AE-01(900192) 001)

Figure 2

## Plates



*Plate 1 The building, general view north-east, scale 1m*



*Plate 2 The building, general view south-west, scale 1m*





*Plate 3 The building, south elevation, view north, scale 1m*



*Plate 4 Internal drain, view south-east, scale 1m*



*Plate 5 Timbers set into the wall, view north-west, no scale*



*Plate 6 The first floor, view west, scale 1m*



*Plate 7 The first floor, looking east, scale 1m*



*Plate 8 Phase 2 stable division and hay rack, view north-east, scale 1m*



*Plate 9 Phase 3 stairs, view east, scale 1m*



*Plate 10 The building, west gable elevation, view east, scale 1m*



*Plate 11, The building, north elevation, view south, scale 1m*

## Appendix 1: Summary of project archive (WSM71620)

TYPE	DETAILS*
Paper	Drawing
Digital	Images raster/digital photography, Survey, Text

*\*OASIS terminology*

The project archive is currently held at the offices of Worcestershire Archaeology. Subject to the agreement of the landowner it is anticipated that it will be deposited at Worcestershire County Museum.