

An Archaeological Building Recording at Whirlow Hall Farm, Sheffield



View of the entrance into the Lower Yard

ARS Ltd Report 2011/59
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Executive Summary

In April 2011 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by the Whirlow Hall Farm Trust to undertake a programme of archaeological works at Whirlow Hall Farm as part of a Heritage Lottery Funded project to investigate the history of this working farm on the outskirts of Sheffield. This report presents the results of the Historic Building Recording element of this programme of works.

The report finds that the buildings at Whirlow Hall Farm have a history that could stretch back as far as the 15th or 16th century, if not before. It contains two cruck-framed buildings, which are both original and in-situ survivals that could date to the medieval period. After this date the story of the farm's development is one of periods of prosperity followed by periods of decline and disrepair, as the fortunes of its owners changed through the centuries. Documentation from the mid-1300's shows that the Bright family held the Whirlow estate and they are credited with building The Old Hall. The analysis of an illustration of how this looked prior to its demolition concludes that it is an Elizabethan/Jacobean structure that may retain an earlier timber core. This building would have represented a considerable investment in the early 17th century. By the early 18th century, however, the Bright's were not as financially secure and parts of the farm were sold off or mortgaged. The Low Cottage was built around this time and may represent the appropriation of part of the farm by a new owner. Even this new owner's wealth was not to last however, as the building survey has found that this building, as it stands, is only half of the original structure. The other half of the building has been demolished, most likely due to structural or financial problems.

In the majority of cases it has been possible to assign a broad date to the buildings of the two farmyards and the residential barn. A building chronology has been presented in the discussion.

1 Introduction

Scope of work

- 1.1 The Whirlow Hall Farm Trust was awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant to undertake a programme of research, recording and archaeological investigations into the history of Whirlow Hall Farm. Working in partnership with Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd), the project comprises a professionally-led programme of training, participation, learning activities and public engagement.
- 1.2 This document presents the results of the historic building recording element of the project. It was conducted according to English Heritage Level 2 requirements (English Heritage 2006) and in line with 'The Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Building Recording' (Institute for Archaeologists 2008)

Location and topography

- 1.3 Whirlow Hall Farm lies at the junction of Broad Elms Lane and Fenny Lane, approximately 5 miles southwest of Sheffield city centre (centred at NGR: SK 31135 83104). The farm covers 138 acres of upland and contains various agricultural and residential buildings, nineteen of which were recorded as part of this project (Figure 1).
- 1.4 The solid geology of the study site consists of Rough Stone Sandstone and Millstone Grit; Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone. The superficial geology is comprised of Head clay, silt, sand and gravel (British Geological Survey). The site is situated on sloping ground, which rises from east to west.

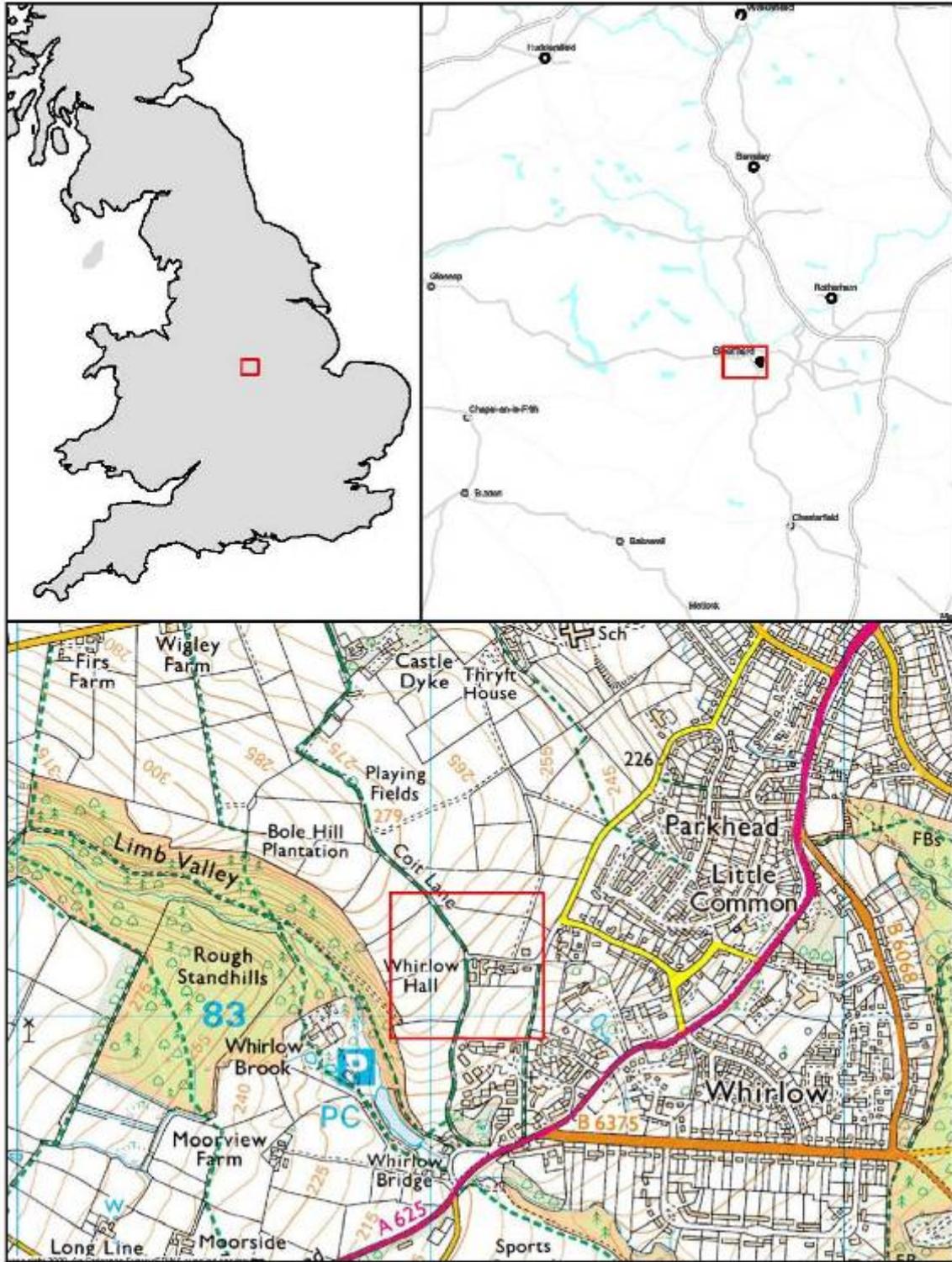


Figure 1. General site location. (Ordnance Survey data copyright OS, reproduced by permission, Licence no. 100045420).

2 Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 The main aim of the building recording element of the Whirlow Hall Farm Heritage Project was to provide a record of the form, function and phasing of the historic buildings at the site, as well to place these buildings within their historical geographical context.
- 2.2 A second aim was to provide training for local volunteers in the skills needed to undertake this type of heritage work.
- 2.3 All aspects of the Building Recording were conducted according to the guidelines in 'Recording Historic Buildings' published by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (1996) and 'Understanding Historic Buildings; A Guide to Good Recording Practice' by English Heritage (2006).

3 Methodology

- 3.1 The archaeological building recording was carried out by Gillian Eadie and Alvaro Mora-Ottomano in April 2011. This consisted of the following:
 - A written record of the buildings was carried out by annotating plans and completing Archaeological Research Services Ltd pro-forma building recording sheets. Descriptions and terms used follow Brunskill (2000) wherever possible.
 - A detailed photographic survey composed of 35mm black and white print (400 Ilford HP5 Plus) of identified features and general exterior and interior views was conducted using a Canon EOS 3000 N SLR camera fitted with a 28-90mm lens. Moreover, high resolution digital photographs (7.1 megapixels) were also taken using an Olympus 790 SW camera with a 20.1mm lens and a Minolta DIMAGE A1 with a 7.2-50.8mm lens. Where possible, photographs included a graduated scale and cameras were mounted on tripods for extra stability. Details of the photographs were recorded on pro-forma index sheets, which included location, subject and orientation.

4 Results

- 4.1 The building survey includes eighteen buildings built around two adjacent farmyards known as the Top and Lower Yard respectively. A further isolated building known as the Residential Barn was also included in the survey (Figure 2). Each of these buildings has been assigned a unique identifying letter which will be used throughout the report descriptions; these are detailed in Figure 3.
- 4.2 The archaeological building assessment successfully identified evidence of different phases of construction within the site. The assessment of the buildings and their sequential developments are considered below, following a short introduction to the history of the farm and its owners. A photographic selection is included.

Figure 2. Plan of Whirlow Hall Farm Estate Showing the Locations of the Archaeological Phases.

Figure 3. Detailed Location of Buildings Included in the Survey.

4 The History of Whirlow Hall Farm and its Owners

- 4.3 Whirlow Hall Farm is most often associated with the Bright family who held the lands for several generations throughout the later medieval and post-medieval period. There is some discrepancy regarding the date at which they first came into possession of the hall and its holdings. A deed exists from 1303 in which Robert de Ekilsale, Lord of the Manor of Ekilsale, gives some of his lands in Horlowe and the hall to his tenant, John of Horlowe (Sheppy 2011, 12), though it is not clear exactly where this medieval hall was located. A further reference records the mortgage of a messuage, called 'Horelowe Hall', and several lands from John Stephenson to John Bright a century later in 1410 (Frost 1990, 19), which again mentions the existence of a 'hall'.
- 4.4 The Bright family were in possession of Whirlow Hall Farm from 1410 until 1720. Through a combination of farming and lead smelting, they prospered and amassed extensive landholdings in Whirlow, Ecclesall, Fulwood, Ecclesfield and elsewhere in Yorkshire (Frost 1990, 22). A series of propitious marriages also saw them aligned with many of the powerful families of the surrounding region. A marriage settlement for Henry Bright dated to 1655 states that his father would retain possession of 'the west wing of the hall...several barns, out-houses, stables and a garden' (Frost 1990, 22) for his own use after the marriage. This shows something of the extent of the farm at this date and also gives an impression of its buildings. The reference to the 'west wing' of the hall correlates with a drawing of the 'old' hall completed shortly after its demolition in 1842 (Figure 4). This shows a hall with two projecting cross wings, apparently with a southerly aspect (Paulus 1927, 86).
- 4.5 The Bright's prosperity was not to last, however, and when Henry Bright eventually inherited the farm from his father in 1694, the family's fortunes were to dwindle. Hunter's *Hallamshire* blames Henry's 'fondness for high living' for his fall from grace, but whatever the reasons, the farmlands were gradually mortgaged and sold and the hall was divided, with sections leased to various tenants. In 1720 the hall and the remaining parts of the estate were eventually sold to Sir John Statham for £1900, the equivalent of around £2,000,000 in modern terms (Allen 1995, 5).
- 4.6 Statham sold the hall five years later to Thomas Hollis. He purchased the hall, farm, corn mill and 156 acres of land, and donated them to the Hollis Trust in 1726 (Allen 1995, 5-6). The trust nursed the widows of Sheffield manufacturers and cutlers (Allen 1995, 5-6), though it would appear that Whirlow was a financial endowment; its rents providing an income for the hospital located elsewhere. The hall was divided into separate apartments and, in 1725, John Dungworth became its first tenant.
- 4.7 In 1739 the Dungworths were given permission to build a dairy at the site and by 1742 they were renting the entire farm complex. It was clear that the buildings were suffering from disrepair, however, and in 1785 the Hollis trust wrote 'the dwelling houses at Whirlow Hall of which there are three, as well as the out-buildings and the walls about the place are in much disorder and will take a considerable sum of money to put them all in due repair' (Frost 1990, 23). Permission was given to carry out some repairs, but, in 1795, the east wing of the old hall was demolished. The Dungworths were still leasing the farm at this time and would retain the tenancy until 1843, when Mary Dungworth married William Furness. The Old Hall was fully demolished in 1842, so the newlyweds were given the lease of its newly-built replacement. This is the

hall that still stands on the edge of the Top Yard today. The Furness family took over the tenancy and held the New Hall until 1937, when the then tenant John William Furness moved to Whirlow Farm and the hall was leased to Walter Clarke, who had been at Whirlow Farm.

- 4.8 During the Second World War the farm was acquired by Sheffield City Council, though the hall was still tenanted and in the possession of the Hollis Trust. Following the War the tenancy was taken over by Dennis Merryweather who is responsible for its landscaped garden. In 1949 the Hall itself was also acquired by Sheffield City Council and they hold it to the present day.
- 4.9 In 1979 the estate was leased by the Whirlow Hall Farm Trust, a registered charity that runs it as a working farm for school children and educational groups.

The Old Hall

- 4.10 Figure 4 shows a depiction of the Old Hall at Whirlow which was drawn shortly after its demolition in 1843. The artist, W. Farnsworth, used an original drawing of the west wing of the building together with the recollections of Richard Furness to show how the building would have looked (Paulus 1927, 86).
- 4.11 The building comprises a central hall portion with two cross wings. It is stone-built with quoins to the corners. The stone or slate roof is gabled with straight copings, decorative kneelers and pommel-style finials. The mullion and transom windows with hood mouldings, together with the string courses, give a symmetrical layout to the structure. The doorway in the centre of the recessed hall portion has cut stone surrounds. There are three chimney stacks on the building, one at each end of the cross wings and one slightly off-centre in the hall portion. The building is finished in a late Elizabethan-Jacobean style and bears remarkable similarity to Snitterton Hall in Derbyshire, the outward facades of which are dated to the 1630s (Airs 1982, 180). A similar, or slightly earlier, date could be put forward for the Old Hall at Whirlow.
- 4.12 Clearly this building does not represent the 'hall' referred to in 1303 and 1410 (see section 4.3). The possibly exists, either that there was a previous building at the site before this hall was erected in the early 17th century, or that this building retained the core of an earlier structure, possibly timber-framed, that was substantially remodelled and refaced. The situation at Snitterton is the latter, where the façade represents the extension and re-facing of an earlier structure. The same may be true at Whirlow.

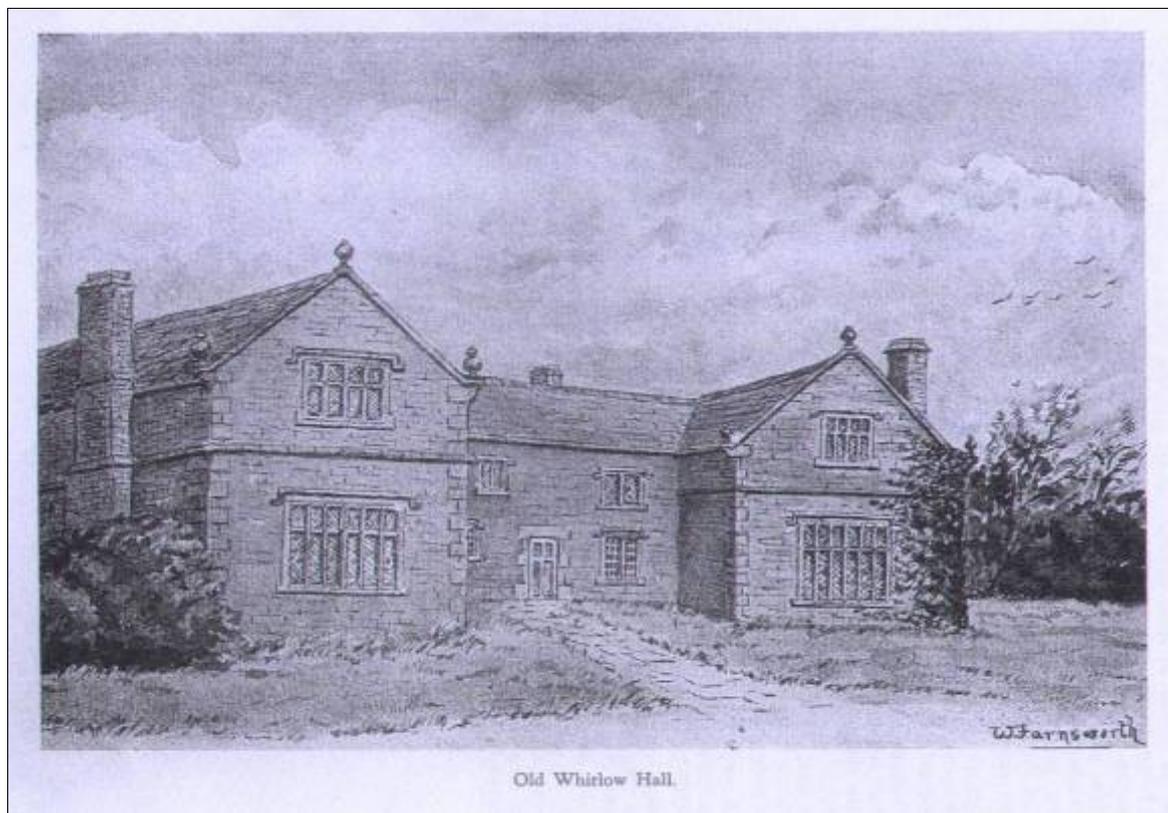


Figure 4. W. Farnsworth's illustration of the Old Hall at Whirlow (Paulus 1927)

Building A - The Animal Handling Barn

- 4.13 Building A (Plate 1) sits on the south side of a U-Shaped courtyard of buildings forming the lower yard. It is currently used as an animal handling barn.
- 4.14 This building is constructed of modern breeze-blocks and is faced externally with roughly hewn sandstone blocks with quoins on its eastern corners (Plate 1). It has a pitched roof covered with modern slate incorporating small louvre openings, evenly spaced along the ridge for ventilation. The north elevation contains a wide central doorway with sliding plank and batten doors. Either side of the doorway there are windows of three panes; the central pane is fixed. The east elevation is largely composed of plain walling, save for a timber slatted ventilation opening in the gable (Plate 2).
- 4.15 To the rear of the building a modern lean-to extension has been added to the south wall (Plate 3). Its walls are rendered with cement above a sandstone plinth/lower courses and a modern damp-proof course is also visible. It has a corrugated iron roof with a shallow slope. It also contains a wide doorway with plank and batten sliding doors.
- 4.16 Internally the extension creates extra space for animal housing pens and has necessitated the removal of the breeze-blocked south wall of Building A. The south side of the roof of building A is now carried on a modern reinforced steel joist (RSJs) and stanchions (Plate 4). Building A has a timber 'W' trussed-rafter roof, whilst the extension is roofed with timber slats tied together with steel herringbone strutting.
- 4.17 The building currently houses several animal pens and contains two central drains. It has another wide doorway with sliding plank and batten doors in a breeze-blocked partition wall to the west. The area behind these doors was not accessible for survey.
- 4.18 Map evidence shows that there were two buildings erected at this location between 1923 and 1935, both of which survived until at least 1953 (Sheppy 2011, 35-39). An 18th century drawing of Whirlow Hall Farm depicts the lower courtyard (Sheppy 2011, 17). Buildings with corrugated iron roofs are just visible at the location of Building A, so they may have survived until this date. The eastern-most building does not appear on the modern Ordnance Survey map of 1992, however, suggesting that it had been demolished, or was in ruins, by this date (Sheppy 2011, 43). The present building may therefore represent a rebuilding of this entire range after 1992. It has been faced with sandstone blocks in-keeping with the character of the rest of the farm and may have reused some of the stones from the original structures. The building is of modern construction and of little historical or architectural importance.



Plate 1. North elevation of Building A.



Plate 2. East Elevation of Building A.



Plate 3. Southeast elevation of Building A showing flat-roofed extension to the south.



Plate 4. Interior of Building A facing northeast.

Building B - The Shop

- 4.19 The animal handling barn (Building A) is attached to the east end of Building B and the lack of quoin stones at this junction suggests, either that Building B was in existence prior to Building A, or that the two are contemporary. Building B projects further north than the other buildings in the lower yard and is currently used as the farm shop (Plate 5).
- 4.20 The north elevation of Building B contains a large window opening for the shop front. Local recollection, however, states that prior to the creation of the shop, this building had a wide open frontage. The stonework frontage is of well-coursed sandstone, whilst the remainder of the building is rendered with concrete externally (Plate 6). There is an incised date of '1990' on a low stone at the northeast corner. The roof is the same as Building A; tiled with small louvre openings along the ridge for ventilation.
- 4.21 Internally the building has been modernised, with plastered walls and electricity sockets associated with its use as a shop. The roof structure was not accessible for inspection.
- 4.22 Map evidence shows that there has been a building in this location since the earliest Ordnance Survey map of 1850, indicating that it pre-dates any building in the location of Building A (Sheppy 2011, 29). The current footprint of Building B, however, is larger than that depicted on the early mapping. This building has clearly been substantially re-modelled, re-roofed and possibly entirely re-faced since then, which may explain the date stone of 1990. The core of this structure may date back to the Victorian period, but in its present guise it has a distinctly modern appearance.



Plate 5. North elevation of Building B.



Plate 6. South elevation of Buildings A and B (to the left of the picture).

Building C - Office

- 4.23 Building C is joined to the west wall of Building B. It is currently used as an office. The walls are constructed of roughly coursed sandstone, sometimes snecked, and without quoins. It has a pitched roof with stone tiles laid to diminishing courses, with stone ridge tiles (Plate 7 and 8).
- 4.24 The north elevation contains a stable door and an inserted PVC window. There is also a distinct scar on the west end of the building where it clearly abuts a section of quoin stones. These stones are clearly part of another structure. They do not appear to tie-in well with Building D to the north, and may therefore represent the truncated remains of an earlier structure in this location.
- 4.25 Map evidence shows that there has been a building at this location since the earliest Ordnance Survey map of 1850 (Sheppy 2011, 29), however, it is unlikely that the building depicted is the building that now stands in this location, since there is clear evidence of an earlier structure in the junction of Buildings C and D.
- 4.26 Access to the interior of the building was not permitted.



Plate 7. North elevation of Building C.



Plate 8. South elevation of Building C.

Building D - Toilet Block

- 4.27 Building D is attached to the west wall of Building C and is currently used as a toilet block. The walls are constructed of well-coursed sandstone blocks with gritstone quoins. It has a single-pitch tiled roof with stone ridge tiles.
- 4.28 The north elevation contains three plain doorways with modern timber doors and the south elevation contains three PVC windows. There is a construction break between Buildings C and D, where the walling incorporates the remains of an earlier structure (see section 4.24). There also appears to be a construction break between the lower and upper portions of the south wall of this structure. The walling below the windows may be the remains of an earlier structure, perhaps explaining the rather awkward single pitch of the roof.
- 4.29 The interior of this structure has been modernised in light of its use as a toilet block.
- 4.30 Map evidence shows that there has been a building at this location since the earliest Ordnance Survey map of 1850 (Sheppy 2011, 29), however, it is unlikely that the building depicted is the building that now stands in this location, since there is clear evidence of an earlier structure in the junction of Buildings C and D.



Plate 9. North elevation of Building D.



Plate 10. South elevation of Building D.



Plate 11. Interior of Building D facing south.

Building E - Outhouse

- 4.31 Building E is attached to the west wall of Building D and is currently derelict. It is constructed of well-coursed sandstone blocks. It has a single-pitch roof built of stone slabs laid to diminishing courses with a stone ridge.
- 4.32 The north wall contains a doorway with rotten timber lintel and two small holes to house the fixings for a PVC gutter, which has now fallen off.
- 4.33 Some plaster survives on the interior of the building and it also contains a single toilet.
- 4.34 Mapping evidence shows that a building was erected in this location between 1935 and 1952 and we can be fairly certain that this building is the one depicted on the maps (Sheppy 2011, 37-39). It may have been built as an outhouse or shed associated with Building F, the Low Cottage.



Plate 12. North elevation of Building E.

Building F - The Low Cottage

- 4.35 Building F is located in the Lower Yard and is oriented north-south at the head of the U-shaped courtyard. It is a Grade II listed building (No: 457344), described as ‘early 18th century and late 18th century, with late 20th century alterations and additions’ (Listed Buildings Description, 1974). It is constructed of well-coursed sandstone with gritstone quoins. It has a stone-tiled, gabled roof with straight coping and decorative kneelers on its south side (Plate 16). There are integrated chimney stacks on the north and south walls. This building is currently used as a home.
- 4.36 The east elevation faces into the courtyard and it has been substantially modernised with the addition of a porch and the insertion of modern window frames (Plate 13). The current windows on the ground floor are likely to be larger than the originals, with those on the first floor being more akin to the original size for a building of this type. The windows at attic level are inserted. A drawing located inside Whirlow Hall shows the lower courtyard in 1984 and Building F is shown without its porch. The doorway into the building has a dressed stone lintel.
- 4.37 The style of the original windows can be viewed on the south and west elevations. They consist of small, single lights with cut-stone surrounds on the south elevation, or larger two-light mullioned examples on the west elevation. There are number of

blocked windows in this building, which appear to have been blocked at the time of construction, or shortly after. They are located on the west and south elevations and are blocked with large sandstone slabs. This may be associated with the window tax introduced in 1696, which saw buildings being built with blocked window openings that could be removed at a later date.

- 4.38 A later window blockage is also visible on the south elevation and this, together with the blocked doorway, can be associated with the insertion of fireplaces and a flue on this wall. This means that the chimney stack is a secondary feature. The doorway on the south elevation has a fine, dressed-gritstone surround with decorated lintel.
- 4.39 The north wall of this building and the north elevation contain evidence of significant remodelling of this structure which has essentially reduced the size of the building by half. This is most notable on the northwest corner (Plate 15), which has a distinctly ragged appearance, with no quoin stones, marking where part of the building has been taken down. The north end of the current building is also missing the coping and kneeler seen on the south end (Plate 14). The north elevation of what is now Building G, along Broad Elms Lane, incorporate the remains of part of the original north wall of Building F, showing the original extent of the structure (Plate 17). The remains include some in-situ quoin stones and the lower part of a fine, dressed-gritstone doorway, similar to that on the south wall of Building F (Plate 18). One interesting feature is that the northeast corner of the building, which should be as ragged as the northwest, has been remodelled with inserted quoin stones to create some symmetry in the building's frontage (Plate 16). The quoins are clearly inserted as they are not as well done as those on the southeast corner and the uppermost quoin actually projects outwards from the north wall.
- 4.40 Internally there is also evidence of these alterations. There is an inserted staircase which has necessitated the removal of part of a ceiling beam (Plate 19). No evidence of an original staircase was located inside the present structure, suggesting that it was originally in the northern half. At attic level part of the roof structure is exposed at the north end of the structure and this shows the remains of a side purlin that would once have carried the roof of the demolished half of the building (Plate 20). This purlin could serve no other purpose.
- 4.41 Further evidence of modifications to the interior of Building F is shown by the arrangement in the north wall of the kitchen at ground-floor level (Plate 21). Here a doorway, which would have originally communicated with the northern portion of the building, now gives access to Building G. Also, a possible built-in cupboard on the other side of the chimney has been modified to contain a range cooker. At attic level, the chimney flue in the south wall is clearly of modern construction (Plate 22). This correlates with the blocked windows and door on the exterior of the south wall.
- 4.42 Other interior features of note are some original floorboards on the first floor (Plate 23) and a timber-framed partition of the roof space at attic level (Plate 24-25). The roof is carried on a couple-close truss with two side purlins. The timber partition may be an original feature of the building, although the tie-beam shows evidence of reuse. This comes in the form of a series of mortice holes along its length which would once have held floor joists, when it was in use as a ceiling beam at another location. The apex of the partition is infilled with close-studding and wattle and daub (Plate 25) and contains a small window or ventilation opening. The lower portion is also close-

studded with wattle and daub infill (Plate 24). It is unclear how far this timber-framing extends down through the lower levels of the building.

- 4.43 This building can be dated using the style of the original windows and doors, as well as the coping and kneelers, to the transition from late 17th to early 18th-century architectural styles. It is depicted on the earliest Ordnance Survey mapping of 1850 (Sheppy 2011, 29). This map also shows a building in the location of the, now demolished, northern portion of the structure. It is unclear, however, whether the building depicted is the present lean-to structure or the original extent of Building F. The Ordnance Survey mapping from 1893 clearly shows that the northern portion had been demolished at this date (Sheppy 2011, 31). The reasons behind its removal are unknown, though there may have been some structural problems, or perhaps the house was too large for its owners to maintain or pay taxes on.



Plate 13. East elevation of Building F.



Plate 14. West elevation of Building F.



Plate 15. Junction of Building F and Building G, showing the ragged north end of Building F where part of the structure has been demolished.



Plate 16. South elevation of Building F.

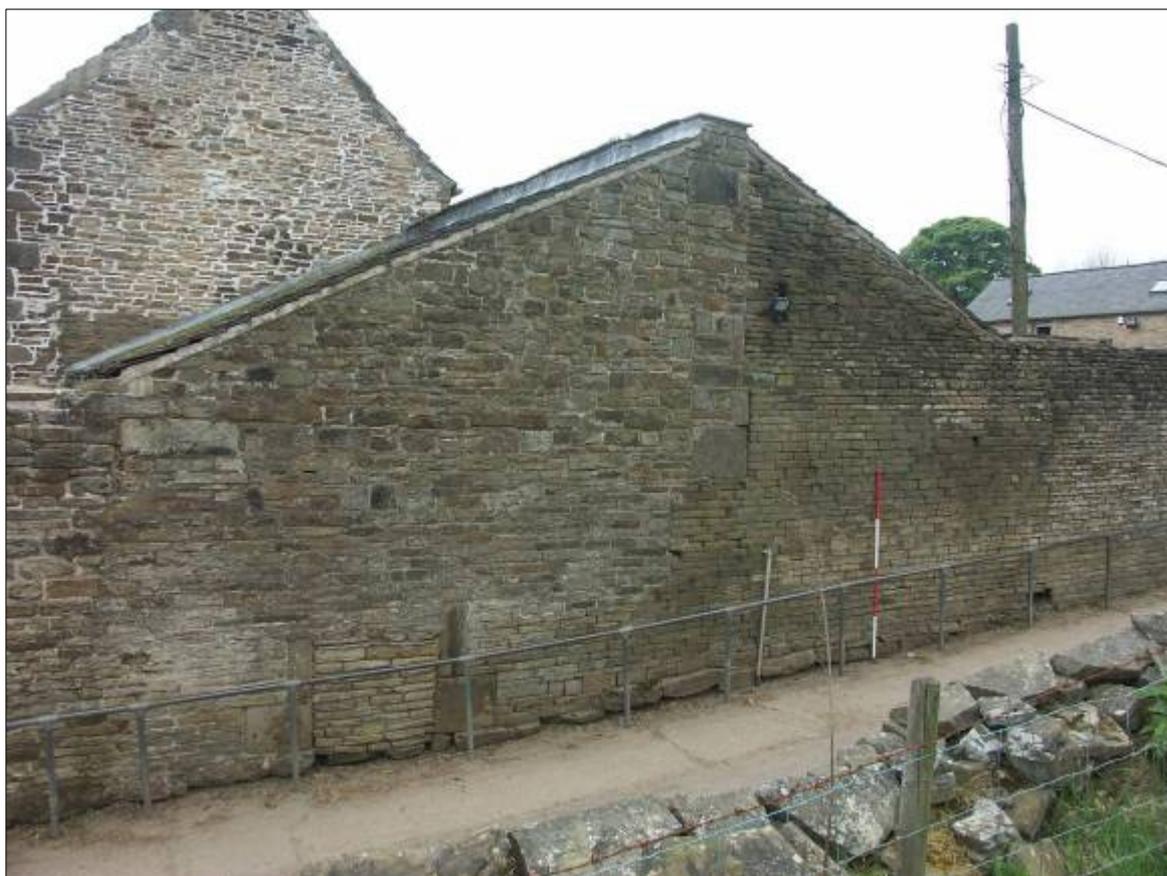


Plate 17. North elevation of Building G.



Plate 18. Detail of blocked and truncated doorway in the north wall of Building G.



Plate 19. Ground Floor of Building F. Interior facing south, showing inserted staircase.



Plate 20. Attic Level of Building F. Interior north wall showing side purlin leading to the now demolished northern half of the building.



Plate 21. Ground floor of Building F. Interior of north wall showing modified central fireplace with original doorway on the left and possible built-in cupboard opening on the right.



Plate 22. Attic level of Building F. Interior showing the inserted chimney flue in the south wall.

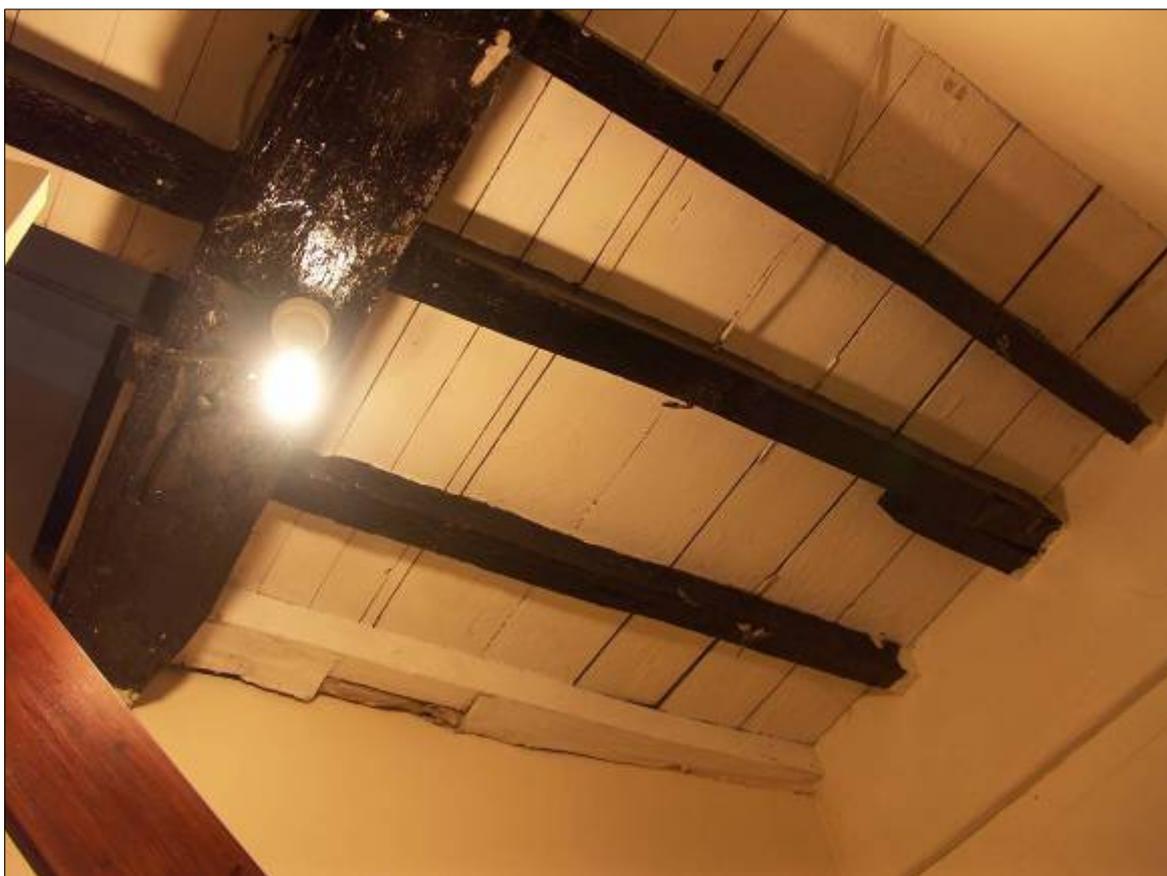


Plate 23. Ground floor of Building F. Interior showing original timber floor boards of the first floor.



Plate 24. Attic Level of Building F. Interior south side of partition wall with reused tie-beam.



Plate 25. Attic Level of Building F. Interior north side of partition with reused tie-beam.

Building G - Stores

- 4.44 Building G is attached to the north side of Building F and represents the amalgamation of three lean-to style buildings (Plate 26-27). These structures are now used for storage. The main walling is constructed of reused sandstone, built to courses, with quoin stones in places. The west wall frontage on to the Top Yard is timber panelled.
- 4.45 The lean-to structure that is attached directly to Building F contains a blocked, reset window in the west wall (Plate 26). This window almost certainly came from the demolished portion of Building F. The east elevation contains a doorway with a dressed-gritstone lintel (Plate 27). The north elevation has been discussed above as part of Building F. However, it is worth noting here that there are exposed foundation stones on this side of the building, indicating that the present ground level is lower than it was when these structures were erected.
- 4.46 Mapping evidence shows that the initial buildings at this location were the ones attached to the north end of Building F and the one attached to west side of it, forming a wide gabled structure out of the two lean-to buildings. These are depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1893 (Sheppy 2011, 31). The third building was in place by 1905 (Sheppy 2011, 33).



Plate 26. West elevation of Building G.



Plate 27. East elevation of Building G

Building H - Cow Shed

- 4.47 Building H is included as part of the complex of Grade II listed buildings at Whirlow; described as a 'cowshed'. It is aligned east/west on the north side of the U-shaped Lower Yard. It is constructed mainly of well-coursed sandstone, though there are several construction breaks evident in the fabric which are marked out by different masonry styles and materials. It has a pitched stone-tiled roof. The building is now used for storage.
- 4.48 The north elevation has a central doorway with dressed-gritstone surround and a blocked, inserted doorway at its west end (Plate 28). The central doorway was perhaps one of two doorways (the other is in Building I) which once held timber plank and batten doors (Figure 5) and which bear a carved date of 1652. One of these doors has been rediscovered at the farm (Figure 6) and is due to be placed on display in Building I (Sheppy 2011, 15). There is a window/pitching eye at attic level on the east side. The remains of a possible second pitching eye are visible on the west side, though this cannot be said for certain. There are exposed foundations along the length of this wall indicating that the ground level has been lowered.
- 4.49 The north wall shows some of the construction breaks mentioned above (Plate 28). There is a clear change in the style of masonry, from roughly coursed to snecked in the horizontal line just above the doorway. This indicates that the building has been heightened to accommodate the loft space. This is also shown by the brick gable end on the west side, which may be related either to the heightening, or to an extension, of the building.
- 4.50 Before moving on from the north elevation, note should be made of a scar in the wall to the east of doorway (Plate 29). This may mark the location of a cruck frame associated with Building I (see Section 4.59).
- 4.51 The south elevation has a double doorway with gritstone lintel, a plank and batten door in the centre of the wall, and a second doorway with stable door and adjacent window and timber lintel at the east end (Plate 30-31).
- 4.52 There is evidence of a construction break on the east side of the central doorway where there is a marked change in the character of the stonework from the eastern half of the building, which is roughly coursed, to the western half, which is snecked (Plate 30). The stonework which currently forms the eastern side doorframe may actually be quoin stones marking the position of the end wall of a structure which has now been extended to the west. This interpretation may also be supported by the presence of a brick gable on the western end of the building, though there does not appear to be a corresponding construction break on the north wall of the building.
- 4.53 Internally, the roof is carried on a king post and strut truss with one side purlin fixed with a tusk-tenon joint (Plate 32). There is a loft over the eastern end of the building and a triple-paned, fixed skylight in the roof. The roof truss at the west end of the building is carried on a brick buttress and there are bricks used internally to heighten the top three courses of the walls to carry the roof (Plate 33).
- 4.54 All in all, the phasing of this building is difficult to discern. There is some ephemeral evidence that the eastern portion of the building may have originally been of cruck construction, as part of Building I. The timber-framing of Building I would then have

been replaced in stone and the doorway on the north wall, bearing the date 1652, was created. It then appears that the building may have been extended to the west, possibly at the same time as when it was heightened to create a hay loft over the eastern end. These latter modifications cannot be dated on stylistic grounds.

- 4.55 Mapping evidence shows that this building was in place on the earliest Ordnance Survey mapping of 1850 (Sheppy 2011, 29). At this stage it was the same length that it is today, indicating that if the building had been extended, this would have to have been done prior to 1850.



Plate 28. North elevation of Building H.

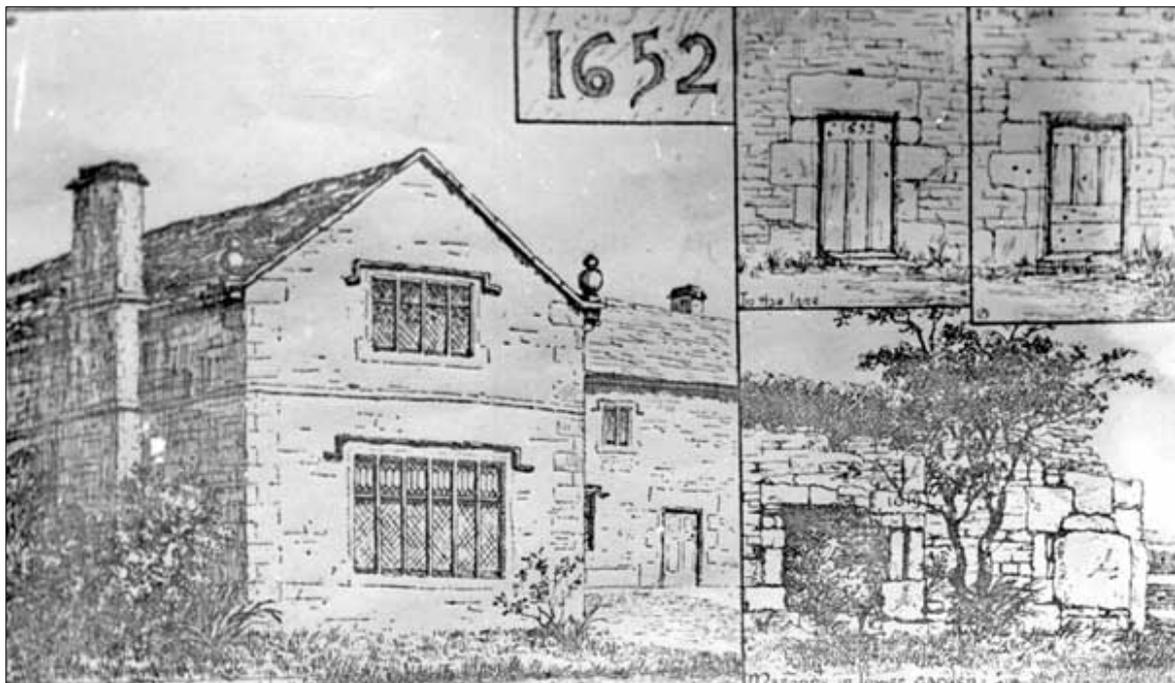


Figure 5. Illustration of Whirlow old hall and doorways on Broad Elms Lane bearing the date 1652 (Daily Telegraph, 7th Jan 1925)



Figure 6. Doorway bearing the date of 1652 recently rediscovered at Whirlow Hall Farm

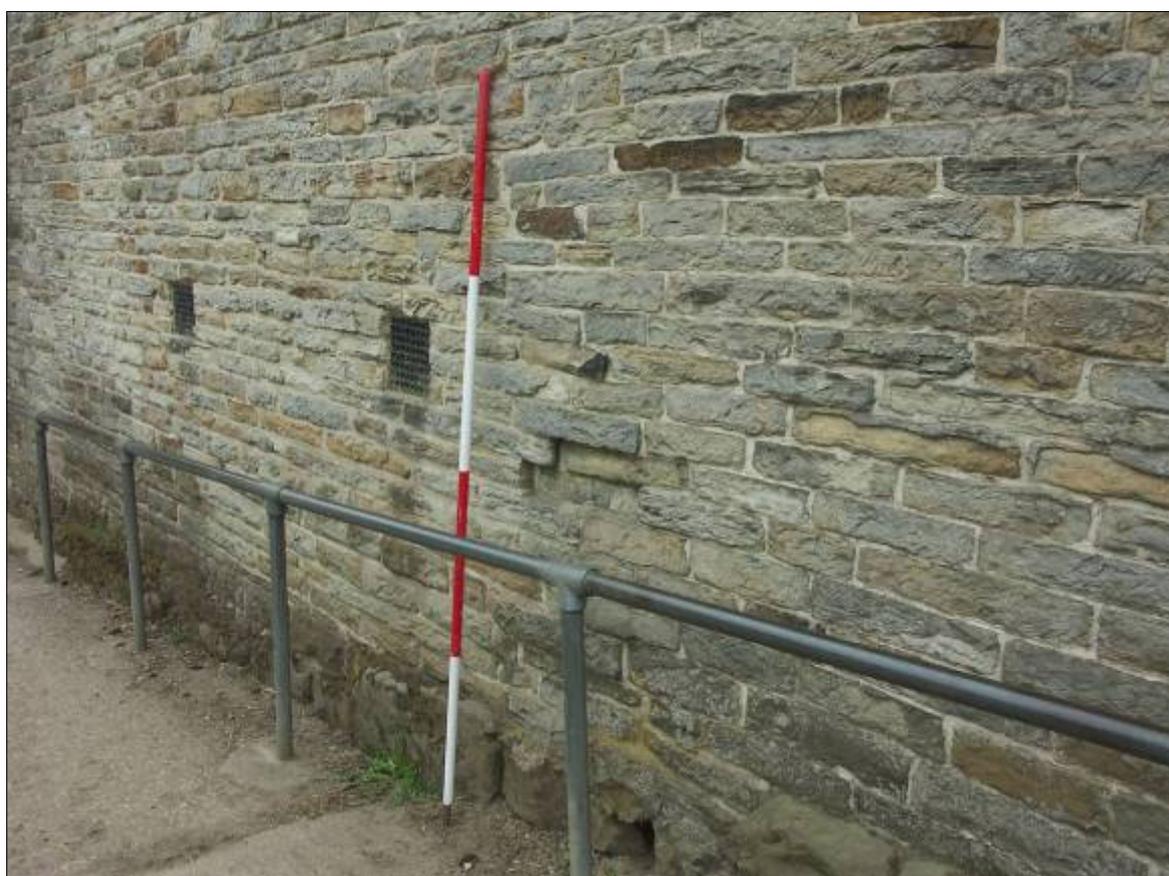


Plate 29. Detail of a possible scar associated with the location of a, now removed, cruck frame in the north wall of Building H.



Plate 30. Western portion of the South elevation of Building H.



Plate 31. East end of the South elevation of Building H.



Plate 32. Interior of Building H, facing east.



Plate 33. Interior of Building H, facing west.

Building I - The Cruck Barn

- 4.56 Building I is attached to the east end of Building H and is included in the complex of Grade II listed buildings at Whirlow. It is currently used as a teaching and recreation room. It is constructed of well-coursed sandstone with gritstone quoins at the east end, and roofed with Welsh slate (Plate 34).
- 4.57 The south elevation (Plate 34) contains three doorways, that on the west end is wider than the rest, with a stone lintel and plank and batten stable door. The central doorway is now blocked to form a window, but has a chamfered-stone surround. The door at the east end is also blocked to form a long window; it has a plain dressed-stone surround. There is evidence of a blocked window, or pitching eye above the eastern doorway. The east elevation has a circular owl hole/oculus in the gable end (Plate 35)
- 4.58 The north elevation has one blocked doorway with chamfered-stone surround, which once contained a plank and batten door bearing the date of 1652 (see Figures 5 and 6). It also has two pitching eyes (Plate 36).
- 4.59 This building contains a surviving cruck frame, and there is evidence throughout the structure of the locations of further frames that allow us to determine something of its original form and extent.
- The surviving frame sits in the centre of Building I and has been encased with stone at a later date and the stresses placed by the frame onto the stone walls have created some cracking. This is evident on the north elevation, at the location of the surviving frame (Plate 36) and on the south elevation where sections of the encasing wall have fallen away to reveal the cruck blade and its stylobate (Plate 37). There is significant cracking above this.
 - In the east wall of the current Building I there is a scar on the interior of the north east corner that terminates at the same height above ground level as the stylobate of the surviving cruck visible in the east wall (Plate 38). This suggests that scarring marks the location of a cruck blade that was encased in stone, then removed, and the walling patched up above the stylobate. In the south east corner at the same location there is cracking and discontinuity of coursing at the base of the wall, suggesting again that a stylobate has been retained in this location.
 - In the current west end wall of Building I more definitive evidence of this sequence of events has been uncovered. Internally on both the southwest and northwest corners, we find stone bases protruding from the walls which can only be interpreted as stylobates for a now removed cruck frame. Further to this, there is scarring in the walls above these stones that follows a distinctive curve, marking the location where a cruck frame has been encased in stone, then removed. The walls have then been patched-up, and in the case of the northwest corner, this was done using bricks which had to be cut to follow the curving shape of the gap.
 - Cracking and disturbance has also been noted on the north elevation of building H (see Section 4.50, Plate 29) and is interpreted as the possible location of another cruck frame that has since been removed. This means that the cruck frame building was originally larger than the current extent of Building I.
 - Further to the west along building H, the break in construction noted between the western and eastern portions (see Section 4.52), may in fact represent the original extent of Building I, which has since been extended, heightened and separated to

form two different buildings. This is uncertain, however, as no evidence of stylobates was found at this location and the sloping ground at this end of the site would mean that the original ceiling height of Building I at this point would have been very low.

- 4.60 The locations of possible frames are found at regular *c.*5m intervals. This means four definite cruck frames, and possibly a fifth, made up the original extent of Building I. It would have been *c.*15m in length, possibly *c.*20m, making it as much as 10m longer than its present size.
- 4.61 The surviving cruck frame is located in the centre of Building I. A stone partition wall obscures much of the lower portion of the frame, dividing this building into rooms, not accessible from each other (Plate 38). The Listed Building text for this structure states that the cruck frame is ‘reused’, though the evidence used to make this determination is not stated (Listed Building Description, 1974). The present building investigation finds no evidence to suggest that the cruck has been reused and the scars on the masonry marking the location of further cruck frames would point towards the surviving cruck being an *in situ* preservation of some significant age. It is possible that the presence of the stone partition wall has led to the erroneous description of this building, as it might appear the cruck frame is resting on the stone partition. This is not the case, however, the blade on the south side clearly penetrates the wall and sits on an original stylobate.
- 4.62 The cruck frame in this building is included in Alcock’s catalogue of cruck frames in Britain, where it is described as an agricultural building (Alcock 1981, 153). The main source of reference for this building is Bunker’s assessment of cruck frames in North Derbyshire and South Yorkshire (Bunker 1970, 62). Bunker makes no mention of the frame being reused and appears to view it as a genuine survival. She postulates that the building would have originally had four frames and states that three were removed in order to build the ‘new Tudor Hall’ (Bunker 1970, 62). The building she refers to must be the now demolished Old Whirlow Hall. This is an interesting notion; however Bunker does not cite a reference for this information. Bunker also states that stylobates in Building I are of differing heights in order to counteract the effects of the sloping ground, but even taking this into account, they are around 6 inches higher than normal, giving extra height to the structure (Bunker 1970, 62).
- 4.63 The surviving frame is a ‘Type A’ cruck, where ‘the blades hardly meet and are not jointed at the apex, being held together by the collar’ (Alcock 1981, 95). Plate 41 and 42 show the form of the cruck frame. The apex of the blades form the housing for the ridge beam and all are held in place by the high collar, or yoke (Plate 43). There is an extended tie-beam further down the frame held in place by halved joints with tusk pegs (Plate 45). There are single side purlins held in trenches with simple pegs (Plate 44). It is not clear whether the current purlins are original, but they are in the original locations. There are currently wind braces on the eastern side of the frame, however it is not certain that these are an original feature as their joints are of a different style to the rest of the frame and they do not appear to ‘fit’ the frame as well as its other component parts (Plate 45). One further feature of the frame is a pit saw mark on the west side of the northern blade, giving evidence of the preparation of the timbers for use in construction (Plate 46).
- 4.64 The presence of augur holes in the collar/yoke and the inside edges of the cruck blades between the collar and tie-beam, together with long grooves on the upper side

of the tie-beam, indicate that the top section of the cruck frame (between collar and tie) was infilled with wattle and daub panelling (Plate 43 and 45).

- 4.65 All of this surviving evidence can allow us to recreate the original appearance of the cruck barn. Cruck barns generally had timber-framed walls in this region, which would have been infilled with wattle and daub. The barn may have looked something like Figure 7, which has been sketched to illustrate its original form.
- 4.66 This building appears on the earliest Ordnance Survey map of 1850 (Sheppy 2011, 29). Cruck frames are difficult to date on stylistic grounds, however, there are some clues as to the date of this structure. Firstly, the doorway on Broad Elms Lane was apparently in place by 1652 which would mean that the timber-framed walls of the cruck barn had been replaced in stone by this date. It is reasonable to suggest that there would have been a substantial interval between the building's initial construction and its rebuilding in stone, since there would be little to gain in using that vast amount of timber, simply to have it replaced in stone a few years later. Secondly, Alcock has conducted a study of cruck framed construction in the British Isles which involved dating examples of crucks from across the country. This concluded that cruck construction was on the decline by the 16th century (Grenville 1997, 57-59). It is reasonable to assume therefore that the cruck barn could be 14th or 15th century in date. Despite this, Belford states that for 'various reasons' the cruck frame must date to the late 1600s and he also believes that the barn was originally built in stone incorporating the cruck framing solely to carry the roof structure (Belford 1997, 14-15). The author can see no reason to draw such a conclusion and only scientific dating could provide an answer to this question.



Plate 34. South elevation of Building I.



Plate 35. East elevation of Building I, showing round owl hole in the gable.



Plate 36. North elevation of Building I, showing crack associated with the location of a cruck frame.

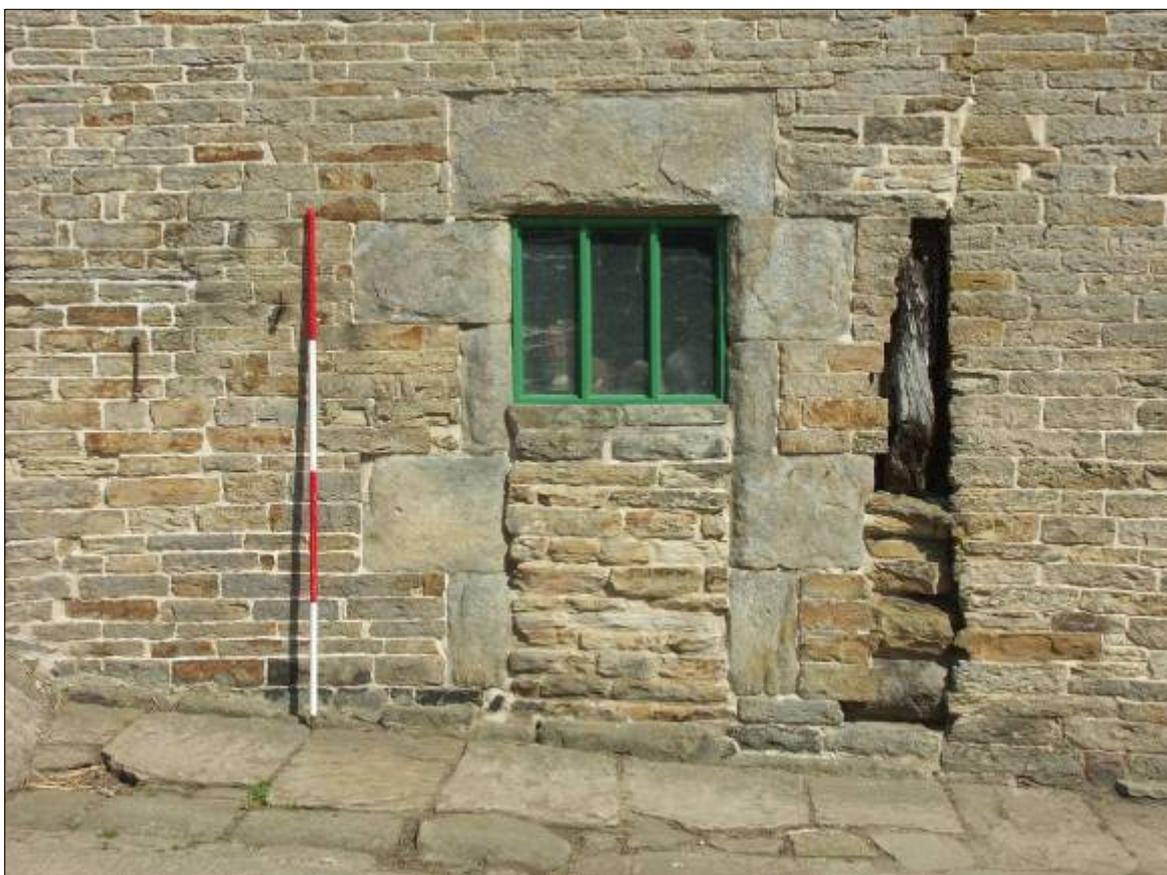


Plate 37. Detail of exposed cruck blade and stylobate beside a partially blocked doorway in the south wall of Building I.



Plate 38. Interior of Building I facing northeast, showing scar of a cruck blade in the northeast corner.



Plate 39. Interior of the western half of Building I showing the scar of a cruck blade in the south west corner.



Plate 40. Interior of the western half of Building I showing the scar of a cruck blade in the northwest corner.



Plate 41. Interior of Building I facing west, showing surviving cruck blades, ridge beam, collar and tie beam encased in a later stone partition wall.



Plate 42. Detail of surviving cruck frame. Interior of Building I.



Plate 43. Detail of the apex arrangement of the surviving cruck frame.



Plate 44. Detail of the joint for the side purlins in the surviving cruck frame



Plate 45. Detail of the halved joint for the tie-beam with tusk pegs.



Plate 46. Pit-saw mark on the north blade of the cruck frame.

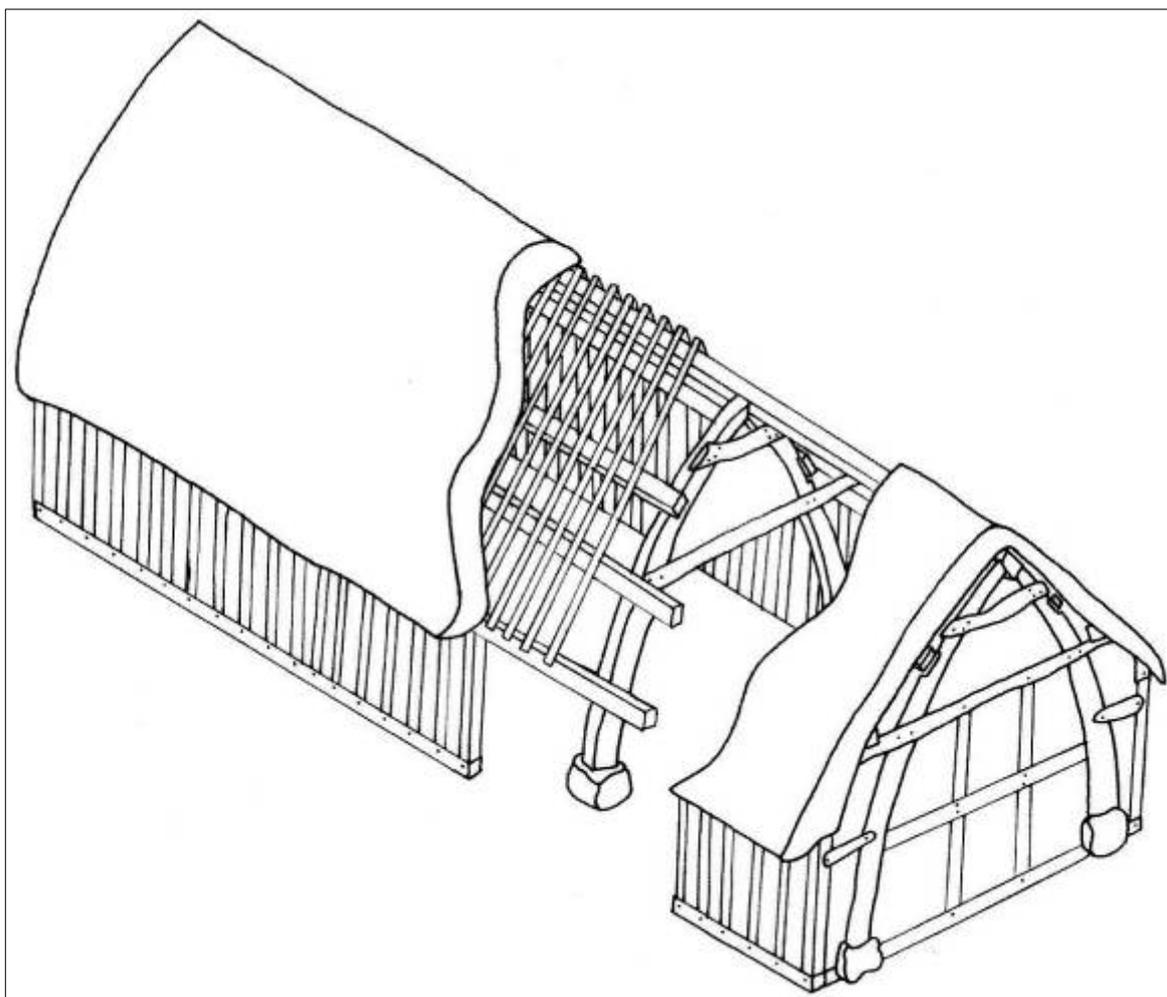


Figure 7. Reconstruction drawing of Building I (Drawn by the author)

Building J - Bull Pen

- 4.67 Building J is attached to the east end of Building I. A modern opening in the east wall of Building I allows access between the two, and Building I is now only accessible via Building J, which acts as a lobby area. Building J is included in the complex of Grade II Listed buildings at Whirlow, being described as a 'bull-pen' (Listed Building Description, 1974). The building appears to be constructed largely with modern snecked stonework and mortar and incorporates a damp-proof course. There are areas, especially on the east side of the building, that appear to contain more weathered stone. The roof is of stone tiles laid to diminishing courses. It is probable that this building has been partially rebuilt, but incorporates an older structure of similar size and form.
- 4.68 The south elevation contains wide double doors to the west, which currently give access to the lobby area leading to Building I. This doorway has a textured RSJ lintel. On the east side there is a smaller stable-style door; this has a small skylight above (Plate 47). There is also a small skylight on the north side of the building (Plate 50).
- 4.69 The east elevation contains a date stone of 2002, which may date the repairs to the structure (Plate 48-49). The earliest depiction of this building is on the Ordnance Survey map of 1893 (Sheppy 2011, 31); it does not appear on the 1850 map.



Plate 47. South elevation of Building J.



Plate 48. East elevation of Building J.

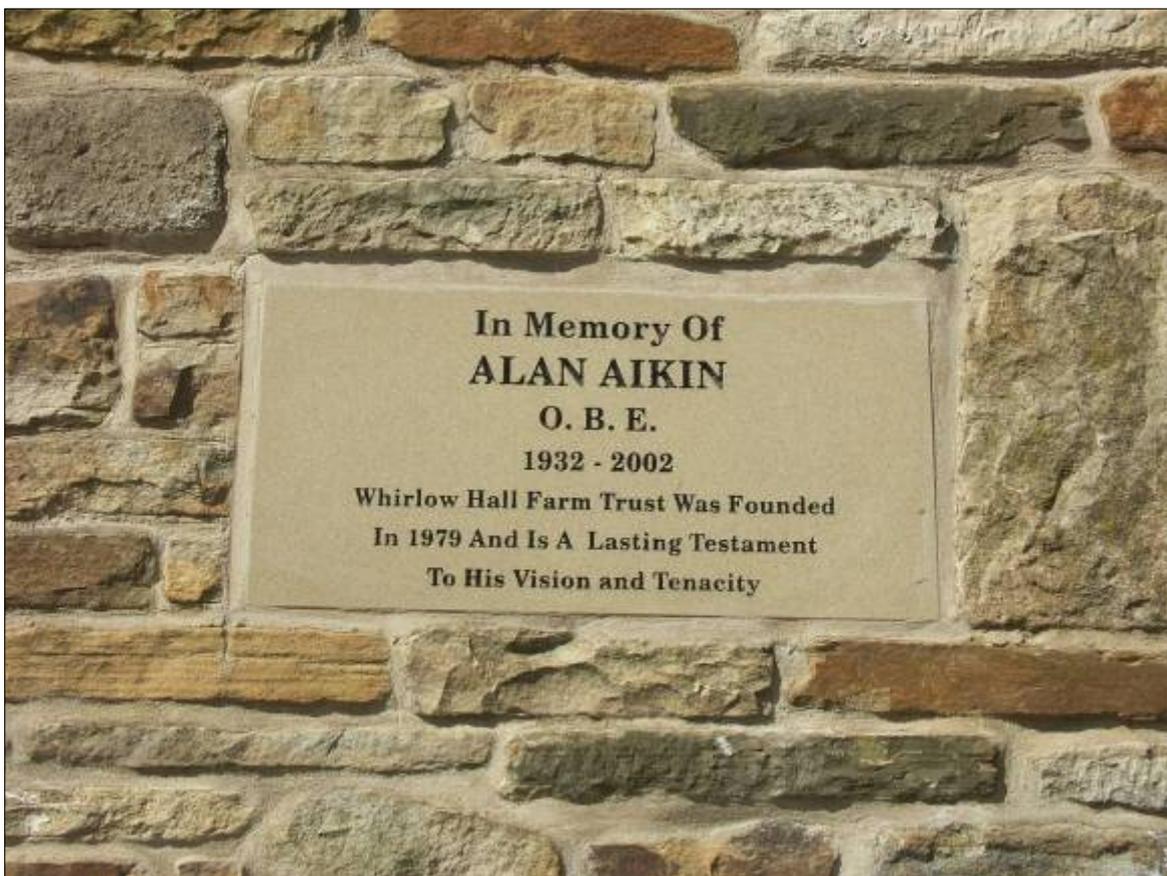


Plate 49. Detail of the date stone of the east elevation of Building J.



Plate 50. North elevation of Building J.

Building K - New Whirlow Hall

- 4.70 Building K is situated at the south side of the Top Yard, at the end of an L-shaped courtyard. It is currently used as a residential unit for school children on extended visits to the farm. The building was originally constructed by the Hollis Trust in 1843 as a replacement for Old Whirlow Hall (Frost 1970, 20-21). It is an L-Shaped structure orientated east-west. The front portion contains the living accommodation and rear portion contains the kitchen and basement.
- 4.71 The east elevation shows the most architectural pretension. It is symmetrical with a central doorway with a four-centred arched head. This is flanked by two tall windows either side, each with six panes; the top two opening outwards. At first-floor level there are three smaller windows. All windows on this frontage have flat hood mouldings; the doorway has a four-centred arched hood moulding (Plate 51-52). The walls on this frontage are constructed of well-coursed chisel-decorated sandstone with gritstone quoins. The roof is pitched with slate and a straight coping with ovolo decorated kneelers.
- 4.72 The north, west and south elevations show less decoration (Plates 53-54). However, the gable of the front portion of the south wall is built of gritstone ashlar. There are chimney stacks projecting from the gables on both the north and south walls, each with three steps marked by string courses. There is an integrated chimney on the west wall. The north wall has a total of four windows with dressed-stone lintels, all modern in appearance, whilst the south wall has three such windows and a ventilation chute.
- 4.73 Internally the building does not contain many period features. This may be due to the fact that it was built by a charity to house tenants, rather than being built as the main house of a squire's estate (as the original Whirlow Hall would have been). The cellar contains some interesting features associated with the Victorian house. There is a coal cellar and a room containing a large table, consisting of a large slab of sandstone. This may have been used for keeping meat and other perishables cool (Plate 55). This room also contains several niches in the walls which may have housed food preparation paraphernalia.
- 4.74 Other features of note are the main doorway into the building in the east wall which has a four-centred arch headed window above with lead decorative detail (Plate 56). This opens into a corridor which gives access to a single room either side. That on the south is used as a lounge and contains a fireplace with a stone surround dateable to the mid 20th century (Plate 57). The north side the corridor gives access to a dining room which would have had a central fireplace in the north wall beside a surviving built-in cupboard (Plate 58). The staircase is a modern construction, though it must be in the location of the original staircase. Upstairs there are a series of bedrooms with roll moulded ceiling beams throughout. One bedroom contains a possible original cornice decorated with a variant of cable moulding that contains flowers or berries (Plate 59).
- 4.75 This building appears to have been built in one phase, and the style is consistent with the date of 1843. It is depicted on the earliest Ordnance Survey mapping of 1850 (Sheppy 2011, 29).



Plate 51. Building K from the northeast.



Plate 52. East elevation of Building K.



Plate 53. North elevation of Building K.



Plate 54. South elevation of Building K.



Plate 55. Basement of Building K. Interior facing southwest.



Plate 56. Ground floor of Building K. Interior of hallway facing east.



Plate 57. Ground floor of Building K. Interior, detail of the lounge showing the fireplace surround dated to the 1930s-1950s.



Plate 58. Ground Floor of Building K. Interior facing north showing built-in cupboard in the northeast corner.



Plate 59. First floor of Building K. Interior showing cornice detail in the southeast bedroom.

Buildings L and M - Toilet Blocks

- 4.76 Buildings L and M are located on the west range of the Top Yard behind Building K. They are currently used as gents and ladies toilets respectively. The buildings have now been integrated into one structure with well-coursed sandstone walls without quoins. The building has a pitched, stone-tiled roof.
- 4.77 The south elevation contains two small ventilation holes in the gable (Plate 60).
- 4.78 The interior of the building has been entirely modernised and a large sink has been built along the east wall (Plate 70).
- 4.79 These buildings do not appear on the earliest Ordnance Survey Mapping of 1850, however there are buildings in this location on the map of 1893 and these appear to be of a similar size and form to Buildings L and M, indicating that they are of some antiquity (Sheppy 2011, 29-31). They have now been substantially remodelled, however, and little historical character remains.



Plate 60. South elevation of Buildings L and M.



Plate 61. East elevation of Buildings L and M.

Building N - Dovecot

- 4.80 Building N is attached to the north side of Building M. It is currently derelict. It is built of roughly-coursed sandstone with reused gritstone quoins. It has a pitched, stone-tiled roof.
- 4.81 The east elevation contains a doorway with a finely-dressed gritstone surround with roll moulding (Plate 62). This is clearly a reused feature as certain elements of it are incorrect, such as the two uppermost stones on the north side and the uppermost stone on the south side. There is a small, blocked window with stone lintel to the south.
- 4.82 The west elevation contains a wide opening in the wall with timber cladding above (Plate 63).
- 4.83 Internally there is clear evidence that the current roof of the structure has been rebuilt, as it now rests on a single course of breeze-blocks (Plate 64). There are also exposed foundations inside the structure, indicating that the ground level has been lowered. There is a doorway in the north wall that communicates with the ground floor of Building O.
- 4.84 The south wall of this building contains five small openings in the gable end, each with a short projecting platform externally (Plate 60 and 65). This has led to this building being interpreted as a dovecot (Frost 1970, 24), but this is only a secondary function for the building and was certainly not its original purpose. Purpose-built dovecots would have several more external openings and the internal walls would be entirely covered with small stone-built nesting boxes (Brunskill 2007, 82-89).
- 4.85 This building does not appear on the earliest Ordnance Survey Mapping of 1850, however a building is shown in this location on the map of 1893 (Sheppy 2011, 29-31). It is likely that the building depicted is Building N, as it does not appear to be a modern structure and it incorporates evidence of periods of repair and changes in function.

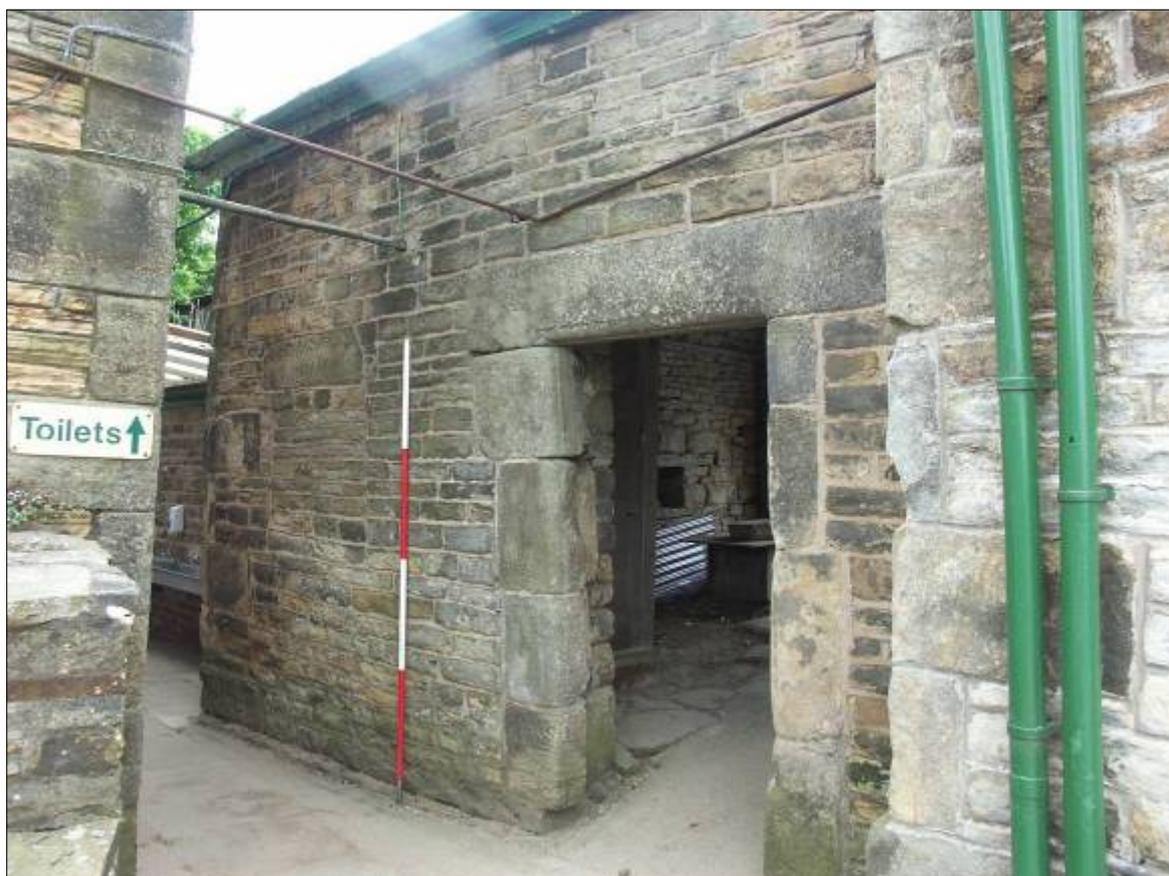


Plate 62. East elevation of Building N



Plate 63. West elevation of Building N.



Plate 64. Interior of Building N facing northeast.



Plate 65. Interior of Building N. South wall showing adaptation as a dovecot.

Building O - Offices

- 4.86 Building O is aligned north/south and is attached to the north side of Building N. It is currently used as offices. The walls are constructed of well-coursed sandstone, much re-pointed, with gritstone quoins. The presence of quoins at the junction between this building and Building N, on the west elevation, indicates that Building O was erected prior to Building N. The building has a pitched roof of Welsh slate and has four skylight windows on the west side and two on the east side.
- 4.87 The east elevation has three doorways at ground level (Plate 66). The first, blocked at the south end, has a fine, chamfered-gritstone surround, similar to those dated to 1652 along Broad Elms Lane (Plate 67). The second doorway, a short distance to the north, has a reused decorated-stone lintel. The style of this lintel does not match any decorative scheme still in place on the buildings that comprise the farm. It may have originated elsewhere, or it may have been reused from the demolished Old Hall. The third doorway, on the north end of the elevation, has a plain dressed-stone lintel and a modern door, probably replacing an original stable door. At first floor level a modern doorway, without a stone lintel, has been inserted and is accessed via a set of stone steps. There are five windows in total on the east elevation, all of which have plain dressed-stone lintels. The northernmost window is long enough to be a doorway and this may have been its original purpose. Of all of these features only the blocked doorway at the south end of the building seems to be original to the stone facade.
- 4.88 Adjacent to this doorway there is an inserted decorated stone which depicts a man's head wearing what appears to be a coronet and ruff (Plate 68). The ruff is mainly associated with Elizabethan fashions, though it does continue into the Stuart era (Tierny 2000, 2). Whilst this cannot be used to precisely date the stone, we can be sure that it does not pre-date the Elizabethan era of the late 16th century. Frost states that the stone was reputedly carved by Richard Furness, father of William Furness who became the first tenant of the new Whirlow Hall in 1843 (Frost 1990, 24). Frost also states that it had been brought to Whirlow from Dore Chapel. This would make the stone early-19th century. Its level of preservation does suggest a late date for its creation, though it could also have been an interior feature for much of its existence.
- 4.89 The south elevation has a blocked owl hole/oculus in the gable (Plate 69).
- 4.90 The west elevation incorporates the remains of the interior wall of an adjoining structure which has since been demolished. This was located at the north end of the building and would have been aligned east-west. Plates 70 and 71 show disturbances in the stonework associated with the remains of this additional building. The sequence of development appears to be that the additional building was in place prior to Building O being extended around the east wall of the structure. When the structure was demolished the northwest corner of Building O had to be rebuilt in order to act as a free-standing structure. This additional building is included on the earliest Ordnance Survey map of 1883 and is depicted on the map of 1952. It was therefore demolished sometime between 1952 and 1992.
- 4.91 The north elevation contains a ground-floor doorway with dressed-stone surround that has been partially blocked to create a window (Plate 72). Above the doorway a pitching eye has been extended downwards to create a doorway-sized opening which is now glazed. This may have been done in the historic period to adapt the building for use as a granary. There are exposed foundation stones visible on this end of the

building, indicating that the ground level has been lowered. The ground floor doorway respects the original ground level.

- 4.92 Internally this building incorporates the surviving remains of a cruck frame, making this the second cruck-constructed building. At first floor level in the east side of the south wall there is one surviving blade of a cruck frame which appears to be fire-blackened (Plate 73). It incorporates evidence for two side purlins, which Bunker states is unusual in this region. She also remarks that this cruck building is unusually high (Bunker 1970, 62). There is a noticeable break in the walling on the corresponding west side of the structure where the paired blade should be. At ground floor level the stylobate for the surviving cruck blade is visible, both internally (Plate 74), and externally (Plate 75).
- 4.93 The roof level of this building has been heightened above the original roof line of the cruck building and is now held on a mixture of couple-close trusses (Plate 76) and king post and strut trusses (Plate 78) along its length. The new side purlins are reused timbers that would once have been used as studs or wall-plates. This is shown by the presence of auger holes along their length (Plate 77).
- 4.94 There is evidence of the location of a further cruck-frame in the re-entrant angle of Buildings O and P. This is shown by a surviving stylobate, with scars in the walling above, at this point of the building (Plate 78). If this set of cruck blades is part of the same original building as that on the south wall of building O, then this structure would be longer than the cruck barn in the Lower Yard (see Building I). With the same *c.*5m bay interval this building would have had five sets of crucks, making it four bays or *c.*20m long. The original function of this structure is unclear, but its length and unusual height could certainly have accommodated a longhouse style arrangement with living quarters at one side of the building and animal housing at the other, separated by a small cross-passage (Brunskill 2007, 106-109). Bunker states that the south side of this building was 'evidently the living quarters', but does not state her reasons for making such an assertion (Bunker 1970, 62). There does appear to have been some concern for making the cruck and stylobate sit neatly and as flush as possible at this side of the building (Plate 74). This suggests that this building was more important than a poorly constructed agricultural building.
- 4.95 This building is depicted on the earliest Ordnance Survey mapping of 1850 (Sheppy 2011, 29). As discussed in Section 4.66, the dating of cruck buildings on stylistic grounds can be difficult. However, with this building we once again have a doorway that may be associated with the replacement of the timber-framed walling with stone. This door is similar in form to those seen on the north walls of buildings I and J and dated to the mid 17th century. We know that our cruck frame must significantly pre-date this phase and it is reasonable to assume therefore that the original cruck building could be 14th or 15th century in date. Scientific dating could answer this question. If one part of the structure was used as living quarters, it would represent the earliest house still standing at this site.



Plate 66. East elevation of Building O.



Plate 67. Blocked doorway and inserted stone carving on the east wall of Building O.



Plate 68. Detail of inserted stone carving.



Plate 69. Building O from the southwest.



Plate 70. North portion of the west elevation of Building O showing blocked features associated with a demolished building running east/west



Plate 71. Building O from the northwest showing the scar in the northwest corner.



Plate 72. North elevation of Building O.



Plate 73. First Floor of Building O. Interior of the south wall showing surviving cruck blade and the scar of its matching pair.



Plate 74. Ground floor of Building O looking east with cruck blade and stylobate in southeast corner (painted).

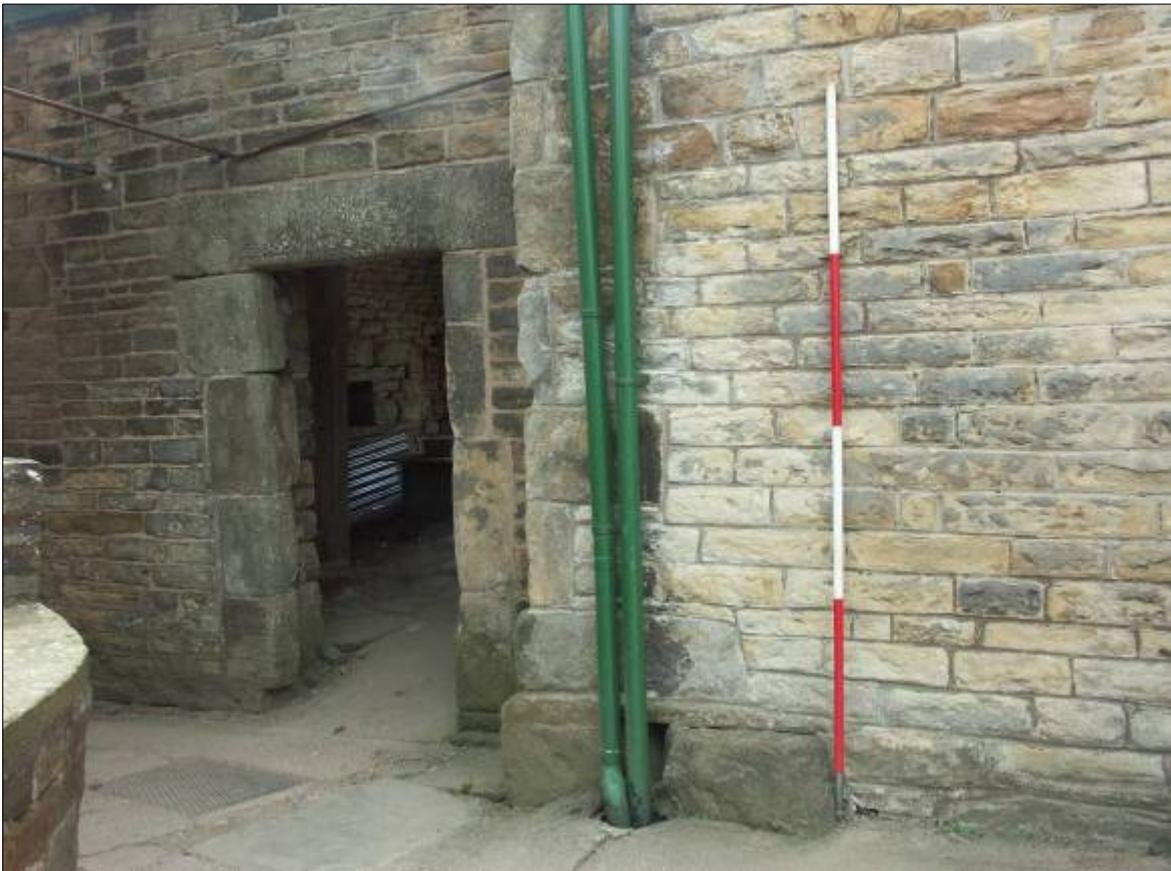


Plate 75. Detail of a stylobate in the southeast corner of Building O.



Plate 76. First floor of Building O facing north. Interior of first partition wall showing a couple-close truss.



Plate 77. First floor of Building O facing west showing reused timbers with auger holes used as the side purlins.



Plate 78. First floor of Building O facing south. Interior showing king post truss with remodelled side purlins.



Plate 79. Ground floor of Building O facing east. Interior showing stylobate and scar of a cruck blade.

Building P - Offices

- 4.96 Building P is aligned east/west and attached to the east side of Building O, forming an L-Shaped courtyard. It is currently used as offices. The walls are constructed of well-coursed sandstone with gritstone quoins. It has a pitched stone-tiled roof with skylight which is built against the roof of Building O, and is of a lower pitch.
- 4.97 The south elevation has a wide doorway with dressed-stone lintel and timber stable door (Plate 80). There is also a doorway at first-floor level accessed via a rebuilt set of stone steps. There is evidence of a set of original sandstone steps in the same location. The replacement steps contain a small square niche which may be interpreted as a 'bee bole' for housing and managing bee-hives (Brunskill 2007, 124). There are three small windows with dressed stone lintels; two on the ground floor and one on the first floor. The east elevation has a blocked window opening in the gable end.
- 4.98 The north elevation follows the contours of the ground as it rises upwards to the west (Plate 81). The ground level here is significantly higher than on the south elevation. It is largely constructed of plain walling with a window at first floor level with a dressed-stone sill and lintel.
- 4.99 Internally the first-floor chamber has an exposed king post and strut truss with extended tie beam. The ground-floor level has a breeze-blocked partition wall separating this level into two chambers (Plate 82).
- 4.100 This building is marked on the earliest Ordnance Survey map of 1850 (Sheppy 2011, 29).



Plate 80. South elevation of Building P.



Plate 81. North elevation of Building P.



Plate 82. Ground floor of Building P facing south showing breeze-blocked partition wall on the left.

Building Q – Pigsty and yard wall

- 4.101 Building Q is free standing and situated to the east of Building P. It is a lean-to structure built against the northern boundary wall of the Top Yard. It incorporates a small yard and is currently used as a pigsty. It is constructed of sandstone blocks built to courses and has a stone-flagged roof laid to diminishing courses. There are doorways in the south and east walls, neither of which are decorated. There is a small ventilation hole in the east gable (Plate 83).
- 4.102 The current function of this building is probably much the same as its original purpose. A building is first marked in this location on the Ordnance Survey map of 1893, however, this building seems to be T-shaped with the projection running north/south from the centre of the building (Sheppy 2011, 31). The building depicted retains this plan form until the Ordnance Survey map of 1935; by 1952 a building of the present form was in this location (Sheppy 2011, 33-39). Whilst the original structure has been demolished or remodelled, the original function may have been retained.
- 4.103 The north elevation of the Top Yard wall contains some features of note at this location. This first is that the current yard wall is built over the original gate-post, meaning that it is a secondary feature of the farm (Plate 84). The second is a doorway of finely-moulded gritstone giving access from Broad Elms Lane into the yard. It is pretentious considering its position adjacent to a pigsty, and the present stone lintel is not part of the original configuration. This suggests that it is not in its original location. The moulding is of hollow and ovolo type which can be dated to the mid-17th century (Alcock and Hall 2002, 54).



Plate 83. South elevation of Building Q.



Plate 84. East elevation of Building Q showing walling built up over the gate-post.

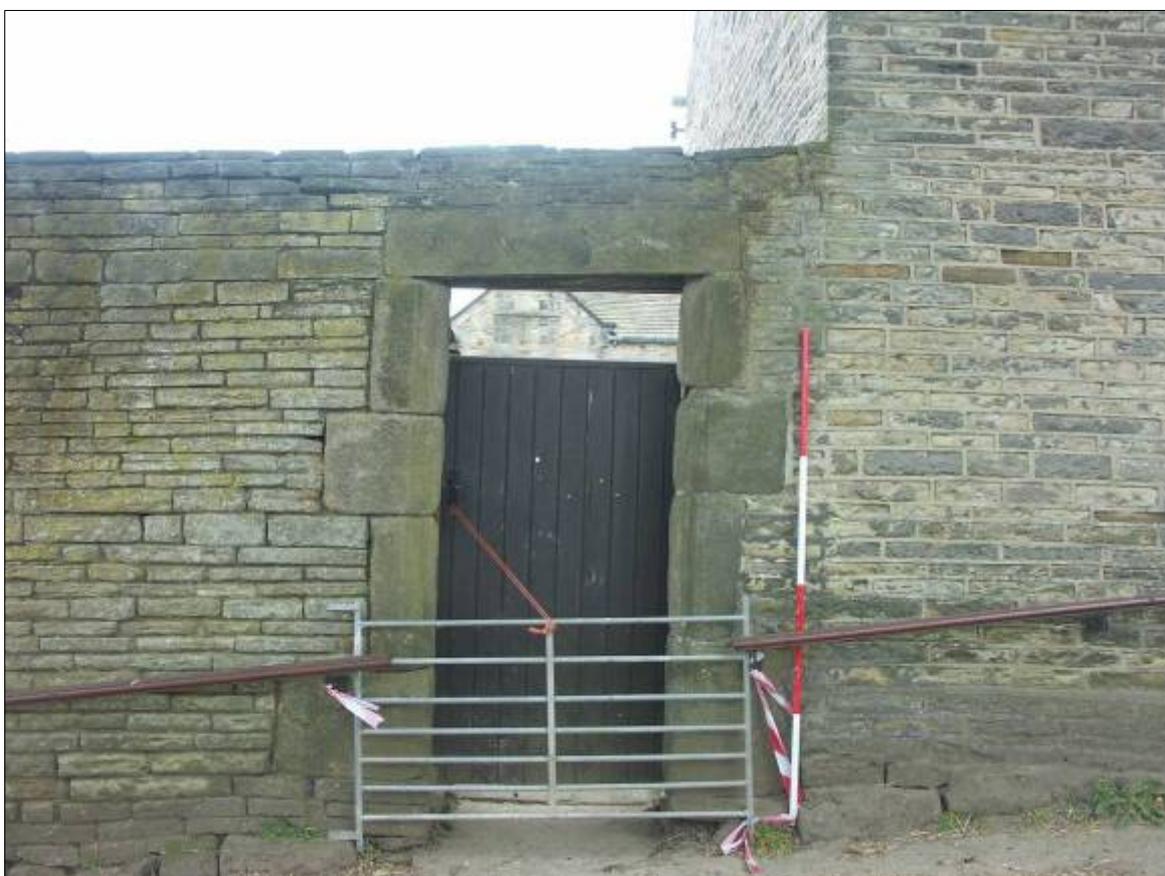


Plate 85. North elevation of Building Q showing inserted moulded doorway leading to the top yard.

Building R - Toilet Block

- 4.104 Building R is a stand-alone structure located on the southeast side of the Top Yard. It is currently used as a toilet block. It is built of snecked sandstone blocks with gritstone quoins. It has a pitched flagged-stone roof. The west elevation contains two doorways and a central window of nine panes. The north elevation has a ventilation slot in the gable. Internally the building has a modern appearance.
- 4.105 A building is first marked at this location on the Ordnance Survey Mapping of 1935, indicating that it was erected sometime between 1923 and 1935 (Sheppy 2011, 35-37).



Plate 86. West elevation of Building R.



Plate 87. North elevation of Building R.

Building S - The Residential Barn

- 4.106 Building S is located around 750m to the north of the main Whirlow Hall Farm complex (Figure 2). It is currently used as a residential unit for school groups on extended farm visits. It is constructed of dressed sandstone blocks built to diminishing courses with gritstone quoins. It has a stone-flagged roof also laid to diminishing courses with a timber eaves board and gutter carried on timber brackets. There are four velux windows in the roof on the southeast side and one on the northwest. The stonework appears to be of very high quality for an agricultural building and contains concrete pointing.
- 4.107 The southeast elevation has a large opening infilled with timber panelling containing glazed panels and double French doors (Plate 91). This feature is unusual and suggests either that the building was originally open-fronted at this end, or that this section of walling had fallen down, or was demolished, prior to the modern refurbishment. To the right of the glazed panels there is a smaller timber-framed casement window with a dressed stone sill and lintel, together with a wide doorway with similar dressed stone lintel above. At first floor level there is a second window; this one is fixed and smaller than that on the ground floor. It has a projecting stone sill and an undressed stone lintel with six evenly spaced notches in its underside marking the location of original timber slats. There is a modern lean-to extension to the right with timber weather-boarded walls.

- 4.108 The northwest elevation has a similar ground floor doorway and first floor window to that on the southeast elevation (Plate 92). The remainder is plan walling. On this elevation it is clear that there is a construction break below the uppermost three courses of stonework, suggesting that the roof has been heightened and rebuilt.
- 4.109 The southwest elevation shows the effects of having built this structure against the side of a hill (Plate 93). The ground-floor level is entirely obscured and a modern bridge gives access to a modern doorway in the gable end. Both of these may be replacements of original features as it was common for field barns to be erected in order to take advantage of sloping ground. Doorways or openings, like this one, that provide access to higher ground would be used to offload cartloads of hay into a hay loft (Brunskill, 2007, 117-122). There would then be chutes leading from the hay loft into the animal houses below at ground-floor level. Whilst there is not enough evidence to be certain that this was the barn's original purpose, it is a reasonable suggestion based on the southeast gable arrangement.
- 4.110 Field barns are generally associated with the statutory enclosure period of common land dating from the mid-18th to the mid-19th century. This kind of date is in keeping with the type of damp proofing used on this building, which is slate (Plate 94). Slate was not used as a damp-proof course until the late-18th to early 19th-century.
- 4.111 Internally there are some features of note. The first is located in the living room of the ground floor, where it is clear that the stonework of the interior of this structure is very different to that on the exterior. It is constructed of sandstone rubble, a style much more in keeping with its function as an agricultural building. Secondly, there is evidence of fire damage on the southwest end of the building suggesting that there was once a flue along this corner of the building, possibly after it fell out of use as a barn. Finally at first floor level it is clear that a concrete ring-beam and breeze blocks and bricks have been used to heighten the barn to carry the current roof. Externally these materials have been faced with sandstone. Part of a tie-beam survives embedded in this walling; it is of slight timber and may not be an original feature. This building is first depicted on Ordnance Survey mapping in 1893 (Sheppy 2011, 30-32).
- 4.112 Whilst this building has been interpreted as a possible field barn, this does not necessarily mean that it belonged to Whirlow Hall. Physically it has a much closer relationship with an adjacent farm at Thryft House. Building S may have originated as part of this building complex. The original Thryft House is first mentioned in historic documentation in 1504, as being leased to Roger Eyre of Holme Hall near Chesterfield. By 1618 it had passed to Thomas Bright of Ecclesall Hall and in 1677 it changed hands again and was given to the Offertons. The Offertons held the house and farm until 1706 when it passed to Thomas Marshall (Anon 1991, 2). Plates 94 to 96 show the complex of buildings at Thryft House which, like Whirlow, have undergone significant changes through the years. The oldest building in the complex today is the Grade II listed Holly Cottage (Plate 94), which was built as a replacement of the original Thryft House in the 17th century. It may incorporate some remains of the original house, as thick walls were discovered during refurbishments in the 1980s (Anon 1991, 8). Adjacent to this there is a barn conversion with a date stone of 1856, making it broadly contemporary with Building S (Plate 95). In a separate yard to the north, there is another farmhouse and this was occupied by Thomas Lee in 1677, though the present building has a much later appearance (Plate 96). The close proximity of Building S to this farm complex is not to be ignored, though it has not been possible to establish its original ownership.



Plate 88. Southeast elevation of Building S.



Plate 89. Northwest elevation of Building S.



Plate 90. Southwest elevation of Building S.



Plate 91. Detail of slate damp-proof course on the northwest wall of Building S.



Plate 92. Ground floor of Building S. Interior facing southwest showing fire blackening in the west corner.



Plate 93. First Floor of Building S. Interior showing modern brick and concrete heightening of the side walls and gable end. The slender tie-beam of a previous roof structure is also visible embedded in the wall.



Plate 94. 'Holly Cottage' built as a replacement of Thryft House in the 17th century.



Plate 95. Barn conversion bearing the date of 1856.



Plate 96. Lee farmhouse.

5 Discussion and Conclusion

- 5.1 Whirlow Hall Farm in its current guise consists of two adjacent, but not interconnected, Yards; the U-shaped Lower Yard with house at its head; and the L-shaped Top Yard with house offset to the southeast. The buildings that line these yards are all constructed of some variation of sandstone with gritstone detailing. This homogeneity, however, belies an architectural history that could stretch back as far as the 15th or 16th century, if not before. The history of farming life and its practices in the British Isles is a story of ebb and flow (Brunskill 2007, 17-35) and we can see this ebb and flow played out within the buildings of Whirlow Hall Farm.
- 5.2 Possibly the oldest buildings on site are the two cruck-framed structures, Buildings I and O in the Lower and Top Yard respectively. Contrary to the description given in the Listed Buildings Text, which states that the cruck blades in Building I are 'reused', the historic building survey concludes that the cruck blades, collar, tie beam and ridge beam are actually original and in situ. No evidence of re-use was found on the surviving truss, aside from the possible insertion of wind braces and remodelling of the side-purlins. The second cruck-framed structure, Building O, is not Listed and has one surviving blade clearly visible in the main office block. This blade is also original and in situ. In both cases evidence of the location of other cruck frames has been uncovered within the fabric of the surviving buildings, giving some clue as to their original foot-print. Building O is the larger of the two, and if we were to postulate that one of the structures contained living accommodation, as well as an animal house, it would be this one for that reason. Building I appears to have been a threshing barn or stable. Bunker remarks that both buildings have a greater height than other cruck-framed structures in the region (Bunker 1970, 62), suggesting that they were high status structures despite their agricultural function. Both buildings would once have

had timber-framed walls and thatched roofs, as this was the predominant style of cruck-framed structures in this region (Brunskill 2007, 170). A reconstruction of Building I, shown in Figure 7, illustrates this. Cruck construction was the dominant form of timber building in the north and west of the country and in the highland areas of the midlands and southwest from around 1200 to the mid 1500s (Yorke 2010, 19). Although later examples do exist, this is the main period of cruck construction in Britain (Grenville 1997, 57-59) and provides an earlier possible date for the cruck buildings at Whirlow than has previously been considered. Land at Whirlow was leased to the Bright family as early as 1410, and possibly even as early as 1303 (Frost 1990, 19). The cruck barns could feasibly date to this period, but only scientific dating techniques could pinpoint a precise date. A combination of dendrochronological dating and high precision radiocarbon dating supported by Bayesian modelling would provide the most accurate methods of establishing a terminus post quem for the construction of these buildings (Derek Hamilton pers comm.).

- 5.3 Old Whirlow Hall may have existed as a timber-framed structure contemporary with the cruck buildings discussed above, particularly if Building O did not contain living accommodation. However the Elizabethan/Jacobean styled structure that was illustrated by W. Farnsworth (Figure 4) can be dated to the early 17th century. Whether this date represents the construction date of the building or the date of its significant refurbishment is unknown. However, it is clear that this building facade represents the next stage in the development of the farm. If its location can be pinpointed by geophysical survey or excavation, then we may be able to understand something of the function and layout of Whirlow's early farmstead.
- 5.4 The next stage in the farm's development appears to occur in the mid 17th century. An illustration published in 1925 shows two doorways on Broad Elms Lane with oak doors carved with the date 1652 (Figure 5). These doorways are located in Buildings H and I. Stylistically, the reset doorway discussed in relation to Building Q, leading from Broad Elms Lane into the Top Yard, also dates from around this period, as does the doorway into Building O, which is the second cruck building discussed above. It appears, therefore, that the timber-framed buildings were refaced in stone in the mid-17th century, which is earlier than for most timber-framed buildings in this region (Bunker 1970, 62). The doorway into the yard at Building Q is not in its original position and may actually have come from the Old Hall after it was demolished and it cannot therefore be used to date the enclosure of the yard. Of course we must always be wary of trusting something as portable as a wooden door to provide a date for a building, however, in this case a mid-17th century date for the replacement of the timber-framing with stone, is not entirely improbable. If Old Whirlow Hall was completed in the first half of the century, then the refurbishment of the farm buildings may be the logical next step for its owners. The Bright's were clearly going through a prosperous phase at this date as the marriage agreement discussed in Section 4.4 mentions 'the hall...several barns, out-houses, stables and a garden'. One complication with regard to the doorways is Building H. In its current form as a stone-built cow house Building H should date to the mid-18th to early-19th century (Brunskill 2007, 62-68). The fact that one of the mid-17th century doors is contained within this building is therefore problematic. That is until we remember that the eastern portion of Building H, in which this doorway stands, may once have been part of cruck-framed Building I. The doorways, therefore, provide further evidence of this sequence of development.

- 5.5 Building K, the Low Cottage, is the next in the sequence. Frost describes the Lower Farmhouse as dating to the 17th century (Frost 1990, 23), however, the historic building survey concludes that it could date to the late 17th or early 18th century. This is based on the form of architectural details, such as the original doors, windows, coping and kneelers. The survey has also revealed that the present footprint of the farmhouse is only half of the original structure which would have extended as far north as Broad Elms Lane. This conclusion is significant in terms of our understanding of the purpose of the Lower Farmhouse, which is currently given a secondary importance to Whirlow Hall itself, and is even called a ‘cottage’ in the Listed Building Description (1974). In its original form this would have been a large house with quite fine architectural detailing, though not ostentatious. Its close proximity to the possible site of the original Old Hall, which would have been still standing at this date, suggests a close connection between the two. It may be a more important structure, in terms of the history of the development of the farm, than has previously been recognised. The mid 17th century was a prosperous time at Whirlow (Frost 1990 22) and this building may represent a significant extension of the estate shortly after. Alternatively, however, the Bright family got into financial difficulty in the early 18th century, when its then owner, Henry Bright, sold and mortgaged parts of the estate to other members of the Bright family, eventually selling the Old Hall in 1725. It may be that the Low Cottage was built by one of these family members who had bought part of the estate from Henry. It would therefore represent one of the first stages of the division, and eventual decline, of Whirlow Hall Farm as a squire’s estate.
- 5.6 Many of the remaining agricultural buildings at Whirlow Hall Farm are difficult to date precisely, however most were likely to be in place by the mid 18th to late 18th century. Despite the Hall being tenanted at this time, it appears that the tenants were allowed to build on the land, as the reference to the Dungworth’s building a dairy testifies (see Section 4.7). The extension of Building H and the heightening of its roof to create a hay loft probably dates to this time, as does the insertion of a hay loft into Building I. Buildings L, M, N, P and Q, in the Top Yard, were most likely erected at this date, if not before. There would also have been buildings where Buildings B, C and D now stand, though these have since been demolished or substantially remodelled.
- 5.7 The east wing of the Old Hall was demolished in 1795 and other buildings around the farm were recorded as being in a state of disrepair (Frost 1990, 23). It may be that at this time the northern portion of the Low Cottage was demolished as well. Clearly the entire the estate was much in decline at this time.
- 5.8 Building S, now the residential barn, marks the next stage in the farm’s development. It would have been built at the beginning of the 19th century. Its ownership is uncertain, however, since it may actually have been built as part of the farm complex at Thryft House, rather than as part of the Whirlow estate. This said, the architectural features of the barn do correlate well with field barns which would be built on the outskirts of estates. They are generally associated with the statutory enclosure of common land that took place from the mid-18th to mid-19th century. They were used as animal houses and grain stores that were closer to the working fields, thus reducing transportation costs around the farm and are typical of the Pennine region (Brunskill 2007, 170).

- 5.9 The Old Hall was finally demolished in 1842 and its replacement, Building K, was built in 1843 for tenant farmers. Despite the difficulties that the farm had undergone and the level of disrepair that had led to the demolition of the Old Hall, this is a fine building. Although not as ostentatious as the original hall, this would still have been a very nice home for the newlyweds Mary Dungworth and William Furness, who held the tenancy. It was probably also at around this date that Building N was adapted for use as a dovecot.
- 5.10 The final stage in the development of Whirlow Hall Farm so far is marked by the more modern buildings, or modern refurbishments, that are found within the two yards. Buildings A, B, C, D and R can all be associated with this phase, though in some cases their earlier origins are uncertain. All of the buildings contained within the two yards have been built to a style that is in keeping with the historical character of the farm and this is to be commended. Whilst this section marks the final stage in the current report, the development of Whirlow Hall Farm and its buildings is an ongoing process. New buildings and temporary structures are dotted around outside the core of the two yards, which will one day also add to its rich and varied history.

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