

# WORCESTERSHIRE FARMSTEADS CHARACTER STATEMENT

[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/archaeology/farmsteadsguidance](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/archaeology/farmsteadsguidance)



# WORCESTERSHIRE FARMSTEADS CHARACTER STATEMENT

This document provides fully-illustrated guidance on the character and significance of Worcestershire's traditional farmsteads and buildings. It has an introductory summary followed by fully-illustrated guidance presented under the headings of:

1. Historical development – how the county's farming history fits into a national context
2. Landscape and settlement – how farmsteads contribute to the landscapes and settlements in which they have developed
3. Farmstead and building types – how the functions of farmsteads are reflected in a variety of farmstead plan forms and building types
4. Materials and detail – the development and use of materials and building techniques across the county

## THE WORCESTERSHIRE FARMSTEADS GUIDANCE ALSO INCLUDES:

### THE FARMSTEAD ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

This provides a step-by-step approach to considering the reuse of traditional farm buildings and the sustainable development of farmsteads.

### AREA SUMMARIES

### GUIDANCE ON RECORDING AND RESEARCH

### LOCAL AUTHORITY SUMMARIES

## CONTENTS

<u>INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY</u>	1	<u>BUILDING TYPES</u>	21
Introducing historic character	2	Barns	22
1. Historic development	2	Brewhouse	24
2. Landscape and settlement	2	Cattle housing	25
3. Farmstead and building types	2	Cider house	28
4. Materials and detail	3	Fruit lofts and cellars	29
		Dairies and dairying	30
Introducing significance	4	Dovecotes	31
1. Significance as a traditional farmstead	4	Dutch barns	33
2. Special significance	5	Farm vehicle housing	33
<u>SECTION 1 HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT</u>	6	Granary	34
<u>SECTION 2 LANDSCAPE AND SETTLEMENT</u>	8	Hop industry	35
Dating buildings in the landscape	9	Pig housing	37
<u>SECTION 3 FARMSTEAD AND BUILDING TYPES</u>	12	Poultry housing	37
FARMSTEAD TYPES	13	Sheep housing	38
Courtyard plans	15	Silage clamp and tower	38
Dispersed plans	18	Stable	39
Other plan types	19	Outlying field barns and outfarms	40
Smallholdings	20	<u>SECTION 4 MATERIALS AND DETAIL</u>	41
		Materials	41
		Architectural detail and internal fittings	43
		<u>SOURCES</u>	46

Captions to cover photographs. LEFT: Clusters of small scale farmsteads and smallholdings, on the fringe of the Wyre Forest (Wyre Forest, Northern Heathlands and Sandstone Estates Farmstead Character Area), associated with the development of rural industries from the 17th century and fruit growing, which boomed during the 19th century. Photo © English Heritage NMR27765/001

RIGHT: This, large scale, isolated farmstead (Central Worcestershire Plain Farmstead Character Area), along with the landscape surrounding it, was re-modelled during the mid-19th century. The regular courtyard U range of brick buildings date to 1840-50, and replaced a moated homestead. A second, large, irregular moat is visible to the north east of the farmstead (centre left). Photo © English Heritage NMR27763/012

---

# INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

## INTRODUCING HISTORIC CHARACTER

A farmstead is the place where the farmhouse and the working buildings of a farm are located, although some farms also have field barns or outfarms sited away from the main steading.

### *Traditional farmsteads and their buildings*

These reflect local traditions and national influences, and include some built to the designs of agents, architects and engineers. They display an immense variation in their scale, layout, architectural form and use of materials, and the way that buildings of different dates and types relate to yards, other spaces and the surrounding landscape and settlement. Most traditional buildings date from the 19th century and, in most areas, few were built after the 1880s. They will often display evidence of successive episodes of change. A small number continued to be built for individual farmers, estates and county council smallholdings into the 1930s.

### *Modern prefabricated and standardised industrial buildings*

These were built on the site of the older farmstead or to one side, often with separate access. So-called Dutch barns, built of metal or machine-sawn timber, were built from the 1870s and had become common in some areas by the 1930s. Machine-made brick was commonly used in the inter-war period, in combination with metal roofs, windows and concrete floors for dairies conforming to new hygiene standards. Multi-functional sheds and their associated hardstandings for vehicles and moving stock, were widely introduced in the 1950s and are a vital feature of the modern farming industry.

Site survey and the comparison of historic with modern Ordnance Survey maps enable traditional buildings to be identified and distinguished from non-traditional pre-fabricated buildings.



Isolated farmstead with traditional buildings, arranged around two yards, and 20th century wide-span multi-purpose sheds (Central Worcestershire Plain Farmstead Character Area). The extant traditional farm buildings date from the 17th century to the 19th century and include a timber-framed threshing barn and red brick granary, cart shed, cow house and hop kiln. Photo © English Heritage NMR27763/018

## SUMMARY

### 1 HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Worcestershire's farmsteads developed within distinct agricultural areas which mixed or specialised, to differing degrees, in the production of corn, livestock or dairy products. A distinguishing feature of the county is strong variations within small areas, giving rise to a rich mix of farmstead and building types. The evidence for 19th century and sometimes 18th century rationalisation of farmsteads and landscapes, including the enlargement of fields with straight boundaries, reflects the fact that Worcestershire was at the forefront of advances in crop development (e.g. the growing of clovers) since the early 1700s.

### 2 LANDSCAPE AND SETTLEMENT

Historic farmsteads and their buildings are an integral part of the rural landscape and reflect how it has changed over centuries. Most parts of the country are characterised by a mix of settlement patterns, but a clear distinction can be drawn between those areas, mostly in central England, dominated by large nucleated villages with few isolated farmsteads and those areas that have fewer and smaller villages and higher densities of isolated farmsteads and hamlets. Worcestershire is predominantly a county of dispersed settlement, often with high densities of farmsteads and historic houses, linked to an intricate network of winding lanes, in areas of woodland, common and heath. Villages were historically concentrated in the south east of the county.

### 3 FARMSTEAD AND BUILDING TYPES

The layout or plan of the farmstead is key to understanding and describing its character. It is made up of buildings and spaces that served several key functions - to house the farming family and any workers, store and process the harvested corn crop, fruit and hops, shelter farm vehicles and implements, shelter farm animals, and keep their manure for returning to the fields around them. Buildings developed around open and enclosed working spaces within and around the farmstead which were used to stack crops, move and contain animals, particularly cattle, and to store vehicles. Gardens usually developed as private areas with a distinct and separate character, screened from the working areas of the farm by hedges or walls.

The key plan types are:

- *Courtyard plans*, where the working buildings are arranged around a yard. They fall into two broad categories - loose courtyard plans where the buildings are detached and loosely arranged and regular courtyard plans where the buildings are all or mostly interlinked and formally arranged. 87% of traditional farmsteads recorded in Worcestershire have a courtyard plan. This is slightly higher than across the West Midlands (81%).
- *Dispersed plans* (4.5% of the total for Worcestershire and 7% for the West Midlands) have no focal yard area and working buildings which are dispersed within the boundary of the steading. These are concentrated in pastoral landscapes including areas close to common land for holding stock.
- The *smallest-scale farmsteads*, where the house and working buildings are often attached, are, in Worcestershire, most closely associated with upland and common-edge farmsteads. They comprise 8.5% of farmsteads in Worcestershire and 12% of farmsteads in the West Midlands.
- *Outfarms* and *field barns* which were built to serve fields and sometimes orchards at a distance from the main farmstead.
- *Smallholdings* which survive in distinct zones around areas of unenclosed common and heath and in areas profiting from industrialisation and transport developments during the 19th century (e.g. the Wyre Forest).

#### Building types

These are listed in the alphabetical order in which they can be found and with illustrated examples.

- **Barns:** threshing barns to store and process the harvested corn crop, and sometimes combination barns which housed animals and other functions as well.
- **Brewhouses** and detached kitchens for brewing and baking are separate from, but close to, the farmhouse.
- **Cattle housing:** yards, shelter sheds and cow houses are mostly of 19th century date, and may be found added to an earlier barn or detached and associated with individual yard areas. Occasionally you find shelter sheds with open-fronted haylofts above, which are called *linhays* in the south west. Ox houses were used for housing draught oxen.
- **Cider houses**, often part of a building, used for milling and pressing apples and pears for the production of cider and perry.
- **Dairies**, usually part of the farmhouse, used for the cold storage of milk and making butter and cheese. Cheese rooms are found within farmhouses.

- Dovecotes were used to house doves and pigeons. Pigeon lofts can also be found in the gables of barns.
- Farm vehicle housing: cart sheds and implement sheds were used for the storage of farm work carts and farm equipment, such as ploughs. They were often below granaries and implement housing may be incorporated into the cart shed. Coach houses were very similar to cart sheds, but were used to store the farmer's non-work vehicle, a coach or trap.
- Field barns and outfarms, including some of 18th century and earlier date.
- Granaries for the dry and secure storage of grain after it has been threshed and winnowed in the barn, are a particularly distinctive feature in corn-growing areas.
- Hop production: Hop kilns and hop stores were used for the storing and drying of hops. Hop pickers' huts were accommodation for temporary workers employed during the hop picking season.
- Horse engines were for used for power threshing. Horse engine houses typically adjoin threshing barns.
- Poultry houses, sometimes built over a pigsty to deter foxes.
- Piggeries, for the secure housing of many pigs under one roof, and pigsties comprising a covered pen and yard for a pig.
- Sheep washes and very rarely sheep shelters.
- Stables to house the horses, or working oxen needed for ploughing and many other tasks. The largest stables were built in corn-producing areas.

#### 4 MATERIALS AND DETAIL

Timber-framed buildings are found across the county as this was a common resource with wide swathes of both oak and elm woodland. Brick took over from timber as the predominant building material in the 18th century but earlier brick buildings can be found in the county. Different types of stone are naturally occurring in the county, oolitic limestone in those areas bordering Gloucestershire and soft grey blue lias in the south east of the county.



Unimproved open hill pasture, scrub woodland and co-axial enclosure on the Clent Hills in north east Worcestershire. The farmstead on the crest of the hill, although dominated by modern sheds, is L-Plan and potentially of 18th century date. The larger scale, regular, farmstead to the east (middle, right), which has experienced significant loss of traditional buildings, sits within a substantially intact piecemeal enclosure landscape. Photo © English Heritage NMR 27790/029



An isolated outfarm associated with a Parliamentary enclosed landscape in Kemerton. Photo © English Heritage NMR 27761/011

## INTRODUCING SIGNIFICANCE

### I Significance as a traditional farmstead

Locally significant traditional farmsteads, whether designated as heritage assets or not, make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness. They will have retained one or both of the following:

1. Farm buildings with a locally distinctive architectural form and character, and use of building materials.
2. Historic form as traditional farmsteads, where the historic farm buildings, houses and spaces relate to each other.

Traditional buildings will be of 19th century or earlier date, and very few date from after 1900 (in most areas around 1880). Early 20th century (pre-1940) buildings can have significance if they have a strong architectural character (as traditional, designed or industrial buildings) or for their special significance.

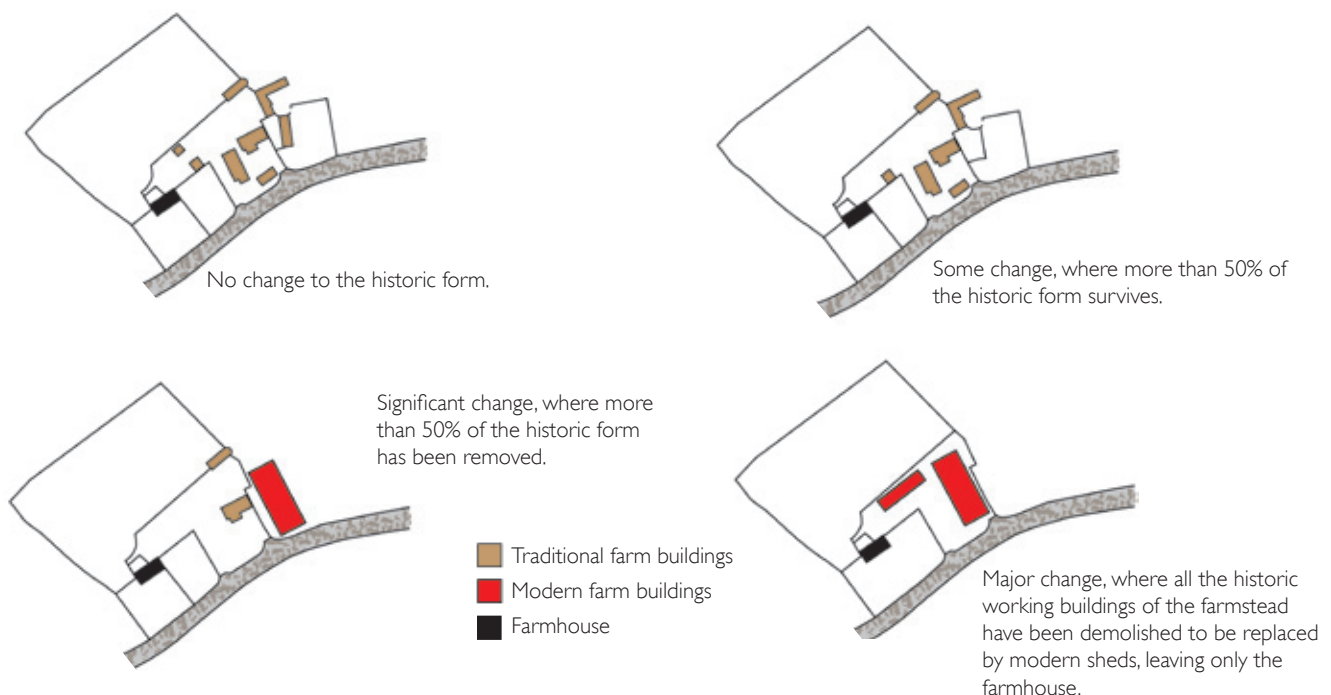
The mapping of farmsteads across the county of Worcestershire recorded 3703 farmsteads. It has in addition mapped 977 outfarms and field barns which were established away from the main steading, to the same method. The heritage potential of traditional farmsteads, based on the survival of their historic form using the Ordnance Survey second edition maps of c. 1900, is entered onto the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER). Additionally, all farmsteads and farmstead sites may have archaeological potential, including those that have lost all of their historic buildings.

In Worcestershire 81% of recorded farmsteads have retained some or all of their historic form, rated in terms of:

- **HIGH HERITAGE POTENTIAL.** 63% of farmsteads have retained more than 50% of their historic form (West Midlands average 66%), these are concentrated in the west of the county, from the Malverns to the Teme Valley.
- **SOME HERITAGE POTENTIAL.** 18% of farmsteads have retained some working buildings but with more than 50% loss of their historic form (West Midlands average 16%).

In addition:

- 9% of farmsteads (above the regional average of 6%) have lost all their working buildings but retain the farmhouse, which may be designated as a heritage asset or have some heritage potential.
- 2% of farmsteads have lost all their buildings from the 2nd edition maps but remain in farming use and 8% of historic farmsteads have been completely lost from the landscape. These may still retain significant below-ground deposits which may be revealed through development. The expansion of urban areas appears to be the key factor influencing farmstead loss. For example in Redditch district 42% of farmsteads have been lost; in Worcester district this figure rises to 49%. The Arden and the Malverns, both areas with high densities of farmsteads, have the highest rates of loss due to higher numbers of farmsteads going out of agricultural use over the 20th century.
- Only 27% of recorded field barns and outfarms have survived in some form.



## 2 Special significance

Some buildings or farmsteads have the potential for special significance when compared to farmsteads and their landscapes in other parts of England. This may be more difficult to determine and require specialist advice, but it will always be useful in deepening an understanding of the most significant sites and the development of schemes for them.

### Landscape setting

- Small scale farmsteads and smallholdings sited around areas of surviving common and heath.
- Isolated farmsteads and farmstead clusters associated with the earthwork remains of shrunken or deserted medieval settlements and field systems.
- Farmsteads within or on the edge of historic parks.

### Farmstead groups and buildings

- Planned farmstead groups including large estate farms and smallholdings associated with planned landscapes such as the Chartist settlement at Dodford and in the Wyre Forest.
- Farmsteads and smallholdings that retain a range of buildings associated with the hop industry, market gardening and the cultivation of fruit.
- 18th century and earlier working buildings, other than barns, including cattle housing and stables.
- Smithies.
- 18th century or earlier field barns and outfarms.
- Well documented buildings including those with an unusual history.

### Materials and detail

- Thatch roofs, cruck frames and pre-19th century butted timber boarding to the walls of barns are very rare.
- Historic graffiti and other marks relating to agricultural use and folk beliefs may survive.
- Interior stalls and other interior features (e.g. mangers, hay racks) of 19th century and earlier date are increasingly rare.



This large scale, isolated farmstead, located to the west of the village of Naunton Beauchamp, is on the site of a small medieval manor; believed to have been created during the land hunger of the 13th and 14th centuries. The remains of a late 15th or early 16th century moated site are recorded to the east (the right) of the farmstead. The late 16th century timber-framed Court House is detached from the agricultural buildings, which developed piecemeal around a central and additional smaller yard to the left. The farmstead retains its loose courtyard plan and over 50% of its traditional buildings survive despite the incorporation of 20th century sheds on, and to the north of, the central yard. Photo © English Heritage NMR 27792/019



A large scale, regular farmstead built in circa 1780 for the Croome Estate. The farmstead sits on a minor ridge on the north west boundary of Pirton deer park. This Grade II registered park was landscaped in the 1760's by Lancelot Brown as part of his works at Croome. The Farm occupies the site of a Keeper's House shown on a 1764 plan. Photo © English Heritage NMR27699/030



A 17th century, or earlier, linear farmstead, in Bayton. Photo © Worcestershire County Council

## SECTION I: HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Historic farmsteads form part of distinct agricultural regions which developed across England from the medieval period, mixing or specialising, to differing degrees, in the production of corn, livestock or dairy products. Farm holdings have generally grown in size, but small farms developed and even increased in number in some areas. In some areas farmers and smallholders have combined farming and industry, often utilising common grazing on moorland and heath. These regions were influenced by patterns of landownership, communications, urban development and industry, as well as the nature and intensity of earlier land use.

Agricultural productivity has long been sustained by new techniques in crop and animal husbandry, and the restructuring and enlargement of farm holdings. These developments, and local variations in the prosperity of farming, are often expressed in successive waves of rebuilding of houses, barns and other structures extending into the medieval period. The period 1750-1880, and especially the capital-intensive 'High Farming' years of the 1840's-70's, saw a particularly sharp increase in productivity, in which the rebuilding of farmsteads played a key role. This was followed by a long but regionally varied depression which lasted until the Second World War. From the 1950s family farms have further shrunk in number, as farm sizes and the intensity of production has increased. Historic farmsteads and their buildings have become redundant as new non-agricultural modes of rural living have become increasingly popular, often combined with home-working.

The key developments in Worcestershire are outlined below.

- Worcestershire's medieval (1066-1550) landscape was for a time dominated and then influenced by Royal Forest characterised by a diverse array of landscapes.
- Open field cultivation was a dominant characteristic of part of the medieval landscape and is particularly notable in those areas of nucleated settlement dominated by villages, in the central east and south east of the county. During the 15th century there was a large-scale decline in arable cultivation, and acceleration in the abandonment and shrinkage of settlements (especially in the open-field and primarily arable economies) and the amalgamation and growth of holdings
- The clearance of woodland and waste for settlement and cultivation (assarting), from as early as the 12th – 14th centuries, is a significant characteristic across much of the north and west of the county.
- The power of major Minsters has had a significant impact on the settlement pattern and historic landscape of the county. By the late 13th century five of the seven Hundreds were held by ecclesiastical landlords. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries which concluded in the 1540s there was a breaking up of ecclesiastical land. Much was sold to lay landlords, including families such as the Lechmeres, Berkleys, Coventrys and, after the Civil War, the Foleys.
- From the 15th and 16th centuries, the majority of open landscapes in Worcestershire were gradually enclosed, a reflection of farmers seeking to rationalise their holdings and land use as well as landowners building up their estates and wealth. This is reflected in the high levels of surviving 18th century and earlier buildings in a national context, from farmsteads to houses and cottages.
- During the 18th and 19th century large tracts of the landscape, especially less productive open land, was re-organised and enclosed. These included Longdon Marsh to the south west, large tracts of heathland in the north and east and upland areas in the north and west.
- A boom in wheat production during the Napoleonic Wars (1803 to 1815) coincided with the erection of new buildings, predominately threshing barns. This is particularly apparent throughout the Sandstone Estates which lie in the north of the county focused around Kidderminster. The growing of more fodder crops and clover allowed for dairying to expand from the 18th century in response to demand from the rising industrial populations of the Black Country.
- The evidence for 19th century and sometimes 18th century rationalisation of farmsteads and landscapes reflects the fact that Worcestershire was at the forefront of advances in crop development (e.g. the growing of clovers) since the early 1700s.
- The 1937 Land Utilisation Survey ranked Worcestershire the second (after Kent) most important fruit growing county in England and Wales. Local specialisation was evident; cherries, damsons and pears (for perry), for example, were of greatest importance west of the Severn whereas plums, although widely distributed, were considered outstanding in the Avon Valley, Upper Teme Valley, Worcester area and in the market gardening region around Evesham. The cider apple was more widely distributed than any other fruit. Fruit production remains a characteristic economic activity on farms and smallholdings in those areas where orchards have been a traditional form of land use; although it should be stressed that the scale of production is considerably smaller today when compared with the late 19th century. This trend has recently been partly reversed with large areas growing apples commercially for Herefordshire cider producers.



- The hop industry developed on an increasingly intensive scale from the late 17th century. Hops were typically planted in the valleys of the Rivers Teme and Severn and intermixed with arable. In the late 18th century, Worcestershire had nearly 6,000 acres under crop. This had fallen by 1874 to only around 2,500 acres. The Land Utilisation Survey of 1937 shows that Worcestershire had 1,818 acres of hops, an increase from around seven to ten percent of the UK total.
- Smallholdings, often organised in loose clusters or scattered along sinuous lanes, are predominately associated with areas of unenclosed common or heath (e.g. Castlemorton) or areas profiting from industrialisation and transport developments during the 19th century (e.g. the Wyre Forest).
- Dodford is one of only five Chartist settlements in the country. It was built in the mid 1840s as part of the Chartist ideal to enfranchise the poor population of the country. Each plot of two, three or four acres contained a house and pigsty with sometimes a stable and enough land to grow crops.
- After the 1914-18 War Worcestershire County Council was one of many local authorities to respond to a government initiative that encouraged the construction, and adaptation, of farmsteads and smallholdings for the returning troops. As of September 2009 Worcestershire County Council still owns 145 farms and smallholdings, incorporating 4,612 acres.



This 1623 map of Pirton, part of the records of the Croome Estate and Coventry family, reflects the gradual enclosure of former open field and the amalgamation and growth of holdings in the 15th and 16th centuries, and the rising influence of lay landlords after the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 1540s. Many of the features recorded in this map, from the buildings and road network to the piecemeal enclosure pattern and ridge and furrow, survive in the modern landscape, reflecting the enormous continuity of late medieval estate landscapes in Worcestershire. The map records a range of farmstead plan types, reflecting the diversity of rural settlement in Worcestershire from as early as the medieval period. Many of the buildings recorded survive to the present day, including (1) a late 16th century, timber-framed farmhouse (enclosed by a moat), (2) two 17th century, cruck-framed barns associated with the large scale, regular courtyard plan farmstead at the bottom of the image and (3) two, 17th century, timber-framed cottages to its north west. In contrast the small scale, loose courtyard farmstead to the north east of the cottages (4) has been completely lost from the landscape. Church Farm (5) appears to have changed substantially during the 18th century, from a moderately sized loose courtyard to a large scale regular courtyard, reflecting new developments in farmstead planning and the architectural aspirations of landowners during this period.

Reproduced with permission from the Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service (BA 14450/261).

## SECTION 2: LANDSCAPE AND SETTLEMENT

Historic farmsteads and their buildings are an integral part of the rural landscape and how it has changed over centuries. They relate to different scales and patterns of fields, to boundaries, trees and woodland and sometimes to areas of surviving common land and industrial sites. Most parts of the country are characterised by a mix of settlement patterns, but a clear distinction can be drawn between those areas, mostly in central England, dominated by large nucleated villages with few isolated farmsteads and those areas that have fewer and smaller villages and higher densities of isolated farmsteads and hamlets.

Village-based settlement, with low densities of isolated farmsteads that mostly date from after the enclosure of open fields, is concentrated in the south east of the county. The moderate to high levels of dispersed settlement throughout much of the west and north east of the county has largely developed through piecemeal wayside development and expansion along roads or groups of roads. This part of the county has high densities of farmsteads and historic houses, linked to an intricate network of winding lanes, in areas of woodland, common and heath.

- Six percent of farmsteads (217) are associated with a shrunken village site, dating from a period of profound landscape change between the 14th and 17th centuries. Some of these farmsteads are located within a hamlet or village; others are associated with a farmstead cluster or sit entirely isolated. There is a notable absence (or lack of evidence) of shrunken village sites in the south east.
- Two percent (79) of recorded farmsteads are located within a park. The vast majority of these farmsteads are associated with estate landscapes.
- Seven percent of farmsteads are located within hamlets, mostly in these areas of dispersed settlement.
- 18% of farmsteads are located within villages, most of these being located in the south east and central east of the county. Farmsteads within village centres are most likely to have lost their working buildings.



An isolated farmstead, rebuilt in the 19th century to a regular multi-yard plan, in the lower Severn Vale. This relates to a landscape with evidence of long-established settlement and farming. Moated sites – as indicated by the square outline below the farmstead – are common across all but the south east and central northern areas of Worcestershire and are often associated with rebuilt farmsteads near or within the moated area. Photo © Worcestershire County Council



- A Dispersed, loose and regular courtyard farmsteads in association with an anciently enclosed landscape derived from medieval and later encroachment onto woodland and heath. This is a rural settlement pattern typical of north and west Worcestershire
- B An L-shaped courtyard farmstead associated with fields derived from the piecemeal enclosure of former open-fields. This is a familiar landscape across parts of eastern, central and southern Worcestershire
- C Scattered smallholdings and a large regular courtyard farmstead in a common edge landscape. Small, irregular-shaped fields show a distinctive pattern of encroachment into unenclosed rough grazing. This landscape is most common in south west Worcestershire

## Dating buildings in the landscape

Throughout Worcestershire 37% of farmsteads, surviving to the present day, have one or more listed buildings. These reflect high levels of 17th century and earlier rebuilding across most of the county, with lower densities of 17th century houses in the south east and the northern sandstone plateau.

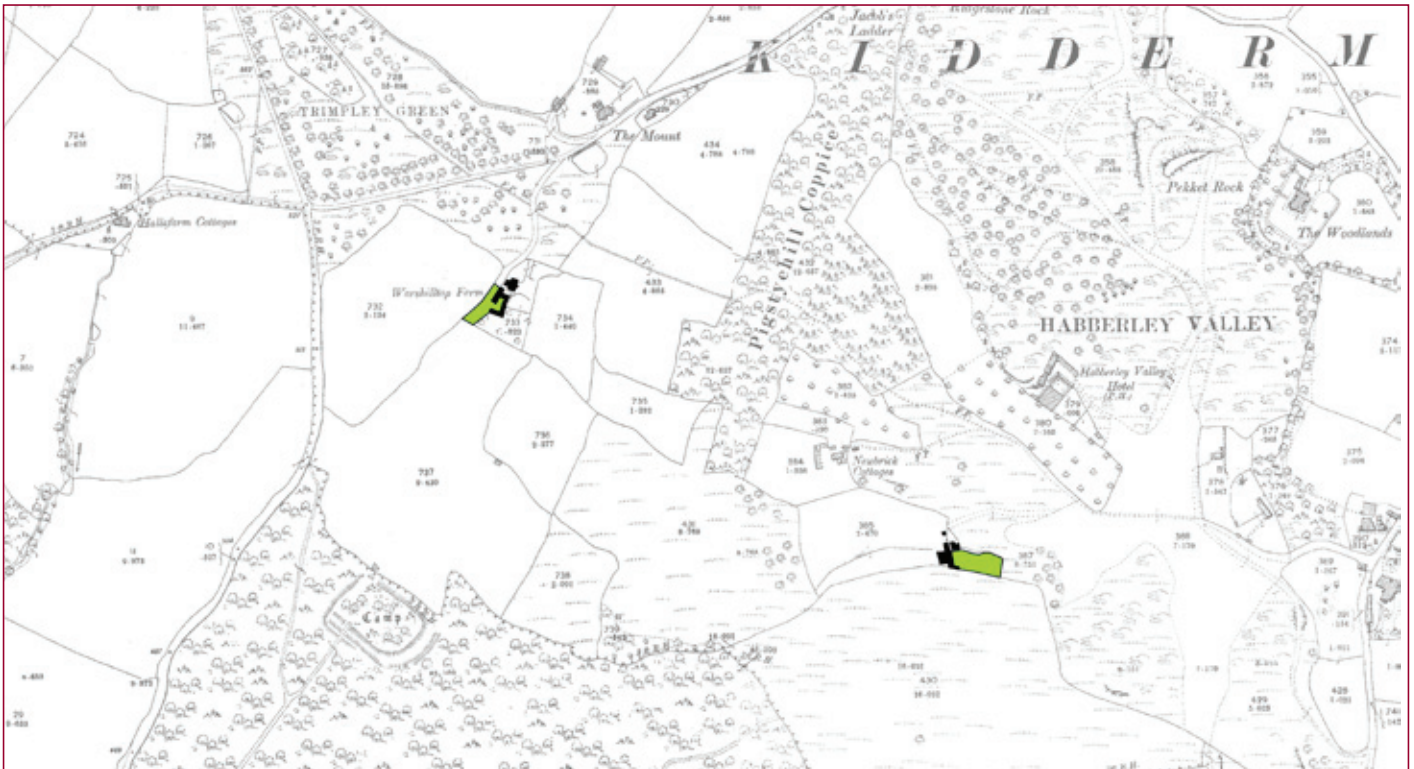
- The majority of early farmstead buildings (pre-1600) are located within villages/shrunken medieval villages, hamlets or farmstead clusters. Detailed building recording suggests that a considerable percentage of those farmhouses and farm buildings listed as 17th century are, in fact, 16th century or earlier (County Historic Environment Record report archive). They are concentrated in areas of medium to small-scale fields, and in the case of pre-1600 buildings there is a strong association with landscapes of ancient enclosure intermixed with ancient woodland bordering the commons and heathlands to the north of the county. They are less common in those landscapes to the west of the Severn that have been subject to higher levels of estate-led reorganisation and the enlargement of fields in the 18th and 19th centuries.
- The distributions of 18th century listed buildings are in contrast concentrated along the terraces of the Teme and Severn, and in those areas of the north of the county whose heaths and commons and the Wyre Forest fringe were subject to enclosure and improvement in this period.
- The proportion of listed 19th century buildings is comparatively low, reflecting the criteria for listing buildings of this date, which draws attention to the selection of buildings of special interest for their architectural treatment or historic importance.



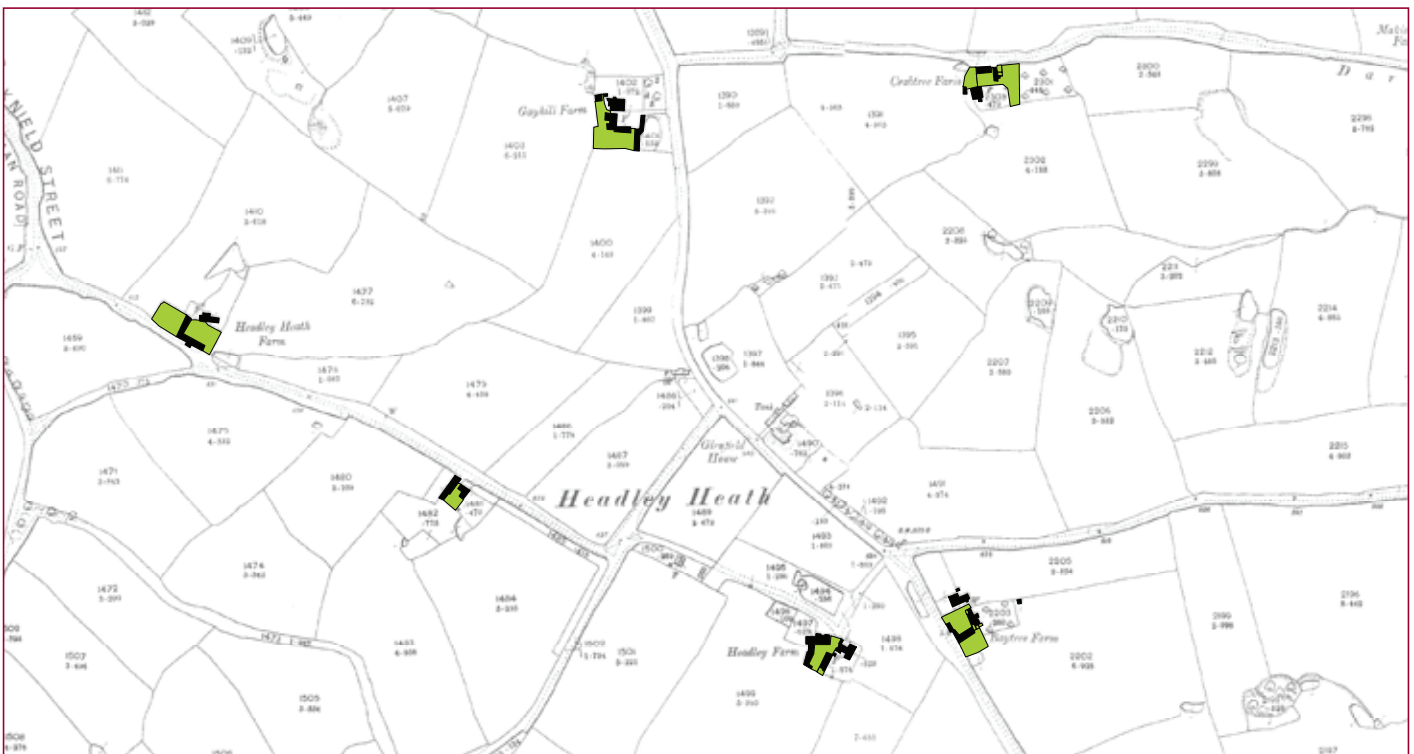
Two farmsteads in Shelsley Walsh in the Teme Valley show some of the most distinctive characteristics of Worcestershire farmsteads – a high proportion by national standards of 17th century and earlier farmstead groups, at the top in timber frame, and rebuilding in brick from the 18th century (below). Photos © Bob Edwards and Worcestershire County Council

## WORCESTERSHIRE FARMSTEAD CHARACTER STATEMENT

The maps on this and the following page show farmsteads (highlighted with their main yards shown in green) in their landscape and settlement settings. These vary across Worcestershire, the resulting farmstead character areas being summarised in the Area Summaries found in Section 4 of the Farmsteads Assessment Framework. Maps © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (All rights reserved 2012) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024

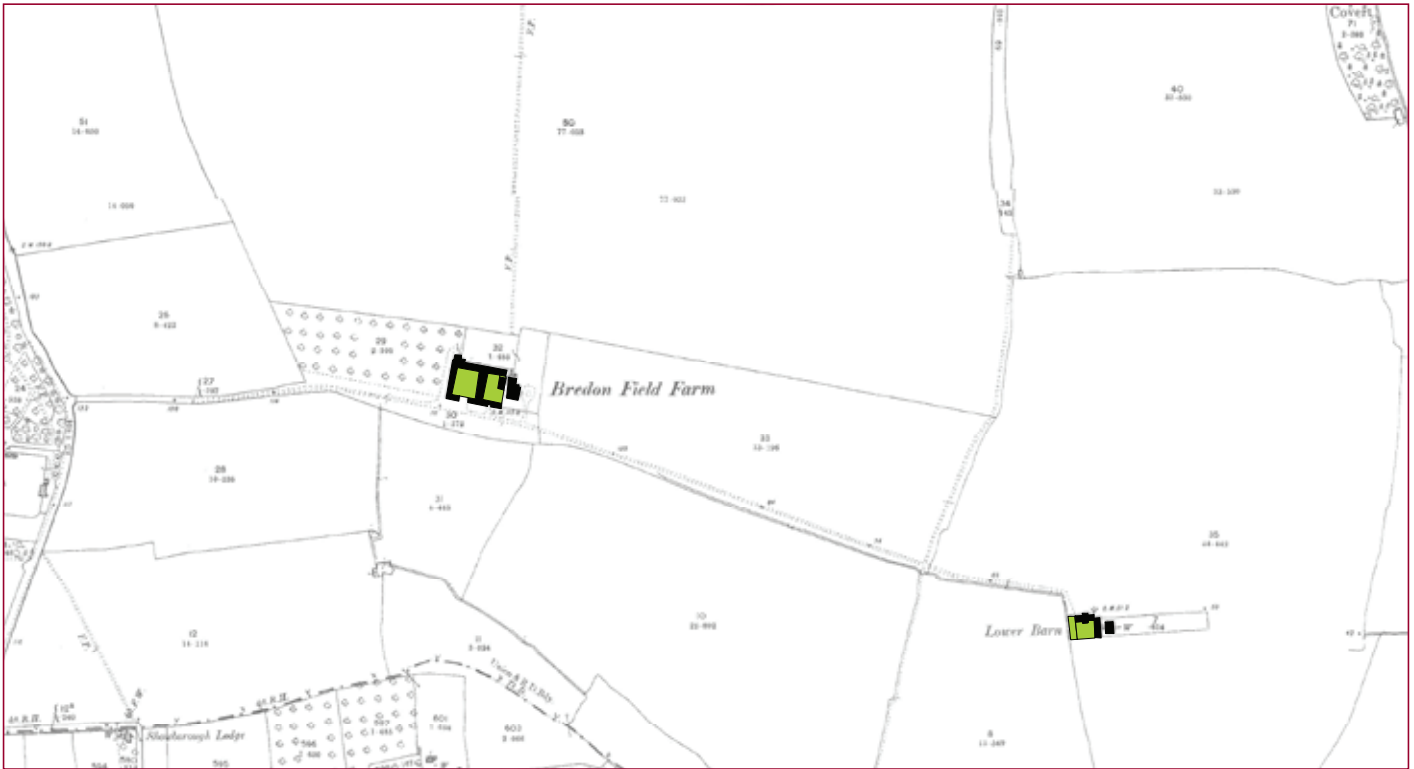


These two farmsteads, rebuilt in the 19th century to regular courtyard plans, are located in a landscape of small woodlands, remnant heath and a field pattern of mixed periods and origin. Rebuilt farmsteads, and remnants of the earlier pattern of smaller farms and cottages, are typical of the north Worcestershire sandstone area. See also farmstead character area: Wyre Forest, the Northern Heathlands and Sandstone Estates



An area of mixed piecemeal and planned enclosure with courtyard-plan wayside farmsteads in north eastern Worcestershire, including some fields with straight boundaries enclosed from remaining areas of heath and rough grazing. A few farmsteads have buildings dating to the 15th–17th centuries, this area having a relatively high survival of early buildings. See also farmstead character area: Royal Forest of Feckenham and North East.

0 30 60 120 180 240  
Metres



Part of the lower Avon Vale with a large, 19th century, regular courtyard E-plan farmstead and associated regular courtyard L-plan outfarm. This southern area of Worcestershire has a distinctive vale landscape of large fields derived from 18th and 19th century Parliamentary and planned enclosure of previously medieval open-fields, associated with large-scale courtyard plan farmsteads. See also farmstead character area: Severn Estate Farmlands.



A group of 17th, 18th and 19th century farmsteads clustered around a nucleated village in south east Worcestershire, within fields resulting from the piecemeal and also planned enclosure of medieval open fields. The farmsteads vary in size with most being regular or loose courtyard plan types. The largest examples are all multi-yard farmsteads. Many of the smaller examples are associated with traditional orchards. See also farmstead character area: South Eastern Farmlands.

## SECTION 3: FARMSTEAD AND BUILDING TYPES

An introduction to farmstead architecture and function is followed by a detailed guide to the individual types of building.

A farmstead is the place where the farmhouse and the working buildings of a farm are located, although some farms also have field barns or outfarms sited away from the main steading. Traditional farmsteads and their buildings make a significant contribution to local character and distinctiveness. They do this through variations in their scale, layout, buildings and materials, and the way that buildings of different dates and types relate to yards, other spaces and the surrounding landscape and settlement. Their present character has been shaped by their development as centres for the production of food from the surrounding farmland, as well as a mix of local traditions and national influences.

### Farmstead architecture

Traditional buildings can be ‘vernacular’ or ‘designed’. All display a remarkable variety of plan form and building type, in contrast to mass-produced structures or multi-functional sheds. By the late 19th century mass-produced buildings were becoming available, the Dutch barn being the most commonly seen prefabricated building of the period. This period also saw the first use of mass concrete for walling, and by the end of the First World War there was much greater standardisation in building forms. After the Second World War changing animal welfare standards and increasing use of machinery resulted in the development of larger multi-purpose pre-fabricated buildings that have no regional characteristics.



- A Vernacular buildings are characteristic of their locality. Farmhouse using local materials in Ashton-under-Hill
- B Designed buildings are usually built in a single phase and sometimes in a recognisable architectural style. Large single-phase farmstead, built to an industrial scale and style and incorporating hop kilns, in the west of the county.
- C Factory-made prefabricated structures using steel/iron frames and corrugated iron cladding. Dutch Barn near Kidderminster.
- All photos © Worcestershire County Council

Local tradition and status were the principal reasons farmhouses faced towards or away from the yard, and might be attached or detached from the working buildings. The largest regular courtyard plan type farmsteads (see next page) are the most likely to have detached houses. Houses attached to the working buildings are commonly found on small farmsteads, in parts of the Teme Valley, the core of the Arden and to the north east, The Wyre Forest and the Castlemorton area. In the south east of the county, as in the adjacent parts of Warwickshire, earlier farmsteads that developed within villages are also far more likely to have the houses attached to working buildings, as they developed within plots inherited from the medieval period: houses were often prominently positioned across several medieval plots, facing the main routeway. Large farms often had rooms for live-in farm labourers – usually in the attic or back wing of the house.



A cow house, possibly combined with a stable, at Stoke Bliss. This is an exceptionally rare example of an animal house of 18th century or earlier date – the use of square panel framing was used in the West Midlands into the 17th century. Photo © Worcestershire County Council



The farm buildings associated with this 17th century timber-framed house were rebuilt as a regular L-plan range in the early-mid 19th century. Adjoining the house is a throughway to allow covered access between the farmyard and paddocks to the rear; and attached to it on the left is a threshing barn and (in the left-hand range of the L-plan) a stable range. Photo © Worcestershire County Council

## FARMSTEAD TYPES

### The Function of Farmsteads

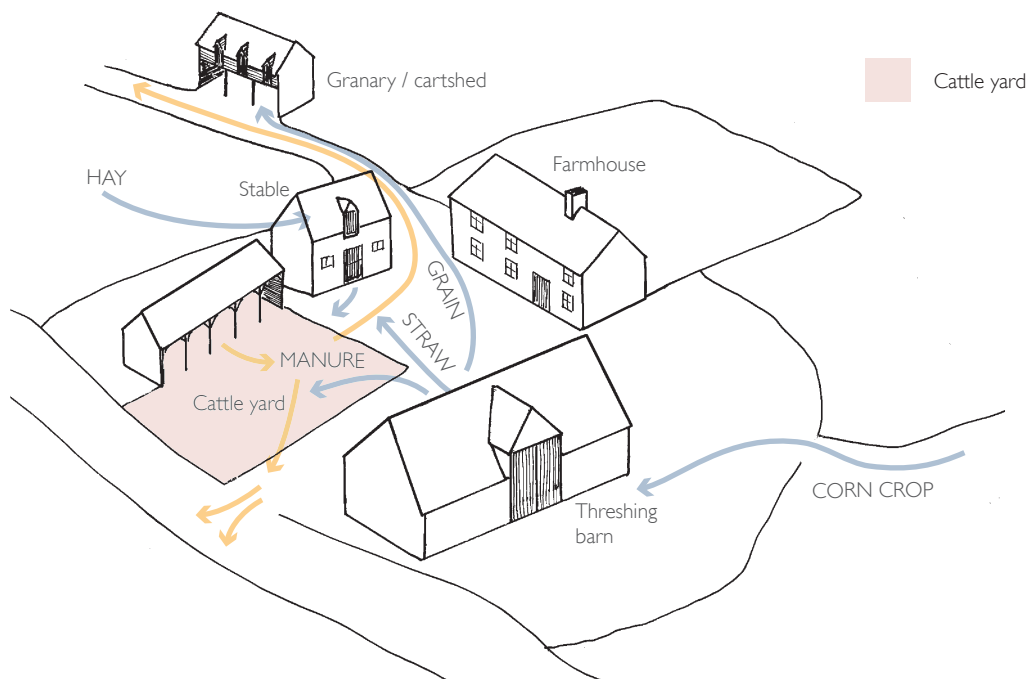
The size and layout of farmsteads results from their status and historic function, and in particular the extent to which they needed spaces and buildings to store and process harvested crops (corn and fruit) and shelter and manage animals. The principal functions of farmsteads were to house the farming family and any workers, store and process harvested crops and dairy products, produce and finish meat, provide shelter for livestock, carts and implements and produce manure for the surrounding farmland. These required:

- Access to the house and working buildings, and access from the farmstead to its farmland, communal land, other settlements and markets.
- Specialist or combination buildings or ranges.
- Yards and other spaces for stacking harvested corn and hay, sorting and containing livestock, milking cattle, gardens or orchards.

Some important functions, such as the summer fattening of cattle on rough ground (moor, marsh and fen) for export, did not require working buildings.

The relationship between the farmhouse and the working area of the farmstead can vary. Farmhouses can be attached to the working buildings (commonly found in upland areas), be positioned on one side of the yard or stand detached from the farmyard with their own driveways and gardens, a position often seen in larger and high-status farmsteads of the 18th and 19th centuries. Some farms were provided with cottages for farm workers or rooms for live-in farm labourers – usually in the attic or back wing of the house. Seasonal workers were often housed in the lofts of farm buildings.





In addition to the farmstead, **field barns** and **outfarms** enabled animals to be housed, crops to be processed and the farmland remote from the main farmstead to be enriched with farmyard manure.

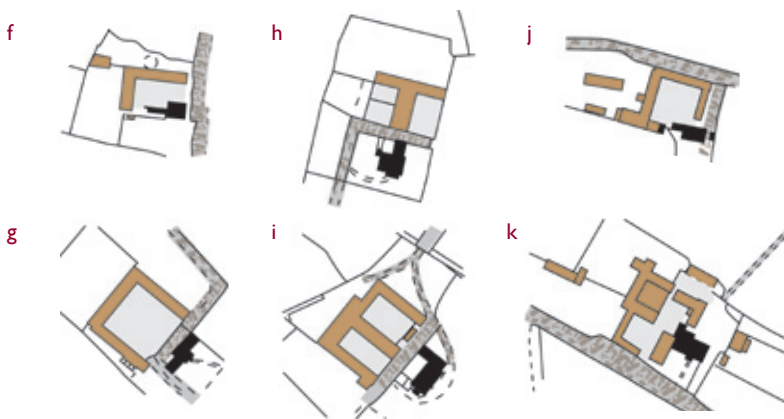
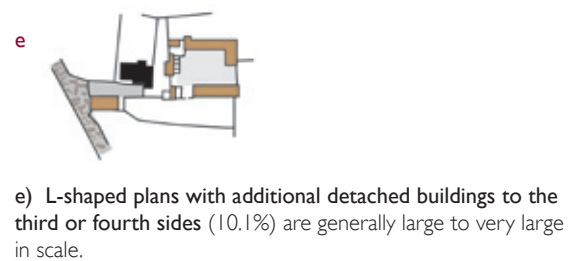
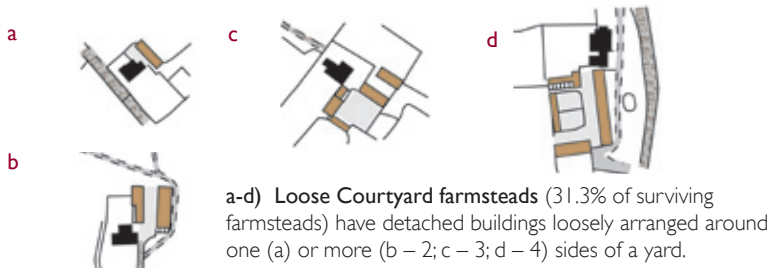


This drawing shows how basic functions shaped the layout of farmsteads, in this case a loose courtyard layout. Harvested corn crops were brought to the farmstead and processed in the barn, Grain was stored in granaries and the straw was taken to cattle yards, cattle housing and stables where it was trodden into manure and carted out to fertilise the farmland. © Bob Edwards

These plans show the full range of farmstead plans which are encountered across England.

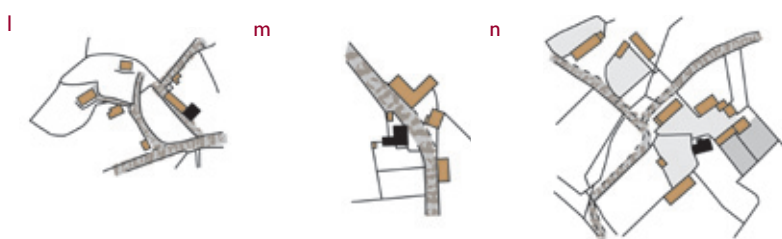
COURTYARD PLANS are the most common forms of farmstead layout, where the working buildings are arranged around one or more yards. The largest courtyard farms are found on high-status sites, estate farms and in the arable vales, wolds and downlands of England, and the smallest in stock-rearing and dairying areas. Cattle yards either developed as areas for treading straw from the threshing barn into manure, or – especially in upland areas – an area for moving cattle and storing the manure. They may have scatters of other farm buildings relating to routes and tracks, usually cart sheds and other ancillary buildings.

KEY	
	farmhouse
	working building
	yard
	routeway

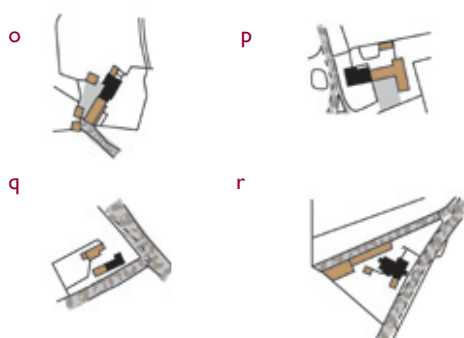


- L-plans (f) which are typically small-medium in scale and have the buildings arranged as two linked ranges to create an L-shape.
- U-plans (g) which are medium-scale farmsteads, sometimes larger; with buildings arranged around three sides of a yard, which is open to one side.
- F-, E-, T-, H- or Z-shaped plans (h and i) which are arranged around two cattle yards.
- Full courtyard plans (j) which have working buildings around all four sides of the yard.
- Multi-yard plans (k) which have multiple yards grouped together and regularly arranged.

DISPERSED PLANS (4.3%) have no focal yard area and the working buildings are dispersed along a routeway or within the boundary of the farmstead. They are concentrated in upland and wood pasture landscapes including areas close to common land for holding stock. They vary greatly in scale and are often bisected by routeways and public footpaths.



LINEAR AND OTHER RELATED FARMSTEAD TYPES (9.2%) are most closely associated with upland and common-edge farmsteads.





## COURTYARD PLANS

### Loose courtyard plans

These typically developed in relationship to fields that reflect the gradual or piecemeal enclosure of medieval open fields, woodland and previously unenclosed lowland heath and common. The farmhouse may face into the yard, be set gable end on to the yard or set to one side.

- Those which have buildings loosely arranged around one (LC1) or two (LC2) sides of a yard are the most common type in this category, displaying the distribution of small-scale farmsteads as a strong underpinning element of the Worcestershire countryside. Both types are associated with small-scale pastoral or dairy farming and not smallholdings.
- Those which have buildings loosely arranged around three (LC3) or four (LC4) sides of a yard have a similar distribution although they display a tendency to be associated with landscapes that have been subjected to the amalgamation of farms and development of larger fields by the late 19th century. They are the most likely to have retained their working buildings.

Loose Courtyard plan types	% of surviving examples
Loose Courtyard 1 side	8.9%
Loose Courtyard 2 sides	13.6%
Loose Courtyard 3 side	7.3%
Loose Courtyard 4 sides	1.5%
Loose Courtyard L-shaped	12%

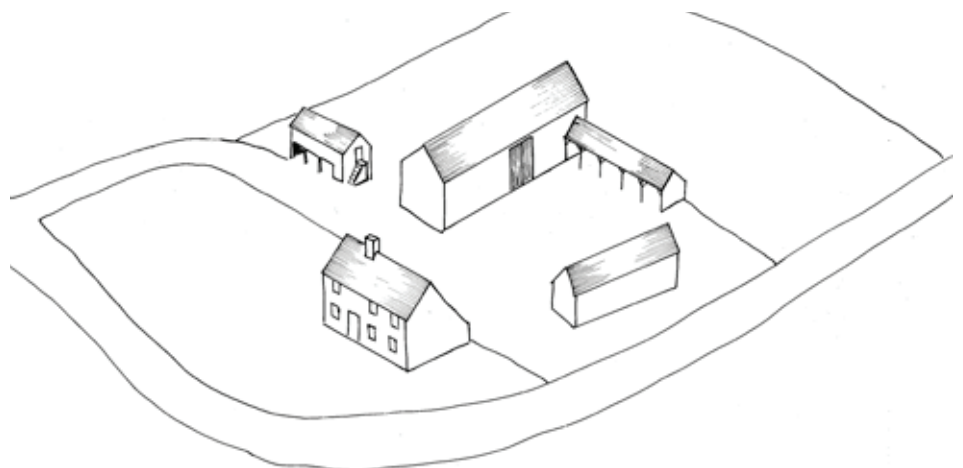
L-shaped plans with additional detached buildings to the third or fourth sides	% of surviving examples
Loose Courtyard L-plan with detached buildings to the third side	1.2%
Loose Courtyard L-plan with detached buildings to the fourth side	0.4%



Loose courtyard plan with detached buildings to three side of the yard. Photo © Peter Gaskell

### L-shaped plans with additional buildings to third or fourth sides of the yard

These are generally large to very large in scale. There is a marked tendency for these plans (especially in the smaller-scale examples) to be regular in their form. Across the West Midlands they are most densely concentrated in areas where large-scale arable-based farms developed. The drawing shows a common arrangement, where the L-plan comprises a shelter shed attached to the barn. © Bob Edwards



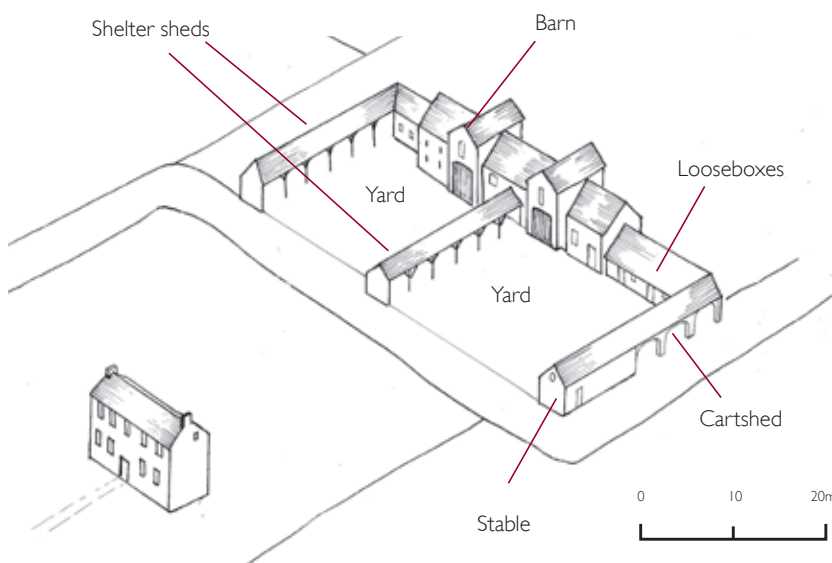
Regular courtyard plans

Regular courtyard farmsteads consist of linked ranges, formally arranged around one or more yards. The larger-scale farmsteads in this category are the most likely to have retained their working buildings. This formal planning in farmsteads is reflected in the dominance across large parts of the county of fields that have been subject to successive reorganisation including boundary removal and straightening, a process that often went hand in hand with the amalgamation of farms and their associated land.

- L-plans are often small to medium in scale and have been subject to higher levels of change. They can comprise cattle housing joined to a fodder range, or more usually in Worcestershire a barn and attached shelter shed facing a cattle yard. They can be either incremental in their development or planned. This association with smaller steadings extends across the county – in contrast to the small-scale loose courtyard plans which are more prominent in landscapes characterised by smaller scale enclosure including the Wyre Forest, Teme Valley, Malvern Fringe and Wythall area. Clustering is apparent in areas of common edge settlement and smallholdings, such as around Castlemorton in the south west.
- Regular courtyard U-plans have buildings arranged around three sides of a yard which is open to one side. They are evenly distributed throughout Worcestershire, reflecting the activities of estates and improving farms in the late 18th and 19th centuries. U-plans are most strongly associated with landscapes subject to a long process of piecemeal development.
- F-, E-, T-, H- or Z-shaped plans are concentrated across the central and northern part of the county, largely excluding the Herefordshire Plateau and the Sandstone Plateau. E plans, with two cattle yards, are closely associated with areas of reorganised and planned enclosure in the Severn and Avon Vale. F plans, also with two yards, are typically smaller in scale.

- Full courtyard plans are concentrated in areas of planned estate-driven enclosure in the estate lands to the west of the River Severn. As elsewhere in England this plan type is synonymous with the classic model farm format of the 1750-1870 periods.
- Multi-yard plans represent some of the largest farmsteads in Worcestershire and are distributed evenly across the county. These are farmsteads with multiple yards which are grouped together and regularly arranged (other than the defined F, E, H, T or Z-plans, although these can be incorporated as tertiary elements). Regular multi-yard farmsteads have been less susceptible to change compared with higher incidence of change affecting smaller farmsteads.
- Covered Yards are concentrated around the outskirts of Worcester and mostly appear to be post-1870s adaptations to earlier farmsteads, rather than dating from the High Farming years of the 1850s-60s.

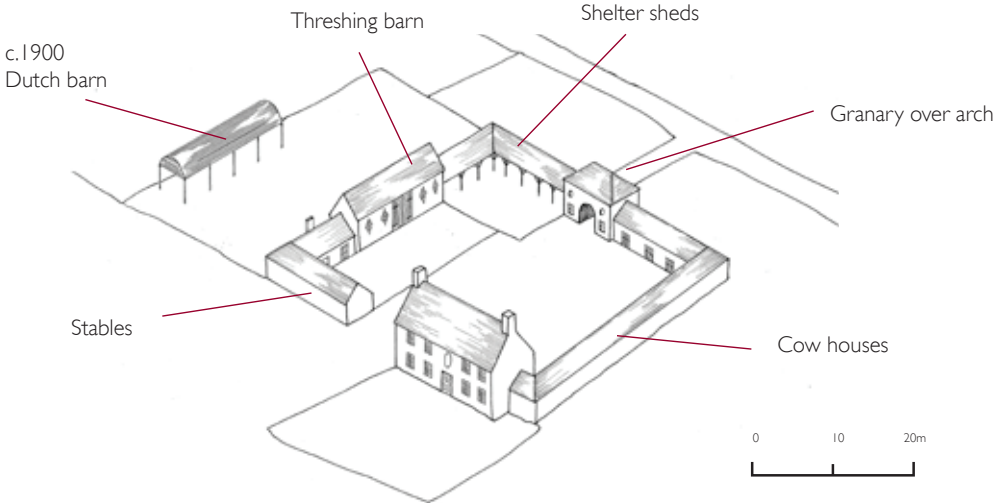
Regular Courtyard plan types	% of surviving examples
Regular Courtyard L-plan	12.4%
Regular Courtyard U-plan	8.2%
Regular Courtyard F-plan	7.3%
Regular Courtyard E-plan	1.5%
Regular Courtyard T-plan	1.6%
Regular Courtyard Z-plan	Less than 1%
Regular Multi-yard	7.6%
Regular Courtyard – Full	4.4%
Regular Courtyard – Covered	Less than 1%



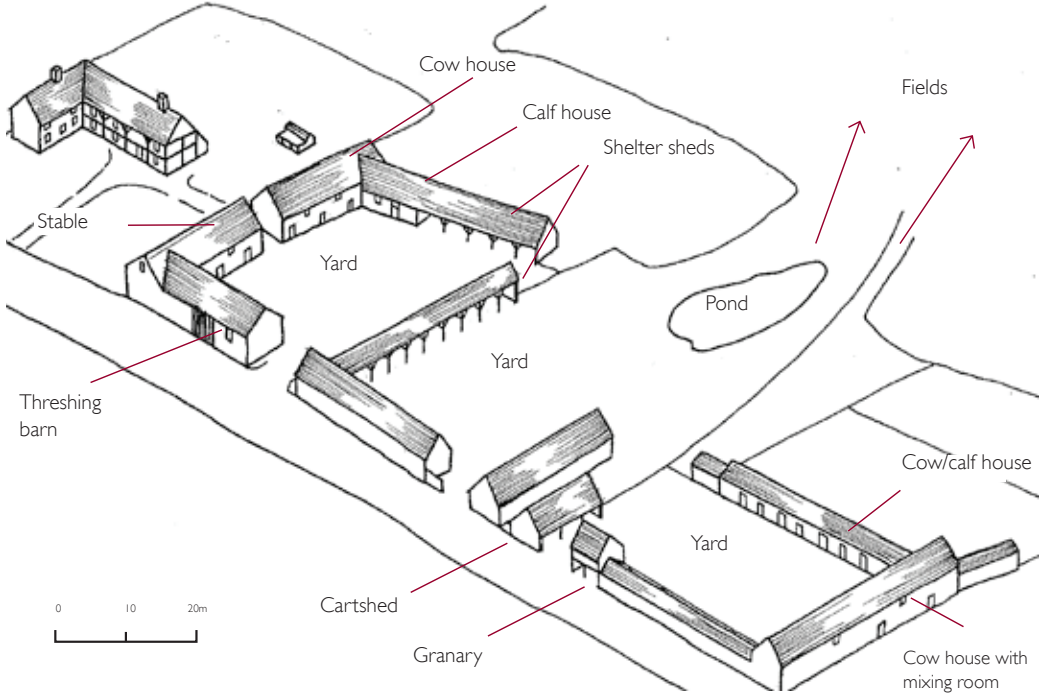
An E-plan farmstead, showing the basic elements of this category of plans. The E-plan, for example, is simply created by arranging the working buildings around the cattleyards which are open on one side.

Drawing © Bob Edwards

A full regular courtyard plan layout.  
Drawing © Bob Edwards



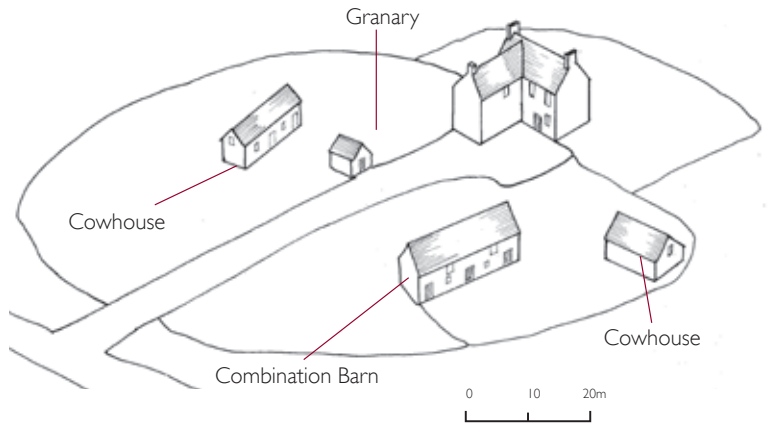
A regular multi-yard farmstead.  
Drawing © Bob Edwards



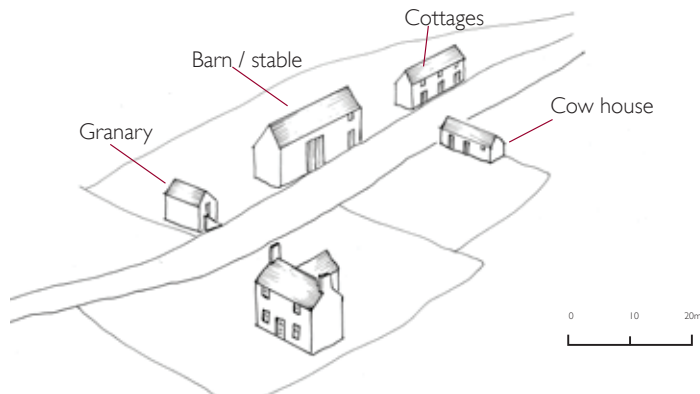
DISPERSED PLANS

Dispersed plans display a strong association with large areas of common and woodland fringes, including the Wyre Forest, for moving and containing stock. They are concentrated in a spur extending alongside substantial areas of common from the Wyre Forest area to the fringes of Worcester, and a line around the junction with the village-based landscapes of the south east and the remainder of the vale.

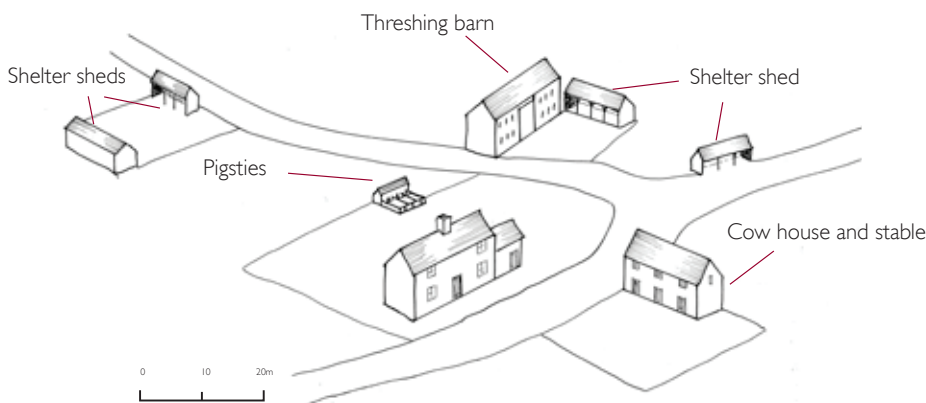
Dispersed plan types	% of surviving examples
Dispersed cluster plans	2.8%
Dispersed driftway plans	Less than 1%
Dispersed multi-yard plans	1.5%



Dispersed cluster plan. Drawing © Bob Edwards



Dispersed driftway plan. Drawing © Bob Edwards



Dispersed multi-yard plan. Drawing © Bob Edwards

## OTHER PLAN TYPES

The other plan types comprise:

- Linear farmsteads, where the house and working buildings are attached and in-line. These may have been extended or planned with additional working buildings to make an L-shaped range. They are usually associated with smallholding landscapes, such as in the Wyre Forest, and areas of upland and common/rough ground, such as around the Malvern Fringe and north eastern heathlands.
- Parallel plans where the working buildings are placed opposite and parallel to the house and attached working buildings with a narrow area between.
- Row plans, where the working buildings are attached in-line. They are strongly associated with the same areas, particularly Castlemorton in the south-west of Worcestershire; an area strongly associated with small-scale animal husbandry

Other plan types	% of surviving examples
Linear	4.5%
L-plan (attached)	2.7%
Parallel Plans	Less than 1%
Row	Less than 1%



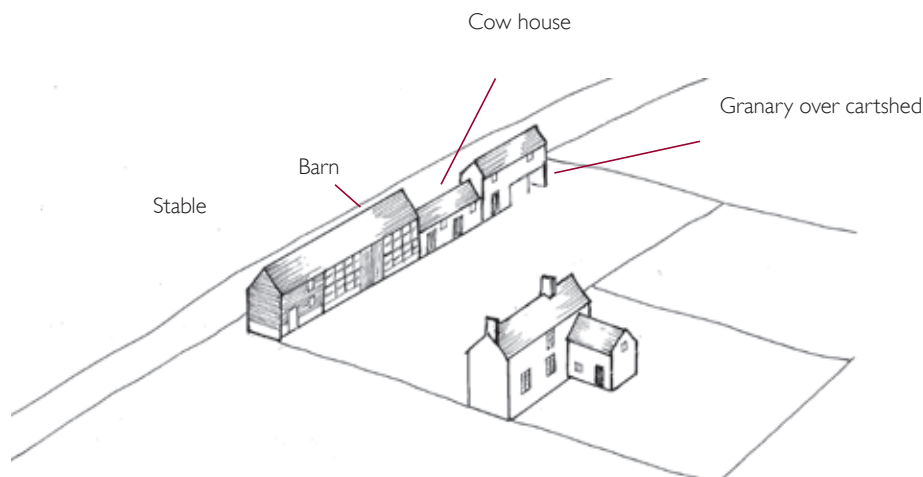
This timber-framed cow house with its hay loft at Grafton is an exceptionally rare example in a national context. It is attached to an L-shaped and cruck-framed house. Photo © Worcestershire County Council



A 17th century or earlier linear farmstead built of timber frame to the west of the Malverns, where most of the agricultural end (to the right) has been brought into the house. Photo © Jeremy Lake

Row plans comprise long ranges of buildings, typically of various dates. Yards can face towards or away from main routes and tracks.

Drawing © Bob Edwards



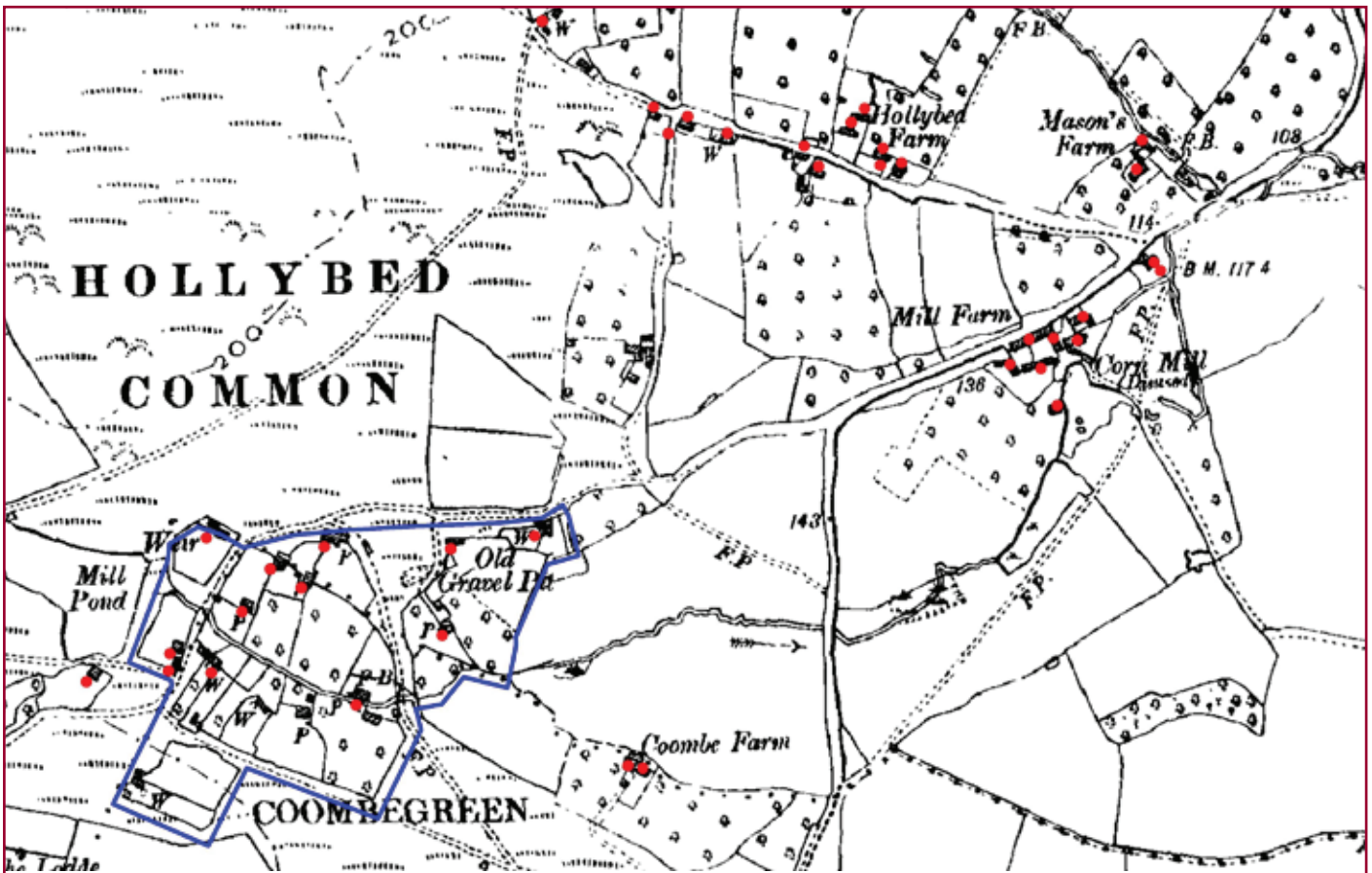
SMALLHOLDINGS

In contrast to farmers, who derived their primary income from the pursuit of agriculture, smallholders combined small-scale subsistence farming to supplement the income derived from other (usually industrial) activities such as woodland management, quarrying, coal and lead mining or metal working. Smallholders often relied upon access to common land and woodland and typically had little or no enclosed land. Smallholdings will often be identified by their location in areas of small fields close to areas of common land – what Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) has identified as areas of squatter enclosure – whereas cottages, which may be of a similar size, will usually be set on roadsides without a clear association of fields.

Smallholdings may have required stables, pigsties or cow houses. They typically have no defined plan type or they can resemble the smallest-scale farmstead types. They survive in distinct zones around areas of common land that survived into the 20th century.

In Worcestershire smallholdings are predominantly concentrated in:

- Areas of fruit production in the west, north-west and northern areas of Worcestershire; notably in a cluster around the fringes of Wyre Forest with scattered examples located in small clearances within the forest. The Wyre examples are closely associated with the development of large-scale fruit production during the 19th century, although some smallholdings predate this period and are more likely to have developed in relation to forest industries and the colonisation of the forest and heath.
- Areas of small, irregular shaped fields that evolved through a process of piecemeal enclosure, both on the edges of and within areas of common heath such as in the south-west of Worcestershire, near Castlemorton.



Smallholdings around Castlemorton Common. The settlement pattern and overall field morphology is strikingly similar to that of a medieval assarted landscape. Indeed, here a parallel can be drawn with some groups of smallholdings in Wyre Forest that have origins in medieval colonisation of woodland or heath. By contrast, smallholdings associated with the 19th century boom in orcharding are scattered across Wyre. In some cases, isolated smallholdings utilised existing assarts and increased orchard capacity by adding additional fields. These are distinguished by their regular-shaped form and straight boundaries. Along the southern boundary of Wyre a large area of fruit production has created a highly distinctive pattern of small, regular-shaped fields that became the focus for a co-operative market of large-scale production. Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (All rights reserved 2012) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024

## BUILDING TYPES – A DETAILED GUIDE

Farm buildings were required for the following range of functions, some of which were often combined into a single range rather than specialist individual buildings.

### *Storing and processing crops*

- A **barn** for storing and processing the harvested corn crop over the winter months was the basic requirement of farms, corn could also be stacked in yards adjacent to the barn.
- Grain was stored in a **granary**, which could be detached, sited over another farm building, incorporated in the barn or in the farmhouse.

### *Transport*

**Cartsheds** typically face routes and tracks. **Forges** are rare.

### *Housing and managing farm animals*

Farm animals were highly valued for their manure, provided motive power and produce for export from the farm on the hoof or as finished goods. They required one or more yards to aid free movement and the management of stock.

- Straw was taken from the barn to **cattle housing**, yards and **stables** to be used as bedding. The resulting manure was then forked into carts and returned to fertilise the surrounding farmland.
- **Pigsties** were built on most farms, and particularly on dairying establishments where there would have been whey – a waste product from cheese making – to feed them on.
- **Sheep** rarely required buildings, it being more usual to find yards around upland and downland farmsteads.
- Farm birds required **hen houses**, **goose houses**, **doveholes** and more rarely **dovecotes**.

Storage was also required in hay lofts or **hay barns** for hay from surrounding fields and meadows. Hedgerows, woodland and rough ground was also an important source – especially upland and wood pasture areas – of holly and ash, bracken and also gorse from roadside verges and common land. Root crops, primarily turnips, and then imported feed such as oilcake became increasingly widespread from the late 18th century and required their own **root houses** and **mixing houses** which were incorporated into farmstead plans.

### *Brewing, baking and dairy products*

Purpose-built **dairies** are very rare as they were commonly sited within the farmhouse along with **cheese rooms** in some areas. **Bakehouses** and **brewhouses** were commonly detached. **Malthouses** and **kilns** for drying corn are very rare.

A range of other buildings can also be found in a farmstead, including **boiling houses** for animal feed; **forges** or dog kennels incorporated beneath granary steps.

### *Housing the farming family and farm workers*

Local tradition and status were the principal reasons farmhouses faced towards or away from the yard, and might be attached or detached from the working buildings. **Farmhouses attached to working buildings** are most common in northern and western England and on farmsteads that developed within villages. Farmhouses **along one side or gable to the yard** had a closer relationship to the workings of the farmyard than houses detached from the yard. These typically face away from the working yard, into gardens with separate access and overlooking a 'prospect' of gradually or newly enclosed landscapes. They are strongly associated with high-status sites or the larger regular courtyard and loose courtyard plans, and thus demonstrate the status of their tenants or owners. In the 18th and 19th centuries farmhouses were often remodelled or even re-sited to face away from the group into their own driveways and gardens.

## APPLE LOFTS AND CELLARS – SEE CIDER HOUSES

---

### BARN

The barn is a building for the storage and processing of grain crops and for housing straw, farm equipment and occasionally livestock and their fodder. Its principal purpose was the dry storage and processing of the harvested corn crop. It also stored straw after threshing, before it was distributed to animal housing and yards. In many areas it was the principal or only building on the farmstead until the 19th century.

The key sub-types are:

- The **Threshing Barn** – a barn containing one or more threshing floors and bays for storing the sheaves of unthreshed corn and often the straw after threshing. Some of these were converted at a later date, especially from the late 19th century when mechanisation made them redundant, to a combined livestock and arable use.
- The **Combination Barn** – a threshing barn that incorporates housing for livestock and sometimes other functions (storing grain, housing carts etc). These barns are common in the uplands of the Welsh Borders but in Worcestershire they are rare.

### Typical features of all barns

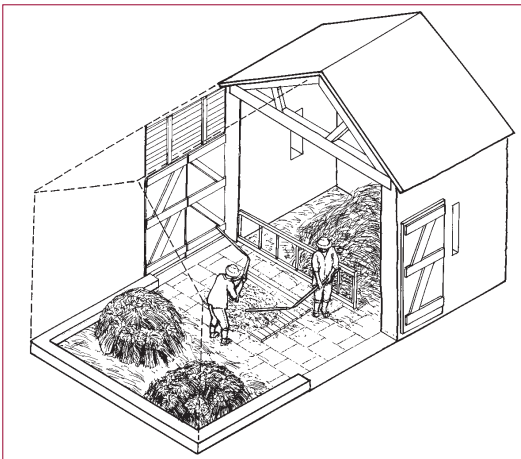
The most commonly encountered features are:

- Internal subdivision into 'bays', marked by roof trusses, wall posts or brick piers. The number of these bays could reflect the size of the farm and its corn crop, and they could also mark internal subdivision into stalls for animals and lofts for storing grain or hay.
- Threshing floor in the 'threshing bay' for beating out the harvested crop.
- Opposing doors to enable winnowing on the threshing floor in a cross-draught. The separation of grain from the chaff was usually achieved by throwing the grain into the air and using the wind to blow the lighter chaff away from the grain.
- Doors to the threshing bay might be large enough to allow a laden waggon to enter and unload, and then leave through the opposing doorway. Opposing doors in pastoral or hill farming areas might, in contrast, be very small, and in some cases there might just be an opposing opening rather than a door for this purpose.
- Ritual and tally marks can be found scratched into walls and timbers around the threshing floor (see page 42)
- Door frames to the threshing floor can provide evidence for removed doors and, in slots at the base, for boards which contained grain and excluded animals during the threshing process.
- Other openings comprise pitching holes for forking the crop into storage bays, or hay for animals, and doorways into animal housing or spaces which could be used for a variety of purposes (such as shearing sheep).
- Structural evidence for historical development and internal subdivision, which can show how buildings have changed in response to national and local trends in agriculture.
- Animal and steam power was increasingly used from the late 18th century, visible traces being belt drives and holes for drive shafts from earlier fixed or portable machinery and projecting horse engine houses, where horses powered threshing and mixing machinery. Water power was also used.
- The introduction of the portable steam engine and threshing machine in the 1850s heralded the end of the traditional barn as a storage and processing building, as the crop could be processed outdoors. These machines have left no trace in the architecture or archaeology of farmsteads, except in the belt drives and shafting that conveyed power to rooms for mixing animal feed elsewhere in the barn.
- From the late 19th century, many barns were converted into cow houses and fodder processing and storage buildings. Barns may retain evidence for this change of function in the retention of stalling etc.



## Significance

- Barns are usually the oldest and largest buildings on the farmstead, but those that survive are only a small proportion of those that are documented. Those of early 16th century and earlier date are of exceptional rarity and importance, even rarer being those that survive in the context of medieval houses and other buildings.
- The size of barns – along with that of stables and cart sheds – can reveal differences in the size and arable acreage of farms, as well as their wealth. This can also be indicated by the construction of an additional barn and, in many cases, the enlargement and adaptation of earlier barns to house more harvested corn.
- There is some evidence in the county for combination barns which housed animals (usually oxen and milk cows) as well as their fodder and the corn crop.
- Cruck and aisled barns are very rare and highly significant.
- Horse engine houses (see page 32) and additions with chimney stacks for stationary steam engines are rare.
- Evidence for water power, in the form of leats to carry water to the barn and for water-powered machinery, is exceptionally rare. Evidence for wind power is rarer still.



Threshing the harvested crop. Photo © Worcestershire County Council



Brick barns of the 18th and 19th centuries are common across much of the county. This barn has a central threshing bay and a characteristic ventilation pattern created in the brickwork. Note also the sturdy double doors. Photo © Worcestershire County Council



Leigh Court Barn at Leigh is listed at grade I. It was built in the 14th century to store produce for Pershore Abbey and is the largest cruck-framed structure in Britain. It has 18 cruck blades each made from a single tree. Photo © Worcestershire County Council



Note the decorative ventilation panels and the three-bay cartshed to the left. The large scale of this barn provides testament to the importance of corn production on this large farm in the Mid Severn Sandstone Plateau. Photo © Worcestershire County Council



The use of timber frame set on a tall brick plinth is a common feature, as here on this mid 18th century five-bay barn near Stanford upon Teme. Photo © Worcestershire County Council



A combination barn in the Teme Valley, with integral cattle housing to the right. Photo © Worcestershire County Council

### Evidence for mechanisation

The take-up of mechanised methods of threshing the corn crop – by horse engines from the 1790s, water power, wind power and from the 1820s steam – was regionally very varied.



Horse engine houses such as this near Tenbury are exceptionally rare in the county. They comprise round or polygonal buildings projecting from barns which contained a horse engine used for powering threshing machinery following its invention in 1786. The equipment was also used for chopping and crushing fodder. Photo © Worcestershire County Council



Belt drives and shafting conveyed power to rooms for mixing animal feed elsewhere in the barn. Mechanisation was usually associated with the subdivision of the barn into smaller spaces for housing the threshing machine, the straw, grain and also preparing feed for cattle. Photo © Worcestershire County Council

### BREWHOUSE/ BAKEHOUSE

Detached buildings separate but close to the farmhouse for brewing beer and baking bread, often combined into a single building. See also detached kitchen.

#### Typical features

- A single-storey building, usually with a single entry, and windows to the side walls.
- They will always have a chimney stack.
- Internally an oven and usually a copper.

#### Significance

- Examples appear to be concentrated in the west of England, extending into Wales. Most are 19th century, and earlier examples are very rare.
- Few examples survive as they have usually been subsumed by the farmhouse and converted for other use.
- Surviving bread ovens and copper vessels for brewing and washing are rare.



Brewhouse, Hodge Hill Farm, A) exterior; B) interior showing 'copper'. Photos © Worcestershire County Council

### CART SHED – SEE FARM VEHICLE HOUSING

## CATTLE HOUSING

Evidence for cattle housing is rare before the 19th century and largely confined to the 17th century and earlier longhouses mainly of north and west England, the bastle houses of northern England, the linhays mainly of south-west England and some detached cow houses and housing in multi-functional barns. Longhouses, which had shared entrances for humans and cattle under one roof, are documented in Worcestershire and any evidence for them will be extremely significant. An example has been recorded at Butts Bank, Broadwas.

Most cattle housing dates from the 19th century and comprise cow houses, loose boxes for fattening, open-fronted shelter sheds, and covered yards from the 1850s. Any evidence for housing draught oxen is hard to find, and extremely rare.

### COVERED YARD

A covered yard is the term used for a cattle yard that is fully covered by a roof – the aims of which were to protect the nutrients in the manure collecting in the yard from being washed away by the rain and to provide an environment where cattle would fatten more quickly. By the 1850s it had been proved by agricultural chemists that the nutritional value of manure would be better preserved if it were under cover, and as costly feeds produced richer manures, the incentive to protect them was great.

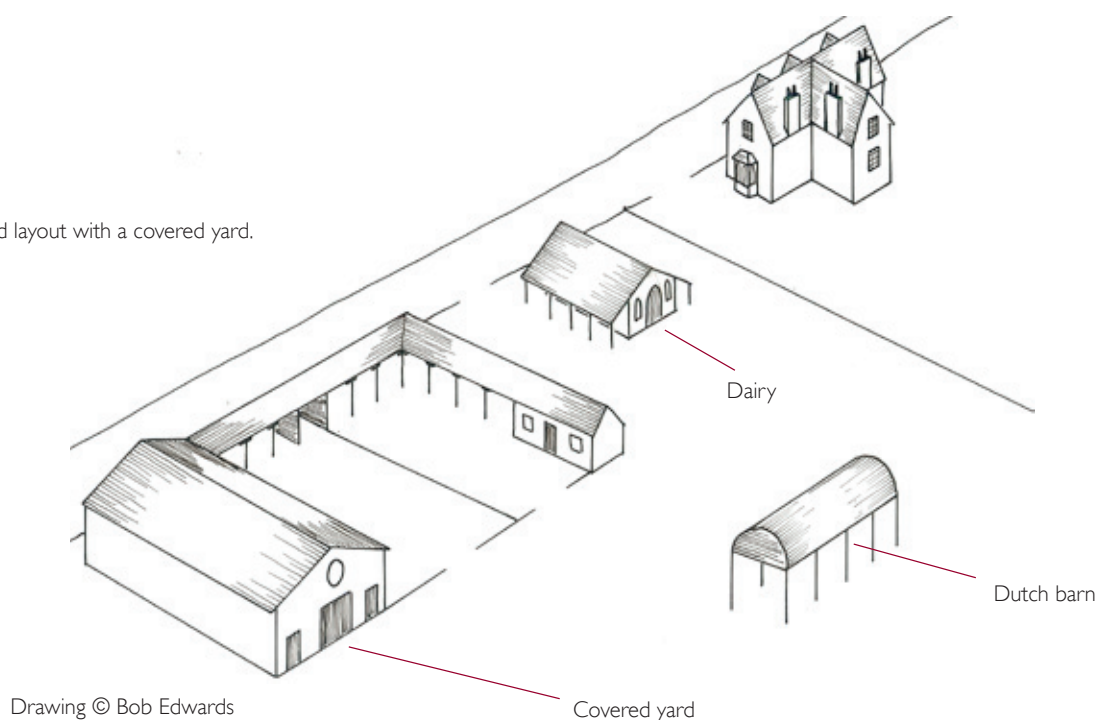
#### Typical features

- Covered yards needed adequate ventilation, and could be provided with complex systems of louvres and shutters.
- Covered yards built on the home farms of large estates can be of some architectural quality and incorporate cast iron stalls and feed and water bins.

#### Significance

- Covered yards that form part of coherent planned and model farm complexes of the 1850s to about 1880, and later examples with architectural quality are significant.
- Covered yards inserted into pre-existing open cattle yards from the late 19th century are much more common.

A U-shaped layout with a covered yard.



COW HOUSE

An enclosed building, or part of a multi-functional building, for stalling cattle (often dairy cattle). Some were used to house calves, these usually being smaller in scale and sited close to the house.

Typical features

- Externally, lower and wider doorways than stables.
- Limited light and ventilation. Openings are largely confined to ventilation slits in the walls and holes in gable ends or side walls for the throwing out of muck: the latter was especially the case in areas with limited straw from corn crops for bedding, such as in the northern uplands.
- Windows and other features to assist ventilation date from the mid-19th to early 20th centuries, e.g. hit-and-miss ventilators, and air ducts and ridge ventilators.
- Internally, ceilings were typically low and there was very little light. Hay was stored above in lofts increasing the warmth and airlessness.

- Cows were usually tethered in pairs with low partitions of wood, stone, slate and, in the 19th century, cast iron between them. Feeding arrangements can survive in the form of hayracks, water bowls and mangers for feed.

Significance

- Surviving examples of pre-19th-century cow houses – including within barns - are rare in a national context and are of high significance.
- 19th century interiors with stalling, mangers and other features are increasingly rare. They pre-date the introduction of sterile environments to combat cattle pleurisy at the end of the 19th century.
- Clearly documented examples of housing draught oxen is extremely rare. They can be identified through very wide doorways. In most areas oxen had been replaced by draught horses by the 18th century.



A two-storey cow house built of oolitic limestone. Note the typically broad doorways and openings to the hay loft. The doorway to the right is narrower and slightly taller, signifying that is the entrance to a stable. Photo © Worcestershire County Council



Traditional stalls of the type depicted here (note the feeding passage to the left) were replaced from the early 20th century in order to conform with hygiene regulations. They are increasingly rare. Photo © English Heritage/ Mike Williams



Cow houses were frequently extended and remodelled from earlier cores. At first sight this comprises an early to mid 19th century brick-built two-storey cow house with a hayloft, extended with a stone lias open-fronted shelter shed since infilled. It in fact has an 18th century or earlier timber-framed core. Photo © Worcestershire County Council



A very rare surviving example of an 18th century timber-framed cow house, with, to the left adjoining the barn, a stable with a gabled loading door to the loft. The ground floor was originally built in brick. Photo © Worcestershire County Council



The ground floors of timber-framed cow houses were frequently replaced in brick, because cattle tended to kick out and damage walls. Note the pegs along the top of the horizontal timber but their absence along the bottom, indicating that the brick is original to this early-mid 18th century frame. Photo © Worcestershire County Council

## LOOSE BOX

An enclosed building, or part of a multi-functional building, for stalling cattle (often dairy cattle). Some were used to house calves, these usually being smaller in scale and sited close to the house.

### Typical features

- Loose boxes were either built as individual boxes or more usually in a row with a central or rear feeding passage, distinguished externally by continuous rows of doors.
- They reflected a realisation that warm and dry conditions would promote weight gain (through minimising heat loss) and retain the quality of the manure.
- Bull pens, essentially no more than structurally enhanced loose boxes, have been an integral component of commercial beef and dairy farms since the late 18th century.
- The ceilings could be lined with thatch, to minimise condensation.

### Significance

- Extensive ranges of loose boxes are a distinctive feature of farmsteads in areas where cattle were intensively fattened, usually in combination with the growing of roots and arable crops. They are all of 19th-century date, and are not uncommon in Worcestershire.



Looseboxes added to an early 19th century threshing barn.  
Photo © Worcestershire County Council

## SHELTER SHED

An open-fronted structure for cattle, facing onto cattle yards. Cattle yards, with shelter sheds, were typical of mixed farming areas where cattle were housed on the farmstead as fatstock and for their manure.

### Typical features

- Single storey ranges. Shelter sheds can be detached buildings, attached to the gable end of a barn or built against the side of the barn.
- Common internal fittings were mangers and hayracks, and sometimes stalls.
- Doors in one or both of the gable ends near the back wall gave access to a feeding passage.

### Significance

- Pre-19th-century examples will be rare and of significance, and they appear to be concentrated in the Avon Valley in Warwickshire and along the Jurassic limestone ridge especially in and around the Cotswolds.
- Shelter sheds forming part of complete traditional farmsteads will also be of significance.
- There are some rare examples in the county of two-storeyed shelter sheds (called linhays) with open-fronted cattle shelter and hay loft. These are a typical building type in south west England, but some are encountered here and in Herefordshire.



Typical Worcestershire shelter shed at Leigh Sinton.  
Photo © Worcestershire County Council



Shelter shed interior with rare surviving wooden manger.  
Photo © Worcestershire County Council

## CIDER AND FRUIT INDUSTRY

### CIDER HOUSE

A building associated with the milling and pressing of cider apples to produce cider (or pears for perry) and for storing the drink in barrels. The growing of apples for cider (or pears for perry) was most important in an area extending from the southern West Midlands to east Cornwall, and was linked to the development of commercial orchards from the late 17th century. By the end of the 19th century commercial orchards were concentrated in Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire.

#### Typical features

- Cider houses are frequently incorporated into other buildings ranged around the yard. Where the cider house is a separate building it usually does not have any particular external characteristics, other than a wide doorway allowing for the passage of barrels.
- Occasionally the cider mill and/or press survives within the building.
- On farms where cider was grown for export, cider houses could be built with a storage area for barrels.

#### Significance

- Cider houses are often difficult to distinguish from other storage buildings on the farm.
- Examples where the cider mill or press survives in situ are of high significance.



Single-storey cider house, Crowle. This is an extremely rare survival in timber frame. Photo © Worcestershire County Council



LEFT: A cider mill, around which a horse pulled the millstone for crushing fruit fed into the trough. Photo © Jeremy Lake



A cider press, for squeezing the juice from fruit crushed in the mill. Photo © Jeremy Lake



Steps to a cider cellar where the barrels would be stored. Stone ramps either side of the steps aided rolling the barrels in and out of the cellar. Photo © Joan Grundy

## FRUIT LOFTS AND CELLARS

Fruit could be stored in the loft of the farmhouse or in a cool cellar. This example from the Wyre Forest in Worcestershire, where many smallholders were engaged in the production of fruit and cider for export, is incorporated in the cellar of a fine early 18th century brick house.



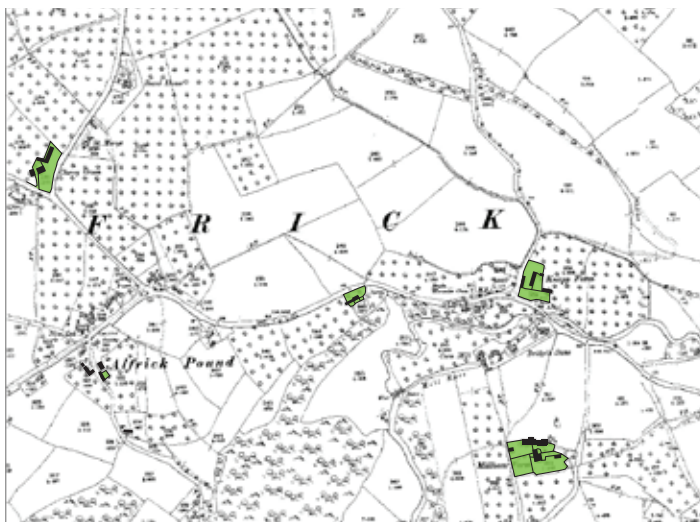
Early 18th century cottage with apple loft and (right) apple cellar at Lower Rochford.



A fruit store at Crowle, raised above the ground to keep the crop dry. Photo © Worcestershire County Council



The apple cellar at Lower Rochford (left). Photo © Worcestershire County Council



Orchards are sited close to the farmsteads in this map of part of Alfrick on the fringe of the Malvern Hills, indicating the potential for cider houses within them. This area consists of a mixture of woodland (some being regenerated woodland on former common land), remnants of common and small-medium sized irregular fields created through the piecemeal enclosure of former arable, from the 16th/17th centuries. Some straight boundaries suggest that these fields have been subject to some reorganisation. This is an area of predominantly dispersed settlement. Map based on OS 2nd Edition 25" map © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (All rights reserved 2013) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024

## COACH HOUSE – SEE FARM VEHICLE HOUSING

## DAIRIES AND DAIRYING

A detached building, or more often a room at the rear of the farmhouse, where milk was stored and processed to make cheese and butter. Cheese would be stored in a loft above the dairy or in the attic of the farmhouse.

Dairying for urban markets was already a specialised enterprise by the 1750s. Commercial cheese making and foreign imports (from the colonies) made inroads from the 1860s, and by around 1914 very little was being produced and sold from farms. In contrast the production of liquid milk from the mid-19th century increased in importance.

### Typical features

- Externally wide doors and ventilated/shuttered windows.
- Ornate dairies may form part of estate home farms.
- Internal slate shelves and brick/stone floors to keep milk and interior cool.
- A cheese room was provided with shelves for storing cheese, and sometimes with a hoist for hauling the heavy cheeses into or out of the loft.

### Significance

- Complete surviving examples with original fixtures, such as slate or stone shelves for cooling the milk, are very rare. This is because changes in hygiene regulations and the centralisation of production through the 20th century had a major impact on dairies, with the majority becoming redundant to their original use.
- Intact examples of cheese rooms are very rare.



Cool storage and surfaces were provided in dairies by slate shelves supported on brick or stone piers or arches. Photo © Worcestershire County Council



Plaster floor and walls to a cheese room at Birchensale Farm, Redditch. Photo © Worcestershire County Council



## DOVECOTES

Dovecotes are usually square or circular towers with pyramidal or conical roofs for housing pigeons and their manure, or are incorporated as a pigeon loft into the walls of other buildings such as stables and barns. Worcestershire has one of the highest densities of listed dovecotes in England.

### Typical features

- The earliest examples are medieval but the majority date from the 18th and 19th centuries, built mainly for their picturesque value and typically associated with manor or gentrified farmsteads.
- Dovecote doorways were low to discourage the birds from flying out.
- Nest boxes, in the earliest examples were formed in the thickness of the wall but usually in stone, brick or wood.
- A potence, a central pivoted post with arms supporting a revolving ladder, provided access to the nest boxes for collection of the young birds (squabs) and eggs.

### Significance

- Timber-framed dovecotes have been subject to the greatest rate of loss over time, and are now very rare.
- Surviving internal fittings are of great rarity, notably potences and removable wooden nest boxes.

## PIGEON LOFT

Pigeon lofts may comprise number of roosts and nest boxes built into the gable wall of a barn or stable. Sometimes incorporating an internal wooden structure.



17th century dovecote at Home Farm, Stanford upon Teme, set on the edge of the park and close to the parish church. Photo © Worcestershire County Council



Pigeon loft with external roost ledges, Dodford with Grafton. Photo © Worcestershire County Council

## DUTCH BARN

An open-fronted building roofed in corrugated iron for the shelter of hay or (less commonly) corn. They date from around the mid 1870s, the first examples being built of timber. Iron-framed Dutch Barns became standardised from the 1880s when firms began to advertise them along with other prefabricated buildings such as village halls.

### Typical features

- Timber frames are usually linked by iron straps.
- Metal frames are sometimes accompanied by a manufacturer's nameplate or relief moulding.
- Corrugated-iron roofing and sometimes side walls.

### Significance

- These are highly distinctive but typical buildings with a widespread national distribution, most examples being concentrated in the wetter western half of England. Any documented pre-1880s examples will be rare.



Dutch barn near Bewdley. Late 19th century example built of timber. Photo © Worcestershire County Council



Dutch barn near Kidderminster. Metal-framed example. Photo © Worcestershire County Council

## FARM VEHICLE HOUSING

Vehicles were for transporting muck to fields, the harvest to the farmstead and grain to market. These needed to be housed on the farm and a cart shed was the most popular. Room was also needed to house the implements needed (primarily for arable cultivation) on the farm, although it was not unusual for there to be a separate implement shed. There may also be a coach or pony trap, and it is not uncommon for a smaller coach house to be provided close to the farmhouse.

### CART SHED

A building used for housing and protecting carts, waggons and farm implements from the weather, often open-fronted.

#### Typical Features

- Open-fronted and sometimes open at each end although one or two bays may be enclosed with doors for the storage of small implements.
- Cart sheds are typically either single-storey buildings or have two storeys with another use above. They are sometimes combined with first-floor granaries, accessed by external steps.
- Evidence for hatches for dropping sacks of grain from granaries into carts; hoists for hauling grain; steps to granaries with internal grain bins and louvered windows.
- Trap houses – also termed coach houses – may also form part of the domestic service buildings near the farmhouse.
- Wainhouses – were built with the fields and were open at both gable ends to allow through passage of the wain
- Cart sheds often face away from the farmyard and may be found close to the stables and roadways giving direct access to the fields.

#### Significance

- The size of cart sheds reflects the size and function of the farm – larger examples are found on large arable-based farms.
- Pre-19th-century examples are rare. The earliest surviving cart sheds in England date from the 17th century but the majority are late 18th or 19th century in date.
- The largest cart sheds are found on large corn-producing farms.



Brick cart shed, also used for housing farm implements.  
Photo © Worcestershire County Council



A mid-late 18th century brick cartshed with a first-floor granary. This is unusually decorative, and faces into a parkland landscape. Note the lower lofted building with a chimneystack to the left. Such buildings could have served as forges, but in this case the doorway is too narrow and it could have served as accommodation for farm workers.  
Photo © Worcestershire County Council



Coach houses can incorporate a stable, as here at Longdon, and a first-floor loft for hay and/or for housing a stablehand.  
Photo © Worcestershire County Council

**FIELD BARN** SEE OUTLYING BARN AND COMPLEXES

**FORGE** – SEE ABOVE

**FOWL HOUSE** SEE POULTRY HOUSE

## GRANARY

A building or room for the dry and secure storage of grain after it has been threshed and winnowed.

### Typical features

- Ventilated openings - either louvres, shutters, sliding vents or grilles.
- If the granary was detached, it would be raised on arches or mushroom-shaped staddle stones to keep it safe from vermin.
- If the granary was sited in the loft of a working building, it required substantial steps and/or a hoist for pulling up or lowering the heavy sacks of grain.
- Close-boarded or plastered and lime-washed walls internally, and a strong load-bearing floor construction with tight-fitting lapped boards to prevent loss of grain.
- Grain bins, or the slots in vertical timbers for horizontal planking used to make them.
- Steps at the gable end to the first-floor granary, if located above the stable and/or cart shed, or at the end of a multi-functional range.

### Significance

- Granaries were a common building type on arable farmsteads, typically found in association with cart sheds or in combination ranges.
- Where examples survive with internal fittings or form part of complete traditional farmsteads they will be of significance.
- Most examples are of late 18th or 19th-century date, earlier examples (such as Love Lyne Farm, Redditch) being of great rarity.



Granaries in Worcestershire. Timber-frame on staddle stones, timber-frame over working buildings or brick combined structures with steps and a kennel. A) Love Lyne Farm, Redditch, B) The Kedges, Kenswick, C) Swancote Farm, Chaddesley Corbett. Photos © Worcestershire County Council



Granary stalls. Note the close boarding against the rear wall, to keep the grain dry, and also the limewashed plasterwork. Photo © Worcestershire County Council

## HOP INDUSTRY

Beer brewed with hops became popular in the 16th century. Before that it had been flavoured with herbs and spices. Beer was the main drink of the majority of the population as water was rarely fit for consumption, and tea and coffee had not become a national institution. Hop kilns were important to the local economy and were a common site in Worcestershire before the middle of the 20th century. The cultivation of hops for brewing was probably introduced into England from Flanders at the end of the 15th or early in the 16th century, and was first confined to the south-eastern counties. It is not known at what date hops were first cultivated in Worcestershire but it must have been prior to 1636 as there is a reference to a field called 'The Hopyard' in Littleton at this time.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> In Worcestershire the better area for hop growing was the Teme Valley. Indeed Worcestershire appeared to be leading the country in the development of the industry. Two Worcestershire growers introduced the present system of growing crops on a lattice of wirework in 1865. Another Worcestershire grower patented a new kiln type. A Worcester grower imported the first hop-picking machine from America in 1922 and although this did not work it was a producer in Martley, in 1934, who made the first British picking machine. Hop-growing was capital intensive and had wide ranging effects on the landscape including the replanting of woodlands with chestnut for hop poles. A demise in hop-growing in the late 20th century resulted in many hop gardens being grubbed out. As a consequence, the huts, cookhouses, hop kilns, tar tanks and other associated features have been demolished, left to decay or as in the case of many hop kilns, converted to residential accommodation.

The distribution of hop kilns shows how the industry was concentrated in north-west Worcestershire



Hop kilns with cowls and louvre vents.  
LEFT: Manor Farm, Powick.  
RIGHT: Folly Farm, Alfrick.  
Photos © Worcestershire County Council

## HOP KILN

A building in which hops are dried and stored. The drying of hops was a delicate process, requiring skill in managing the fire to maintain the correct temperatures. The dryers would often work round the clock, catching up on their sleep in the hop house.

Farmsteads that retain a range of buildings associated with the hop industry (see below) are highly significant.

### Typical features

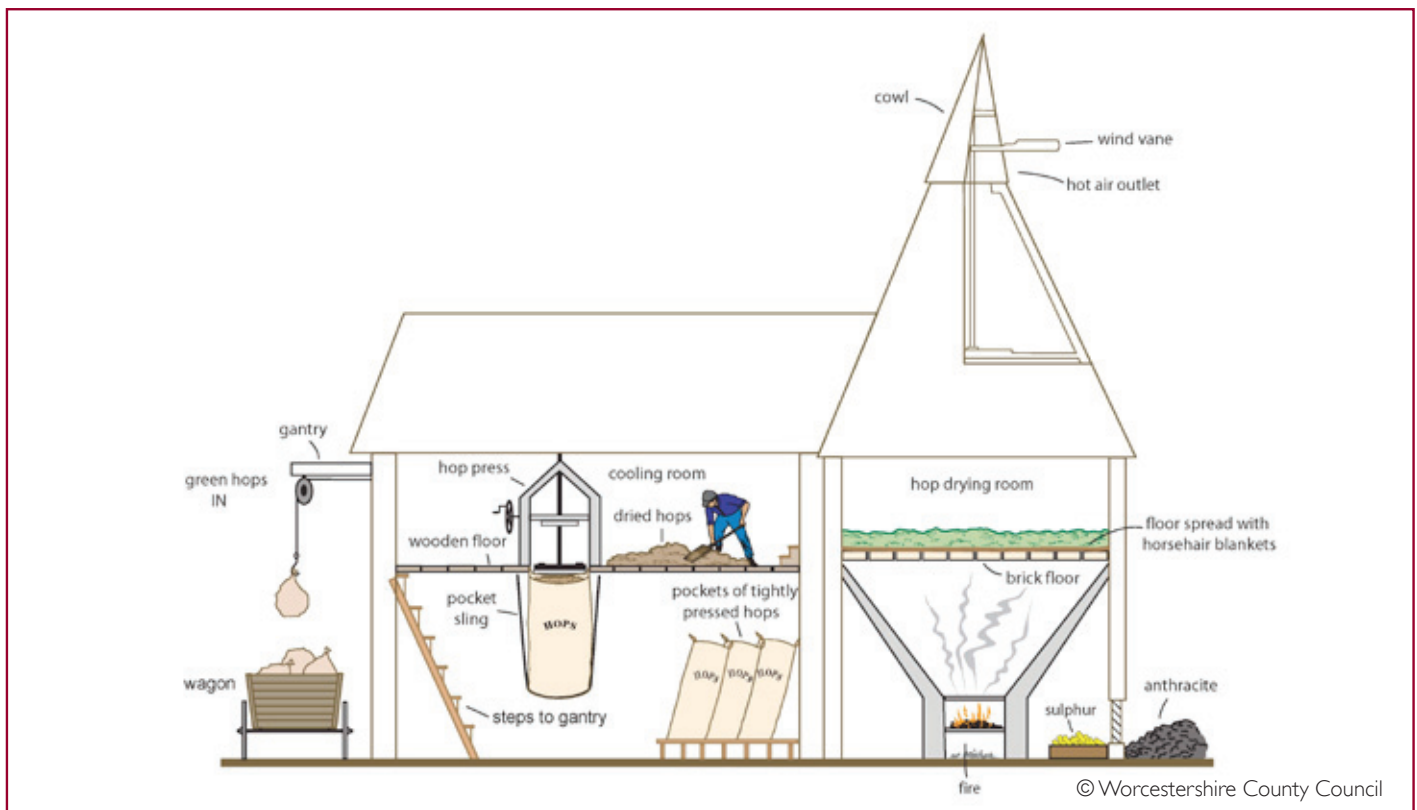
A hop kiln comprises:

- A square or circular kiln, with a cowl on the roof that would extract air through the slatted drying floor on which the hops were laid.
- An attached 'stowage' where the dried hops could cool on the upper floor before being pressed into suspended 'pockets'. The ground floor could be used for storage or was open-fronted and served as a cart shed.

### Significance

- Distribution is concentrated in the west of Worcestershire in an area north of Malvern and west of the River Teme.
- Early purpose-built hop houses, small buildings which included a kiln and rooms for the green and dried hops, are extremely rare.
- Evidence for early kilns may survive in some threshing barns.
- Surviving kilns are extremely rare.
- Only a small number of unconverted hop houses survive. An example is Manor Farm, Powick.

HOP PICKERS' HUTS



Before mechanised picking was introduced in the 1950s, the harvesting of hops was a very labour intensive business and around it grew the 19th and 20th-century tradition of the industrial working class from towns and cities arriving in the autumn to pick hops and also soft fruits. Women and children commonly travelled independently of the men, who joined their families at the weekend. Presence or survival of hop pickers huts is unknown in Worcestershire but it wouldn't be surprising if there were examples around large hop gardens.

Accommodation for these people was in the first instance rough canvas tents or converted animal sheds, but in the late 19th century moves were made to improve conditions, with purpose-built hop pickers' huts. These were usually sited away from the farmstead or at best on its fringe.

**Typical features**

- They are single-storey structures with rows of doors and windows to small rooms.
- Communal kitchens may be located at the end of the range or in detached buildings.

**Significance**

- Surviving groups of hop pickers' huts are rare.
- Hop pickers' huts associated with coherent farmstead groups with other hop industry structures (e.g. hop kilns) are highly significant.

**TAR TANKS**

Tar tanks can be found in the fields close to hop kilns. Creosote for preserving the ends of hop poles was not generally available until 1862 and did not become widely used until the late 19th century. To aid the penetration of the tar into the wood, it was heated in tanks and the poles held in the liquid supported by a wooden frame. Presence or survival of tar tanks is unknown in Worcestershire but it would not be surprising if there were examples around large hop growing farms.

**HORSE ENGINE HOUSE – SEE BARN**

## PIG HOUSING

Structures providing secure housing for pigs.

On most farms only a few pigs were kept for domestic use and here they were normally fed on kitchen scraps or whey, so pigsties were often placed near the kitchen or dairy. Pigs were most commonly kept in dairying areas or market-gardening areas, such as the Fens, where whey (a by-product of dairying) or potatoes were available for feed. Larger-scale piggeries were found on larger farms where commercial fattening was practised. Imported feed sustained the growth of the pig industry in the inter-war period, more specialist producers taking the 'Danish' or 'Scandinavian' system as a model for the industrial housing of pigs. The American battery system of housing poultry was used for pigs from the late 1920s.

### Typical features

- Pigsties were typically built as single-storey structures comprising individual boxes with their own individual yards. They were built individually or more commonly in rows and could be served by external feeding chutes.
- Some had upper floors with poultry houses. The combination of a hen house located above a pig house was described as a poultiggery.



Pig sties with covered pens and yards. Photo © Bob Edwards

- Piggeries were for the secure housing of many pigs under one roof.
- A pig sty was a covered pen and yard for a pig. Usually one building was divided into two or three individual sties.
- A small chimneystack could mark the position of a boiler house for boiling swill for pig feed.

### Significance

- Any pre-19th-century examples are very rare.
- Significant if part of coherent farmstead group.

## POULTRY HOUSES

Hens usually ran freely about a farmyard, but were encouraged to nest safely away from predators and so that the eggs could be more easily collected.

The combination of a hen house located above a pig house was described as a poultiggery. Geese could be housed in free-standing pens or alcoves in farmyard walls.

### Typical features

- Hen houses usually include a small pop hole for the hens as well as a full-sized door for human access, for feeding and egg-collection.
- The walls could be lined with nest boxes.
- Geese could be housed in pens, either free-standing or built against a wall.

### Significance

- Hen houses were usually relatively short-lived buildings and there are few survivals that can be described as historic.

- Where historic examples do survive they usually form part of another building, such as a pig house: it was thought the chickens would keep the pigs warm and the pigs would frighten foxes away.
- Historic pens for geese are also rare and significant.



Blocked openings to a hen house. Photo © Worcestershire County Council

## SHEEP HOUSING

Evidence for sheep housing is very rare, as sheep rarely needed purpose-built structures. The only times of year when all the sheep would be gathered together was for shearing and salving and dipping. **Barns**, when empty, were sometimes used for shearing and sorting the wool. In Worcestershire, it is known that sheep were farmed but there appears to be little differentiation between housing for sheep and other livestock. It is possible that some shelter sheds (see **cattle housing**) were used for sheep also.

**Sheep dips** and **sheepwashes** are also found, the former usually close to the farmyard. **Sheep dips** are long narrow structures, usually made of concrete, which were used for the chemical treatment of sheep to rid them of parasites such as ticks. Sheep dipping was only introduced from 1830 onwards and until the 1950s was based upon an arsenic compound. Sheepwashes were often constructed as part of stream systems in ponds or streams where the watercourse might be artificially deepened or walled or, more unusually, in specially constructed tanks. Enclosures funnelled towards the water's edge have been found. In areas where watermeadows were a feature of the landscape sheepwashes are sometimes found built in to the system of leats and sluices. Sheepwashes were used for washing the wool while still on the sheep prior to them being sheared. There are sheepwashes in Worcestershire, especially in the Cotswolds area. Some of them may date to the medieval period but most are 17th century or later.



Sheepwashes typically incorporate a leat, a sluice with gate, a pool and usually a ramp to enable sheep to walk out of the pool. They can be teardrop-shaped, as here, circular or square: all were well-built of stone or brick. Examples are rare, as many have been filled in or completely lost after they went out of use. Photo © Worcestershire County Council

## SILAGE CLAMP AND TOWER

These both comprise airtight containers for the storage of freshly cut grass and its conversion into silage. It was first developed in the 1880s, after its initial use elsewhere in Europe, and had the advantage over hay making in affording the opportunity to cut and store grass for bulk fodder without the risk of poor weather or storage conditions spoiling the hay or root crop.

### Typical Features

- Silage clamps were brick or concrete walled structures, in which the silage would be placed and then covered over.
- A silage tower is recognisable as a tall structure. Tower silos were introduced from the United States in 1901, but were not in general use until after the Second World War.

### Significance

- There is at least one example of a silage clamp in mass concrete of the 1880s, otherwise they are modest structures.
- Intact examples of silage towers of 1940 or earlier date, using concrete or displaying a degree of architectural elaboration, are rare.



Photo © Paul Stamper



## STABLE

A building, or part of a building, for housing horses and their harnessing and tackle. The largest stables are concentrated in corn-producing areas, where farms were larger and more horses were needed for ploughing and many other tasks. Fewer horses were needed in cattle-rearing or dairying areas.

After the barn, the stable is often the oldest building on the farmstead. A few stables dating to before 1700 have been identified in local surveys, while many more date from the 18th century. One of the reasons for this rise in number was the decline in the use of oxen.

### Typical features

- Earlier stables are usually two-storey and well-lit buildings, with ground-floor windows, pitching openings and ventilation to the hay loft. Many are timber-framed and weatherboarded with brick and stone examples dating from the 18th century onwards.
- Early examples have the stalls across the end walls, whilst in examples dating from the later 18th century onwards the stalls are usually along the side walls, allowing more scope for lengthening the building and thus housing more horses.
- Stables dating from the 17th and 18th centuries are also found as part of combination buildings; for example, in the Weald stables are integral to barns.
- Single-storey stables, commonly with cast-iron ridge vents, were built from the later 19th century.
- Stables can be distinguished from cow houses as they have tall and relatively narrow doors.
- Wooden or cast-iron (for high-status or late examples) stalls with access to manger and hayrack.
- Floors of earth, stone flags/cobbles and from the mid-19th century of engineering brick, sloping to a drainage channel.
- Pegs for harness and tack, sometimes in a separate harness room with fireplace.
- Sometimes chaff boxes for storing feed, and cubby-holes for lanterns, grooming brushes, medicines.

### Significance

- After the barn, the stable is often the oldest building on the farmstead.
- A few stables dating to before 1700 have been identified in local surveys, while many more date from the 18th century.
- The largest stables were built on the larger corn-producing farms.
- Examples retaining internal fittings including stall partitions and feed racks are rare and significant.



Stable door and ventilated window. Photo © Worcestershire County Council



Mid 19th century brick stable with ventilated windows flanking the door, near Bewdley. Photo © Worcestershire County Council



Stable interior showing a brick manger with tethering rings fixed to a wooden lip, the hay rack above tilted to enable hay to be forked into it through a gap along the side-wall from the loft above. Photo © Worcestershire County Council



An exceptionally rare surviving example of a timber-framed stable range near Clifton on Teme. Photo © Worcestershire County Council

## OUTLYING FIELD BARN AND OUTFARMS

Field barns and outfarms are set within the fields away from the main farmstead. They saved on transporting the harvested crop (hay or corn crops) to the farmstead, and enabled manure from the cattle housed in them to be carted back out to the distant fields. Large outfarms are concentrated within zones dominated by large-scale farms. Field barns are apparent across the county but tend to cluster around the main settlement centres. Denser concentrations are found in the north, particularly in the dairying region, where they may have been used for sheltering cattle, and in areas with high levels of fruit production, such as the Teme Valley and Pershore. These are generally not suitable for alternative use, and have been subject to high rates of loss. In Worcestershire over 72% of outfarms and field barns dating from c.1900 are characterised as lost or demolished.

### Significance

- Any intact 18th century or earlier examples are very rare.
- Some field barns and outfarms may be the remnants of former farmsteads where the house has been lost but the buildings retained as a result of farm amalgamation.
- Field barns and outfarms have always been vulnerable to dereliction once redundant. Most outfarms and field barns present at the end of the 19th century have been lost from the landscape.

### FIELD BARN

Field barns comprise a single building set within the fields away from the main farmstead, typically in areas where holdings were dispersed and farmsteads and fields were sited at a long distance from each other. They can be found close to areas of common and within areas of historic orchards.

Field barns could be:

- Shelters for sheep, typically with low doors and floor-to-ceiling heights.
- Shelters for cattle and their fodder (hay).
- Threshing barns with yards.
- Combination barns with a threshing bay and storage for the crop, and housing for cattle.



A small field barn for cattle near Great Comberton. Photo © Worcestershire County Council

### OUTFARMS

Outfarms comprise a farmyard and its buildings which are:

- Isolated threshing barns.
- Groups of buildings set within the fields away from the main farmstead.
- Outfarms were typically built with shelter sheds for cattle flanking the barn and yard. A cottage for a farm worker could also be sited nearby.



An outfarm near Conderton, comprising a threshing barn and a shelter shed facing a cattle yard. Photo © Worcestershire County Council



Old Ordnance Survey maps might show that orchards surround field barns which on inspection might reveal other functions. This open-fronted late 19th century building at Birlingham has a chimney stack which serves a copper. This was probably used to heat and soften withies for making baskets and in addition might have heated drink and food for orchard workers. Such modest structures are an integral and locally-important part of the county's historic orchards. Photo © Worcestershire County Council

## SECTION 4: MATERIALS AND DETAIL

Historic farmsteads reflect England's huge diversity in geology, and differences in building traditions and wealth, estate policy, access to transport links and the management of local timber and other resources. This has contributed to great contrasts and variety in traditional walling and roofing materials and forms of construction, which often survived much longer on working farm buildings than farmhouses. In Worcestershire the use of clay tiles and slate became increasingly widespread after the later 18th century, along with stone and brick walling, supplanting smaller farm buildings built of timber, earth and thatch. Building materials such as softwood timber, brick, slate and iron could also be imported onto the farm via coastal and river ports, canals and rail. There also appeared in the 19th century a range of standard architectural detail, such as part-glazed and ventilated windows and the use of cast and wrought iron for columns.

Pre-fabricated buildings in iron were manufactured and exported from the 1840s, the best known on the farmstead being the Dutch Barn, popular from the 1880s. Iron bolts, straps and tension bars became increasingly common, often in combination with imported softwood, in the 19th century. Concrete was used from the 1860s on some farms, for example for silage clamps, but did not achieve general use until after the 1950s. Corrugated iron was used in England from the 1820s, initially for industrial buildings. Although several pioneering firms were producing portable corrugated-iron-clad buildings by the 1850s, it did not come into general use for new farm buildings (particularly on so-called Dutch Barns for protecting harvested hay and corn crops) until the farming depression of the 1880s made cheaper materials desirable. By the First World War, corrugated iron was in general use for the repair of roofs on farm buildings, particularly thatch. It was also used for the walling of model farmsteads built to a budget) and for smallholders' buildings in areas such as the New Forest.

### TIMBER FRAME

Timber was historically an important building material in Worcestershire. Of the nearly 6500 listed buildings in the county a third of them are constructed of timber. In the medieval and earlier periods, Worcestershire and the surrounding counties had large tracts of oak and elm woodland. Because of this readily available resource most of the buildings were of timber-frame construction set directly on the earth or with a simple rubblestone foundation. It is likely that the surviving timber framed buildings are only a small fraction of those that were actually built. Hand-sawn hardwood boarding is now rarely found, as machine-sawn softwood was increasingly used from the late 18th century (see page 19).



Square-panelling, as here at Suckley, is a characteristic feature of timber framing in western England. Photo © Worcestershire County Council

### STONE

The largest buildings in the county are built of stone. Around Pershore and Evesham the local stone is blue lias which was used for many of the buildings in the south east area of Worcestershire, even if only as a foundation stone. Also in the south of the county is a predominance of buildings constructed of Cotswold Oolitic limestone. Often this stone was used for the architectural details of lias walled structures. Across the north of Worcestershire the naturally occurring stone is sandstone. This stone is used in many buildings from the medieval period onward but seems to have been difficult to use as large blocks. Therefore it is mainly used as a foundation stone for timber-frame and brick buildings.



Blue lias is a type of clayey limestone derived from marl and is a blue-grey colour. It is found in the south east area of the county. This soft grey limestone, which belies its name, is difficult to cut into large ashlar blocks and so is usually found as coursed rubblestone in buildings. It is also used in large slabs for threshing floors. Photo © Worcestershire County Council



Sandstone occurs across the north of the county in a variety of colours. Often individual stones have a variety of colours. Sandstone is a very common type of stone, either as ashlar blocks or coursed rubble (as here). Photo © Worcestershire County Council



Limestone is a sedimentary rock consisting mainly of calcium carbonate. Oolitic limestone, concentrated in those areas bordering Gloucestershire, is a soft yellow-cream and often contains numerous fossil shells. It is used in large stones for the walling of buildings and also as smaller stones for roofing tiles. It is the predominant building material in the Cotswolds. It is used as coursed rubble and also as large ashlar blocks depending on the quarry it was sourced from. Photo © Worcestershire County Council

### BRICK

Brick became a more common building material from the 16th century although it was really the 17th century use in higher status buildings, that brought it to the forefront of building design. Worcestershire has a large number of buildings constructed of red brick, which is a soft orange-red colour. These bricks were made from the local clays. Brick took over from timber as the predominant building material in the 18th century, due to the natural clays which are ideal for brick making. Earlier brick buildings do occur in the county and where they do tend to be of higher status. Brick makers do not appear in the trade directories for Worcestershire before 1835 when there are just four brick makers listed, all in Worcester. It is likely that earlier than this the clay was excavated and the bricks made close to each building site.



Brick became the dominant building material for farm buildings from the 18th century, often replacing or encasing earlier timber-framed buildings. Photo © Worcestershire County Council

## THATCH

Thatch was common in large parts of the county but is now very rare. Farmers used a wide range of locally available materials – heather, bracken, reeds, rushes, grass, turf, and straw from oats, barley, wheat and rye. This is longstraw thatch, with its distinctive shaggy appearance. Longstraw is a term used to describe a thatching method where the ears and butts of the straw are mixed. The stems of the straw are bruised and crushed and the result is a generally looser coat than combed wheat reed or water reed. Photo © Worcestershire County Council



## TILES AND SLATES



Welsh slate became readily available with the growth of the canals and railways. Their lighter weight allowed for a reduction in the size of timbers needed for roof construction. On estate buildings it is not uncommon to find slates being laid 'economically' to reduce the number of slates needed as so reduce the costs. Photo © Bob Edwards



Plain clay tiles were being used to replace thatch in clay areas from the late 17th and early 18th century. Here the tiles include a pattern to the hipped end of a barn facing the roadside. Photo © Bob Edwards

## ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL AND INTERNAL FITTINGS

Surviving fittings and details within farm buildings are mostly of 19th and early 20th-century date but occasional examples of earlier doors, windows and flooring can be found.

### Typical Features

- Stalls and other interior features (eg mangers, hay racks) in stables and cattle housing of proven 19th century or earlier date.
- Doors (usually planked/ledged and braced, from c 1850 on horizontal sliding rails) with iron strap hinges and handles, and heavy frames.
- Windows, often of a standard type nationally, that are half-glazed, shuttered and/or with hit-and-miss ventilators.
- Historic surfaces such as brick, stone-flag and cobble floors to stables and cattle housing, with drainage channels.
- Industrial fittings (iron or concrete stalls, mangers etc) associated with planned or industrial 19th-century farmsteads.

FITTINGS AND DETAIL

Surviving fittings and details within farm buildings are mostly of 19th and early 20th-century date but occasional examples of earlier doors, windows and flooring can be found.

Typical features

- Stalls and other interior features (eg mangers, hay racks) in **stables** and **cattle housing** of proven 19th century or earlier date.
- Doors (usually planked/ledged and braced, from around 1850 on horizontal sliding rails) with iron strap hinges and handles, and heavy frames.
- Windows, often of a standard type nationally, that are half-glazed, shuttered and/or with hit-and-miss ventilators.
- Historic surfaces such as brick, stone-flag and cobble floors to stables and cattle housing, with drainage channels.
- Industrial fittings (iron or concrete stalls, mangers etc) associated with planned or industrial 19th-century farmsteads.

Significance

- Particularly vulnerable historic floors (eg lime ash floors, rush withy floors, threshing floors, slatted drying floors in **maltings**).
- Doors and windows of pre-19th-century date, eg mullioned windows, sliding shutters to windows.
- **Dairies** with internal shelving etc, **barns** with *in situ* threshing machines and other processing machines, **horse engine houses** with internal gearing.

Also see following page.



Architectural details A & B) cider house door and stable window, Birchley Court Farm, Tenbury; C) burn marks, Upper Blackstone Farm, Bewdley. Photos © Worcestershire County Council

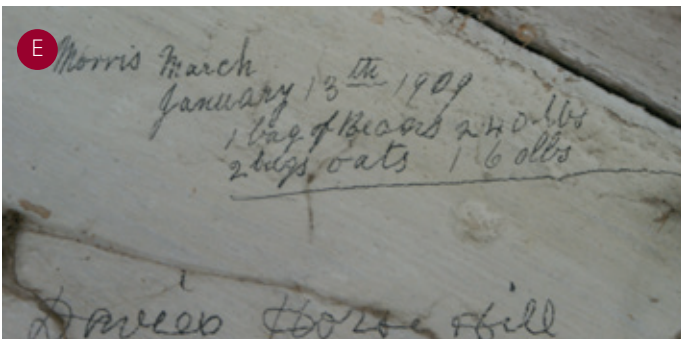
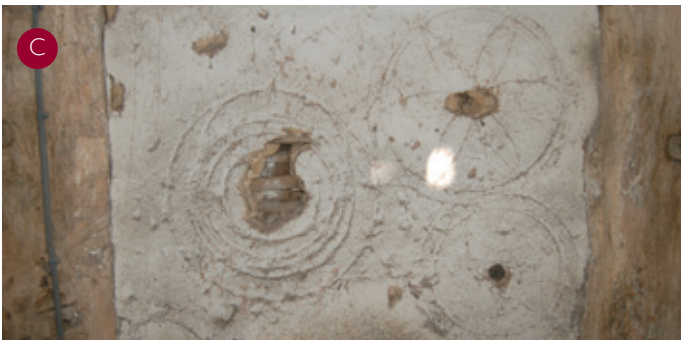


Threshing floors, either made of stone flags or brick (there are no records of timber floors), rarely survive. Photos © Worcestershire County Council

## Significant detail

Unusual features of historic interest, often difficult to spot, include:

- Tallies near threshing floors in barns for noting production of grain, and numbers to grain bins. Tallies are also found in hop buildings for keeping track of the number of pockets produced.
- Incised ritual marks for protecting produce or livestock, which are usually in the form of 'daisy wheels' or 'Marian marks'.
- Burned ritual marks made to 'fight fire with fire' and thus to prevent fires happening in buildings that are themselves flammable, or which store flammable materials. Some marks date from the 17th century, but most date from the revival of the tradition in the 19th century. The marks usually take the form of a deep candle scorch, or a scorched daisy wheel pattern.
- Graffiti or artwork, such as soldiers' graffiti, which is tied in with significant cultural events or occupation or graffiti recording names of workers, sales etc.
- Constructional marks are those associated with the transport and prefabrication of structural carpentry and timber frames, eg shipping and carpenters' marks. Also laying out marks from the creating of the timber frame in the carpenter's yard.



Examples of A) tally marks, B) incised ritual marks: Marian Marks and C) incised ritual marks: hexafoils ('daisy wheels') and concentric circles, D) burned ritual marks, E) graffiti, F) carpenters' marks. Photos © Worcestershire County Council

## SOURCES

### History of farm buildings and settlement

- Barnwell, P S and Giles C 1997. *English Farmsteads 1750–1914*. Swindon: RCHME
- Brigden, R 1986. *Victorian Farms* Ramsbury: Crowood Press
- Brunskill, R W 2000. *Vernacular Architecture: An Illustrated Handbook*. London: Faber & Faber
- Brunskill, R W 1982. *Traditional Farm Buildings of Britain*. London: Gollancz
- Brunskill, R W 1999. *Traditional Farm Buildings of Britain and their Conservation* (3rd edn). London: Gollancz
- Crowther, S and Clarke, V. 2012. *Worcestershire Historic Landscape Characterisation*. Archaeological Service : Worcestershire County Council Report 1936
- Darley, G 1981. *The National Trust Book of the Farm*. London: Weidenfeld & Nicholson
- English Heritage/Countryside Agency 2006. *Historic Farmsteads: Preliminary Character Statements* (a series of eight regional documents)
- Harris, R 1978. *Discovering Timber-framed Buildings*. Aylesbury: Shire Publications
- Harvey, N 1984. *A History of Farm Buildings in England and Wales* (2nd edn). Newton Abbot: David and Charles
- Hathaway, E, Lake, J and A, Mindykowski. 2012. *Worcestershire Historic Farmsteads Project: The West Midlands Farmsteads and Landscapes Project*: Worcestershire County Council and English Heritage
- Lake, J 1989. *Historic Farm Buildings, An Introduction and Guide*. London: Blandford Press
- Lake, J and Edwards, B 2006. 'Farmsteads and landscape: towards an integrated view', *Landscapes*, 7.1, 1–36
- Lake, J and Edwards, B 2007. 'Buildings and place: farmsteads and the mapping of change', *Vernacular Architecture*, 37, 33–49.
- Peters, J E C 1981. *Discovering Traditional Farm Buildings*. Aylesbury: Shire Publications
- Roberts, B K and Wrathmell S 2002. *Region and Place: A Study of English Rural Settlement*. London: English Heritage
- Taylor, C 1983. *Village and Farmstead: A History of Rural Settlement in England*. London: George Philip
- Wade Martins, S 1991. *Historic Farm Buildings*. London: Batsford
- Wade Martins, S 2002. *The English Model Farm*. Macclesfield: Windgather Press
- Wade Martins, S 2004. *Farmers, Landlords and Landscapes: Rural Britain 1720–1870*. Macclesfield: Windgather Press