

BARN AT HIGHER GHYLLS, TOSSIDE, LANCASHIRE:

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This written scheme of investigation (WSI) sets out the work proposed for the recording of the historic barn at Higher Ghylls, as commissioned by the owner Mr Joe Wharton. The work is required by a condition of planning consent from Ribble Valley Borough Council for the conversion of the barn to form two dwellings (application no: 3/2015/0748), attached on the recommendation of the Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS).

2 Location

- 2.1 Higher Ghylls is an outlying farmstead in Bolton-by-Bowland civil parish, situated 1km south-west of Tosside, 500m off the B6478 Slaidburn to Long Preston road. The barn itself is detached and stands at the south-east side of the group of buildings, at NGR: SD 76495 55069.

3 Project context

- 3.1 None of the buildings at the site are listed, or lie within a conservation area, but the LCAS consider the barn to be of some historic interest, and on their advice, the planning authority attached a condition to the consent (no 5), requiring that:
- “No works shall take place on the site until the applicant, or their agent or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of building recording and analysis. This must be carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which shall first have been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.”
- 3.2 It is understood that implementing this programme of work, by carrying out its first stage, ie on-site recording, will permit development to take place on the site, as far as condition no.5 is concerned. Full discharge of the condition would however only be accomplished when a satisfactory report and details of the archive have been deposited.

4 Archaeological and historical background

- 4.1 The site has not yet been visited by this author but information submitted with the planning application and in the LCAS consultation response suggests that the barn is likely to date from the first half of the 19th century or earlier. This part of the former West Riding is characterised by numerous scattered farmsteads, many established in the 17th or 18th century, and there are numerous good examples of combination barns, from this period and later. The building at

Higher Ghylls is likely to have originated as such, though it is believed to have been changed in recent years by the insertion of new first floor beams.

5 Aims of the project

- 5.1 The conversion of the building will lead to the loss or masking of some historic features and the building's historic character. The aim of the project is to identify, interpret and record significant evidence relating to its historic character and development, and place this in the public domain by deposition with the Lancashire Historic Environment Record and Lancashire Archives.

6 Statement of recording standards

- 6.1 All work which forms part of this project will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant Standards and Guidance issued by the Institute for Archaeologists.

7 Methodology

- 7.1 Recording will be carried out with the buildings as found and will include drawn, photographic and written records. Limited historical research will also be carried out.
- 7.2 The drawn record will comprise plans of the ground and first floors at 1:100 scale, based on an existing survey by the applicant's agent where feasible, but enhanced to show all significant fixtures and fittings. A cross-section at 1:50 will also be produced where it will contribute significantly to an understanding or interpretation of the building. Conventions used will be those specified by English Heritage.¹
- 7.3 A photographic record will be made, to comprise general photographs of the exterior and interior of the building complex, along with photographs of the site and setting, and detailed photographs of any structural and decorative features that are relevant to the building's design, development and use and which are not adequately recorded on the general photographs. Such detailed photographs will be taken at medium to close range and framed in such a way as to ensure that the element being photographed clearly constitutes the principal feature of the photograph.
- 7.4 Detailed photographs will contain an appropriately positioned graduated photographic scale (not measuring tapes or surveying staffs). The photographic scale will also include a standard colour bar where colour is considered important. A graduated ranging-rod, discretely positioned, will be included in a

¹ English Heritage 2008 *Understanding Historic Buildings*

selection of general shots, sufficient independently to establish the scale of all elements of the building and its structure. The size, graduations, and any other relevant data relating to the scales and ranging-rods so utilised will be specifically noted in the methodology section of the written report.

- 7.5 Photographs will be taken using a digital camera with a resolution of 12 mega pixels, using RAW format files for image capture and converted to 8 bit TIFF files for archive purposes. Prints will be produced for the archive at approximately 5 x 7".
- 7.6 A rapid desk-based study of the site will take place, which will examine historic maps and any other readily available documents, photographs and secondary sources held at local repositories, including Clitheroe Library and Lancashire Archives.

8 Report preparation

- 8.1 A report on the recording will be produced within 8 weeks of completion of the fieldwork. Copies will be supplied to the client and the Lancashire County Archaeology Service, and the owner or his agent will submit it to the local planning authority when applying for the condition to be discharged. It will also be published on the internet via the OASIS project. The report will be illustrated appropriately, with location maps, extracts from historic maps, copies of the survey drawings, and selected photographs.

9 Archive deposition

- 9.1 The project archive (including a copy of the report) will be submitted to Lancashire Archives. Photographic data will be uploaded to two separate servers.

10 Timetable

- 10.1 The site work is expected to take place during February 2016.

11 Personnel

- 11.1 All work will be undertaken personally by Stephen Haigh MA, an experienced buildings archaeologist with several years experience of investigating and recording historic buildings in Lancashire and elsewhere. He reserves the right to seek amendments to this project design where dictated by professional judgement or health and safety considerations for example, but any changes will be agreed with the client and the LCAS as appropriate.

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11 Browcliff, Silsden, Keighley, West Yorkshire BD20 9PN
<mailto:enquiries@stephenhaigh.co.uk>
Tel: 01535 658925