

Jowett House Farm Dovecot Cawthorne, South Yorkshire

Written Scheme of Investigation

For Archaeological Building Recording and a Watching Brief



Prepared for:

Jowett House Farms Ltd

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Cover image: The Dovecot from the south-east

Jowett House Farm Dovecot. Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Building Recording and a Watching Brief

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Ian Roberts for Jowett House Farms Ltd. It details the work proposed to archaeologically mitigate the impact of the conversion of an 18th-century dovecot for domestic use, and the impact of associated ground works, as detailed by drawings provided by Mark Hewitt of One17 Design (see Figs 1–4).

2. Site location and topography

- 2.1 The dovecot is situated on the south-eastern edge of the Jowett House Farm complex, at the western end of Jowett House Lane, just 1.3 km to the north-west of Cawthorne village, in Barnsley District (at NGR SE SE 26689 07924). The farm occupies an east-facing valley side, between 102 m and 105 m aOD, formed by the course of the Jowett House Beck, which flows just 120 m to the east of the farm complex.

3. Geology and soils

- 3.1 The geology of the site is Pennistone Flags sandstone of the Lower Coal Measures (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). The acid loamy and clayey soils are seasonally wet, slowly permeable (<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/>).

4. Historical and archaeological background

- 4.1 The name 'Jowett House' is probably derived from a personal surname. Smith (1961, 324) equates it with the documentary occurrence of 'Jewit House' in 1641. A short history of the site has been produced by Midgely (2012), who makes a circumstantial case for a house predating the 17th century. The Jowett House Farm complex today includes three listed buildings. A Grade II listed farmhouse (List Entry No. 1314731), is situated on the south side of Jowett House Lane, with date stones of 1633 and 1693 for the different phases of its construction (Ryder 1982a). To the north-east, on the opposite side of the lane, is another Grade II listed house (List Entry No. 1286745), dating from 1690 (based upon a recut inscription), and partly rebuilt in the 18th century, with an adjoining cottage added in the late 19th century (Ryder 1982b).
- 4.2 Adjacent to the east of the 19th-century cottage is the free-standing Grade II listed Dovecot with three levels (List Entry No: 1151789), dating from the later 18th century. The listing description describes the ground and first floor levels as being made of coursed squared rubble with quoins, with the upper storey, which is probably later, formed of red brick, springing from a 3-course brick band. Upon this sits a stone slate roof. The front (north) gable has a part-blocked elliptical-arched cart entrance and blocked opening in brick section. There is a 2-light window to rear (south wall) and a bird opening with ledge in gable. The right (west) side has a stone stair leading to a first floor doorway.

- 4.3 The three listed buildings represent the only surviving structures from 17th/18th-century farm complex. The other structures on the site are mostly of 19th-century date, with some early 20th-century additions. Apart from the observations relating to the listing descriptions there has been no formal record of the dovecot. There have been no recorded archaeological investigations at Jowett House Farm (A. Lines pers. comm.).

5. Proposals, impact and mitigation

- 5.1 The planning application for the conversion of the dovecot (2020 0640 LBC) has been approved with conditions, the proposals having been considered within the requirements of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 – Section 16 (2), The National Planning Policy Framework - paragraphs 190, 193 and 194, and the Barnsley Local Plan – Policies HE1 and HE3. Together, these express the need for the conversion to have special regard for preserving the structure and its setting, and any features of special architectural or historic interest. The opportunity to conserve the building through conversion, which may result in justifiable harm or loss of significance, should be mitigated by an appropriate programme of recording to preserve by record and enhance understanding.
- 5.2 The dovecot is regarded to be well preserved in terms of its structural fabric, although its upper floor is regarded as being unsafe to walk upon (see 11.1). The nesting boxes of the upper floor are unaltered and well-preserved. The conversion will utilise all historic doors and windows, with only one new window to be inserted at ground floor level. The greatest impact to the historic structure will be the internal alterations required to convert it to a domestic dwelling; namely the replacement of the limeash floors and the joists for first and upper floors, the insertion of an internal stair and groundworks associated with the fitting of a kitchen and the sewer vent pipe. Other alterations, although invasive, are not destructive and will include dry lining of the walls and the concealment of the nesting cavities.
- 5.3 The required mitigation for the proposed alterations is a programme of Level 2 Building Recording (Historic England 2016), and an archaeological watching brief to be maintained on any major ground disturbances.

6. Mitigation methods

- 6.1 A Level 2 Building Recording record, as defined by Historic England (2016, 26), will be made of the dovecot. As relevant and appropriate, the work will also be undertaken in accordance with the standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014a; 2014b).
- 6.2 *Drawn record.* The plans and elevations already produced by One17 Design will be used for annotation purposes to record the nature and location of any notable features. If necessary, additional sketch plans or elevations will be created, or small-scale measured drawings to capture functional detail that is not easily captured by photography.

- 6.3 *Photographic record:* Photography will be the principal method of recording. It will include general views of the dovecot in its wider setting, and systematic views of the buildings external elevations, obliquely and/or at right angles, as appropriate to adequately record historical features. Systematic photography will be carried out in each of the floors of the dovecot, although a record of the upper floor will be restricted to views from the access hatch due to the unsafe nature of the floor. Each photograph will have a unique identifier and its viewpoint plotted on a plan or room plan. A record in both colour digital and 35mm black and white formats will be made. The digital photographic record will be made using cameras with a resolution of at least 10 megapixels.
- 6.4 *Written record:* Apart from basic introductory information about location and designation (as supplied above), the written element of the field record will take the form of annotations to drawings and sketches. For reporting purposes there will be a more detailed statement about site's history and development, supported by map regression, with any particular details that are available about the dovecot.
- 6.5 *Watching brief:* An archaeologist should be in attendance when any significant deep excavations are undertaken in or around the dovecot. Principally this will involve the monitoring of the trench for the new sewer vent pipe (SVP) that is to run north-south to the west of the building. It is anticipated that excavations for the SVP will be undertaken by a machine, which must be equipped with a smooth-bladed bucket. The archaeologist will make appropriate written, drawn and photographic records of any exposed archaeological strata and features, and recover any associated artefacts. The width of the trench may well limit what is possible in terms of monitoring, but as a minimum excavated soil may be inspected and searched for colour changes and artefacts on the trench side, assisted by the use of a metal detector. Any discernible archaeological contexts shall be described, giving details of location and depth, composition, shape, dimensions, relationships, finds, samples, and cross-references to other elements of the record and other contexts, in accordance with best practice. All contexts, and any special finds and samples from them will be given unique numbers. Any bulk finds (pottery, brick, stone, bone etc.) will be recorded by context. The excavation limits will be recorded on a plan of appropriate scale. Any sections will be drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate, and will include spot-heights related to Ordnance Datum in metres. Tie-in information will be undertaken during the course of the work and will be fixed in relation to nearby permanent structures and roads and to the National Grid. The terms of the Treasure Act 1996 will be followed with regard to any finds that might fall within its purview. Any such finds must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner.

7. Reporting

- 7.1 Following the conclusion of the recording and watching brief the site archive will be assembled. The archive shall contain all the data collected during the building recording and watching brief, and any recovered finds and/or samples. The archive will

be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. Archive consolidation will be undertaken immediately following the conclusion of field recording and will involve:

- The site record being checked, cross–referenced and indexed as necessary;
- Photographic film being sent for development and all drawings and sketches ordered and checked;
- Any finds being cleaned, stabilised, marked and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum. Metal artefacts other than lead should be x-rayed;
- Any retained finds being assessed, dated and recorded using pro forma recording sheets, by suitably qualified and experienced specialists;
- Any environmental samples being processed by suitably experienced and qualified specialists and recorded using pro forma recording sheets, as sanctioned by the chancellor of the diocese.

7.2 The integrity of the primary field record will be preserved. The archive will be offered to the local museum (Barnsley Museum), subject to the permission of the landowner. The museum will be contacted to ascertain their requirements for the archive (e.g. marking and labelling requirements, accession number). The archive will otherwise be prepared in accordance ClfA (2014b; 2014c) guidelines.

7.3 A report will be prepared within an agreed timescale following the completion of on-site archaeological investigations and include the following:

- Non–technical summary of the results of the work;
- Introduction
- Aims and objectives
- Methodology;
- Documentary research (map regression);
- Building description;
- Watching brief results;
- Assessments reports for any recovered finds;
- Conclusion;
- Supporting illustrations and photographs;
- Catalogue of the photographic archive;

- Inventory of the archive and its destination;
- Bibliography.

7.4 Copies of the report will be supplied to Jowett House Farms Ltd, via One17 Design, and South Yorkshire Archaeology Service for deposition in the county SMR.

10. Personnel, copyright and programme

10.1 The recording work and reporting will be carried out by Ian Roberts (BSc FSA MCIfA) and Paul Gwilliam (BA, MA MCIfA).

10.2 The copyright of all written, graphic or photographic record and reports will rest with the archaeologists. This will be extended in favour Jowett House Farms Ltd, South Yorkshire Archaeology Service and the recipient museum.

10.3 On site building recording is scheduled to take place on 31st October 2020. The watching brief is to be arranged.

11. Health and Safety

11.1 Archaeological requirements will always be secondary to Health and Safety requirements. The archaeologists will operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations. In this case, particular care is needed within the dovecot with regard to the upper floor which is reported by the bat surveyors to be in a dilapidated state and is unsafe to walk on (Witcher Wildlife 2020). All recording of the upper floor will be conducted from the access hatch.

11.2 Hard hats and steel toe-capped boots should be worn inside the dovecot. The bat survey has not reported the presence of pigeons, but this is a strong likelihood and masks and gloves should be worn.

11.3 Coronavirus-safe working practices, as detailed in Government advice and the ClfA's latest 'advice and information' will be followed. This will, as a minimum involve 2m social distancing and the wearing of face masks inside the building. Hand washing facilities and hand sanitizer will be made available.

12. Insurances

12.1 The archaeologists will carry appropriate levels of insurance cover.

13. Monitoring

13.1 The work will be monitored by the Barnsley Conservation Officer and South Yorkshire Archaeology Service. Any significant findings/results will be brought to their attention as soon as possible.

Bibliography

ClfA, 2014a (updated 2020), *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings and structures*

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Figures

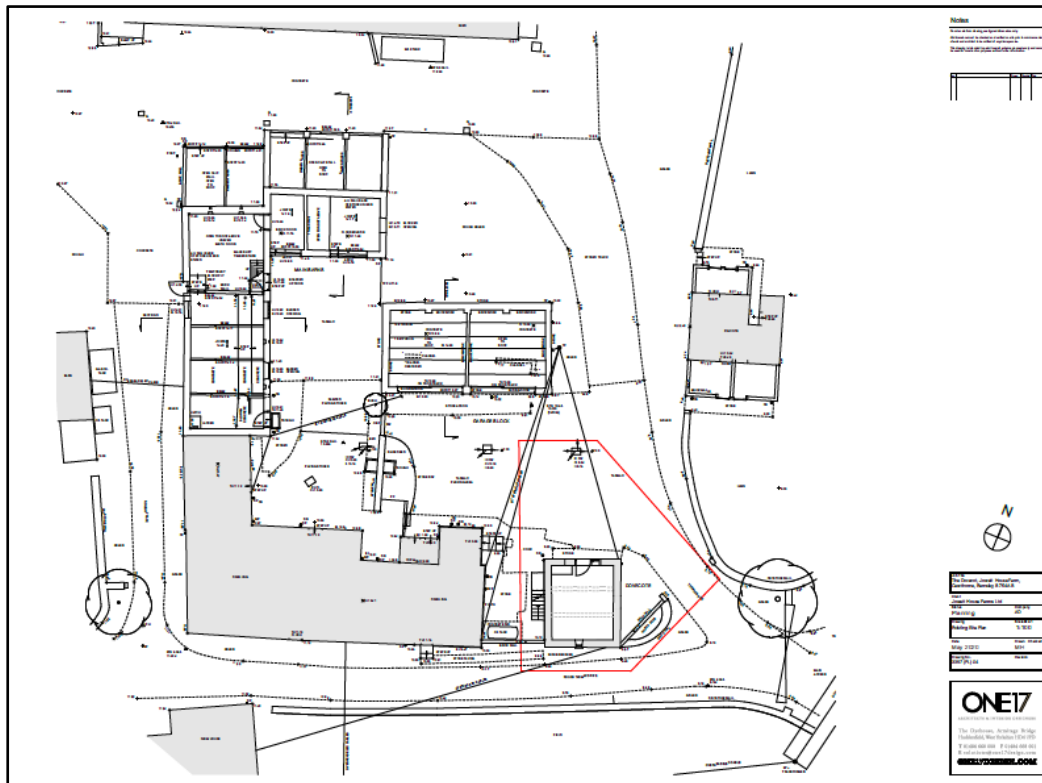


Fig. 1. Location of the dovecote (in red polygon) to the east of the 19th-century cottage (One17 Design drawing no. 3357 (PL) 04).

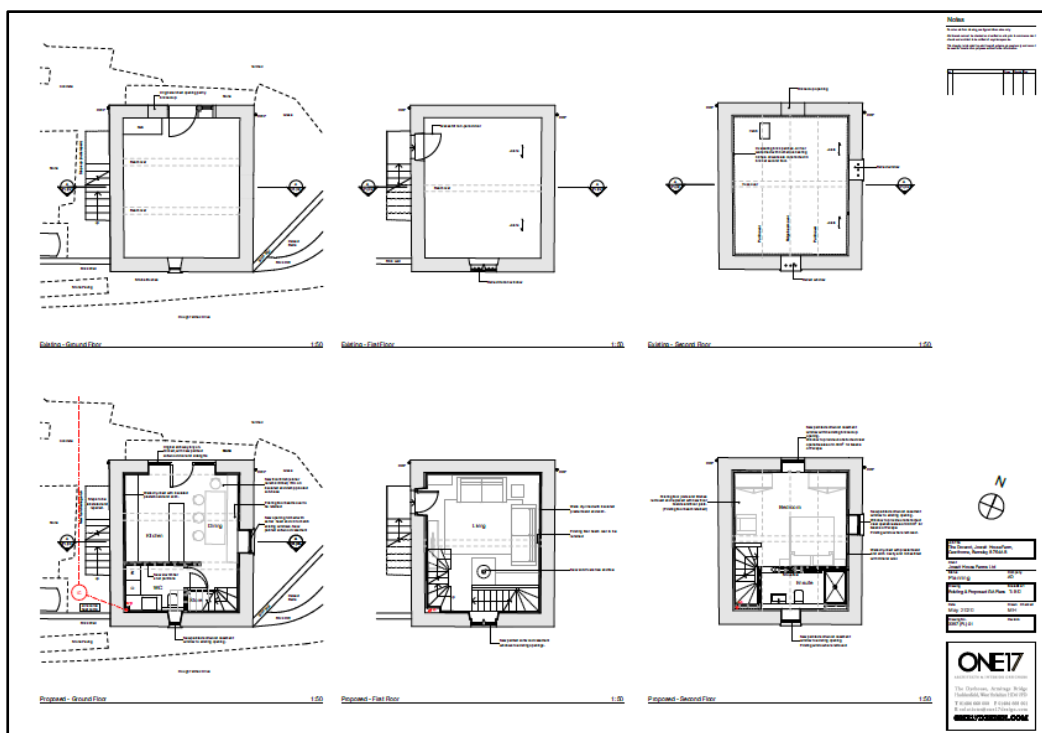


Fig. 2. Existing and proposed floor plans (One17 Design drawing no. 3357 (PL) 01).

