



ENGLISH HERITAGE

**BARN AT MANOR FARM  
HALESOWEN ABBEY  
WEST MIDLANDS**

INVESTIGATION OF THE REMAINS OF THE SOUTH  
AISLE AND CLOISTER OF THE ABBEY CHURCH

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## INTRODUCTION

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Halesowen Abbey is situated on the south-western fringe of Birmingham, in the Borough of Dudley, approximately one kilometre to the south east of Halesowen. The remains of the abbey are reached via the A456 dual carriageway and stand in the farmyard and grounds of Manor Farm. The farm is in private ownership, the property of Mr and Mrs Tudor, although the ruins of the abbey and one surviving roofed building, interpreted as the Abbot's Lodging or Infirmary, are in English Heritage Guardianship (English Heritage Property Number 342). The abbey is listed grade I, under the name 'St. Mary's Abbey Ruins' (listed building UID 359823), and is a scheduled ancient monument (No. 21568). The in-situ sections of medieval masonry within the barn are included within the scheduling.

This report assesses the extent of the remains of the abbey church and cloister encapsulated within Manor Farm's principal barn, which stands to the north of the farmhouse. The report was produced at the request of Graham Brown, of the English Heritage Archaeological Survey and Investigation Division. The investigation of the barn was conducted in November 2005 and took place in conjunction with an archaeological survey of the abbey and the surrounding landscape, undertaken by Graham Brown. This work resulted in the production of a report titled *Halesowen Abbey and its environs*.<sup>1</sup>



**Figure 1.**

*The barn viewed from the north east, with the south transept of the abbey church in the foreground. [DP021006]*

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

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King John granted the manor of Hales to Peter des Roches, Bishop of Winchester, in 1214, 'to build there a house of religion of whatever order he chooses'.<sup>2</sup> The following year, Peter founded a house of Premonstratensian canons, known as the white canons or Norbertines, after their founder, St Norbert, and in April 1218 a group of canons arrived at Halesowen from their mother house at Welbeck in Nottinghamshire.<sup>3</sup> A number of sources record aspects of the construction of the abbey during the 13th century. Pipe Rolls record that from 1218 King Henry III (reigned 1216-1272) made payments to Peter des Roches towards building the abbey, payments that were still being made to Peter's successor as Bishop of Winchester in 1241-42.<sup>4</sup> In 1223, the Bishop of Winchester was given sixty beams from the Forest of Kinver for the abbey church at Hales, and in 1233 received a gift of fifteen oaks from the king to make stalls for the choir.<sup>5</sup> In 1293, Edward I granted a licence to crenellate 'certain buildings which have recently been built within that abbey (Hales)',<sup>6</sup> although Coulson attributes this licence to Hailes Abbey in Gloucestershire.<sup>7</sup>

The abbey was surrendered to the king's commissioners by the abbot William Taylor on 9 June 1538, and subsequently granted to one of the king's courtiers, Sir John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland.<sup>8</sup> In 1549 Sir John granted 'the mansion of the manor of Hales' to his servant, George Tuckey. It comprised a 'hall, buttery, kitchen, and all the chambers, the nursery houses, the laughton [?] houses with the barn and the cowhouse, the malt-house, miln [mill] and gardens and all stables, the gatehouse under and over the great tiles barn ...'.<sup>9</sup> He also granted Tookey all the tithes arising in Cradley, Ludley, Hawn, and Halsebury; also the tithe corn of Hales Borough, with all the pools and fishing on the premises.<sup>10</sup> Following the execution of Dudley, his lands were confiscated, although in 1553 his wife Joan successfully recovered all his property. Following her death, a year later, her son, Ambrose Dudley, inherited part of the estate with other parts going to her daughter and her executors (who were probably trustees of the estate). In 1555, Sir Robert Dudley, later to become the Earl of Leicester, obtained possession of Halesowen. Three years later he alienated it to Thomas Blount and George Tuckey.<sup>11</sup> They retained the estate for only a short time, as within the year they sold the manor to John Lyttleton whose descendents retained it until the late 20th century.<sup>12</sup>

## **SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SURVEYS AND INTERVENTIONS**

The first documented excavation at Halesowen Abbey was conducted by Holliday in 1871<sup>13</sup> and describes the remains of the abbey church and conventual buildings. An excavation was probably undertaken by Harold Brakspear and St. John Hope, at a now unknown date, and from which there are no published accounts, except for a site plan. In 1928-1930 a further excavation was undertaken by Somers, but, again, no associated report has been identified.<sup>14</sup> The Duke of Rutland excavated the chapter house in 1938,<sup>15</sup> and a watching brief over the course of a cable trench was undertaken by C. J. Bond in 1970.<sup>16</sup> In 1984, Nicholas Molyneux produced an analysis of the putative Abbot's Lodging or Infirmary, which he interpreted as a first-floor hall with heated solar, dating from circa 1290 to 1300.<sup>17</sup> The building was surveyed and re-interpreted in 1987, and an enhanced photogrammetric survey and detailed measured survey undertaken of the medieval roof.<sup>18</sup> Further work was undertaken in 1989-90, prior to consolidation of the structure by English Heritage.<sup>19</sup>

For the purposes of this report, the most significant recording and investigation programmes were those of the Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit, published in 1986 under the title *Halesowen Abbey: An Historical and Archaeological Assessment*, and Litherland and Moscrop's *Halesowen Abbey: A report on building recording and fieldwork, 1987-95*. These works entailed archaeological investigation and building recording of the standing remains of the abbey. Both addressed aspects of the barn and its interpretation, and the Litherland/Moscrop survey provided detailed measured survey drawings, including elevations showing the surviving medieval fabric of the barn's north wall (the south wall of the south aisle of the abbey church).

In addition to these surveys, there were a number of earthwork surveys and other assessments carried out during the 1970s and 80s. These, and the surveys and excavations outlined above, are discussed in greater depth in Graham Brown's *Halesowen Abbey and its environs*, 2005. The 19th-century farm buildings were recorded by students studying a Postgraduate Diploma in Practical Archaeology at the University of Birmingham, in 1990 and 1995.<sup>20</sup>

## THE BARN: DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION OF THE PRINCIPAL PHASES

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The principal building featured in this report consists of a substantial barn that extends on an east to west axis and defines the north side of the farmyard. The barn has been attributed to the 17th century by a number of commentators, as consistent with the form of construction of its roof structure. Marsden, writing in 1986, stated that the barn 'is probably seventeenth-century, judging from the construction of its roof, and would seem to contain much reused abbey stone'.<sup>21</sup> However, the barn walls are multi-phase, incorporating 13th-century remains of the abbey church and cloister, as well as numerous phases of alteration and repair, principally dating from the mid-to-late 19th century. This complexity of phases is represented in the tapestry of walling materials, ranging from in-situ sandstone ashlar of the abbey church, exposed rubble core masonry of contemporary date, reused sandstone blocks of probable medieval origin, the timber post and truss construction of the principal barn phase – which reuses medieval timbers, and red-brick walls dating from the 19th century.



**Figure 2.**

*The barn viewed from the north west, showing the diverse range of materials used in its construction. [DP021007]*



**Figure 3.**

*Detail of the roof structure, showing the truss on the east side of the cart entry. Note the reused timber forming the principal rafter. [DP021008]*

The barn is partly floored to give a two-storeyed arrangement, principally toward the eastern and west ends, and has a central section, with opposed cart doors, that is of a tall single storey open to the roof. The barn has a long roof of gabled form, which has a covering of plain tiles, with an area of corrugated iron used at the east end. The western end of the roof has collapsed, and much of the central part is in a perilous condition.



**Figure 4.**

*Detail of reused timbers in framing of the barn. Interior of cart entry, viewed from north west. [DP021009]*



The secondary buildings associated with the barn consist of a pair of brick-built, single-storey farm buildings abutting the barn's south wall, and extending southwards from its eastern and western ends. Litherland and Moscrop dealt with these east and west ranges and the barn as one structure, which they termed 'Structure 4' in their report. The single-storeyed east and west ranges date from the mid-19th century. They are not shown on the Halesowen tithe map dated circa 1842, but do appear on the first edition twenty-five-inch Ordnance Survey map, published in 1887. The tithe map shows an earlier set of farm buildings, most of which were replaced by the present brick structures. The eastern range stands at ninety degrees to the barn and corresponds, approximately, to the position of the east range of the medieval cloister. It makes use of the in-situ medieval wall at the south-west corner of the south transept, which survives virtually to full height. The east wall of the east range probably stands on the foundations of other conventual buildings, including the west end of the chapter house.



**Figure 5.**

*The barn and brick-built east range, with the south transept beyond. Viewed from south. [DP021010]*

The western range stands at an oblique angle to the barn, and does not incorporate any exposed, or visible, medieval fabric. Both ranges have gabled roofs with tile coverings. Neither is dealt with in any further detail, as the ranges have been recorded

previously by Litherland and Moscrop. They describe the 19th-century farm buildings as follows:

'The core buildings of the modern farm were constructed or rebuilt between 1841 and 1863, and comprise a barn and rickyard with attached stables and animal sheds lying north of the farmhouse.'<sup>22</sup>



**Figure 6.**

*The west range, viewed from the south. [DP021011]*

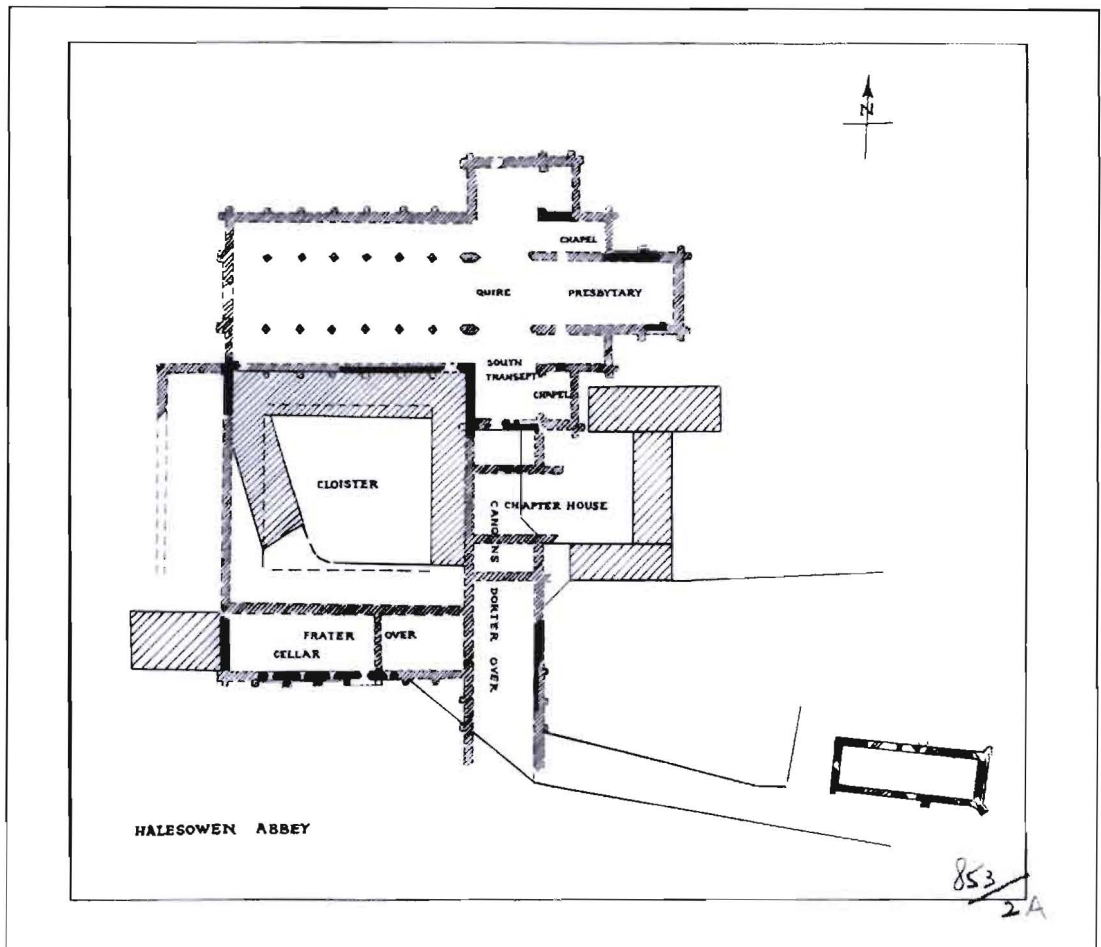
## THE BARN: ASSESSMENT OF THE SURVIVING MEDIIEVAL FABRIC

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Both Marsden (1986) and Litherland and Moscrop (nd.) include analytical ground plans of Halesowen Abbey drawing together information on the surviving in-situ medieval fabric. In the former, Marsden's figure 8 ('Abbey Plan with recorded results of previous excavations') purports to identify the surviving remains, but only indicates the existence of standing medieval fabric in the east wall and part of the north wall of the barn (Marsden, figure 8). On this plan, the barn's west wall and north-west corner, which retain standing medieval fabric, are shaded to indicate that they were recorded by H. Brakspear in 1906, but no longer include in-situ fabric. Litherland and Moscrop, in their figure 3 ('Abbey buildings within the inner court'), duplicate the same error, despite mentioning in the accompanying text the survival of a medieval doorway in the western part of the barn's north wall – a feature that is not identified as medieval in figure 3 of their report.<sup>23</sup> Neither report identifies a surviving fragment of the west front of the abbey church, which stands at the north-west corner of the barn. In fact, Marsden (Marsden, figure 7) shows the conjectural line of the church's west front projecting beyond the west wall of the barn, placing it too far to the west, beyond the surviving remains of the west front.

The National Monuments Record holds an undated, anonymous plan of Halesowen Abbey that reconstructs the ground plan of the abbey church and conventual buildings, with surviving in-situ fabric marked in solid shading (see figure 7). This plan, which was not referred to by Marsden or Litherland and Moscrop, does identify the surviving fragment of the west front of the church and also identifies the medieval wall incorporated into the barn's west wall. *The Victoria History of the County of Worcester*, volume III, published in 1913, includes Harold Brakspear's plan of the abbey, dated 1906, which concurs with the NMR plan in its assessment of those aspects of the abbey church 'existing above ground'.<sup>24</sup> The accompanying text also mentions the surviving fragment of the west front: 'A small fragment of the original walling at the south-west angle of the aisle determines the limits of the building in that direction'.<sup>25</sup> Perhaps it was assumed, during later investigations, that these fragments were present in 1906, but had been destroyed during the course of the 20th century? This is certainly the interpretation offered in the shading and key to Marsden's figure 8 (referred to above).

Nevertheless, the NMR and Brakspear plans omit to show remains in the barn's north wall, to the west of the cart entry, where elements of the aisle's south wall survive at low level. These elements have been added to an amended version of the NMR plan, to show the full extent of the remaining in-situ medieval fabric incorporated within



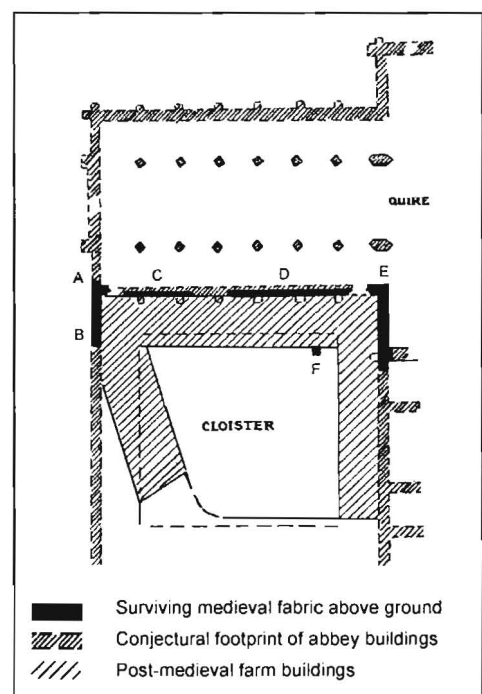
**Figure 7.**

*Undated plan of Halesowen Abbey held at the National Monuments Record (EH plans room reference: 853/2A). The extant masonry is shaded in solid.*

the barn (see figure 8). In addition, the south wall incorporates a substantial stone buttress (at 'F' on figure 8) that may be of early origin, although whether or not this is medieval is unclear. The buttress does not relate to the post and truss construction of the barn's south wall, and therefore may have been retained from an earlier structure. If it formed part of the claustral buildings, its position dictates that it would have formed part of the south wall of the cloister's north range.

**Figure 8.**

*Amended extract from the NMR plan of Halesowen Abbey, showing the extent of surviving fabric incorporated into the barn as at November 2005.*



In summary, the barn incorporates surviving, in-situ, medieval fabric of the abbey church in its north, east and west walls. For ease of explanation below, the various components of the church and cloister encapsulated within the barn are identified and described individually, as follows: the south wall of the south aisle (the north wall of the cloister's north range), the west wall of the cloister's west range, and fragments of the west end of the abbey church. In addition, the barn abuts the south transept, which was probably instrumental in maintaining the transept's west wall almost to full height. Given that the transept forms the most substantial survival of the abbey church and has been well documented as such, it is not deemed necessary to include it in this report, which focuses on aspects of the ruins that have been less-readily understood.



**Figure 9.**

*The buttress adjoining the south wall of the barn. Viewed from south west. [DP021012].*

## **The south wall of the south aisle**

A number of earlier commentators have identified surviving elements of the abbey church's south aisle within the fabric of the barn's north wall. The listed-building entry notes that the 'north wall of the barn embodies part of the south aisle of the church with 2 claustral doorways', but does not specify the precise extent of the surviving in-situ masonry.<sup>26</sup> Marsden states that 'the medieval doorway from the nave of the church into the north-east corner of the cloister is built into this farm building, although it can only be seen from inside the barn, and no trace remains on the outside'.<sup>27</sup> This refers to the surviving medieval doorway at the east end of the barn's north wall (at 'E' on figure 8). Litherland and Moscrop go further and discuss the survival of two such doorways embedded in the barn's north wall: 'These would have been processional doorways giving access to the church from the cloister and the west range'.<sup>28</sup> This second doorway is located at the western end of the barn's north wall (to the left of letter 'C' on figure 8). In the same publication, figure 22 shows elevations and a plan of the barn, reproducing details of these two medieval doorways.<sup>29</sup> Litherland and

Moscrop also describe other aspects of the south-aisle wall incorporated in the barn:

'The rubble build used in much of the wall to the east of the cart door may be the exposed core of the monastic church wall. The lower portions of the sandstone wall to the west of the cart door may also be medieval.'<sup>30</sup>

Detailed inspection of the barn's north wall reveals that the extent of in-situ medieval masonry from the south-aisle wall is considerable, especially in the area to the east of the cart entry (identified by letter 'D' on figure 8). In this area the medieval wall survives almost to the height of the eaves of the barn. The wall in this position is treated differentially on the external and internal elevations, with exposed, random, sandstone rubble visible externally (on the north face of the wall) and better-quality stonework, with dressed, coursed, sandstone blocks used on the internal wall face, to the south. This contrast would be unexpected in a barn derived from a single build, in which case the better-quality stonework would be expected to occur on the external wall face, where it would be most visible and provide protection from weathering. The



**Figure 10.**

*The north wall of the barn, viewed from the north, showing rubble construction, with ashlar and random-brick patching. [DP021013]*

occurrence of this differential treatment in the barn at Halesowen is explained by the reuse of the wall of the abbey church, and by subsequent robbing of the ashlar facing stone from the north elevation. The better-quality stonework on the south face is consistent with the dressed stonework found elsewhere in the ruins of the abbey church, although the stone face has escaped the worst ravages of weathering due to protection, initially from the north range of the cloister, and subsequently from the barn. The stonework is executed using ochre-coloured sandstone, in large, roughly-coursed blocks, and is marked by distinctive diagonal tooling. This stonework incorporates the eastern claustral doorway.



**Figure 11.**

*The north wall seen from within the barn. Note the vertical scar to the left of the timber post. Viewed from the south west. [DP021014]*



**Figure 12.**

*The north face of the south-aisle wall showing the original moulded string course. Viewed from the north east. [DP021015]*

The exposed rough rubble found on the north face of the barn's north wall, to the east of the cart entry, is probably medieval core walling (with some areas of consolidation) left exposed after the ashlar skin has been robbed out. This interpretation is supported by a chance survival associated with the western claustral doorway (to the left of C on figure 8). At this point, to the west of the doorway, a fragment of the original north face of the aisle wall has survived intact, in conjunction with a surviving piece of the aisle's west wall (described below). Here, the western jamb of the claustral doorway survives in conjunction with ashlar masonry forming the in-situ south-west corner of the aisle. This is built of pink and ochre-coloured ashlar sandstone, with a pink sandstone string course that

returns at the corner. The string course, which is moulded, terminates at the original door reveal, where the last stone of the string is integral with the masonry reveal. There is a 0.35-metre set back between the north face of this ashlar masonry (the northern face of the aisle's south wall) and the remainder of the barn's northern wall face. This setback measurement would allow for an outer skin of ashlar masonry to have faced the wall, concealing the rubble stonework and producing a wall surface compatible with those found on the in-situ walls of the abbey-church ruins. A corresponding set back occurs at the east end of the wall, at high level, where a fragment of the aisle's original internal wall face survives attached to the pier at the angle of intersection between the south transept and the south aisle (at 'E' on figure 8).



**Figure 13.**

*The pier at the intersection between the south transept and south aisle, showing fragments of the aisle wall at high level (centre) and towards the bottom left of the photograph. This shows that the original alignment of the aisle's northern wall face stood forward of the north elevation of the barn (right). Viewed from west. [DP021016]*



This evidence, therefore, determines that an area of red/pink sandstone ashlar in the barn's north elevation, to the west of the cart entry (at 'C' on figure 8), is not original in-situ wall face, but is a post-medieval facing of reused stones. It is interesting that an engraving by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck, titled *The east view of Halesowen Abby* and dating from 1731, shows that the north face of the south-aisle wall was marked by a series of six, arched profiles that appear to be the outline of the aisle vault.<sup>31</sup> There is no longer any evidence of these features. The engraving omits to show the barn roof, either as a deliberate means of romanticising the ruins or perhaps because it is concealed, conveniently, by undergrowth sprouting from the top of the adjoining transept wall.



**Figure 14.**

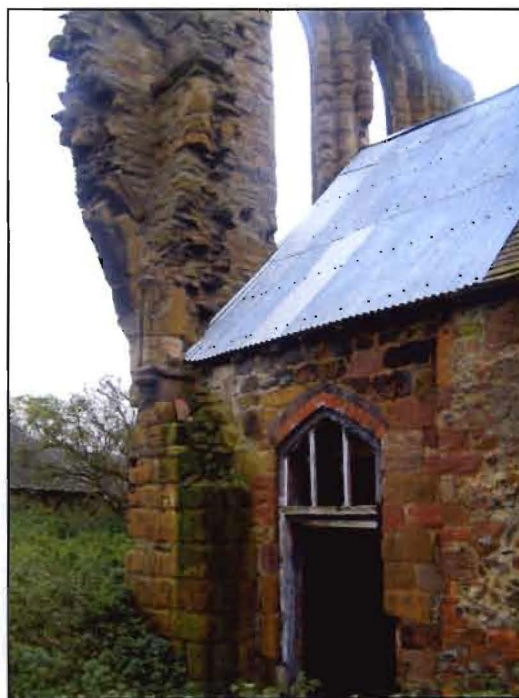
*Reused ashlar on the north wall of the barn, to the west of the cart entrance. Viewed from north west.  
[DP021017]*

The section of the medieval aisle wall at 'D' on figure 8 incorporates a series of vertical scars, on its south face, where rubble core masonry is exposed. These scars (refer to figure 11) are spaced at regular intervals along the wall and probably denote where original buttresses were positioned, but subsequently have been destroyed. If this interpretation is correct, then the scars would define the bay pattern of the nave of the church, with buttresses positioned to coincide with the columns of the nave.

Neither of the two claustral doorways incorporated into the north wall of the barn is complete, although that to the east has retained far more of the dressed-stone surround on the southern face of the wall. At this eastern doorway ('E' on figure 8), the north face – i.e. the face that would have been visible from within the south aisle of the abbey church – has been largely destroyed, probably in conjunction with the loss of the associated outer face of the wall in this area. However, part of the east side of the doorway is retained and comprises a square reveal. This missing masonry would have included a rear arch, on the north face, and the surviving door rebate and reveal indicate that this would have been of a considerably shorter span than the wide arch visible internally. The latter appears to have formed an impressive arch framing a narrower, smaller doorway. The arch has a chamfer of approximately 0.15 centimetres. No chamfer stops are visible above ground level. A smaller doorway has been formed in this position, using salvaged stone blocks and a triangular arch constructed using polychromatic brickwork. This opening probably dates from the mid-to-late-19th century.



**Figure 15.**  
*The eastern claustral doorway, viewed from within the barn. [DP021018]*



**Figure 16.**  
*The position of the eastern claustral doorway viewed from north west, showing the original reveal to the left of the doorway. [DP021019]*

The medieval doorway at the west end of the barn's north wall retains one ashlar door reveal on the north elevation (refer to figure 12). Originally, this would have

been exposed within the south aisle of the abbey church. This is executed in ashlar sandstone. On the south face of the wall there are chamfered jamb stones, proving that the arch formed part of a doorway. The chamfer is 14 centimetres, but there are no chamfer stops visible above ground level. Above this jamb, also on the south face of the wall and now exposed within the barn, there is a curved scar defining one side (the west side) of a tall two-centred arch. The dressed stonework of the arch has



**Figure 17.**

*The western claustral doorway, viewed from within the barn, showing the chamfered jamb on the west side of the original opening. [DP021020]*

been robbed out and replaced with rubble, thereby forming the scar in the masonry, where the original stonework of the wall met the dressed-stone surround. There are no corresponding remains on the east side of the opening, where the wall has been rebuilt in conjunction with the construction of an inserted window opening. A smaller



**Figure 18 .**

*Interior view of the north-west corner of the barn, showing in-situ medieval masonry and curved scar formed where the original stone surround of the western claustral doorway has been robbed out. [DP021021]*

doorway has been formed within the medieval opening, but this secondary doorway has also been partially blocked and converted into a window. (There is a reset stone above the inserted window and this stone bears the inscription WM.) However, on the west side of the doorway the medieval stonework is of a consistent quality up to eaves height. On the north face of the wall in this area, a large 'pillar' of medieval rubble core masonry survives in-situ. This formed part of the south-west corner of the south aisle. It stands to a height of 3.7 metres above the present ground surface and also incorporates a curved profile formed where the dressed stonework of the doorway's voussoirs have been robbed out.



**Figure 19.**

*'Pillar' of medieval masonry at north-west corner of barn. Viewed from north.  
[DP021022]*

The extent of the surviving fabric demonstrates that when the barn was built, in the post-medieval period, a substantial part of the south-aisle wall of the abbey church remained standing in order to be utilised as the barn's north wall. In addition, the barn was built abutting the south transept, presumably to avoid the effort and expense of constructing an end wall to the east. The significance of the surviving elements of the south aisle within the barn is heightened by the rarity of a Premonstratensian abbey church endowed with aisles. Marsden writes that the church at Halesowen 'differs from other Premonstratensian houses in lacking the aisle-less nave which many of them retained until the Dissolution, since, unlike the Cistersians, the Premonstratensians did not use the body of the nave as the quire for their lay brethren'.<sup>32</sup> In this context, the remains of the south-aisle wall are of considerable interest and importance.

### **The south-west corner of the south aisle**

The remains of the west front of the abbey church comprise a short length of sandstone wall, approximately two metres long, and which stands at the north-west corner of the barn and projects northwards, slightly beyond the barn's north wall. These remains (at 'A' on figure 8) are attached to the 'pillar' of masonry described above in conjunction



**Figure 20.**

*The remains of the west front of the south aisle (left), viewed from the west, showing scar where medieval buttress, or wall, has been removed (left of centre). [DP021023]*

with the western claustral doorway. The remains of a boundary wall continue, in a collapsed state, to the north of the in-situ masonry of the west front, but this does not appear to include any in-situ remains of the church, at least above ground level. It is likely that there are archaeological remains of the west front concealed below ground level. A photograph taken in February 1966, and held in the National Monuments Record, shows these features in a slightly better state of preservation, especially the boundary wall (see figure 21).



**Figure 21.**

*Photograph of north-west corner of the barn, taken 15 February 1966. (NMR: Halesowen Abbey, Blue Album, No. AL0718 A.7031/11)*

Approximately 0.85 metres of the wall retains an ochre-coloured ashlar facing, characterised by distinctive diagonal tooling. An area of exposed rubble core, to the south of the ashlar, probably denotes where a buttress stood, projecting westwards and forming part of the west front. This position corresponds with the alignment of the aisle's south wall. An alternative explanation would see this exposed rubble as being

indicative of the position of an abutting wall that would have extended west from the west front of the church, aligned on an east to west axis. A couple of projecting ashlar blocks located at the interface between the rubble and ashlar are probably the remains of the facing stone of the buttress (or projecting wall).



**Figure 22.**

*Detail of the original internal wall face at the south-west corner of the south aisle. Viewed from the north east. [DP021024]*

The ashlar work survives on both faces of the wall, denoting



**Figure 23.**

*Detail of the moulded string course on original external face of west wall of aisle. Viewed from north west. [DP021025]*

the external elevation to the west and the internal elevation to the east. Both faces retain diagnostic stone string courses, with mouldings that are indicative of a 13th-century date. On the original external face, the moulded string course is located approximately 1.2 metres above the current ground level. The former internal string course has a contrasting moulding and is set at a level slightly below that of the external string.

## **The west wall of the cloister's west range**

Marsden mentions that it 'is possible that the lower courses of the west wall of the barn...are also medieval',<sup>33</sup> a view that is endorsed by Litherland and Moscrop, who state that the 'inner face of the west wall of the barn, at least at its lowest level... may be medieval'.<sup>34</sup> On inspection of this area of the barn wall, the lower courses of the west wall can be seen to comprise medieval stonework of two distinct types, both of which are of sufficient extent and structural integrity to denote that they constitute in-situ medieval walling, probably of two phases. A ragged joint is formed where the two areas





**Figure 24.**

*Internal view of west wall of barn, showing in-situ medieval stonework, viewed from north east. [DP021026]*

of stonework meet. This is particularly noticeable on the internal face of the wall (to the east). On the external elevation, the stonework nearest the west end of the abbey church comprises neatly-coursed blocks of ashlar, matching the stonework used in the fragment of the west wall of the church (described above), and which extends for a length of 1.4 metres. At the south end of this area of walling, there is an irregular joint formed where the characteristics of the stonework change. Beyond this irregular joint the wall is made up using smaller stones, resulting in a contrasting pattern of coursing. On the internal wall face, the stonework has been less affected by weathering and the distinctive diagonal tooling remains, pitted with later marks which appear to have been made as a key for a later plaster surface. Given that both areas of stonework have distinctive diagonal tooling and a high degree of structural integrity, the irregular joint probably indicates a change in phase in the construction of the west range of the cloister. The upper areas of the west wall are in irregular stonework, much of it reused, and which is indicative of a later phase of alteration. This is surmounted by a brick gable dating from the mid-to-late-19th century.



**Figure 25.**

*Detail of internal face of west wall of barn, showing ragged joint formed between masonry of two phases. Viewed from east. [DP021027]*



**Figure 26.**

*West end of barn showing in-situ medieval masonry, reused stonework and 19th-century brick gable. Viewed from north west. [DP021028]*

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## ENDNOTES

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- 32 Marsden 1986, 19
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DP021006	The barn viewed from the north east, with the south transept of the abbey church in the foreground.	English Heritage
DP021007	The barn viewed from north west, showing the diverse range of materials used in its construction.	English Heritage
DP021008	Detail of the roof structure, showing the truss on the east side of the cart entry. Note the reused timber forming the principal rafter.	English Heritage
DP021009	Detail of reused timbers in framing of the barn. Interior of cart entry, viewed from north west.	English Heritage
DP021010	The barn and brick-built east range, with the south transept beyond. Viewed from south.	English Heritage
DP021011	The west range, viewed from the south.	English Heritage
DP021012	The buttress adjoining the south wall of the barn. Viewed from south west.	English Heritage
DP021013	The north wall of the barn, viewed from the north, showing rubble construction, with ashlar and random-brick patching.	English Heritage
DP021014	The north wall seen from within the barn. Note the vertical scar to the left of the timber post. Viewed from south west.	English Heritage
DP021015	The north face of the south-aisle wall, showing the original moulded string course. Viewed from north east.	English Heritage
DP021016	The pier at the intersection between the south transept and south aisle, showing fragments of the aisle wall at high level (centre) and towards the bottom of the photograph. This shows that the original alignment of the aisle's northern wall face stood forward of the north elevation of the barn (right). Viewed from west.	English Heritage
DP021017	Reused ashlar on the north wall of the barn, to the west of the cart entrance. Viewed from north west.	English Heritage
DP021018	The eastern claustral doorway, viewed from within the barn.	English Heritage
DP021019	The position of the eastern claustral doorway, viewed from the north west, showing the original reveal to the left of the doorway.	English Heritage
DP021020	The western claustral doorway, viewed from within the barn, showing the chamfered jamb on the west side of the original opening.	English Heritage
DP021021	Interior view of north-west corner of barn, showing in-situ medieval masonry and curved scar formed where the original stone surround of the western claustral doorway has been robbed out.	English Heritage
DP021022	'Pillar' of medieval masonry at north-west corner of barn. Viewed from north.	English Heritage
DP021023	The remains of the west front of the south aisle (left), viewed from the west, showing scar where medieval buttress, or wall, has been removed (left of centre).	English Heritage
DP021024	Detail of the original internal wall face at the south-west corner of the south aisle. Viewed from north east.	English Heritage
DP021025	Detail of moulded string course on original external face of west wall of aisle. Viewed from north west.	English Heritage
DP021026	Internal view of west wall of barn, showing in-situ medieval stonework, viewed from north east.	English Heritage
DP021027	Detail of internal face of west wall of barn, showing ragged joint formed between medieval masonry of two phases. Viewed from east.	English Heritage
DP021028	West end of barn showing in-situ medieval masonry, reused stonework and 19th-century brick gable. Viewed from north west.	English Heritage