

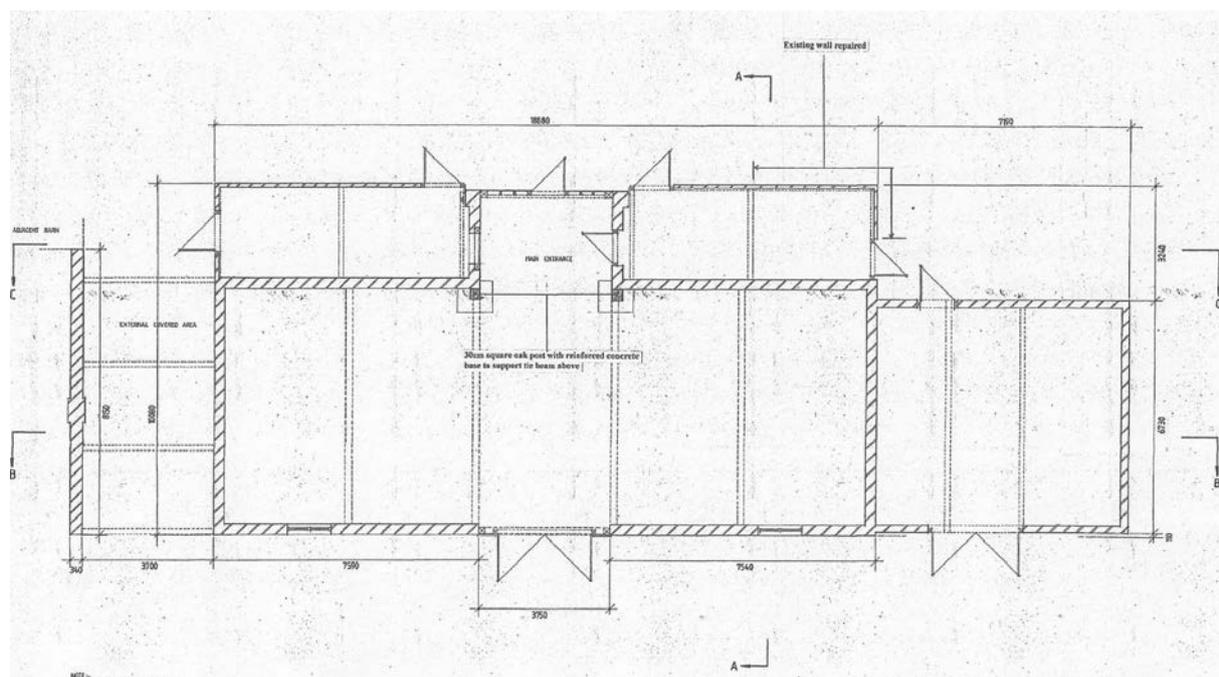
Whitfield Court Barn, Horsell Littlewick Road, Surrey GU21 2JU.



The barn was surveyed by DBRG in 1978 but first listed 30th March 1979 as:

Barn. C18. Timber framed on brick plinth, weather boarded on east side and south front gable; later C19 brick re-fronting with ventilation patterns on north and west fronts; half hipped plain tiled roof. Rectangular, 3 framed bays, central opposing entrance bays with double doors, those on the east side in a weather boarded projection. Later C19 single storey addition to the south (left of picture); hipped roof extension over open entrance bay to the north (right of picture).

The plan below from Woking Borough Council Planning Application *PLAN/2016/0335* shows the structure of the barn (top **E**, bottom **W**, left **N**, right **S**)



The listing is perhaps a little misleading the barn being described as having just three bays when to all intents and purpose it looks to have five bays. As the 1978 DBRG report says there is no evidence the barn was originally timber framed and it was almost certainly built as a brick structure at a time when it had been accepted brick buildings would stand up without the need to have a wooden frame inside.

The barn has been repaired and changed since it was originally surveyed by DBRG.



The front double doors to the brick porch have been replaced by weather boarding incorporating a smaller single wooden door and the weather boarding at the front of the two outshots is now brick. The roof has been retiled using both existing and new tiles and insulated. The diamond pattern on the roof has been maintained. Two 30 cm square oak posts with reinforced concrete base have been inserted inside where the porch meets the north/south interior so as to support the beam above. The corresponding entrance at the rear still has its double doors and the ventilation holes remain.



Inside other work done has been a completely new floor with foundations, insulation and a concrete screed with slabs on top. In addition, galleries have been erected at both ends.



North gallery in May 2017



South gallery in May 2017

Both internal brickwork and any woodwork with problems have been repaired. New doors have been put in where necessary.



Note above weather boarding on south front gable



This picture taken in June 2016 shows the inside framing including one of the strengthening oak posts.



The 1978 report refers to two incised bricks in the party wall in the south side of the porch with the dates 1766 and 1790. (see above) These would seem to indicate that the barn was built no later than 1766. The Matthew Richardson survey (see DBRG Report on Whitfield Court) made during the ownership of Joseph Whitfield (1739-51) indicates the presence of a building(s) on the west side of the old farmyard which could be the barn. Though not conclusive this does seem to confirm the original judgment that the barn was built in the early part of the 18th century.

On the other hand, if the Matthew Richardson report does not show the barn but just a range of farm buildings between the stables and the road the building of barn may have been much later than thought and been the cause of the increase in the Land Tax in 1789.¹

There is another incised brick inside the former stable in the party wall on the other side between the porch and stable which is difficult to decipher but could read *Thomas Slade* and 1711 or 1791

Below are two images of the barn held by Surrey History Centre:

¹ The Surrey Land Tax returns show William Piercy as the owner of Whitfield Court from 1780 to 1789. The annual tax was initially £2.13s.5d until 1789 when this increased to £2.15.6d.



South end of barn showing weatherboarding 1972

© Surrey History Centre



South end of barn with house to the right 1978

© Surrey History Centre

Sources

Ancestry.co.uk
 Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey)
 DBRG report 1868 on Whitfield Court.
 Surrey History Centre.
 Surrey Land Tax 1780-1832

Woking Borough Council Planning Application PLAN/2016/0335

I am grateful to the present owners Mr and Mrs Keith Sohl for their agreement that I may use their architect's plan to better explain the set-up of the barn and also publish this Addendum Report on the Horsell Residents Association 's website in common with all my other work on Horsell.

©Phillip Arnold May 2017