



THE ARCHAEOLOGY CO.

Cloud House Farm, Congleton
Written Scheme of Investigation

June 2018

1: Introduction

Steven Price of The Archaeology Co. has been commissioned to prepare a WSI for an historic building survey of Cloud House Farm, Toft Green, Congleton CW12 3QF. Condition 14 of Listed Building Consent (REF: SMD/2017/0233) states:

Prior to the commencement of the development hereby permitted, including site clearance and preparation, a written scheme of archaeological investigation ('the Scheme') shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Scheme shall provide details of the programme of archaeological works to be carried out within the site, including post-excavation reporting and appropriate publication. The Scheme shall thereafter be implemented in full.

Reason: In the interests of recording and understanding the archaeological heritage of the development site as a Grade II Listed Building's

Informatives: In relation to condition 14 – archaeological survey: The building recording should be carried out by a suitably experienced historic environment professional or organisation working to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) standards and guidance for the 'Archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings and structures' (2014) and the appropriate survey standard as identified in the English Heritage (now Historic England) volume entitled 'Understanding historic buildings. A guide to good recording practice' (revised May 2016).

This document forms the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which outlines the programme of work required to undertake this survey.

2: Site Location

Cloud House Farm lies within the civil parish of Rushton in the Staffordshire Moorlands District of northwest Staffordshire, close to its boundary with Cheshire East. It is an isolated farmstead typical of the settlement pattern in this upland area, and stands at the base of The Cloud, a prominent rocky hill which reaches a height of 343 metres

approximately 0.5 kilometres southwest of Cloud House Farm. To the east, the ground falls sharply to the Dane Valley, with the Peak National Park beyond. Together with some early outbuildings, Cloud House Farm forms a good example of an ancient moorland farmstead experienced in a setting little altered over many centuries (Miller 2017).

3: Historical Background

The site of Cloud House Farm is of medieval origin, one of a number of homesteads in Rushton which are thought to date back to this period. At the time of Domesday (1086) the manor of Rushton had two ploughlands (land capable of supporting a family for a year); part later became a separate manor named Rushton Spencer, in which Cloud House was sited. This manor in 1329 contained four freeholders, six villeins and 13 tenants-at-will, along with a mill. In 1368 a church at Rushton Spencer was licensed for services for local inhabitants. Evidence of medieval cattle farming in the area is implied in the names Woodhouse Green (referred to in 1413) and Toft Green, where the green element signifies the existence of seasonal roadside grazing land often shared by several farms (Miller 2017).

From the medieval period, Cloud House Farm was associated with a family named Sutton, who appear to have been of local gentry status. William Sutton of the Cloud was probably its occupant in 1451; the family still owned the house in 1596. The Sutton family intermarried with other gentry families: in the 16th century Edward Sutton married a daughter of the Stanley family of Hooton in Cheshire, and their daughter Ann (circa 1586-1682) married William Eltonhead of Eltonhead, near Prescott, Lancashire. The size and appearance of Cloud House Farm indeed suggests the presence of a prosperous gentry family, and its rebuilding in 1612 may have accompanied a rise in their status. By 1620, the manor of Rushton Spencer, which was in 1599 held by Sir John Savage, had passed to five local freeholders as joint lords, and the Suttons may have been among them. The truncated datestone of 1713, 1715 or 1717 on the service wing of the house bears the initial S which suggests the Sutton family were still in residence, although the inferior quality of this building suggests their fortunes may have declined. In 1841, Rushton Spencer manor was still held by five lords, one of them being Francis Johnson of Cloud House. Later census returns show many changes of occupant at Cloud House Farm,

which suggests it had become the tenanted property of a non-resident landowner (Miller 2017).

4: Historic Building Survey

Aims

Buildings are an important part of the historic environment as they provide information on historical technology, social structure and lifestyles. The alteration of buildings may remove evidence of their past uses and occupation and make it more difficult for future historians to understand and interpret them. The aim of the survey is to preserve 'by record' the information that may be lost as a result of demolition or alteration. This will be achieved by recording and analysing the plan form, function, age and development of the building and by the preparation of a written, drawn and photographic archive for future reference.

Method

This shall comprise a field survey recording of the building. The survey shall be performed to level 2/3 of Historic England's 2016 "Understanding Historic Buildings, a guide to good recording practice", and shall record:

- The form and fabric of the building, along with a measured survey, with a view to producing plans at each level of the building. These shall be produced at an appropriate scale;
- A photographic survey of the building's external appearance and internal rooms, as well as detailed photographs and/or drawings of key architectural features or features evident of past function. Photographs will be taken on 35mm black and white film for archive purposes duplicated with a high resolution digital SLR camera of at least 12 megapixels for the report. Images shall be saved as TIFF files along with RAW files. All photographs will contain an appropriate photographic scale and the locations and direction will be marked on a photograph location plan.
- An historic map regression will be undertaken along with historical research into the site, with a view to producing a short account of the

- history of the building and group of buildings it belongs to as well as putting the building into its surrounding context;
- Areas which may hold key information to the understanding of the buildings development, but are currently obscured, will be identified to inform where an archaeological watching brief should be undertaken during stripping out/demolition;
- The building will be formally described internally and externally.

The assessment will be carried out in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the “Standard and Guidance for Historic Building Surveys” (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014) to Historic England level 2/3 standards as stated above.

Reporting

Following the building survey, the results will be described within a fully illustrated report, which shall include the following:

- A summary of the survey's findings;
- The background to the survey, which will include an outline of the planning context, the survey dates and location details;
- An outline of the survey methodology;
- A summary of the sites history, development and importance, including a discussion of the building(s) in its local and regional context;
- A formal and descriptive account of the buildings, with reference to plans, elevations and photographs;
- A set of measured scaled drawings showing plans
- Plan or plans showing the location and direction of the photographs;
- The identification of currently obscured areas of historic fabric which will be exposed by the development works that should be subject to a watching brief;
- The contents and location of the archive.

5: Archive

The site archive will conform to the guidelines set down in Appendix 3 of the Management of Archaeology Projects (Historic England 2015). The written, drawn and photographic archive will be placed with Staffordshire Record Office within a reasonable time of completion of the project. This shall comprise a bound copy of the report as well as a PDF/A copy on CD and the black and white photographs. A digital version (PDF) of the report and digital photographs shall be sent to Staffordshire Historic Environment Record. The OASIS record shall be completed, including an upload of the report. The Development Control Archaeologist will be notified by email once deposition has taken place.

6: Staff

Steven Price of the Archaeology Co. is nominated to carry out the works. All fieldwork will be undertaken by Steven Price BA (Hons.) MA, MPhil, PCIfA as well as other trained staff under his guidance.

7: Timetable

It is anticipated that the historic building assessment will be undertaken over a period of one week, and a report will be produced within six weeks of commencement.

8: General

All project staff will adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. The project will follow the requirements set down in the appropriate Standard and Guidance notes prepared by the Institute for Archaeologists and all staff will wear appropriate PPE.



Figure 1: Location Plan (OS Licence Number: 100057911)

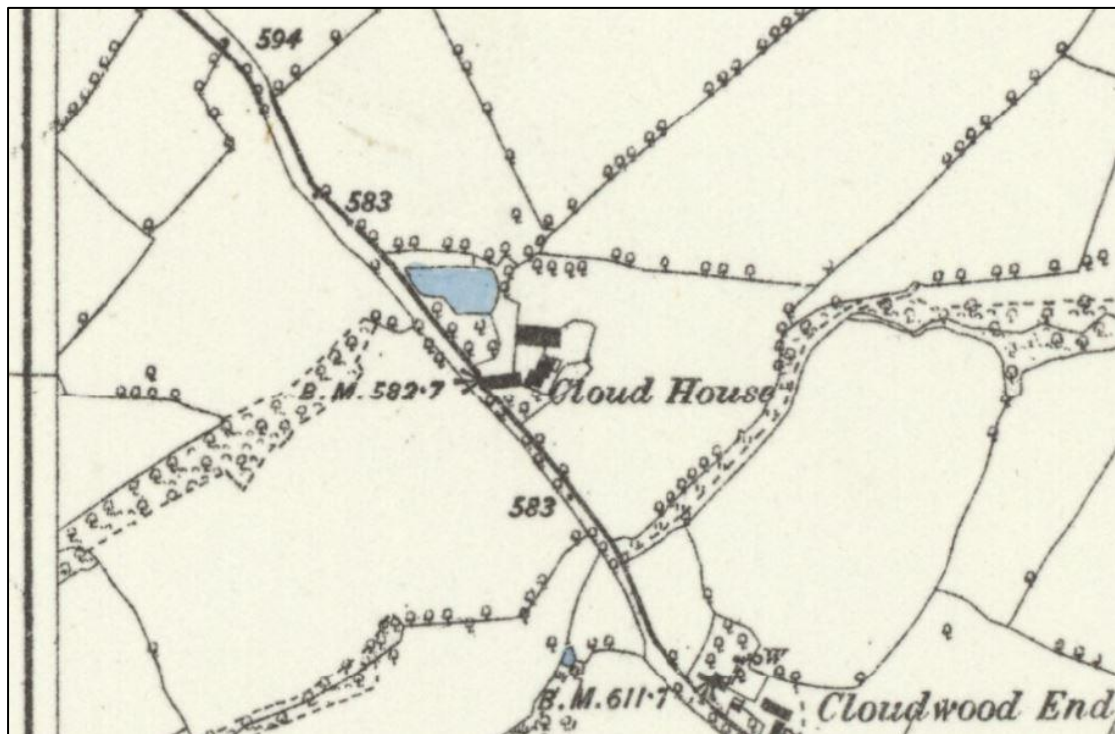


Figure 2: 1871 6" OS Map Staffordshire Sheet III.NE

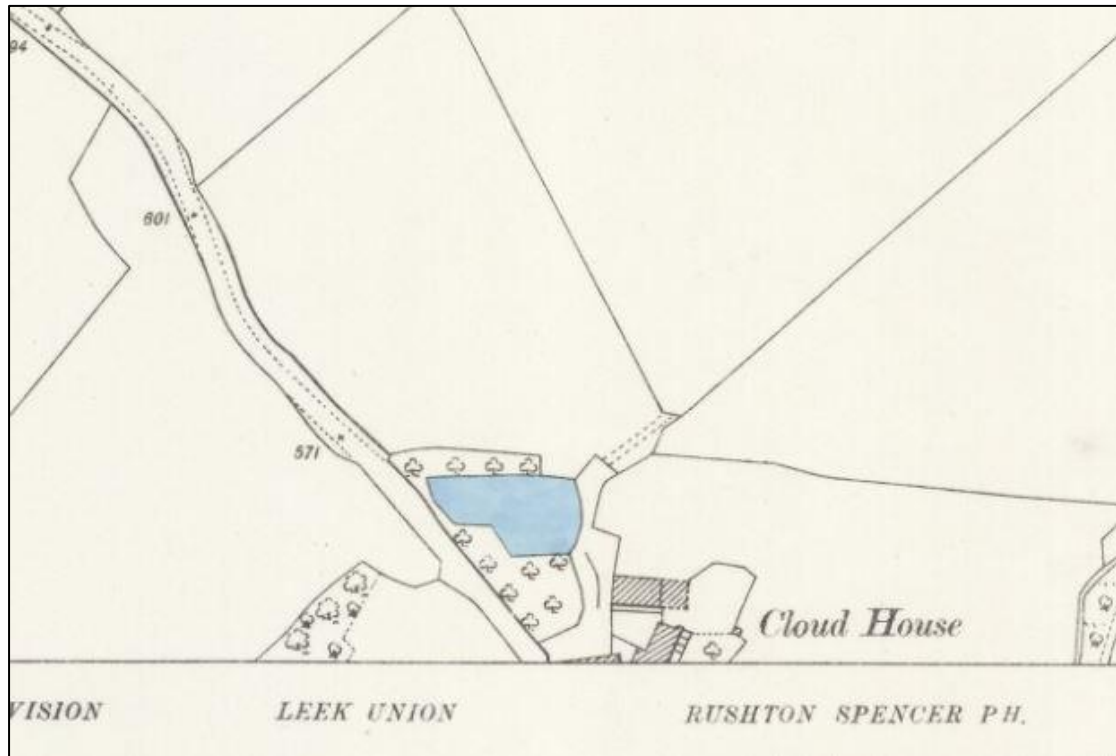


Figure 3: 1899 OS Map Cheshire Sheet XLIII.16

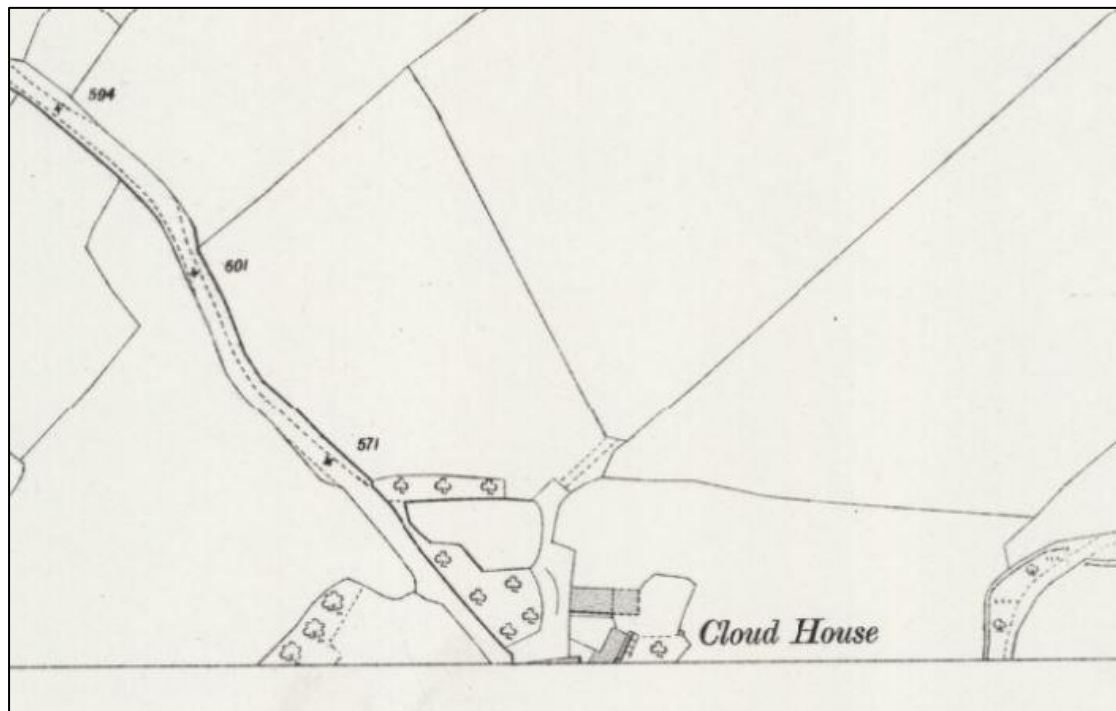


Figure 4: 1909 OS Map Cheshire Sheet XLIII.16