

Shoulton Farm, Shoulton Lane, Hallow SO 8113 5898

Shoulton Farm, also once known as 'Athwey', was well established before 1747 as it is shown on Doharty's map produced that year. It was a copyhold farm in the Bishopric manorial estate' labelled here as 'X1'



The original farmhouse was extended in 1838. Before 1922, a fire in the east/west axis left just the perimeter walls standing. There have been numerous stages of re-building, the latest being a north facing extension in 2009. In recent times, inside the rebuilt fire section, a bread oven and a large arched entry have been discovered.

There is a line of dentil pattern brickwork below the eaves. The cellar, below where the original house stood, is built from red sandstone blocks. To the right of the house frontage are the remains of the old well. Outside, to the west, are the remains of a dovecote but only the lower walls exist and a flat roof. This is currently used as an outhouse. The owner recalls that the dovecote once had internal wood paneling, and a staircase. This may have been used as an office, and accommodation for a farm worker/overseer. The census of 1911 records an office/brick hut which was also a residence. Perhaps this was the dovecote.



The 1747 map shows Shoulton farm surrounded by strip fields, every fourth strip, marked 'X', was farmed by Shoulton Farm. Following the Copyhold Act of 1852, farmers could transfer their land to freehold, and Shoulton farms and fields regularly changed ownership. 'Strips' became blocks of land in fields, the largest being Shoulton Field, Nut Field, The Ley, Downfield and Brierly (arable) and the Hones, Graffield, Sally Meadow, Little Horseley, and The Ley Meadow (pasture). The 375 acre farm has been in the same family ownership for close to a century, since 1922.

Sources: Hallow History Group Research 2013, WCC Archives