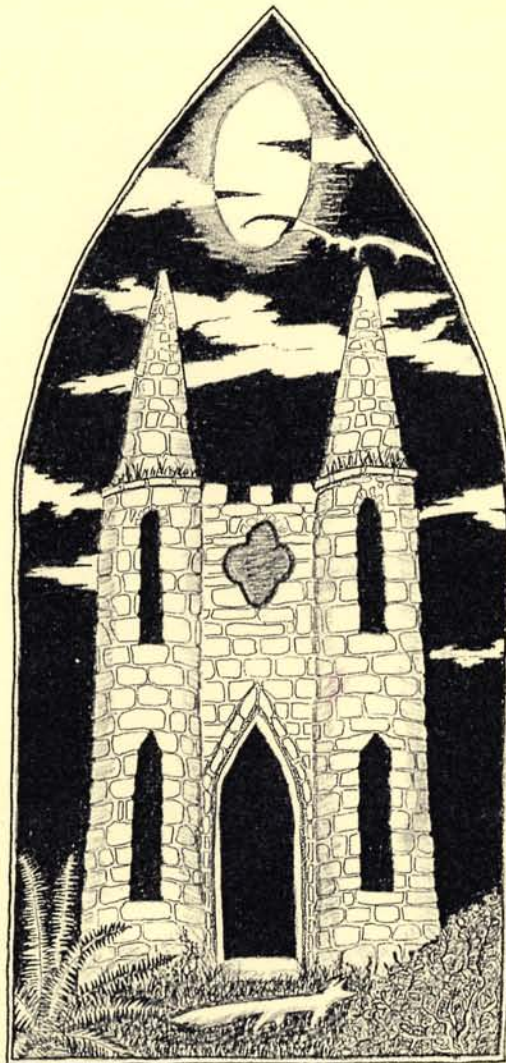


Castle an Dinas, Ludgvan, Cornwall



Cornwall Archaeological Unit

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Conservation work to Rogers Tower and ruined 19th century farmhouse

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Within CAU, this report was edited by Peter Rose.

Cover illustration

Rogers Tower!

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Abbreviations

CAU	Cornwall Archaeological Unit
CRO	Cornwall Records Office
EH	English Heritage
HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
NGR	National Grid Reference
PRN	Primary Record Number in Cornwall HER
OS	Ordnance Survey

1 Summary

Castle an Dinas is a spectacular multi-vallate hillfort dominating the approach to the Land's End peninsula, and commanding outstanding views over Mount's Bay to the south and St Ives Bay to the north. Standing on the hillfort's inner rampart, and in fact built of stone from the rampart, is Rogers Tower, a late 18th century folly. In heathland to the north of the hillfort are the remains of extensive prehistoric and medieval field systems while to the south-west, the small fields of a 19th century smallholding have used the ramparts of the hillfort as part of its field system. Both folly and farmstead are important features in the landscape in this part of Cornwall, particularly from the B 3311 road from Penzance to St Ives.

This report is concerned with the conservation work to the folly and the 19th century farmhouse. Last repaired in the 1960s, the folly was badly in need of re-pointing, while the cottage, which lost its roof in a fire in the 1990s, needed consolidation of the exposed wall-tops, if it was to survive as a landscape feature. The work, jointly funded by Castle Granite, Penwith District Council and the Historic Environment Service (HES) of Cornwall County Council, was carried out by Adrian Thomas and David Cutting in the summers of 2002 and 2003.

Castle an Dinas and associated monuments are located at NGR SW 4850 3500 and are number 31568 in the Historic Environment Record of the HES. Rogers Tower is part of Scheduled Monument Cornwall number 36.

2 Introduction

This report is concerned with the consolidation work which took place at Castle an Dinas, Ludgvan, in 2002 and 2003.

2.1 Project background

Castle an Dinas is a substantial prehistoric hillfort, standing in enclosed heathland on a prominent rounded hill above the B 3311 road from Penzance to St Ives (Fig 1). Associated with the hillfort are two stone buildings: one, a late 18th century folly known as Rogers' Tower (Fig 2) and the other a small 19th century farmhouse (Fig 3). A short distance east of the fort, and named after it, is Castle an Dinas Quarry, owned by Castle Granite. Together, the quarry, tower, and farmhouse form conspicuous landmarks in this part of Cornwall.

Castle Granite's property extends over a large area of the heathland to the west of the quarry, including Castle an Dinas and associated features. Development of the quarry over this heathland is not permitted, because of the presence of the hillfort, which is protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and the heathland, which is valuable in its own right, but which also contains well preserved relics of prehistoric and medieval field systems. Despite these constraints to development, however, Castle Granite's proprietor, Mark Whitehouse, has demonstrated considerable personal commitment to the conservation and management of the holding's environmental assets by introducing cattle grazing to the formerly neglected heath and by creating a new access to the hillfort. It was at his instigation that the English Heritage (EH) Field Monument Warden visited in September 2000 to consider the condition of the two buildings. At this point, Mr Whitehouse had already sought advice on their conservation needs from a quantity surveyor, had obtained an estimate for the necessary works from a local builder, and was hoping for advice on grant aid and any necessary consents that might be needed. Through liaison between EH and the HES, it was agreed that this was exactly the sort of project that would be eligible for help from the Historic Environment Service's budget for conservation works to Scheduled Monuments. A proposal and specification for the work was prepared, and moves made to start the work in the spring of 2001. Unfortunately, the advent of Foot and Mouth Disease in April 2001 made access to the monuments impossible, and in the event, the work did not start until over a year later, in July 2002. A second season of work was undertaken in July 2003.

2.2 Aims

The primary aim of the project was to initiate work to stabilise the two buildings, in line with recommendations made by Peter Badcock, the EH structural engineer. In the case of Rogers Tower, this was to involve:

- Repointing all external faces of the building in lime mortar, filling voids and replacing stones where necessary
- Repointing the domed ceiling
- Investigating the condition of the roof and repairing if necessary

For the farmhouse, the priorities were:

- Capping the tops of the walls and gables in a lime mortar

- Consolidation of areas of localised collapse in the interior
- Repointing the chimney breasts
- Some repointing of external walls in lime mortar, primarily the most exposed south-west face

A further aim, to help in achieving the best possible results, was to seek advice on mortars appropriate to the buildings and their location, from Stephen Tucker of SMT Associates Ltd.

The work to be accompanied by archaeological recording consisting of a photographic and descriptive record made before, during and after the conservation work. A further part of the project involved a desk-based assessment, carried out in order to obtain further information about the history of the sites. The main sources consulted were as follows:

- Cornwall HER
- Published histories (see Section 6.2)
- Early maps and photographs (see Section 6.1)

2.3 Location and setting

Castle an Dinas stands at 233 metres above sea level, on the eastern edge of the West Penwith moors, on high ground between the deep valleys of the Rosemorran Stream, and the Red River. The bedrock here is a sparkling fine-grained micro-granite and the soils brown podzols with an agricultural land classification of 4/5. But the most striking topographical feature of the fort is its aspect: a wide easterly sweep from St Ives Bay on the north to Mount's Bay on the south, taking in much of West Cornwall east of the River Hayle and overlooking the fertile ground of the lower slopes of the parish of Ludgvan.

On a dominating hill, and surrounded by the moors and downs of Tonkin's Down, Gulval Downs, Great Downs, and Noon Digery, the setting of Castle an Dinas is defined in modern landscape characterisation terms as 'Upland Rough Ground': that is land which has been traditionally used for rough grazing, and for activities such as gathering peat and furze (Cornwall County Council 1996). In this area, the prehistoric and medieval settlements are all found in the Anciently Enclosed Land, on the lower slopes, below 600 ft. Remains of relict field systems, both prehistoric and medieval, are however abundant on the Downs. Representing the high tide of agricultural activity in the area, they are well preserved here because for the most part the land has been used for rough grazing and only broken in when necessity demanded (Fig 5). To the south-west of Castle an Dinas, the 19th/20th century smallholding represents the latest sweep of the tide onto the high ground. This complex, abandoned in the 1960s, is also well preserved, its farmstead and small fields largely unaltered by modern activity.

3. The monuments

Dominating the area is Castle an Dinas, a multi-vallate stone-built hillfort, first recorded by Norden in the late 16th century as 'a vaste and craggie rock' and, because of its size and prominence, noted on maps of Cornwall from c 1600 onwards. The complexity of the ramparts and the existence of a small enclosure 'without an entrance' at the centre of the fort hint at an early prehistoric origin, while reported finds of stone weights, stone vessels, swords, and a large gold ring (Polsue 1872, 183) indicate a rich archaeological potential.

But this report is concerned not with the hillfort itself, but with the folly which was built on the rampart in the late 18th century, and with the farm established on the slopes just below it in the early 19th century. It is to these that we now turn.

3.1 Rogers Tower

Dominating the surrounding countryside, the highest point in the parish of Ludgvan, crowned by massive prehistoric entrenchments and only a mile and a half from their mansion, Castle an Dinas was the obvious choice of location for the Rogers family of Treassowe when they chose to enhance their estate with a Gothick-style tower. The captivating views alone would have recommended it, but its echoes of a prehistoric past and sheer prominence must have reinforced the choice of location. The fact that Castle an Dinas was renowned in local legend as the place where 'Wild Harris' met his death while out hunting, and the place where his ghost was set the task of counting the blades of grass, to ease his tormented soul, may have added attraction and frisson to the spot (Bottrell 1880, 39; but note a very disappointing entry in *Gothick Cornwall*: Westwood 1992, 13–14). The Harrises were neighbours of the Rogers, who in the mid 18th century had built a neat two-storey summer-house in their grounds, placed to take advantage of the view of Mounts Bay, which was lacking from their mansion at Kenegie (Pett 1998, 40).

It is not certainly known when, or by which member of the family, Roger's Tower was built (the Rogers Papers at the County Record Office – CRO - do not apparently contain any reference to Rogers Tower), but ultimately, motive and means can be seen in their increasing affluence throughout the 18th century. The Rogers family came originally from Lanke in St Breward (Spencer Toy 1936). They moved to Breage in the 16th century, and in the 17th century John Rogers acquired Treassowe in Ludgvan. The ruin of a 17th century house at Treassowe may be that built by John Rogers (Henderson 1958, 312 and see appendix 2). His son Hugh inherited the estate, and when Hugh died childless in 1763, he was succeeded by his brother John (1690 – 1768). As advisor to Lord Godolphin, John had acquired considerable wealth and status, serving amongst other things as mayor of Helston on six occasions. His name, along with that of his son Hugh, appears on a letter to the Earl of Godolphin on display in Helston Church, in which thanks are given to the Earl for the rebuilding of the parish church. John's son Hugh (1719 – 1773) followed in his father's successful footsteps, and served as an alderman and mayor of Helston. After acquiring much land in the Helston area, he inherited Treassowe in 1768 then purchased Penrose in Sithney in 1770: surely the culmination of his career. Sadly, he did not live to consolidate his good fortune, for he died in 1773.

Inheriting unexpectedly at the age of only 22, Hugh's son John (1750 – 1832) was the one who did have that opportunity. He was a barrister, admitted to the bar in 1771, who in 1776 married Margaret, daughter of Francis Bassett of Tehidy. He also held considerable offices, including mayor of Helston six times, MP for West Looe and Penryn, and Deputy Lieutenant of Cornwall in 1779. During his long lifetime, he developed the house, gardens and landscape park at Penrose, and in 1785 established a deerpark there. Gilbert (1817, 205) attributes the building of Rogers Tower to this John, and indeed, although we do not know exactly when it was built, this may be likely, since he was the only one of the family who had both the time and the wealth at his command. The political situation of the time may also have provided a strong motivation, for from 1793, Britain was at war with France and the threat of invasion was very real. Many important families became drawn in after 1792, when Pitt issued a proclamation calling out the local militia, and for example, at Trewarthenick near Grampound, Repton's proposals for improving the parkland were never put into full effect because Francis Gregor became so involved with the local militia (Pett 1998, 144-5). Documents at the CRO indicate that John Rogers was actively

involved in raising volunteers for local infantry corps and in 1798 he was appointed Major Commandant of the Corps of Sithney and Ludgvan. The tower at Castle an Dinas, with its outstanding views over Mounts Bay may well therefore have been important as a look-out at this unsettled time.

But to fully understand why John Rogers might have built a tower on a windy hilltop over ten miles from his main residence, we also need to consider its context in the history of landscape design. Rogers Tower belongs to the tail end of a period in landscape history when a passionate interest in both classical and British history, combined with increased affluence and greater confidence in man's ability to tame and mould the landscape led to the development of gardens, in which complete classical landscapes featuring temples, castles, forts, grottoes, hermitages, etc were created. Such gardens, often created around an intimate valley, might also feature, as a distant 'eye-catch', a tower or similar on a more remote hilltop. Hand-in-hand with this development went improvements in the construction of carriages, so that for the first time the gentry were able to contemplate drives for pleasure around features both natural and contrived, on their estates (G Daw, pers comm). Stourhead in Wiltshire is the epitome of the landscape garden and one of the best known. In Cornwall, Werrington Park is little known and not so well preserved but still features remnants of what was once an outstanding Arcadian landscape, created between 1730 and 1750 by Sir William Morice; here, a ruined castle and a triumphal arch formed skyline features (Daw 2002). Rogers Tower does not belong to this elite class or period of landscape design, but is a direct descendant of the one element of these earlier 18th century designed landscapes which really caught on amongst the local gentry: the eye-catching hill-top folly. Like so many others at the time, Rogers Tower was built to enable local gentry to enjoy a simpler version of the pleasures of their aristocratic counterparts. And without doubt, it would have stood also as a symbol of land-ownership and status at a time when increased social mobility made people of improved rank anxious to display their new standing.

Thus Rogers Tower served both to enhance the landscape and to impress neighbours. It provided a focus for carriage drives and the perfect place for picnics where, in contrast with the barren heath, the grandeur of the prospect could hardly fail to impress. Its prospect may also have served John Rogers' military interests. There is (or was) a scattering of follies in Cornwall, of differing design but mostly of the same small scale. Comparable to Rogers Tower in date and setting are the Prospect Tower at Cotehele (after 1789, National Trust guide, 1982, 26), the tower on St Agnes Beacon (late 18th century - Preston-Jones 1998, 12 – 19), the Anglo-Saxon Castle on Kit Hill (before 1800: Herring 1989); the tower on Willapark, Boscastle (before 1827: National Trust *Coast of Cornwall leaflet: Boscastle*, 4-5) and perhaps the castle on Carn Brea, 'converted' into a pleasure house by the Bassets of Tehidy in the mid 18th century (Tangye 1981, 36-34).

So the building of Rogers Tower was very much a thing of the time and in the same way, the design is characteristic of the late 18th century, even though there is no close parallel known in Cornwall. There is no doubt that ideas and plans were circulating freely amongst the gentry and the Rogers were linked by marriage to the Bassets of Tehidy, who had not only enhanced Carn Brea Castle, but had also created a landscape with temple, grotto, cascade, etc in their grounds at Tehidy (Tangye 2002, 24 - 30). Ideas might also have come from contemporary paintings or poetry inspired by classical mythology, or perhaps even from discussion with the Rector of Ludgvan, the Reverend William Borlase. He was well read in the classics and his many interests included not only archaeology but also natural history, mineralogy and gardening (Pool 1966; 1973; 1986). Borlase had made a full description of Castle an Dinas in his *Antiquities* (1769, 346-7), and also illustrated numerous houses and their gardens in his *Natural History* of 1757, including Werrington (Daw 2002)

and Kenegie (Pett 1998, 40). In 1739 – 40, Borlase supplied mineral specimens for Alexander Pope's mineral grotto in his garden at Twickenham: three consignments were sent off and Borlase's gift was acknowledged with his name 'wrote in letters of gold in the grotto' (Pool 1966, 133-4). Near to Treassowe lived the Harrises, who had built a summerhouse at Kenegie in the mid 18th century, influenced in its design by Montacute (Pett 1998, 40). And as at Kenegie, the design for Rogers Tower may have been derived from some of the grander and more complex ideas circulating up country. For example, Racton Tower near Emsworth in Sussex, originally exhibited as a design in 1772, is much more elaborate than Rogers Tower, but has many of the same features (illustrated on the front cover of *Follies: the International Magazine for Follies, Grottoes and Garden Buildings*, Vol 11, No 1, 1999), as have the 1769 design for a gatescreen at Rothley in Northumberland (Jackson-Stops 1992, 81-2) and closer to home, the 1804 design for a folly for Eggesford House at Wembworthy in Devon (illustrated in Gray 1995, 94).

So much is clear. The mystery is why John Rogers chose to display his rank on the hill above a mansion which was no longer the family's main place of residence. Here, we are reduced to speculation. One may reason that once they had moved to Penrose, the family retained the house at Treassowe for both nostalgic reasons and for use as a base when visiting their property in the Penzance area. According to Spencer Toy, John Rogers had been brought up at Treassowe, and even once he had inherited the dreamily romantic property of Penrose, he continued to use the title: 'Rogers of Treassowe and Penrose' (Spencer Toy 1936, 600). Indeed, John Rogers was buried in a family vault at Ludgvan Church, not at Sithney or Helston, as might have been expected.

So far as I have been able to establish, Rogers Tower is not visible from any of the drives in and around Penrose because the lower slopes of Tregonning Hill block the view to the west-north-west. But on the road from Helston to Penzance, at around Rosudgeon, it appears suddenly and dramatically, straight ahead: a clear silhouette on top of the rounded form of Castle Downs. For the Rogers, its appearance would have signalled the goal of an excursion, and would have marked the extent of their property. On the other hand, subsequent generations may have had less attachment to Treassowe, which became increasingly peripheral as the Rogers consolidated and increased their holdings around Penrose – and so both the mansion at Treassowe and the Rogers Tower became neglected and fell slowly into ruin (see Preston-Jones 2004, forthcoming).

In 1817 Gilbert (p 205) noted that Rogers Tower was 'now in a state of decay'. By this time, John Rogers would have been sixty seven years old: no longer full of the energy of youth, and perhaps less likely to make the effort to visit this frivolous monument. Moreover, the Napoleonic Wars had ended, and so its function as a place from which to observe shipping movements in Mounts Bay would have ceased. In 1859, Murray (p 189) recorded it as 'ruined'.

So Rogers Tower, like the tower that once stood on St Agnes Beacon (Preston-Jones 1998), fell into disuse almost as soon as it had been built. It remained a goal for occasional walks from Penzance (Pool 1976 (ed), 36), but its function as an ornamental feature to be enjoyed by the squire of Treassowe ceased. The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1813 names 'Castle Endennis' and a small black blob to the south of this must represent the tower. More clearly depicted is the open track leading up the hill to the tower from Treassowe (Fig 6). Cotton's plan of Castle an Dinas, drawn in 1826, entirely omits Rogers Tower, presumably because his focus was the prehistoric fort, not the modern pretender (Cotton 1829, Plate XXX). On the 1838 Tithe map, both the 'Ancient Fort' and 'Tower' are labelled, while Polsue in 1872 tells us that 'a tower was built on the site of the outer wall [of the fort] about seventy years ago, by Mr Rogers of Penrose'. The Victoria County

History states that the tower was built in 1798, although the grounds for this very precise assertion are not given. At the Royal Institution of Cornwall (RIC) is the earliest depiction of Rogers Tower: a photo taken in about 1890 (reproduced in Fig 10). A few things are particularly notable about this photo. One is the fact that the turrets are here almost complete, and in contrast with their present shape, have a tapering, cone-like form. Another is the fact that there appears to have been a relatively recent attempt at re-pointing a small area to the right of the doorway. Here, the white streaks of lime, leached from the mortar, can be seen dribbling down the wall of the turret. A further feature, which is very much in contrast with the situation today, is the closely-grazed sward in front of the tower, in which a wall, rebuilt from part of the hillfort's inner rampart, is well-displayed to the right (north-east) of the tower. This grassy area was clearly maintained by heavier grazing levels than now exist, but may also have been deliberately created at the same time as the tower, to enable carriage-parties to enjoy picnics in comfort on a springy turf. Although the ground in front of the tower is nowadays much rougher than it appears in the photo, it still retains a certain amount of grassiness – an effect which was perhaps achieved by clearing stone and spreading lime-rich sand. The track leading up to Rogers Tower is likewise still relatively clear of gorse and heather, again, perhaps the result of stone clearance and surfacing, to make a track suitable for carriages. The RIC has a second photo, taken by Robert Preston in about 1900 (Fig 11). Here, a picnic party is seen relaxing on the grass in front of the tower. But, it is particularly striking for it shows the tower starting to fall into ruin. The tops of the turrets on the south-west (left) side have gone. Moving on into the early 20th century, at the time of a burgeoning tourist industry, J Harris Stone in *England's Riviera* strongly recommends visitors to the Land's End district to make an effort to reach Castle an Dinas. Here, Rogers' Tower is described as 'a modern structure now much dilapidated, but not unpicturesque, and seems to partake of the genus of follies' (p 326). A photo in this book (reproduced here in Fig 12), shows that by this time, the deterioration already evident in Preston's photo had advanced further. The tower is in a semi-ruined state, with sections missing from the two northern turrets and the two southern turrets entirely broken away – a surprising decline in only a few years, and presumably the result of deliberate vandalism or robbing. Sadly, Henderson was not able to be as complimentary as Harris Stone, seeing Rogers Tower primarily as a cause of damage to the notable hillfort, rather than an object of interest or beauty in its own right (Henderson 1917, 159).

In the 1920s, Castle an Dinas and Rogers Tower were included in Cornwall's newly established list of Scheduled Monuments (it is Cornwall number 36). The Scheduling documentation (Ministry of Works form OW819) considerably enhances the status of the folly's builder, by referring to it as Earl Roger's Tower! During the Second World War, the strategic location of the tower led to its use in a way that may reflect one of its original purposes, for it was used by the Home Guard as a look-out (Stanley Grenfell, *pers comm*).

Although it must be assumed that granite had been won from Castle Downs for hundreds of years, the early stone would have been split from surface boulders (the development of granite quarrying is exemplified and has been studied on Kit Hill: – Herring and Thomas 1988, 20 - 22). The fine-grained granite from this area was renowned and much sought after for ecclesiastical sculpture, the medieval fonts at St Ives and Ludgvan, and the 13th century cross from Tredrea in St Erth and now on St Michael's Mount being fine examples. The first quarry in the area, the precursor of the present Castle an Dinas quarry, is marked on the 1907 OS map (Fig 7). By the 1960s, the land around Castle an Dinas was owned by the Amalgamated Roadstone Corporation (ARC SW Ltd) and the quarry had developed from a relatively small excavation to a massive one (Fig 4). It was at this time that Rogers Tower was repointed and partly rebuilt. According to a local farmer, the need for this arose because ARC was carrying out daily blasting which 'shook the hell out' of the

tower. The damage at this time was said to have been so extensive that the turrets had to be put back – although it is clear from the early photos described above (Figs 11 and 12; also Holmes 1993, 39) that they were already in a degraded state in the early 20th century. This repair work, carried out in hard Portland Cement, took place in 1960. The date is incised in the cement both inside and outside the building, along with the initials GS, HT, RM (Fig 13), which must be the names of the builders who were involved. This work affected all parts of the building apart from the domed ceiling, which was perhaps left because of the difficulty of re-pointing the very small stones, above head-height. The fact that when undertaking the conservation work described in this report, the stonework of three of the turrets was found to be entirely bedded in cement, confirms 1960 as the date for their restoration. In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, they were rebuilt at the time with a flat-topped and rather stumpy profile, so that the tower nowadays resembles a child's sand-castle. As noted above, however, they were originally taller, more pointed, and considerably more elegant.

(Much of the material in this section has been based on information and ideas from Graham Daw.)

3.1.1 Description of Roger's Tower

The squat tower, built of roughly coursed granite with an earth and rubble core, is square, with circular angle bastions. Overall, it measures just over 5 metres from south-west to north-east, and from north-west to south-east. The main, front, elevation faces south-east. Occupying almost the full width of the front elevation, between the bastions, is a doorway with pointed arch (the outer of ogee form), framed by two projecting courses of smaller stone, with above it, a quatrefoil formed of recessed masonry. The two bastions in the front (south-east face) of the building each contain two narrow, pointed windows at ground level, with two similar but 'blind' windows formed of recessed masonry above. Comparison of the early photos (Figs 10, 11 and 12) with the present building shows that some of these windows, notably the lower window to the right of the doorway and the upper 'blind' window to the left, have been rebuilt with a single lintel-like stone replacing the original pointed top of the arch. Likewise, the reconstruction of the turrets does not reflect their original character. Fig 10 shows clearly that the turrets on Rogers Tower were originally more pointed and cone-shaped, like smaller versions of the sugar loaves at Werrington Park (Daw 2002).

Inside, small recesses with granite-lintelled 'ceilings' occupy the base of each of the bastions, while that on the north-east also contains a fireplace, its chimney now sadly blocked. Internally, it would have been fitted out in such a way that visitors could enjoy a meal and be comfortable if the weather turned bad. We might imagine some rustic furniture, perhaps shutters in the windows, and a door. Remains of a narrow ribbon of cement in both window and door openings must have been to hold wooden door/window-frames in position, although the date that this evidence relates to is uncertain. There are also drill-holes in the doorway, which may have been to take door-hangings or a bolt. The vaulted ceiling is built of small (average 15cm x 15cm) granite blocks and surviving fragments of lime indicate that this was originally plastered. There is a strong likelihood that the tower was plastered and limewashed externally as well, like the tower on St Agnes Beacon (Preston-Jones 1997, 14) and the Anglo-Saxon castle on Kit Hill (Gray 1997), in order to make it stand out more brightly, as well as to give additional weather protection.

Taking measurements for the sketch plan that is reproduced in fig 18 proved instructive and informative. After grappling for a while with unwieldy metric measurements, the tape measure was flipped over and neat round figures emerged. For example, the tower's

straight walls all measure 5 ft long and are 2 ft thick. The bastions are 6 ft in diameter, the doorway is 2 ft 6 in wide and the windows, though more variable, are on average 1 ft 6 in wide! The implication of this precision and symmetry is that the tower was carefully designed and laid out, according to Imperial standards, and was not just thrown up to a vague idea.

3.2 From the sublime to.....the 19th century farmhouse

When James Hosking moved to Treassowe in about 1793, his thoughts were far from the sublime. A successful and independent-minded farmer, his aspirations – to improve the land for agriculture rather than for leisure - were as typical of his age as those of the Rogers when they built the tower. In 1803, James Hosking also took on the tenancy of Castle Downs and began breaking in the heath directly below Rogers Tower, to create more productive agricultural land. A genteel lady friend, one Mrs Lean, described James Hoskings' efforts in admiring verse:

*Awake my muse and tune thy trembling string
In humble strains of Castle Downs to sing
Of Castle Downs, who hath not heard the name,
For rocks and barren waste consigned to fame
And on its brow an antique pile is placed
Haunt of nocturnal birds – dreary and waste....*

*Till Hosking rose – a man of birth obscure,
Heir to no wealth – and forced by fate to endure
The toils of humble life – till innate worth
And active fancy drew his talents forth.
On Castle Downs his fertile mind he cast,
And soon industry did improve its waste...*

*Some pick the stones, some cut the turf, and some
Dig from the pit the builders useful loam.
The straw thatched cottage rises from the ground.
And the stony stone enclosure spreadeth round.
And now where moss-grown rocks and heath did rise,
Green meads and beautiful cornfields greet the eyes.*

(Hosking 1970, 57)

The land broken in by James Hosking is probably identical with enclosures depicted on the OS first edition map of 1813 to the south of Castle an Dinas (Fig 6). The land here was still rented by the Hoskings in 1838 (the Tithe Award) and on this land, in a small plot beside the track that goes up to Castle an Dinas, is the burial place of James Hosking (Hosking 1970). Although this is not the farm which is the subject of this report, the

motives which inspired each of them must have been very much the same. Both were part of the same movement: a development happening all over Cornwall in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, in which smallholdings were created from heaths and downland, to sustain a population growing as a result of Cornwall's mining boom.

Our cottage is not shown on the 1813 map, but *is* depicted on the Tithe Map of 1838 (Fig 7) and listed in the Tithe Apportionment book as one of two tenements known as 'Castle an Dinas'. At this date, it was rented by William Martin from the Revd John Rogers. The 1841 census also lists two dwellings named Castle an Dinnes. One was unoccupied; the other was inhabited by William and Christina Pearce, their four children, and one female servant. Unfortunately, we do not know if this was the same as our cottage, but the probability is strong. Associated with the Tithe Award tenement were some eleven acres of ground divided into a dozen small arable fields of about half an acre each, and two slightly larger areas of furze. All the fields had English names. The farmyard, based around a wide track giving access to the land from a road to the south, consisted of a single small house, and on the opposite side of the track (ie to the east of this), a small outbuilding, probably a barn. The Ordnance Survey map of circa 1880 shows a similar arrangement; but by 1907 (Figs 8 and 9) the yard had been re-modelled with the addition of a range of granite outbuildings to the south-west of the cottage and the addition of a tiny building, probably a privy, just west of where the old barn had been. In the course of the first half of the 20th century, further changes took place. The cow-house was remodelled to include a dairy. The house acquired the modern conveniences of telephone, and Rayburn, while the detached privy was demolished and an outside toilet added to the west end of the house. An air photo at Cornwall County Council's Historic Environment Section, taken in the 1950s, shows the house and land still in use. The last family to live here were called Wooldridge. They left in 1953 to move to Nancledra, forced out by the increased noise from blasting in the quarry (A. Thomas, *pers comm*).

3.2.2 The importance of the farmhouse

The farm as a whole has significance as an example of an early 19th century smallholding, carved out of open heathland. It is typical of many such in Cornwall, but unlike most, it survives with its outbuildings and fields largely unaltered by late 20th century activity, which can be so damaging, even when carried out in the name of preserving the character of an old place. The surrounding field system is unaltered from the 19th century, and the layout of the outbuildings is virtually unchanged since the early 20th century. The house has evidently seen some 20th century alterations, but none of them too radical, so that although it is now without a roof and has lost most of its internal fittings, it can still represent a way of life long gone.

The house is also an important landscape feature, visible on the skyline from the south-east.

3.3 Condition of the monuments prior to conservation

3.3.1 Rogers Tower

All external and internal faces of the folly were re-pointed in cement in 1960. Over forty years later, this was loose, cracking away, and had caused the development of voids and cracks in the walls, allowing stones to become dislodged in places (Fig 14). However, there was no indication of structural cracking or other untoward distortions (Badcock 2000).

Once the building was scaffolded and there was access to the roof, it was apparent that the turrets were in very poor condition, having been extensively but poorly rebuilt in the past.

The only parts of the building not repointed in 1960 were the roof and ceiling: perhaps because the roof was covered then, as now, in a thick matt of grass, and because the domed ceiling inside presented too awkward a challenge. The latter is formed of small square blocks of granite set in a clay mortar from which, by 2000, most of the mortar had washed out, leaving the stones standing proud and almost unsupported in places.

The roof was not closely inspected, because it seemed unwise to disturb the thick and protective capping of grass. But as there are no woody or hard rooted plants growing, it was assumed that this is in a stable condition.

Inside the building, the cement render is in better condition than the external pointing, but cracked in places and in others clearly acting as a hindrance to the natural evaporation of moisture penetrating the walls. Other problems noted inside the building include the fact that some stone has been lost from the jamb of the recess in the north bastion, probably as a result of vandalism. The two lintels above the fireplace are cracked. One is supported by a very rusty iron plate.

3.3.1 19th century farmhouse

The farmhouse was inhabited until about fifty years ago, but it was not until about 1995, that it lost its roof in a fire caused by vandals, thereby exposing the entire fabric of the building to the elements. Notwithstanding the problems noted below, Peter Badcock, the EH structural engineer considered this to be ‘a substantial structure [which] although it is in an extremely exposed position, should be capable of surviving the ravages of the elements without any significant structural works’ (Badcock 2000). Particular aspects were however identified as being in need of attention, if the building was to survive:

- The wall tops were all exposed, allowing rainwater penetration. In places, the tops of the walls had developed a good cover of grass, but in large parts, notably on the north-east gable, the stone was loose and unstable.
- The two chimney stacks were severely eroded, particularly near the top, where the wall had never been plastered (Fig 15).
- All window openings on the front elevation originally had granite lintels on the outside, but softwood inside. The wooden lintels were damaged in the fire, those downstairs being completely lost, those upstairs being badly burnt but still extant. Where the downstairs lintels were lost, the masonry above had collapsed. A further wooden lintel above a blocked doorway in the rear elevation had similarly caused localised collapse of the masonry above it.

Further problems were noted, of less significance for the long-term survival of the building:

- Two slate sills had been stolen from the downstairs windows.
- Stones had been robbed from the porch, leaving exposed and crumbling corework.
- Loose roofing materials litter the former garden of the house, adding to the appearance of dereliction and neglect.
- The associated outbuildings are in various states of disrepair, with much build-up of vegetation.

4 The conservation work

The conservation work was carried out by Adrian Thomas and David Cutting in July and August of 2002, and in July 2003 (Figs 14-17).

4.1 Rogers Tower

In the first season of work, two external faces of the tower, two bastions and two turrets were repointed, as well as the domed ceiling inside. The elevations chosen for repointing first were the south-west, because this is exposed to the worst weather, and the south-east, because this is the side from which the folly is generally approached, and the side which is most conspicuous from the nearby B3311 road (which sadly, is as close as most people get).

In the second season, the two north-facing elevations and the two northern turrets were tackled.

Given the relatively limited budget and the fact that no future use exists for the building, the work was limited to securing the exterior of the building, so that it survives as a landscape feature. If further funding were available, repointing of the interior should be undertaken. Further enhancements could include the re-plastering of both interior and exterior, the replacement of windows or shutters and a door, and the restoration of the track leading up to the tower. But for the moment, these aspects will of necessity remain as ideals only, particularly since the provision of too many refinements would in fact only act as a magnet for squatters and vandals.

4.1.1 Method

All of the failed cement pointing was removed, the joints raked and washed out, and repointed according to the methods and with the mortar recommended by Stephen Tucker of SMT Associates. This consisted of one part St Astier Naturally Hydraulic Lime (NHL 3.5) to two and a half parts sand, the latter being a mix in equal parts of Clevedon Farm (a limestone) New Milton coarse and Doble sand - the latter being the only Cornish sand used. The reason for including the limestone was to increase the porosity of the mortar: an important factor in this very exposed location. The Doble and New Milton are both very clean sands, which balance each other to produce a well-graded mix, the Doble being very fine and the New Milton quite coarse. The resultant pointing is a very light creamy – white, which considerably lifts and lightens the overall appearance of the building.

In areas where the cement was too solid or too deep to remove – notably in the turrets which had been rebuilt in 1960, and in the top third of the back (north-west) wall, the top inch or so was removed only, and the lime placed on top of the cement, in order to create a uniform appearance.

Very deep voids were packed as deeply as possible, the mortar being brought out in stages.

The turrets were all capped with mortar, using the same sands, but NHL 5, a stronger hydraulic lime.

Lime mortar needs protection after it has been placed, in order to allow it to dry and to cure slowly. For NHL 3.5, a minimum of three days weather-protection is generally recommended. In the first year, calm, misty weather for the duration of the work ensured that the right conditions were met naturally, but in the second, a persistent and strong north-east wind throughout July made it almost impossible to either protect the work or to keep it adequately damped down, in this very exposed location. As a result, some of the pointing, particularly at the top of the building, has a very white appearance, because of failure of the lime to cure completely. This is a problem that will have to be monitored.

4.2 The 19th century farmhouse

Work to the farmhouse was limited to that considered essential for stabilising the stonework, halting erosion, and prolonging the life of the building. The most important element of this was the capping of the walls and gables, to prevent water from penetrating the stonework. To provide a stronger mortar for this exposed position, the lime used in the mortar was NHL 5 in a 1 : 2.5 mix with the same sands as those used for Roger's Tower. After capping with mortar, a thick layer of local turf was laid on top of the walls, to provide an additional layer of protection.

The deeply eroded chimney breasts were repointed in the same lime mortar as that used for the wall tops, to consolidate the loose stone; and finally, some repointing of the walls was undertaken, the majority in the upper part of the most exposed, south-west facing wall.

It was originally envisaged that there would be only one season of work at the cottage. However, vandalism forced a second. At some time over the intervening ten months, all the new turves were thrown off the top of the walls, and the downhill (south-west) chimney, which had not been repointed in 2002, was knocked down. So after work had been completed at Rogers Tower in 2003, a return was made to the cottage, to rebuild the chimney with the original bricks, retrieved from the ground. The repair was done in the same NHL5 mix as had been used for capping the wall tops in 2002, and the chimney was capped, to provide extra security. At the same time a few stones, which had been dislodged from the porch, were replaced. The turf on the wall-tops was not put back.

4.3 Recording

It was intended that the work to both Rogers Tower and the 19th century farmhouse would not involve any significant alterations or intrusion into the historic fabric. Therefore archaeological involvement was limited to:

- Making a photographic record (black and white, colour slide and colour prints, before, during and after the work)
- Making a descriptive record of the work in progress
- Recording any observations made in the process of carrying out the work.

4.3.1 Results of the recording

Photos

Many photos were taken as the work progressed. These have been catalogued and stored as part of CAU's photo archive system. The catalogue numbers are recorded in section 8 of this report.

Observations

Many general observations on the buildings have already been made. The following further points were noted in the course of carrying out the building work.

- The north-east wall of Rogers Tower, being most protected from the prevailing wind and rain, was found to be in best condition. Although the wall had been repointed in cement, removal of the cement revealed considerable areas of a previous repointing in a lime mortar (very white, with distinct black flecks in it) and beneath this was the original bedding mortar – a clay mortar with tiny traces of lime.

- There is an indication that the tower may have been repointed in cement on more than one occasion: in places, neat cement appears to have been used, producing a mortar like iron, and very difficult to remove. In places, on the other hand, a very much weaker mix was encountered.
- In the top third of the north wall, the stones were found to have been entirely bedded in cement, suggesting that this wall had been in very poor condition, prior to rebuilding in 1960.
- The irregular profiles of three of the turrets (the back two, and that to the left of the door) suggests that they have all been rebuilt. Photographic evidence confirms the fact that the two southern turrets had been lost by the beginning of the twentieth century. However, an area of lime repointing was found on the lower inner face of the north turret – suggesting that this part at least has not been rebuilt and that ruination of this turret was not quite as thorough as that of the other two.
- The east turret (that to the right of the door) is the only one not to have been rebuilt, although it has lost the upper three courses of stone.
- The rebuilt southern turret was found to be filled with all kinds of rubbish: cinders, bits of iron, sea sand, rubble, which had perhaps been cleared from the interior of the tower when it was being rebuilt and repointed in the 1960s.

5 Discussion

Here at Castle an Dinas are two buildings, close in space and close in time, but poles apart in their inspiration and purpose. One, a monument to idle wealth and leisure, the other a monument to hard work and a struggle to survive in a tough and impoverished environment. While there is only a handful of follies in Cornwall, there are by contrast hundreds of little cottages of early 19th century date. Yet the latter, though less remarkable than the folly, has particular significance as a relic of a phase in Cornish history, when many gave up the unequal struggle and emigrated, in the hope of finding a better life abroad. Thus this work has been particularly important, in prolonging the life of these two contrasting buildings.

The work has also prompted research which has helped to explain a bit more about two relatively obscure monuments.

As well as the obvious benefit to the condition of the buildings, there has moreover been a massive improvement in their appearance. This particularly affects Rogers Tower (Fig 20), where the creamy coloured mortar lightens and lifts the building, so that it now seems almost to float on the top of the hill, like a fairy-tale castle, and perhaps looks more like it did when first built, when (in all probability) it was plastered and lime-washed.

6 Recommendations

The primary aim, which was to stabilise the two buildings, has been achieved. Yet there remain various further objectives which could be achieved if funding were ever available. These include:

- Remove the remaining cement from the internal walls of Rogers Tower and repoint in lime
- Rebuild the turrets to their original, more pointed profile
- Excavate the ground both inside and outside Rogers tower, to seek further evidence for its original appearance: plastering, limewashing, decorative features, fittings, etc
- Clear back scrub from around Rogers Tower, to give a wider grassy area, like that seen on the archive photos
- Consider capping the walls of the outbuildings of the smallholding in a similar manner to the cottage
- Monitor the condition of all the monuments

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8 Project archive

The CAU project number is **2003016**

The project's documentary, photographic and drawn archive is housed at the offices of Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall County Council, Kennall Building, Old County Hall, Station Road, Truro, TR1 3AY. The contents of this archive are as listed below:

1. A project file containing site records and notes, project correspondence and administration, copies of documentary/cartographic source material and colour prints
2. Black and white photographs archived under the following index numbers: GBP 1476/ 6 – 10, 21 - 26,
3. Colour slides archived under the following index numbers: GCS 33733 – 33752, 33727 – 33732, 34336 - 34340
4. This report held in digital form as: G:\CAU\DOCUMENT\HEProjects\Sites\Sites C\Castle an Dinas report CAU style

APPENDIX: THE RISING FORTUNES OF THE ROGERS FAMILY OF TREASSOWE AND PENROSE

The Rogers family came originally from Lanke in St Breward. They moved to Breage in the late 16th century, and in the 17th century **John** Rogers acquired Treassowe in Ludgvan. His son **Hugh** inherited the estate, and when Hugh died childless in 1763, he was succeeded by his brother John.

Hugh's brother **John** (1690 – 1768) had made a considerable career for himself, serving as Steward of Coinages in 1706 (aged only 16) and 1724, Deputy Supervisor of Blowing Houses in 1714, Deputy Receiver of the Duchy of Cornwall in 1717, Deputy Lieutenant of Cornwall in 1757 and 1761, alderman of Helston and Mayor of Helston (six times), as well as confidential agent to Lord Godolphin from 1712 to 1758. John lived in Penryn in the earlier part of his life, and from about 1738, in Helston. He was head of the family for only five years before his death in 1768.

John's son **Hugh** (1719 – 1773) followed in his father's successful footsteps, and served as an alderman of Helston and mayor four times. He was overseer of the parish of Sithney, JP for Cornwall in about 1761/2, Deputy Lieutenant of Cornwall in 1769 and High Sheriff in 1770. He lived at Treassowe (where he succeeded his father in 1768) and at a house in Helston which he built for himself in Coinagehall Street in 1755. From 1750 to 1770 he acquired many properties in Helston and Sithney, culminating in the purchase of Penrose in 1770 – only two years after inheriting the family seat at Treassowe.

Hugh's son **John** (1750 – 1832) inherited unexpectedly at the age of only 22. He was a barrister, admitted to the bar in 1771, and in 1776, he married Margaret, daughter of Francis Bassett of Tehidy. He also held considerable offices, as mayor of Helston six times, MP for West Looe and Penryn, Captain of Helston Company of Volunteers in 1800, Deputy Lieutenant of Cornwall in 1779 and Recorder of Helston in 1785. During his long lifetime, he developed the house and gardens at Penrose, and in 1885 established a deerpark there. Gilbert (1817, 205) attributes the building of Rogers Tower to this John.

John's son **John** graduated from Oxford in 1801, after which he took orders and became a curate at St Blazey. From 1807 to 1838 he was rector of Mawnan, during which time the Rogers acquired Carwinion????

The Rogers family remained at Penrose throughout the 19th century and most of the 20th century, before giving the entire estate to the National Trust in 1974.

(Toy 1936, 598 – 601)



Fig 2 Rogers Tower – view from the north, with St Michael's Mount in the background



Fig 3 The 19th century farmhouse



*Fig 4 Air photo of Castle an Dinas and the quarry, taken in 1993.
CAU air photo, F40/177/SW 485 350*

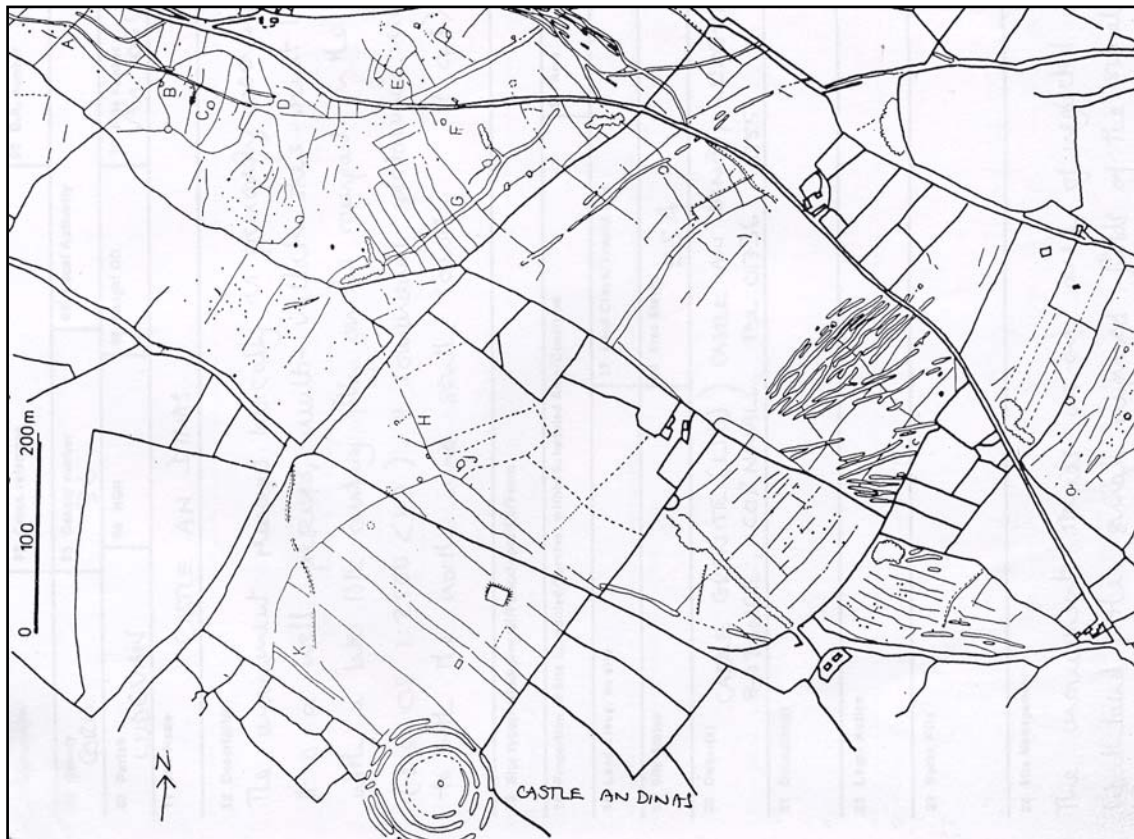


Fig 5 CAU plan of prehistoric field systems surviving in downland to the north of Castle an Dinas



Fig 6 The first edition OS one- inch map, 1813

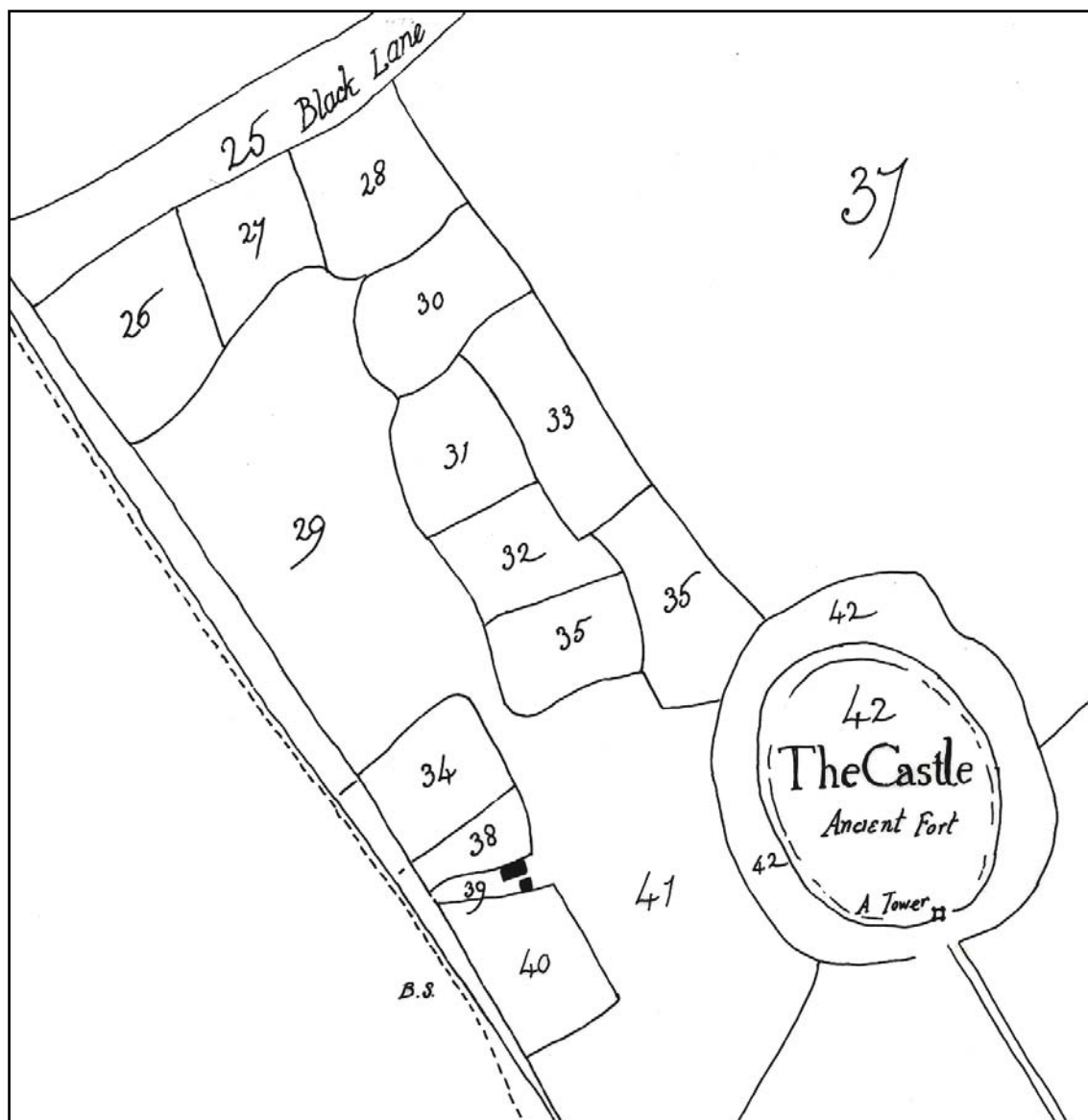


Fig 7 1838 Tithe map of Castle an Dinas and adjoining 19th century smallholding

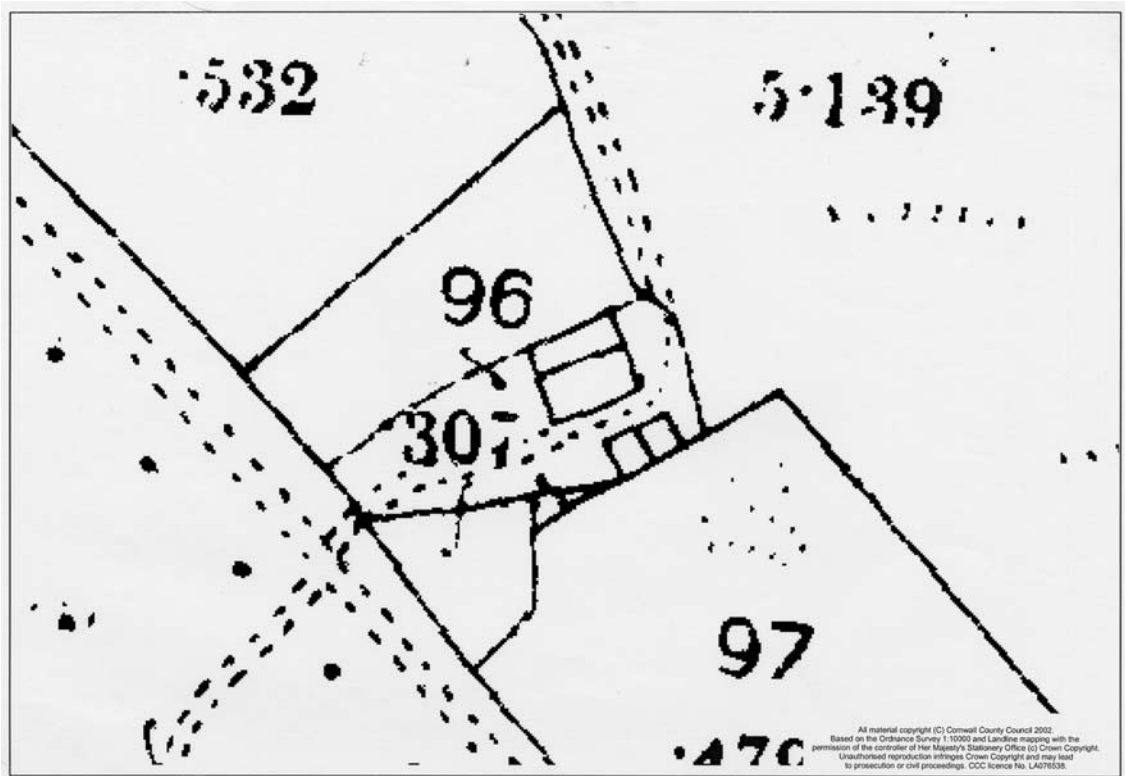


Fig 8 1st edition OS 25 inch map, c 1880. Crown copyright and Landmark Information Group.

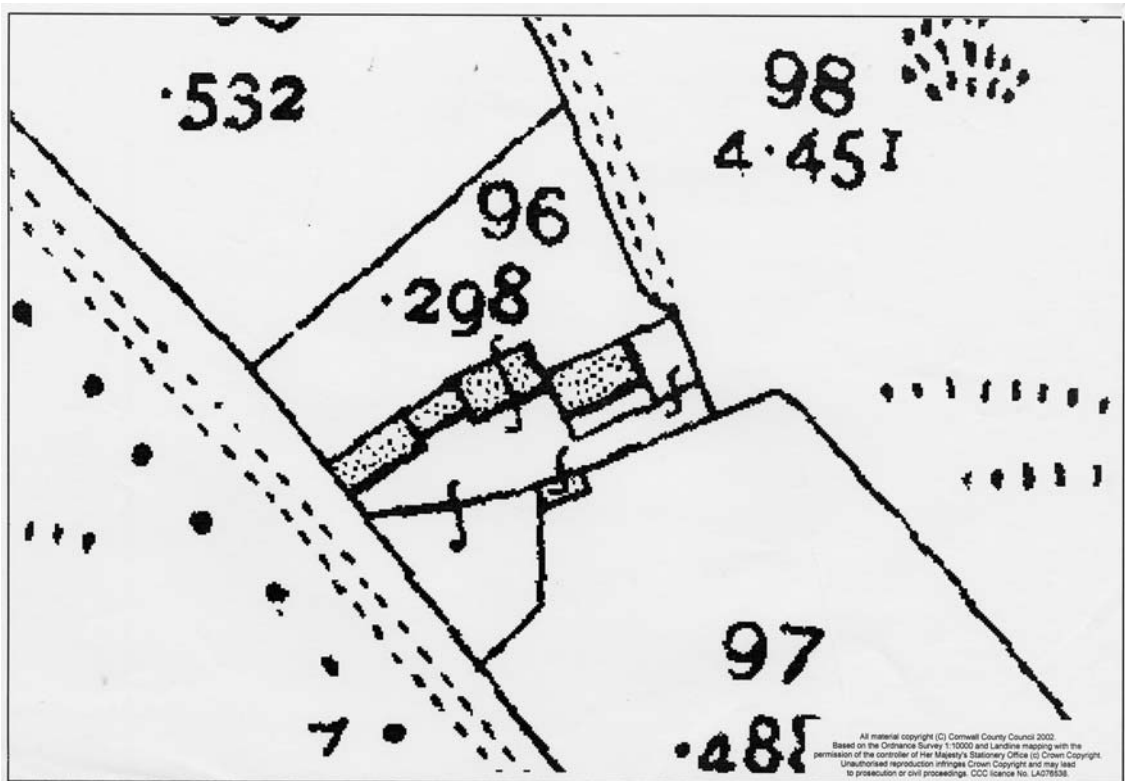


Fig 9 2nd edition OS 25 inch map, c 1907. Crown copyright and Landmark Information Group

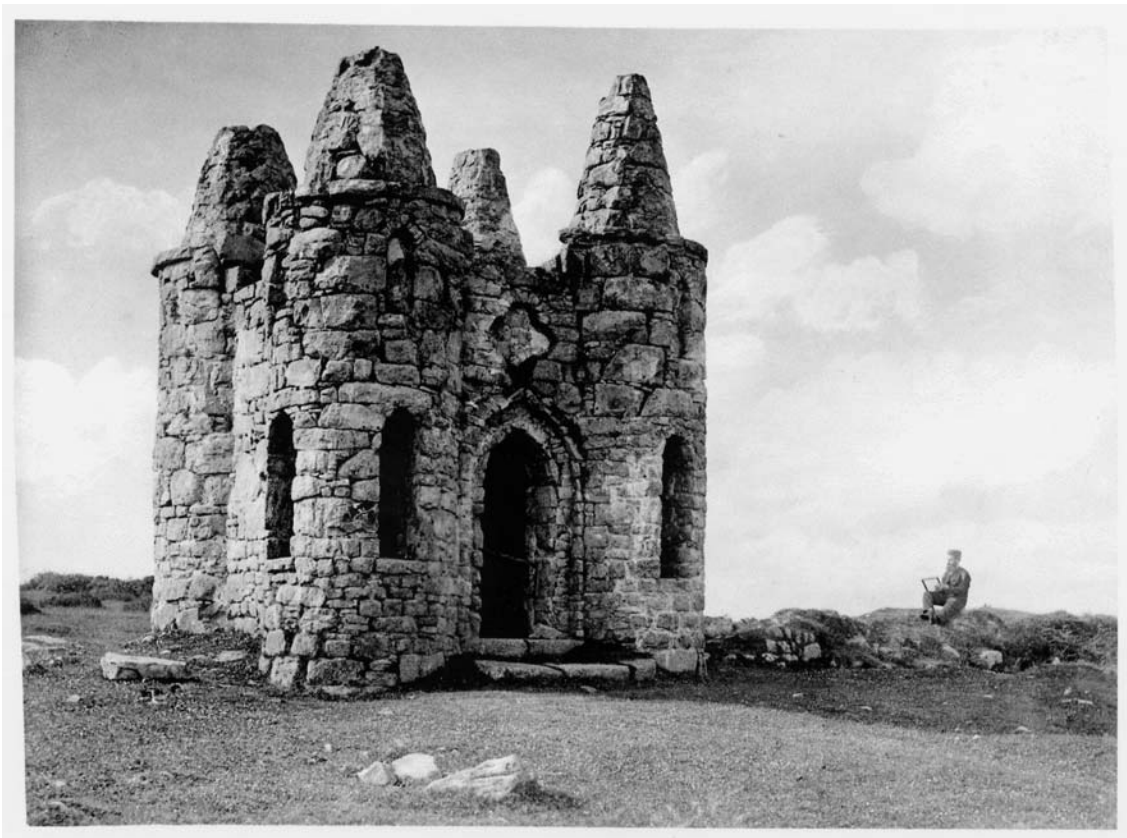


Fig 10 Rogers Tower c 1890. From the photographic collection at the Royal Institution of Cornwall, Royal Cornwall Museum.



Fig 11 Rogers Tower c 1900. From the photographic collection at the Royal Institution of Cornwall, Royal Cornwall Museum.



Fig 12 Rogers tower in about 1910. Photo from J Harris Stone, Englands Riviera, opposite page 326



Fig 13 Initials of the builders who restored Rogers Tower in 1960

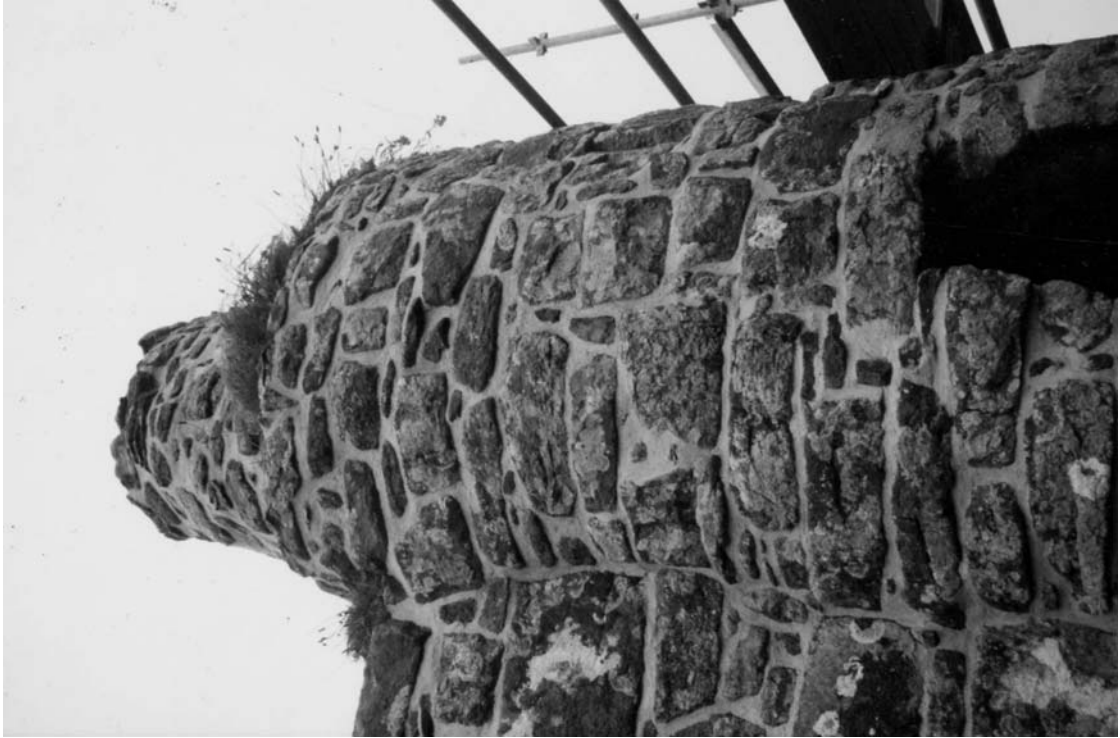


Fig 14 Rogers Tower, SW bastion before conservation work (left) and after conservation work (right)



Fig 15 Eroded chimney breast, before conservation work



Fig 16 Work in progress on the farmhouse



Fig 17 Work in progress at Rogers Tower.

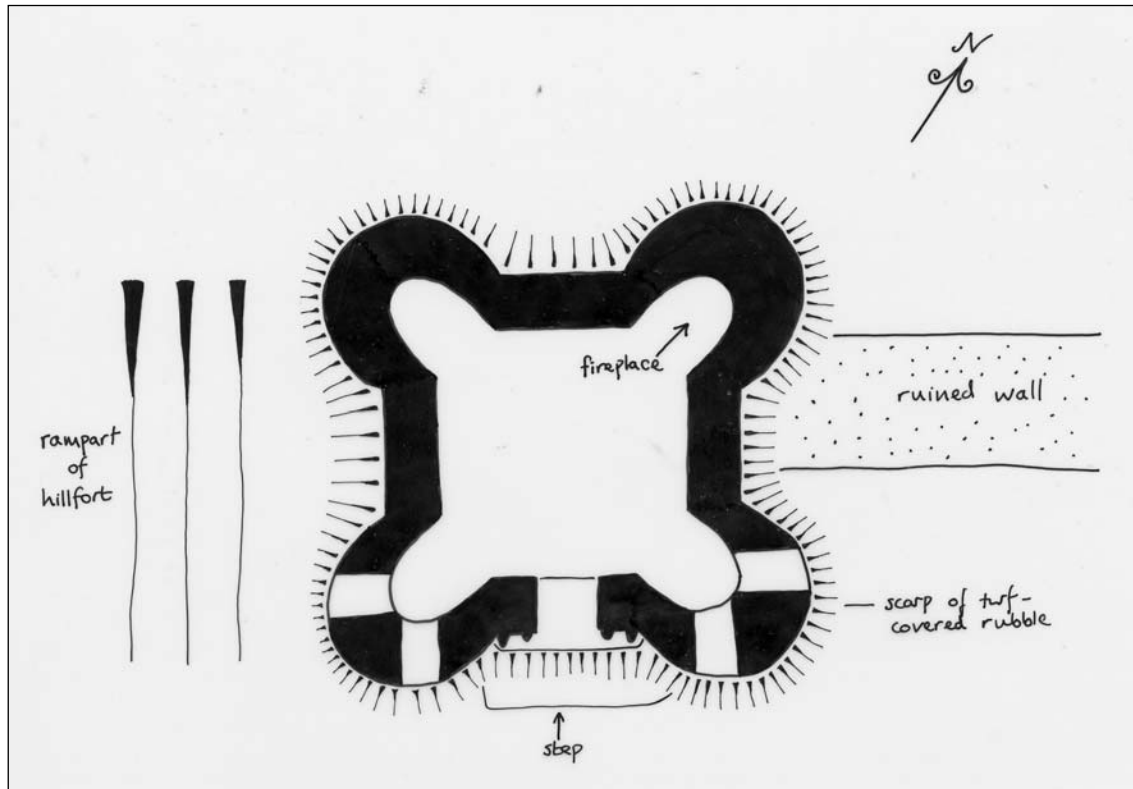


Fig 18 Sketch plan of Rogers Tower.