



# **The Duchy Palace, Lostwithiel, Cornwall**

## **Historic building record and archaeological watching brief**



## **Historic Environment Projects**



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The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of Historic Environment Projects and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

## **Freedom of Information Act**

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## **Cover illustration**

The Convocation Hall, after completion of renovation works.

Photographed during Lostfest celebrations, May 2013

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## **Abbreviations**

CRO	Cornwall County Record Office
CBPT	Cornwall Buildings Preservation Trust
EH	English Heritage
HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
HE	Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall Council
NGR	National Grid Reference
OD	above Ordnance Datum (sea level) at Newlyn, Cornwall
OS	Ordnance Survey
PRN	Primary Record Number in Cornwall HER
PRT	Prince's Regeneration Trust
RIC	Royal Institution of Cornwall
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



## **Summary**

Historic Environment Projects (Cornwall Council) was commissioned by the Cornwall Buildings Preservation Trust (CBPT) to carry out an historic building record and watching brief during conversion of the former Convocation Hall, a Grade I listed building which is part of the Duchy Palace in Lostwithiel at NGR SX 10480 59723. It was proposed that the medieval building should be renovated and converted for business use. The archaeological work was undertaken to satisfy condition 2 of the listed building consent (Listed Building Consent application PA11/00455).

The investigation work comprised analysis and recording of the historic building fabric as building works progressed. An archaeological watching brief was carried out inside the undercroft, and during groundworks in the rear yard of the adjoining property. The archaeological works were also designed to try and answer various research questions set out in the project design.

The Duchy Palace was never a residential site but is a more recent popular name applied to the remains of the medieval Great Hall, the present Convocation Hall and associated buildings, originally part of the administrative centre for the Earldom of Cornwall. The complex is closely associated with the Earldom's seat at nearby Restormel Castle. In 1338 the Earldom was raised to a Dukedom and the complex became the administration centre for the Duchy.

The Convocation Hall is located at the northern end of the 'palace', on the corner of Quay Street and Fore Street. It is part of the medieval complex but this study has proven that it was constructed as an extension to the Great Hall. During the watching brief the footings of both the Great Hall and the Convocation Hall were exposed within the south-west corner of the building. Here it could clearly be seen that the Convocation Hall had been built up against the gable end of the Great Hall. Pottery recovered from the earliest layer encountered during excavation inside the building and associated with the Convocation Hall dates to the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Since there is documentary evidence that the Great Hall was constructed in c1289 it appears that the Convocation Hall was built within a century of the Great Hall, perhaps during the time of the Black Prince (the first Duke of Cornwall) in the mid to late 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Work carried out as part of the watching brief has shown that original ground levels both inside and outside the building were significantly lower when it was first constructed. At the south end of the rear yard later built-up deposits were in excess of 1m in depth. Internally the footings of the Convocation Hall were uncovered in the south-west corner of the building at a depth of 0.6m below the present floor surface. The original floor surface is likely to have been located at approximately 0.5m below the present floor, and at this lower level a possible original earth floor (33) was encountered during the watching brief which contained a sherd of 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Set into the top of this possible floor layer (33), a stone-built structure was identified in the south-east corner of the main undercroft room. Only the edges of this square structure (32) were exposed in the trench sections so its function is unclear but it may have formed the base for a heavy object stored in this corner or could be the top of a well. Within the kitchen and undercroft at least two phases of dumped material were identified which had been used to raise the floor level, presumably to avoid flooding. The earlier of these dumped layers (24) appears to date 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century whilst the later layers (3) and (31) probably date to the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century. A later stone-sided drain [6] was also identified leading from the centre of the floor in the kitchen and out through an inserted (now blocked) opening in the west wall.

Prior to the watching brief in the rear yard to the west of the Convocation Hall three massive granite pillars (up to 3m long) were moved. Two of these pillars had been set vertically in the ground a few metres from the west wall of the building (Miles Boswijk pers comm.). None of the pillars showed any signs of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century quarry drill marks and they are likely to be much earlier in date. They were probably used to support the roof of an open fronted/sided building in this area and must pre-date or be

contemporary with No 1 Fore Street. It seems likely that they are the remains of a structure associated with the Duchy Palace.

The functions of the buildings within the palace complex are likely to have varied over time. It is likely that the larger Great Hall was the original assembly or Convocation Hall. By contrast, the northern building (present Convocation Hall) was designed with a degree of security with slit windows in the principal elevations. It may have included the Exchequer House and strong room for tin coinage and the Stannary prison. It was originally a three-storey building, with a vaulted undercroft and two floors above.

This study has helped to elucidate the way in which the two buildings related and were accessed. The evidence strongly points to an original raised open courtyard between the two buildings, accessed by steps through a large archway. The unroofed courtyard would have allowed light into the north gable end of the Great Hall (through its elaborate rose window and another opening beneath) and also into the southern end of the extension building (present Convocation Hall), where there is evidence of another two windows. The raised courtyard may have also provided access into the Great Hall, which was also a first floor hall.

A distinctive feature of the building is a panel in the north wall containing the heraldic arms of the Duchy of Cornwall. The granite frame surrounding the panel is coeval with the construction of the surrounding walling and therefore an original feature of the building. The decorative panel itself is most likely to be a post-Restoration replacement, assuming that the original medieval version was damaged or destroyed through the Parliamentary occupation of Lostwithiel during the Civil War.

During the Civil War in 1644 the Great Hall was burnt by Parliamentary forces causing it to become ruinous and the Convocation function was transferred to the northern extension (present Convocation Hall). Tree-ring dating evidence indicates that this part of the complex was entirely re-roofed during the 1620s and survived the attack of the Parliamentary forces in 1644. It was in the 1620s that the former open courtyard was roofed over and dormer windows were added to the east elevation to light the second floor.

As well as the Convocation Hall functions on the main floor the undercroft also served as a prison before 1755. The building was acquired for use as the county office for the Duchy of Cornwall in 1852 and continued as such until 1873. This period of its use involved major remodelling. The majority of the second floor was removed to create a much taller principal, first floor room. Two large inserted windows with Gothic tracery lighted this space. The gable at the north end was rebuilt as a hipped roof with a chimney inserted; the dormers that had lighted the second floor were mostly removed.

In 1874 the building was sold to Mark Thomas, a local tradesman who had already acquired part of the river quay opposite. Mark Thomas was responsible for laying timber floorboards over the brick and lime surface of the principal first floor room as evidenced by a floorboard bearing his name and the date '1874' retrieved during the opening-up works (see Fig 65). The first floor became a Drill Hall until 1878 when the Restormel Lodge of Freemasons bought the building. Alterations at this date included addition of an entrance porch and new staircases. The ceiling of the principal room was painted with a frieze and Masonic symbols, including an 'all seeing eye' at the north end. Masonic symbols were also added to the window glazing. The external wall faces were re-pointed and doors into the undercroft were replaced. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century the decorative scheme was simplified and the frieze papered over, leaving the eye still visible. A dais was added at the north end.

After the Masons decided to sell the building the Prince's Regeneration Trust purchased it for renovation in 2009. This part of the Duchy Palace has therefore remained more or less in continuous use since the medieval period.



## **1 Introduction**

The Duchy Palace is the popular name generally applied to the remains of the medieval administration centre for the Earldom and later Dukedom of Cornwall. The site adjoins the River Fowey on the east side of Lostwithiel town in central Cornwall. Two principal parts of the site survive; the majority of the walling of the Great Hall to the south and the smaller Convocation Hall at the north end. Further remains of medieval and later walling survive on the west side of these buildings. Functions of the complex have included Exchequer Hall, Convocation Hall, and Stannary prison, as well as industrial purposes such as assay houses associated with taxation of the tin trade. It is not entirely clear which parts of the building complex have held these functions and over a long period of time, the functions are likely to have varied.

In later centuries the remains of the medieval buildings, particularly the Great Hall, have been subdivided into smaller properties. The so-called Convocation Hall appears to have survived damage during the Civil War, and has remained the least altered part. This structure became a Masonic lodge in the late 1870s, a purpose it served for over a century. Upon sale of the Convocation Hall building by the Freemasons in 2009, the Prince's Regeneration Trust acquired it for renovation.

### **1.1 Project background**

Listed Building Consent application PA11/00455 was submitted by the Prince's Regeneration Trust on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011 and was for 'external and internal alterations; change of use of Masonic lodge to business use (Class B1) Duchy Palace, Quay Street, Lostwithiel, Cornwall'. This application was approved by Cornwall Council subject to a number of conditions. Condition 2 states:

'No development shall take place within the site until the applicant has secured a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation to be submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with Cornwall Council Historic Environment Service. Once secured the approved written scheme of investigation shall be implemented in full.'

Requirements for archaeological and historic building recording work were outlined in a brief prepared by Dan Ratcliffe, the local Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer (see Appendix 4). This brief was prepared in conjunction with advice from Cornwall Council's Conservation Officer and (as the building is listed at Grade I), from English Heritage.

CBPT approached professional archaeological contractors with a view to satisfying the listed building consent. Estimates were sought and Historic Environment Projects became the successful bidder. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI, see Appendix 5) was prepared to set out the approach, working methods and arrangements for project monitoring. This report presents the results of the archaeological work undertaken at the site.

### **1.2 Aims**

The principal aim of the study was to gain a better understanding of the historic development and former functions of the Convocation Hall and, as far as was practically possible, its relationship to the former Great Hall. The objectives were to obtain a comprehensive archaeological record of the site prior to and during alterations.

### **1.3 Extent/scope**

The investigation works were centred on the former Convocation Hall of the palace complex, incorporating the gable of the Great Hall immediately south (see Figs 1 and 2). The study included investigation of the standing building and also below-ground recording within the undercroft and also in the adjoining rear yard of No 1 Fore Street where drains were due to be installed.

## **1.4 Working methods**

All recording work was undertaken according to the Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording*. Staff followed the IfA *Code of Conduct* and *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Archaeology*. The Institute for Archaeologists is the professional body for archaeologists working in the UK.

The work included undertaking watching briefs during groundworks for the installation of new services both inside and outside the building as well as creating a building record of the Convocation Hall and carrying out recording work during removal of plaster and floorboards etc.

### **1.4.1 Watching briefs**

Watching briefs were undertaken during groundworks for the installation of new services both inside and to the rear of the Convocation Hall. The locations of the excavated areas covered by the watching brief are shown on Fig 13. Unfortunately the majority of the trenching in the rear yard was undertaken without an archaeologist being present. The full methodology is set out in the WSI (see Appendix 5).

Below-ground works inside the building involved the removal of the existing cement floor and sealed deposits below within the former kitchen and at the southern end of the undercroft (see Fig 13 for trench locations). The work was carried out by the contractors using hand tools under archaeological supervision.

Both inside and out, where significant remains were encountered, the site archaeologist excavated and recorded them appropriately. The locations of trenches along with any features identified were plotted on a base plan and section drawings were made when appropriate. All archaeological contexts were recorded on HE pro forma context recording sheets. A photographic record was maintained throughout and all artefacts recovered were retained.

### **1.4.2 Historic building record**

The overall intention of the study was to provide the equivalent of an English Heritage Level 3-4 building record, as specified in the planning brief. As historical research and a very limited physical examination of the building had already been undertaken (see above) it was proposed that work would produce a full archaeological record and detailed analysis of the building and include targeted building recording during opening up works (removal of existing plaster to expose wall surfaces, lifting of flooring, removal of the roof covering etc).

The full methodology is set out in the WSI (see Appendix 5) but in brief the work included rapid historical research/a review of existing knowledge, followed by a photographic survey, annotation of existing plan and elevation drawings and site visits during the works to record features as exposed. Photography and drawings were used as principal recording media, and measured information and notes were added to architectural drawings supplied by Purcell UK.

Following fieldwork, the results were processed and archived and this report compiled to summarise results.

## **2 Location and setting**

The Convocation Hall of the Duchy Palace is located at NGR SX 10480 59723, on the corner of Fore Street and Quay Street on the east side of the town, 35m west of the River Fowey. The building lies on the floodplain of the river at a height of only a maximum of 5m OD.

Along with the Great Hall to the south, the buildings were originally designed to front the river but now face a row of shops on the east side of Quay Street. The remains of the Great Hall itself has been divided up to form several houses and shops.

### **3 Designations**

The Convocation Hall is a Grade I listed building whilst the properties to the south (the remainder of the Great Hall and adjoining structures) are Grade II\* listed buildings. The site appears in the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record as MCO 29004 (see Appendix 2).

The site lies within an Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) and within the Conservation Area of Lostwithiel, which is a designated Historic Settlement.

### **4 Previous studies**

The Duchy Palace complex has been the subject of several brief historical studies and research papers written in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. These include Hext (1891), HM Whitley (1912-13), NJG Pounds (1979) and DJ Dunkley (1987). While all these studies include historical references the paper by Pounds also includes more detailed description and discussion of the physical remains of the buildings. The historic character of the site was considered as part of a wider study of the townscape of Lostwithiel (Berry *et al* 2007).

Several studies were commissioned to inform the PRT's acquisition of the building and also to assess renovation potential. An assessment survey and photographic record of the Convocation Hall was made (Berry 2008). A study was also made of the surviving Masonic features (Mackenzie 2008). Dendrochronological (tree-ring dating) analysis was carried out and samples from the roof timbers demonstrate felling dates between mid 1620 and winter 1621 (Tyers 2010). This provides strong evidence that the Convocation Hall largely survived damage during the Civil War.

### **5 Site history**

(See also a timeline in Appendix 1)

In 1230 the county of Cornwall with its stannaries and all its minerals were granted by King Henry III to his brother Richard, Earl of Cornwall and from then onwards the county remained vested in the Earls of Cornwall. In 1268-9 Richard acquired the town of Lostwithiel, an important stannary town at the time. Richard was succeeded by his son Edmund, who continued to acquire more land surrounding Lostwithiel and made the town the centre for administration and the chief seat of authority within the county. As part of the creation of this new administrative centre the 'Palace' was built for Edmund in c1292. The palace comprised a complex of buildings that at least consisted at this date of the Great Hall and cellar, a blowing and weighing house and a prison.

After the death of the last Earl of Cornwall, John of Eltham who died without heir in 1336, the lands and rights of the Earldom reverted to the crown (Hull 1971, ix; Coate 1927). Then in 1338 Edward III conferred on his eldest son, Edward of Woodstock, known as the Black Prince, the title of Duke of Cornwall. All lands and rights within Cornwall that had belonged to the Earldom became part of the dukedom and were made the property of the monarch's firstborn son (Hull 1971, ix; Coate 1927).

The buildings from 1338 onwards became the administration centre for the Duchy, later prompting the name 'Duchy Palace'. This was a very large complex and consisted of the Great Hall, which was the Convocation Hall for the Stannaries and Duchy affairs. It also housed the Coinage Hall for the Stannaries, the Stannary prison, smelting houses, and associated workshops. In this complex the Stannary Courts were held.

The buildings in this complex were leased in 1338 to William de Pasford and Thomas Sweyne (Caption of Seisin 1337-38). They were later leased to Richard Raven in 1357

and Thomas Deye in 1358 (Reg. Ed. Black Prince, Pt. 2, 116). In 1361 Thomas Fitz Henri was appointed keeper of the tinnners' gaol (Reg. Ed. Black Prince, Pt 2, 185).

It appears that throughout the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries the buildings were often in a poor state of repair and work was carried out from time to time to repair the most pressing damage. The first record of this is in 1351 when the Great Hall and associated buildings were in urgent need of repair and the Receiver was ordered to spend 100s. to carry out the required works (Reg. Ed. Black Prince, Pt. 2, 18). Later instances include extensive repairs including re-roofing in 1382-1387, 1453 and 1461.

By the 16<sup>th</sup> century the state of the buildings did not appear to have improved and when John Leland visited Lostwithiel in about 1540, he noted beside the Shire Hall 'ruines of auntyent buyldinges' (Toulmin Smith 1909, I, 323). Between 1558 and 1603 during the reign of Elizabeth I extensive repairs were again made to the buildings (PRO E301/622/34).

During the first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century after complaints had been made by the prisoners concerning the conditions in which they were kept, a warrant was issued for the building of a new gaol in 1619-20 'uppon a certaine peece of ground called the Tennys Courte adioyninge to the great hall of the Towne of Lostwithiell' (DCO Letters and Warrants, 1619-20, 134 and 134d). It appears from the results of recent dendrochronological dating and fieldwork from the present study that the whole of the 'Convocation Hall' was re-roofed at this date, covering the former unroofed space between the north gable of the Great Hall and southern end of the Convocation Hall. It is possible that part of the Convocation Hall was used as the new prison from this date since on the later 1755 plan it is marked as 'The Old Prisen'. This also suggests that the previously unroofed courtyard at the southern end of the Convocation Hall may have been the 'Tennys Courte adioyninge to the great hall' referred to in the letters and warrants of this date.

During the Civil War in 1644 the Great Hall was sacked and burnt by Parliamentary forces, destroying valuable records of the County, and the Stannaries in particular. The building having the least damage was the Exchequer Hall that thereafter took on the functions of the Great Hall and became the Convocation Hall (Dunkley 1987).

The Parliamentary Survey of the Duchy lands of 1649-50 recorded:

'...one old ruined house which was heretofore the Dukes Pallace with a large hall wherein was used to be kept the Assizes and Sessions for the whole County. But now there is only the walles thereof standing' (PRO E317 (Cornw.) 26).

In the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century there were further reports of the buildings falling into decay and hence the necessary repairs being made. Between 1681-1696 the prison was reported to be again unfit for the prisoners.

At the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the significance of Lostwithiel as a stannary town was declining in favour of towns in west Cornwall, with the bulk of tin coined at Truro, Helston and Penzance. The Convocation of the Tinnners continued to meet irregularly and infrequently in the Convocation Hall until 1752-53, after which it ceased to be summoned (Pennington 1973, 21-29).

The Buck engraving of 1734 (Fig 3) shows the Great Hall of eight bays as un-roofed. To the north of it the smaller Convocation Hall is shown roofed.

In 1740 Richard Edgcumbe, MP for Lostwithiel, built a new guildhall in the town, this enabled some of the County functions to be transferred to this hall, while the Duchy and the Stannary procedures continued in the 'Old Duchy Palace', or 'Old Shire Hall', until the very late 1800s. In 1751 the last Tinnners' Parliament was held in the hall. A plan produced in 1755 (Fig 4) depicts the Convocation Hall labelled 'The Old Prisen'. The north end of the Great Hall is labelled 'Prisen' and indicates that the medieval walls were still standing but that the prison building had been constructed within the medieval walls by 1755.

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century C S Gilbert, in his Historical Survey of the County of Cornwall, 1817-20, gives the following description from a personal inspection of the buildings:

'The most early of the buildings at Lostwithiel is the Exchequer or Shire Hall built by Edmund, Earl of Cornwall. The remains of this edifice about a century ago were magnificent, as may be seen by drawings made at that time. The western part, with its noble Gothic windows, has been since taken down, and also a great part of the buildings on the northern side. The venerable remnant now remaining has a session hall and a stannary prison, in which are kept the County weights and measures. The outer walls are of great thickness, with gloomy ponderous arches supported by strong buttresses. It bears the Duchy arms with supporters, and on the top the Prince's plume. The interior has a narrow court opening into a number of dismal apartments with low ceilings, partially lighted by little narrow windows crossed with iron bars.'

In 1852 the Convocation Hall was acquired for use as the Cornwall office for the Duchy of Cornwall and was altered for this use in 1853. Part of the former Great Hall was turned into a slaughterhouse, and after several changes of use, became a garage and sheet metal shop. It now serves as an antique shop and printer's office.

When the office for the Duchy of Cornwall was relocated to Liskeard in 1873, the remaining buildings of the Duchy Palace were divided up and sold. For a few years the Convocation Hall was used as a Drill Hall. In 1878 the Convocation Hall was bought by the Restormel Lodge of Freemasons and converted for their use.

During the Second World War the undercroft was used as a public air raid shelter.

The Prince's Regeneration Trust acquired the Convocation Hall from the Freemasons in 2009.

## **6 General description**

### **6.1 Building type and functions**

The subject building is a three-storey structure comprising a vaulted undercroft or basement with (originally) two floors above.

Although popularly known as the Convocation Hall, the functions of this building in the medieval period are not certain. The presence of original slit windows in the principal floor indicates that the building was primarily designed for security rather than comfort. The vaulted undercroft most likely served as a strong room or cellar.

### **6.2 Plan**

(See Figs 13-16)

The building is oriented north-south. The principal space is a rectangular room on the first floor almost 12.5m long and 5.4m wide. Access is via an anteroom to the south 3.7m (E-W) by 3.2m (N-S). This anteroom is linked by staircases to another small room on the upper floor, and also to the vaulted undercroft or basement. The undercroft comprises two spaces separated by a cross wall, the major rectangular space being 12.6m long by 5.4m wide. South of the cross wall is another space below the anteroom (4.3m E-W by 3.3 N-S) that is roofed by a separate stone vault. This smaller space was used as a kitchen during the Masonic use, and is labelled as such on the plan (Fig 13).

Before the 1850s the building had a full second floor, the evidence for which is discussed in Section 8 below.

### **6.3 Materials**

All original openings and quoins in the Convocation Hall have dressed granite detail. Most other original masonry in this building is of local slate bedded in lime mortar. The walling of this structure contrasts with the former Great Hall to the south, which has original dressings of Pentewan stone. Some dressed Pentewan stone has been reused in the Convocation Hall walls.

Although evidence is now very fragmentary, it is likely that the external walls were originally finished with lime-wash.

A principal external characteristic of the building is the presence of the slate buttresses (Fig 17). These were designed to carry the weights and stresses created by the slate vaulted roof of the undercroft. The buttresses are of greater dimensions on the north and east walls; to the west side the buttressing is less prominent (Fig 18). This may indicate either that the underlying ground facing the river may have been less stable and required stronger foundations, or that (on Fore St) the property was always encroached by neighbouring buildings. There are some shallow but wide buttresses on this side in the form of the base of a lateral chimneystack and a similar but short buttress to its north.

## **7 Watching brief on below-ground works**

Watching briefs were undertaken during groundworks for the installation of new services both inside and outside the Convocation Hall. Those undertaken outside included works in the passageway and rear yard to the west of the building. Below-ground works inside the building involved the removal of floors and sealed deposits within the former kitchen and at the southern end of the undercroft (Fig 13).

### **7.1 Exterior (Figs 13 and 25)**

#### **7.1.1 Rear yard**

The ground level in the rear yard was seen to be approximately 1m higher than the floor level in the former kitchen (room 1) and undercroft (room 2). No natural deposits were encountered during the course of works indicating deep deposits of made-up ground to the rear of the building.

Prior to the watching brief, the existing modern outbuildings were removed along with three massive granite pillars (up to 3m long), two of which had been set vertically within the two westernmost pits (Miles Boswijk pers comm.). None of the pillars showed any signs of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century quarry drill marks and they are likely to be much earlier in date. They were probably used to support the roof of an open fronted/sided building in this area and must pre-date or be contemporary with No 1 Fore Street, itself shown (albeit schematically) on John Hext's 1834 map (Fig 5) and on early photographs (Fig 9). It seems likely that they are the remains of a structure associated with the Duchy Palace.

The majority of the rear yard and the narrow passageway were covered with a thin concrete screed. The passageway was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m through previously disturbed deposits for former services. However, towards the north end of the passage a protruding foundation stone in the west wall of the Convocation Hall was observed. Here the wall facing continued to a depth of 0.65m below the present ground level showing the original external ground level here.

Areas excavated in the rear yard itself included a series of service pits and interconnecting trenches, many of which were fairly shallow (see Fig 13). The corner of a slate rubble wall bonded with lime mortar (20) was exposed immediately below the concrete surface in a trench running from the passageway across the rear yard to the south-west. This wall may form the corner of a small structure shown adjoining the south end of the west wall of the Convocation Hall on the 1755 plan and subsequent c1880 and c1907 OS maps (Figs 4, 11 and 12).

The deepest service pit excavated in the rear yard was located in the south-east corner abutting the west wall of the Convocation Hall and the former north gable end of the Great Hall. This pit was excavated to a depth of 1.2m causing the lower part of the two wall faces to become exposed. The west wall of the Convocation Hall could be seen clearly abutting the earlier gable end wall of the Great Hall partially covering a putlog

hole. The footings of both walls were not exposed at this depth, and clearly the ground level in the rear yard was originally significantly lower than it is today.

Many late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century finds were recovered from the rear yard but unfortunately they were all unstratified so a selection were retained (Figs 66 and 67).

Two sections (sections 1 and 2) were recorded in the rear yard to illustrate the nature and depth of stratigraphy here (see Fig 25).

### *Section 1*

The pit containing section 1 was excavated to a depth of 0.5m. At the base (not fully excavated) was (14) a layer of light orangey brown silty clay with occasional shillet fragments excavated to a depth of 0.09m. Overlying (14) was a layer of mid greyish brown silty clay (13) containing occasional shillet fragments and frequent lime mortar fragments 0.06m deep. Layer (13) was topped with a thin spread (0.01m) of very dark greyish brown silty clay and charcoal (12). Sealing this spread was a thick, compact layer of light yellowy brown clay make-up with frequent lime mortar flecks, stones and shillet fragments (11) 0.2m deep. Layer (11) was sealed with a thin spread (10) of mid reddish brown silty, gritty, clay 0.01m deep, possibly a former yard surface. This was overlain by (9) a levelling layer of light greyish-brown silty clay containing small shillet fragments up to 0.1m deep. Directly overlying (9) was a modern concrete layer (8) 0.04m deep topped with a cement screed surface (7) 0.01m deep. Unfortunately no finds were recovered from *in situ* deposits here.

### *Section 2*

This section illustrates the deposits exposed in the deepest pit excavated in the south-east corner of the yard to a depth of 1.2m below the ground surface. At the base of the pit was (19) a layer of light greyish brown silty clay containing frequent small shillet fragments excavated to a depth of 0.22m but not bottomed. Overlying (19) was a layer (18) of dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional stone fragments 0.1m deep. Overlying this was (17) a layer of compacted mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent shillet and stone fragments 0.2m deep. Layer (17) was sealed by another layer (16) of loose dark greyish-brown silty clay containing frequent stones and shillet fragments 0.2m deep. Overlying this was layer (13), also exposed in section 1, a mid greyish brown silty clay containing occasional shillet fragments and frequent lime mortar fragments 0.08m deep. Layer (13) was topped with a thin spread (0.01m) of very dark greyish brown silty clay and charcoal (12) (also recorded in section 1). Sealing this spread was a thick, compact layer of light yellowy brown clay make-up with frequent lime mortar flecks, stones and shillet fragments (11) 0.25m deep (also present in section 1). Layer (11) was sealed with a thin spread (10) of mid reddish brown silty, gritty, clay 0.01m deep, possibly a former yard surface (also present in section 1). Sealing (10) was (15) a very dark greyish brown layer of charcoal and cinders up to 0.05m deep which was not present in section 1. This was overlain by (9) a levelling layer of light greyish-brown silty clay containing small shillet fragments up to 0.1m deep (also present in section 1). Directly overlying (9) was the modern concrete layer (8) 0.04m deep topped with a cement screed surface (7) 0.01m deep. Again no finds were recovered from any of the layers here.

## **7.2 Interior (Figs 13 and 26)**

### **7.2.1 Kitchen**

The groundworks within the kitchen comprised the removal of the entire modern concrete floor and underlying deposits to a depth of 0.4m below the concrete surface. This was followed by the insertion of three service trenches with associated pits excavated to depth of approximately 0.65m below the concrete floor surface except for a pit in the south-west corner of the room which was excavated to a depth of 0.95m to locate the footings of the south and west walls. Following this the whole surface area was reduced by another 0.1m.

No natural deposits were encountered. The earliest feature exposed was the footings of the south wall (26) (the former north gable end of the Great Hall, see Fig 41). The top of these footings were exposed at a depth of 0.95m below the concrete floor surface in a pit excavated in the south-west corner of the room. They were well made and coursed, comprising even, squared slate blocks bonded with a mid orangey brown silty clay, protruding 0.1m from the wall face, creating a flat ledge. The south wall (gable end of the Great Hall) was seen clearly to pre-date the west wall (rear wall of the Convocation Hall) which was constructed up against the face of the south wall. The top of the footings of the west wall (27) of the Convocation Hall were reached at a depth of 0.6m below the concrete floor surface, significantly higher than those of the south wall (26). The later west wall footings (27) were also of very different construction. They were roughly tiered, comprising slate rubble bonded with a mid orangey brown silty clay, the lowest exposed protruding 0.26m from the wall face, creating three tiered ledges abutting the south wall.

The earliest deposit encountered (25) was located in the pit in the south-west corner of the room but post-dated the footings of the west wall (27). Layer (25) was excavated to a depth of 0.1m but not bottomed at the base of the pit but reached 0.95m below the former concrete floor level. It consisted of compact, mid to dark orangey brown sandy silty clay containing frequent pebbles and gravel. Layer (25) was overlain by (24), a compact, mid orangey brown silty sandy clay layer containing small shillet fragments and gravel with finds dating to the 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries including frequent pottery (Fig 72), bone and occasional roof slate and tile (Fig 73) and flint. This layer measured 0.18m deep and was encountered within the south-west pit and at the bases of the excavated service trenches showing it to extend across the whole room. Overlying (24) and seen to extend across the entire room was layer (3), a thick layer of floor make-up material 0.55m deep. Layer (3) comprised a mid brownish grey loose silty clay with frequent roof slate, slate rubble and occasional granite rubble. It contained finds dating between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries including frequent pottery (Fig 71), occasional glass (Fig 69), clay pipe (Fig 68) and bone and was excavated across whole of the Kitchen down to 0.4m and in the new service trenches down to base at 0.55m. Layer (3) is equivalent to layer (31) in the Undercroft (see 7.2.2). In the southwest corner of the room there was a concentration of artefacts within layer (3). Cut through the top of layer (3) was what appeared to be a stone lined drain [6] leading from roughly the centre of the room to a point in the centre of the west wall where there was a narrow, blocked opening 0.6m wide (Fig 42). Drain [6] was 1.9m long by 0.57m wide by 0.35m deep. It had vertical sides and a flat base. The sides were lined with slate rubble retaining walls (5), and that on the southern side survived more intact and to a higher level than that to the north. After the drain became disused the opening in the west wall was infilled with coursed slate rubble and the drain was filled by (4), a mid orangey brown gritty silty clay with clay lumps and occasional pottery sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century date and bone fragments. Overlying fill (4) of drain [6] was a thin spread (2) of dark greyish brown silty clay containing moderate ash, clinker, lime mortar and occasional brick fragments 0.02m deep. This extended across the entire area and lay immediately below the modern concrete floor (1) which measured 0.1m in depth.

### **7.2.2 Undercroft**

The groundworks within the Undercroft comprised the excavation of an L-shaped trench leading through the door opening from the Kitchen then turning to the east to meet the east wall at the point of a blocked door opening towards the southern end of the room. The modern concrete floor and underlying deposits were removed in this area down to a depth of 0.7m below the concrete surface.

No natural deposits were encountered. The earliest feature exposed was the footings of the cross wall (34) which were exposed at the base of the trench in the door opening between the Kitchen and Undercroft, 0.55m below the concrete floor level. These footings measured 0.7m wide and comprised slate rubble blocks bonded with earth



mortar. Elsewhere at the base of the trench a layer of small slate fragments in a mid greyish brown silty clay matrix (33) was exposed but hardly excavated. Layer (33) contained a sherd of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery and one bone fragment. This could have been part of a medieval earth floor in the undercroft. Set into the top of this layer was a row of slate rubble stones set vertically and closely together (32) which contained one sherd of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery and a what is likely to be an intrusive sherd of 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery (more likely to have come from layer (31) above). The vertically set stones (32) were visible forming a line in the section along the eastern edge of the trench from the footings of the cross wall (34) to the point at which the trench turned to the east. At this point the vertically set stones continued at right angles and followed the edge of the trench to meet the eastern wall. The vertical stones were left *in situ* forming a square structure in the southeast corner of the room measuring 1.53m by 1.53m. This structure could have formed the base or stand for a heavy item stored in this corner or alternatively the stones may form the top course of the retaining wall of a well. An 1852 specification for the Duchy of Cornwall refers to the existence of a well and this feature may have been inside the building. Unfortunately its location is not shown in the accompanying plan.

Overlying the vertically set stones (32) was a thick layer (31) of floor make-up material 0.25m deep. This comprised a mid brownish-grey loose silty clay with frequent roof slate fragments and slate rubble. It contained finds dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century through to the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> centuries including occasional pottery, roof tile and tin and was equivalent to layer (3) in the Kitchen. Overlying layer (31) was what appeared to be a lime and ash floor or bedding layer for a floor (28). This comprised dark greyish brown silt and ash with frequent lime mortar flecks and patches of *in situ* lime mortar 0.07m deep. Overlying the possible floor or bedding layer (28) was a thin levelling layer of dark greyish brown silty clay (30) 0.05m deep. This was directly overlain by the modern concrete floor (29) 0.1m deep, the same as (1) in the Kitchen.

## **8 Building description**

The detailed building description given here provides an update to the photographic survey by Berry (2008) and the study of the Masonic features by Mackenzie (2008). Both these earlier studies provide useful information regarding features which were then visible; by contrast the present study has had benefit of greater access to the building's structure, which has allowed a more detailed understanding of its development to be gained.

### **8.1 Exterior**

The more accessible east and north exterior elevations were initially recorded by rectified photography, carried out in November 2011 before the main repair contract started. Additional wall detail was superimposed upon supplied architect's measured drawings. Further detail on the elevation drawings was added when the building was made fully accessible by scaffolding and some of the later cement-based pointing removed. Smaller features such as putlog holes and small repairs were measured on at this stage. The scaffolding also enabled recording of the west elevation (largely obscured by the presence of No 1 Fore St and part only reached via a narrow alleyway between the two buildings) and the gable of the south elevation (much of this exterior wall face is covered by the neighbouring property in Quay St).

#### **8.1.1 East elevation**

(See Figs 17, 31 and 32)

This elevation faces Quay Street and is the principal façade of the building, containing its main entrance. This elevation also relates to the remainder of the former Great Hall to the south. The elevation contains considerable survival of original medieval slate masonry and there is also a series of later alterations that contributes to its character and demonstrates time-depth.

The elevation is divided into four bays separated by the prominent buttresses that are sloped at three stages. The lower walling (containing the vaulted undercroft inside) is also thicker, with a continuous sloped buttress. Levels of extant putlog (scaffolding) holes demonstrate the way in which the walling and its original openings were constructed. Although predominantly of slate masonry, dressed granite is used for original details. Quoin stones in the upper wall at the corner of Quay Street and Fore Street are all of granite. There is a short section of chamfering on this quoin, with a run-out stop above and a stepped stop below (Fig 30). This decoration does not appear elsewhere and is likely to have been put here to add an extra architectural detail to the street corner.

The southernmost bay abuts the gable of the former Great Hall; this earlier walling has been cut back (in plan) by about a metre from its original extent and the remaining part resembles a wall face. Originally a large round slate arched entrance dominated the southern bay; this arch is visible on historic illustrations and still survives inside the structure. However, a porch added during Masonic ownership (c1878) now covers the face of the arch.

The post-1878 porch has a Pentewan stone pointed arched doorway in several orders. This emulates medieval masonry and some previous authors have commented that the arch may contain masonry reused from elsewhere in the palace complex (Hext 1891; Berry 2008, 9). Examination of the stone dressing technique (and comparison with the medieval archways within the Great Hall) nevertheless suggests that the stones were most likely quarried in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The porch is decorated with a Masonic 5-point star at its apex and square-and-compass symbols at the eaves.

Above the porch and archway (and just below the eaves) are the remains of a two-light dormer window. This dormer was still extant in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and appears on 1860s/70s photographs (Fig 8 and 9). It is the remaining example of a series of four dormers (see Figs 3 and 6), which once lit the upper floor of the building.

The northern three bays correspond to the length of the principal room space and undercroft. There is no lighting to the undercroft, the only external openings being a small inserted arched doorway in the east wall and another wider original doorway in the north wall. The inserted doorway is visible in 19<sup>th</sup> century photographs and appears to have been fitted with the present arched head during Masonic ownership. The opening has been inserted through to an original medieval internal recess in the undercroft wall. The jambs of the internal recess can be seen to relate to an earlier lower (medieval) floor level. It is to be noted that the inserted external doorway does not appear on the Buck brothers engraving so must be a later feature.

The principal room space was heavily altered in the 1850s and was considerably heightened. This involved complete removal of the northern part of the upper floor and the heightened space was lit by a new pair of tall Gothic style white granite-framed windows. These windows have been inserted into the original slate masonry with patching where required and new slate arches built above. The windows have been fitted with leaded diamond and square glazing, with the central panels displaying Masonic symbols.

Historic illustrations (Figs 3 and 6) show a slit window in each bay (three in this façade). One of these granite-framed windows is extant in this wall, long since blocked. Rusted traces of iron ferramenta, leaded into the granite, are visible indicating former iron bars which are likely to have been added when the building was converted to a prison in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Above the remaining slit window is another inserted granite framed and cusp headed window. This has jambs constructed of a mix of granite and Pentewan stones, and a shallow granite sill beneath. As the 1850s Duchy conversion plan shows an interior partition wall central to the main room space, this window does not appear to be part of that design. Evidence inside the room indicates the partition was an addition and was later removed and replaced by another wall c2m further north. The window is shown in 1860s/70s photographs (Figs 8 and 9), so clearly this interior alteration had occurred before then.

### **8.1.2 North elevation**

(See Figs 19 and 28)

The north elevation of the Convocation hall presents a symmetrical façade onto the lower end of Fore Street. This elevation is framed on both sides by a pair of three stage buttresses similar to those on the east elevation. At the centre of the elevation is a line of openings and architectural features, most of which relate to the original floor levels inside the building. Lines of infilled putlog (early scaffolding) holes can be seen in the walling to either side of the openings.

From bottom to top, the first opening is a wide doorway supporting heavy wooden arched double doors on long iron hinges. Although the present doors and stone arch above relate to the Masonic period of use, earlier photos show a square-headed doorway with lintelled structure (compare Figs 9 and 10). The jambs of the doorway appear to be original to the building, although there have been some patch repairs, most likely added in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. The evidence suggests that this doorway was the only access to the undercroft in the medieval period.

Above the double doorway is a large rectangular patch of infill masonry, headed by an *in situ* granite lintel. Evidence from inside the building reveals that this is an infilled medieval window, probably originally of two lights. The window space was converted and deepened to create a fireplace in the 1850s. This means that the patch of masonry visible externally is the back of the hearth (down to the interior floor level), constructed as a thinner section of wall.

A few course of slate masonry above the lintel just described is a chamfered granite frame and square panel containing the Duchy coat-of-arms (Figs 28 and 29). The granite frame is apparently undisturbed within the medieval masonry, implying that it is

original to the construction of the building. The panel design is deeply carved, probably from a form of sandstone. Although the panel is worn, traces of red paint are still visible on the stone. The design includes the 15 bezants on a central shield with a rampant lion at each side. Another lion stands above the shield and there are Duchy plumes in the upper two corners. The paint traces are likely to be original and indicate that originally the panel would have been decorated with polychrome.

It is uncertain whether the panel is an original feature of the building. As Parliamentary forces occupied Lostwithiel during the Civil War and various buildings were ransacked at this time, it appears very unlikely that such an obvious symbol of the Crown would have survived the damage. On this hypothesis, the panel is more likely to be a replacement, installed sometime after the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1668.

Above the frame and panel are the sill, lintel and right-hand jambstone of a blocked two-light window. These elements are apparently undisturbed in the original masonry. The outline of the missing left hand jambstone can also be traced in the masonry. The window space itself has been blocked with stone masonry including a reused dressed piece. This alteration relates to construction of a short stubby chimneystack above, itself incorporating reused stone.

This window would have originally lit an upper floor, a room built partly within the roof space. The Buck brothers print made in 1734 (Fig 3) shows a gabled roofline at this end, the gable having a raked coping with a dressed kneeler stone at the eave. The present roof is a half hip, apparently altered c1852, at the same time as addition of the chimney stack. Inside the building there are traces in the upper wall where a flue has been cut in and the wall facing subsequently rebuilt.

### **8.1.3 West elevation**

(See Fig 18)

The west elevation is largely hidden in an alleyway, being almost abutted by a house (No 1 Fore Street). The lack of a window at the northern end of this elevation indicates that this side was always close to neighbouring buildings.

Aside from a single example at the north end, there are also no other buttresses. As on the east wall the level of the vault of the undercroft is built with a thicker wall than higher up, and this acts as an abutment for the vault within. Instead of buttresses, this elevation has two elements which break forward slightly, one being the base of the lateral projecting chimney serving the first floor (Fig 34), and another shorter projecting feature to the north which does not reach higher than the undercroft level.

There are two original granite framed slit windows in this wall, one on each side of the chimney buttress. Like the surviving example on the east wall, both former windows in the west wall are blocked and their frames have evidence of iron ferramenta (Fig 34).

At the south end of the elevation the walling breaks forward; this is associated with the original raised access area between the two first floor halls. At the extreme south end the wall of the extension can be clearly seen to abut the earlier gable of the Great Hall.

There has also been at least a metre of build up of material over the medieval ground surface. Within the base of the southern end of the wall is a narrow recessed area of masonry. Although this feature superficially resembles a tall doorway it has no lintel and is in fact a built recess, with sloped masonry above. It has been pierced at lower level to create a drain, and the area subsequently patched with crude brickwork. It is likely that the drain opening relates to a short length of stone-sided drain [6] found beneath the floor inside.

Higher up in the wall at this end is a three-light window fitted with Masonic glazing. This is a clear insertion to the original slate masonry and is also composed of window fragments presumably saved from earlier structures, the lintel originally part of a two-light window. Although unproven it is likely that this window was installed here during

the Masonic conversion after 1878. Earlier there had been a mullioned window in a blocking of the original entrance archway in the east wall. Loss of a window on this side would have necessitated construction of another to light the antechamber. It appears likely therefore that the window was simply moved from the east wall to the west. The upper part of the walling in this section abuts both the Great Hall gable and the Convocation Hall; this heightening is associated with the 1620s re-roofing. A large river worn stone bearing a painted(?) pattern has been incorporated into the top of the wall (Fig 70).

#### **8.1.4 South elevation/Great Hall gable**

(See Fig 19)

This comprises the surviving masonry of the Great Hall's northern gable end. A neighbouring building (9 Quay Street) now hides much of the external side of this elevation, and only the apex of the gable is now visible. This part upper contains the reveal of a rose window.

The gable has been truncated at its sides and has also been reduced in height. The original quoins of the Great Hall are likely to have had dressed masonry but any trace of this has been robbed away at each corner. The height of the gable has also been significantly reduced, to the extent that the dressed masonry of the rose window now survives just beneath the current roofline.

The likely date of this truncation is probably associated with construction of the 'new prison' c1755. The 'new prison' was built within the ruins of the Great Hall and creation of its shallow forecourt involved demolition of the north east wall of the Great Hall. It seems likely that the quoin/gable was cut back at the same time. An illustration of the site in 1844 shows a simplified roofline of the northern extension (Fig 6), indicating that the gable of the Great Hall had been reduced before then. It is therefore suggested that all these modifications are associated with the development and use of the prison.

In 1844 there was a single-storey lean-to building against the southern side of the gable (see Fig 6). This part was adapted to become the entrance and stairway into the Duchy offices from the 1850s. The entrance into the offices through the gable wall was an adaptation of a medieval opening on the first floor (most likely a doorway, as illustrations indicate the Great Hall was a first floor hall). In the late 1870s when the building was sold to the Freemasons this opening was blocked up, and in the 20<sup>th</sup> century the recess (now within the anteroom) was screened off to become a lavatory.

The reveal of the rose window can be seen clearly in mid 19<sup>th</sup> century photographs of the building (see Fig 8). The reveal is shown infilled with slate masonry and with a small stone framed window incorporated in the blocking. This window was replaced by a slightly larger wooden framed example in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. The remains of the medieval rose window itself can be seen from inside the building (see section 8.3.3 and Figs 56-58).

## **8.2 Roof**

The present roof structure covers the length of the Convocation Hall and extends southwards over the former Great Hall gable. The roof structure demonstrates phasing in that timbers have been renewed and re-assembled, as well as the slate covering replaced.

The medieval roof structure has disappeared and the only possible remaining trace of the medieval roof are sockets for earlier square-set purlins, visible on the east side of the cross wall.

The present roof comprises ten surviving A-frame trusses, eight of which are situated north of the cross wall (shown 1-8 on Fig 16). Threaded purlins link the pair of trusses each side of the cross wall (Fig 61), whilst other former threaded purlins have been cut through and replaced by newer purlins added on the backs of the main timbers. Carpenters' marks are visible on some trusses (Fig 64).

Tree-ring analysis of the principal roof trusses has revealed felling dates of the timbers in the early 1620s (Tyers 2010).

Addition of this 17<sup>th</sup> century roof implies several alterations to the buildings. Walling above the main entrance and to the rear of the courtyard was raised to accommodate the new roof. The gable of the Great Hall was reduced in height, to suit the new roofline. Truncation of the gable can clearly be seen above the masonry of its rose window.

Historic illustrations of the Duchy Palace (see Figs 3 and 6) show four dormer windows in the eastern roof slope. The southernmost dormer survived until c1878 and the sill of this window is still extant within the walling (Fig 17). All others to the north have been removed due to insertion of larger windows and rebuilding of the wall-plate. It is likely that the roof was designed to incorporate all four dormers within its bay structure. It is also possible that there were once further dormers in the west slope but historical views do not show this side of the building and no evidence remains in the walling to substantiate this.

At the north end of the roof is a half hip, this has been constructed in softwood and is clearly considerably later than the truss structure. The alteration to include the hipped roof is coeval with the addition of a short chimney stack at this end.

Inclusion of the large gothic windows in the east wall together with intervention in the masonry elsewhere indicates that there was a complete reconstruction of the wall plates at the time of the Duchy's conversion of the building in the 1850s. The present spacing of the trusses (which would not allow dormers to be accommodated), combined with evidence that their threaded purlins have largely been removed, indicates that whole of the roof structure north of the chimney wall has been reassembled, most likely accommodating the hipped end at the same time.

## **8.3 Interior**

### **8.3.1 Undercroft**

The stone vaulted undercroft was originally accessed separately to the remainder of the building via a doorway in the north wall. Excavation has revealed that an original arched opening to a recess survives in the east wall possibly an original cupboard, garderobe or stair access.

The original floor level was at least c500mm lower than at present, as indicated by the threshold level of the partially blocked opening (see Fig 39). An original door opening in the cross-wall connecting the two vaulted areas has also been raised to suit the present floor level. Finds confirm that the infill layers are post-medieval in date.

The lime plaster over the slate vault within the larger room space has various graffiti including 18<sup>th</sup> century initials and dates on the east side (Fig 43) and Second World War graffiti on the west side. The mortar also has a large number of finger indents, so these marks were applied while the mortar was still soft.

### **8.3.2 Principal floor**

The main floor is divided into two unequal spaces by the cross wall, the south room (a former unroofed courtyard) being an anteroom and the principal room space to the north (Fig 14).

Three slit windows in the east (front) wall, two in the west originally lit the principal room. Another slit window (now blocked) located near the southeast corner in the cross wall overlooked the access to the raised courtyard to the south. Lack of a window at the northwest corner hints at presence of neighbouring structures on Fore Street at the time this building was constructed. A larger (two-light) window was also provided in the northern gable wall. A lateral fireplace in the west wall provided heating.

A surviving horizontal ledge in the side walls at the northern end of the room plus the presence of a window set high up in each of the gables indicates removal of an upper

floor. Lack of evidence elsewhere suggests an internal stairway from the main room was provided.

The reveal of the southernmost slit window in the west wall was infilled with triangular shaped granite blocks. The blocking stones were leaded in and they bear evidence of tare-and-feather granite splitting, indicating that they were inserted during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. As these stones were leaded in this hints at more than a casual blocking, and is likely to date to the use of the building as a prison before 1852. Other evidence of use that relates to this time include brick patching in the worn floor to in front of the north window. A graffito (painted onto lime-wash sealed by the 19<sup>th</sup> century lime plaster finish) reads 'Stubbs... S...5½'. It is not known who Stubbs was, but it seems likely he or she was a prisoner or gaoler (see Figs 22 and 51).

From the 1850s the principal room was radically changed. The original upper floor was removed at this time to create a much more lofty and imposing space. Two large granite framed gothic style windows were added in the east wall to provide lighting, while all the remaining earlier slit windows were blocked up and plastered over. The larger northern gable window was heavily modified and deepened to become a fireplace, with a flue cut into the masonry above (Figs 22 and 45).

The 1850s plan for the Duchy's office conversion (Fig 7) shows a partition wall dividing the room into approximately equal halves. Surviving structural evidence (anomalies in the lath and plaster ceiling) indicates this partition was constructed, but there was a later change of plan as another partition was inserted slightly further north. This alteration is associated with insertion of a high level window central to the east wall.

Another change that occurred in the 1850s was the construction of a wooden floor over the medieval stone vault. Reused timbers, including roof purlins, were laid as joists in the anteroom and principal room. Within the anteroom the lines of timber were inserted into the earlier external, cobbled, courtyard floor (see Figs 14 and 54). The joists were then covered with timber planks, creating a new floor c100mm (4ins) above the older surfaces.

The floor was again repaired in the later 1874 by the new owner Mr Mark Thomas. A short tongue-and-groove floorboard (Fig 65) bears a graffito of his name and the date:

1874  
4 2 30  
Mr Mak ...  
2  
Mr Marke Thomas  
Town Quay  
3(?) 4 Lostwithiel  
Cornwall  
England

This board has now been retained with the other project artefacts and is illustrated in this report as Fig 65.

### **8.3.3 Upper floor**

Historic illustrations show that four dormer windows illuminated the upper floor before the 1850s (Fig 3). Since the Duchy conversion in 1852, the upper floor to the north of the chimney wall was completely removed, leaving only a shallow loft space. The upper floor now only survives as a small room south of the cross wall. This room was largely refitted after 1878 with incorporation of a cast-iron and tiled fireplace, tongue and groove flooring and a new stairs and balustrade (Fig 15).

The main feature of this room is the frame of the medieval rose window, which was originally part of the Great Hall. Like other surviving features in the Great Hall, the voussoirs surrounding the former window are of dressed Pentewan stone. The tracery of the rose window has long since disappeared (probably from the 18<sup>th</sup> century or earlier), and the window frame has since been infilled with slate masonry, incorporating a small wooden window frame (Fig 56) which appears to have been inserted here during the Masonic ownership. Insertion of the wooden window has removed medieval voussoirs in the base of the window frame and other 19<sup>th</sup> century disturbance on the lower western side of the window has also removed part of the medieval window frame. With the completion of renovation works the surviving part of the stone window frame is now prominently displayed inside the building (Fig 58).

## **9 Relative chronology and dating evidence**

Examination of the upstanding historic fabric of the structure (combined with examination of available historical illustrations) has produced a sequence of phases of building, alteration and use. These are summarised below.

### **9.1 Period 1: Late 13<sup>th</sup> century**

The gable wall of the Great Hall is abutted by and therefore structurally earlier than the Convocation Hall. Although this study has not been centred on the Great Hall, the character of its masonry (slate rubble walls with Pentewan stone jambs and quoins, together with the shapes of its openings) strongly hints at its architectural and historical associations with Restormel Castle. The Great Hall is therefore most likely to be late 13<sup>th</sup> century, built in the time of Earl Edmund.

### **9.2 Period 2: 14<sup>th</sup> century - 1620**

Partial excavation of footings during the watching brief has clearly shown that the Convocation Hall is a later extension, added to the north gable end of the Great Hall (see section 7.2). A possible original earth floor or construction layer (33) associated with the building was encountered during the watching brief which contained a single sherd of 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

It is likely that the Convocation Hall is 14<sup>th</sup> century, most likely associated with the creation of the Dukedom in 1338. It is interesting to note that all original openings within this part of the Duchy Palace complex have granite details. The granite frame surrounding the Duchy coat-of-arms in the north wall is coeval with the walling and is therefore a medieval feature. The decorative panel itself is more likely to be a later replacement (see Period 3 below).

During the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century the ground floor level in the building was raised, probably as a reaction to previous flooding.

Although there is no strong surviving evidence of the form of the medieval roof, it is likely from the available documentary references and watching brief evidence that it was slate covered and had crested roof tiles.

### **9.3 Period 3: 1620 - 1755**

17<sup>th</sup> century features include:

- Re-roofing to include the Convocation Hall and the previously unroofed courtyard between it and the Great Hall.
- Blocking of rose window and windows in cross wall and insertion of dormer windows above east wall.
- Insertion of chimney and fireplace in cross wall.



Tree-ring analysis of the roof trusses of the Convocation Hall indicate felling dates in the 1620s. It seems likely that part of the Convocation Hall was used as the new prison from this date since on the later 1755 plan it is marked as 'The Old Prison'.

The coat-of-arms panel in the north wall was clearly old and partially worn when photographed in the 1860s. Although not proven it seems that this panel is not medieval; it appears much more likely that an original panel was defaced or destroyed while Parliamentary forces occupied the town during the Civil War campaigns. The panel is likely to have been replaced after the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1668.

#### **9.4 Period 4: 1755 - 1852**

The following features and alterations are likely to belong to this time and/or are associated with the prison use:

- Construction of the 1755 'new prison' within the ruins of the former Great Hall involved the removal of part of the Great Hall's east wall. It is likely that the gable of the Great Hall was also trimmed back on the east side, and the height of the gable lowered over the rose window.
- The floor level in the undercroft was raised again. Undercroft doorways were also altered to suit the new level.
- Granite pillars form part of structure in rear yard to west. These pre-date the present house in Fore Street and appear to relate to the Duchy palace.
- Doorway with brick-arched top cut through gable wall of Great Hall at undercroft level.
- Blocking of slit windows in main room with granite blocks bearing tare-and-feather quarrying marks. These stones were also retained in place using leaded-in ironwork, strongly suggesting these are also associated with use as a prison. Tare-and-feather splitting would indicate a date after 1800.
- Blocking of original arched entrance way (and window inserted).
- Door opening inserted in east wall through to existing recess in undercroft.
- Although the Stubbs graffiti cannot be securely dated it is clearly painted onto the lime-washed masonry in the principal room and therefore pre-dates the 1850s interior plaster.
- Wear pattern and brickwork repairs in the northern end of the principal room on the first floor. This is likely to relate to congregation of people around the single large window which once existed in the north wall. The repaired floor was covered over with timber after 1850 and a fireplace built here.

#### **9.5 Period 5: 1852 - 1878**

The following works were carried out when the Duchy county office was created:

- Two granite gothic windows inserted in the east wall
- Removal of upper floor and three associated dormer windows at N end
- Partial removal of facing masonry in the side walls of the principal room on the first floor (room slightly widened)
- New fireplace installed within the original lateral chimney stack on the first floor
- Blocking of original windows at N end and insertion of additional fireplace, flue and chimney stack
- Rebuild of wall plates, conversion of N end of roof to become a hip. Presumably Duchy plume of feathers finial moved from gable to new hip end. Removal of three northern dormer windows
- Central partition wall inserted in the main first floor room

Later on, but before the 1870s when the building was photographed some further works had occurred:

- Removal of central partition in the main first floor room and insertion of small granite framed window at high level in east wall. New partition installed further north

Probably at the close of the Duchy use:

- Dump of later 19<sup>th</sup> century stoneware ink bottles in garden to west (Figs 66 and 67)
- Repair of wooden floor close to the windows in the principal room (dated 1874; see Fig 65)

## **9.6 Period 6: 1878 - c1900**

A considerable refurbishment took place after 1878 to convert the building to a Masonic Lodge:

- Addition of new entrance porch
- Shallow arch added to basement double doorway at north end
- Rebuild of inserted doorway into basement in east wall
- Repairs to external buttresses and repointing of walls
- Mullioned window in old entrance arch moved to rear wall of ante room. Removal of remaining dormer and roof re-slatted
- Present arrangement of stairways to upper floor and basement inserted
- Present fireplace added to upper floor room
- Wooden window cut through frame of former rose window
- Masonic glazing emblems added to windows
- Masonic peephole added to door
- Masonic frieze on upper walls and ceiling, including 'all-seeing eye' at north end
- Addition of niche in east wall

## **9.7 Period 7: c1900 to present day**

The following alterations relate to a simplification of the Masonic decorative scheme and the addition of 20<sup>th</sup> century facilities:

- Creation of a dais at the north end of the principal room
- Use of the undercroft during Second World War as an air-raid shelter. A red painted stripe on the wall, plus graffiti are likely to date to this time
- Papering over of earlier Masonic frieze
- Addition of flush toilet (and associated plumbing) adjoining anteroom
- Addition of electrical wiring and lighting
- Conversion of the undercroft to become a dining area and kitchen as part of the Masonic Lodge

# **10 Discussion**

The Written Scheme of Investigation set out the following research questions to guide the study.

- What was the likely original form of the Convocation Hall roof structure?

- Is the hipped roof at the north end a conversion from an original gable and, if so, when was this alteration made? And why might this have been done?
- Is there any surviving physical evidence of dormer windows in the Convocation Hall roof structure or wall plate?
- The rose window appears to have belonged to the Great Hall rather than the Convocation Hall and originally been external. How did these two buildings relate to one another?
- How did the internal partition (of the main floor space) shown on the Duchy proposal plan relate to the high level window in the E wall?
- What was the likely original floor structure of the main room? (i.e. how did the vault beneath relate to the floor?)
- What is the nature of the sub-floor/foundations beneath the present concrete floor of the basement?
- Is there any evidence to indicate how the Convocation Hall used after the Civil War (i.e. in the later 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries?)

All of these points have been addressed within the investigation.

### **10.1 Below ground remains**

Work carried out as part of the watching brief has identified the Convocation Hall as a 14<sup>th</sup> century northern extension to the Great Hall. It has also shown that original ground levels both inside and outside were significantly lower when the building was first constructed. The original floor surface inside is likely to have been located at approximately 0.5m below the present floor, and at this lower level a possible original earth floor (33) was encountered during the watching brief which contained a sherd of 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Set into the top of this possible floor layer (33), a stone-built structure was identified in the south-east corner of the main undercroft room. Only the edges of this square structure (32) were exposed in the trench sections so its function is unclear but it may have formed the base for a heavy object stored in this corner or could be the top course of a well. Within the kitchen and undercroft at least two phases of dumped material were identified which had been used to raise the floor level, presumably to avoid flooding. The earlier of these dumped layers (24) appears to date 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century whilst the later layers (3) and (31) probably date to the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century. A later stone-sided drain [6] was also identified leading from the centre of the floor in the kitchen and out through an inserted (now blocked) opening in the west wall. This drain is likely to relate to the later use of the building as a prison.

Prior to the watching brief in the rear yard to the west of the Convocation Hall three massive granite pillars (up to 3m long) were moved. Two of these pillars had been set vertically in the ground a few metres from the west wall of the building (Miles Boswijk pers comm.). None of the pillars showed any signs of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century quarry drill marks and they are likely to be much earlier in date. They were probably used to support the roof of an open fronted/sided building in this area and must pre-date or be contemporary with No 1 Fore Street. It seems likely that they are the remains of a structure associated with the Duchy Palace.

### **10.2 Building status and functions**

When the northern extension was first constructed in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the narrow slit windows lighting the principal room, its rather poorly proportioned room spaces with low ceilings, as well as the strongly built undercroft indicate that security was a primary function of this building. The Buck brothers engraving (1734) shows a contrast between this building and the ruins of the adjacent Great Hall, which had larger spaces and higher status windows on its principal floor. It is therefore suggested that the extension was constructed to house the Exchequer and strong room. As the first floor was heated with a lateral fireplace it seems likely that the Exchequer was located here.

The functions of the palace complex also need to be considered in relation to the development of Restormel Castle, the core of the lord's residential estate just north of the town boundary. It seems likely that the palace complex provided a useful storage site on the head of the navigable part of the Fowey, for goods being imported and transferred to the castle. The undercroft may have played an important part in this.

The status of this building appears to have changed dramatically after the Great Hall became ruinous in the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century, as functions that had previously occurred in the Great Hall were now transferred to it. It is at this stage that the name 'Convocation Hall' appears to have been applied.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century a large part of the building was in use as a prison, certainly including the undercroft and most likely also the principal floor. The development of the 'new prison', constructed within the ruins of the Great Hall and shown on a 1755 plan, is likely to have operated in conjunction with additional prison space within the northern extension.

Use of the Convocation Hall as a prison and session hall appears to have lasted until the Duchy takeover of the building in the 1850s. At this point the first floor of the building was converted for use as administrative offices. This was a relatively short phase of its history (lasting only 21 years). It nevertheless had an important impact on the subsequent appearance and uses of the building as the upper floor was largely removed (except for a part to the south of the cross wall) and the first floor principal room made much grander with a taller ceiling height, large windows added to the east side and another fireplace inserted. The exterior appearance also changed with the conversion from a gable roof to a hip at the north end.

### **10.3 Access**

Access to the principal (first) floor of the extension appears to have been by a flight of steps through the main external archway at the south end. The location of these steps would account for the offset nature of the vaults beneath. The steps appear to have accessed a small, raised, unroofed courtyard, with the main door to the building on the right hand (north) side. As this area was open, daylight would have reached the rose window (in the north gable of the Great Hall), and also to the south gable window and stair window of the extension.

Although less certain, this interpretation of the access would have also allowed passage into the north end of the Great Hall, which was also designed as a first floor hall.

An aspect of the building that remains a puzzle is how the original upper floor was accessed. There is no evidence of an (originally external) stairway with access through the cross wall so it appears likely that stairs were internal. The most likely position for stairs inside the present principal room is likely to be at the south east corner of the room. Here the base of the stairs may have benefited from additional light from the slit window in the cross wall.

### **10.4 The roof**

The original medieval roof structure has entirely disappeared and its form can only be conjectured. It is likely that it was, like the roofs at Restormel Castle, based upon an arched braced design. There are hints of purlin sockets from the early roof surviving on the cross wall. Documentary sources and evidence from the watching brief suggest that the original roof was slate covered and had crested roof tiles.

The building still retains its early post-medieval roof (dated to c1620 by dendrochronology, see Tyers 2010). It appears to have been at this time that the roof was first constructed over the formerly open entrance courtyard. After construction of the new roof, the rose window in the northern gable of the Great Hall along with the windows in the extension cross wall were blocked in and dormers windows on the east side lit the second floor rooms. It seems possible that there were also dormers facing the west side but no evidence, either from historic illustrations or surviving structures,

has been found to support this. Fragments of post-medieval ridge tiles were recovered during the watching brief, so this suggests the building had decorated ridge tiles at this stage.

## **11 Significance**

Although it has been considerably adapted over the centuries the northern extension 'Convocation Hall' is the most complete part of the medieval complex. The watching brief carried out during the current phase of work has proved that little below-ground disturbance has occurred and that intact stratigraphy survives to a significant depth and is well preserved.

The building retains its medieval walling almost to roof height. Although the original medieval roof has been completely replaced, the building has an early post-medieval roof structure that has been successfully tree-ring dated to the 1620s. The addition of this roof that extended over a former open space and linked to the gable of the adjacent Great Hall is an interesting adaptation.

Later rebuilds and alterations have added considerably to the building's interest, perhaps the most significant being the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century alterations to the main room, which involved removal of the earlier upper (second) floor. The documented period of use as a post-medieval prison (for almost a century) has also had considerable impact.

In Cornish terms (and also nationally) the site is also a very rare survival of a medieval high status secular building that has direct links with the Crown. The complex's early function as a Stannary indicates its importance within the medieval administration of the mineral industry and the Cornish economy. The siting of the complex fronting the river in Lostwithiel also shows the importance of Lostwithiel as a port serving the earls' and dukes' seat at Restormel Castle and its wider hinterland.

## **12 Recommendations**

It is recommended that further stages of assessment, analysis and publication are undertaken. The outline for this work would include the following:

- Production of an updated project design for analysis and publication
- Liaise with specialists to arrange analysis and reporting.
- Send off finds and samples to appropriate specialists.
- Publish the results in a relevant journal (eg, *Cornish Archaeology*).

A synthesis of the results from the fieldwork together with those from specialist analyses should be incorporated into a final publication.

The study has shown that there is good survival of archaeological deposits both within and outside the Duchy Palace complex. It is therefore also recommended that prior to any future work involving ground disturbance the affected area should be excavated by qualified archaeologists first so that clear records of deposits can be made under controlled conditions. Similarly building works should always be preceded by targeted investigation, and monitoring of fabric carried out when earlier material is likely to be temporarily exposed or impacted upon..

It should be noted that the only early plaster to survive in the building is located on the north side of the cross wall in the roof space. Attention should be paid to preserving this plasterwork *in situ*.

## **13 Conclusions**

This study of part of the former Duchy Palace complex has provided a rare and invaluable opportunity to investigate the structure and historic development of the site in considerable detail. Some questions, such as how the upper floor was accessed, still remain unanswered.

## **14 References**

### **14.1 Primary sources**

- Ordnance Survey, c 1880. *25 Inch Map* First Edition (licensed digital copy at HE)
- Ordnance Survey, c 1907. *25 Inch Map* Second Edition (licensed digital copy at HE)
- Ordnance Survey, 2012. *Mastermap Digital Mapping*
- c1734 Buck Brothers engraving of the Duchy Palace
- 1755 plan (Pounds 1979)
- 1844 drawing (kindly supplied by Lostwithiel Museum)
- 1852 proposal plan for the first floor of the Convocation Hall (the Duchy of Cornwall Archive)
- Photograph of the Convocation Hall looking north-east taken in 1860s/1870s
- Photograph of the Convocation Hall looking south-west taken in 1860s/1870s (Source: RIC Lostn005)
- Photograph of the Convocation Hall looking south-west taken in 1891 after the remodelling by the Freemasons (Francis Frith FF29849)

### **14.2 Publications**

- Berry, E, 2008. *Convocation Hall (Duchy Palace), Lostwithiel, Historic Building Report* Unpublished report
- Dunkley, DJ, 1987. *Old Duchy Palace, Lostwithiel or Old Shire Hall now Restormel Lodge Building No. 856* paper
- Gossip, J, (forthcoming). *On the Waterfront, Excavations at Quay Street, Lostwithiel Cornish Archaeol*
- Hext, F M, 1891. *Memories of Lostwithiel*
- MacKenzie, C, 2008. *Duchy Palace, Lostwithiel, Masonic Interventions Report* Unpublished report
- Purcell Miller Tritton, 2011. *Duchy Palace, Lostwithiel, Design and access statement* unpublished report
- Pounds, N.J.G., 1979. 'The Duchy Palace at Lostwithiel, Cornwall' *The Archaeological Journal* Vol. 136 p. 203-17
- Tyers, I., 2010. *Old Duchy Palace, Lostwithiel, Cornwall: Dendrochronological Analysis of Oak Timbers* (English Heritage Research Department report no. 1)
- Whitley, H.M., 1912-13. 'The Great Coinage Hall of Lostwithiel' *Devon and Cornwall notes and queries* Vol. 7 p. 225-32

### **14.3 Websites**

- <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/> English Heritage's online database of Sites and Monuments Records, and Listed Buildings (see entry in Appendix 2)
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lostwithiel\\_Stannary\\_Palace](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lostwithiel_Stannary_Palace)

<http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=8992>

<http://www.princes-regeneration.org/projects-england.php?id=21>

## **15 Project archive**

The HE project number is **146088**

The project's documentary, photographic and drawn archive is housed at the offices of Historic Environment, Cornwall 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.
2. Field plans and copies of historic maps stored in an A2-size plastic envelope (GRE777).
3. Black and white photographs archived under the following index numbers: GBP 2240
4. Digital photographs stored in the directory R:\Historic Environment (Images)\SITES.I-L\Lostwithiel Duchy Palace
5. Electronic drawings stored in the directory R:\Historic Environment (CAD)\CAD Archive\Sites L\Lostwithiel Duchy Palace
6. English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-149841

This report text is held in digital form as: G:\TWE\Waste & Env\Strat Waste & Land\Historic Environment\Projects\Sites\Sites L\Lostwithiel Duchy Palace 2011098\Report\Duchy Palace HBR and WB report 2012R060.doc

Artefacts retrieved during the project are to be stored by arrangement with the Royal Cornwall Museum, River Street, Truro. The site code is DP12



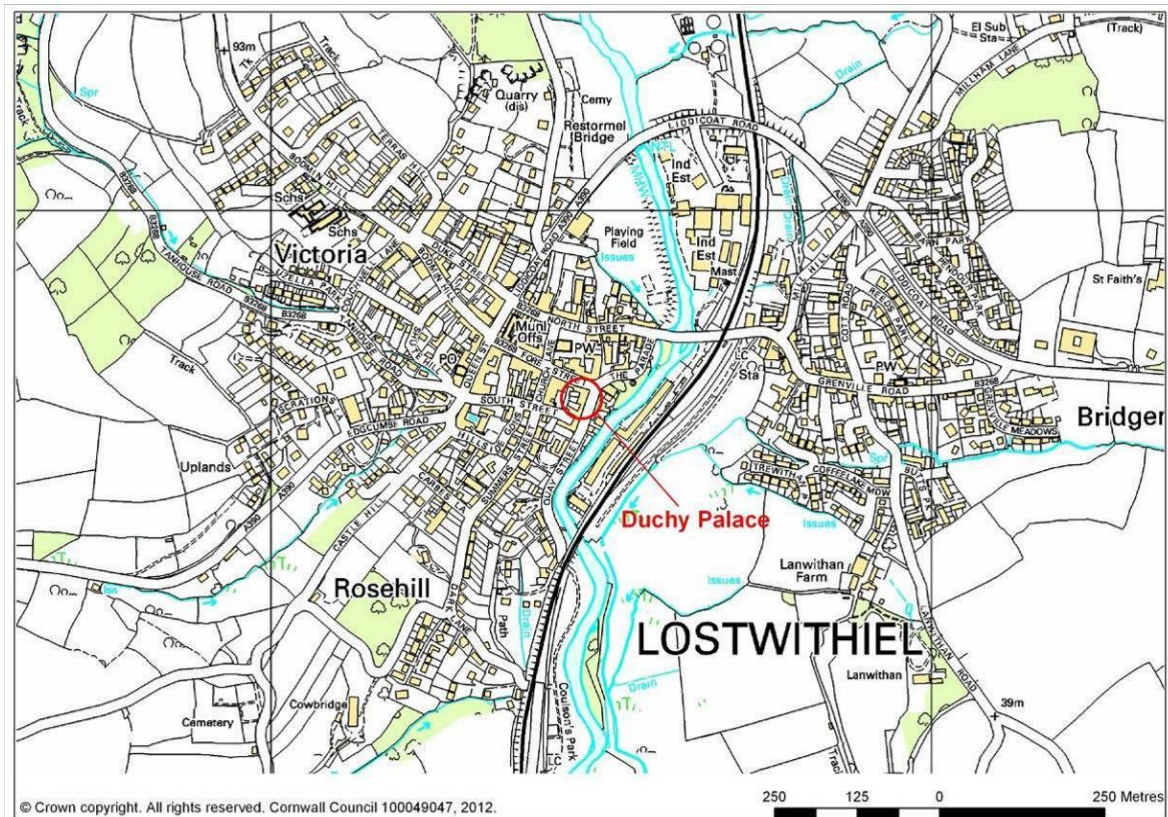


Fig 1 Location map

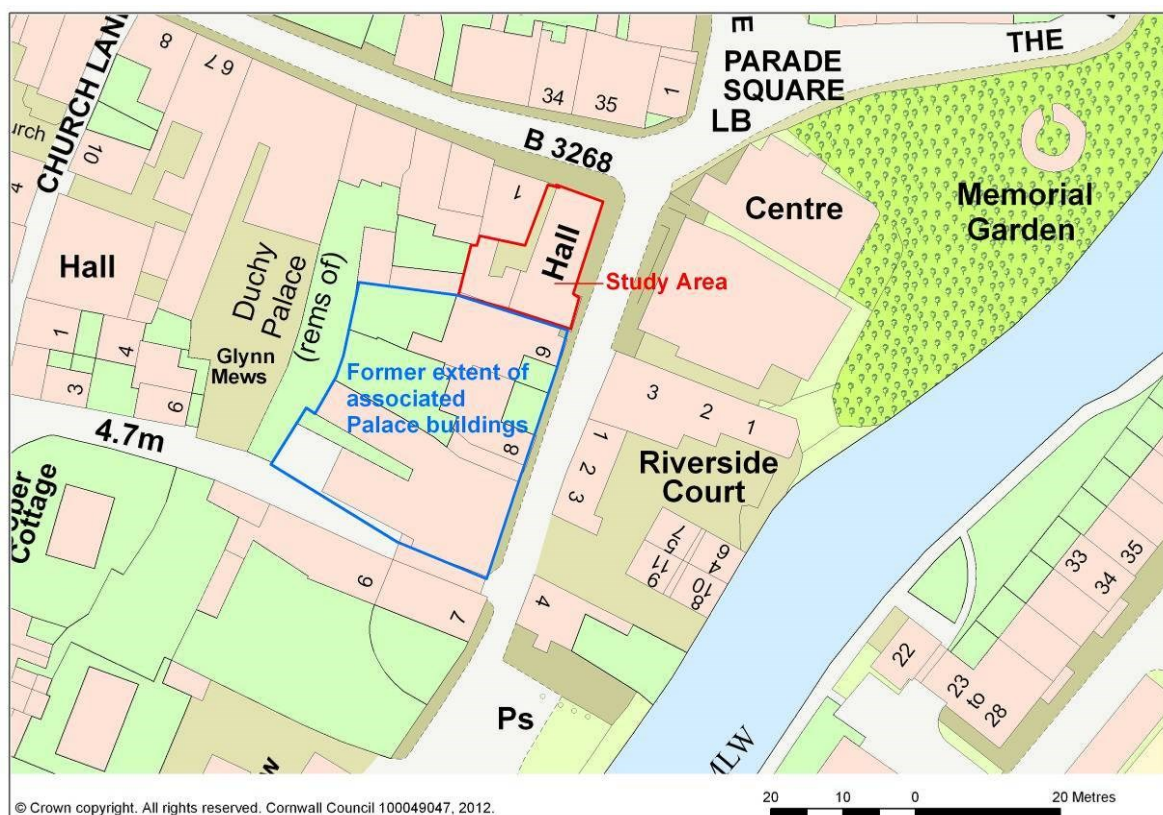
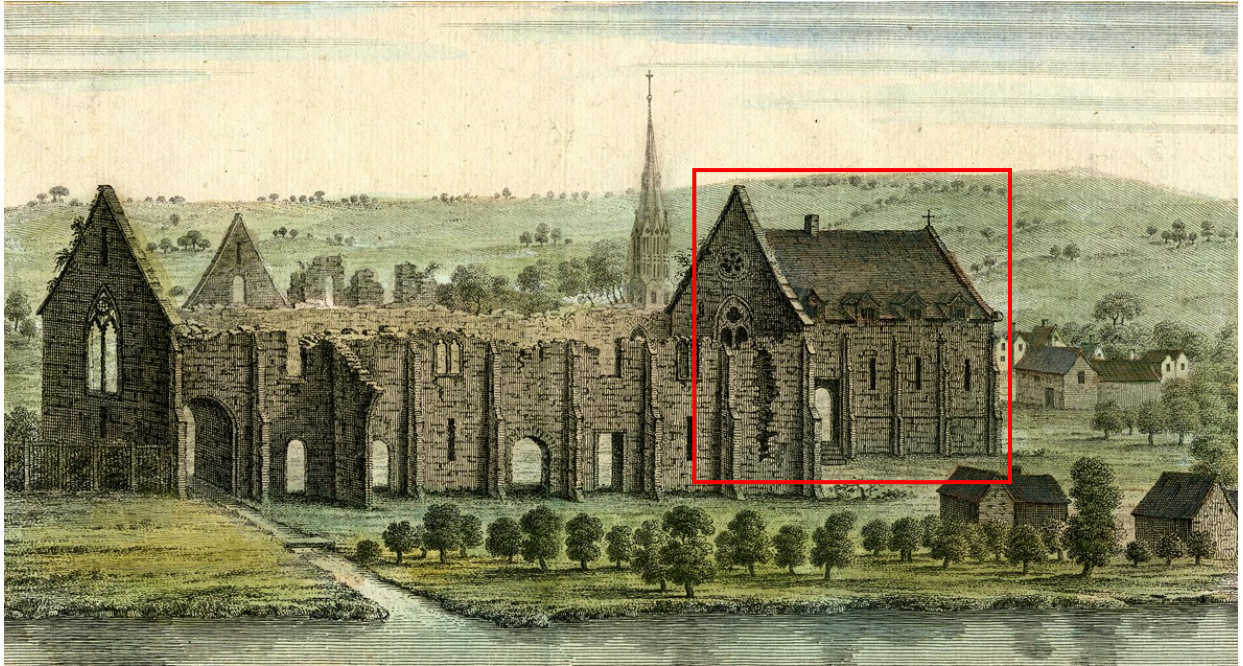


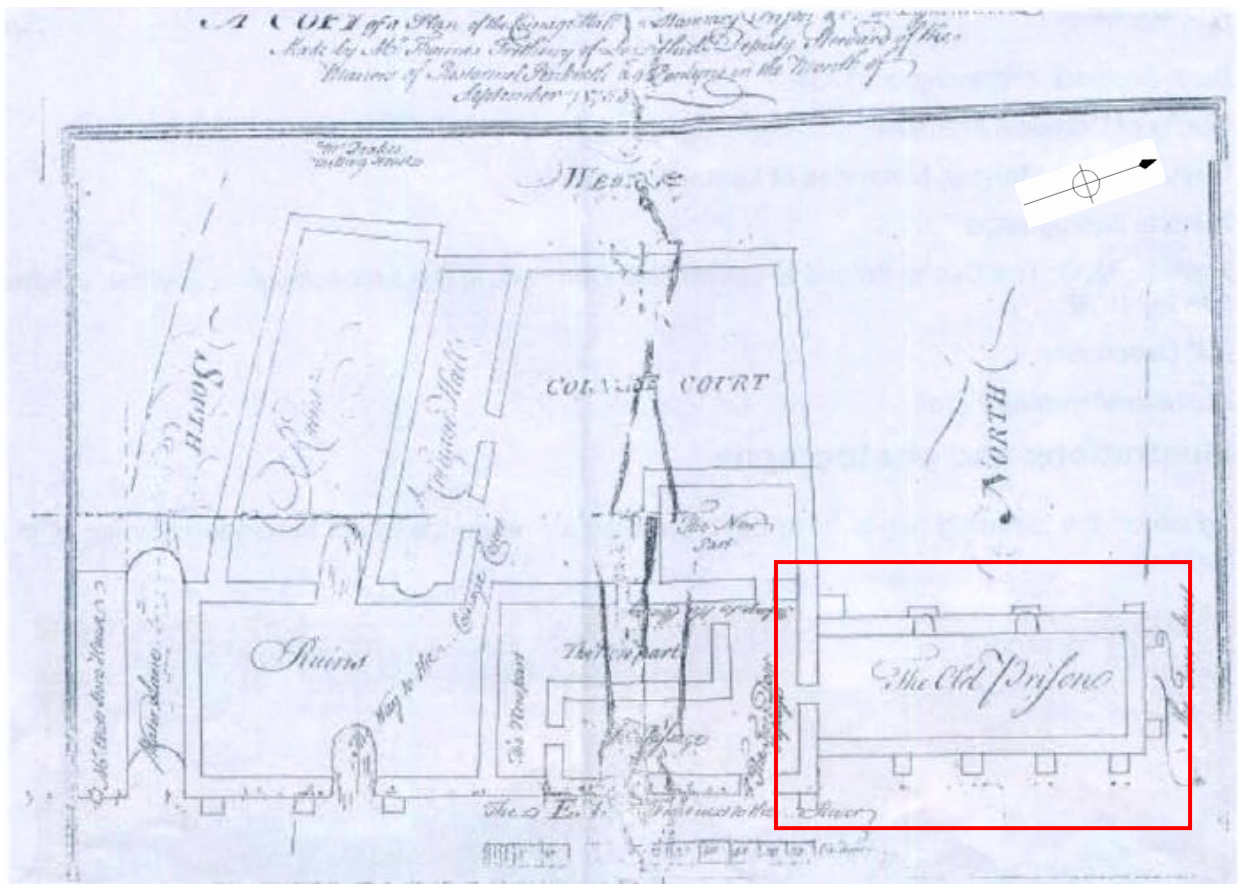
Fig 2 Study area 2011





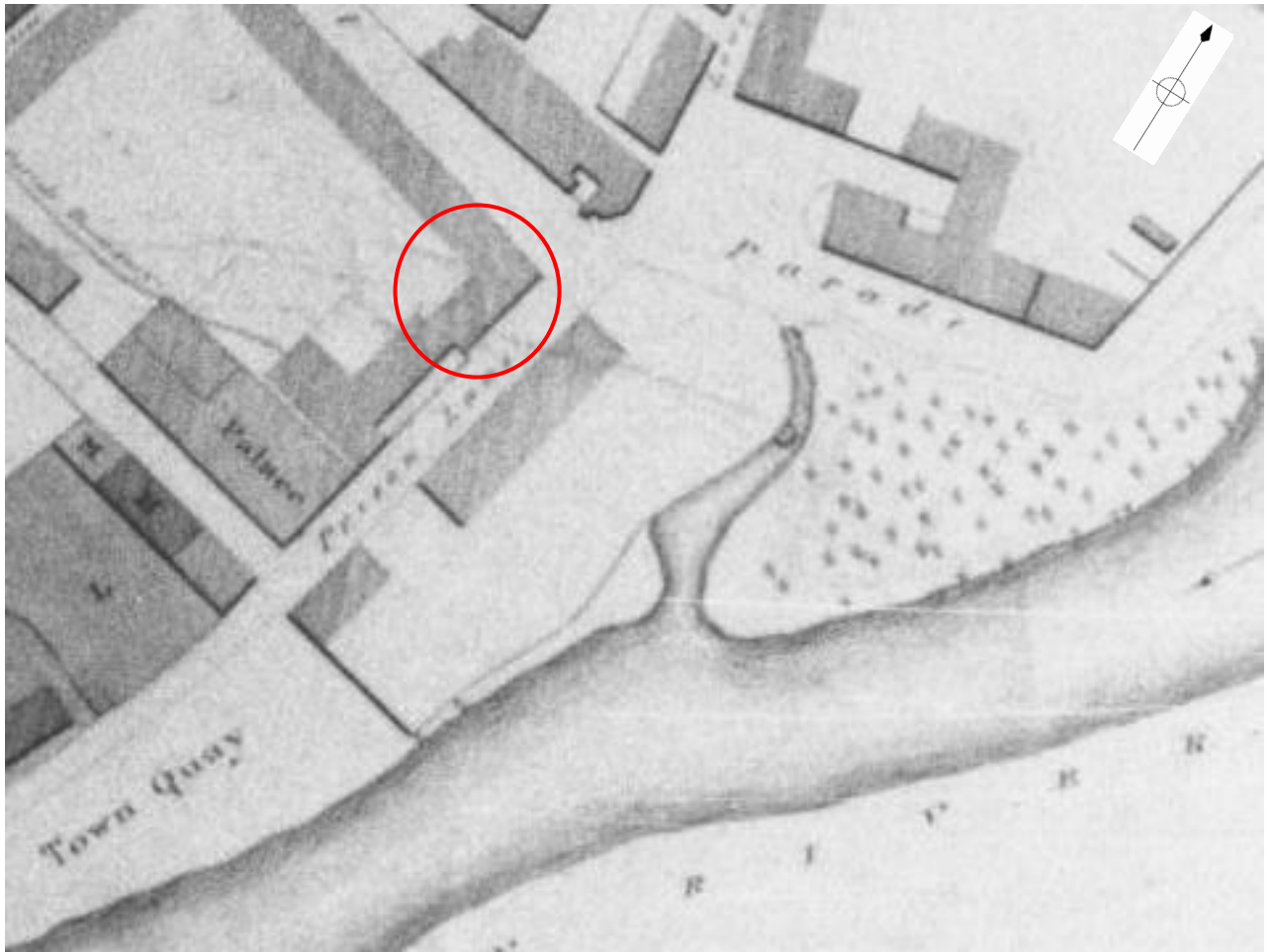
*Fig 3 c1734 Buck Brothers engraving of the Duchy Palace*

*The subject building is outlined. Note the dormers lighting the upper floor, the original gabled roofline at the north end (with kneeler stone at the eave). The ruinous Great Hall is to the left, with a rose window in its north gable*



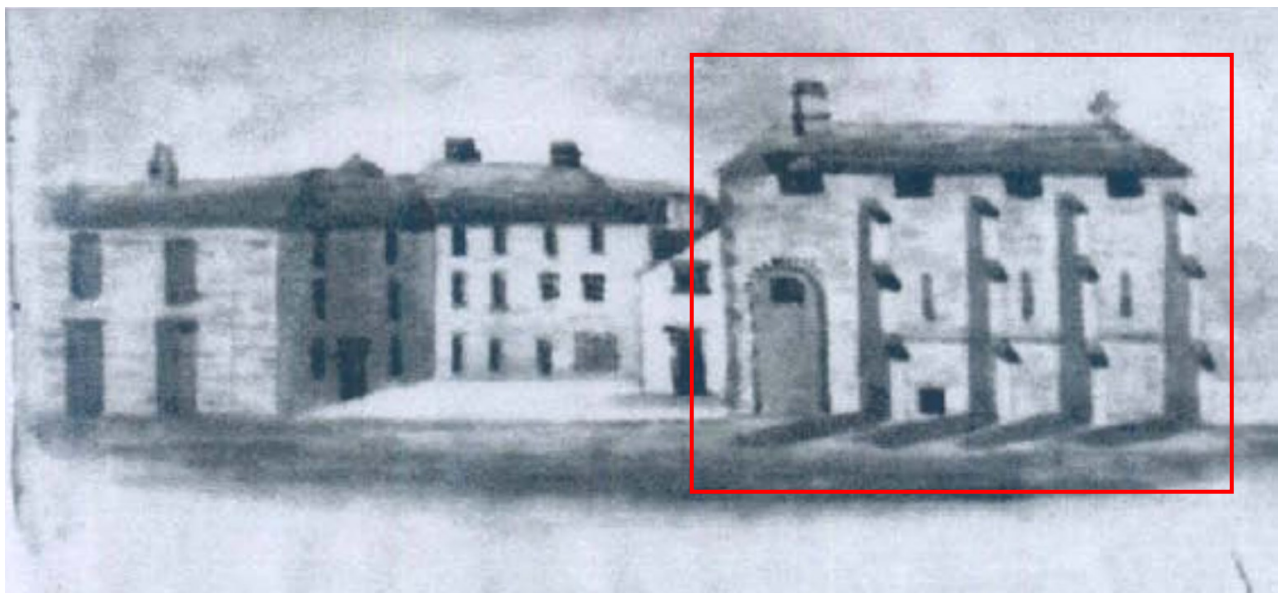
*Fig 4 1755 plan (Pounds 1979)*

*By this date a new prison had been built within the ruins of the Great Hall, and the subject building was also in use as a gaol.*



*Fig 5 Map of houses belonging to John Hext 1834 (Source: Lostwithiel Museum)*

*Note that the present Quay Street was known as Prison Lane*



*Fig 6 1844 drawing (kindly supplied by Lostwithiel Museum)*



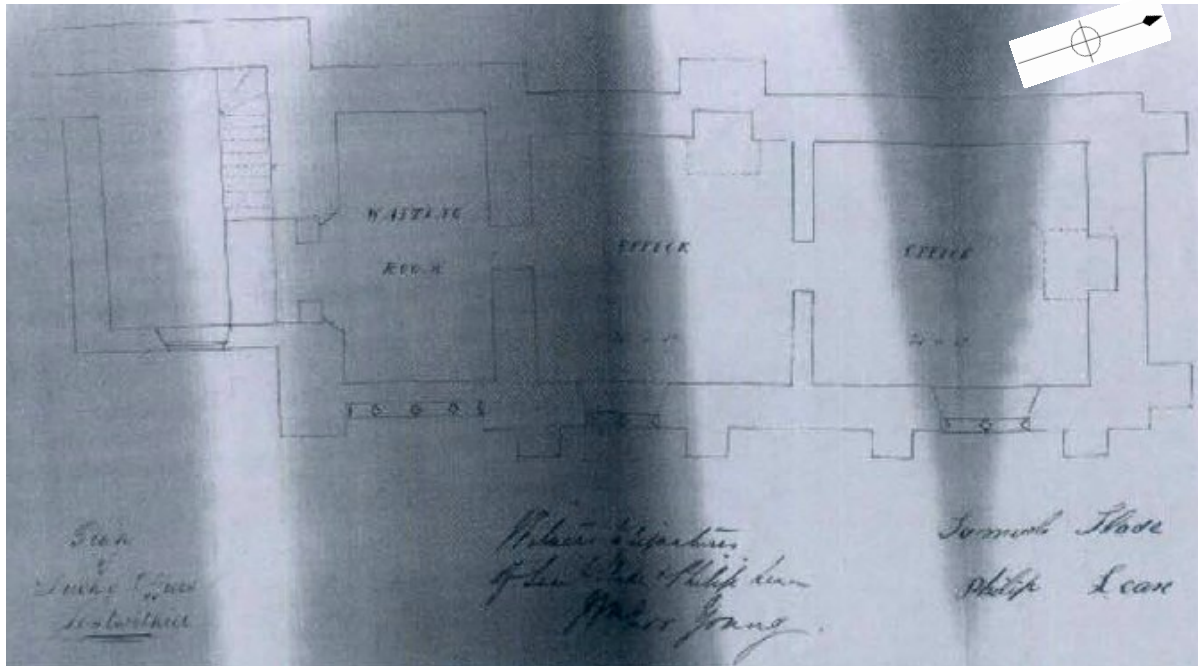


Fig 7 1852 proposal plan for the first floor of the Convocation Hall (by kind permission of the Duchy of Cornwall Archive)

Note that the original entrance arch was infilled with a mullioned window. A stairs provided access from the adjacent building. The central partition dividing the two offices seems to have been short-lived as a central window was inserted in the front wall. A replacement partition was constructed towards the northern end of the building.



Fig 8 Photograph of the Convocation Hall looking north-east taken in 1860s/1870s

At this stage of its history the building was in use as the Duchy of Cornwall's county office. As the old entrance arch was blocked, the entrance to the office was through the lean-to building



*Fig 9 Photograph of the Convocation Hall looking south-west taken in 1860s/1870s  
(Source: RIC Lostn005)*



*Fig 10 Photograph of the Convocation Hall looking south-west taken in 1891 after the  
remodelling by the Freemasons (Francis Frith FF29849)*



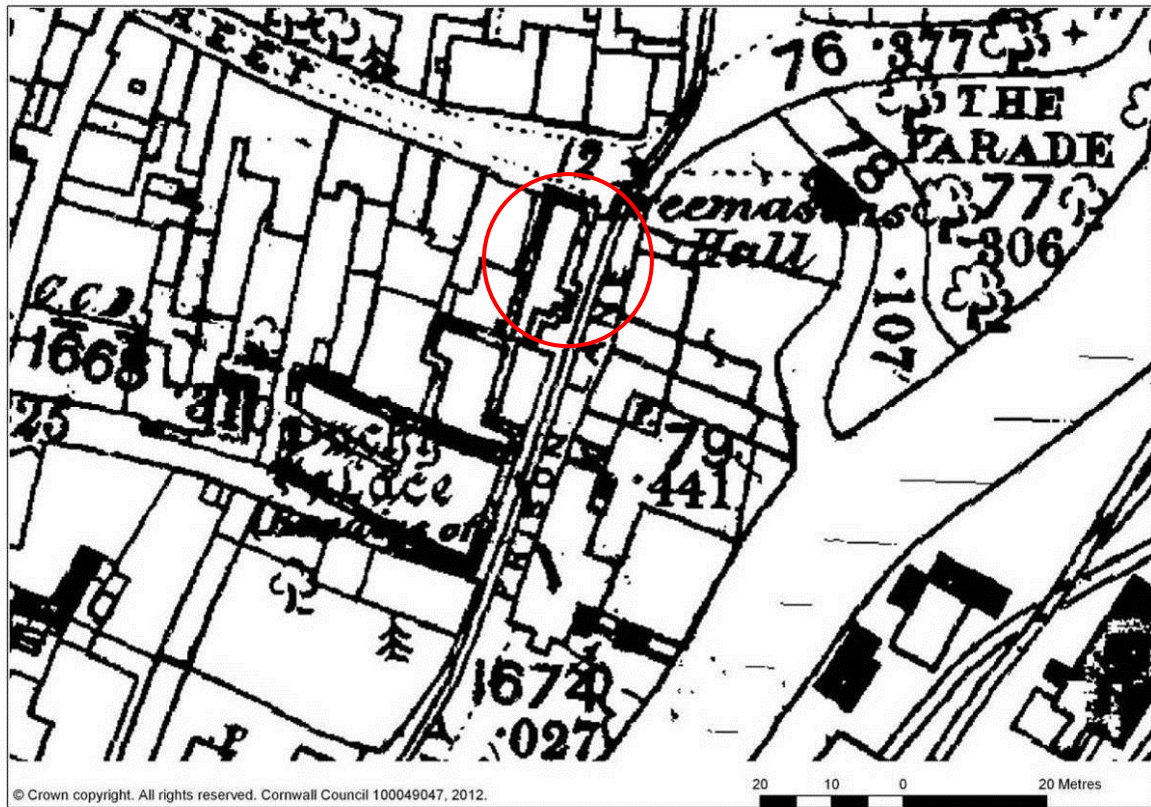


Fig 11 First Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1880

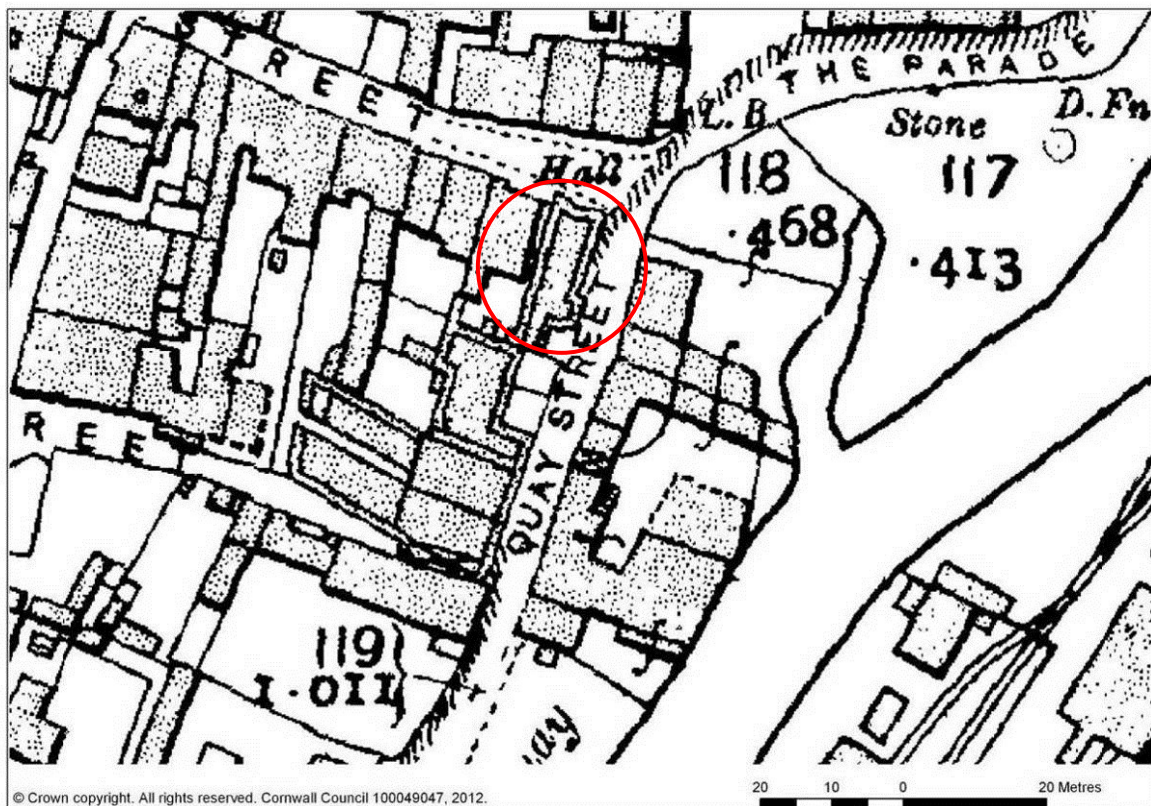


Fig 12 Second Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1907

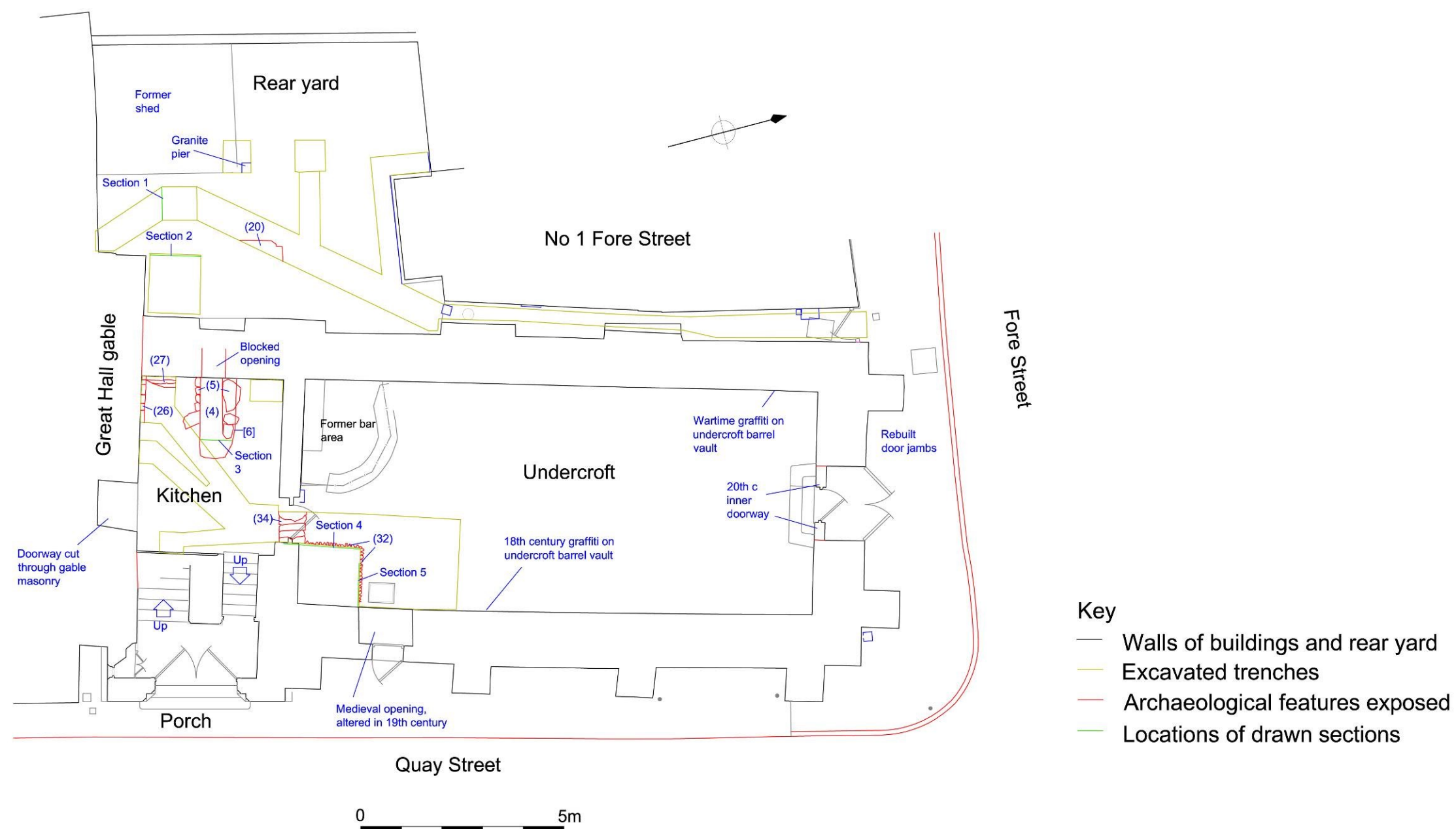


Fig 13 Plan of ground floor/undercroft, showing location of trenches, pits, sections and archaeological features  
Based upon measured survey supplied by Purcell UK; annotation by HEP



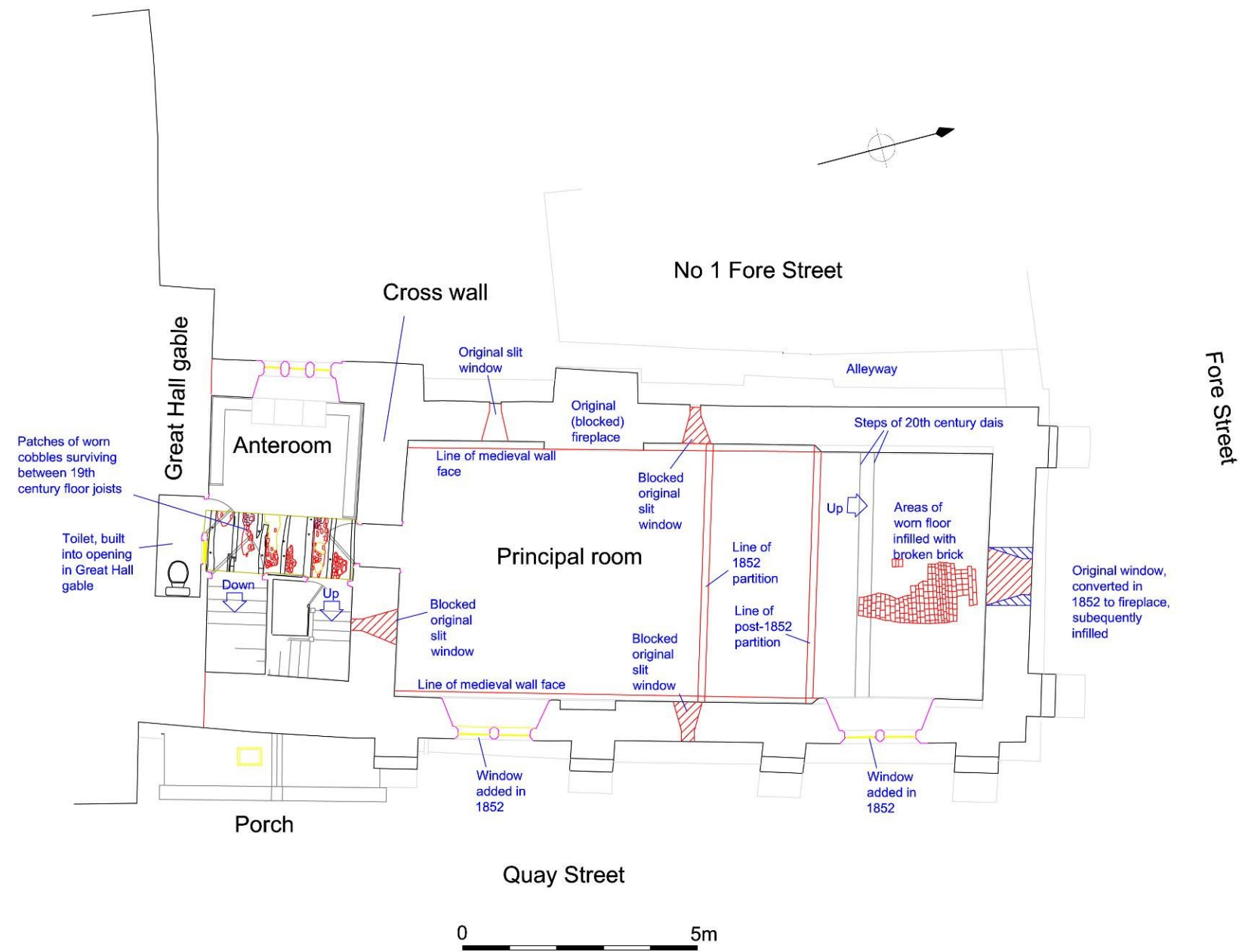


Fig 14 Plan of principal floor

Based upon measured survey supplied by Purcell UK; annotation by HEP

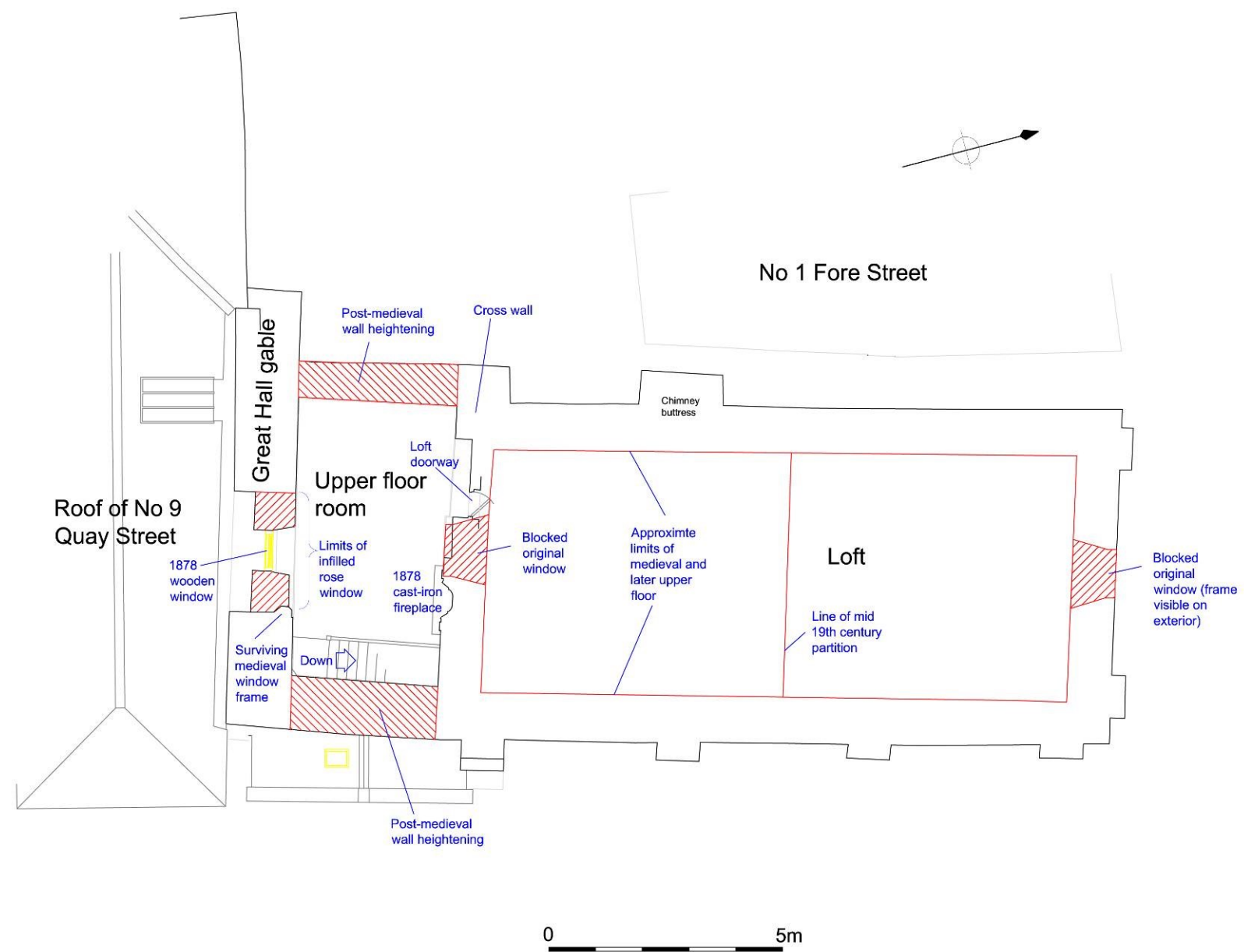


Fig 15 Plan of upper floor

Based upon measured survey supplied by Purcell UK; annotation by HEP





Fig 16 Plan at roof level  
Based upon measured survey supplied by Purcell UK; annotation by HEP

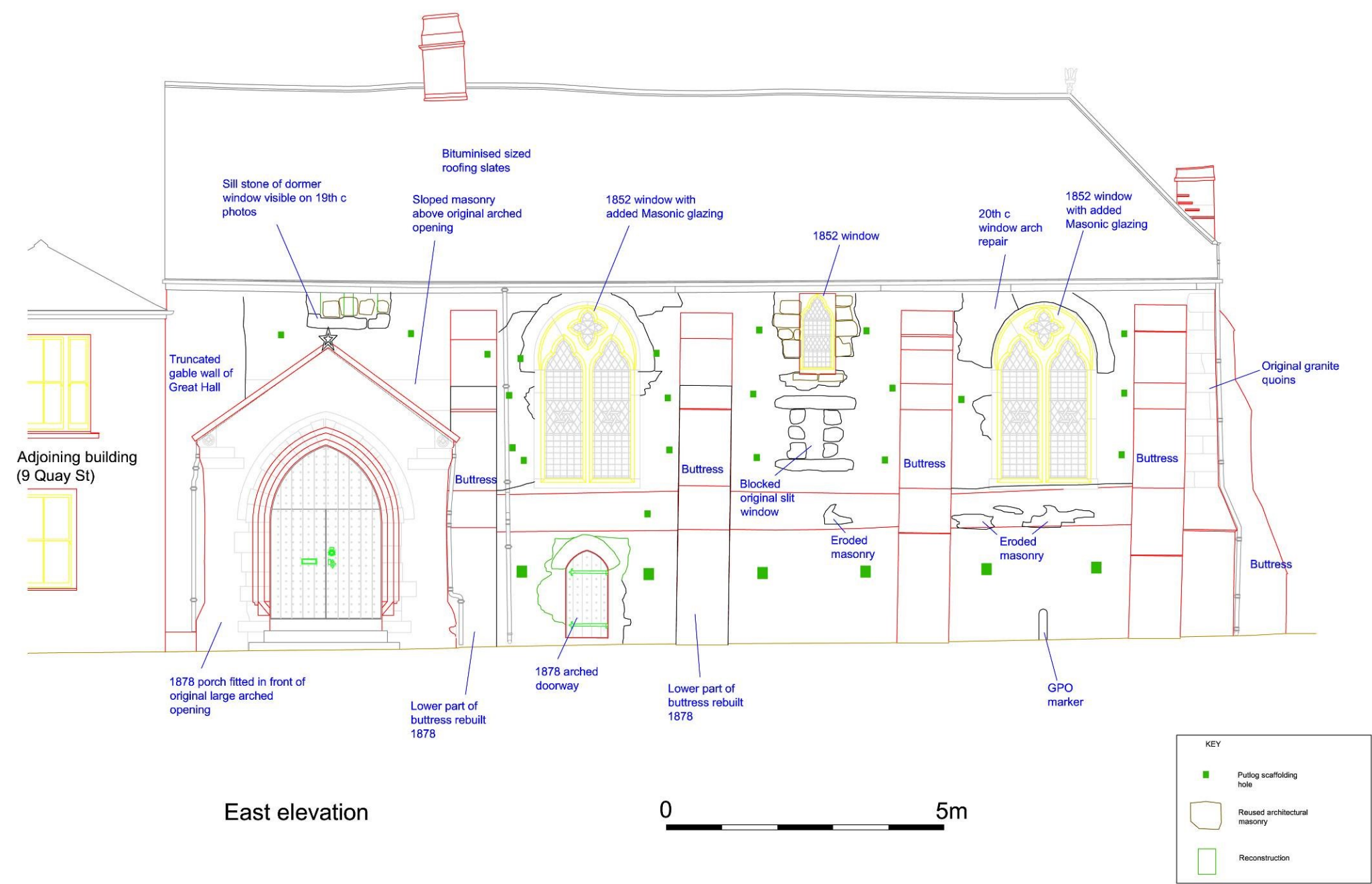


Fig 17 Exterior elevation of east wall (Quay Street frontage)  
Based upon measured survey supplied by Purcell UK; annotation by HEP

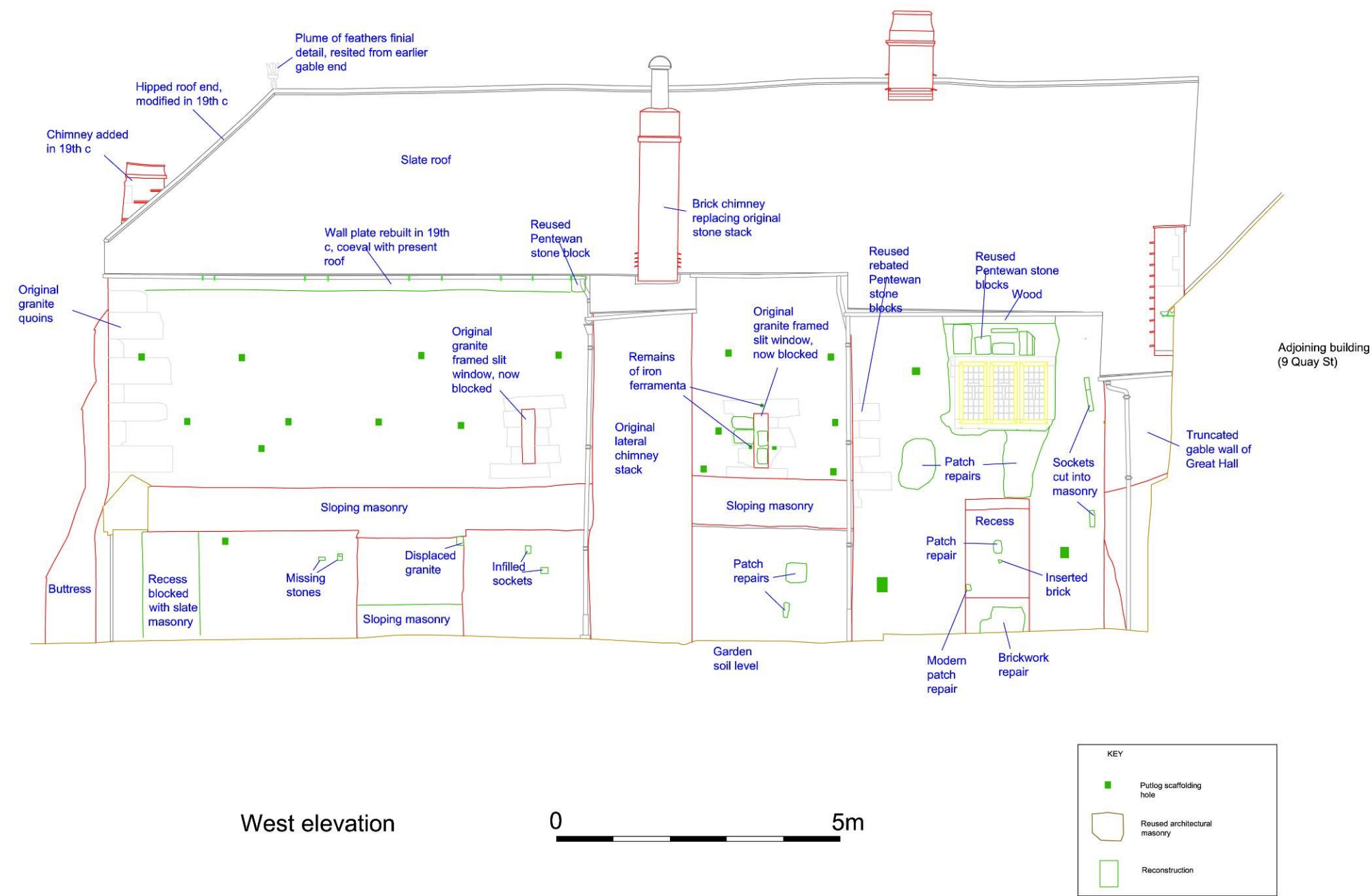


Fig 18 Exterior elevation of west (rear) wall  
Based upon measured survey supplied by Purcell UK; annotation by HEP

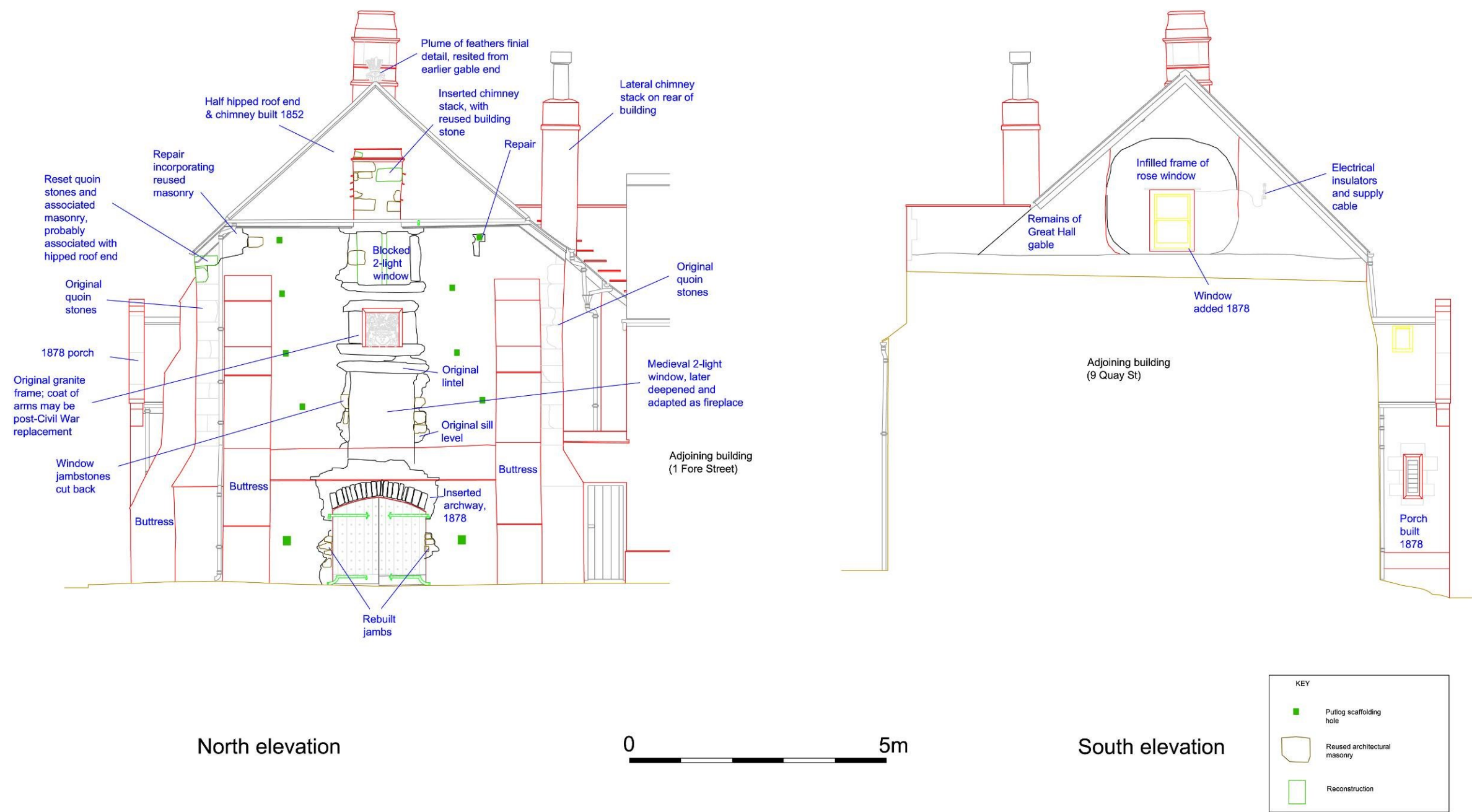
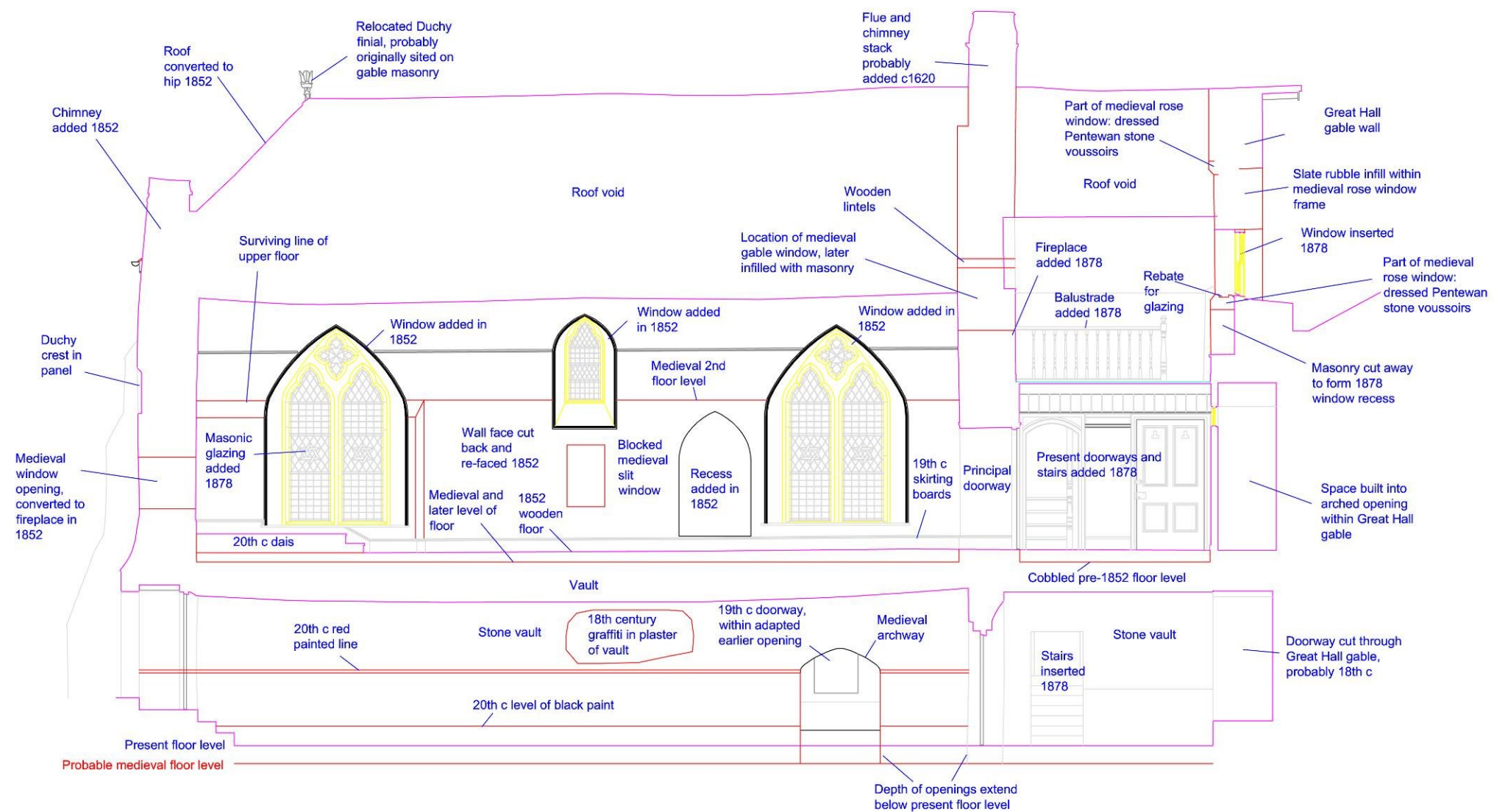


Fig 19 Exterior elevation of north end (facing Fore Street) and south gable  
Based upon measured survey supplied by Purcell UK; annotation by HEP





0 5m

Fig 20 Longitudinal section, looking east

Based upon measured survey supplied by Purcell UK; annotation by HEP

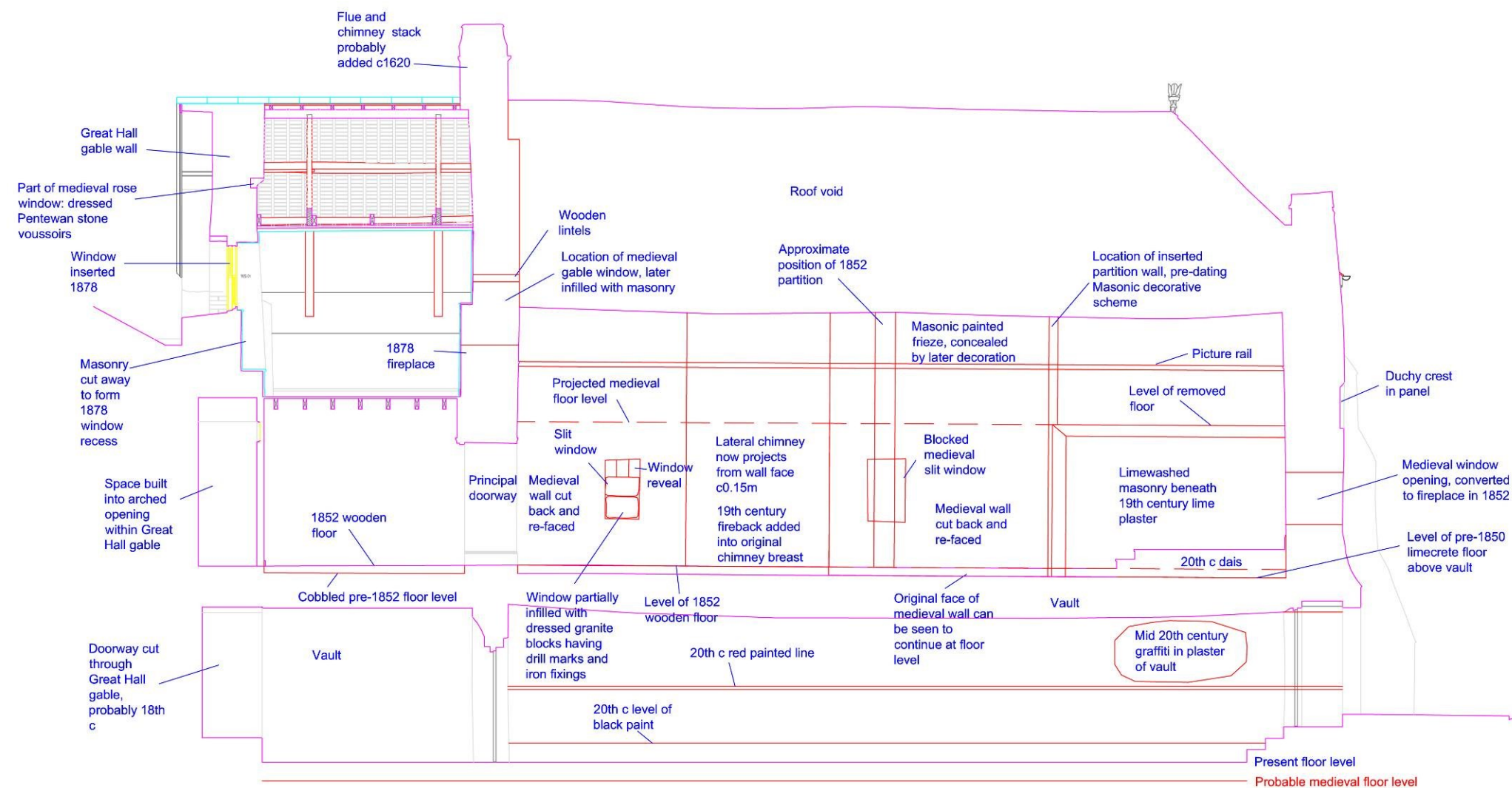


Fig 21 Longitudinal section, looking west

Based upon measured survey supplied by Purcell UK; annotation by HEP

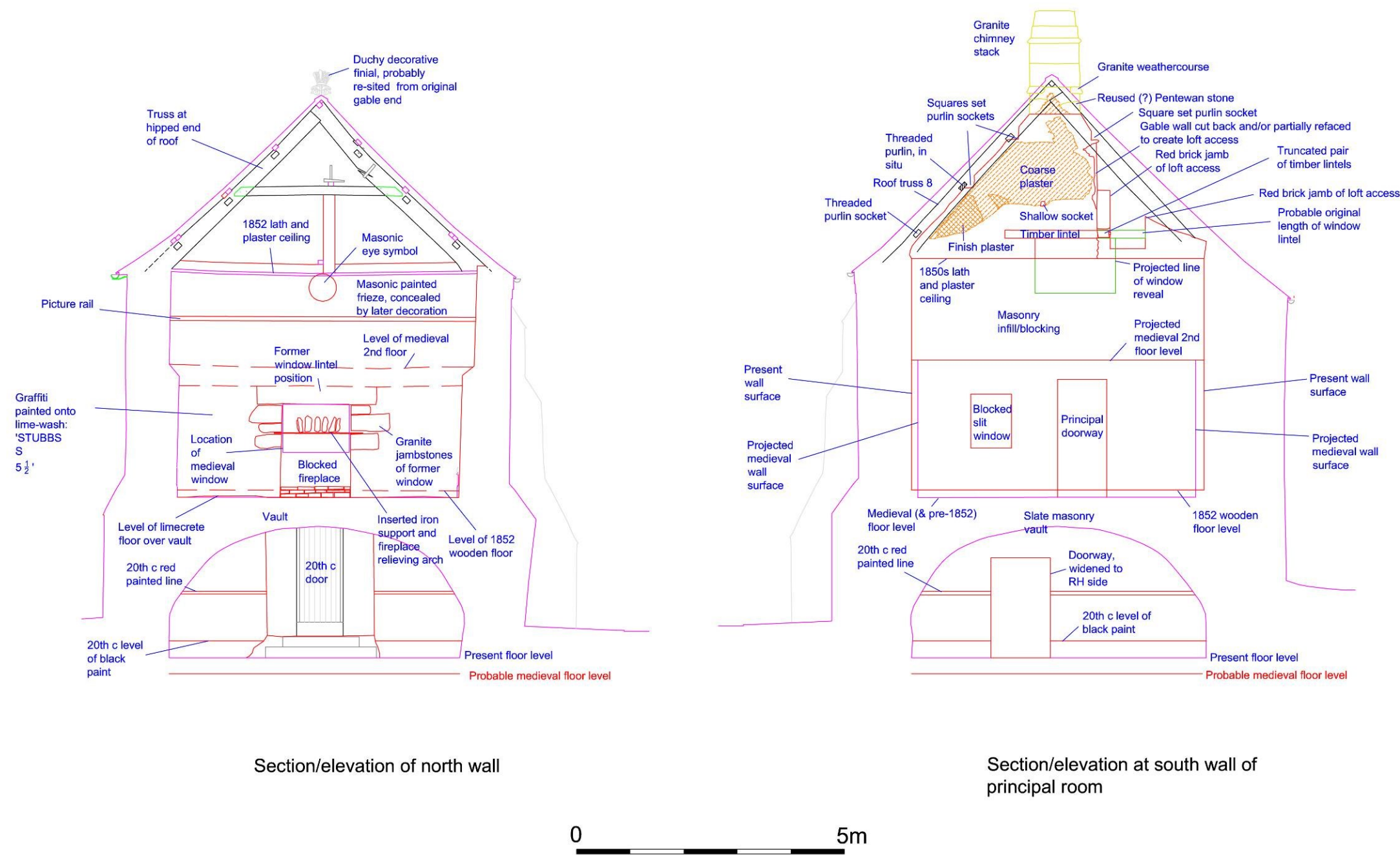
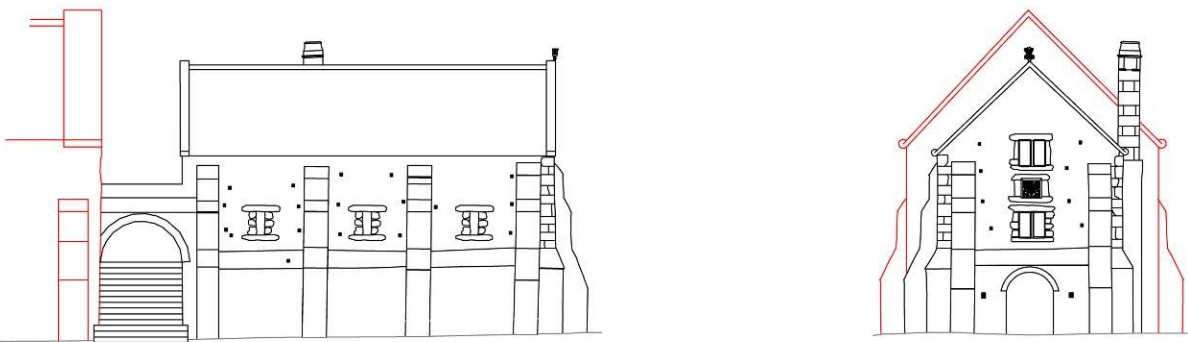


Fig 22 Cross sections  
Based upon measured survey supplied by Purcell UK; annotation by HEP

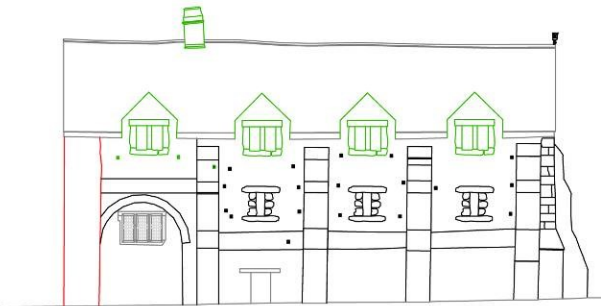




14th century - c1620



c1620 - 1755



1755 - 1852

KEY

	later 13th century	Period 1: Great Hall
	14th century - c1620	Period 2: Later medieval northern extension
	c1620 - 1755	Period 3: 17th and early 18th century changes
	1755 - 1852	Period 4: Prison

Fig 23 Interpretation of principal elevations, Periods 1 to 4



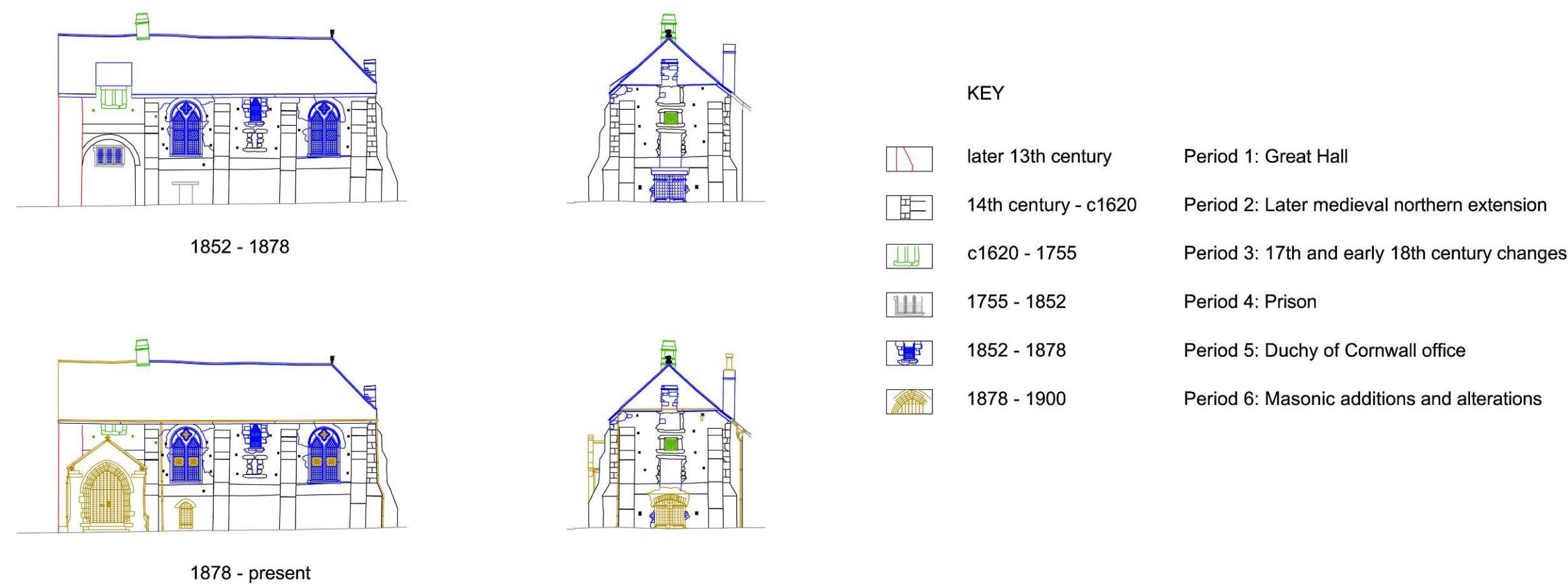


Fig 24 Interpretation of principal elevations, Periods 5 and 6

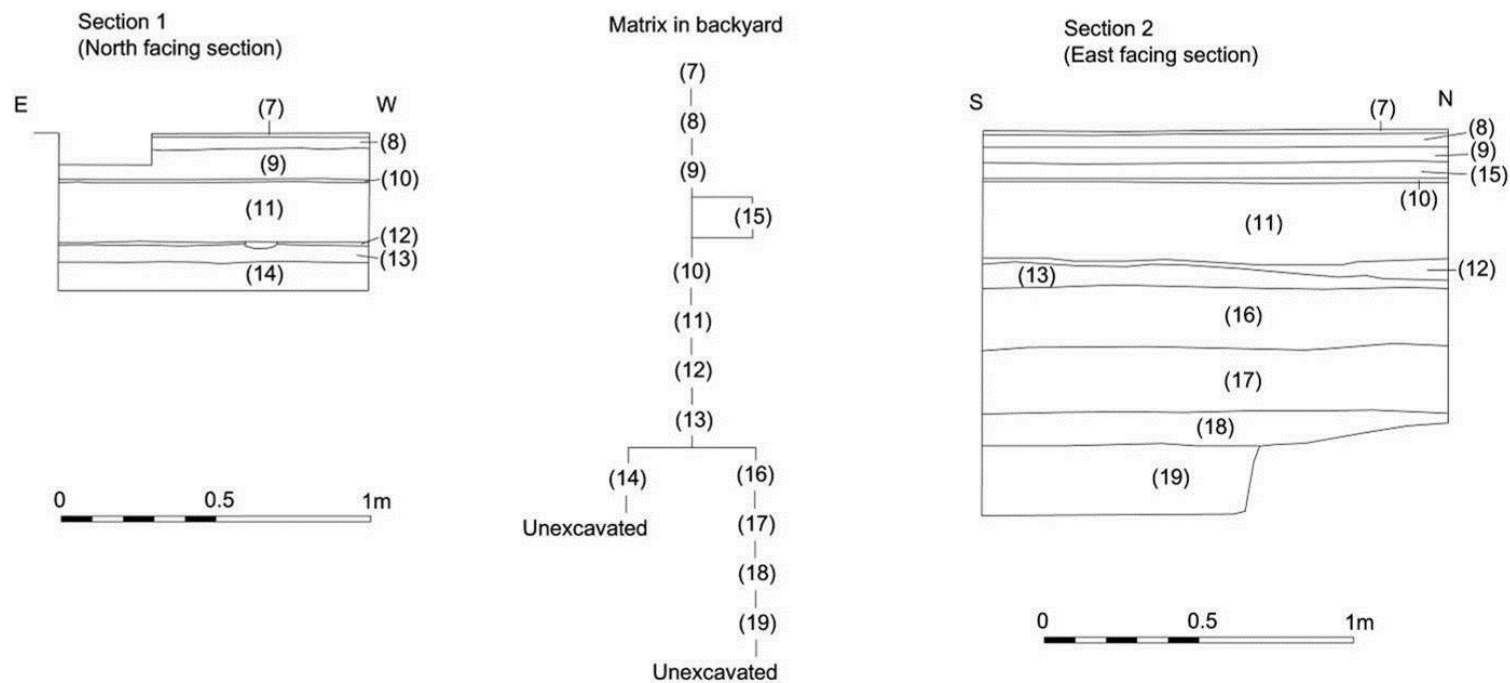


Fig 25 Rear yard sections 1 and 2 and matrix

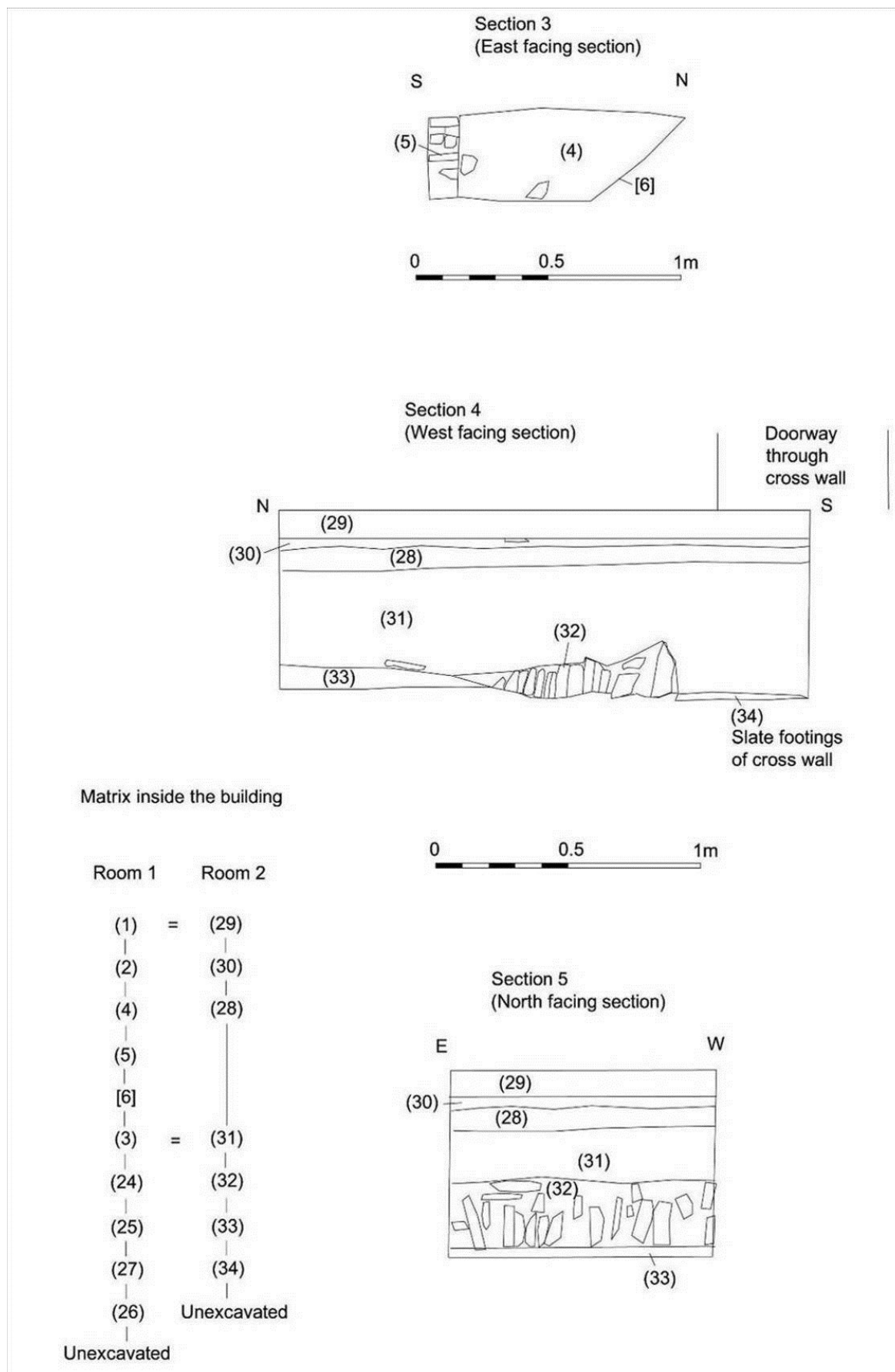


Fig 26 Interior rooms 1 and 2, sections 3, 4 and 5 and matrices



*Fig 27 The Duchy Palace photographed in late 2011 before renovation work commenced*



*Fig 28 The north elevation of the building (facing Fore Street) shows many alterations including blocked windows in the original two upper floors*





*Fig 29 Granite panel in the north wall containing the Duchy of Cornwall emblem (shown after initial stonework cleaning)*



*Fig 30 Chamfered detail on the granite quoins at the junction of Fore Street and Quay Street*





*Fig 31 Southern end of the Quay Street elevation*



*Fig 32 Northern end of the principal elevation*





*Fig 33 West wall of the Convocation Hall with part of the gable of the former Great Hall to the right*

*Photographed before masonry conservation had begun, this side of the building had been heavily repaired with cement-based mortar. The window is a post-1878 addition, created from the frame of a former 2-light window (stub of central mullion is visible at the top). The tall recessed feature has not been completely explained during the study, but a later drain exits through the wall at its base*





*Fig 34 A blocked original granite-framed slit window in the west wall, and the original lateral chimney forming a buttress to the left.*

*Sloping masonry beneath the window is part of a continuous buttress built to support the vaulted stone roof of the undercroft*



*Fig 35 The undercroft 'kitchen' beneath the anteroom*

*A doorway with a shallow arch of brickwork has been cut through the masonry of the former Great Hall*





*Fig 36 General view of the main room within the undercroft, looking S*

*The red painted horizontal stripe was found beneath modern paint and may relate to wartime use*



*Fig 37 Original north entrance to the undercroft; the arch headed outer doorway was added post-1878*



*Fig 38 Excavation for new drains in the undercroft revealed a pitched slate rubble structure seen following the line of the far edge of the trench from the door opening in the partition wall and dog-legging to the front wall of the building to the jamb of the recess opening*



*Fig 39 A small arched doorway in the E wall of the undercroft has been inserted through to a partially infilled recess, the internal jambs of the original recess can be seen to extend below the ledge of the lower infill walling by 0.8m. The inserted external opening had a new arched head added post-1878*





*Fig 40 This internal doorway linking the two parts of the undercroft was altered to suit raised floor levels, by being widened (to the RH side) and a lintel inserted higher up. The original doorway set at a lower level was probably arched*

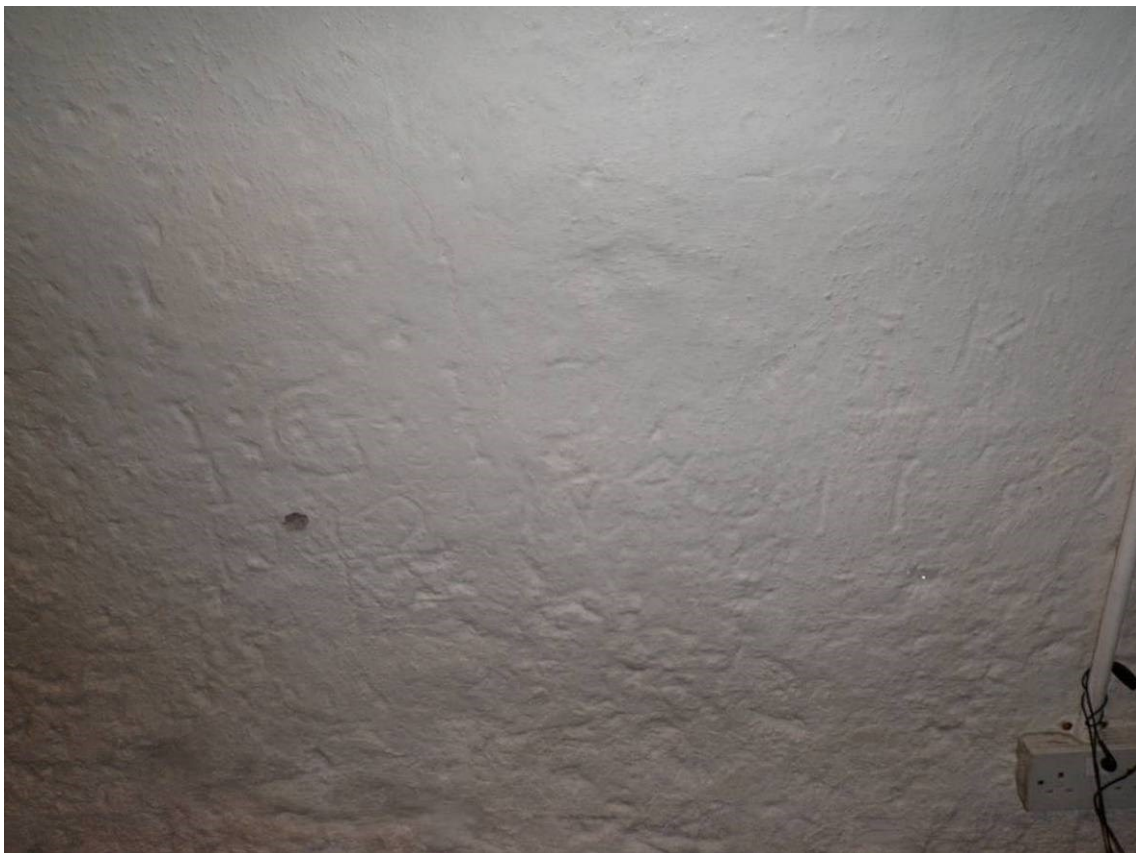


*Fig 41 Excavation in the SW corner of the undercroft clearly reveals the foundation level of the Great Hall gable (centre), wall (26). The Convocation Hall foundations (27) (right) abut this wall and are set at a higher level*





*Fig 42 Part of an infilled drain [6] revealed within the kitchen*



*Fig 43 18<sup>th</sup> century graffiti on the vault of the N room of the undercroft*



*Fig 44 The S end of the principal room, which was formerly used as a Masonic Lodge  
The extent of the painted frieze and ceiling was revealed after removal of modern finishes*



*Fig 45 Removal of plaster at the north end of the same room has revealed the stone  
jambs of the original window, subsequently deepened to convert the opening to a  
fireplace*

*Ledges in the side walls surviving at this end of the room are evidence of the original upper floor. Walling above the blocked central window has been removed and rebuilt to accommodate a flue ( what phase?)*





*Fig 46 A Masonic 'all-seeing eye' painted on the N wall of the principal room*



*Fig 47 Masonic symbol within the frieze at the S end of the room*



*Fig 48 A cusp-headed window was added during the time of the Duchy ownership in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century*

*Addition of this window required removal of a partition between two room spaces. A new partition slightly to the N was built to replace it. Note also how the Masonic decoration scheme has incorporated this window by addition of a symbol above it*



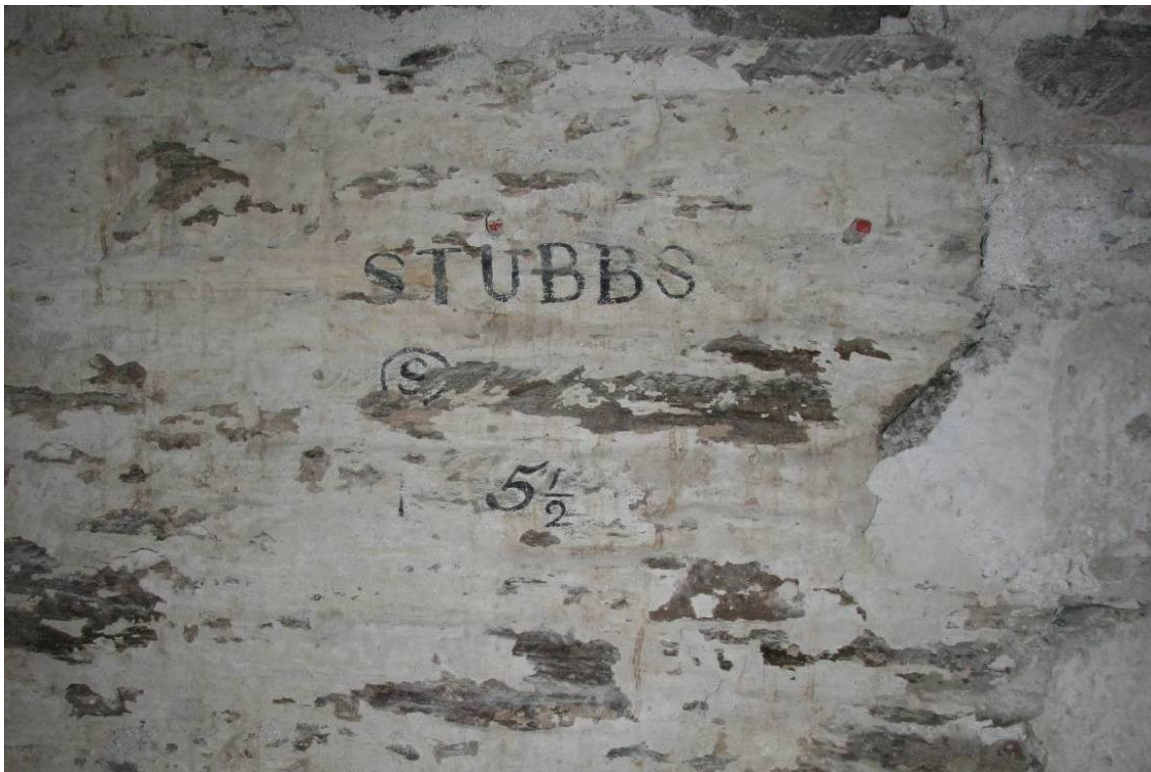
*Fig 49 An original slit window near the SW corner of the principal room*

*This was later infilled with wedge-shaped granite blocks retained in place with leaded iron straps*





*Fig 50 The right-hand jamb and base of a slit window in the S wall of the principal room  
This window, plus another higher up, are evidence that the space beyond was originally unroofed. The present roof structure was added after 1620, according to tree-ring analysis (Tyers 2010)*



*Fig 51 Graffiti on the N wall of the main room.  
This is painted onto lime-wash and pre-dates the plastering of the room in the 1850s*





*Fig 52 The original lateral hearth, since infilled with a Victorian fireplace*

Although the chimney now breaks forward of the walls beside it, this is a result of the wall faces in this room having been cut back at the time of removal of the upper floor. The purpose of this extensive work is not entirely clear, but may be associated with removal of prison cell structures that were likely to have existed here



*Fig 53 Stairways from the Anteroom to the porch and upper room*



*Fig 54 Remains of cobbled flooring revealed beneath the timber floor in the anteroom (former courtyard)*

This is further strong evidence of this space formerly being unroofed, forming a small raised entrance courtyard built above a vault. The inserted timber joists are reused purlins, most likely put here after the roof structure was remodelled in the 1850s





*Fig 55 The upper floor room, showing a late 19<sup>th</sup> century fireplace feeding into a flue cut into the face of the cross wall*



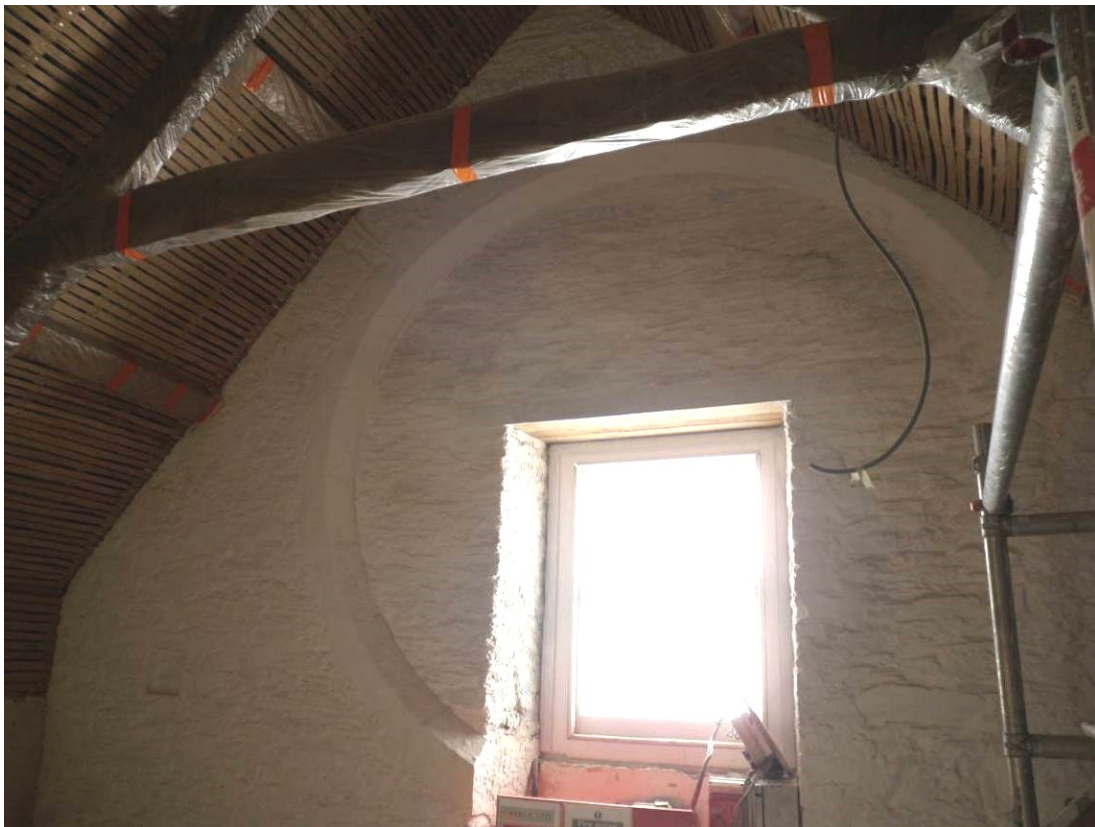
*Fig 56 Before the renovation work commenced only part of the lower arc of the Great Hall rose window could be seen within the upper floor room*

*The wooden window is a late 19<sup>th</sup> century insertion*



*Fig 57 The upper arc of the Great Hall rose window, shown after temporary removal of the roof during 2012*

*The blocking of the window is likely to date to the 1620s when the present roof was added and dormers incorporated above the east wall. Note the way the gable has been reduced, particularly to the right where the slate surround to the dressed Pentewan masonry has been removed. Truncation of the gable is likely to have occurred when a new prison building was constructed to the south in the 18<sup>th</sup> century*



*Fig 58 View of the exposed rose window frame after substantial completion of renovation works in late 2012*





*Fig 59 Roof timber repair work in 2012, viewed from the SW*

*The brick chimney is a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century addition to the original medieval flue*



*Fig 60 Roof repair work in 2012, viewed from the NE*

*Note the sockets for former threaded purlins; the roof timberwork appears to have been mostly reassembled in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century when the wall plates were rebuilt and a hipped roof alteration made at the north end*





*Fig 61 The cross wall is the only location where threaded purlins remain*

*The wall in the lower foreground was raised when this area was roofed over in the 17<sup>th</sup> century*



*Fig 62 Early plaster survives on the north side of the cross wall; note also the wooden lintels of a former window*





*Fig 63 Example of a pegged collar joint on the 17<sup>th</sup> century roof*



*Fig 64 Example of a pegged apex joint on the 17<sup>th</sup> century roof  
Carpenters marks are also clearly visible*





*Fig 65 Mark Thomas's name on a floorboard from the principal room dated 1874*



*Fig 66 Unstratified late 19<sup>th</sup> century stoneware ink bottles from the rear yard of 1 Fore Street*



*Fig 67 Unstratified late 19<sup>th</sup> century stoneware ink bottles from the rear yard of 1 Fore Street*



*Fig 68 17<sup>th</sup> century clay pipe stem and bowl from layer (3) beneath the floor of the kitchen in the undercroft*





*Fig 69 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century onion bottle fragments from layer (3) beneath the floor of the kitchen in the undercroft*



*Fig 70 Painted (cross design) river pebble reused in walling at the top of the southern part of the west wall*



*Fig 71 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century three handled mug or tyg from layer (3) beneath the floor of the kitchen in the undercroft*



*Fig 72 Two 15<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> century decorated pottery handles from layer (24) beneath the floor of the kitchen in the undercroft*





*Fig 73 Decorated face of 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century ridge tile from layer (24) beneath the floor of the kitchen in the undercroft*

## **Appendix 1 Timeline of documentary references**

### **1230**

The county of Cornwall with the stannaries and all the minerals were granted by King Henry III to his brother Richard, Earl of Cornwall and remained vested in the Earls of Cornwall until the death of Earl Edmund in 1300 (Whitley 1912-13).

### **1268-69**

The Cardinham estate including 'the whole town of Lostwithiel and the Water of Fowey' (PRO E36/57/33r) was granted to Richard, Earl of Cornwall and brother of Henry III (Pounds 1979).

### **1272**

Richard, Earl of Cornwall died and was succeeded by his son, Edmund, Earl of Cornwall who continued to acquire more land surrounding Lostwithiel and made it the centre of their administration and the chief seat of their authority within the county (Pounds 1979).

### **1284**

Earl Edmund refutes the King of England's claim to jurisdiction over Cornwall, and again similarly in **1290** (<http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=8992>)

### **c1289**

The Great Hall was built for Edmund, Earl of Cornwall (Pounds 1979).

### **1305**

Stannary Charter re-affirms the Crown's right of pre-emption, its first call upon the tin mined in Cornwall and Devon. The four coinage towns in 1305 were Lostwithiel, Bodmin, Truro and Helston. Lostwithiel was the most important of these towns, having Restormel Castle - the principal residence of the Dukes of Cornwall in the county - close to it (Whitley 1912-13).

### **1307**

The Tinnars Charter is granted by Edward 1  
(<http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=8992>)

### **1326-27**

An inquest was held to determine whether William de Pasford and Thomas Quoynte should have the great hall and cellar, the blowing and weighing house and custody of the prison at an annual rent of 24s. (Cal. Inq., 283, Pounds 1979).

### **1332**

Fine Roll recorded the grant, provided that the king and his ministers should have 'the easements of weighing the tin in the "Blouynghous" and depositing and retaining the tin within the close of the said houses, until security be found for the coinage (Pounds 1979).

### **1332-1337**

William de Pasford and Thomas Quoynte are joint tenants of the Palace buildings (Pounds 1979).

### **1336**

The last Earl of Cornwall, John of Eltham, died without heir, and the lands and rights of the earldom reverted to the crown (Hull 1971, ix; Coate 1927; Pounds 1979).

### **1337-38**

Abstract from the Caption of Seisin of the Duchy of Cornwall states:



'William de Pasford and Thomas Sweyne claim to hold for their lives the profits of the coinage under a charter from the King, which grants them a lease of a certain house called the 'Weghynghouse' with the appurtenances in Lostwithiel, and the Great Hall of the same with the cellar and its appurtenances, together with the custody of the prison, and the right of weying and assaying in the 'Weghynghouse,' and the safe custody of the tin, until the ascertained toll had been paid; the said William and Thomas keeping the houses in repair' (Pounds 1979).

### **1337**

Edward III conferred on his eldest son, Edward of Woodstock, known as the Black Prince, the title of Duke of Cornwall, the earliest instance of the grant of this title within England. The Duchy was endowed with the same lands and rights that had recently reverted to the crown, and they were made the inalienable property of the monarch's firstborn son (Hull 1971, ix; Coate 1927; Pounds 1979).

### **1338**

Edward the Black Prince, eldest son of Edward III, is created first Duke of Cornwall. The buildings then became the administration centre for the Duchy. This was a very large complex, covering more than 2 acres (8,100 m<sup>2</sup>) and consisted of the Great Hall, which was at the time the Convocation Hall for the Stannaries and Duchy affairs. It also housed the Smelting Houses, the Coinage Hall for the Stannaries and Duchy. In this complex the Stannary Courts were held and the Stannary prison was located (Dunkley 1987).

### **Mid-late 14<sup>th</sup> century**

The present Convocation Hall was built, probably originally for use as an Exchequer's Hall.

### **1351**

'The hall wherein the county courts are held' was in sore need of repair, and the Receiver was ordered to spend 100s. on it and the adjoining houses (Reg. Ed. Black Prince, Pt. 2, 18; Pounds 1979).

### **1357**

The Duke's Council granted to Richard Raven, his cook, the lease of the 'blowynges' and 'the hall of receipt ... together with the cellars for which he used to pay a rent of 24s' (Reg. Ed. Black Prince, Pt. 2, 116; Pounds 1979).

### **1358**

Thomas Deye, late reeve of the borough, is granted the lease of the "blowyngous", which the prince had previously given to his yeoman, Richard Raven (Pounds 1979).

### **1361**

The Duke entrusted to Thomas Fitz Henri the 'keeping of the tinnars' gaol' within the Palace, but reserved for himself 'the profits and advantages of all the houses called "blowynghouses" and all the "shoppes" under and around the Great Hall of Lostwythye' (Reg. Ed. Black Prince, Pt 2, 185; Pounds 1979).

### **1382 to 1387**

First mention of the Coinage Hall of Lostwithiel occurs. In these rolls accounts the buildings are called the Coinage Hall and old storehouses, and the roofs especially were in a bad state. Large quantities of "hellyng stones" (roofing slates) were bought and used on the roofs of the kitchen and "camera" (legislative chamber) over, and the walls of the house called "le Bloyngous" for the safe keeping of the tin were rebuilt amongst other extensive repairs (Whitley 1912-13).

### **1453**

Extensive repairs were carried out on the buildings. These included repairs to one of the "durnys" (jambs) of the cellar under the Exchequer House, repairs to the door of the cellar and the great door of the storehouse and the door of the 'camera', repairs the "Skryns" (partitions/cabinets) within the Hall, and mending the racks in the stable of the same, and making a new door for the Pantry, repairs to the south wall of the Great Hall and the roofs of the buildings (Whitley 1912-13).

### **1460**

A quantity of "hellyng-stones," laths and lathnails were bought and used on the roofs of the Great Hall and Ancient Houses. Trees were cut down in Restormel Park for making the punyon (gable) of the former building, and carpenters were employed to frame and put it up and also to fix a "creste" of timber upon the wall which enclosed the house called the "Tynne Porche" for the safe custody of the tin which was kept in it (Whitley 1912-13).

### **1461**

Further extensive repairs were made: 4,000 hellyngstones were bought and used in repairs to the roofs. A good deal of the timber work was repaired in the hall as well as the floors. Lead was bought and laid on the hall punyons (gables). The doors of the great stable were raised, enlarged and repaired and the mangers and racks repaired. Lawrence Kent and Robt. Willy were paid 3s. for enlarging the floor under the tyn balance, and at the same time 6d. was paid for setting it higher above the water; evidently the building being on low ground had been found liable to be overflowed from the winter floods of the Fowey (Whitley 1912-13).

### **1495**

Henry VII instructed Parliament to pass an Act that the Weights and Measures for Cornwall be placed at Lostwithiel and these weights are now part of the Old Borough Regalia ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lostwithiel\\_Stannary\\_Palace](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lostwithiel_Stannary_Palace)).

### **1536**

The burgesses complained that the Duchy audit had been moved to Liskeard, presumably on account of the ruinous state of the palace, where the Duchy records 'doe there perrish for want of remouving the same into more safe and convenient places' (PRO E306/13/46). They were then ordered to be taken to London where they have since been preserved (Pounds 1979).

### **1540**

When John Leland visited Lostwithiel about 1540, he noted beside the Shire Hall 'ruines of auntyent buyldinges' (Toulmin Smith 1909, I, 323; Pounds 1979).

### **1558-1603**

During the rein of Elizabeth I extensive repairs were made, but the floods hastened the decay of the ancient buildings on the River Fowey to which they had become exposed (PRO E301/622/34; Pounds 1979).

### **1588**

Meeting of the Convocation of Tinnars of Cornwall petitions Queen Elizabeth I to confer powers to legislate, but this goes unheeded. In 1624 the Meeting of Tinnars of Cornwall assumes the power to legislate. These laws are added to in later Convocations in 1636, 1688 and 1753.

(<http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=8992>)

## **1617**

The prisoners in the gaol complained to the Duke's Council in London of the conditions in which they were kept. The prison, called the 'Grate', was, they said, but 'a roome... 17 foote <[>5.14 m] long at the most and about 12 foote <[>3.66 m] brode, without anie other Roome or Curtillage for prisoners to walk in or to take the Ayer. Yet hee (Richard Bonython, the Keeper) keepeth therein at least 10 personnes, sometymes 12 or 14 and sometymes neer 20 personnes...The said prison', they continued,'hath noe Chymney therein to make fyer to comfort the prisoners in the cold of wynter nor to heate their meate'. Furthermore, the prison 'standeth in a back lane from the streete where they cannott by begging gett relieffe' (DCO Letters and Warrants, 1615-19, 53 and 53d; Pounds 1979).

## **1619-20**

A warrant is issued for the building of a new gaol 'for the more comfort and conveniencie of prisoners uppon a certaine peece of ground called the Tennys Courte adioyninge to the great hall of the Towne of Llanwnda' (DCO Letters and Warrants, 1619-20, 134 and 134d; Pounds 1979).

## **1620s**

The 'Convocation Hall' (Exchequers' Hall at this date) was completely re-roofed (surviving roof timbers from this date).

## **1644**

Parliamentary forces under command of the Earl of Essex occupied the town during the Civil War. They were then hemmed in by the Royalists and forced to retreat down the river until they could be evacuated by sea. Before they did so, however, they did further damage to the great hall and other buildings (Gilbert 1838, 3, 24--29; Hals MS). The Great Hall was sacked and burnt, destroying valuable records of the County, and the Stannaries in particular, the building having the least damage was the Exchequer Hall which thereafter became the Convocation Hall (Dunkley 1987).

## **1649-50**

The Parliamentary Survey of the Duchy lands of 1649-50 recorded 'one old ruined house which was heretofore the Dukes Pallace with a large hall wherein was used to be kept the Assizes and Sessions for the whole County. But now there is only the walles thereof standing' (PRO E317 (Cornw.) 26; Pounds 1979).

## **1660-61**

Repairs were made to the coinage buildings, which, it was said, were 'ready to fall into the pitt. Neither is there beames, scales or weights in being fitt to weigh any man's tynn...' (Cal. Treas. Bks 1669-72, 656, 1154; Pounds 1979).

## **1681**

Andrew Cory, keeper of the gaol, reported to the Treasury that only £50 had been spent on the building during the previous sixty years, 'which served scarce to repair the roof and keep the walls from falling' (Cal. Treas. Bks 1681-85, 153). The Receiver was thereupon required to spend £80 10s. for repairs, the mayor and others 'having certified said prison to be very ruinous and much in decay, by reason whereof divers prisoners have lately gotten out and run away' (Cal. Treas. Bks; 1681-85, 237). But the building was soon in disrepair again; 'ruinous and in decay and not fit for the prisoners either for safety or health' (Cal. Treas. Bks 1693-96, 1261). A sum of £80 was demanded for its renovation. This was granted, and a gaoler, doubling as Controller of the Coinage, continued to hold office (Pounds 1979).

## **c1700**

Defoe, who visited Lostwithiel early in the eighteenth century, observed that the tin coinage and the meetings of the county court continued to bring business to the town (Defoe 1928, 1, 235). The significance of Lostwithiel was, however, declining in favour of places in west Cornwall. The bulk of the tin was now coined at Truro, Helston and Penzance (Pounds 1979).

### **1700-1752-53**

The Convocation of the Tinnars continued to meet irregularly and infrequently in the Convocation Hall until 1752-53, after which it ceased to be summoned (Pennington 1973, 21-29) (Pounds 1979).

### **1734**

The Buck engraving of 1734 shows a great hall of eight bays, with, set in each gable, a two-light, decorated Gothic window and a rose window set high in the northern gable. To the north of it the smaller hall is shown, where the Convocation met and the courts were held (Pounds 1979).

### **1740**

Richard Edgcumbe, MP for Lostwithiel, built a new Guild Hall in the town, this enabled some of the County functions to be transferred to this Hall, while the Duchy and the Stannary procedures continued in the 'Old Duchy Palace', or the 'Old Shire Hall', until the very late 1800s.

### **c1750**

A crude sketch plan of the eastern part of the borough, made in the middle years of the eighteenth century, shows how the palace must have appeared at this time. The more southerly part of the great hall appears to have been reroofed. Its northern part has been replaced by a lower building, but to the north of this one can detect the outlines of the Convocation Hall, as represented by Buck (Pounds 1979).

### **1751**

The last Tinnars Parliament was held in the Convocation Hall ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lostwithiel\\_Stannary\\_Palace](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lostwithiel_Stannary_Palace)).

### **1755**

Plan of the buildings (see Fig 4). At some point after the creation of this plan the north-eastern part of the Great Hall was demolished leaving the building that survives, set back from the street front.

### **19<sup>th</sup> century**

The central set back building at the north end of the former Great Hall was in use as a prison until the 19<sup>th</sup> century and then served along with the Convocation Hall as the Cornish office of the Duchy from 1852 to 1874 (Berry 2008).

### **1817-20**

C S Gilbert, in his Historical Survey of the County of Cornwall, 1817-20, gives the following description from a personal inspection: "The most early of the buildings at Lostwithiel is the Exchequer or Shire Hall built by Edmund, Earl of Cornwall. The remains of this edifice about a century ago were magnificent, as may be seen by drawings made at that time. The western part, with its noble Gothic windows, has been since taken down, and also a great part of the buildings on the northern side. The venerable remnant now remaining has a session hall and a stannary prison, in which are kept the County weights and measures. The outer walls are of great thickness, with gloomy ponderous arches supported by strong buttresses. It bears the Duchy arms with supporters, and on the top the Prince's plume. The interior has a narrow court opening into a number of dismal apartments with low ceilings, partially lighted by little narrow windows crossed with iron bars" (Whitley 1912-13).



## **1832**

The Knights of the Shire were elected here, as indeed they continued to be until the Reform Act of 1832 (Pounds 1979).

## **1852**

The Convocation Hall was acquired for use as the Cornwall office for the Duchy of Cornwall and was altered for this use in 1853. The Duchy used it until 1873 and since then its office has been located at Liskeard. The walls were repaired and in part rebuilt; large windows with Gothic tracery replaced two lancet windows on the east side. The gable at the north end was rebuilt as a hipped roof with chimney inserted; the dormers which had lighted an upper floor were removed, the upper floor was removed, the first floor re-floored. Lastly, what remained of the Great Hall was turned into a slaughterhouse, and after several changes of use, became a garage and sheet metal works. It has since been renovated and serves as an antique shop (Berry 2008).

## **1874**

The remaining buildings were sold and divided up. The Convocation Hall became a Drill Hall. The house at the north end of the former Great Hall served as the Cornish office of the Duchy until 1874. It was then sold to Mark Thomas, a local tradesman who had already acquired part of the river quay opposite. The building appears to have been in bad condition, as the purchaser was allowed access to it for the purpose of repairing the roof and other parts in advance of the completion of the purchase (Pounds 1979). Mark Thomas was responsible for re-flooring the main room of the first floor as evidenced by a floorboard bearing his name and the date retrieved during the current phase of work (see Fig 65).

## **1878**

The Restormel Lodge of the Freemasons bought the former Convocation Hall (Pounds paper). Alterations included the following: an entrance porch was added on the east side, a new staircase, a panelled ante-chamber and small upper room (replacing the former staircase) on the first floor were inserted. On the first floor a pointed arched niche was added on the internal face of the east wall. A dais was added at the north end of the first floor hall and the 19<sup>th</sup> century windows were re-glazed with Masonic symbols. Also the external wall faces were filled and pointed and the doors to the undercroft were replaced (Mackenzie 2008).

## **1939-1945**

During WWII the undercroft in the Convocation Hall was used as a public air raid shelter (Cornwall HER)

## **2008**

The Prince's Regeneration Trust purchased the Convocation Hall (Berry 2008).

## **Appendix 2 Historic Environment Records**

(reproduced from Heritage Gateway website, with minor edits)

### **Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record**

**HER Number:** 29004

**Name:** LOSTWITHIEL - Medieval coinage hall

#### **Summary**

The Duchy Palace is a range of buildings, built in 1289 for Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, and once housed the Duchy Parliament.

**Grid Reference:** SX 1047 5972

**Parish:** Lostwithiel, Restormel, Cornwall

**Map:**

#### **Protected Status**

- Conservation Area: LOSTWITHIEL
- Listed Building (I) 70880: FREEMASONS' HALL

#### **Other Statuses/Codes: none recorded**

#### **Monument Types**

- COINAGE HALL (Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD) + Sci.Date

#### **Full description**

The Duchy Palace is marked in antiquity script on current OS maps (b7). It is a range of buildings, built in 1289 for Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, and once housed the Duchy Parliament (b4). It comprised a hall of exchequer and exchange (known as the Shire Hall), a prison, and the coinage hall (or Stannary). Other official buildings were almost certainly sited within the block. A detailed account of repairs to the coinage hall in 1455 survives. In 1644 Parliamentary forces gutted the main buildings. The gaol was in use until the C19 and was then let for dwellings. In 1874 the remaining buildings were sold and divided up (b8). The remains of the coinage hall were converted into a Freemasons lodge in 1878 (b4). Henderson records that "the remains of walls and archways built into adjacent houses show in some measure the great extent of the whole" (b3). The extent of the Duchy Palace is shown on the OS 2nd Edition map of 1905 (b2) and since then except for some demolition in the SW corner, there have been few alterations to the property. It has been adapted for use as dwellings and warehouses and the coinage hall is still in use as a masonic lodge. The premises are all of 2 storey height, constructed of coarse killas with numerous granite doorways, window frames etc. Most of the walling is medieval to C18 (h1). Tree-ring analysis of timbers from the roof identified felling dates in AD 1620/1621 (16).

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Site history:

1: 1970. QUINNELL, NV/OS  
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#### **Sources / Further Reading**

- [1] SCO5365 - Unedited Source: UNKNOWN. 1---. UNKNOWN TITLE. W ANTIQUARY. VOL IX, 2, 23
- [2] SCO4050 - Cartographic materials: Ordnance Survey. 1900s. 2nd Edition 1:2500 Map.
- [3] SCO3501 - Bibliographic reference: Henderson, C. 1935. Essays in Cornish History. 48
- [4] SCO5173 - Bibliographic reference: DOE. 19--. Listed Building Description (original DOE). Listing "Greenbacks". SEP 1947, 3
- [5] SCO7884 - Unedited Source: UNKNOWN. 1963. HISTORY OF KINGS WORKS. II, 982-983
- [6] SCO4126 - Bibliographic reference: Pevsner, N. 1951. The Buildings of England: Cornwall. 108
- [7] SCO4045 - Cartographic materials: Ordnance Survey. 1970s. 1:10,000 OS Map.
- [8] SCO4422 - Bibliographic reference: Sheppard, PA. 1980. The Historic Towns of Cornwall. 1326, 39
- [9] SCO8492 - Unedited Source: POUNDS, N. 1979. DUCHY PALACE AT LOSTWITHIEL. IN INFO FILE.
- [10] SCO289 - Cornwall Event Report: Berry, E et al. 2007. Lostwithiel 'the fairest of small cities' Historic characterisation. 21-2, 26, 34, 43, 56
- [11] SCO233 - Cornwall Event Report: Berry, E. 2008. Convocation Hall (Duchy Palace Lostwithiel - Historic Building Report, Oct 2008.
- [12] SCO23921 - Cornwall Event Report: Purcell Miller Tritton LLP. 2011. Duchy Palace, Lostwithiel - Roof Truss Condition Survey & Repair Options.
- [13] SCO24113 - Bibliographic reference: ENGLISH HERITAGE. 2009. Heritage at Risk Register 2009 South West.
- [14] SCO24114 - Bibliographic reference: ENGLISH HERITAGE. 2010. Heritage at Risk Register 2010 South West.
- [15] SCO24115 - Bibliographic reference: ENGLISH HERITAGE. 2011. Heritage at Risk Register 2011 South West.
- [15] SCO25275 - Bibliographic reference: ENGLISH HERITAGE. 2012. Heritage at Risk Register 2012 South West.
- [16] SCO21113 - Cornwall Event Report: Tyers, I. 2010. Old Duchy Palace, Lostwithiel, Cornwall - Dendrochronological Analysis of Oak Timbers.

**Associated Finds: none recorded**

**Associated Events**

- ECO2353 - Duchy Hall, Lostwithiel
- ECO2950 - Old Duchy Palace, Lostwithiel Cornwall (Ref: 1-2010)
- ECO3288 - Duchy Palace, Lostwithiel (Ref: IH/231817/30)

**PastScape Record**

**The Duchy Palace**

**County:** Cornwall

**District:** CORNWALL

**Parish:** LOSTWITHIEL

**Monument Number:** ( SX 15 NW 19 )

MEDIEVAL		<b>QUAY</b>	-
MEDIEVAL	<b>COINAGE</b>	<b>HALL</b>	1290 -
MEDIEVAL	<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>COURT</b>	1290 -
MEDIEVAL	<b>EXCHEQUER</b>		1290 -
MEDIEVAL	<b>PRISON</b>		1290 -
MEDIEVAL	<b>STANNARY</b>	<b>COURT</b>	1290 -
POST MEDIEVAL	<b>HOUSE</b>		1540 - 1901
POST MEDIEVAL	<b>WAREHOUSE</b>		1540 - 1901
POST MEDIEVAL	<b>FREEMASONS HALL</b>		1878 -

A range of buildings including a coinage hall, county court, stannary offices, prison and exchequer constructed in 1290. The coinage hall has been converted into a masonic lodge in 1878, the rest into warehouses, and dwellings.

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## Sources

### Field Investigators Comments

F1 NVQ 18-SEP-70

### List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest

MHLG Corn Lostwithiel MB Sept 1947 3

### List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest

DOE HHR Restormel Aug 1987 91ff

### General Reference

Hist King's Works 2 1963 982-3

### General Reference

Essays in Corn Hist 1935 48 (C Henderson)

### General Reference

Bldgs of Eng (Corn) 1951 94 (Pevsner)

### General Reference

Corn Archaeol 23 1984 189 (N Johnson, P Rose)



## Appendix 3 List of contexts

Context Number	Area	Description
(1)	Room 1 kitchen	Modern concrete floor in room 1 (kitchen) 0.1m deep. Entirely removed.
(2)	Room 1 kitchen	Thin spread of dark greyish brown silty clay containing moderate ash, clinker, lime mortar and occasion brick fragments immediately below concrete floor. It is 0.02m deep
(3)	Room 1 kitchen	Thick layer of floor make-up material 0.55m deep. A mid brownish grey loose silty clay with frequent roof slate, slate rubble and occasional granite rubble. Contains frequent pottery. Excavated across whole of room 1 down to 0.4m and in new service trenches down to base at 0.55m. Layer equivalent to (31) in Room 2 (Undercroft).
(4)	Room 1 kitchen	Fill of drainage trench [6] aligned east-west with a narrow blocked opening in the west wall. A mid orangey brown gritty silty clay with clay lumps and occasional pottery 0.3m deep x 1.9m long x 0.6m wide.
(5)	Room 1 kitchen	Slate built retaining walls bonded with lime mortar on either side of drain [6] (capstones missing). 0.15m wide by 0.3m deep.
[6]	Room 1 kitchen	Cut of drainage trench with slate retaining walls (5) and filled by (4). Has vertical sides and a flat base. At the east end there are no stone walls and the northern edge slopes. Measures 0.3m deep by 0.6m wide by 1.9m long reaching from the centre of the west wall into the middle of the room.
(7)	Rear yard Section 1 and 2	Modern concrete screed surface covering most of the rear yard. It is 0.01m deep.
(8)	Rear yard Section 1 and 2	Modern concrete layer below screed (7), 0.04m deep.
(9)	Rear yard Section 1 and 2	Light greyish brown silty clay containing small shillet fragments up to 0.1m deep.
(10)	Rear yard Section 1 and 2	Thin layer/spread of mid reddish brown silty, gritty, clay 0.01m deep. Possible iron panning or burnt layer.
(11)	Rear yard Section 1 and 2	Layer of compact light yellowy brown clay with frequent lime mortar flecks, stones and shillet fragments. Maximum depth 0.25m.
(12)	Rear yard Section 1 and 2	Layer/spread of very dark greyish brown silty clay and charcoal. Minimum depth 0.01m, maximum depth 0.06m.
(13)	Rear yard Section 1 and 2	Layer of mid greyish brown silty clay containing occasional shillet fragments and frequent lime mortar fragments. Minimum depth 0.05m, maximum depth 0.08m.
(14)	Rear yard	Light orangey brown silty clay with occasional shillet fragments seen in section 1 only. It was excavated down to

Context Number	Area	Description
	Section 1	0.09m.
(15)	Rear yard Section 2	Very dark greyish brown layer of charcoal and cinders up to 0.05m deep
(16)	Rear yard Section 2	Layer of loose dark greyish brown silty clay containing frequent stones and shillet fragments
(17)	Rear yard Section 2	Layer of compacted mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent shillet and stone fragments 0.2m deep.
(18)	Rear yard Section 2	Layer of dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional stone fragments 0.1m deep
(19)	Rear yard Section 2	Layer of light greyish brown silty clay containing frequent small shillet fragments. Excavated to a depth of 0.22m but not bottomed.
(20)	Rear yard	North-west corner of slate rubble wall bonded with lime mortar, exposed in shallow trench in rear yard. Exposed immediately below the concrete (7) and (8). A small square structure is shown in the south-east corner of the yard on the 1755 plan and the c1880 and c1907 OS maps. It is likely that this wall is part of the former structure.
(21)-(23)		Numbers not used.
(24)	Room 1 kitchen	Layer below (3). A compact, mid orangey brown silty sandy clay containing small shillet fragments and gravel with occasional pottery, bone and roof slate fragments.
(25)	Room 1 kitchen	Layer of compact, mid to dark orangey brown sandy silty clay containing frequent pebbles and gravel. Excavated at the level of the wall footings in the south-west corner of the room. It lies below (24) and was excavated to a depth of 0.1m but not bottomed.
(26)	Room 1 kitchen	Footings of the south wall (the former north gable end of the Great Hall) were reached at a depth of 0.95m below the concrete floor surface. Well-made coursed footings comprising even, squared slate blocks bonded with a mid orangey brown silty clay, protruding 0.1m from the wall face, creating a ledge. Seen to pre-date west wall which abuts it.
(27)	Room 1 kitchen	Footings of the west wall (possibly a later southern extension of the Convocation Hall) were reached at a depth of 0.6m below the concrete floor surface. Roughly tiered footings comprising slate rubble bonded with earth, protruding 0.26m from the wall face, creating three tiered ledges. Seen to post-date south wall which it abuts.
(28)	Room 2 Undercroft	Remnant of a lime and ash floor or bedding layer for floor. Dark greyish brown silt and ash with frequent lime mortar flecks and patches of <i>in situ</i> lime mortar. 0.07m deep.
(29)	Room 2 Undercroft	Modern concrete floor in room 2 (Undercroft) 0.1m deep. Same as (1) in room 1.
(30)	Room 2 Undercroft	Layer of dark greyish brown silty clay 0.05m deep.

Context Number	Area	Description
(31)	Room 2 Undercroft	Thick layer of floor make-up material 0.25m deep. A mid brownish grey loose silty clay with frequent roof slate, slate rubble. Contains occasional pottery. Excavated in south-east part of room 2. Layer equivalent to (3) in Room 1 (Kitchen).
(32)	Room 2 Undercroft	A build of vertically set slate stones in the south east corner of the undercroft. The stones appeared in section only forming a square structure in the south-east corner of the room 1.5m <sup>2</sup> . Slates were visible to 0.25m but unexcavated below this point. Stones are set in a mid greyish brown silty clay. Possibly the edge of a well or footings for a structure in this corner of the building.
(33)	Room 2 Undercroft	Layer of small slate fragments in a mid greyish brown silty clay matrix. Seen at the base of the trench but not fully excavated.
(34)	Room 2 Undercroft	Footings of cross wall 0.7m wide, exposed in door opening between Rooms 1 and 2 at a depth of 0.55m below the concrete floor level. Sealed by (3) and (31). Large slate blocks bonded with mid orange brown silty clay.

## Appendix 4 Finds report

*by Carl Thorpe*

### Introduction

A total of 102 items of all categories were recovered during this project. All objects have been recorded using the site code DP12.

Pottery comprises the largest number of finds (63 sherds or 61.7% of the collection). There is also stone, flint, building materials, clay pipe, glass, and bone within the assemblage.

The finds were initially processed, cleaned and sorted into categories by volunteers. This greatly simplified the task of identification and cataloguing.

Some 15 artefacts (14.7% of the total) came from trenching within the rear yard and are considered unstratified. The remaining artefacts from both sites were collected from sealed features or layers and were recorded by context.

It should be noted that because the excavation of the deposits within the service trenches was carried out by the contractors under the supervision of an archaeologist, occasional mixing of the interfaces between contexts was unavoidable. This almost certainly accounts for a few later dated finds appearing within layers dominated by an earlier phase of finds such as the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century finds in layer (3) which almost certainly came from trench fill (4) and the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century finds in layer (24) which is otherwise dominated by 15<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> century finds etc.

The total number of finds from each context are summarised in the tables below.

### Context No: U/S Rear yard

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
Pottery				

Modern	375g	8		
<b>Bone</b>				
Animal	88g	2		
<b>Clay</b>				
Other Clay pipe	1g	1		
<b>Glass</b>				
Post-Medieval	122g	1		

2 rim / handle sherds Modern Glazed Red Earthenware (from possible North Devon, or Cornwall). 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

1 sherd Modern White Glazed Stoneware (china). Blue and white transfer print decoration. 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

1 sherd Modern Yellow Glazed Stoneware. 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

3 sherds Modern Brown Glazed Stoneware. Teapot decorated with Marlburian style soldiers. 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

1 sherd Modern Black 'Basaltz' Ware. 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

1 fragment clay pipe stem. Ø = 2mm *circa* 1788

2 animal bones.

1 shard Post-Medieval green bottle glass. 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

#### Context No: U/S Rear yard NE corner

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
<b>Pottery</b>				
Modern	223g	2		
<b>Glass</b>				
Post-Medieval	241g	1		

2 handle / rim sherds Modern Glazed Red Earthenware. 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

1 base of Post-Medieval green glass bottle. 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

#### Context No: (3). Room 1 (Kitchen) Floor make-up.

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
<b>Pottery</b>				
Medieval	431g	7		
Post-Medieval	145g	8		
Modern	50g	6		
<b>Stonework</b>				
Slate	332g	1		
Other Coal	89g	1		
<b>Bone</b>				
Animal	180g	5		
<b>Clay</b>				
Tile	917g	2		
Other Brick	268g	3		
Other Lime Mortar	10g	1		
Other Clay Pipe	18g	1		



<b>Glass</b>				
Post-Medieval	236g	9		

1 neck sherd Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware (Lostwithiel Ware). Perforated (pre firing). Part of a chafing dish. 15<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

1 large sherd Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware (Lostwithiel Ware). With two horizontal bands of white painted decoration. 15<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

1 large basal angle sherd Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware (Lostwithiel Ware). Sagging base probably from a cistern. 15<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

1 basal angle sherd Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware (Lostwithiel Ware). Sagging base. 15<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

2 sherds Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware (Lostwithiel Ware). One with white painted decoration. 15<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

1 complete base and side Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware (Lostwithiel Ware) multi handled mug or tyg (a large English pottery mug with three or more handles dividing the rim into sections for several drinkers). Decorated with bands of horizontal incised lines. 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

3 sherds Post-Medieval Glazed Red Earthenware. 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

1 rim sherd Cornish Post-Medieval Glazed Red Earthenware. 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

2 sherds North Devon Post-Medieval Glazed Red Earthenware (Calcareous ware). 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

2 sherds North Devon Post-Medieval Gravel Tempered Glazed Red Earthenware (Barnstaple Ware). 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

6 sherds Modern White Glazed Stoneware (china). 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (probably intrusive from context (4)).

2 co-joining sherds roofing tile (Cornish Medieval Coarseware Lostwithiel fabric). Shallow peaks with single stab marks. Traces of painted 'Christmas tree' decoration perpendicular to peaks. 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

3 fragments of hand made brick. 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

1 terracotta roofing tile fragment, Bridport? 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (probably intrusive from context (4)).

1 perforated roofing slate fragment. Perforation is irregular oval shaped circa 15mm x 15mm. Suggestive of use of wooden peg fixing. Medieval?

1 clay pipe stem and bowl, nearly complete, though edge of rim, foot spike, and mouth piece are missing. SW style Ø = 3mm suggesting 17<sup>th</sup> century date circa 1663.

1 rim / neck shard Post-Medieval green glass onion bottle. 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries circa 1710.

8 shards Post-Medieval green bottle glass. 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

1 cut and sawn animal bone, with a square socket to accept a possible tanged implement. Rough-out for a handle?

4 animal bones.

#### Context No: (4). Room 1 (Kitchen) Fill of drainage trench [6]

<b>MATERIAL</b>	<b>WEIGHT (g)</b>	<b>NO OF ITEMS</b>	<b>OBJECT NO</b>	<b>INTERIM BOX NO</b>
<b>Bone</b>				

Animal	11g	1		
<b>Clay</b>				
Object Chimney pot	719g	2		
<b>Glass</b>				
Modern	4g	1		

2 fragments of clay chimney pot. Well sooted interiors. Pale cream/white fabric (Non local?) Contains a large number of quartz grains. Post-Medieval?

1 animal bone fragment.

1 shard Modern brown bottle glass. 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### Context No: (24). Room 1 (Kitchen) Layer below (3)

MATERIAL	WEIGHT (g)	NO OF ITEMS	OBJECT NO	INTERIM BOX NO
<b>Pottery</b>				
Medieval	1252g	23		
Post-Medieval	118g	2		
<b>Stonework</b>				
Flint	975g	1		
<b>Bone</b>				
Animal	836g	10		
<b>Clay</b>				
Tile Roofing	251g	1		

2 bodysherds Cornish Medieval Coarseware (Lostwithiel - type ware). From 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

1 rim sherd Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware (Lostwithiel Ware). Cooking vessel or possible large bowl. White painted band of decoration on interior. 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

1 rim sherd Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware (Lostwithiel Ware). Jug or cistern, with bands of horizontal white painted decoration. 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

2 complex rim sherds Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware (Lostwithiel Ware). Flanged rimmed cream making dishes. 15<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

1 shoulder / handle sherd Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware (Lostwithiel Ware). Twisted cable handle. 15<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

1 handle sherd Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware (Lostwithiel Ware). U shaped profile. Stabbed decoration at point of attachment and down centre line of handle which is also decorated with a white painted line. Handle edges are finished in a pie crust decoration. 15<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

13 sherds Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware (Lostwithiel Ware). From the base of a large cistern with the springing for a handle just visible. Sagging base. Single line of horizontal stabbed (rouletted?) decoration. 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

2 sherds Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware (Lostwithiel Ware). 15<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

2 co-joining sherds forming the basal angle of North Devon Post-Medieval Glazed Red Earthenware. Flat based. 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries (probably intrusive from context (3)).

1 roofing tile fragment (Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware Lostwithiel Ware fabric). Incised 'Christmas tree' decoration with also traces of horizontal running wavy line. 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

10 animal bones, some with cut marks on surface.

1 very large flint flake struck off a nodule. Not typical of the normal flint encountered in Cornwall. Derived from ships ballast?

**Context No: (31). Room 2 (Undercroft). Floor make-up**

<b>MATERIAL</b>	<b>WEIGHT (g)</b>	<b>NO OF ITEMS</b>	<b>OBJECT NO</b>	<b>INTERIM BOX NO</b>
<b>Pottery</b>				
Medieval	51g	3		
Post-Medieval	18g	1		
<b>Metalwork</b>				
Other (e.g. tin)	71g	2		
<b>Clay</b>				
Tile Roofing	12g	1		

2 body sherds Cornish Medieval Coarseware (Lostwithiel - type ware). 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

1 rim sherd Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware (Lostwithiel Ware). Jug. Traces of possible white painted decoration immediately below rim. 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

1 sherd North Devon Post-Medieval calcareous ware (Barnstaple ware) 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

1 roofing tile fragment (Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware Lostwithiel Ware fabric). 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

2 fragments of metallic spill (either tin, lead or pewter).

**Context No: (32). Room 2 (Undercroft). Build of vertical slates**

<b>MATERIAL</b>	<b>WEIGHT (g)</b>	<b>NO OF ITEMS</b>	<b>OBJECT NO</b>	<b>INTERIM BOX NO</b>
<b>Pottery</b>				
Medieval	29g	1		
Post-Medieval	11g	1		

1 body sherd Cornish Medieval Coarseware (Lostwithiel - type ware). Applied horizontal cordon decoration in the form of a twisted ribbon below a vertical applied thinner element. 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

1 sherd North Devon Post-Medieval calcareous ware (Barnstaple ware) 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries (probably intrusive from layer (31)).

**Context No: (33). Room 2 (Undercroft). Layer**

<b>MATERIAL</b>	<b>WEIGHT (g)</b>	<b>NO OF ITEMS</b>	<b>OBJECT NO</b>	<b>INTERIM BOX NO</b>
<b>Pottery</b>				
Medieval	6g	1		
<b>Bone</b>				
Animal	14g	1		

1 body sherd imported French Saintonge ware. Part of jug. Has horizontal line decoration under a deep green glaze. 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

1 animal bone.

## Discussion

The earliest pottery identified was medieval pottery dating to the 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries (6 sherds) all found in the lowest layers within the building. Five sherds were in a hand made granitic fabric and were of Cornish Medieval Coarseware, Lostwithiel – type ware (previously Bunnings Park / Stuffle Ware). Only one sherd had decoration, (from context (32)). The remaining were small and abraded with identification being based purely on fabric type and apparent mode of manufacture. A single imported sherd of French Medieval Coarseware (Saintonge Plain Ware) came from context (33). Similar material has been found at both Restormel and Launceston Castles in late 13<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> century contexts (Saunders 2006; Taylor and Johns forthcoming).

The largest collection of ceramics (29 sherds) belongs to the later medieval period, of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. This material was recovered from contexts (3), (24), and (31). All were of Cornish Late Medieval Coarseware (Lostwithiel Ware). Interestingly most of the identifiable vessels consisted of table ware for dining – parts of jugs, cisterns, a drinking mug or tyg, and a chafing dish present. No fragments of vessels for food preparation or cooking were found. No imports were identified to this period.

The ridge tile fragments recovered from contexts (3), (24), and (31) are also of this period, and are also of local manufacture. These, and the perforated slate (context (3)), hint at the earlier appearance of the roof in the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> century.

Much of the unstratified late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century material from the rear yard was recorded but not retained. Only a few of these finds were retained as examples. Of interest are two fragments of metallic spill found in context (31) especially when considering the earlier Stannary function of the building. It is recommended that this material should be analysed to confirm that it is tin, as there is a strong possibility that it could be lead (derived from roof repairs), or possibly an alloy of both (pewter).

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## **Appendix 5 Planning brief**

### **BRIEF FOR TARGETED HISTORIC BUILDING ANALYSIS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION**

**Date:** 24/05/2011

**Address:** Duchy Palace, Quay Street, Lostwithiel, Cornwall

**Application:** PA11/00473

**HBSMR:** CCO4491

**Applicant:** The Prince's Regeneration Trust

**Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer:** , Dan Ratcliffe, Cornwall Council, Historic Environment Service, 39 Penwinnick Rd, St Austell, Cornwall. tel. 01726 223463 email [dratcliffe@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:dratcliffe@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Conservation Officer:** Vic Robinson, Cornwall Council

**EH Inspector:** Francis Kelly, Bristol Office

**Local Planning Authority Officer:** Jim Lee, Cornwall Council, Planning & Regeneration, Dolcoath Avenue, Camborne TR14 8SX tel. 01209 614450 email [planning.west2@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:planning.west2@cornwall.gov.uk)

This brief is only valid for six months. After this period the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer (HEPAO) should be contacted. Any written scheme of investigation (WSI) resulting from this brief shall only be considered for the same period. The contractor is strongly advised to visit the site before completing their WSI as there may be implications for accurately costing the project.

#### Contractors Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)

No ground works are to be undertaken until the HEPAO and the Local Planning Authority (LPA) have approved the archaeological contractor's WSI.

#### **1 Introduction**

This brief has been written by the HEPAO and sets out the minimum requirements for archaeological recording at the above site to discharge condition 2 of the above Listed Building Consent.

#### **2 Site Location and Description**

This building is located at the corner of Quay Street and Fore Street in the centre of Lostwithiel, a market town of medieval foundation at the navigable head of the River Fowey. It is a Grade I Listed structure described in more detail below.

#### **3 Planning Background**

Listed Building Consent application PA11/00455 was submitted on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011 and was for External and internal alterations; change of use of Masonic lodge to business use (Class B1) | Duchy Palace Quay Street Lostwithiel Cornwall. This application has been approved subject to a number of conditions. Condition 2 states:

No development shall take place within the site until the applicant has secured a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation to be submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with Cornwall Council

Historic Environment Service. Once secured the approved written scheme of investigation shall be implemented in full.

The applicant, their agents and any subcontractors should note that where there are other conditions requiring satisfaction in advance of the commencement of works on site; it is the responsibility of the applicant to liaise with the planning officer concerned to ensure that the timetabling of these works is managed.

#### **4 Historic Building/Structure Background**

This Grade I building is described in its list description as follows

LOSTWITHIEL  
10/128  
18.10.49

QUAY STREET, Lostwithiel SX 15 NW  
Freemasons' Hall (formerly listed  
as the Duchy Palace)

Freemasons' Hall, formerly the Convocation Hall of the Duchy Palace, having been used as the meeting place of the Stannators, or tinnners' representatives after the decay of the Great Hall. Circa 1280, with later alterations; in 1878 the hall was sold to the Freemasons, who carried out restorations and alterations. Slatestone rubble with granite and Pentewan stone dressings. Slurried slate roof with gable end to left and hipped to right end, with axial stack to left of ridge, rear lateral stack to rear right and end stack to right. Plan: at ground floor there is a continuous vaulted undercroft or cellar, originally entered only from the outside of the building; at upper level, there is a stair well at the left end leading to an antechamber, with the main hall to the north; the partition wall is unusually thick, although it is not, likely that this was originally an external wall, as the cellar vault continues unbroken with no partition, and it would appear from the Bucks engraving of 1734 that the south wall of the Convocation Hall abutted directly on to the north wall of the Great Hall; however there are remains of a window at upper level to south, (left end) which indicates that there may at one time have been space between the two buildings. The Bucks engraving shows a second floor, lighted on the front by 4 dormer windows; a straight stair leads from the antechamber to the second floor, where there is a small room over the antechamber, the rest of the upper floor being within the roof space. The front to Quay Street has heavy setback wall surfaces with 4 weathered buttresses dividing the front into 4 bays. Bay to left has gabled porch, of 1878 restoration, with pointed arched doorway of 2 chamfered orders with stops in Pentewan stone (said to have been removed from the south-end of the building) with studded double doors. Second bay has pointed arched door with relieving arch, giving access to cellar; at upper level, 2-light granite arched window with upper quatrefoil and cusped lights, of 1878. Third bay has single cusped light under eaves in granite surround, which may be one of the original windows. The fourth bay has a similar 2-light window of 1878. At the point between first and second bay, above the partition wall, a ridge stack of circa 1600, in granite ashlar, with cornice and shaped top. The right end has weathered set-back buttresses, wall set back above ground floor level as at front, with central wide 4-centred arched doorway with double doors of C19; blocked central window with granite lintel and a recess above with chamfered granite surround with carved stone coat of arms and helm, shield with 15 besants in pile, flanked by lions. Second block opening above, and chimney in slatestone rubble with granite quoins. At the top of the roof hip, a plume of



three feathers carved in oak, said to have been erected by the Black Prince when he paid his first visit to Lostwithiel in 1353. The upper stage of the building has granite quoins. Rear not wholly accessible,, rear lateral external stack with brick chimney to rear left, heating the hall only. Interior Much altered; all fireplaces have been blocked, at 2nd floor chimneypiece remains in room above antechamber, blocked fireplace to rear left of hall and projection in wall to rear right which may also have been a fireplace. In the rear wall of the antechamber is a 3-light chamfered granite window. The cellar has continuous plastered barrel vault. Roof mainly of late C18/early C19, with straight principals morticed at the apices, straight collars pegged to the faces of the principals; formerly had 2 rows of trencled purlins. (Sources: Pounds, N.J.G.: *The Duchy Palace at Lostwithiel, Cornwall*, in *The Archaeological Journal*, volume 136 for 1979. Hext, F.M.: *Memorials of Lostwithiel* 1891).

## **5 Archaeological Background**

Three main documents detail the investigative history of the building and have much increased the understanding of the building represented by the List description. These are

- 1) *'Convocation Hall (Duchy Palace) Historic Building Report': Eric Berry 2008.*
- 2) *'Masonic Interventions: The Old Duchy Palace Masonic Hall at Lostwithiel Cornwall'. Dr Charlotte MacKenzie 2008.*
- 3) *'Old Duchy Palace, Lostwithiel Cornwall: EH Scientific Dating Report. Ian Tyers 2010*

The most detailed account of the building to-date is that of Berry who notes that in order to fully understand the building the whole Duchy Palace requires a 'very thorough and expert building analysis and interpretation' and that his account is based on 'three very brief inspections of the Convocation Hall and former prison' augmented by some limited archival work. Berry's work has advanced new understanding of the phasing and relationship of the building to the larger Duchy Palace 'Great Hall' to the south, the surviving evidence of re-ordering works for the Duchy of Cornwall and Masonic uses of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and identified significant new evidence.

Dr MacKenzie's study has concentrated on the recording and interpretation of interventions made to the building for Masonic use. At the time this study was made interior furnishings and decorative schemes relating to this use were *in situ* and MacKenzie's work constitutes a significant record of this useage of the building. Significant elements of this use have been identified and retained in the current scheme.

Tyers' scientific dating clarifies the dating of the roof timbers within the Convocation Hall. Denrochronological samples from these timbers demonstrates a felling date between mid1620 and winter 1621. This provides strong evidence that the Convocation Hall survived a supposed fire during the Civil War.

The evidence listed above has been supplemented by measured plans reproduced in the Design and Access Statement submitted with the application.

## **6 Requirement for Work**

The consented scheme involves some loss to surviving Masonic fabric and decorative schemes, the removal of a ceiling to the first floor chamber (which will beneficially reveal evidence of the rose window), the opening of a blocked fireplace and excavations in the undercroft to install new toilet facilities. Other works may reveal new archaeological evidence during 'opening up' works. In order to ensure any losses of in-situ archaeological evidence are offset by their recording an archaeological condition has been attached to the consent. This condition is justified in order to achieve the aims of PPS5 Policy HE12 which deals with the recording of information related to heritage assets. HE12 states that information which relates to the investigation of significance of historic assets, should be made publicly available, including through the historic environment record. Berry's 2008 and Tyers 2010 studies have already been accessioned to the HER, however MacKenzie's 2008 study and the results of the measured survey undertaken by the applicants architects also have significant potential to add to public understanding of the significance of the Duchy Palace.

In this instance it is the advice of HES to the planning authority that a reasonable and proportionate scheme to meet the requirements of PPS5 HE12 would include a programme of selective monitoring and recording of opening up works and excavations connected with the works; further study of the graffiti in the undercroft identified by Berry in 2008; analysis, annotation and archival deposit of the measured survey; and reporting of this programme of works for deposit in the HER.

### **6.1 Building Recording**

The present proposals will culminate in the potential destruction / obscuration of material evidence. It is therefore important that existing records of the site are appropriately studied and synthesised and that appropriate provision for archaeological monitoring of works is in place to ensure the capture of new information that may come to light. It is as important that the results are made available to interested parties. In this particular instance, proposals for monitoring within the WSI should include

- A statement of research questions which can be advanced by monitoring of works.
- Identification of 'opening up works' where historic fabric may be revealed, providing new evidence or clarification of existing assumptions.
- Methodologies for the recording of evidence so exposed

### **6.2 Archaeological Recording**

Ground works associated with the development may disturb buried archaeological remains. It is therefore important that a suitably qualified archaeologist(s) is/are present during these works in order to identify and record any features of interest.

The site specific aims are to:

- Establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains



- Determine the extent, condition, nature, character, date and significance of any archaeological remains encountered
- To establish the nature of the activity on the site
- To identify any artefacts relating to the occupation or use of the site
- To provide further information on the archaeology of the Duchy Palace from any archaeological remains encountered

## **7 General Methodology**

- 7.1 All stages of the investigation shall be supported by a written scheme of investigation (WSI).
- 7.2 The archaeological contractor is expected to follow the code of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA).
- 7.3 Details including the name, qualifications and experience of the site director and all other personnel (including specialist staff) shall be included within the WSI.
- 7.4 All of the latest Health and Safety guidelines shall be followed on site.
- 7.5 The IfA's Standards and Guidance should be used for additional guidance in the production of the WSI, the content of the report and the general execution of the project.
- 7.6 Terminology will be consistent with the English Heritage Thesaurus.

## **8 Building Recording Methodology**

- 8.1 Prior to the commencement of on site works the historic building contractor should familiarise themselves with the site by examining the information held by the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record (HER), the Cornwall records Office at Truro and the Cornwall Centre at Redruth, where appropriate.
- 8.2 Details of how all buildings and structures are surveyed and recorded shall be provided. The site plan will be tied to the national grid.
- 8.3 A full photographic record of the building is not required in this instance. Instead photographic recording should be targeted towards areas where it would supplement the existing records of the building. Colour photography may be utilised for general shots and where it is appropriate for detail shots (negatives and where appropriate CD shall be included in the archive). For both general and specific photographs, a photographic scale shall be included. The photographic record shall be accompanied by a photographic register detailing as a minimum, feature number, location and direction of shot.
- 8.4 The existing measured survey data should be analysed by the historic building specialist and annotated to show significant archaeological details commensurate to an EH Level 3-4 survey.
- 8.5 A measured drawing should be made of the rose window once the ceiling in the upper chamber has been removed.

## **9 Archaeological Recording Methodology**

- 9.1 Prior to the commencement of on site works the archaeological contractor should familiarise themselves with the site by examining the information held by the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment record (HER), the Cornwall Records Office at Truro and the Cornwall Centre at Redruth, where appropriate.
- 9.2 An archaeologist shall be present during all ground works associated with the development, unless circumstances dictate a different approach. Due to the location of likely excavations the archaeologist on site should liaise with the building contractors to negotiate an appropriate excavation method. Should significant archaeological horizons be encountered responsibility for excavation should pass to the archaeological contractor who should proceed with appropriate hand tools.
- 9.3 Any surviving remains which will be disturbed or destroyed by the development shall be archaeologically excavated and recorded.
- 9.4 Details of how all archaeological contexts and artefacts will be excavated, surveyed, recovered and recorded shall be provided. The site will be tied into the national grid.
- 9.5 Details of the site planning policy shall be given in the WSI. The normal preferred policy for the scale of archaeological site plans is 1:20 and sections 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.
- 9.6 The photographic record shall consist of prints in both black and white and colour together with the negatives. Digital photography may be used for report illustration. For both general and specific photographs, a photographic scale shall be included. In the case of detailed photographs it may be appropriate to include a north arrow. The photographic record shall be accompanied by a photographic register detailing as a minimum, feature number, location and direction of shot.
- 9.7 If significant archaeological deposits are exposed, all works must cease and a meeting convened with the client and the HEPAO to discuss the most appropriate way forwards.

## **10 Finds**

- 10.1 All finds, where appropriate, will be retained from each archaeological context excavated.
- 10.2 All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed.
- 10.3 All pottery, and other finds, where appropriate, shall be marked with the site code and context number.
- 10.4 The WSI shall include an agreed list of specialist consultants, who may be required to conserve and/or report on finds, and advise or report on other aspects of the work including environmental sampling.

- 10.5 The requirements for conservation and storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed in writing to the HEPAO.
- 10.6 Finds work should be to accepted professional standards and adhere to the Institute for Archaeologists *Guidelines for Finds Work*.
- 10.7 Environmental sampling should be guided by *Environmental Archaeology* (English Heritage Centre for Archaeological Guidelines. 2001/02).
- 10.8 Further English Heritage guidance that may be helpful includes *Geoarchaeology* (2004) and *Archaeometallurgy* (2001).
- 10.9 The English Heritage Advisor for Archaeological Science will be able to provide archaeological science advice if required (Vanessa Straker 0117 975 0689).

## **11 Human Remains**

- 11.1 Any human remains which are encountered must initially be left in situ and reported to the HEPAO and the appropriate authorities (the Coroner), where appropriate. If removal is necessary this must comply with the relevant Government regulations. If burials are encountered their legal status must be ascertained and recording and/or removal must comply with the legal guidelines.
- 11.2 If human remains are not to be removed their physical security must be ensured, preferably by back filling as soon as possible after recording.
- 11.3 If human remains are to be removed this must be done with due reverence and in accordance to current best practice and legal requirements. The site must be adequately screened from public view. Once excavated, human remains must not be exposed to public view.

## **12 Results**

- 13.1 A full report including all specialist assessments of artefact assemblages shall be submitted within a length of time (but not exceeding six months) to be agreed between the applicant and the archaeological contractor, Cornwall County Council Historic Environment Service and the appropriate museum. A further digital copy shall be supplied on CD-ROM preferably in 'Adobe Acrobat' PDF format.
- 13.2 This report will be held by the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record and made available for public consultation.
- 13.3 The report must contain:
  - A concise non-technical summary of the project results.
  - The aims and methods adopted in the course of the investigation.
  - A discussion of the archaeological findings in terms of both the site specific aims and the desk based research.
  - A statement of outstanding research questions and of the significance and current level of understanding of the building.



- A location map, a drawing showing those areas examined as part of the archaeological recording, and copies of any archaeological plans and sections. All plans shall be tied to the national grid.
- All specialist reports and assessments. Mackenzie's report should be separately deposited with the HER.
- A summary of the archive contents and date of deposition.
- A context register with brief descriptions shall be included as an appendix.
- A copy of the brief and the approved WSI will be included as an appendix.

13.4 A contingency shall be made within the costs for full publication in an appropriate journal. The HEPAO will notify the contractor of such a need within four weeks of the receipt of the report.

13.5 The contractor will outline provision for a talk to be given to a local group at an appropriate point during or shortly after the project has been completed. Proposals for alternative creative outreach methods that may reach wider audiences may be substituted if desired.

#### **14 Archive Deposition**

14.1 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with: *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) English Heritage 2006* upon completion of the project. The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the Royal Cornwall Museum.

14.2 If the finds are to remain with the landowner a full copy of the documentary archive shall be housed with the Cornwall County Record Office and with the Courtney Library of the Royal Institution of Cornwall.

14.3 The archive including a copy of the written report shall be deposited with the Royal Cornwall Museum within two months of the completion of the full report and confirmed in writing with the HEPAO.

14.4 Where there is only a documentary archive this will be deposited with the Cornwall Record Office as well as the Courtney Library of the Royal Institution of Cornwall.

14.5 A copy of the report will be supplied to the National Monuments Record (NMR) in Swindon.

14.5 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to the HEPAO.

14.6 Only on completion of 14.1 to 14.5 (inclusive) will there be a recommendation for the discharge of any archaeological recording condition.

#### **15 Monitoring**

15.1 The HEPAO will monitor the work and should be kept regularly informed of progress.

15.2 Notification of the start of work shall be given preferably in writing to the HEPAO at least one week in advance of its commencement.

15.3 Any variations to the WSI shall be agreed with the HEPAO, preferably in writing, prior to them being carried out.



## **Appendix 6 Written Scheme of Investigation**

## Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall Council



### The Duchy Palace, Lostwithiel: Written Scheme of Investigation for historic building record and archaeological watching brief

Client: Cornwall Buildings Preservation Trust

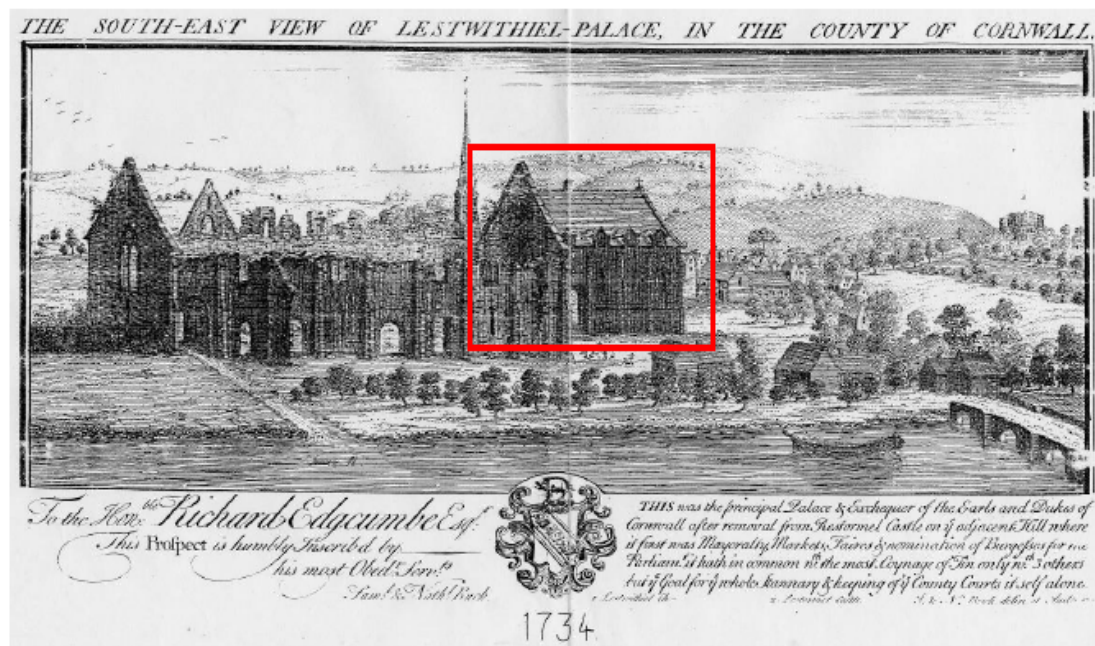
Client contact: Simon Thorpe

Client tel:

Client email:

### Site history

The Duchy Palace is the popular name generally applied to the remains of the medieval Great Hall and Convocation Hall, a Grade I Listed structure, located on Quay Street in the centre of Lostwithiel.



This site was the centre of the medieval stannary controlling the tin trade throughout the county. The Great Hall was in ruins after the Civil War and its walling generally survives today but the building has for many years been subdivided into shops and residential units. The former Convocation Hall is located at the northern end of the whole complex, on the corner of Quay Street and Fore Street, at NGR SX 10479 59723. It appears to have remained more or less in continuous use since the medieval period and until the last years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was occupied as a Freemasons' Lodge. After the Masons decided to sell the building it was purchased by the Cornwall Buildings Preservation Trust (CBPT) who

recognise the great historic importance of the building within the town and wish to see commercially viable use of the building into the future.

## Project and Planning background

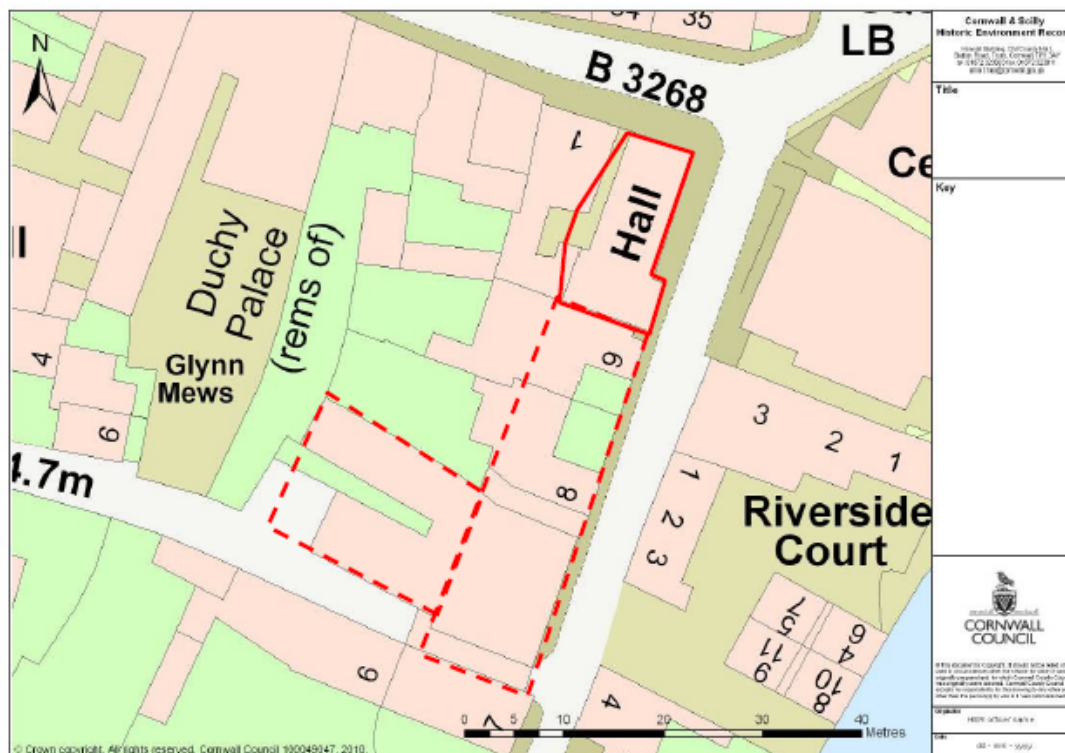
Listed Building Consent application PA11/00455 was submitted on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011 and was for external and internal alterations; change of use of Masonic lodge to business use (Class B1) Duchy Palace Quay Street Lostwithiel Cornwall. This application was approved by Cornwall Council subject to a number of conditions. Condition 2 states:

No development shall take place within the site until the applicant has secured a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation to be submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with Cornwall Council Historic Environment Service. Once secured the approved written scheme of investigation shall be implemented in full.

A brief outlining the requirements for archaeological and historic building recording work was prepared by Dan Ratcliffe, the local Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer. This brief was prepared in conjunction with the advice of Cornwall Council's Conservation Officer and (as the building is listed at Grade I), from English Heritage.

CBPT approached professional archaeological contractors with a view to satisfying the listed building consent. Estimates were sought and Historic Environment Projects became the successful bidder. This Written Scheme of Investigation has been prepared to set out HEP's approach, working methods and arrangements for project monitoring.

## Project extent



The solid line indicates the extent of the Convocation Hall and the area covered by

this study. The broken line shows the former extent of the Great Hall and associated contemporary buildings to the rear.

Detailed measured drawings of the site (floor and roof plans, elevations and sections) have been provided by Purcell Miller Tritton, the consultant architects to CBPT.

## **Previous archaeological and historic building studies**

An assessment survey and photographic record of the Convocation Hall was carried out by Eric Berry for the CBPT in 2008. A study was also made of the surviving Masonic features (Mackenzie 2008). In 2010 a dendrochronological (tree-ring dating) analysis was made by Tyers, who clarifies the dating of the roof timbers within the Convocation Hall. Dendrochronological samples from these timbers demonstrates a felling date between mid 1620 and winter 1621. This provides strong evidence that the Convocation Hall survived a supposed fire during the Civil War.

## **Aims and objectives**

The principal aim of the present study is to gain a better understanding of the historic development and former functions of the Convocation Hall and, as far as is practically possible, its relationship to the former Great Hall. The objectives are to obtain a comprehensive archaeological record of the site prior to alterations.

## **Research questions**

The planning brief requests that research questions are used to assist project monitoring. The following questions are proposed:

- What was the likely original form of the Convocation Hall roof structure?
- Is the hipped roof at the north end a conversion from an original gable and, if so, when was this alteration made? And why might this have been done?
- Is there any surviving physical evidence of dormer windows in the Convocation Hall roof structure or wall plate?
- The rose window appears to have belonged to the Great Hall rather than the Convocation Hall and originally been external. How did these two buildings relate to one another?
- How did the internal partition (of the main floor space) shown on the Duchy proposal plan relate to the high level window in the E wall?
- What was the likely original floor structure of the main room? (i.e. how did the vault beneath relate to the floor?)
- What is the nature of the sub-floor/foundations beneath the present concrete floor of the basement?
- Is there any evidence to indicate how the Convocation Hall used after the Civil War (i.e. in the later 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries?)



## **Working methods**

All recording work will be undertaken according to the Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording*. Staff will follow the IfA *Code of Conduct* and *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Archaeology*. The Institute for Archaeologists is the professional body for archaeologists working in the UK.

The overall intention of the study is to provide the equivalent of an English Heritage Level 3-4 survey, as specified in the planning brief (see English Heritage 2006). As there has already been research targeted on this building (see above) it is proposed that the current study will be a targeted approach towards the opening up works and other recording opportunities that arise during the building renovation.

### **Pre-fieldwork**

Rapid desk-based research will be undertaken, including:

- Cartographic evidence
- Review of earlier historical studies and papers relating to the Duchy Palace (Pounds, Whitley, Hext and Dunkley)
- Review of existing building reports (see above)

Sources will include:

- Cornwall Council's Historic Environment Records
- Brief searches of local archive indexes. This will be web-based and intended to establish the quantity and nature of historic records, and whether there may be gaps in knowledge.

### **Fieldwork**

Parts of the exterior of the building will require repointing and other masonry conservation work. As a Level 3-4 record is required it is proposed that a detailed record be carried out by HE Projects using rectified photography, to take place ahead of the main renovation contract. This will record all the architectural features and alterations/changes of build. This will provide not only a comprehensive archaeological record but also sufficient information for the architects to detail and quantify the necessary repair works. The rectified photography will include all accessible wall elevations i.e. the north wall and east wall. As the west wall is less accessible (being close to neighbouring buildings) a combination of photographic and measured survey will be carried out as opportunities allow.

Other archaeological fieldwork will take place during the main repair contract and will comprise targeted historic building recording as well as a watching brief on all ground disturbance, including:

#### *Exterior*

- Watching brief on drains and any other service trenches
- Photography and analysis of the roof structure after the existing slate covering has been removed

#### *Interior*

- Ground floor – archaeological recording of sub-floor deposits after the concrete floor in the toilet area has been removed and watching brief during drains installation (to record sub-floor material and wall foundations).
- Record early graffiti (beyond that already recorded by Berry in 2008).

- First floor - monitoring during removal of dais and any other opening up works. Record fireplace and reopened slit windows in W wall. Examine floor structure after existing floor boards have been removed. Record any evidence of removed 19th century partition. Record any structural evidence of the floor and vault beneath.
- Upper floor - monitoring during removal of ceiling & exposure of rose window frame.
- Record rose window frame using either rectified photography or on-site drawn elevation.
- Examine wall plates and roof structure for any evidence of former dormer windows (as are shown in the 18th century Buck brothers engraving).

Historic material will be annotated (and measured, if appropriate) onto the existing measured floor plans and roof drawings.

#### *Watching brief specification*

- A location plan will be made, plotting the areas of ground works onto the existing architects drawing.
- Finds from significant stratified contexts will be accurately located on the location plan at an appropriate scale.
- All archaeological contexts will be described to a standard format linked to a continuous numbering sequence. Recording will be carried out via the medium of HE pro forma context recording sheets.
- Registers of drawings, photographs, finds and contexts, samples will be maintained during the fieldwork.
- As far as practically possible, excavated spoil will be inspected for finds.

#### *Site planning policy*

- Site drawings (plans, sections, locations of finds) will be made by pencil (4H) on drafting film; all plans will be linked to the prepared location map and to the national grid; all drawings will include standard information: site details, personnel, date, scale and north-point.
- Site plans and sections will be drawn at 1:20, with details on elevations where necessary at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

#### *Photographic record*

- The photographic record will consist of prints in black and white together with the negatives. Colour digital photography will be used to record sections where soil colours etc are paramount, as well as for report illustration.
- For both general and specific photographs, a photographic scale will be included.
- In the case of detailed photographs a north arrow will be included if appropriate.
- The photographic record will be accompanied by a photographic register detailing as a minimum, feature number, location and direction of shot.

#### *Finds*

- All finds will be examined from each archaeological context excavated. 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century finds will be noted but not be retained

- The requirements for conservation and storage will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work.
- Finds work will be to accepted professional standards and adhere to the Institute for Archaeologists' *Guidelines* (IFA 2001b).

Any artefacts discovered during the watching brief and any parts of historic building material removed during building works (eg fragmentary elements of roof timbers) will remain the property of CBPT. These will be retained for potential display within the building. Objects may be temporarily removed for safekeeping and study by HE Projects during the course of the building works, but will be returned as soon as is practicable.

### **Creation of site archive**

To include:

- Rectification of elevation photographs, superimposed within AutoCAD onto existing measured drawings. Trace architectural features and changes of build to create detailed elevations (to be produced ahead of the main contract)
- Filing of digital colour photographs and image editing where appropriate
- Completion of measured drawings. Additions and annotations on floor plans as appropriate. Process watching brief drawings
- Process any recovered finds, including washing, marking and analysis
- Completion of the English Heritage OASIS record (online access to archaeological investigations)
- Archiving of paper records as appropriate

### **Archive report**

A written report will include:

- Summary
- Project background
- Aims and objectives
- Methodology
- Location and setting
- Designations
- Summary history
- Archaeological evidence
- Chronology/dating evidence
- Significance
- Conclusions
- References
- Project archive index
- Supporting illustrations: location map, historic maps, plans, elevations/sections, photographs

A paper copy and a digital (PDF) copy of the report, illustrations and any other files will be held in the Cornwall HER. Paper copies of the report will be distributed to the client, to local archives and national archaeological record centres.

### **Archive deposition**

An index to the site archive will be created and the archive contents prepared for long term storage, in accordance with HE standards.

The archiving will comprise the following:

1. All correspondence relating to the project, the WSI, a single paper copy of the report together with an electronic copy on CD, stored in an archive standard (acid-free) documentation box
2. A2 drawn archive storage (plastic wallets for the annotated record drawings)
3. Archive standard negative holders and archive print holders, to be stored in the HES system until transferred to the Royal Cornwall Museum.
4. The project archive will be deposited initially at ReStore PLC, Liskeard and in due course (when space permits) at Cornwall Record Office.

### **Timetable**

The study is anticipated to be commenced during December 2011.

The archive report will be completed within 3 months of the end of the fieldwork. The deposition of the archive will be completed within 3 months of the completion of the archive report.

### **Project monitoring and discharge of Planning Condition**

Monitoring of the project will be carried out by Dan Ratcliffe, Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer. Where the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer is satisfied with the archive report and the deposition of the archive written discharge of the planning condition will be expected from the local planning authority (LPA).

Monitoring points during the study will include:

- Approval of the WSI
- Completion of fieldwork
- Completion of archive report
- Deposition of the archive

### **Historic Environment Projects**

Historic Environment Projects is the contracting arm of Historic Environment, Cornwall Council (HE). HE employs some 20 project staff with a broad range of expertise, undertaking around 100 projects each year.

HE is committed to conserving and enhancing the distinctiveness of the historic environment and heritage of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly by providing clients with a number of services including:

- Conservation works to sites and monuments
- Conservation surveys and management plans
- Historic landscape characterisation
- Town surveys for conservation and regeneration



- Historic building surveys and analysis
- Maritime and coastal zone assessments
- Air photo mapping
- Excavations and watching briefs
- Assessments and evaluations
- Post-excavation analysis and publication
- Outreach: exhibitions, publication, presentations

## Standards



HE is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists and follows their Standards and Code of Conduct.

As part of Cornwall Council, the HES has certification in BS9001 (Quality Management), BS14001 (Environmental Management), OHSAS18001 (Health, Safety and Welfare), Investors in People and Charter Mark.

## Terms and conditions

### Contract

HE Projects is part of Historic Environment, Cornwall Council. The contract for this work will be between the client (CBPT) and Cornwall Council.

The views and recommendations expressed will be those of the HE projects team and will be presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

### Project staff

The project will be managed by a nominated Senior Archaeologist who will:

- Discuss and agree the detailed objectives and programme of each stage of the project with the client and the field officers, including arrangements for health and safety.
- Monitor progress and results for each stage.
- Edit the project report.
- Liaise with the client regarding the budget and related issues.

Work will be carried out by HE field staff, with assistance from qualified specialists and sub-contractors where appropriate. The project team is expected to include the following:

*Nigel Thomas BA MifA*

Senior Archaeologist responsible for management of projects relating to historic building recording and surveys of historic landscapes. Past work has included recording and structural analysis at Launceston and Restormel Castles, medieval chapels at Rame, Bodmin and Hall (Bodinnick), as well as landscape surveys at Lanhydrock park and Godolphin gardens. Project manager for historic building

analyses at Tintagel Old Post Office, Cotehele House, St Michael's Mount summit complex and Trerice for the National Trust. Project team leader for the Lostwithiel Town Characterisation Study. Member of the IfA Buildings Group and Survey and Illustration Group. Expertise includes archaeological use of CAD software and survey methodology.

*Joanna Sturgess BA*

Archaeologist with HE, with a wide range of experience in recording historic buildings, landscapes, excavation and post-excavation. Past historic building works have included Cutmadoc Farmhouse, Lanhydrock; City Wharf, Truro; Harvey's Foundry, Hayle; Boswednack Serpentine works, Porthmeor farm and various mining sites. Other projects include Gwithian's past excavations, Lemon Quay excavation, Goonhilly Earth Station survey, Lower Boscawell and Trevesa in West Penwith landscape surveys. Expertise includes archaeological use of CAD software and survey.

### **Copyright**

Copyright of all material gathered as a result of the project will be reserved to the CBPT. Existing copyrights of external sources will be acknowledged where required.

Use of the material will be granted to Historic Environment, Cornwall Council.

### **Freedom of Information Act**

As Cornwall Council is a public authority it is subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which came into effect from 1st January 2005.

HE will ensure that all information arising from the project shall be held in strict confidence to the extent permitted under the Act. However, the Act permits information to be released under a public right of access (a "Request"). If such a Request is received HE may need to disclose any information it holds, unless it is excluded from disclosure under the Act.

### **Health and safety statement**

HE follows the Council's *Statement of Safety Policy*. For more specific policy and guidelines HE uses the manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology* (2002) endorsed by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers and also the Council for British Archaeology's Handbook No. 6 *Safety in Archaeological Field Work* (1989).

Prior to carrying out on-site work HE will carry out a Risk Assessment.

### **Insurance**

As part of Cornwall Council, HE is covered by Public and Employers Liability Insurance.

## **References**

- Berry, E, 2008. Convocation Hall (Duchy Palace) Lostwithiel: historic building report
- English Heritage, 2006. *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*. Swindon
- Mackenzie, C, 2008. *Masonic Interventions: The Old Duchy Palace Masonic Hall, Lostwithiel, Cornwall* A report to Cornwall Buildings Preservation Trust
- Purcell Miller Tritton Architects, 2011. Duchy Palace: Design and Access Statement
- Tyers, I, 2010. *Old Duchy Palace, Lostwithiel, Cornwall: Dendrochronological Analysis of Oak Timbers* (English Heritage Research Department report no. 1)