

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON THE SITE OF
THE KITCHEN OF THE MEDIEVAL GUESTHOUSE,
BUCKFAST ABBEY, DEVON



STEWART BROWN ASSOCIATES
SEPTEMBER 2013

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON THE SITE OF THE KITCHEN OF THE MEDIÉVAL GUESTHOUSE, BUCKFAST ABBEY, DEVON

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September 2013

SUMMARY

An archaeological field evaluation comprising seven trench excavations was carried out in July and August 2013 in order to determine the character and preservation of buried archaeological remains on the presumed site of the medieval guesthouse kitchen. In addition, some standing ruins on the site were also recorded and analysed. The principal reason for the evaluation was to inform proposals for a landscaping scheme in the area. The evaluation showed that remains of the medieval kitchen have been very largely swept away by post-medieval stone-robbing and other activity. Two robber-trenches may represent the position of the kitchen's north and south walls. The best preserved medieval wall footing, probably part of the kitchen's west wall, was uncovered in an adjoining area during earlier excavations in 1982. The earliest masonry remains uncovered by the 2013 evaluation are associated with a two-roomed cottage which stood from the 17th century until the mid 19th century. Some of the standing ruins also belong to the 17th-century cottage, but most are additions of the 19th-century, comprising a walled yard with lean-to on two sides, a probable pigsty, and low garden walls.

1. THE PROJECT

1.1 Associated documents

The field evaluation follows a desk-based assessment of the site (Brown 2012). A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the evaluation is appended to this report (Appendix 3).

1.2 Archaeological background

The standing remains of the main medieval guesthouse block were recorded and parts of the site excavated between 1982 and 1984 (Brown 1988, 34-65, 69-77). The standing remains were consolidated as part of a refurbishment which saw the creation of the present bookshop in 1990. The guesthouse had a south wing added to it at right angles probably in the 15th century. The wing contained a first-floor hall with cellar storage below. After the Dissolution of the abbey in 1539, the south wing became a self-contained residence. By the 19th century it was the farmhouse of Abbey Farm. The south wing's standing structure was recorded in 1984 and excavated in 1991 (Brown 1988 and forthcoming). The building was consolidated and restored to its original medieval appearance in 1992, complete with a first-floor hall and new roof in the original arch-braced style.

There can be little doubt that the guesthouse kitchen once stood on the area covered by the 2013 evaluation since it would have been placed in the usual position just beyond the service end so as to provide easy access to and from the dining hall. There was a small open court between the two which acted as a fire break, another common feature in such arrangements. The excavations of 1982-4 uncovered not only the service end and the small open court, but also part of a late medieval wall footing to their south which almost certainly formed the west side of the kitchen (Fig. 5, medieval). The medieval footing had been reduced to one or two

masonry courses which projected westward from beneath a later, post-medieval wall (the wall is now known to be a 17th- or 18th-century yard wall – wall 38, below). No further medieval masonry remains were uncovered in the 2013 evaluation to the east (below), so the wall uncovered in 1982-4 may well be the last surviving masonry remnant from the kitchen.

1.3 Designation

The standing and buried remains were scheduled in 2001 (Monument number 1266782). Although some of the standing remains show clear evidence of a post-medieval date, eg inclusion of bricks, others were obscured by ivy at the time of scheduling. All the standing remains were included in the scheduling in case some were medieval.

1.4 Reason for the evaluation

The evaluation is intended to inform proposals for a landscaping scheme to improve access to the early 14th-century guesthouse ruins to the north of the evaluation area.

1.5 The 2013 recording of standing remains and field evaluation

The standing remains had already been plotted onto a digital survey of the abbey's grounds so a plan of the ruins and surrounding area was available as a base for the archaeological site records (abbey survey 2010 revision). The standing ruins were recorded by hand and related to OD levels on the existing digital survey. The trenches comprising the field evaluation were opened using a mini-digger then excavated by hand. Some minor adjustments were made to the layout of trenches in order to avoid undermining walls and/or scaffolding. A number of small extensions were made to particular trenches in order to investigate critical archaeological relationships.

A prominent feature uncovered during the evaluation was a 17th-century stone floor (Trench 6, context 27, below). It was decided that this should be left intact since the future of the site has not yet been determined regarding further excavation and/or presentation of remains. However, a small area where the stone floor had already been damaged (probably by tree roots) was excavated to a greater depth in order to investigate the series of deposits underlying the stone floor. The location and section of this trial pit are shown in Figs. 1 and 4 respectively.

The uppermost undisturbed natural deposit was yellow clay, a weathering deposit derived from the underlying slate bedrock (known locally as 'shillet'). The slate bedrock provides local building stone along with limestone from quarries as close as 1km away in the vicinity of Dart Bridge, Buckfastleigh (Black Rock quarry). Some granite occurs in walls, mostly in below-ground footings, usually in the form of cobbles or boulders taken from the riverbed of the nearby River Dart. No other stone types were used in the walls recorded as part of the 2013 evaluation exercise. However, other building stone types have been recorded from excavations and building surveys elsewhere on the abbey site including Beer stone and red sandstone from the Torbay area. The ruined walls recorded in 2013 were all of random rubble either set in yellow-brown clay or bonded with white lime mortar containing gravel aggregate and coal fragments, the inclusion of coal in the mortar being characteristic of 19th-century construction at the site, as has been noted in previous recording projects. The mortar used for the important medieval buildings within the inner court was white lime mortar with gravel

aggregate, but without coal fragments. Medieval buildings in the outer court sometimes have earth added to their mortar so that it appears light brown in colour.

The evaluation was undertaken by Stewart Brown of Stewart Brown Associates and Marc Steinmetzer of Oakford Archaeology on behalf of Buckfast Abbey.

Pottery finds were identified by John Allan (Appendix 1).

2. DESCRIPTION (Figs. 1-4)

2.1 Phase 1 Medieval

The only excavated features with probable medieval origins were two robber-trenches for walls (Fig. 1, Trench 1, 55; Trench 3, 19) and a shallow pit in which fires had been lit (Fig. 1, Trench 4, 46). Robber-trench 55 had been infilled with broken roofing slates before wall footing 21 was built across its line, showing that the robbing took place sometime before the new footing was built in the 17th century (Phase 2 below) so the robber trench and wall it removed must be earlier in date. The robber-trench followed a different alignment from wall footing 21, being turned at an angle of a little over 10 degrees, such that its alignment was much closer to that of the medieval guesthouse to the north, suggesting a medieval origin. Robber-trench 19 was not closely datable but also followed the medieval alignment. It had been partially excavated in 1982-4 when it was recorded as a shallow linear feature of post-medieval date.

Fire-pit 46 is not securely dated since its infilling produced no finds. Its fill was however different in character from post-medieval deposits on the site, being more closely textured and containing less dark organic material, suggesting that it had settled over a longer period of time and therefore had an earlier origin. The sides and bottom of the pit had been burnt, and its fill contained much charcoal, ash and burnt clay. The presence of burnt material in its infilling suggest that fires had been lit within in it on more than one occasion. The pit was probably formerly deeper but had been truncated by 19th-century landscaping activity. It had been dug into natural clay, as well as through an earlier medieval layer to its west (50, below).

Only two medieval deposits were located, a layer of clay and stones which survived in Trench 4 (50), and a spread of broken roofing slates uncovered in Trench 6 (28-5). Deposit 50 was similar to the natural yellow clay but contained stones, slate fragments and charcoal in it. It was probably natural clay which had been turned only once or twice, possibly as upcast from digging a wall trench or ditch. At its base was a thin pebble and gravel surface which directly overlay natural clay. The deposit produced a small collection of seven pottery sherds dating from the late 13th or 14th century, including two sherds from two different vessels dating from the 12th/early 13th-century. The deposit therefore appears to belong to the earlier rather than later medieval period.

The broken roofing slate layer 28-5 was located at the bottom of the trial pit opened in Trench 6. The broken slates were set in dark brown gritty silt containing iron nails, animal bone fragments, some mortar flecks and eleven pottery sherds dating from *c.* 1250-1450. The deposit clearly derived from a slate roof on a former building nearby. It resembled deposits excavated elsewhere at the abbey which are associated with the dissolution of the monastery in 1539, including in the vicinity of the guesthouse. The pottery finds contain no finds

diagnostic of the Dissolution period but are not themselves closely datable, so the group of sherds could be somewhat later in date than 1450. It would seem likely that the broken slates represent a Dissolution deposit but an earlier date cannot be ruled out. The deposit directly overlay natural clay and appears to have been spread about at a later date as one of a series of levelling deposits for the stone floor of a 17th-century house (Phase 2, stone floor 27, below).

2.2 Phase 2 17th–mid 19th century

Standing remains from a 17th-century house survive in the southern half of the evaluation area where they form part of the present garden wall on the west of the lawn (Figs. 1, 2, 8-10, wall 33). It is known that the house was still standing in the mid 19th century since it is shown on the title map of 1844 (Fig. 6). The walls were built with random rubble masonry set in yellow-brown clay. A buttress at the southwest corner may possibly be original, although much collapse and re-facing has taken place in this area making identification of original fabric difficult. Part of the northwest corner of the building is still standing but also in very poor condition, much of its facework having collapsed, with evidence for extensive later buttressing, repairs and consolidation.

Further to the east, a wall footing for the north wall was uncovered by excavation (Fig. 1, Trench 1, 21; Fig. 22). Trench 6 uncovered parts of the building's south wall (Fig. 1, Trench 6, 25; Fig. 23) as well as a cross-wall which divided the interior into two equally sized rooms (31; Fig. 24). All the excavated wall footings were on average 0.74m wide and set in clay like the standing remains. The east wall and northeast corner of the building had been robbed of stone, leaving behind only robber-trenches (Fig. 1, Trench 1, 14 and 20).

Trench 6 uncovered a stone floor made up of irregularly-shaped local limestone slabs of both large and small sizes (Fig. 1, Trench 6, 27; Figs. 25). Many of the stones are smooth and rounded on their surface owing to prolonged wear. A good number are also cracked, probably a result of tanker lorries having crossed this part of the site in the 1980's (see Phase 4 below). The floor abutted the wall footings of the house and was clearly contemporary. In a few places, stones were missing or had been dislodged by tree roots. The largest area of missing stones (28) provided an opportunity to investigate the deposits beneath the stone floor. A trial pit was opened which uncovered a series of make-up and levelling deposits, the lowest being the layer of broken roofing slates 28-5 which may date originally from around the time of the Dissolution (described in Phase 1 above). The uppermost levelling deposit, a clay layer which could be observed to extend beneath adjacent flagstones, and which therefore can be regarded as stratified immediately beneath the stone floor (28-2), produced two pottery sherds dating from the 16th or 17th century and part of a clay pipe stem of probable 17th-century date. These finds show that the stone floor very likely dates from the 17th century. There were no other floor surfaces beneath the stone floor, so the date of the floor is probably that of the house too.

Trench 6 also located two fireplaces, one in each of the two rooms (Fig. 1 Trench 6, 24 and 32; Figs. 24 and 26). Fireplace 24 was 1.3m wide and set against the south wall closer to the southwest corner than a central position. It had a pitched slate hearth contained within a band of laid stone edging at its front and along its two cheeks. The surface of the pitched slate was burnt toward the rear of the fireplace, as were adjacent stones in the south wall, which must have served as a fireback. Fireplace 32 was set against the cross-wall 31, also further to the west than a central position. Trench 6 uncovered only its western cheek so the full width of the fireplace is uncertain. At the base of the fireplace cheek was a large stone of pink granite.

The inner edge of the stone was finely worked to a flat straight edge. The other faces of the stone were left roughly hewn apart from the bottom which was worked to a fairly flat surface so that it would sit firmly on the natural clay beneath. To the north of the fireplace and within the area which would have been occupied by its hearth, all contemporary floor surfaces had been robbed, such that late 19th-century demolition deposits of the house directly overlay natural clay (Fig. 4, section Trench 6, 52). There would almost certainly have been a stone floor like the one in the southern room, or perhaps a better quality flagstone floor. If the latter, then that might explain why the floor had been completely removed and the surviving floor left intact.

The house must have fallen into disrepair by the 19th century since three secondary buttresses were erected along its west wall (Fig. 1, 34, 36, and 38). Two of these, 34 and 38, are clay bonded and barely survive above present ground level. The third, 36, is bonded with white lime mortar and better preserved. It stands 4m above ground level and has a projecting weathering course 0.3m below its top which was probably set just below original roof level, so the buttress has survived almost to its original height.

Leading northward from the northwest corner of the house was another clay-bonded wall (Figs. 1 and 2, wall 38; Figs. 11 and 12). The wall abuts the corner and was built on a different alignment from the house. It may be a little later in date, ie late 17th or 18th century. Buttress 36 crossed over its top, showing that the buttress is later than the wall. It is known from excavations in the 1980's that this wall directly overlies a late medieval wall thought to be part of the medieval guesthouse kitchen (mentioned above). The wall contains many re-used stones with white mortar adhering to them, plus two fragments from arches bonded with similar white mortar. The white mortar closely resembles that used in the nearby 14th-century guesthouse, so wall 38 would seem to incorporate stones and masonry fragments salvaged from a medieval building, probably the guesthouse kitchen. The tithe map of 1844 shows a long narrow structure standing on this part of the site (Fig. 6), so wall 38 probably once formed part of the structure's west wall. The wall contains no windows so the structure may have been a shed or store of some kind.

Other features dating from this period are a broad shallow pit and a sunken trackway leading to the front of the house. Both these features were infilled with rubble and clay sometime in the first half of the 19th century. The pit (Figs. 1 and 2, Trenches 1 and 2, 12) was approximately oval-shaped, up to 9m in diameter, and had been dug into natural clay to a depth of up to 0.65m. It may have been a clay quarry or perhaps a pond, although no silt or organic material survived on its bottom. Trench 2 located its eastern edge, which was revetted with a low bank of slate rubble (13). The rubble and clay used for its infilling spilled out to reach Trench 4 to the north (Fig. 2, section Trench 4, 51). Very similar rubble and clay infilling was found in Trench 5 to a depth of 0.6m, directly overlying natural clay, showing that there must have been a sunken feature leading to the front of the house. The tithe map of 1844 shows the trackway leading to the house from the road to the east and a large feature which could be the pond, or a large garden feature occupying much the same position (Fig. 6).

2.3 Phase 3 late 19th-century

The phase 2 house does not appear on the OS map of 1887 so must have been demolished by then. Instead, the map shows three smaller garden or farm structures plus garden walls (Fig. 7, structures A, B and C; garden walls D). Two of the structures have recognisable remains

today (A and B), whilst the third, a small shed-like structure on the site of the former house appears to have left no trace (C). All the surviving phase 3 walls are much narrower than the phase 2 walls (0.42m on average) and bonded with white lime mortar containing coal flecks. Some contain bricks (bricks are rare in rural Devon before the 19th century).

Structure A was L-shaped and provided a roofed area on the east and south sides of a small enclosed yard. The east side and northeast corner were formed by new walls (Figs. 1 and 3, walls 22 and 56; Figs. 15-17) but the south and west walls were retained from phase 2 (37, 38, above). The new wall had a narrow lean-to set against it. Sockets for the lean-to roof survive with a slate weathering course above them (Fig. 16). A vertical mortar fillet adhering to the inside of the wall marks the position of a timber partition or door frame about midway along the length of the lean-to. Wall 22 contains no windows so the lean-to was evidently lit from the side facing onto the yard. The 1887 OS map shows that the south end of the yard was also roofed, but that the remainder of the yard area was left open (Fig. 7). The open part contained a stone-walled cess pit set against the west wall of the yard (Fig. 1, Trench 7, 17). The masonry sides of the pit (16) were 0.3m wide and bonded with white lime mortar. The pit had green staining on its sides and bottom characteristic of use as a cess pit. Next to the pit was a cobbled surface (15). There was a gap in the walls on the north side of the yard which acted as an entrance. The wall forming the northwest corner of the yard (41) is continuous in construction with wall 5, a low garden wall crossing the northern part of the site diagonally to reach the southwest corner of the Abbey Farm farmhouse (Figs. 12 and 13; wall 5 was probably a property boundary – see Discussion, phase 3, below). Wall 5 had a stone-lined water channel built alongside it (Fig. 1, Trench 3, 10). The channel was originally supplied with running water from Higher Leat (Brown 1988, 32-4). The channel continues beneath wall 43, which had an arched opening to let the water through (Fig. 19), and heads eastward (Fig. 20), possibly once extending as far the existing well (Fig. 1, covered well), where the water could have been stored for convenient use.

The small structure shown on the 1884 map to the north of the yard (Fig. 7 B) may have been a pigsty. Its walls (Figs. 1 and 2, walls 39, 40, 42; Fig. 14) abut walls 41 and 5 so are a little later in date.

To the south of the evaluation area is a garden wall containing three bee-boles (recesses for containing wicker bee skeps; Fig. 21). The wall abuts the southwest corner of the 17th-century house and must therefore be later in date. Parts of the wall have been patched and consolidated in recent times using cement mortar. Other parts may date from the 19th century or perhaps a little earlier.

2.4 Phase 4 20th century

Remains from a cobbled path (3) and gravel path (8), one to each side of wall 5, date from the late 19th or early 20th century (Fig. 1, Trench 3, 3 and 8), as do two post-holes (Fig. 1, Trench 4, 45, 49). The walled yard and garden walls gradually fell into disrepair throughout the 20th century and became overgrown with ivy. Cess pit 17 remained open until sometime around the mid 20th century when it was infilled with modern rubbish including bricks, lemonade and other modern bottles, and a metal teapot. More rubbish including electric wire and plastic was burnt on bonfires lit inside the structure, after which the level of the interior was raised 0.6m with clay and earth dumps and capped off with a tarmac surface. Another 0.25m of stone chippings and gravel has been dumped on the area since, so the present ground level is now 0.8m higher than the mid 20th-century surface (Fig. 4 section Trench 7, dump layers 57-61).

The water channel next to wall 5 was replaced sometime in the 20th century by a cast iron pipe set in the ground further to the north. The pipe reached only as far as the open section of channel next to wall 43.

No new construction work took place until the 1980's when a road was driven across the site to provide temporary access for tanker lorries. A gap was opened through the west wall of the former Phase 2 house and road metalling spread across the southern part of the area. Once an alternative route for lorries became available, the road was covered over and the gap in the wall infilled (Figs. 1 and 2, wall 33).

Topsoil 0.2 – 0.4m deep has been spread across the whole area to the east of the present standing ruins to create a bed for the present lawn (Fig. 4, Trenches 1-6, layer 1).

3 DISCUSSION (Figs. 5-7)

3.1 Phase 1 The medieval guesthouse kitchen

It is clear from the evaluation that very little survives from the medieval kitchen owing to post-medieval stone-robbing and other activity. The only features possibly associated with the kitchen were two robber-trenches for former walls. Contemporary floor levels have also been lost. Poor preservation of medieval remains in this area is not entirely surprising since medieval floor levels have also been removed by post-medieval (largely 19th-century) activity throughout the main medieval guesthouse block to the north, as shown by excavations in the 1980's (Brown 1988). In this latter area however, sufficient remained from below-ground remains such as wall footings, robber-trenches and drains to reconstruct the size and layout of the early 14th-century guesthouse as well as its 12th-century predecessor (Brown 1988 and forthcoming).

3.2 Phase 2 17th – mid 19th-century house

The 17th-century house contained only two rooms. It was probably a cottage intended for farm labourers or retired members of the farming family (the nearby south range of the medieval guesthouse was the farmhouse for Abbey Farm). Two-roomed cottages usually have only one heated room with a bread oven in the fireplace (Child 2001, 34). The presence of a large fireplace in each of the two rooms is therefore uncommon. Another unusual feature is the varying alignment of its walls which are not set out at true right-angles. These features might suggest that the cottage has an atypical origin. It is possible that it incorporates parts or materials salvaged from the medieval kitchen or associated structures such as a bakehouse or brewhouse. A bakehouse and brewhouse would be expected close by the kitchen. Indeed, there is documentary evidence for a house in this vicinity owned by Charles Sackfield, who was presented in 1669 for allowing a house called the Bakehouse to fall into decay and become ruinous for want of timber (Travers 2004, 4). There is evidence to show that its stone floor was laid in the 17th century, and that the building was still in use until the mid 19th century, having been extensively repaired and buttressed in the meantime.

3.3 Phase 3 late 19th-century

Wall 5 probably formed a property boundary between Hamlyns, which included the farmhouse, and 'Sackfields', or 'Gate House' adjoining to the north, which included most of

the ruins of the medieval guesthouse (Travers 2004, 22). The lean-to on the east and south sides of the walled yard were probably little more than garden sheds used to store tools. The cess pit was presumably used by the family living in the farmhouse and would have been emptied periodically. The small structure labelled B in Fig. 7 may have been one of three disused pig houses in poor condition recorded as belonging to Abbey Farm in 1910 (Travers 2004, 23).

4. CONCLUSION

Remains of the medieval guesthouse kitchen have very largely been swept away by post-medieval stone-robbing and other activity. Two robber-trenches of post-medieval date may possibly represent the positions of the medieval kitchen's north and south walls. Medieval deposits survive in only a few places. A thin pebble and gravel yard surface and overlying clay dump produced finds dating from the early 13th century. Elsewhere, a deposit of broken roofing slates probably dates from the Dissolution period. No medieval kitchen floor levels survived. In most places, post-medieval deposits and features directly overlie natural clay.

The standing ruins include one side wall of a 17th-century house or cottage. The remainder belong to a late 19th-century low garden walls and a walled yard with a lean-to on two of its sides.

5. ARCHIVE

The site archive will be deposited in the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter; reference number RAMM: 13/25.

6. REFERENCES

Brown, S.W. 1988 Excavations and Building Recording at Buckfast Abbey, *Proc. Devon Archaeol. Soc.* **46**, 13-89.

_____ 2012 *Buckfast Abbey – Desk-based archaeological and historic building assessment of south wing of medieval guesthouse and adjacent area, October 2012*, unpublished report to Buckfast Abbey, English Heritage and Dartmoor National Park Authority.

_____ forthcoming 'Excavations and Building Recording at Buckfast Abbey 1988-2014', *Proc. Devon Archaeol. Soc.*

Child, P. 2011 'Farmhouse Building Traditions', in Beacham, P (ed.) *Devon Building* (3rd edition), 33-47.

Travers, A. 2004 'Buckfast Abbey - An assessment of the post-Dissolution history of the site and sources', unpublished report to Buckfast Abbey.

APPENDIX 1
POTTERY IDENTIFICATION

By John Allan

Context	sherds	description	date
4	1	English white ware, large bowl	late C18/early C19
6	3	Staffordshire white ware, one of which is transfer printed	after c. 1820
	2	yellow earthenware, 1 vessel	
8	1	Staffordshire transfer printed white ware	after c. 1800
12	1	ridge tile, ?post-med	early C19
	1	clay pipe stem, c.1800-1820	
	2	S Somerset coarseware, 1 vessel, C18/early C19 chamber pot	
	2	post-med Totnes type, 2 vessels, C16-C18	
	1	Exeter fab 42, ?costrel,	medieval residual
20	1	post-med Totnes type	C16-earlyC18
28-2	1	clay pipe stem probably C17	C17
	1	post-med Totnes type, sooted, C16-C17	
	1	N Devon calcareous ware, C16-C17	
28-5	3	Totnes type ridge tile, ?medieval	c. 1250-1450
	8	Totnes type medieval coarseware, 2+ vessels, one of which is a jug	
45	1	Staffordshire cream earthenware	c.1800-1850
48	3	Totnes type medieval coarseware, 1 vessel probably hand made	c.1250-1450
50	1	Exeter fab 40 jug, close-thumbed base, late C13/C14	late C13/C14
	1	N Devon med coarseware	
	2	Upper Greensand derived, prob 2 vessels, C12/earlyC13	
	3	medieval Totnes type, 2 vessels, of which 1 is a thumbed jug base, the other a thumbed rim probably from a jar	
52	1	clay pipe stem	C19
	2	Staffordshire transfer-printed white ware, 1 vessel	
	2	post-med Totnes type coarseware, C16-early C18, sooted tripod vessel with internal yellow glaze	
	1	Dutch floor tile C15-early C16 with scraped yellow glaze slip and sanded back	

APPENDIX 2
WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION OF BURIED REMAINS PRESUMED TO BE THE KITCHEN OF
THE MEDIEVAL GUESTHOUSE, BUCKFAST, DEVON

Stewart Brown Associates February 2013

Location: Buckfast Abbey
Parish: Buckfast
District: Teignbridge
County: Devon
TQ11 0EA

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 This evaluation forms part of an archaeological investigation which will inform a scheme to provide disabled access to the first floor of the restored medieval guesthouse wing (see attached Method Statement).

1.2 A desk-top assessment regarding the scheme and archaeological remains in the area has been supplied to English Heritage and Dartmoor National Park Authority (email 8/10/12).

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 The principal objective of the evaluation is to establish the character, extent and preservation of buried medieval remains in the area.

The results of the evaluation will not only influence the siting and depth of any new construction associated with disabled access to the guesthouse wing, but will also guide re-landscaping of the area, so that the form and size of the former kitchen can be marked out on the ground and made apparent to visitors as part of the overall presentation of the guesthouse remains.

The evaluation also aims to answer a number of research questions relating to the medieval kitchen. The results of the evaluation will form a very valuable addition to the second publication of archaeological work at the abbey, which builds upon the first publication covering work undertaken in 1982-88 (Brown 1988 and forthcoming).

Research questions

- a) was the kitchen a free-standing structure separated from the main part of the guesthouse by a courtyard serving as a firebreak, as would be expected?
- b) was there a covered passage leading from the kitchen to the guesthouse?
- c) what was the form of the kitchen – eg square, rectangular?
- d) were there other related structures in the vicinity such as a bakehouse and brewery?
- e) did the kitchen have its own water supply?
- f) what surface did the kitchen floor have and does this preserve evidence for different activities in the kitchen?
- g) was there a central hearth? Were there fireplaces against the walls or in the corners?

3. PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

3.1 It is proposed to open two long trenches set at right-angles across the site together with four shorter trenches (Fig. 1). The trenches will be excavated by hand.

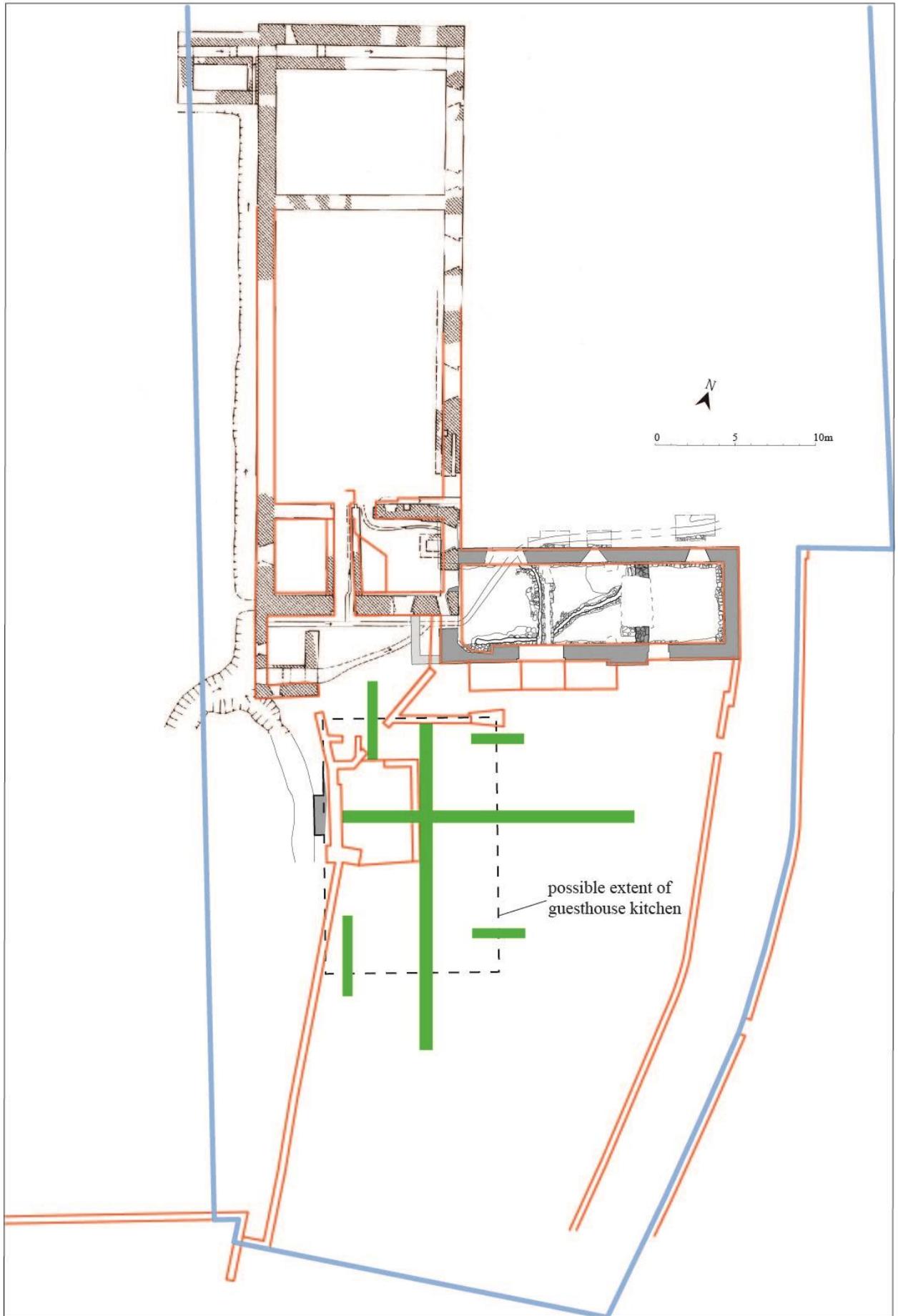


Fig. 1 Composite plan showing standing and excavated remains of medieval guesthouse, with 2010 survey (red), scheduled area (blue) and proposed evaluation trenches (green).

3.2 Features and deposits will be recorded using context sheets and plans and section drawings at a scale of 1:20.

3.3 Artefacts will be labelled according to the context from which they came. Artefacts dating from after the late 18th century will be discarded on site after recording.

3.4 Should deposits be exposed that contain palaeoenvironmental or datable elements appropriate sampling strategies will be initiated. The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on finds or advise or report on other aspects of the investigation can be called upon and undertake assessment and analysis of such deposits - if required.

3.5 Any human remains will initially be left *in situ*, covered and protected. Removal will only take place under appropriate Ministry of Justice and environmental health regulations. Such removal will be in compliance with the relevant legislation.

3.6 Should gold or silver artefacts be exposed these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

3.7 The work will be carried out in accordance with the relevant IFA Standards and Guidance for archaeological evaluations (IFA 1994 revised 2008).

4. MONITORING

Stewart Brown will inform English Heritage and Dartmoor National Park should anything of exceptional archaeological significance be uncovered so that a site visit can be arranged.

5. REPORTING

5.1 A report will be prepared collating the written, graphic, and recorded information outlined above. The report will include plans of the features, including their location, below-ground archaeological deposits and artefacts together with their interpretation.

5.2 A copy of the report will be submitted to EH and DNP for their approval.

5.3 The report will be prepared within three months of completion of fieldwork dependent upon the provision of specialist reports, radiocarbon dating results etc the production of which may exceed this period. If a substantial delay is anticipated then an interim report will be produced.

5.4 On completion of the report in addition to copies supplied to the client, a digital pdf and a hard copy of the report will be supplied to EH and DNP.

5.5 Stewart Brown Associates will complete an online OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations) form in respect of the archaeological work.

5.6 Publication

The results of the evaluation will be included in a forthcoming publication on recent archaeological work at the abbey (Brown forthcoming).

6. PERSONNEL

The work will be carried out by Stewart Brown and Marc Steinmetzer, who are both members of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). A list of specialists who can be consulted if required appears at the end of this document.

7 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with guidelines issued by the Health and Safety Executive. Unless specifically agreed otherwise, the abbey will be responsible for general safety on the site, checking for live underground services, and for preventing access by unauthorised persons to the area of excavation.

8 SITE ARCHIVE AND DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE AND FINDS

If few or no remains of archaeological interest survive in the area, a short written report on the project will be adequate and no site archive will be prepared. A site archive will be prepared if the works uncover sufficient archaeological features and deposits. The archive, including finds, will be deposited with Exeter Museum. A reference number will be sought from the museum's curator in advance. The museum's guidelines for archive preparation and storage will be followed. It is usual practice for ownership of the archive and finds to pass into the hands of the museum in order to guarantee permanent safekeeping (the museum cannot accept the archive unless ownership has been transferred; written permission for transference of ownership will be requested from the abbey).

9. LIST OF SPECIALISTS WHO COULD ADVISE OR CONTRIBUTE TO THIS PROJECT IF REQUIRED:

Medieval and post medieval finds - John Allan (Exeter Archaeology);
Roman finds - Paul Bidwell (Tyne & Wear Museums, Arbeia Roman Fort);
Prehistoric lithic finds - John Newberry (Paignton);
Prehistoric ceramic finds - Henrietta Quinzel (Exeter);
Bone artefacts - Ian Riddler;
Clay tobacco pipes – David Higgins (Liverpool);
Coins and tokens - Norman Shiel (Exeter);
Finds conservation - Exeter RAM Museum Conservation Service (contact Alison Hopper-Bishop);
Environmental sampling - Vanessa Straker (English Heritage, Bristol);
Faunal remains - Southampton University Faunal Remains Unit;
Plant remains - Julie Jones (Bristol);
Geological identification and mineral analysis – Roger Taylor (Exeter Museum).

10. INSURANCE

10.1 Stewart Brown Associates has insurance cover in the following areas: Public Liability, Employers Liability, Professional Indemnity, All Risks, and Personal Accident.

10.2 Stewart Brown Associates will not be liable for any damage caused to the site which unavoidably results from archaeological site operations being carried out within the agreed scope of works.

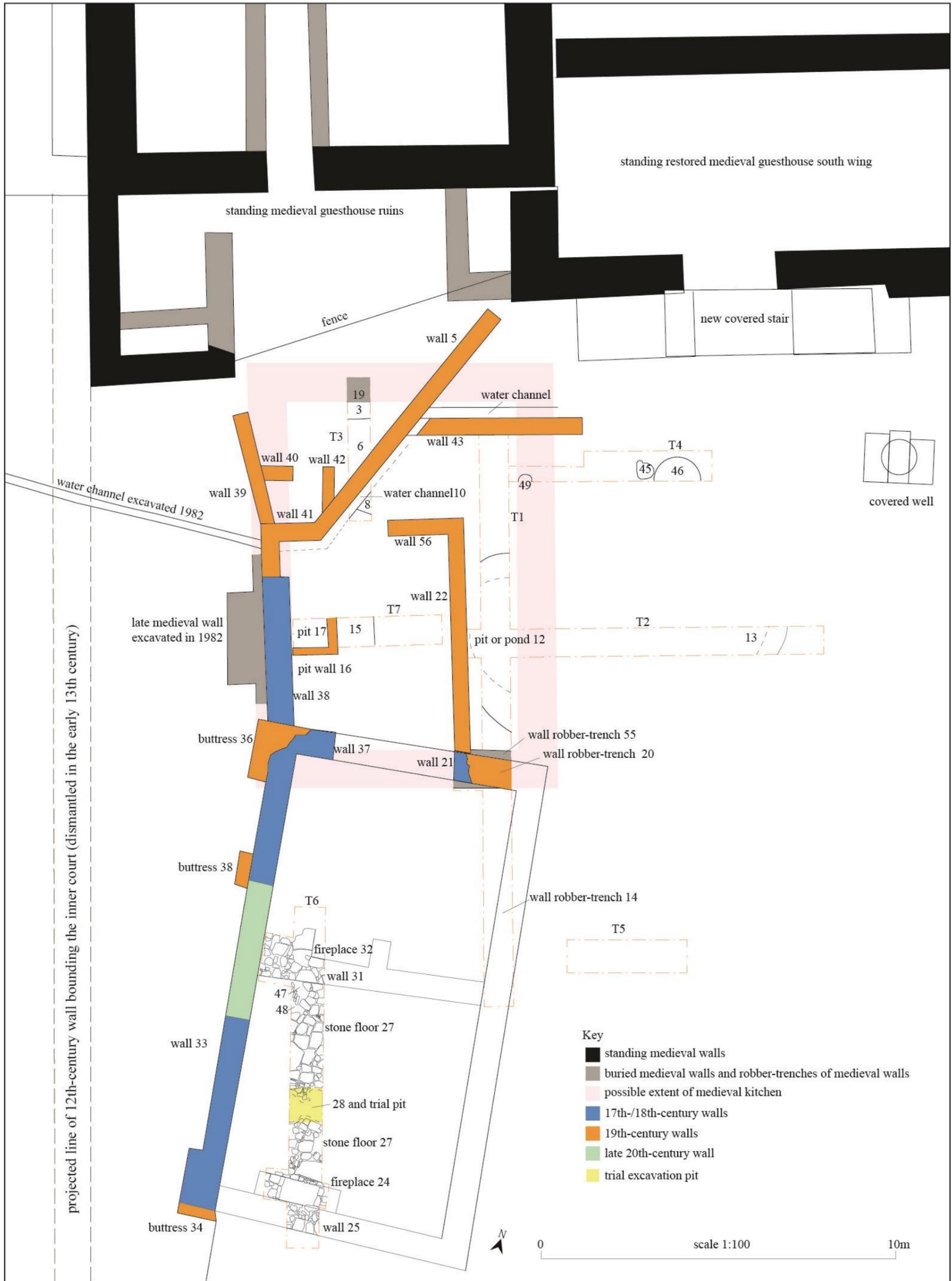


Fig. 1 Plan showing standing remains, evaluation trenches and excavated features.

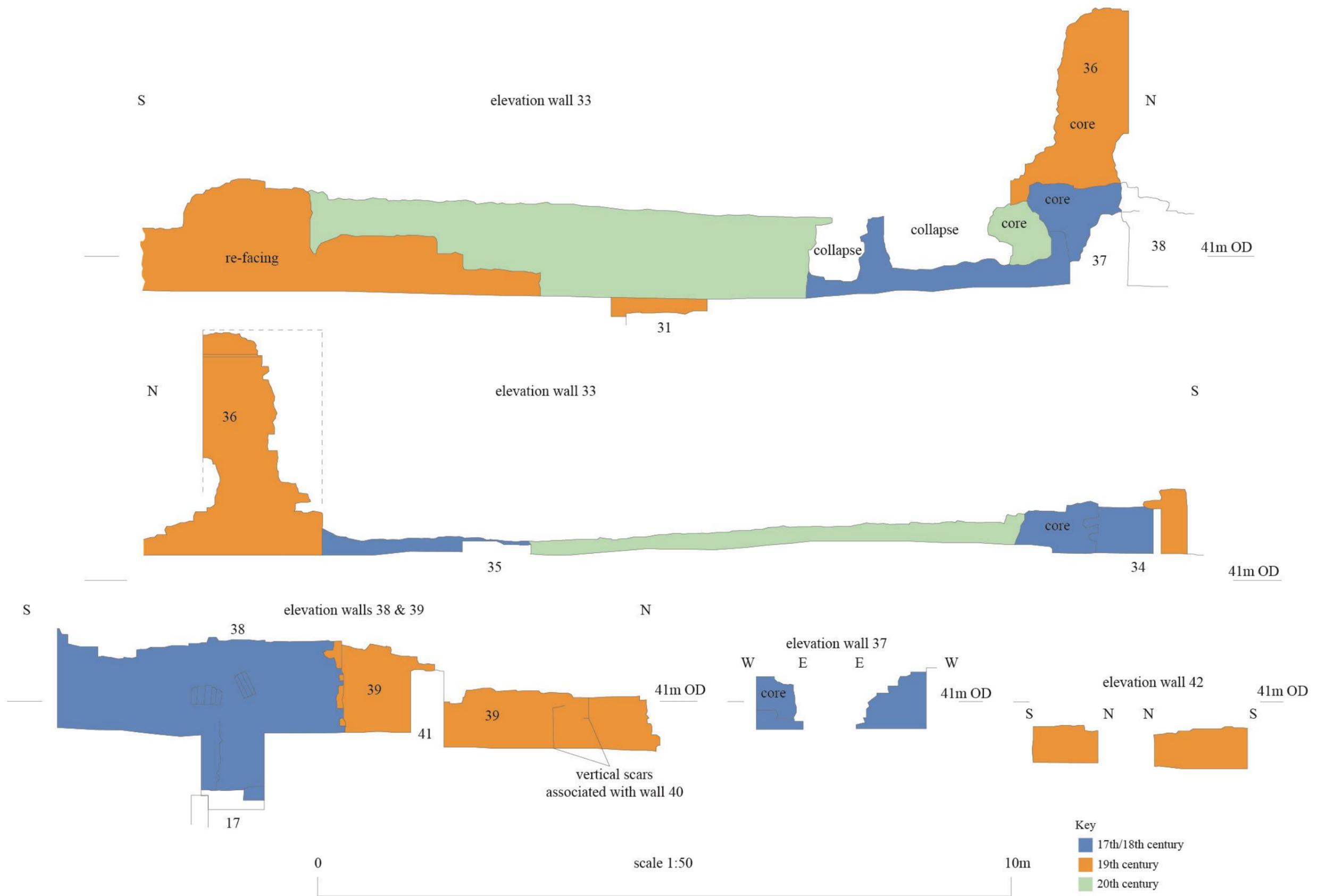
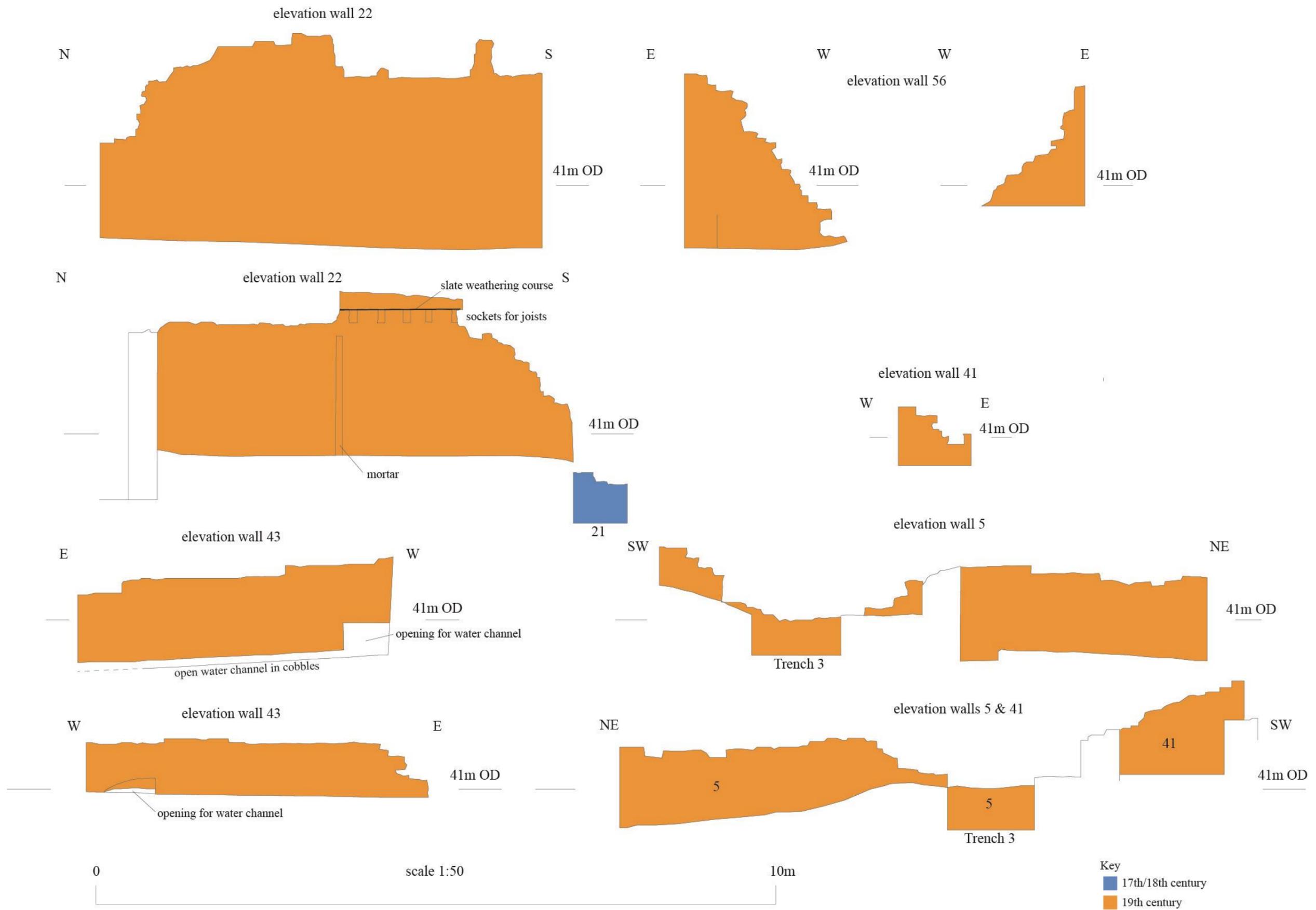


Fig. 2 Elevations of standing remains: walls 33, 37-9 and 42.



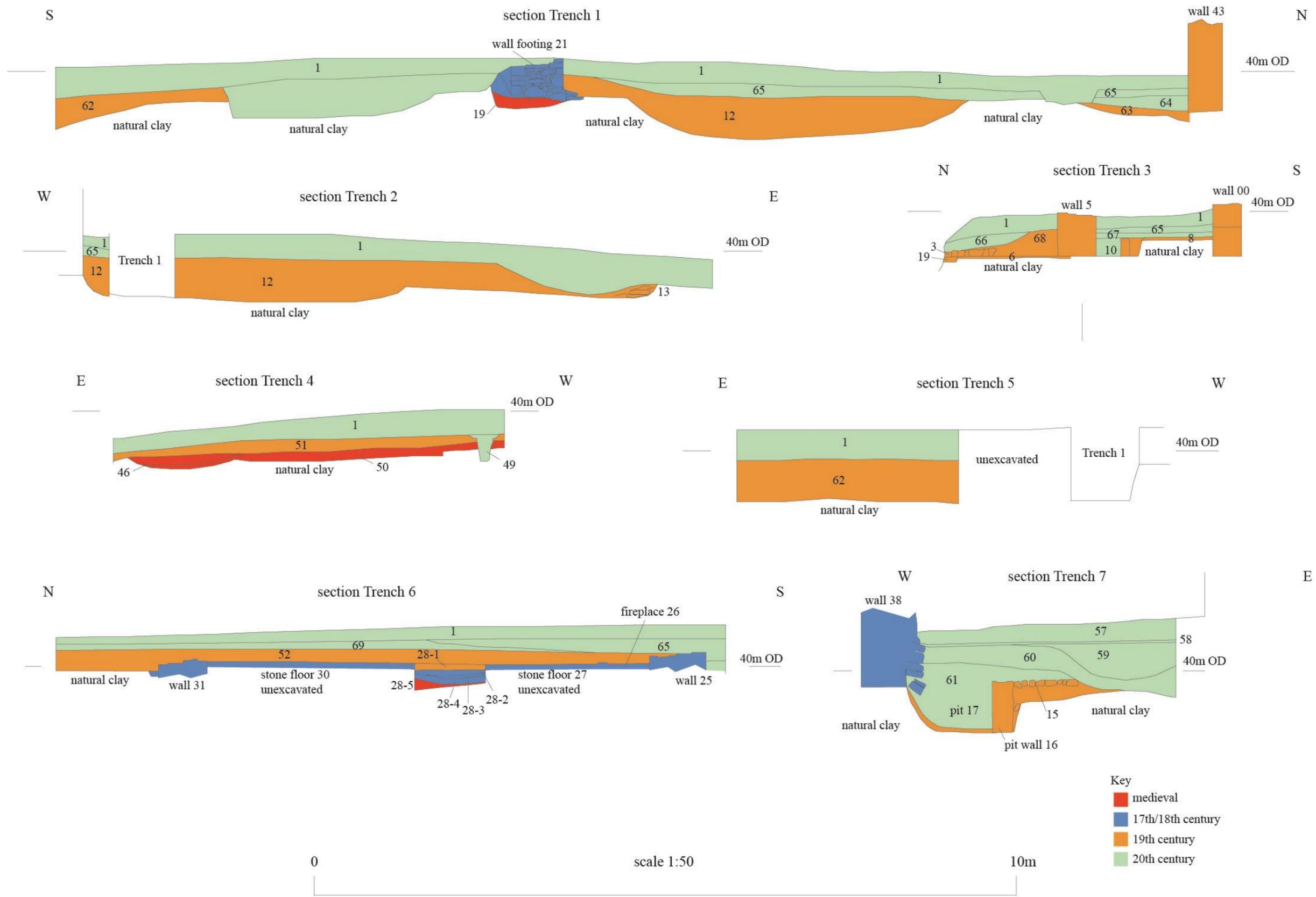
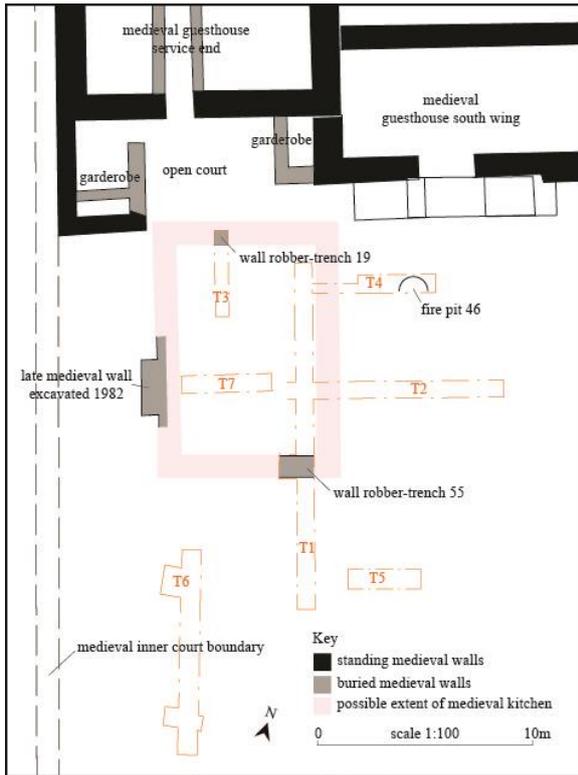
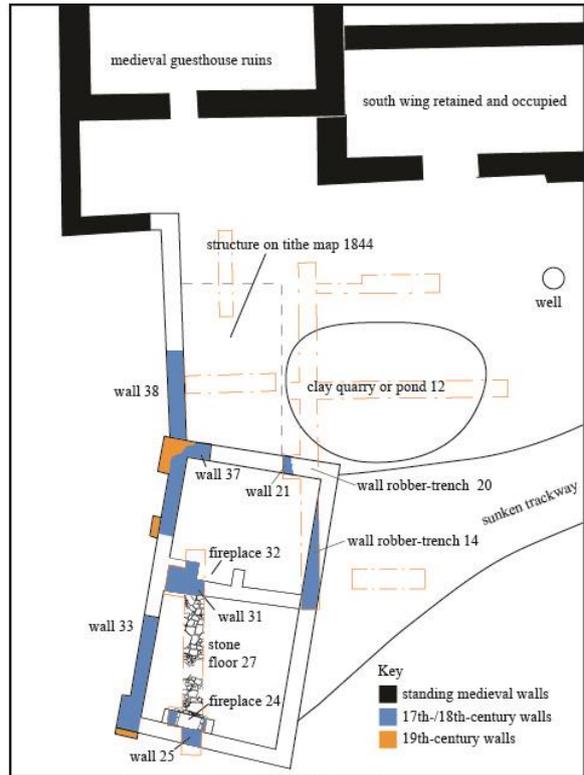


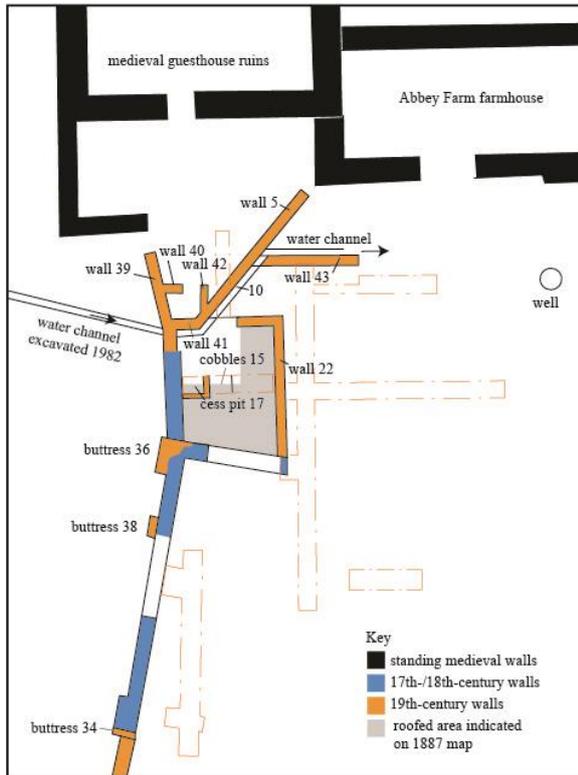
Fig. 4 Section drawings of evaluation trenches 1-7.



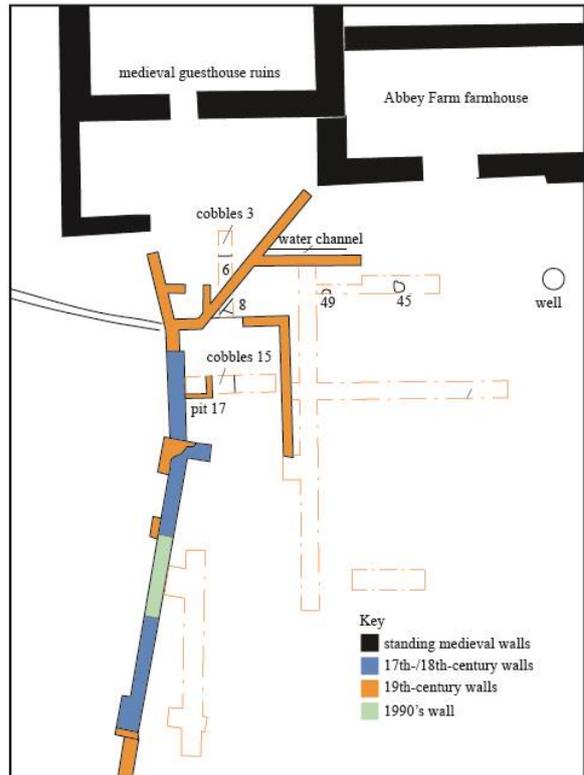
Phase 1 medieval



Phase 2 17th - mid 19th century



Phase 3 late 19th century



Phase 4 20th century

Fig. 5 Phase plans showing development.



Fig. 6 Tithe map of 1844.

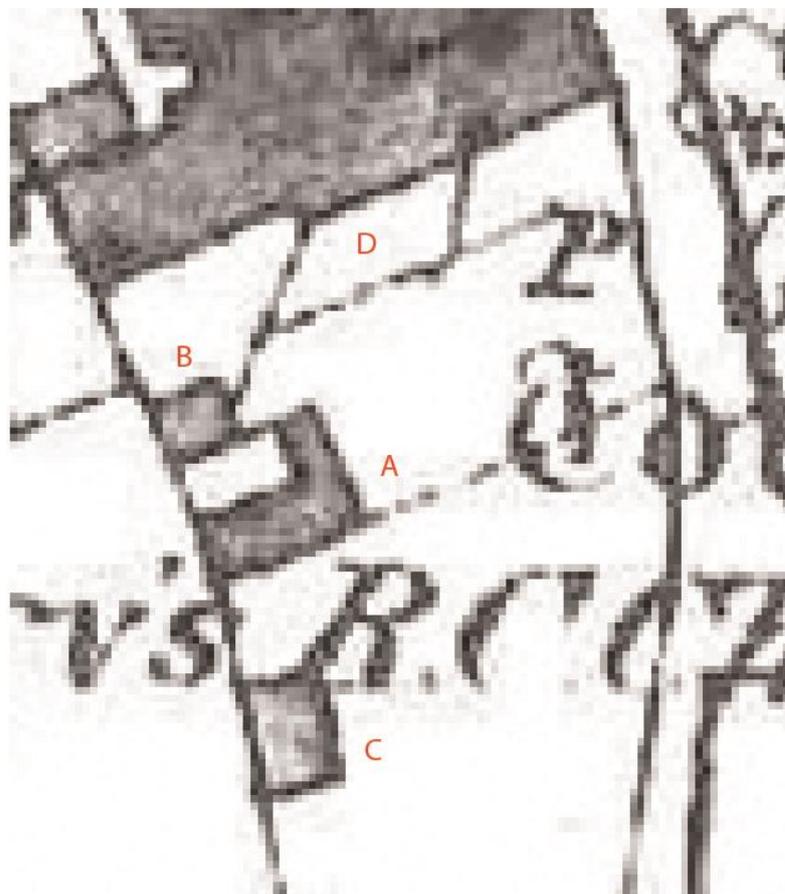


Fig. 7 OS map 1884
22



Fig. 8 Wall 33, looking west.



Fig. 9 Wall 33 south end, showing scar for southwest corner of the Phase 2 house and later re-facing. To the left is a 19th-century garden wall.



Fig. 10 Wall 33 north end showing standing remains of north-west corner of the Phase 2 house and later re-facing.

Figs. 8-10 Standing remains.



Fig. 11 Wall 38, looking west.



Fig. 12 Walls 38, 39, 41 and 5, looking west.



Fig. 13 Walls 5 (foreground) and 39 (background), looking west.



Fig. 14 Wall 41, looking south.



Fig. 15 Wall 22, looking west.



Fig. 16 Wall 22, looking east.



Fig. 17 Wall 56, looking south.



Fig. 18 Wall 22 in relation to restored late medieval south wing.



Fig. 19 Wall 43, looking northwest.



Fig. 20 Wall 43 and open water channel, looking southwest.



Fig. 21 19th-century garden wall to south of evaluation area showing bee boles, looking west.

Figs. 11-21 Standing remains.



Fig. 25 Stone floor 27, looking south.



Fig. 22 Wall footing 21, looking west.



Fig. 23 Wall footing 25, looking north.



Fig. 24 Wall footing 31 and fireplace 32 (foreground), looking south.



Fig. 26 Fireplace 24, looking south.

Figs. 22-26 Excavated features.