Report No: 2013R087

Stowe Barton garden wall
Kilkhampton, Cornwall

Archaeological watching brief

Historic Environment Projects

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Client	**Cormac Consultancy**
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Acknowledgements

This study was commissioned by Scott Perry on behalf of Cormac Consultancy. The project was carried out by Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall Council.

Site access was facilitated by Nick Davies and his colleagues from Quantum GB.

Anna Lawson-Jones kindly carried out part of the watching brief fieldwork; the remainder was undertaken by the author. Project management was carried out by Jacky Nowakowski and Nigel Thomas.

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

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.

Historic Environment, Cornwall Council is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists

Cover illustration

The northern part of the garden wall in November 2013, after removal of fallen debris

Contents

List of Figures

Abbreviations

CAU	Cornwall Archaeological Unit (now Historic Environment Projects)
CC	Cornwall Council
CRO	Cornwall County Record Office
EH	English Heritage
HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
HEP	Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall Council
MCO	Monument number in Cornwall HER
NGR	National Grid Reference
NT	National Trust
OD	Ordnance Datum – height above mean sea level at Newlyn
OS	Ordnance Survey
RCHME	Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England
RIC	Royal Institution of Cornwall

1 Summary

Strengthening works by Cornwall Council prompted recording of a tall masonry wall forming part of the National Trust property at Stowe Barton, Kilkhampton, North Cornwall. This property is associated with a former country house (and its predecessors) which once belonged to the Grenville family. The garden wall forms the boundary of a levelled space recorded here since the 1690s. The roadway above the garden also adjoins a former carriage wash, now a listed structure. From the 19th century (and probably earlier) to the present day the garden area has contained ponds/water features, an orchard and also a sunken ornamental garden.

In 2009 a measured survey supported by photographic coverage revealed that the retaining wall, although collapsed in two areas, has not deteriorated significantly since the previous CCC Highways survey (undated, but most likely carried out in the 1970s). A buttressed section nearer the northern end of the wall is immediately beneath a deliberate gap in the parapet. This seems to have been created to allow a view from the roadway towards the sunken ornamental garden.

An archaeological watching brief carried out in 2013 during rebuilding of parts of the wall exposed an active stone-lined culvert which is likely to act as a drain from the nearby carriage wash. It appears likely that the steady flow of water through this culvert was also used to feed ponds and other features in the garden.

An un-mortared rectangular patch of masonry with evidence of a lean-to roof above is likely to be an original feature of the garden, most likely a former summer house or similar building. The exit of the culvert, sited immediately north of the lean-to, may have fed into a trough or similar ornamental structure.

Removal of a section of the historic wall revealed a succession of layers deposited behind the structure. The early roadway east of the garden was built upon a causeway of dumped and compacted material. This was surfaced with cobbles and the level of the cobbles relates to an original tall parapet. The earliest cobbled surface is also approximately level with the carriage wash.

Sometime later the roadway was considerably raised with further dumped material added. Another cobbled surface was laid on top of the raised causeway and this forms the basis of the present road layout. A similar sequence can also be seen in the southern wall breach.

The failure of the garden wall towards the northern end can be attributed to blocking of the culvert, which must have forced water to exit through other weaknesses in the structure. Failure of the wall at the southern end is less easy to attribute; it is likely to be due to weaker foundations, long term vegetation damage or possibly even removal of a decorative/architectural feature in this part of the gardens.

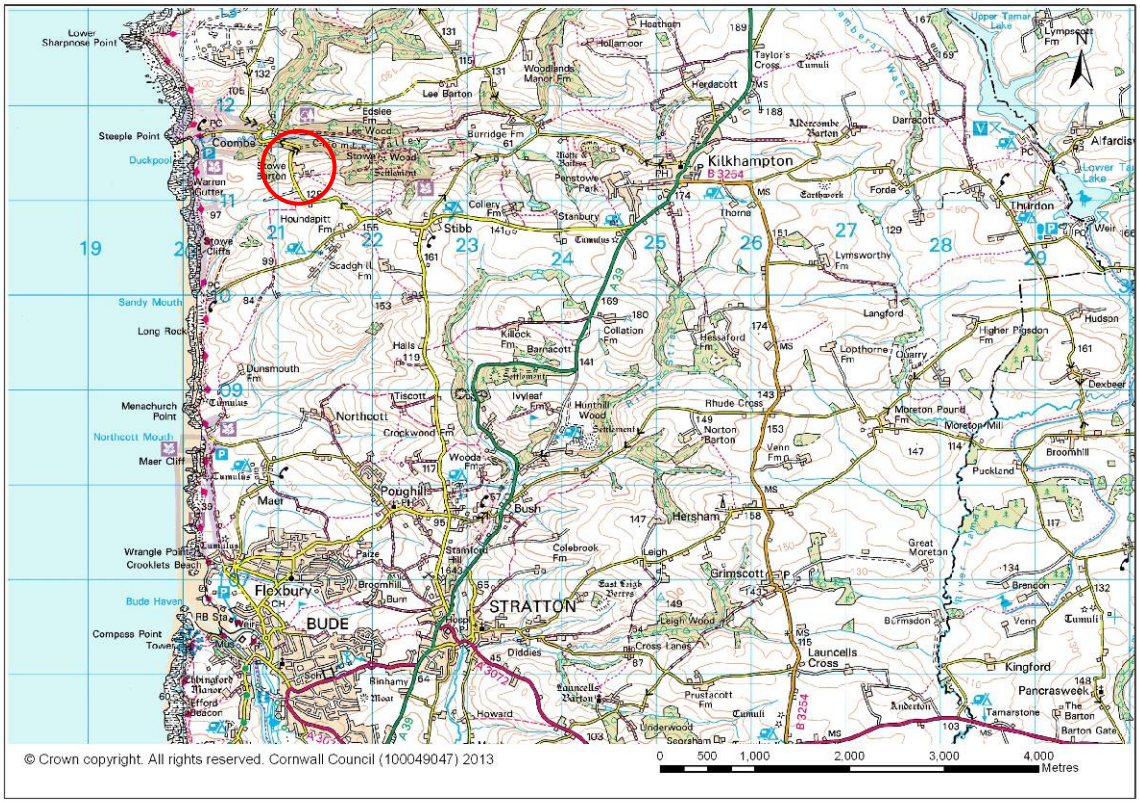

Fig 1 Location map

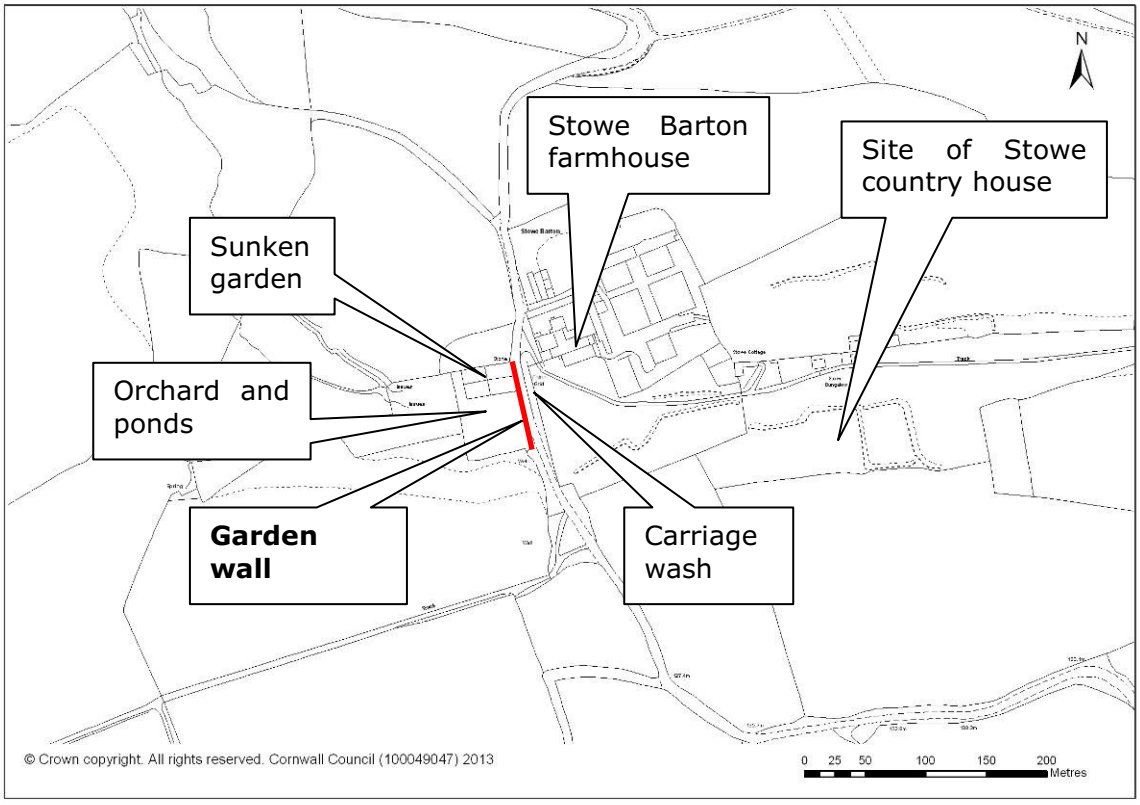

Fig 2 Ordnance Survey digital mapping showing the site and its environs

2 Introduction

2.1 Project background

The property of Stowe (in Kilkhampton, North Cornwall), now owned by the National Trust, was a former seat of the Grenville family. Stowe Barton, the present farmhouse and associated outbuildings, occupies a site overlooking the Coombe valley adjacent to the minor road from Duckpool to Stibb. A length of tall masonry wall supports the west side of the public road, and immediately east is a former carriage wash associated with the old Grenville estate. The garden wall dates to at least the early 17th century but has undergone various repairs over the years. It also forms the eastern boundary of a garden shown on the 1839 Kilkhampton parish tithe map. The garden contains earthworks interpreted as fishponds and associated water management features as well as the remains of an ornamental sunken garden. A flight of stone steps at the northern end of the wall provides access to the garden.

Surviving carriage washes (also known as carriage splashes or cart washes) are now relatively rare in Britain and the example at Stowe Barton is a listed building. They are defined by English Heritage as a 'purpose built area, incorporating water supply, for the cleaning of carriages, carts, etc.' (EH Thesaurus).

Two areas of the garden wall have collapsed over the years and other sections require repair. In places the masonry parapet has been replaced with wooden fencing. Cornwall Council has responsibility for ensuring the stability of the road and Cormac Consultancy, acting for the Council, is undertaking a programme of strengthening works during the winter of 2013-14.

A brief setting out requirements for archaeological recording was provided by the National Trust Archaeologist (in consultation with CC's Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer). This was followed by an initial archaeological survey undertaken in 2009. At this time the entire length of the garden wall was recorded in outline by measurement with a total station with masonry details added using rectified photography (Thomas 2010).

2.2 Aims

The principal aim of the study was to gain a better understanding of the retaining wall, particularly its surviving original fabric, and to gain a better understanding of the relationship of the wall to the road and related drainage arrangements for the adjacent carriage wash. The objectives were to obtain an archaeological record of the wall prior to the strengthening programme.

2.3 Methods

The archaeological watching brief (together with the detailed measured and photographic survey undertaken in 2009) are intended to be the equivalent of an English Heritage Level 3 survey (English Heritage 2006).

Work comprised two site visits to undertake an archaeological watching brief during strengthening works. These visits were made in November 2013. After fieldwork, site materials were archived and results summarised in this report. Details of the working methods are set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (see Appendix 1).

3 Location and setting

Stowe Barton, now owned by the National Trust, is located at NGR SS 2115 1125 between 95-100m OD on a flattened spur overlooking the Coombe Valley. This valley, predominantly wooded within the sheltered inland part, runs from east to west towards the rugged coastal inlet at Duckpool (Fig 1). The minor road connecting the Coombe Valley with the village at Stibb runs to the west of Stowe Barton, and divides the

farmstead from the garden area to the west (Fig 2). The garden is a large rectangular levelled area about 2.5 metres below the height of the road. This part of the site drains to the northwest, where a stream curves north-westwards down a wooded side valley and connects with the main Coombe Valley.

Geologically the site lies on carboniferous sandstone of the Bude Formation (part of the Culm Group) and it is this material that has been locally quarried and used in the garden retaining wall, the walls of the former carriage wash as well as in many of the farm buildings. Soils here are predominantly Neath 541h loams over sandstone, with poorer Manod series 611c soils on the nearby valley sides. Present day land use is a combination of pasture on the poorer soils and deciduous woodland on the steeply sloping ground. Arable fields are concentrated on the flatter higher ground to the south of Stowe Barton, where the soil is of better quality.

The site comprises the former garden and orchard to the west of the road, where some apple trees still survive and remains of a sunken rectangular water-filled garden still exists, although is now partly overgrown. The Trust has cleaned out old ponds located west of the apple trees. East of the road the former carriage wash is partly overgrown and the base is slightly marshy, so presumably there is blocked drainage here.

4 Designations

4.1 National

The carriage wash is a Grade II listed building (see description in Appendix 3).

4.2 Regional/county

The following county designations apply:

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Part of a Heritage Coast

Area of Great Scientific Value

The north-western part of the garden is on the edge of a Cornwall Nature Conservation Site (with the wooded valley to the north-west)

4.3 Local

None known.

5 Site history

Stowe is likely to have been occupied by the Grenville family from the time of the Norman Conquest when Richard de Granville held manors in Bideford and Kilkhampton bestowed by William Rufus. The early history of the site is not clear but numerous documentary references strongly indicate a medieval settlement existed, and this was most likely located in the area of the current farm buildings. A licence for a chapel dedicated to St Christina de Stowe was granted in 1386 (1993) and this building is thought to have been located to the west of the road. A very large Tudor or Stuart house (which had 24 hearths in 1664) also existed though again its exact location is not known. Fishponds within the area to the west of the road were documented *c*1620 (Wilson-North *ibid*).

In 1679 the country house of Stowe was built for John Grenville, Earl of Bath. This fine house however only lasted for a generation or so and was demolished in the early 18th century. Gascoyne's map of the Grenville estate, made in 1694, "shows the oblong carriage-wash, which has survived and was in use until the coming of the tractor" (Trinick 1979, 100). This is one of the few surviving structural elements associated with

the 17th century house. The area of the former mansion and its surrounding formal gardens are now mostly represented by extensive earthworks on the east side of the road (Fig 7, Wilson-North 1993).

The current farmhouse (Stowe Barton, see Fig 8) and probably the majority of the associated farm buildings were built around 1739 and later.

6 Previous recording work at Stowe

CC Highways holds an older undated elevation drawing of the garden retaining wall, which appears to be partly measured and partly sketched. This drawing is undated but is likely to have been surveyed in the 1970s or 80s.

A historical study of Stowe, particularly of the Grenville family and their 1670s mansion, was researched and published by Michael Trinick in 1979.

A detailed measured survey of the Stowe earthworks and incorporating the standing buildings and other historic features was carried out by the RCHME in 1991-2 (Wilson-North 1993).

A watching brief carried out by CAU in advance of modern farm building construction northeast of the historic farmstead revealed no traces of earlier structural remains in this area. It is therefore likely that the earliest settlement remains at Stowe lie within the footprint of the present farmstead or perhaps to the west (Reynolds 1999).

In December 2003 CAU were asked to record three test pits dug at the base of the garden retaining wall. These were intended to establish the nature of sub-surface deposits and the depth of the bedrock, to inform future strengthening proposals (Cole 2004).

A measured plan and section of the road were produced by CC Highways in 2009 (Fig 18). During the winter of 2009-10 Historic Environment Projects was commissioned to record a detailed elevation of the retaining wall supported by photographic coverage. This was undertaken using a total station to provide a detailed outline of the wall and to record a series of control points. The control points were then used as the basis of rectified photography. The wall was photographed using traditional monochrome film and digital colour images. A series of ortho-photographs was created using PhoToPlan software. Detail of the wall fabric was then traced from the ortho-photographs onto the outline survey.

The survey revealed that the garden wall, although collapsed in two areas, had not deteriorated significantly since the 1970s/80s Highways survey. A buttressed section nearer the northern end of the wall is immediately beneath a deliberate gap in the parapet. This gap, most likely originally fitted with railings, seems to have been created to allow a view from the roadway towards the sunken ornamental garden.

7 Results of archaeological watching brief

At the time of the first site visit in November 2013 the southern collapsed area had been cleared of debris and wall construction and soil nailing (insertion of steel strengthening pins into the bank) commenced (Fig 17). Nevertheless some stratigraphy was visible including fragmentary traces of a cobbled surface. This surface equates with layer (3) in the northern section.

At the northern area of collapsed wall, accumulated debris was removed by machine. This revealed a blocked exit to a stone-lined culvert built at the level of the foundation of the wall. The culvert still carries a steady flow of water and this is likely to have originally supplied ponds and other features within the orchard (Fig 13). Blocking of this culvert is likely to have substantially contributed to the failure and collapse of the wall

in this part of the garden. Although the culvert exit is at foundation level of the garden wall, it was noted to rise steeply inside (beyond the first half metre or so).

Traces of a lean-to roof, although noted during the survey in 2009, became much clearer in 2013 due to removal of vegetation and tree branches (Figs 14 and 15). A rectangular area of un-mortared stone masonry below the former roofline is built vertically, whereas the surrounding masonry of the garden wall is built to a slight batter (in order to support the roadway behind). The former roofline was represented by a line of slates forming a flashing on top of the un-mortared masonry. It seems likely this represents traces of a former summerhouse or similar decorative feature. Its vertical un-mortared rear masonry may have originally been covered by panelling or other decorative elements, long since removed.

There is no indication of any joist holes supporting its roof (except possible hints at the ends of the slate flashing), which suggests that the former roof was lightweight and most likely supported on a horizontal timber. There is also no evidence of other walls abutting the rear wall, suggesting this was a pillared, probably open-fronted structure, perhaps built of wood.

The proximity of the culvert outlet may be significant, suggesting that a decorative water feature may have once existed here.

Demolition of the un-mortared vertical masonry and an area of unstable parapet above were unfortunately necessary in advance of rebuilding the wall in 2013. Removal of this part of the wall did however enable a better examination of the stratigraphy built up behind the structure.

Removal of the wall revealed topsoil and roots (1) and a lighter subsoil (2) above a level of cobbled surface (3). This cobbled surface, composed of river or beach pebbles, lies just beneath the level of the present road surface and is likely to represent the earlier surface of the road before modern tarmac layers were added. The rounded cobbles are also very similar in nature to a large cobbled surface between Stowe Barton farmhouse and the road. Beneath the cobbles was a layer of compacted clay and small stones 300mm thick (4). Under this was a layer of re-deposited clay (500mm in depth, (5)).

Layer (5) sealed another cobbled surface (6) comprised of small more angular cobble stones which have a compacted and weathered upper surface. This earlier cobbled layer also corresponds with a distinct change in the form of the garden wall; below layer (6) the wall is built as a retaining wall *c*1450mm high, with a single facing and rubble fill behind. There are also two levels of drainage/weep holes along this stretch. Above the cobbles the wall changes to become a double-skinned structure. The level of the lower cobbled surface also roughly equates with the depth of the carriage wash (Fig 19). This may imply that the roadway was originally at similar height to the carriage wash or that the carriage wash effectively occupied the full width between the garden and the field/higher ground to the east.

Some time later the level of the roadway was raised by dumping layers of clay and stones (heightening the causeway) and a new surface laid. The dividing wall between the road and the carriage wash may have also been built at this time.

Below the lower cobbles the roadway can be seen to have been built up on tips of fill material (1300mm deep, (7)). This indicates that the road and the carriage wash is at least partially built on a causeway above the garden.

The culvert runs beneath the causeway (7) and is built upon the natural clay (8). The culvert incorporates squared slabs in its base (to prevent scour) and is built as a lintelled channel 300mm (1ft by 1ft) wide and high.

It was noted that there are no horizontal joints in the surviving lengths of original wall and that therefore there is no evidence that the parapet height has been raised to accommodate the change in road height. This indicates the tall parapet wall was built to

provide privacy to the space. The only exception to this is a deliberate break in the parapet above a buttress where there were originally railings. This provided a glimpse (probably from passing carriages) of the sunken garden area.

8 Chronology/dating evidence

No finds were made from any of the layers encountered and there is no absolute dating evidence. The sequence of layers and structures do however provide a useful relative dating sequence.

The primary features in this area are the culvert (built at the level of the natural ground surface) and the construction of the garden wall. Layers 6 and 7 represent the construction and use of a causeway and carriage wash behind the garden wall. All these are probably related to construction of the country house at Stowe during the 17th and early 18th centuries. The narrowing of the original carriage wash and raising of the road/causeway was probably undertaken after the country house was demolished, perhaps in the later 18th or early 19th century. It appears to have been changed to this form before the tithe map was surveyed in 1839 as a dividing wall is shown at this time (Fig 4).

9 Significance

The garden wall can be seen as an integral part of the original design of the listed 17th century carriage wash and is also associated with the arrangement for the public road which passes through the site. It appears that water channelled from local springs into the carriage wash was drained by the culvert which emerges at the foot of the garden wall. Although now partially infilled with mud and reeds, the base of the carriage wash is always wet and the culvert may have therefore been constructed to provide an overflow.

10 Discussion

It is interesting to speculate on why two areas of the garden wall have collapsed, although there is no known evidence to suggest that damage to the wall is particularly recent. In the case of the northern collapse, the damage is almost certainly in large part due to blocking of the culvert. This will have caused water from the carriage wash to percolate through any other weaknesses in the wall.

The same explanation cannot be applied for the southern collapsed area. So the question is what caused this part of the wall to fail? The possibilities are:

- Impact damage. This seems unlikely as damage from a vehicle (or a fallen tree) is more likely to have affected a small area of the parapet, whereas it is clear that a large (and deeper) section of the wall has tumbled.
- Damage from flash flooding. This is also unlikely as any extreme rainfall flowing down the road would have accumulated in the carriage wash.
- Weak foundations in this part of the wall. This would explain why the entire facing has fallen.
- Removal of some significant architectural element from the garden wall after Stowe country house was demolished. This is also a possibility, given that many architectural items from Stowe house (and also from the surroundings and gardens) were sold off when the house was demolished. Any high status/valuable items such as decorative architectural features or garden ornaments would not have been needed when the property became a farm.

There is a strong likelihood that this part of the garden originally incorporated another summer house or other architectural focal point.

- The raising of the road height will have put significant additional pressure on the wall, particularly as the upper part of the wall was not designed as a retaining structure - it was, originally, a tall parapet.
- Vegetation damage. Ivy or tree roots may have caused significant damage here, perhaps in combination with other factors mentioned above.

11 References

11.1 Primary sources

Gascoyne, Joel, *c*1694. Stowe Atlas (Grenville estate plans at CRO)

Ordnance Survey, *c*1803-9. *1 Inch Map* First Edition (digital copy at HE)

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*

Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1839. *Parish of Kilkhampton* (licensed digital copy at HE)

11.2 Publications

Cole, R, 2004. *Retaining wall at Stowe Barton, Cornwall: Archaeological watching brief* CAU report, Truro

English Heritage, 2006. *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice.* English Heritage, Swindon

IfA, 2001a. *Standards and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

Reynolds, A, 1999. *Stowe Barton, Cornwall - Archaeological Watching Brief: A Report for The National Trust* CAU report, Truro

Thomas, N, 2010. *Retaining wall and carriage wash, Stowe Barton, Kilkhampton, Cornwall: Building Recording and Archaeological Watching Brief* Historic Environment Projects report number 2010R123

Trinick, M, 1979. The Great House of Stowe, *Journal of the Royal Institution of Cornwall*, New Series, vol.VIII, Part 2, 90-108

Wilson-North, WR, 1993. Stowe: the country house and garden of the Grenville family, a survey by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England. *Cornish Archaeol,* Vol **32**, 112-127

11.3 Websites

www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/ English Heritage's online database of Sites and Monuments Records, and Listed Buildings

www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/IfASG-Buildings.pdf IfA buildings recording standard

www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/IfASG-Watching-Brief.pdf IfA watching brief recording standard

http://thesaurus.english-heritage.org.uk/thesaurus.asp?thes_no=1 English Heritage site type thesaurus

12 Project archive

The HE project number is **146318**

The project's documentary, photographic and drawn archive is housed at the offices of Historic Environment, Cornwall Council, Fal Building, County Hall, Treyew 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. Electronic drawings stored in the directory R:\Historic Environment (CAD)\CAD Archive\Sites S\Stowe Barton retaining wall
3. Black and white photographs archived under the following index numbers: GBP 2321
4. Digital photographs stored in the directory R:\Historic Environment (Images)\SITES.Q-T\Sites S\Stowe Barton wall repairs 2013
5. English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-166226

This report text is held in digital form as: ..\Sites S\Stowe Barton retaining wall repairs WB\Report\Stowe Barton wall repairs 2013R087.doc

Fig 3 Extract from the OS First Edition One Inch Map c1809

The red circle marks the location of the gardens

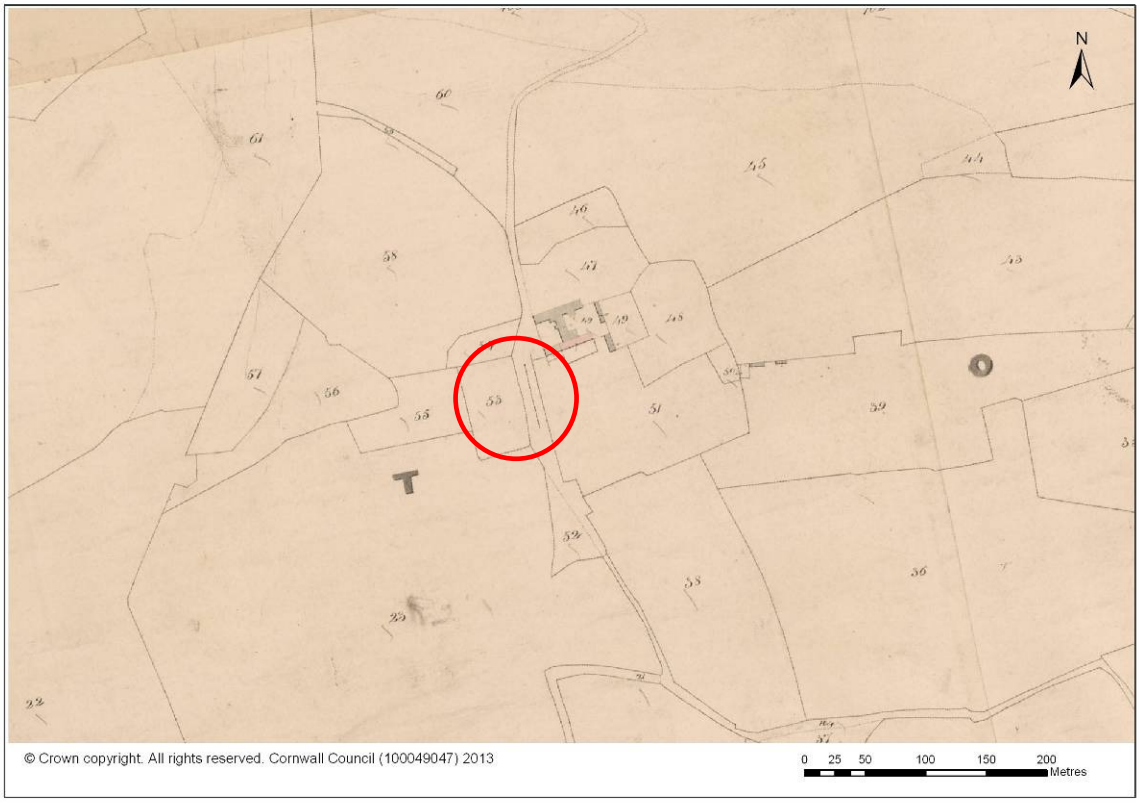

Fig 4 Tithe Map, 1839

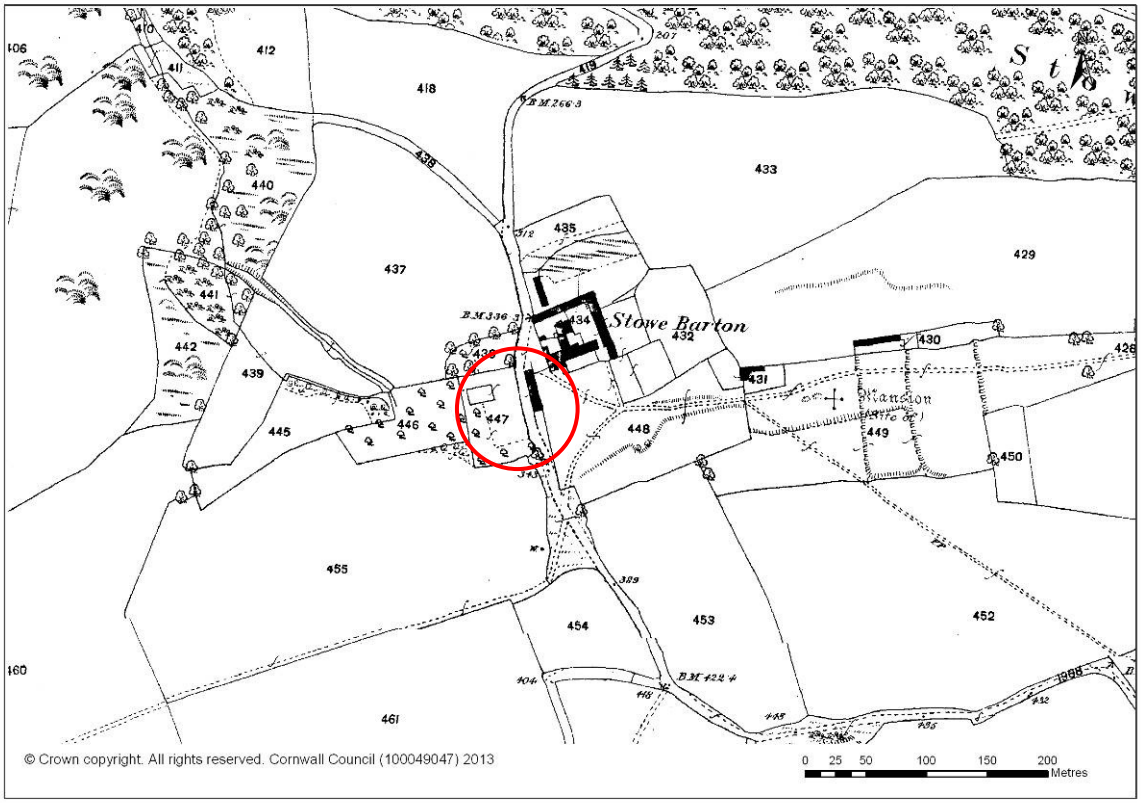

Fig 5 First Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1880

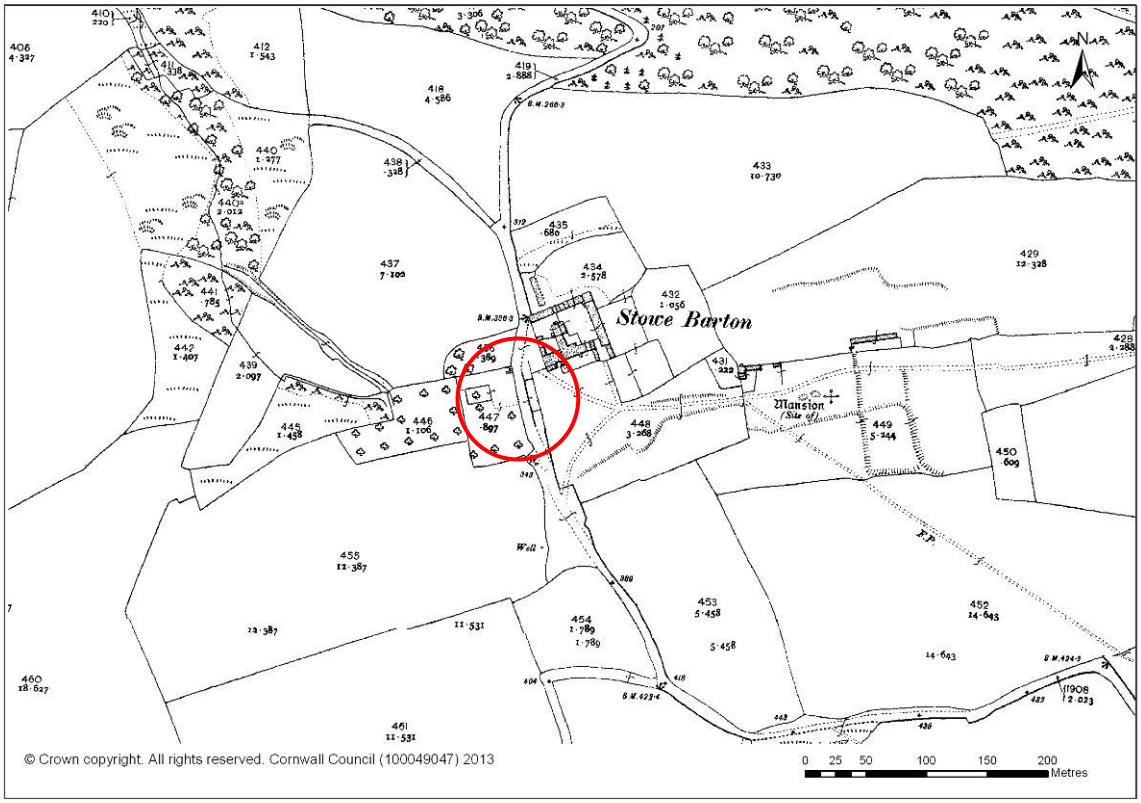

Fig 6 Second Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1907

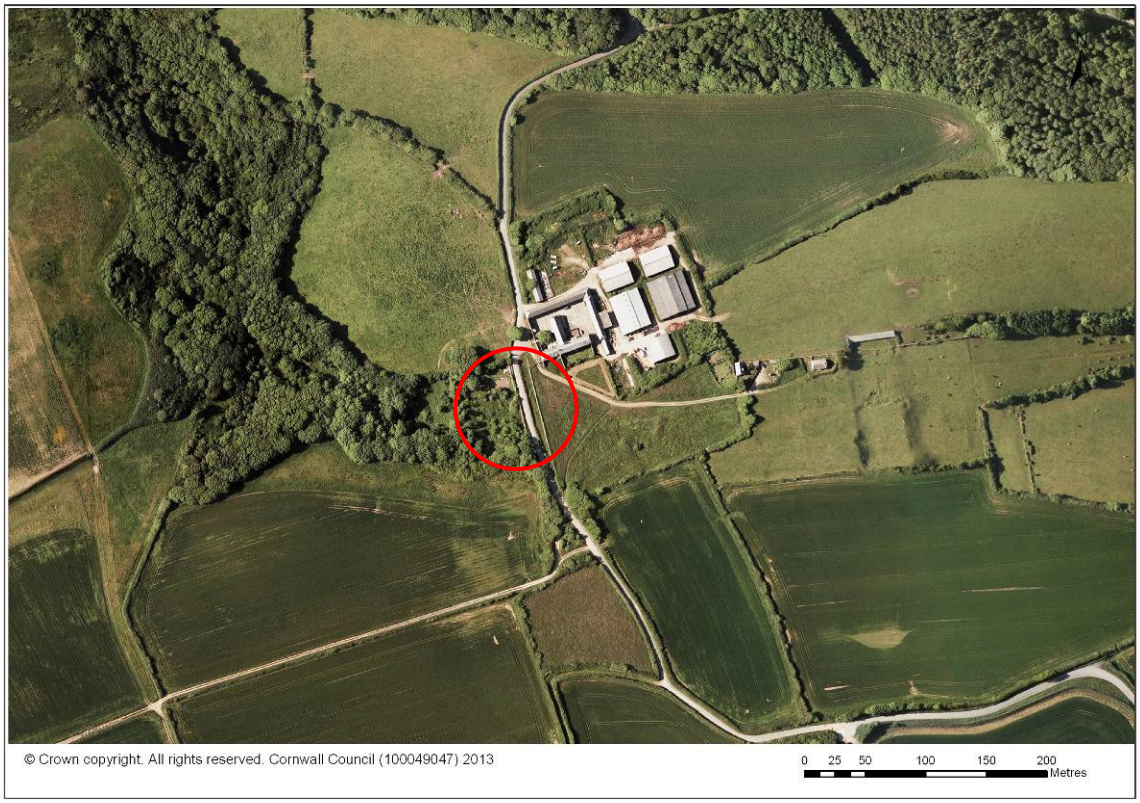

Fig 7 Aerial photograph of Stowe Barton 2005

Fig 8 Stowe Barton, with the listed carriage wash to the right of the road

Fig 9 Detail of the carriage wash wall

The buttressed part appears to be a rebuild as a roofed building was mapped here in the late 19th century; the masonry at extreme right of the photo leans outward and appears to be earlier walling with a replacement coping

Fig 10 South end of garden wall in 2009; collapsed section in centre, wall fragment and hint of a return to the right (beneath trees)

Fig 11 View looking south along line of the garden wall, with the orchard to the right

Fig 12 View SW towards ponds (centre, behind fence) with sunken garden (right)

Fig 13 Stone facing around the exit of the culvert

Fig 14 The site of a former lean-to building

Note the vertical, un-mortared walling at the back of the structure, in contrast with the battered face of the garden wall

Fig 15 Joint between the wall face of the former lean-to (left) and the garden wall (right)

Note that there is no foundation/base of the lean-to wall; this may have been a decorative bench/dressed feature that has since been removed

Fig 16 Part of the stratigraphy exposed after demolition of the lean-to wall face

Cobbles are visible towards the top of the section; another line of cobbles is just visible above the rubble behind the retaining wall. The wall is built with two faces above the line of the weep holes to the right

Fig 17 Rebuild of the southern collapsed section in 2013

Fig 18 Stratigraphy visible behind the wall in the southern part is very similar to that in the recorded northern part

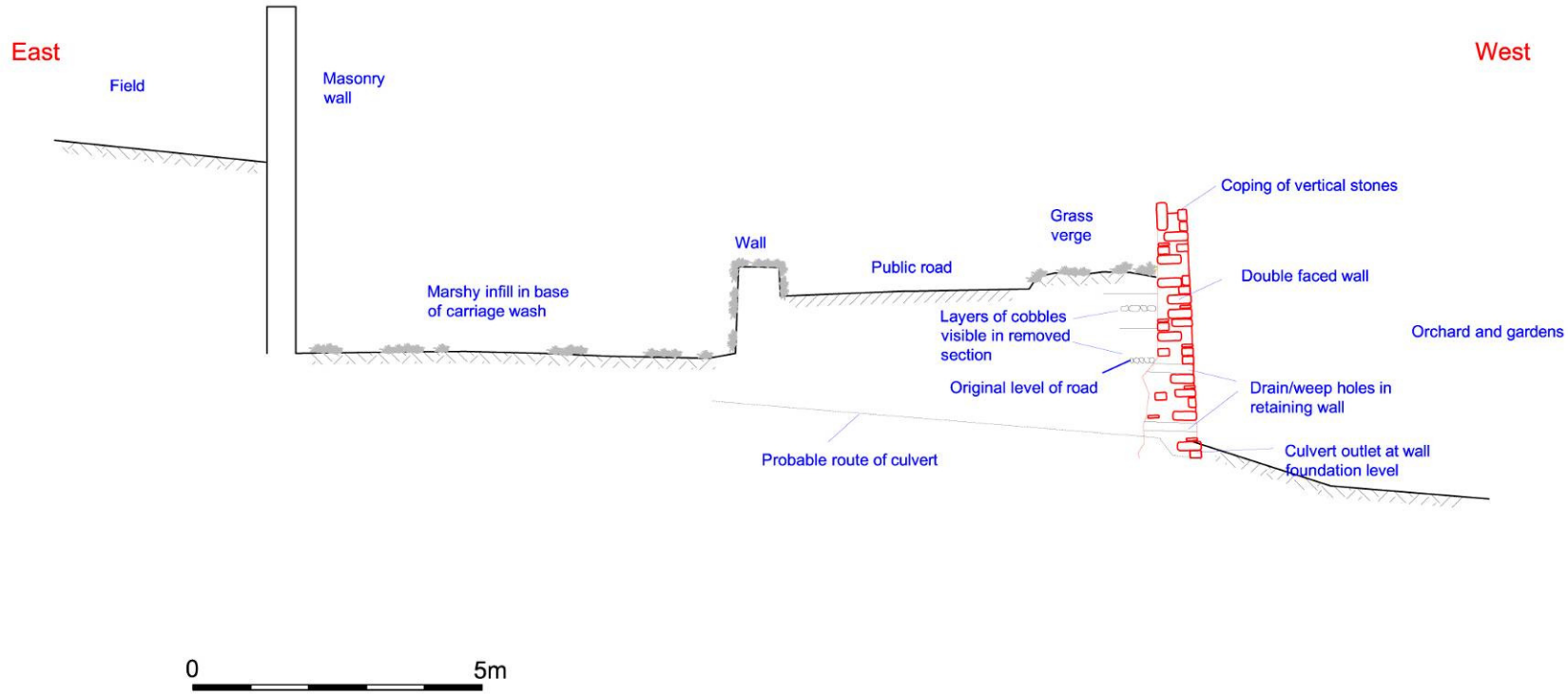

Fig 19 Existing section

Based on CC drawing ref S101 with HEP additions

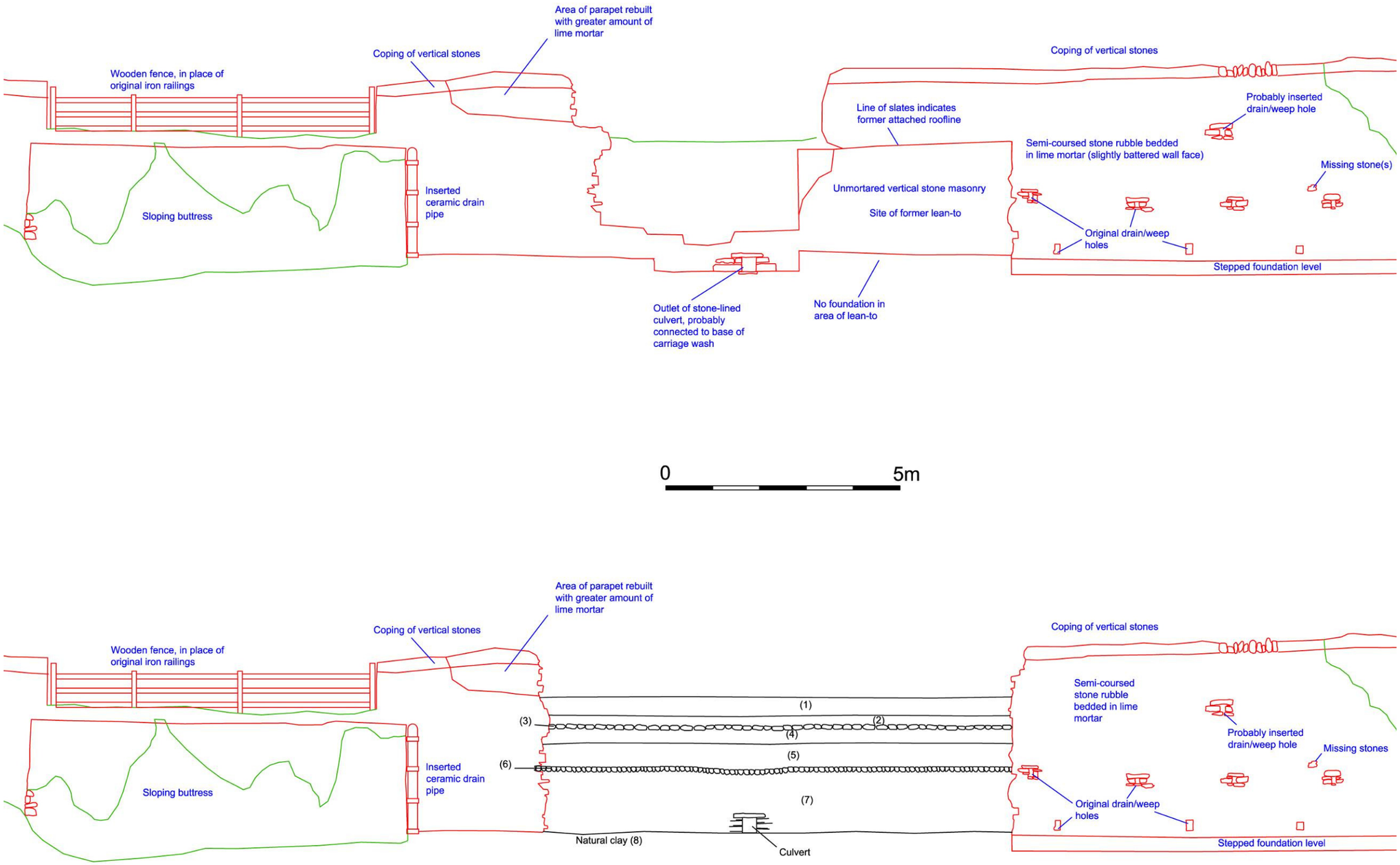

Fig 20 Northern collapsed area

Top: Features revealed after initial removal of debris. Bottom: Layers revealed in section

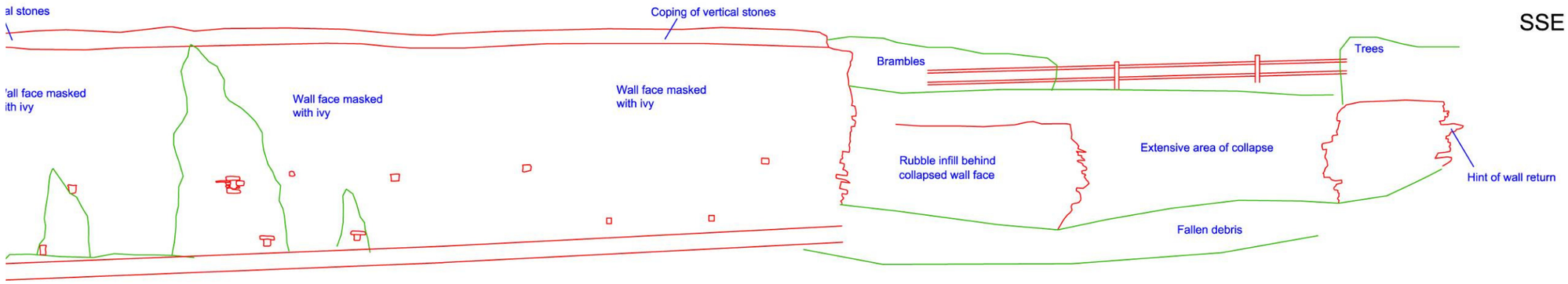

Fig 21 Southern collapsed section

Top: Features revealed before commencement of works. Bottom: Layers revealed in section.

Appendix 1: Written Scheme of Investigation

Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall Council

Stowe Barton, Kilkhampton: Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological watching brief during retaining wall strengthening

Client:	Cormac Consultancy (on behalf of Cornwall Council Highways)
Client contact:	Scott Perry
Client tel:	01872 326832
Client email:	sperry@cormacltd.co.uk

Note: this Written Scheme of Investigation is an update of a document produced in advance of survey/archaeological recording work in 2009.

Site history

The full extent of Stowe Barton's history is unclear, however there are numerous literary references which strongly indicate a medieval settlement probably within the footprint of the current farm buildings. Associated with this period was a chapel (14th century reference) which is thought to be located within the garden area to the west of the road. A Tudor or Stuart house is also known to have existed in the area (24 hearths in 1664) though again is exact location is unclear. Fishponds within the area to the west of the road are also known to have existed in around 1620.

In 1679 the country house of Stowe Barton was built for John Grenville, Earl of Bath. The house however did not last for long and was demolished in the early 18th century. Gascoyne's map of the Grenville estate, made in 1694, "shows the oblong carriage-wash, which has survived and was in use until the coming of the tractor" (Trinick 1974, 100). This is one of the only surviving structural elements the remainder of the house reflected in the extant earthworks.

The current farm and probably the majority of the associated farm buildings were built around 1739.

Project background

The retaining wall supports the public road alongside the former carriage-wash. It dates to at least the early 17th century but has undergone various repairs and rebuilds over the years. It also forms the eastern boundary of a 'garden' area shown on the c1840 Kilkhampton parish tithe map. The garden contains a whole series of earthworks interpreted as fishponds and associated water management features as well as the remains of an ornamental sunken garden. A series of stone steps form the access to the garden and are located at the northern end of the wall. Just to the west of these is one of the possible locations of the medieval chapel.

Some parts of the retaining wall have collapsed over the years and other sections are weak and require repair. In places the masonry parapet has been replaced with railings.

CC Highways have responsibility for ensuring the stability of the road and have therefore planned strengthening works. Strengthening works are programmed for the winter of 2013-14.

A brief setting out requirements for archaeological recording (survey and a watching brief) was provided by the National Trust Archaeologist (in consultation with CC's Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer) prior to archaeological survey works that were undertaken in 2009. At this time the entire length of the retaining wall was recorded in outline by measurement with a total station and details of fabric were then added by rectified photography (Thomas 2010).

Project extent

An archaeological watching brief is now required during the programme of wall strengthening works; this work is focussed on two areas of old wall collapse (see Thomas 2010, figs 16 and 17, for locations).

Aims and objectives

The principal aim of the study is to gain a better understanding of the retaining wall. The objectives are to obtain an archaeological record of the site during the strengthening programme.

Previous surveys and investigations

CC Highways holds an older drawn elevation of the retaining wall (survey date not recorded, probably 1970s).

In December 2003 Cornwall Archaeological Unit (the predecessor organisation to Historic Environment Projects) was asked to record three test pits dug at the base of the retaining wall. These were intended to establish the nature of deposits and the depth of the bedrock, to inform future strengthening proposals (Cole 2004).

A measured plan and section of the road itself was produced by CC Highways in 2009.

During the winter of 2009-10 Historic Environment Projects was commissioned to record a detailed elevation of the retaining wall supported by photographic coverage. This was undertaken using a total station to provide a detailed outline of the wall and to record a series of control points. The control points were used as the basis of rectified photography. The wall was photographed using traditional B/W film and digital colour images. Detail of the wall fabric was traced from the ortho-photographs onto the outline survey.

The survey revealed that the retaining wall, although collapsed in two areas, had not deteriorated significantly since the earlier CCC Highways survey. A buttressed section nearer the northern end of the wall is immediately beneath a deliberate gap in the parapet. This seems to have been created to allow a view from the roadway towards the sunken ornamental garden.

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 present watching brief (together with the detailed survey undertaken in 2009) are intended to be the equivalent of an English Heritage Level 3 survey (2006).

Work will comprise an archaeological watching brief during strengthening works, followed by creation of an archive of the project data. Results will be summarised in a report.

Watching brief

Recording methodology - general

- Site drawings (plans, sections, locations of finds) will be made by pencil (4H) on drafting film; all plans will be linked to the Ordnance Survey landline map; all drawings will include standard information: site details, personnel, date, scale, north-point.
- Plans and sections will be made of significant features, at an appropriate scale (preferably 1:20 or 1:10).
- All investigation areas will be accurately located on a site location plan at an appropriate scale.
- All 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. All contexts recorded will be recorded via the medium of HE pro forma context recording sheets.
- Registers of drawings, photographs, finds, samples and contexts will be maintained during the fieldwork.
- Excavated spoil will be carefully inspected for finds.

Photography

Photographs will be taken using higher resolution digital cameras (with a resolution of 8 megapixels or higher). Archive quality photographs will be taken using a 35mm camera loaded with monochrome film.

Methodology for the archive standard photography is set out as follows:

- A tripod will be used where appropriate, to take advantage of natural light and slower exposures.
- Photographs of details will be taken with lenses of appropriate focal length.
- Difficulties of back-lighting will be dealt with where necessary by balancing the lighting by the use of flash.
- A metric scale will be included where possible, except where health and safety considerations make this impractical.

Finds

- All finds will be retained from each archaeological context excavated.
- All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed.
- All pottery, and other finds where appropriate, shall be marked with the site code and context number.

Finds work will be to accepted professional standards and adhere to the Institute for Archaeologists' Guidelines (IfA 2001a).

Creation of site archive

On completion of the project the entire archive will be returned to the National Trust. The archive will be fully catalogued and is expected to include:

- Digital colour photographs (to be supplied on CD or DVD)
- Black and white photographs (prints, negatives and digital scan on CD).
- Preparation of finished drawings (final copies produced using AutoCAD).
- Completion and cross referencing of archaeological records, context sheets etc.
- Processing and brief analysis of finds.
- Completion of the English Heritage/ADS OASIS online archive index

Archive report

A written report will include:

- Acknowledgements.
- Contents and list of illustrations
- Summary
- Project background
- Aims and objectives
- Methodology
- Archaeological and historical background
- Watching brief results.
- Conclusions
- References
- Project archive index
- Supporting illustrations

A consultation draft of the report will be circulated to the National Trust Archaeologist before final editing is carried out.

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.

Timetable

The study is anticipated to be commenced during November 2013.

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

Monitoring of the project will be carried out by:

James Parry

NT Archaeologist for Devon and Cornwall

The National Trust

Cornwall Office

Lanhydrock

Bodmin
Cornwall
PL30 4DE

Tel: 01208 265238
Email: james.parry@nationaltrust.org.uk

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 (HEP). HEP employs some 20 project staff with a broad range of expertise, undertaking around 120 projects each year.

HEP 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

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

As part of Cornwall Council, HEP 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. If accepted, the contract for this work will be between the client 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 HEP field staff, with assistance from qualified specialists and sub-contractors where appropriate. The project team is expected to include:

Nigel Thomas BA MIfA

Senior Archaeologist who has worked with HEP and its predecessors since 1987. 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. Has recorded numerous industrial structures including Harveys Foundry, Loggans Mill (Hayle), Town Mills at St Columb Major, and china-clay area features including the waterwheel at Virginia CC Works, Greensplat engine house and Carrancarrow chapel. Project team leader for the Lostwithiel Town Characterisation Study. Member of the IfA's Buildings Group and Graphic Archaeology Group. An experienced user of AutoCAD and is responsible for HEP's survey methodology.

Copyright

As per the 2009 project brief, copyright of all material gathered as a result of the project will be reserved to the National Trust. Existing copyrights of external sources will be acknowledged where required.

Use of the material will be granted to Cornwall Council and Cormac Consultancy.

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.

HEP 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 HEP may need to disclose any information it holds, unless it is excluded from disclosure under the Act.

Health and safety statement

HEP 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 HEP will carry out a Risk Assessment. Work will be carried out according to Health and Safety requirements set out by the principal contractors.

Insurance

As part of Cornwall Council, HE is covered by Public and Employers Liability Insurance, with a policy value of £50m. The Council also has Professional Negligence insurance with a policy value of £5m.

References

Cole, R, 2004. *Retaining wall at Stowe Barton, Cornwall: Archaeological watching brief* CAU report, Truro

English Heritage, 2006. *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice.* English Heritage, Swindon

IfA, 2001a. *Standards and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

Thomas, N, 2010. *Retaining wall and carriage wash, Stowe Barton, Kilkhampton, Cornwall: Building Recording and Archaeological Watching Brief* Historic Enviroment Projects report number 2010R123

Trinick, M, 1974. The Great House of Stowe, *Journal of the Royal Institution of Cornwall*, New Series, vol.VIII, Part 2

Nigel Thomas

Senior Archaeologist

1st November 2013

Historic Environment Projects

Environment Directorate

Cornwall Council

Appendix 2: Table of contexts

Context Number	Cut/ Build/ Deposit	Description	Depth	Finds
1	D	Dark brown to black humic topsoil and roots	400mm	None
2	D	Light brown clay and small stones	200mm	None
3	B	Line of beach pebbles (cobbled surface)	100mm	None
4	D	Brown clayey loam and small angular stones, fairly compact	300mm	None
5	D	Yellow-brown clay with small stones (re-deposited natural)	500mm	None
6	B	Compact levelled cobbled surface, tightly packed	100mm	None
7	D	Medium brown clayey soil with small angular stones. Mixed.	1300mm	None
8	N	Natural substrate = yellow to brown-grey clay with small angular stones	Not excavated	None

Appendix 3: Listed building description

Location: CARRIAGE WASH ABOUT 8 METRES SOUTH EAST OF STOWE BARTON, KILKHAMPTON, NORTH CORNWALL, CORNWALL
Date listed: 09 September 1985
Date of last amendment: 09 September 1985
Grade II

SS 21 SW KILKHAMPTON 3/12 Carriage wash about 8 metres - south east of Stowe Barton - II Carriage wash. Late C17. Associated with Stowe, built for John Grenville, Earl of Bath in 1679. Slatestone rubble walls close to site of Stowe stables. 1 low wall adjoining road, taller parallel wall with pilaster buttresses and rough, irregular stone capping about 5 metres distant from lower wall. Shallow pit between walls. Gascoyne's map of the Grenville estate, made in 1694, "shows the oblong carriage-wash, which has survived and was in use until the coming of the tractor", Michael Trinick, 'The Great House of Stowe', Journal of the Royal Institution of Cornwall, New Series, vol.VIII, Part 2, 1974*, pp.90-108, p.100.

* Incorrect quoted date. Actually published in 1979.