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CORNWALL COUNCIL

Glasney College, Penryn, Cornwall

Report of conservation management work

Historic Environment Projects

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Report author(s)	**Ann Preston-Jones**
Checked by	**Jacky Nowakowski**
Approved by	**Andrew Young**

Historic Environment Projects
Environment Directorate, Cornwall Council
Fal Building, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3AY
Tel: (01872) 323603
Email: hes@cornwall.gov.uk Web: www.cornwall.gov.uk

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This work was carried out as part of Cornwall Council Historic Environment Projects team's Scheduled Monument Management Project for 2012-13, a project funded by English Heritage, Cornwall Council (CC) and Cornwall Heritage Trust. It was run as a partnership project with Cornwall Council's Natural Environment Projects team.

The Project Manager was Ann Preston-Jones from the HE side and Alan Jeffrey from Natural Environment. Nigel Thomas and Ryan Smith of Historic Environment Projects were also involved.

The repairs to the ruined wall were funded by the Friends of Glasney, whose representatives Alex Hooper and Stephen Tyrell also provided much practical support. Initial clearance of vegetation from the ruined wall was provided by Don Martin, CC's Open Spaces officer, Rupert Spencer, CC's Environmental Steward, and Viv Bigood of Cormac Solutions. Additional help with scrub clearing and vegetation management was provided by local volunteers John Kirby and Rupert Ellis.

Gillian Grant, the local Cornwall Councillor and Penryn Town mayor Mary May also helped to encourage this project.

Joe Morris and Tim Lake carried out the conservation work on the wall and the fence was designed and installed by Topan fencing.

Particular thanks are due to Barry and Matt Searle of Bohl's Yard, who having suffered problems associated with the site for many years, provided much practical support when work was finally taking place.

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 Cornish Gorsedh at Glasney in September 2013, with the ruined college wall as an appropriate backdrop

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Abbreviations

CRO	Cornwall County Record Office
EH	English Heritage
HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
HE	Historic Environment, Cornwall Council
HES	Historic Environment Service, Cornwall County Council
MCO	Monument number in Cornwall HER
NGR	National Grid Reference
OD	Ordnance Datum – height above mean sea level at Newlyn
OS	Ordnance Survey
RIC	Royal Institution of Cornwall

1 Summary

In this report are described the results of a small project to conserve a ruined wall on the site of Glasney College, near Falmouth in Cornwall, and to secure the boundary adjoining the wall.

The wall is the only visible reminder of medieval Glasney College, a religious house that existed at Penryn from the thirteenth to the sixteenth centuries. The college was a major institution, founded as the Cornish administrative centre for the diocese of Exeter: its church was modelled on Exeter Cathedral and in scale and grandeur it would have dwarfed most Cornish parish churches. Following dissolution in the sixteenth century, which led to re-use, dismemberment, and demolition of the buildings, the small fragment of walling that was conserved through this project became the only above ground survivor of the once-glorious establishment. The fragment survived because it became incorporated into the wall of a cottage and stood on the boundary between properties. As a result of this situation it had, in recent years, become neglected and overgrown with ivy and had Heras fencing erected around it to secure the boundary at that point.

Working with owners of the wall and a range of other partners and volunteers, this project sought to conserve the ruin by pointing in lime mortar, securing vulnerable stones and stitching together a large crack which had developed as a result of ivy growth. At the same time, the Heras fencing was replaced with a new, bespoke, fence to protect the boundary.

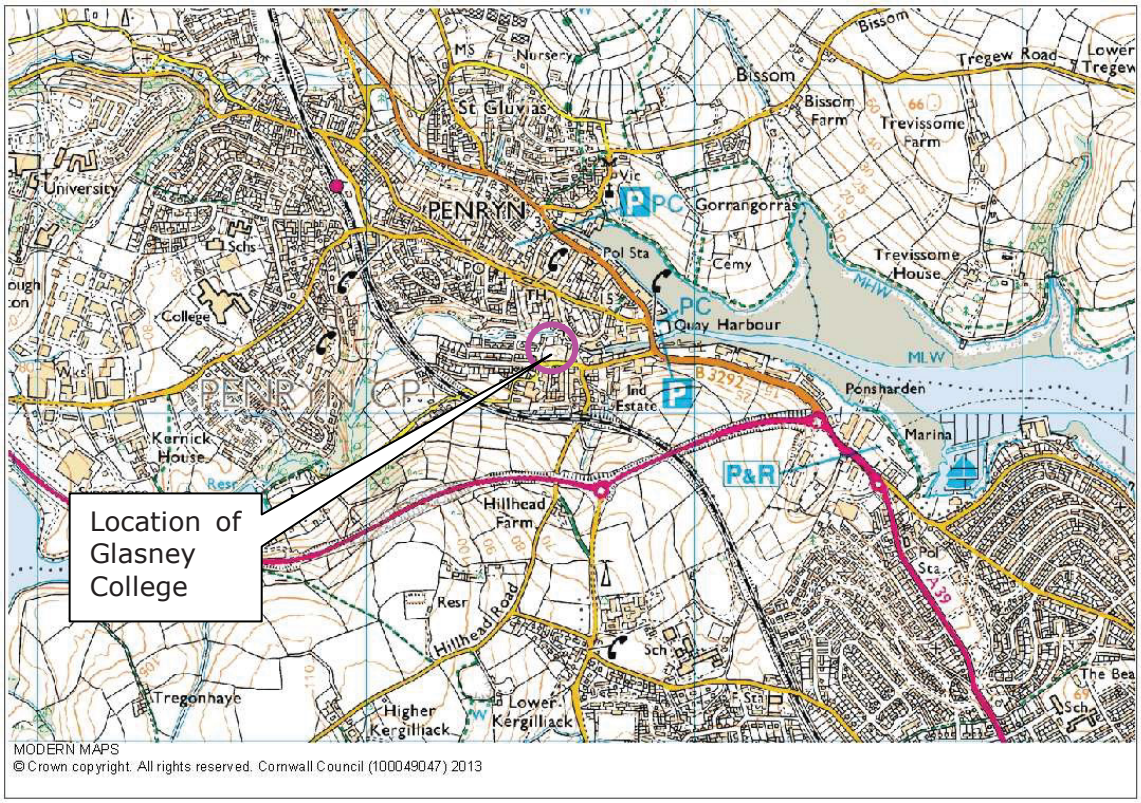


Fig 1 Location of Glasney

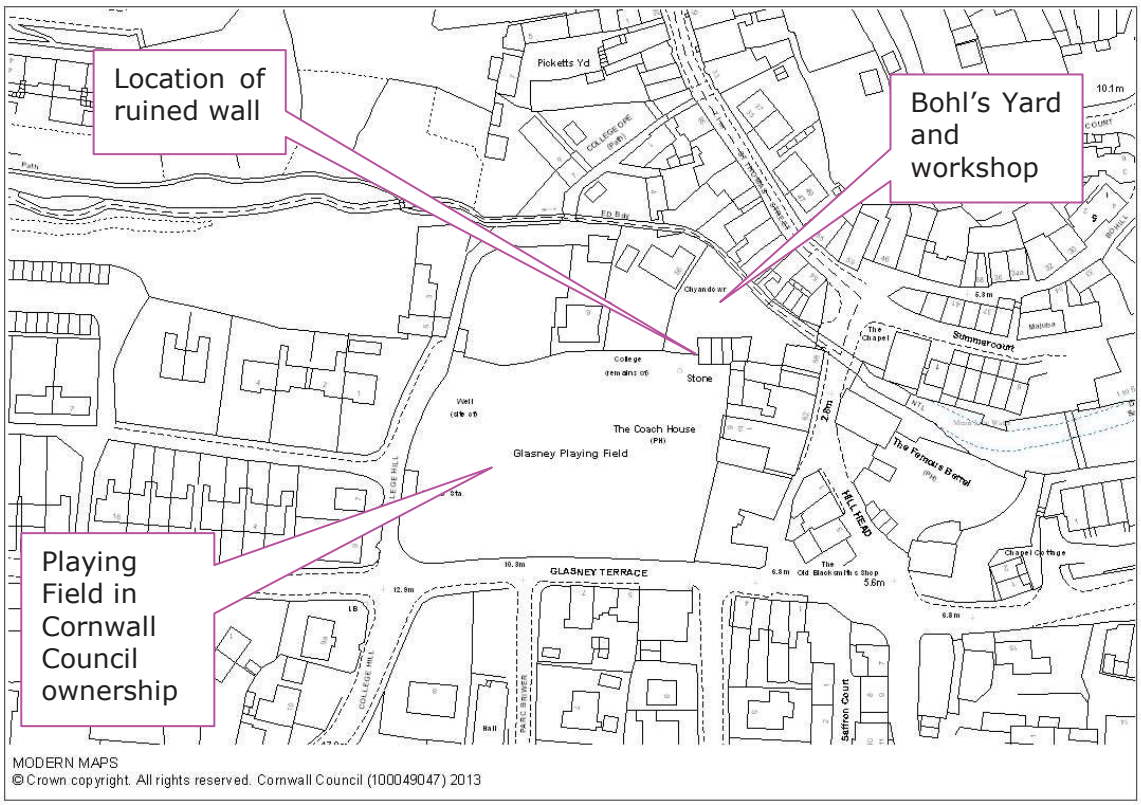


Fig 2 Location of ruined wall

2 Introduction

This report describes the results of a small project organised jointly by Cornwall Council's Environmental Projects team and Historic Environment, Cornwall Council. The purpose of the project was to consolidate the small section of ruined masonry that is all that survives above ground of medieval Glasney College, to secure the boundary on which the ruin is located, while at the same time carrying out archaeological recording.

2.1 Project background

The project focused around the one section of upstanding walling which is all that survives of the thirteenth century Glasney College. The ruined wall stands on a boundary between two properties: one a workshop in private ownership (Bohl's Yard: the wall is actually believed to be in the ownership of this property), and the other, a large playing field (College or Glasney Field, in the ownership of Cornwall Council). The wall has been in poor condition for a number of years, subject to scrub and ivy growth and crumbling in places. The boundary has not been secure since a fence was removed some 25 years ago and this has led Barry Searle, the owner of adjoining Bohl's Yard, to campaign to have the fence restored and to block the gap between the field and his yard with old oil tanks, while also allowing scrub to grow up, to prevent trespass at this point.

For the Scheduled monument, these issues were of concern because they affected the condition and presentation of the monument. For Cornwall Council and the owners of Bohl's Yard, they were of concern because of the fact that trespass occurs via the insecure boundary at this point. The project resulted from this convergence of interests, with Cornwall Council's Environmental projects team resolved to protect the boundary between their property and Bohl's Yard, and Historic Environment Cornwall Council, encouraged by the 'Friends of Glasney' and English Heritage, to include conservation of the wall in their Monument Management Scheme, because of the deteriorating condition of the historic wall. Also involved as collaborators in the project were Penryn Town Council, the local Cornwall Council member Mary May, Penryn Town museum and local historian John Kirby.

A particular incentive for getting these problems sorted out was the fact that the annual assembly of bards of Gorsedh Kernow was to be held in College Field at Penryn on 7th September 2013.

2.2 The monument

Founded in the second half of the thirteenth century as the Cornish administrative centre for the diocese of Exeter, Glasney College was one of the major ecclesiastical centres in medieval Cornwall. The Church was two-thirds the size of Exeter Cathedral, with a central tower and spire. It was part of a complex which included cloisters, a chapter house, refectory and infirmary. The grounds, 12 acres in all, included a deer park, mills, fishponds and associated housing.

Mystery plays written in Cornish, for performance at amphitheatres or playing places, are believed to have been written at Glasney College in the medieval period, and so the site is of great significance for Cornish culture. This is one reason why Gorsedh Kernow's bards gathered here in September 2013 (see front cover photo).

Assessment and trial excavation have shown that the majority of the college site lies under the grass of a playing field in the ownership of Cornwall Council (Berry, Lawson-Jones and Mattingly 1993; Cole et al 2005). Only a single section of stonework survives above-ground, this being the east wall of a chantry chapel that lay to the north of the Lady Chapel in the church. And the only reason for the survival of this is that it was re-used as the gable wall of a cottage shown on early Ordnance Survey maps (Figs 3, 4), but now demolished and its site re-used as a workshop. Most of the outer facing of this wall has disappeared leaving the random rubble corework as the main feature, although a small section of the dressed stone of an east-facing window is visible as the main

reminder of its ecclesiastical significance (Figs 7 and 8). This is described in more detail below.

Nonetheless, this small section of walling is of importance, not least because of the significance of the site for Cornish identity.

Monument details and constraints

HER 18600

NGR SW 7859 3420

DESIGNATION

The ruined walling is a Grade II Listed Building, no 1298629 (Legacy no: 365746)

It lies within a large Scheduled Monument, no 1007260 (Legacy no Cornwall 1083)

It is also within the Penryn Conservation Area.

2.2.1 The ruined wall

The ruined wall is thought to represent the east wall of a small chapel located in a transept just to the north of the Lady Chapel of the collegiate church. It is part of a wall originally 1.4 metres thick and stands up to a height of over 4 metres above the lowest visible ground level. The wall contained an east-facing window whose two sides retain some dressed and carved stonework visible separately at two different levels and on either side of the boundary fence, making its full extent and detail difficult to appreciate. The north and south sides of this window are shown in Fig 13. The main section visible in the playing field has been stripped of its dressed stone facing on the inner (West) elevation, leaving only the ragged remnants of corework punctured by large square putlog holes, but at the top on the east (originally external) face the remains of a stone facing are still extant (Berry, Lawson-Jones and Mattingly 1993, 16-17 and here, Figs 14 and 18).

Adjoining this, the south wall of the workshop in Bohl's Yard (the boundary of the playing field in its NE corner) is also thought to preserve remains of the north wall of the collegiate church (Fig 14, above).

2.3 Condition of the monument

The fragment of upstanding stonework which was the focus of this project had been long neglected and was in very poor condition. The main problem was vegetation growth, particularly ivy, and it was not until work started on consolidation of the ruin that the full extent of the damage and threat associated with the uncontrolled growth of this plant became apparent (see below, 11-12 and Fig 12). Over the last two decades, occasional attempts had been made to clear and manage the vegetation but as this had the effect of making access easier to adjacent Bohl's Yard, the wall was always allowed to grow over again (Figs 8 and 9).

On 19th January 2010, English Heritage's representatives Keith Weston, Structural Engineer and Nick Russell, the Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments, visited the site and recorded the following comments:

'…we inspected the section of wall at the north-east corner of the site. Quite a lot of the wall is concealed by vegetation so it was not possible to make an adequate inspection. The vegetation's root system is probably holding some of the stones in place but of course as it grows it will force the stonework apart, and it also lets moisture into the core of the wall. It is possible that the outward movement of the arch segment is being caused by root action.

'All of the vegetation needs to be carefully removed without pulling it away from the surface of the wall. When this has been done I will inspect again and advise what

remedial work is required. On the exposed stonework it can be seen that some consolidation work, and support to projecting stones, is now needed.'

In the event, a return visit was never made because once the opportunity for this project developed it moved ahead relatively quickly.

The following notes on the condition of the wall were recorded at the outset of the project in 2012 (Preston-Jones 2012, 3):

- This block of masonry has suffered from a lack of maintenance and much of the stonework is overgrown with and penetrated by ivy
- Some of the stonework is cracked and loose as a result of root penetration, notably near the top of the window arch
- Because of illegal access and security issues between the playing field and the property to the north, vegetation is in fact encouraged, old oil tanks and more recently a Heras security fence, have been positioned to help prevent access. This of course makes maintenance more difficult
- As a result of the former use of the structure as the gable wall of a cottage and later workshop, the pipe of an old stove emerges through the wall and has provided a route for the penetration of ivy

2.4 Risk

The monument is considered to be at high risk of damage and is on English Heritage's Heritage at Risk register.

NB: The risk assessment takes account of the entire scheduled area, not only of the condition of the wall. The scheduled area encompasses College Field, the gardens of properties to the north, and a discrete area to the north-west. Although the condition of the wall was originally a major factor determining risk, the threat of development in the areas outside College Field to north and of woody growth in the area to the north-west are also material to the risk assessment. Therefore, although the risk to the wall is now diminished as a result of this project, there is a continued threat to these other parts and so the overall risk remains high.

3 Aims and Objectives of proposed management work

3.1 Aims

The purpose of the project was to conserve and enhance the ruined wall and secure the boundary between College Field and Bohl's Yard, taking into account the significance of the site.

3.2 Objectives

The following is a summary of the project's objectives. The ways in which they were achieved and the results are described in sections 4 and 5.

- Initial survey of the site
- Careful removal of vegetation from on and around the wall
- Removal of old oil tanks, soil build up and rubbish from the foot of the wall
- Consolidation and repointing of the wall according to agreed guidelines
- Removal of the old stove pipe from the wall
- Erection of a high quality metal fence of agreed design along the boundary; to be secure but not detract from the appearance of the ruin; to run up to but not touch the ruin

- Carry out archaeological recording of all aspects of the work

4 Results of the conservation work

The results of the conservation work are described in chronological order. Although this may seem excessive, the several episodes of vegetation management are all mentioned in order to demonstrate the importance of this work and to credit the individuals involved.

4.1 Initial vegetation clearance by CORMAC

The first phase of vegetation removal was carried out in May 2012 by a small team from Cormac Solutions under the direction of Rupert Spenser.

On the advice of English Heritage, ivy and valerian were cut from the ruined wall but not pulled out. Over the summer the re-growth was sprayed. However the extensive and tenacious growth of ivy on the wall resisted total eradication until the final consolidation was carried out.

4.2 Subsequent vegetation, stone and rubbish clearance by volunteers

Once a date for the consolidation had been agreed, a second phase of vegetation clearance took place to save the conservators from spending time on this more basic task. Alex Hooper (Friends of Glasney), John Kirby (local volunteer, formerly with Penryn Town Museum) and Ann Preston-Jones (working as a volunteer) spent a day in January 2013 clearing vegetation from the ruined masonry at Glasney, as a preliminary to repointing and consolidation (Fig 10).

Prior to clearance, and as a result of the work already carried out by Cormac, the face of the wall was mainly clear of vegetation, apart from a few small weeds like ivy-leaved toadflax, and the thick (but dead) roots of ivy above and below the point where the stove-pipe emerged. Although the top of the wall had been cut and sprayed at least once by Cormac, it nonetheless still had a thatch of dead leaves and stalks, re-shooting ivy and valerian.

The work therefore involved

- The clearance of small weeds from the face of the ruin.
- Clearance of vegetation from the top of the wall. Here there was a considerable build-up of soil, presumably leaf litter resulting from the decay of the leaves of ivy and valerian which have been growing on top of the wall for years. Beneath the leaf litter, the top of the wall was found to have been capped in cement.
- In addition, the massive roots of ivy were removed as carefully as possible from the face of the wall. Most were found to be dead, and had been attached to the face but not rooted into the stonework, so it was possible to remove them fairly cleanly and without damage to the stonework.
- Brambles and ivy were cleared from the approximate line of the proposed fence, although one massive ivy root defied the pruning saws that the team had brought with them.
- The remains of a chain link fence and numerous other items of rubbish were found in clearing along this line. The fence is said by Mr Searle to have been the fence that formerly existed until it was removed in the 1980s.
- In the process, a lot of stone and rubble was shifted from the base of the wall and moved to the corner of the field.

4.3 Preparation for fence

The construction of the fence was co-ordinated by Alan Jeffrey of Cornwall Council's Environmental Projects team. He designed a brief for the fence, based on an initial site

survey by Historic Environment (Fig 6) and consulted in detail with both English Heritage and the Searles of Bohl's Yard to ensure that everyone's needs would be satisfied. In the event the tender was won by Cormac Solutions, who sub-contracted the work to Topan Fencing of Liskeard.

One of Topan's directors, Ian Wilton, met Ann Preston-Jones to discuss the excavation required in order to install the fence. At this meeting it was agreed that the necessary post-holes immediately adjacent to the wall would be excavated by hand by an archaeologist from Historic Environment (HE), and depending on the results of this, the remainder could be dug by Topan with a watching brief by HE.

The initial excavation for the fence post nearest the wall was carried out by Ryan Smith of HE, assisted by Alex Hooper of the Friends of Glasney. The unexpected results of this excavation are described in section 5.1. The second was excavated by Ann Preston-Jones, and once this had been done, the fence-line could be accurately designed, measured and then fabricated.

4.4 Conservation of wall

The conservation of the wall was carried out by Joe Morris and Tim Lake of Rescape Cornwall, between Monday 11th and Tuesday 19th March 2013 (Fig 11).

In summary, the work involved clearance of remaining ivy, other vegetation and loose stone, use of stainless steel straps to fix unstable dressed stones, and to secure a massive crack, whose presence appears to have been the result of ivy penetration. Any ivy that proved impossible to remove was treated with weedkiller. Selective repointing was carried out to secure and protect the stonework and a stone capping constructed to protect the top of the wall. The dressed Beer stone of the window was cleaned using water in hand sprays and soft brushes.

The mortar used was a hydraulic lime mortar, NHL 3.5 mixed with a coarse sand from Cornwall Lime Company, CLS 28, with a finer equivalent for narrow joints.

A diary by Joe Morris describes the work as follows:

Monday 11th March *We began by removing any of the remaining vegetation, mostly ivy from the ruin, and taking off any loose stones which were at risk of falling off. A large ivy root was removed from the bottom of the ruin which revealed a third putlog hole lining up roughly but not perfectly with the other two above. We then raked out loose material from the joints, finding a lot of loamy soil which is basically decomposed vegetation. We removed any of the recent cement mortar which looks very grey and stands out. We left the older, coarser mortar which is stable and looks weathered.*
The oil tanks were removed by Mr Searle and we could then see the bottom of the carved section of stone. The way the stone is laid at the bottom of this section suggests the position of a window sill. The removal of the tanks also revealed a small section of dressed stone indicating the other side of the opening, roughly two feet below the possible sill, showing that the carved mouldings extended below the 'sill'.
On the top of the ruin, more ivy was removed including large sections of thick branches/roots which had clearly pushed the dressed stone out, to create a large vertical crack.
The weather was very cold and below zero temperatures were predicted for Tuesday evening so we didn't work on Tuesday.

Wednesday 13th. *The weather was milder and we began by fixing stainless steel straps to the dressed stone. We fixed the stones which had been pushed out by the ivy to large, solid stones further in towards the middle of the ruin. All this was done at the top of the ruin so it will not be seen from below. We used stainless steel strips 3mm thick and 25mm wide, varying lengths, these were fixed with anchor bolts drilled into the stone. After this work the dressed stones felt solid, there was no movement on the smaller pieces at the top (Fig 12).*

Matt and Barry Searle have been very helpful to us, allowing us to use their power supply, water and also allowing us to use their pillar drill to drill holes in our stainless steel, saving us time.
After the stones were fixed we attempted to remove the large ivy root embedded in the top of the ruin but it was too far embedded in the crack, so we removed what we could without risking disloging any stones, drilled holes in it and applied strong weed killer. We also sprayed the whole ruin with Roundup to help kill small roots and prevent them re establishing themselves.
We then began to replace stones at the top of the ruin to cover the strap work and to form a 'cap'. For this we used stones that were already up there and also some of the stones which were lying around on the ground.
We used a lime mortar of 3 parts sand, one part lime NHL 3.5 for this. The sand was coarse sand (CLS 28 from Cornish Lime).

Thursday 14th. *Weather was bright and sunny, temperature milder. We continued to form the cap on top of the ruin, and also to repoint the walls of the ruin, where necessary.*

Friday 15th-Tuesday 19th. *We continued to repoint the joints all around the ruin and completed the cap on the top. We pointed a few open joints at the back of the ruin on the wall which faces Mr Searle's metal roof. We pointed some of the biggest open joints in the dressed Beer stone using a finer sand as the joints are tight.*
The cement covering which covered the angled section of 'window sill' was removed and revealed nothing but recently placed stones. We laid some slate on lime mortar to cover this area and finished it with lime mortar.
We cleaned the dressed stones gently using water and nylon scrubbing brushes. Most of the green growth came off well using this method.

4.5 Fence installation

The new fence was installed by Ian Wilton and Fred Hooper of Topan Fencing on Monday 25th March 2013 (Fig 16).

The fence is of galvanised mild steel, painted black. It is on average 1.82 m (6 ft) high and has rails of diamond section, 2.5 cm square (3 1/8 in), with a leaf top, the design being selected to be in keeping with the significance of the historic wall.

It was installed as three main panels approximately 2.5 metres (100 in) long, with separately designed pieces at both ends to provide a tailored fit to the wall at the east end and the tree on the west. The fence is supported on four 8 cm (3 1/8 in) square posts, standing to the same height as the fence.

The post-holes were all approximately 70 cm deep (though increasing in depth towards the west, as the ground level rises slightly) and approximately 30 cm in diameter. Holes were filled with quick-setting cement: Hanson Post Fix concrete, poured in dry, and the hole topped up with water.

The holes closest to the wall had been dug in advance by Ann Preston-Jones (see below); who watched as the remainder were hand-dug by Ian and Fred. The results are described below in section 5.2.

4.6 Final clearance

On Tuesday 30th April, a final day of vegetation and rubbish clearance was undertaken by the volunteers under the leadership of Alan Jeffrey, to tidy up the site after works (Fig 17).

Vegetation was cleared from the corner of the site, leaving a screen of scrub and brambles along the base of the workshop wall to deter people from climbing on the roofs. Any additional litter was removed and all rubble and stones left in a heap for later removal by Cormac Solutions.

After this, Barry and Matt Searle removed the oil tanks and now redundant Heras fencing from the site.

4.7 Vegetation clearance by Barry Searle

After the main part of the work was completed, Barry Searle of Bohl's Yard tidied up the boundary on his side of the fence, by clearing away fly tipping, the remains of the former chain link fence, and rampant ivy. A low wall was constructed of loose brick found in the debris. A substantial part of the ruin – containing the north side of the window – extends into Bohl's Yard, though at a lower level (Fig 13). This area, though confined, was also tidied so that it remains visible from Glasney Field.

5 Results of the associated archaeological recording

5.1 Initial site survey

The measured survey of the wall was carried out using a total station. Drawings were created using AutoCAD software and the plan was geo-referenced and superimposed on the survey of the site created when the excavations took place at Glasney in 2003 (Cole et al 2005, figs 8 and 9; here Fig 6). The principal purpose of the survey was particularly to help in guiding the planning and location of the new fence.

5.2 Excavation of the post-holes at the base of the wall

The excavation was carried out by Ryan Smith, assisted by volunteer Alex Hooper (Fig 13).

The requirement was for two 0.75m deep holes for the fence, to be excavated as close as possible to the ruined walling, at the corner where the window splays inwards. Because of their proximity to the wall it was considered essential that these would be excavated by hand. There are no buildings or other features shown in this area on any early maps, and so the expectation was that nothing but rubble tumbled from the wall would be encountered – as has been the case in the rest of the field. From previous excavations, the floor of the church is known to be at a much lower level, so there was no real concern that this would be affected (Cole et al 2005).

Hole 1: The plan was to start by excavating a trench 1m square, to give flexibility with the exact position of the hole, in case any very large pieces of masonry were discovered, which might be difficult to remove.

In the event, the excavation came down very rapidly onto a paved surface. This was hidden beneath a humic layer of decayed vegetation and modern rubble, approximately 20cm thick. Within this layer were also found a mixture of artefacts including an Edward VII (1901-10) halfpenny, blue and white china, bits of glass (including some very thick plate glass, possibly from a shop window), batteries, and a spark plug. The paved surface consisted of large irregularly-shaped slabs of slate, set in a cement mortar and bedded on a concrete footing up to 10cm thick. One possible medieval carved stone was incorporated into the sub-base. The surface was damaged in the middle of the exposed area, with slates missing, but at either end was better preserved (that is, at the SW and NE ends). The trench was widened beyond the original one metre square to 2.5 to 1.6m in order to gain more information. Widening the trench revealed that the surface extended right up to the base of the ruin, and had an edge set at an angle to the orientation of the church, that is SW - NE. As the feature is built with cement, it is assumed to be relatively modern, and possibly post 1907, as there is nothing to suggest its presence on the second edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig 4); but as it had long been covered with plant material and stones dumped on the edge of the field, must date back several decades.

At the base of the ruined wall, the very thick trunk of the ivy which has enveloped the ruin for many years was seen to be emerging from a hole in the surface approximately

0.2m diameter. A second possible roughly circular 'hole' in the surface was found 0.9 m to the NW of this one.

The surface was speculatively interpreted as the plinth for a bench, located at the foot of the ruin and presumably designed (from its orientation) to look out on the field. An alternative theory is that it might be the remains of a path which is said to have led all around the field at one time. Either way, it may reflect earlier use of the field as an amenity and recognition of the ruin's historic significance. Its date may tie with one of the phases of cement pointing and capping of the wall (below, section 5.4).

The hole at the foot of the wall, from which the ivy root once emerged, was speculatively interpreted as either one of two holes to take the post for a simple bench (the other being the second possible hole to the NW) or a planting hole for the ivy plant which has engulfed the wall over the last few decades. It is easy to imagine the well intentioned, but in hindsight misguided, planting of a small ivy plant in the days before its damaging potential was recognised.

It was decided that although not ancient, this plinth represented a phase in the history of the site and should be preserved if at all possible. However, given that the original purpose of the 'dig' had been to locate a suitable hole for a fence post, this posed problems on where to locate the post-hole. Eventually, it was decided to excavate further in the hole from which the ivy was emerging, as the existence of the ivy here was considered likely to have caused disturbance to any below-ground archaeology in the area.

In the first instance, excavation of the hole was simply a case of removing the ivy as far as possible before digging deeper. Just below the paving, once the ivy root had been removed, this proved very easy as the excavation was through soft, easy to dig material – possibly representing the earth in which the ivy had first been planted. After this, a layer of clay and stones was encountered and finally at just over 0.5m, a more solid stony layer. Even though this was short of the depth required by the fencers, it was decided to dig no further, as any more might impact on more significant archaeology.

Hole 2: The second fence-post-hole was excavated in the paved surface on the site of the second possible original hole, mentioned above. This contained a mix of stones and rounded lumps of granite (approximately 5 to 7cm across), possibly representing the remains of the base for the paving and making it uncertain whether this feature – though it looked like the position of a hole – was in fact of similar origin to the other. Layers encountered in excavating this hole to approximately 0.5m deep included:

- Top 20cm: dark brown topsoil with mixed finds which included a small sherd from the rim of a medieval cooking pot and blue and white china
- 20-35cm: a dirty yellow-brown clay with stones, containing, at a depth of 30 cm, a sherd of impressed salt glazed ware and 2 fragments of bone – possibly dog?
- At 35cm: a soft, humic black-brown layer, possibly representing a one-time vegetated surface, with small pieces of stone and a piece of oyster shell
- 35-40cm: Below this the dark layer merged to a much stonier layer containing a lump of coal, a piece of clinker, and a rusty iron nail
- 40-50cm: increasingly loose and rubbly, with a nice thin piece of willow pattern, red glazed earthenware, white china etc
- Below 50cm: a grey, sand layer with lumps of mortar and lime.

In summary, all material to a depth of 50cm proved to be of relatively modern origin, perhaps representing tipping in this corner of the field, until the paved surface was laid, and then further dumping after that had gone out of use. Below 50cm the character changed to a cleaner mortar layer, which may represent demolition associated with the ruin.

5.3 Watching brief during fence installation

A watching brief was undertaken on Monday 25th March 2013 when the new fence was installed adjacent to the ruined wall of Glasney College. In essence, this meant inspecting the spoil excavated from the holes by the contractors and examining the sides of the holes, once they had been dug.

The post-holes were all approximately 70 cm deep, though increasing in depth to the west as the ground level rose slightly. In each hole, the upper two-thirds consisted of fine dark brown humic material, mixed with loose small stones and modern finds. Towards the bottom, the ground again became increasingly grey and mortary, as seen in hole 2 (above, page 11).

5.4 Observations made in the course of conserving the wall

Wall face

The conservation work gave close access to the upper parts of the ruined wall and helped to confirmed the observation made by Berry in 2003 (Berry, Lawson-Jones and Mattingly 2003, 17-18) that a small part of the external ashlar east face of the wall survives, *in situ*, above the workshop roof (Fig 14). A putlog hole can be seen in the face, helping to betray its origin.

Putlog holes

In the process of undertaking this work, three massive putlog holes in an approximately vertical line were 'rediscovered' in the west (corework) face on the wall. These holes are visible on early depictions of the wall (for example Fig 7) but had become lost to sight beneath the vegetation which has enveloped the wall in recent years. One had had the stove pipe inserted in it. All - especially the bottom one - had proved a route for the penetration of ivy.

These putlog holes extend through the thickness of the wall and measure approximately 0.2 – 0.22 cm (8-9 inches) across. The top one can be seen on both faces of the wall (see Fig 18).

Cement pointing and capping

Two types of pointing were observed in the corework of the wall. These were a fine grey cement mortar and a coarser, weathered older mortar. The grey pointing was the most recent and, unattractive as it seemed, it did suggest that the wall had been the focus of well-meaning repairs in the recent past.

This cement pointing probably belonged to the same phase of repairs as the heavy cap of cement discovered on the very top of the wall once the thatch of ivy and leaf mould had been removed from the top of the wall.

Of the same phase is the cement covering the splayed sill of the window (Fig 13). Here, the Beer stone mouldings of the window had been cut through suggesting that this may have been the original position of a sill, though the modern sloping cement 'sill' was entirely reconstructed from recently-placed stone. Incised on the sloping cement of the 'sill' were the initials NC. The date of this work is not known.

All the grey pointing was removed and replaced with lime mortar; the less intrusive, weathered mortar was left *in situ*.

The damage caused by ivy

Removal of the wall capping revealed the full extent of damage done to the wall by the ivy which had covered it for many decades. An extremely alarming crack was found, where the ivy had forced apart the stonework. The stem of ivy had grown to more than 10cm across and literally split the wall in two, resulting in the massive crack seen in Figure 12 (below). The growth emerged in two main places, on top of the wall, and

from the sloping curved top of the Beer stone window arch, with smaller roots running in different directions.

6 Conclusions

This work has confirmed how urgent the need to repair the wall was. It has also demonstrated the enormous potential of ivy to damage historic fabric. Ironically, it is actually a possibility in this case, that the ivy had been deliberately planted to enhance the ruin!

If the work had not been undertaken it can only have been a matter of time before the carved stones of the arch were displaced entirely and more irrevocable damage caused. Thankfully, the wall should now be safe for many years to come, so long as an appropriate maintenance programme is in place.

The work has also been of benefit in improving the appearance of this significant ruin, and making it more of a feature in the corner of Glasney Field. The fence is an asset in at last providing adequate protection for the boundary here and although it is sad that the ruin cannot be appreciated in its full glory, the impressive new fence is at least in keeping with the significance of the wall.

This should also, in the medium and long term alert the community to the historic importance and significance of this surviving wall. The gathering of the bards here in September 2013 is one small step towards this rehabilitation.

7 Recommendations

7.1 Sort-medium term

Now that the wall has been repaired and conserved, and is almost fully visible again, it will be important to maintain it in this state. Ideally a proper programme of maintenance should be devised and agreed between the owners of both sides of the fence. But as a minimum it is recommended that:

- The condition of the wall should be regularly monitored.
- The vegetation should not be allowed to grow back at the base of the wall so that the full extent of the wall remains visible.
- Any vegetation on the wall should be carefully cleared periodically: and in particular the growth of any woody species that might root into the wall should be discouraged. Small weeds with non-woody roots, such as ivy-leaved toadflax, can be either tolerated or simply pulled out, *but* any woody plants that develop, like Valerian or brambles, should be chemically treated to prevent re-growth.
- Ivy in particular must be discouraged and any new growth treated with a chemical weedkiller.
- The condition of the fence should be checked periodically and any retouching of the paintwork should ideally be done with the same as that used for the first coats. This was ProtegaLac PU90 which is a high quality fast-drying enamel paint. The colour code is RAL9005. The outlet for these paints is Neals Coatings on 01935 826030.

7.2 Long-term

In the long term a solution should be agreed which would allow the fence to be removed and the disparate elements of the wall made accessible and displayed as a more readily interpreted unity, while at the same time preserving the security of the Bohl's Yard property.

8 References

8.1 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, 2007. *Mastermap Digital Mapping*

Tithe Map and Apportionment, *c*1840. *Parish of St Gluvias* (microfiche and on-line copy at HE)

8.2 Publications

Berry, E., Lawson-Jones, A. and Mattingly, J.M. 2003. *Glasney College, Penryn, Cornwall: archaeological assessment and evaluation*, HES report

Cole, D., et al, 2005. *Glasney College, Penryn, Cornwall: archaeological assessment and evaluation trenching*, Historic Environment Service report

Jeffrey, A, 2012. *Glasney Wall Project, Penryn:*, CC Environmental Projects team project brief

Preston-Jones, A, 2012. *Monument Management Scheme 2012-13: Glasney College, Penryn, Cornwall: proposal for consolidation of ruined masonry, fencing to secure the boundary of the site and written scheme of investigation for associated archaeological recording*.

8.3 Websites

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

9 Project archive

The HE project number is **146209**

The project's documentary, photographic and drawn archive is housed at the offices of Historic Environment, Cornwall Council, Fal Building, New County Hall, Treyew Road, 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 ..\CAD ARCHIVE\Sites G\Glasney Wall 2012
3. Digital photographs stored in the directory R:\Historic Environment (Images)\SITES.E-H\Glasney 2012 and 2013
4. English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-185281
5. This report text is held in digital form as: G:\TWE\Waste & Env\Strat Waste & Land\Historic Environment\Projects\Sites\Sites G\Glasney ruin 2012-13\Report\Glasney Conservation Report 2014

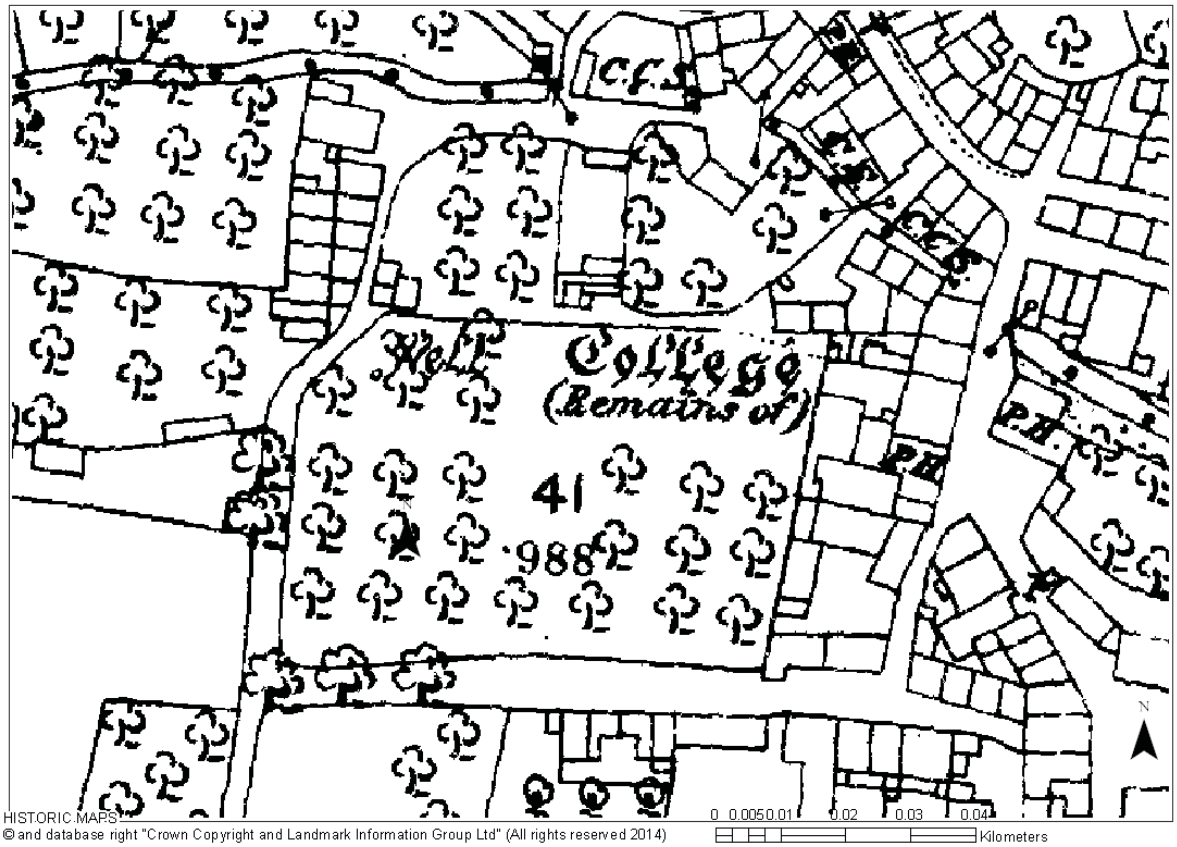


Fig 3 First Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1880

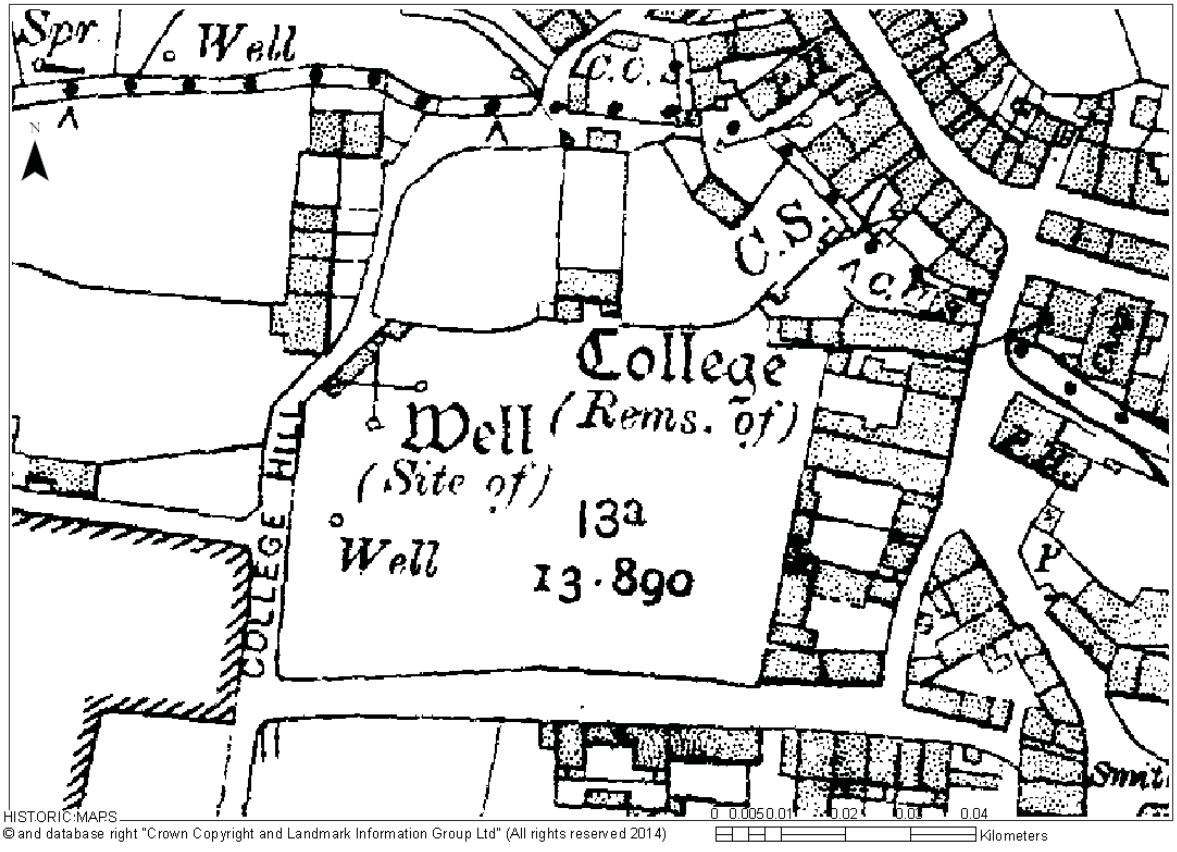


Fig 4 Second Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1907

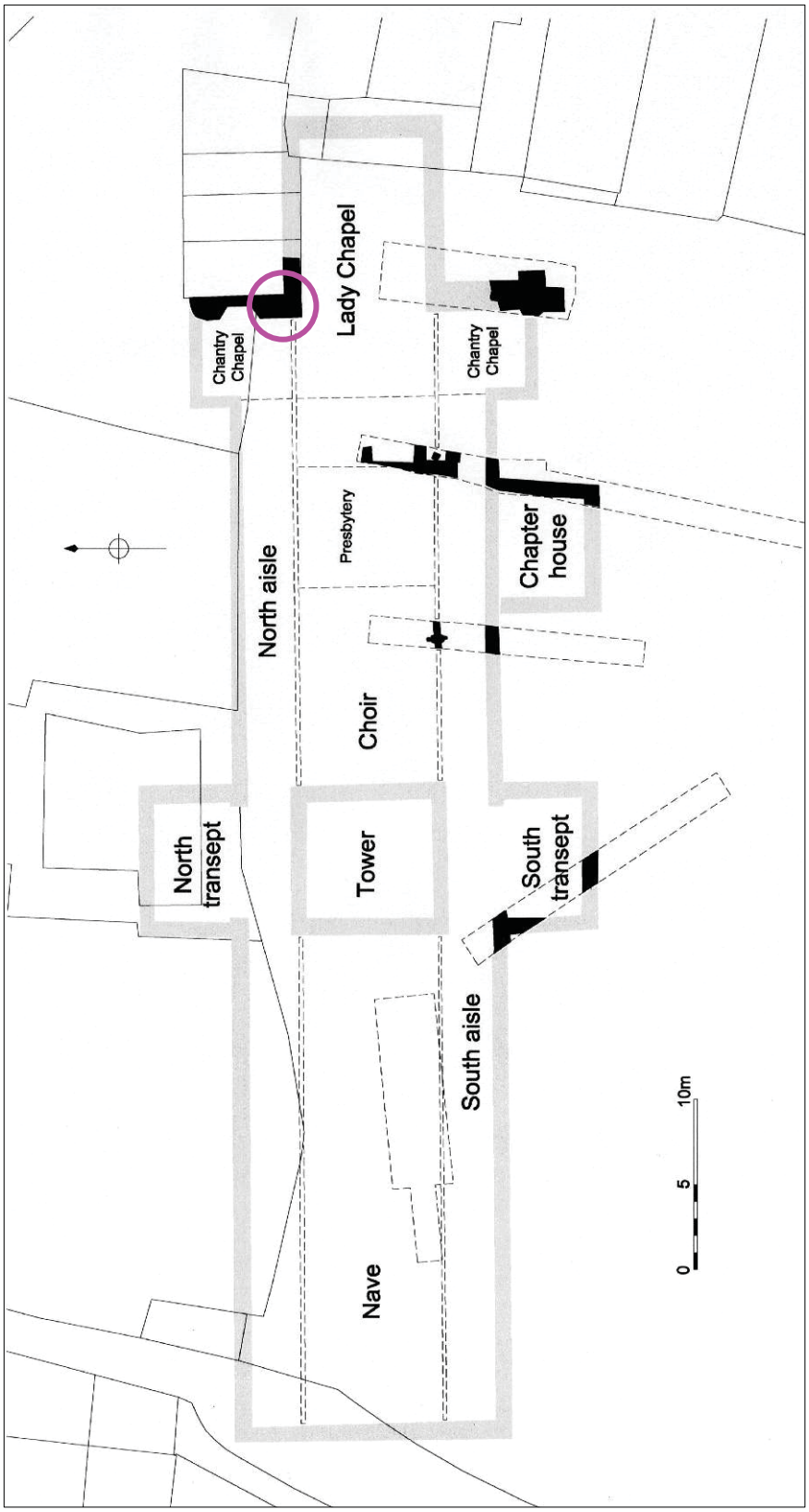


Fig 5 Plan of Glasney College, from Cole et al 2005, fig 14, showing the location of conserved portion of the medieval wall (and the positions of trenches excavated in 20013).

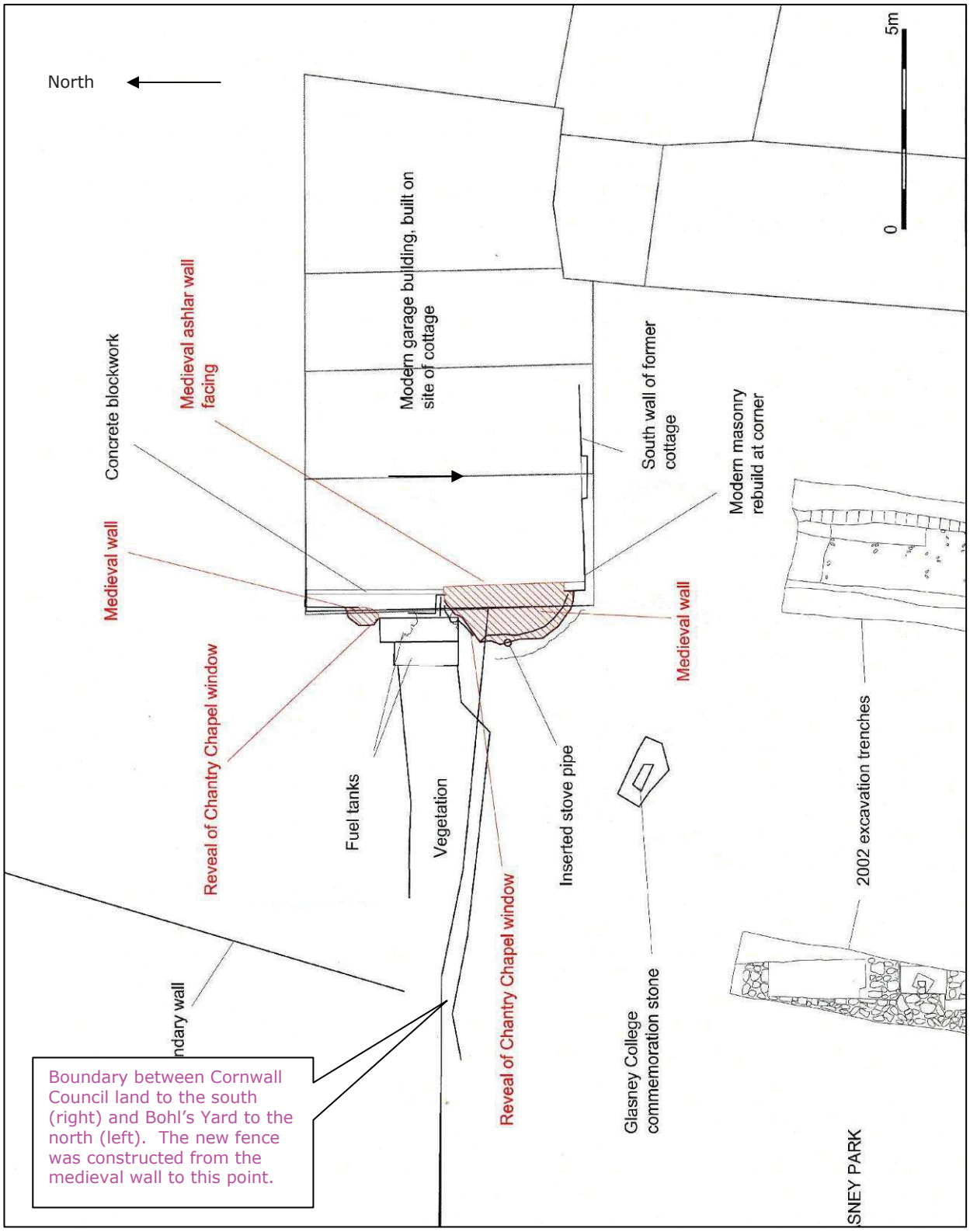


Fig 6 Plan of all that remains visible of Glasney College in the NE corner of Glasney Field and adjoining Bohl's Yard: the original walling is shown in red. The plan is overlain on the plan of excavation trenches dug in 2003 (Cole 2005, fig 7)

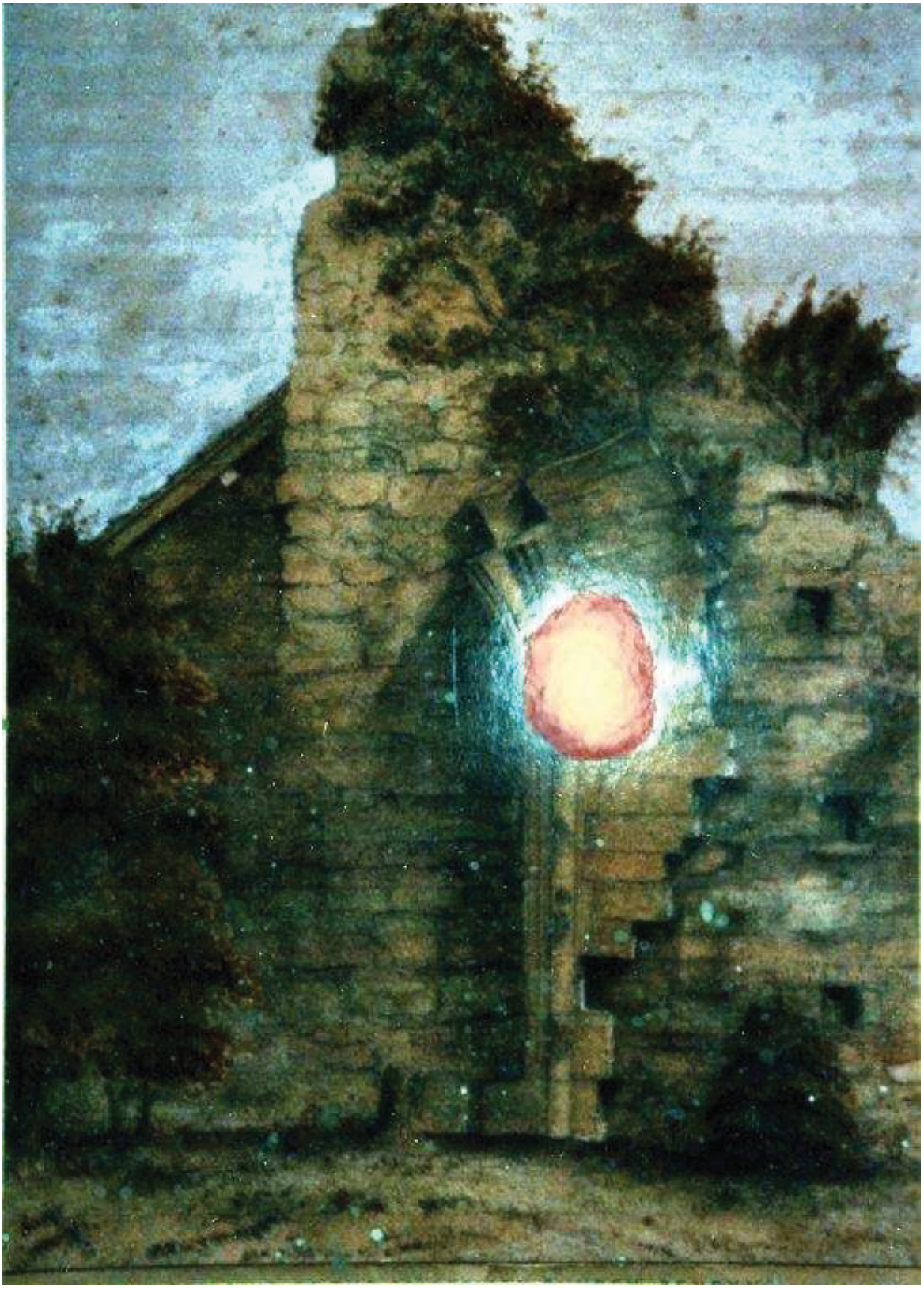
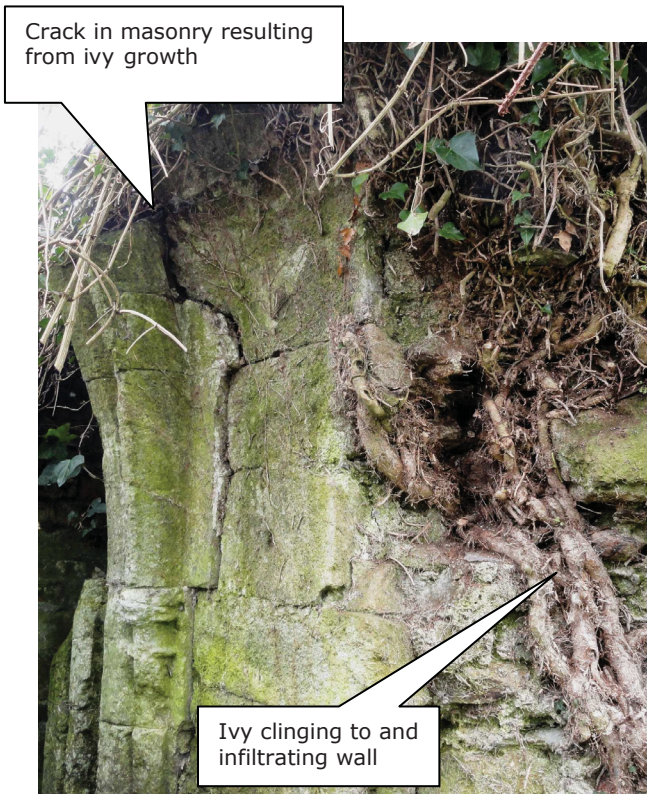


Fig 7 Nineteenth century depiction of the ruined college wall and former cottage, image courtesy of Barry Searle. Note the putlog holes can be seen in the wall face on the right

Fig 8 Photos showing the condition of the wall before conservation work. Above in 1987, courtesy of Barry Searle; below, in 2011 from behind the Heras security fence. The old oil tanks are visible on the left, and the security fence separating the wall from the playing field is on the right. In the centre, the stove pipe can be seen emerging from the wall, which has a thick thatch of ivy

The wall behind the security fence and hidden by ivy

The wall with the oil tank to the left



The carved window arch, showing cracking due to ivy penetration and (right) the stove pipe emerging from a putlog hole. Both also show the extent of ivy roots on the wall

Fig 9 Photos showing the condition of the wall in 2011, before work started

Fig 10 Volunteers John Kirby and Alex Hooper clearing vegetation from the ruined wall in January 2013. The stove pipe is clear and above it, one of the three putlog holes seen in Fig 7 has re-emerged

Fig 11 Tim Lake and Joe Morris conserving the Glasney ruin in March 2013

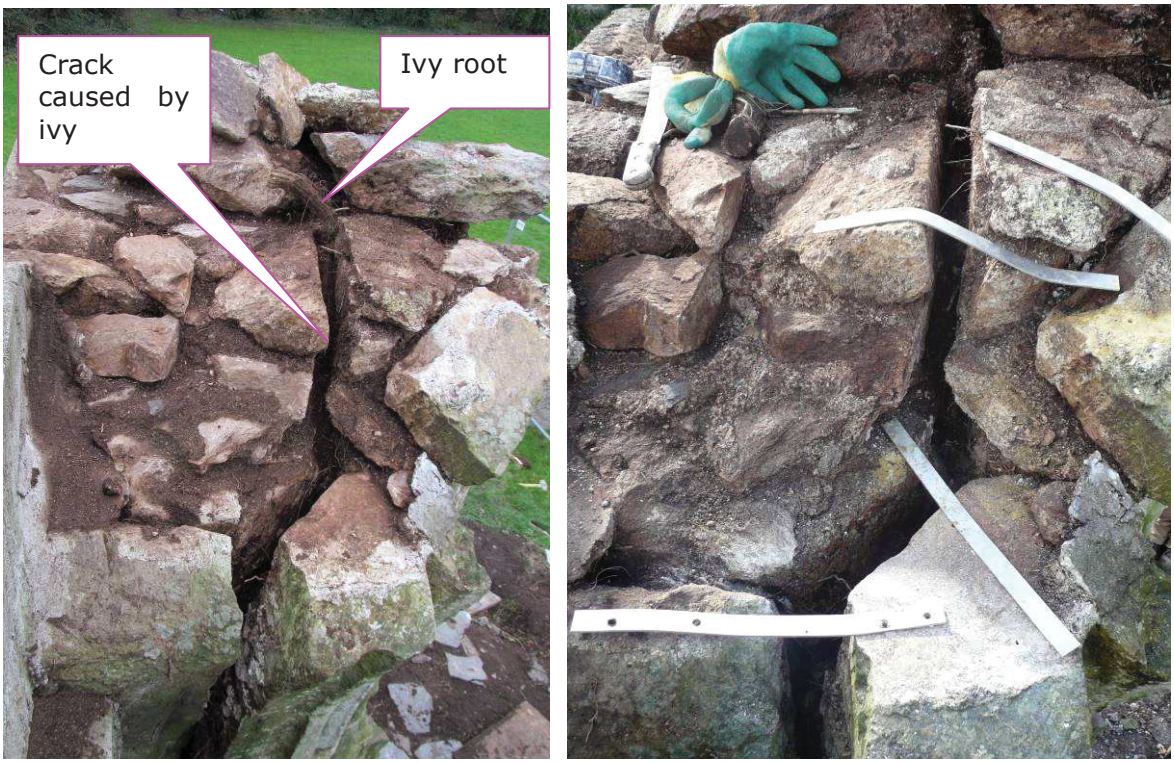


Fig 12 On the left, the crack caused by ivy and on the right the strapping fixed to stop any further movement of the crack. The crack was filled with stone and mortar and a wall capping was then built over this to hide the strapping and help shed water from the wall-top

Fig 13 Above: detail of north side of window, in Bohl's Yard, beside the oil tank which has now been removed; and below: detail of the sill, also in Bohl's Yard, before removal of concrete

Fig 14 The east face of the wall visible above the workshop roof, with external ashlar face extant and putlog hole visible

Fig 15 Hand excavation for a post-hole for the new fence at the foot of the ruin revealed a paved surface. The large ivy root can be seen emerging through the paving at the foot of the ruin

Fig 16 Ian Wilton and Fred Hooper installing the new fence in March 2013

Fig 17 The final tidy-up: from left to right: Alan Jeffrey, Rupert Ellis, John Kirby, APJ, Alex Hooper

Fig 18 The almost completed project. The slate plinth can be seen at the base of the wall. This has now been covered over to protect it.