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**UNCOVERING OF A DRYSTONE WALL
AT APETHORPE HALL,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

A Report for English Heritage



The University of
Nottingham

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*by
Richard Sheppard*

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Trent & Peak Archaeology
University Park
Nottingham
NG7 2RD

Tel: 0115 951 4823

Fax: 0115 951 4824

E-mail: TPA@nottingham.ac.uk

UNCOVERING OF A DRYSTONE WALL AT APETHORPE HALL

In March 2006 some trenching for a service pipe on open ground immediately to the north-west of Apethorpe Hall uncovered the base of a small drystone wall (Fig. 1). The trench was only 0.4m–0.45m wide and 0.5m deep, and the wall was found to cross the north-south running trench just east of Hunting Way. The wall was 0.6m / 2ft (Plate 1) wide and its base was 0.6m below ground surface; three courses survived (Plate 2). The stonework was evidently part of the former wall's foundation. The stones had been well laid in a trench, cut into the natural clay from the north side, and packed with some rubble and animal bones. No dating evidence was found.

Although only a small section of wall was found, it was enough to show that it ran parallel to the north frontage of the Hall. Despite being outside the far west courtyard of the Hall, projecting its line eastwards shows that it was situated almost exactly 50 feet (15.23m) from the main central frontage. The wall does not appear on any Ordnance Survey maps and its date remains something of a mystery.

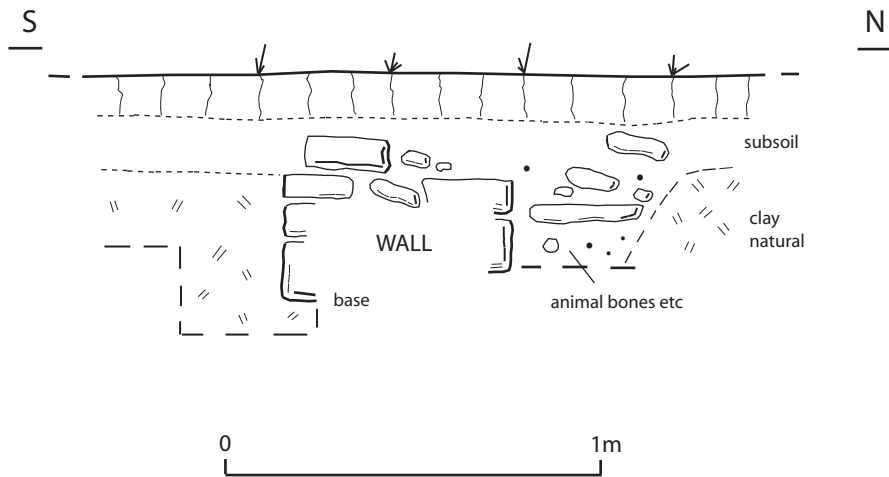
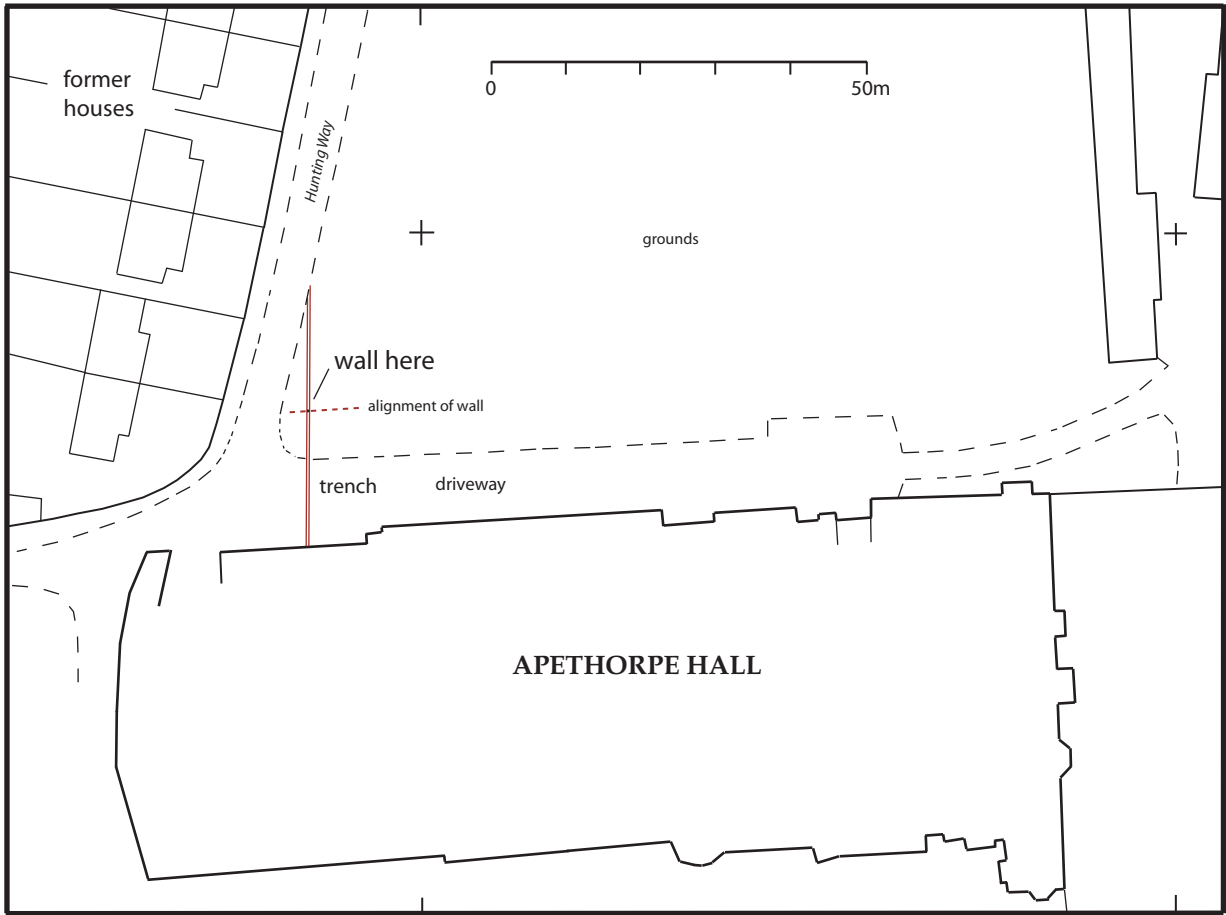


Figure: Location plan and section of wall uncovered in the grounds of Apethorpe Hall during trenching for services in March 2006. Scales 1:1000 and 1:20.



1



2

Plates of the wall at Apethorpe Hall. 1: view of the top of a wall revealed during service trenching in grounds to the north-west of the Hall (archive photo 733); **2:** view showing depth of surviving coursework (archive photo 731).