

Historic building recording at Little Stamborough, Old Cleeve, Somerset



on behalf of
Alan and Helen Sandwell

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared for Alan and Helen Sandwell and sets out the results of an archaeological building survey and monitoring and recording carried out by Oakford Archaeology (OA) between February 2018 and October 2019, at Little Stamborough, Old Cleeve, Somerset (ST 0290 3670). The work was carried out to satisfy condition no. 3 attached to the grant of listed building consent (6/26/17/105LB) by Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) for external and internal alterations to the existing farmhouse and associated works.

1.1 The site

The main house is a Grade II Listed Building (1295860), lying to the northwest of the historic hamlet of Leighland (Fig. 1). The house was originally built as an open-hall house in c.1450-1500. The building has been subject to alterations and additions in the 16th and 17th centuries including the construction of a small wing in the mid-to-late 17th century. The property was subsequently divided into two properties sometime in the early-mid 19th century, before being converted back to a single dwelling in the second half of the 20th century.

The archaeological work was commissioned by the current owners of the property, Alan and Helen Sandwell, in advance of the refurbishment of the house which after many years had become dilapidated and in need of a sympathetic new use. Refurbishment works involved the removal of modern partitions and their replacement, new floors and new facilities.

The building was the subject of a preliminary statement of significance by Keystone in August 2017.

1.2 Geological background

The site lies on a gentle east facing slope overlooking High Wood and the river valley below. The geology of the area is slate of the Ilfracombe Slates Formation formed approximately 387.7 and 372.2 million years ago in the Devonian period and gives rise to deposits of clay (www.bgs.ac.uk).

2. AIMS

The aims of the project were to preserve by record any historic building fabric or architectural detail that was to be obscured, removed or otherwise affected by the development, and to disseminate the results of the investigation by appropriate reporting.

3. METHODOLOGY

The work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by OA (2017), submitted to and approved by the Exmoor National Park Authority under the planning and listed building conditions, prior to commencement on site. This document is included as Appendix 1.

3.1 Building survey

Recording of the buildings was undertaken by a historic building specialist in accordance with specifications applicable to Level 2-3 in the English Heritage 2006 document *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practices*. The building recording consisted of:

- A detailed written description of the buildings and more general record of the main building.
- A detailed photographic record of the buildings in colour (digital) format, and a basic record of the main building.
- A limited drawn record of the buildings, consisting of annotation of, and additions to, the architect's 'as existing' plans and elevations, to show the locations of any fixtures and fittings, building breaks, blocked openings or architectural detail.

3.2 Watching brief

The work originally entailed the replacement of the existing floor surfaces on the ground-floor. However, by the time of the site visits it had been decided to retain the current floor in the living room and only the floors in the kitchen and dining room were excavated.

Hand excavation was undertaken by the contractors under archaeological control. Modern and underlying deposits were removed to the level of either natural subsoil, or the top of archaeological deposits (whichever was higher). Areas of archaeological survival were then cleaned by hand, investigated and recorded.

The standard OA recording system was employed; stratigraphic information was recorded on *pro-forma* context record sheets and individual trench recording forms, plans and sections for each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and a detailed black and white print and colour (digital) photographic record was made. Registers were maintained for photographs, drawings and context sheets on *pro forma* sheets.

4. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 General background

Little is known of the history and development of this area in the immediate post-Roman and early Saxon period. The manor of *Cleeve* was held in the mid-11th century by Earl Godwin. It is recorded again in the Domesday Book of 1086, when it was held by Earl Harold prior to 1066. During the Norman reorganisation of the land holdings following the Conquest, and the death of Harold at Hastings, the manor of Old Cleeve and its land remained a royal manor held by King William.¹ The manor was granted sometime before 1102 to Robert FitzGerold, when it included an estate known as *Lege*, identified as Leighland.

Robert's land descended to his nephew William de Roumare, earl of Lincoln. William was followed by his grandson, William, who between 1186 and 1191 gave all his land of Cleeve for the establishment of a Cistercian monastery which was colonized from Revesby in 1198. At or soon after its foundation Cleeve Abbey received the holdings of Hubert de Burgh, grantee of much Roumare land, and estates at Croydon, Golsoncott, Bilbrook, and the Hill at Washford, which had formerly been held by the Benniworth family, retainers of the Roumares from Benniworth (Lincs.), all presumably once part of Robert FitzGerold's estate. The complete holding, later known as the manor of Old Cleeve, continued in the possession of the monks until the surrender of the abbey in 1536. Stamborough is mentioned for the first time in 1298.²

¹ Thorn and Thorn 1985, 1,13.

² Victoria County History of Somerset, Volume 5, pp 39 – 54, viewed online at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk> 22.7.2018.

4.2 Little Stamborough

Leighland or Leeland is named as the abode of Robert Rowe in deeds of 1717³ and 1731.⁴ The Rowe family were Roman Catholics and under Act 1 Geo. I st.2 c.55 (1714-16) ‘*papists*’ were required to register their estates with the clerk of the peace of the county in which they were located. The schedules of lands give details of tenement, field names, occupiers, rents and state the type of tenure (fee simple, leaseheld and copy-hold). The separate rolls of individual estates have warrants of attorney attached. The document for 1717 includes a list of land owned and leased out by Robert Rowe, in Leighland in the parish of Old Cleeve. Although Stamborough isn’t mentioned directly, a property which might possibly be relevant is included. It is a lease of lives, between Robert Rowe and William Oatway, and describes ‘*a messuage and two tenements with the appurtenances lying in Old Cleeve and Carhampton heretofor granted to Master Glasse two lives now thereon one pound [?] shillings and twopence halfpenny. A messuage and dwelling house and other part of the same two tenements heretofor leased to William Oatway two lives now in being rent twenty shillings.*’

The property is mentioned again in a note dated 1743 ‘*Jn. Rowe of Leighland, Old Cleeve, esq. lands as in [...] with 2 ten[ement]s in Elworthy. A messuage and dwelling house formerly William Otways for three lives reserved rent twenty shillings yearly value twenty pounds.*’⁵ Stamborough is not named directly in the 1766 and 1767 Land Tax Assessments, although one of the properties owned by John Rowe and occupied by William Oatway is valued at £1, 14s and 8d, which is close to the later valuation of Stamborough. The presence today of properties named Glasses Farm and Oatway a short distance to the north suggests that the above interpretation is far from secure and that there is plenty of scope for confusion in the documentation.

However, unlike many Land Tax Assessments entries, Stamborough is named from 1781, making it easy to record the ownership – or at least the tenant – and the occupier. The house is owned until 1817 by “Mr Winter” or “John Winter”, the Winter family of nearby Roadwater was producing cloth at Leighland in 1815.⁶ John Winter leased Stamborough to John Chichester and William Oatway until 1793. The house was occupied for the next six years by “Mr Wood” or “John Wood”. The Winters’ final tenant was James Richard who was in residence at Stamborough from 1802 until 1817 when the estate was acquired by Samuel Southwood.

The Southwood’s were a wealthy family and Samuel, who died childless in 1819, left an extensive will. Samuel “*charged and made subject*” his “*estate called Lege [or Leighland] situate in the parish of Old Cleeve in the County of Somerset with and to the payment of all [his] just debts funeral expenses and Legacies in aid of [his] personal estate*” and he appointed his brother Thomas as his executor.⁷ The farm was leased to William Govett in 1818 who occupied Stamborough until the early 1820s when he sub-let to a succession of tenant farmers.

In 1823 map of the manor of Leighland (Fig. 2) with “*particulars and admeasurements of the Manor of Leyland in the County of Somerset, the property of Thos. Southwood Esq*” shows *Stanborough* for the first time. The farm, marked as no. 20 and described as “*farmhouse, barton and outhouses*” measuring 3 rods and 28 perches, consisted of a N-S aligned main range. A

³ Q\RRp/1/28 (Robert Rowe of Leighland 1717).

⁴ S/27/1,2 Lease and Release in order to suffer a Recovery, held by the Cornwall Record Office.

⁵ Q\RRp/1 no.28.

⁶ Victoria County History, Volume 5, pp 39 – 54, viewed at www.british-history.ac.uk 23.7.2018

⁷ PCC PROB 11/1663 (Samuel Southwood’s will proved 6th December 1819)

projecting wing is shown at the south end while a small porch or outshut projects eastwards from the south end of the building. To the east of the house is a farmyard surrounded by buildings to the north and east. The farm was occupied by James Brewer at this date.

Interestingly the 1823 the Land Tax Assessments, which valued Stamborough at £1, 14s, 1/2d, still lists William Govett as the owner and occupier. After 1824 Govett sub-let Stamborough to the Dates, first John, then Thomas from 1826. Thomas still occupied Stamborough in 1834 and is described as a yeoman “*of Stamborough in the Parish of Old Cleeve*” in his will of 7th December 1837, proved two years later.⁸

Thomas Southwood had died in 1830, and while lands in Pitminster, Somerset and Churchstanton in Devon are mentioned in his will proved on 30th June,⁹ Leigh and Old Cleeve are not, and the estate is likely to have been sold before his death.

The tithe survey of Old Cleeve parish took place in 1838 (Fig. 3), revealing that the estate had been broken-up. The map names the property as *Stanbury* and clearly shows the main house and a projecting south wing, as well as agricultural buildings clustered around a farmyard to the east. Plot number 1183 with the main house was owned by Joseph Gatchell and occupied by William Crews or Cruse, and described as “*part of farmhouse*” measured as 1r, 11p. Plot 1182 with the former farm buildings was described as “*Stamborough Barton*” measuring 1 rod, 6 perches, owned and occupied by Joseph Gatchell. Plots 1134, 35, 36, 37, to the north of the site, “*Stamborough*” included a House, Garden and Barton, were owned by John Govett and occupied by George Date.

In 1841, George Date, named as Thomas Date’s son in Thomas’s will of 1837, is listed as a farmer at Stamborough with Elizabeth and young Henry Date. Also listed as separate households at Stamborough are John Callowary, Amos Gratton, and William Cruse, all agricultural labourers. However, it is likely that William Cruse still occupied ‘part’ of the former farmhouse at Little Stamborough, while the other two may have occupied the remainder of the property.

William Cruse is not listed on the 1851 census, although John Govett, his wife Sarah and their four children and two farm servants are. They were living in the farmhouse formerly occupied by George Date. It is clear from the information available that from the late 1830s the former farm buildings to the east and north had been converted to separate farmsteads (Stamborough Barton and Stamborough), while the status of the main farmhouse (Little Stamborough) had been reduced to providing accommodation to agricultural labourers.

John Govett was described as a farmer of 40 acres and was to farm Stamborough for the next 20 years. The 1861 Census describes him as a “yeoman” at “Stambro” while the Kelly’s Directories for 1861, 1866 and 1872 lists him as a farmer at Leighland. The 1871 census lists him as Retired Farmer, still at Stamborough. However, listed in the Somerset Archive online catalogue is a draft lease for Stanborough Farm and cottage, Old Cleeve, John Govett to Amos Tudball dated 1870.¹⁰ John died in the March Quarter of 1881 aged 70, and in the 1881 census, the widowed Sarah aged 66 was listed at “Stamborough House” as a retired farmer.

⁸ PCC PROB 11/1905 (proved 2nd January 1839)

⁹ PCC PROB 11/1773

¹⁰ DD\DP/69/12

The Govetts had, in fact, sold up in 1879. On 21st June, the West Somerset Free Press advertised: “Sale of Revisionary Interest in an Estate called Stamborough in the parish of Old Cleeve in the County of Somerset...Known as Stamborough Farm with the outbuildings and appurtenances thereto belonging ...now in the possession of Mr John Govett and his tenants.” The plots corresponding with Little Stamborough on the Tithe Map were not included in the advertisement, unlike those of Stamborough, suggesting that the house was still part of Stamborough Barton at this time.

The area was mapped by the Ordnance Survey in 1888 and names the collection of farms and buildings as Stanbury. The property was shown in the greatest detail thus far (Fig. 4), although it is unclear whether the map shows the original extent of the south end or simply a small outbuilding. Interestingly the Ordnance Survey map seems to suggest that the building has been divided into at least three separate properties.

Stamborough to the north was owned since at least 1889 by John Howse, when timber was advertised for sale in the West Somerset Free Press on 3rd November. No information is available for Stamborough Barton and it is unclear whether Little Stamborough continued to serve as agricultural labourer cottages at this time. The property remained remarkably unaltered throughout the early 20th century, as is evidenced by the 1905 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 5).

It is clear that the later history of Little Stamborough is closely associated with the development of the new farms of Stamborough and Stamborough Barton, although its loss of status has made tracing its occupation history into the 20th century difficult.

5. THE BUILDING SURVEY

5.1 Introduction

The building survey took place between February 2018 and April 2019, during the removal of modern plasterboard, partitions and stud walls. The stripping out of certain parts of the building permitted closer inspection of the historic fabric of the house and allowed the identification of areas that contained original features and areas where these had been replaced. These areas and relationships had not previously been visible to Keystone during their survey of the house. The new evidence recovered during these works has necessitated some re-interpretation of the sequence of development of the farmhouse outlined in the Keystone report.

5.2 The main building

EXTERIOR

Main façade (Pls. 1-2)

The house is a two-storey structure, constructed of stone rubble covered with painted render. The original core of the house is a large rectangular range, aligned north-south, perpendicular to the road, and crowned with chimney stacks on each of its gables. A two-storey wing projects from the south-west corner of the original building and represents an early extension to the house, possibly dating to the late 17th century. A more recent addition, of late 20th century date, lies against the north end of the house.

The east elevation of the house is its principal façade, presenting a two-storey elevation to the former farmyard under a thatched roof pierced by four ground- and second-floor windows. The

ground floor is entered through a modern door at the centre of the elevation, while a second doorway, located towards the north end of the range, provides access to the kitchen.

INTERIOR

The ground floor (Figs. 6-7, Pls. 3-17).

The interior of the main range has been severely altered. These alterations have included the loss of the southern cross passage screen and the removal of the internal partitions defining the original rooms on the first floor, confusing the historic plan of the building. Some traces of the original interior arrangement remained, however, in the form of partitions and ceiling beams, which has allowed a suggested reconstruction of the original layout and phasing.

The property is entered from the courtyard through a centrally placed doorway in the main elevation which provides access to the main entrance lobby (G01). This room seems to have been converted from the former hall, with the south wall composed of the former plank-and-muntin screen separating the cross-passage from the hall, while the northern wall with its double doors is entirely modern. The 20th century main stair to the west rises from the west side of the lobby against the passage screen. This stair now provides the only access to the first floor.

The northern partition of the former cross-passage defines the southern limit of the entrance lobby. Running the full width of the building, it consists of chamfered muntins underneath the original head-beam. A single door would have given access to the hall, and although the door has been lost the original doorway has been retained. A second doorway was inserted through the screen at the west end sometime in the 20th century, resulting in the loss of three muntins. In addition only two of the original planks survive immediately to the west of the primary doorway, although in a poor state. The three planks to the east of the original doorway and the single plank adjacent to the later doorway were replaced sometime in the late 20th century.

There is no trace of the earlier partition or plank-and-muntin screen defining the southern edge of the cross passage. Keystone have suggested that the line of the south screen of the cross passage may be perpetuated by the line of a relatively narrow crossbeam with three sockets along its soffit, indicating that it had once been the head of a framed crosswall standing one-storey high. This passage would have linked the door at the rear with the original main entrance, which lay to the south of the current door in the east elevation. Although no work was undertaken in this room a reassessment of the evidence suggests that this is not part of the late medieval screen, but rather the remains of an early-mid 19th century partition. The presence of the three sockets in the centre and along the western edge of the beam indicates that it was designed as a partial screen, perhaps for a staircase. In addition, the east elevation in room G02 is noticeably narrower and was probably rebuilt. This is likely to have been done when the house was divided into two or three distinct properties, necessitating new access arrangements, a reordering of the internal space and provision of a new access to the first-floor accommodation.

The room (G02), which formerly served as the kitchens contained a large fireplace with chamfered lintel in the south gable elevation. This has been heavily altered in recent times and it is possible that the small recess in the west jamb was formerly the location of a bread-oven. Light was provided by two windows in the east and a single window in the south elevation. The two window openings in the east elevation likely date to the remodelling of the south end of the house in the early-mid 19th century. The wall facing the courtyard is much narrower than

the wall in the former hall (G04) and inner chamber (G06) and it is probable that it was rebuilt at this time to create separate access for the new properties and, no doubt, new fenestration reflecting their narrower frontages. The date of the south window is more ambiguous. The 1888 and 1904 OS maps show the south end of the house extending further than the current limits of the property. There is no evidence for the wholesale rebuilding of the south gable in the early 20th century and on balance it is likely that the maps show an outshut or lean-to structure extending the whole width of the building. The current window was probably inserted after the demolition of the latter and the remodelling of the fireplace and removal of the bread oven sometime in the 20th century.

A plain plank door under a modern lintel gives access to the single-room extension at the rear (G03).

To the north of the lobby (G01) was a relatively plain modern double doorway leading to room G04, the dining room of the present house. Although this was a relatively small room today it represents the original 'hall', the main room of the house, and contained a large lateral fireplace and projecting chimneystack in its west elevation. The timber lintel has a large simple chamfer and the original opening has been modernised and reduced in size. The hall was lit by a large window in the east elevation and a small window in the north elevation adjoining the fireplace. Both consisted of modern timber casements with two-panes per light. The surviving jointed cruck post formed the northern jamb of the window opening, while its opposite, set entirely within the stone rubble masonry of the east elevation, also survived.

The present floor structure over the hall consist of smaller joists, set within the larger former joist sockets within the head beam of the inner room partition. To the south they are sat on top of an additional timber with rectangular sockets inserted on top of the original head-beam of the late medieval cross-passage partition to allow for greater head height within the floored over hall. There was no evidence of earlier joist sockets and the later layout of the floor must have perpetuated the original arrangement.

The partition between the hall the former inner room is a variation on the plank-and-muntin screen. Consisting of the main head-beam it featured a simple masons' mitre at the west end, betraying the position of the former doorway. In addition two partially surviving plain uprights and the remains of a single horizontal, pegged to the main uprights, survived. The partition and the main beam above were heavily decayed and the former doorway may have been removed in the late 18th or early 19th century when the west end of the beam was supported by the insertion of a horizontal timber. A number of circular lath holes were visible in the soffit of the headbeam suggesting that the large rectangular panels between the main uprights and ledges were infilled with wattle and daub. Unfortunately the rest of the former screen had seriously deteriorated, leading to the near total loss of original fabric and insertion, probably in the early-mid 19th century, of additional timber uprights and laths. The new partition was encased in the modern period and two new doorways inserted to provide access to a small cupboard (G05) and the new kitchen (G06).

The kitchen (G06), formerly the inner room of the house, was heated by a large fireplace. This had a large timber lintel with a simple chamfer and plain run-out stop. The opening-up revealed that the fireplace had been reduced in size, and a bread-oven inserted into the northwest corner, perhaps sometime in the early-mid 19th century. This was blocked in the late 20th century and the opening further reduced. The room was lit by a single modern window with three-panes per light in the east elevation, while access was provided by two doors in the west and east

elevations. Removal of the ceiling in the kitchen showed that the original joists had been replaced, perhaps in the early-mid 19th century, by joists of lesser size. Along the western edge of the room two joists had not been replaced, the space denoting the presence of a former staircase rising against the west elevation. The small window in the east elevation of cupboard (G05) is likely to have originally lit a half-landing.

The first floor (Fig. 8, Pls. 18-23)

The first floor in the main range is accessed from the entrance lobby (G01) by the 20th century staircase. This gives onto a small landing (F01) which provides access to all the rooms on the first floor.

Removal of the modern wood panelling of the stair and flooring in the landing exposed the construction of the first floor over the hall and its junction with the earlier flooring over the passage. The earlier flooring over the passage consisted of large joists set directly into the southern edge of the head-beam. The top of the latter contained a continuous groove along the northern edge and extending the full width of the beam. This is likely contemporary with the circular lath holes visible in the soffit of the applied secondary collar of the jointed cruck. The collar has been awkwardly lap jointed to the cruck indicating that it is secondary and suggesting that the original building was originally open to the roof. The original partition was removed, and a narrow timber fillet with rectangular sockets for timber uprights was inserted over the head beam. The uprights contained circular lath holes, the remains of a close studded oak partition separating the fully floored first floor. The 19th century joists over the hall, set in larger joist sockets in the head-beam of the inner room partition, were sat directly on top of the thin timber fillet. The lack of joist sockets suggests that this mirrors an earlier arrangement and the flooring over of the hall is likely contemporary with the later close studded oak partition.

The first floor has been extensively remodelled, no longer reflecting the layout of the ground-floor rooms below. The construction of the single room extension in the 17th century and the flooring over of the hall would have necessitated the construction of a new stair. However, no trace of this was uncovered by the limited works. The first floor was rebuilt in the early-mid 19th century, with the partitions between the four bays perhaps reflecting the sub-divisions of the rooms at this period. Evidence from the ground floor suggests that the house was divided into at least two dwellings. The southern property was accessed from the ground floor by a stair rising within the volume of landing F02, while the stair in the northern dwelling rose within rooms F10 and F11. There is a suggestion that a third dwelling was created within the former hall and chamber above, matching the layout and dimensions of the northern cottage. However, no clear evidence for a third stair was uncovered, the timber joists having been replaced at the rear of the room in the 20th century when the current stair and landing were formed. Finally extensive work has clearly been undertaken in the 20th century, further altering the layout of the first-floor rooms.

The roof (Pl. 24)

The roof structure over the main range is visible through a small loft hatch in the bathroom on the first floor (F03). Access to the roof area was difficult and a detailed inspection could not be made due to the uncertain condition of the joists. The following description is based on inspection from a position just within the present access hatch.

The roof is three bays long and consists of three side pegged jointed cruck trusses with slightly cambered collars, dividing the building into three roughly equal bays. The crucks carry two sets of trenched purlins and the diagonal ridge rests in a v-notch set in the apex of each truss.

The original couples of common rafters remain common along with most of the original thatching battens. All the timbers in the roof are heavily sooted. A secondary collar has been applied to the central truss. The partitions above the primary collars of the central and northern crucks are smoke blackened on their northern and southern faces respectively.

6. WATCHING BRIEF (Fig, 9, Pl. 25)

The watching brief was maintained during the reduction of the floor levels in the former hall and inner room, and the subsequent landscaping at the front and rear of the house. This included the excavation of a french drain along the rear of the property and new drain runs at the front. No archaeologically significant deposits were exposed by the internal works, the deposits consisting of concrete and modern slate floors and sub-base respectively immediately above plastic sheeting and natural slate geology. The works at the front of the house were equally sterile, failing to expose deposits, features or dating evidence indicative of earlier archaeological activity.

A reduction in ground level at the rear of the property was also monitored. The reduced area measured 20m long by 3.5m wide and 1.25m deep. The work exposed a simple sequence of topsoil above solid slate geology.

7. DISCUSSION

Phase I The primary building *c.1450-1500*

Although the house has been substantially altered it is likely that, in its original mid-late 15th-century form, it had a classic three-room and cross-passage plan with thick walls of stone rubble on all sides. A reassessment of the evidence suggests that the original form of the house had a central hall defined by low screens, its internal volumes open to the roof under jointed cruck trusses and heated by an open hearth or hearths which blackened the roof timbers with soot.

Phase II Remodelling *early 16th century*

It is likely that the first-floor rooms were inserted at the same time over both the inner room and service end of the house to provide additional accommodation on the new unheated first floor. The first-floor rooms above the service end and passage were not connected with the lodging room to the north, which remained independent. The new full height partitions defining the hall involved the insertion of secondary collars with wattle and daub partitions finished with a plaster skim closing the northern and central trusses. The plaster on the hall side of these were smoke blackened suggesting that the open hall fire was still in operation. Access to the new first floor chambers may have been by a ladder, or perhaps by a staircase, of which no evidence now remains.

Phase III Remodelling and additions *late 16th- early 17th century*

At some time in the late 16th or early 17th century the house was substantially remodelled by the enclosure of the open hall at the centre of the building. A large chimney and fireplace was inserted in the west elevation of the hall. The fireplace with its heavy oak lintel is exposed in the hall although the stack is now disused and there was no evidence that it ever had a second fireplace on the first floor serving the hall chamber and it remains uncertain whether the hall chamber was originally heated. The insertion of the new first floor structure coincided with the rebuilding of the cross wall above the passage.

The northern room, although probably originally unheated, would have served as high-status accommodation within the early building. The construction of a new screen and the insertion of a large fireplace in the north elevation, at a time when the original open volume of the hall was floored over and the upper floor given over entirely to accommodation, suggests that the use of the north end of the house was perhaps changed to that of a parlour.

Finally, a new, two-storey wing was added extending westwards from the south end of the house. This wing contained two heated chambers. It's unclear how the upper storey was accessed.

Phase IV Alterations *early-mid 19th century*

The previous century had probably been one of steady decline for Little Stamborough and the building was greatly altered in the early-mid 19th century. At this time, the property was divided into three separate smaller dwellings. Evidence from the ground floor room at the south end suggests that the front wall facing the courtyard was rebuilt at this time to create separate access for the new property with new fenestration reflecting its narrower frontage. In addition, the conversion of the south end of the house required the dismantling of the former southern screen of the passage and the insertion of a new crossbeam to take the new stair providing access to the first floor. The formerly large first-floor rooms were subdivided to increase the domestic accommodation while additional window openings may have been inserted into the first-floor elevations to provide light to the newly formed smaller bedrooms.

Although no clear evidence was uncovered during the works it seems on balance likely that there was a middle cottage. This was created by creating a separate doorway into the former hall immediately to the north of the former screens passage. The fireplace was probably narrowed at this time, and the ground-floor provided with new window openings in the front and rear elevations. Access to the first floor was provided by a stair in the southwestern corner. The first-floor rooms within this house were unheated.

The layout of the northern cottage was identical to the middle cottage. A new doorway in the east elevation provided access to the ground-floor, while the doorway to the former hall was blocked and a new stair inserted. New windows were provided for the first-floor bedrooms and it is unclear if these were heated.

Phase V Later alterations *20th century*

The three separate dwellings were once more brought under single ownership in the mid-20th century and a number of extensive alterations were made.

The former front door of the southern cottage was blocked and access to the house was through the doorway of the middle cottage. The newly created lobby provided access to a large living room at the south end and the dining room in the centre of the house, while a new stair rose from the western end of the lobby and provided access to the first-floor rooms.

The removal of the three 19th century stairs and the insertion of a single new stair led to the extensive reconfiguration of the first-floor rooms. The smaller rooms were changed to provide four larger bedrooms and two bathrooms.

8. CONCLUSION

Little Stamborough is an important historic farmstead, its size reflecting a prosperous farming establishment. The layout of the house perpetuates that of an earlier house, which was probably first constructed as a three room and cross-passage house in the mid-late 15th century. The ends of the house were probably enclosed by the early 16th century to provide spacious first-floor chambers and servants accommodation. By the 17th century it had become a house of some comfort and affluence as is attested by the insertion of a large fireplace in the hall and the construction of a new partition and fireplace in the former inner room, reflecting its use as a parlour. In addition, the house was extended by the addition of a small cross wing

The house suffered a slow decline throughout the 18th century as is attested from the documentary research and it is clear that from the early-mid 19th century its history is tied up with the new farms of Stamborough and Stamborough Barton. Due to changing land ownership and an increase in the number of agricultural labourers, the surviving house was subdivided into three small properties. At this time the southeastern end of the original front elevation was demolished and rebuilt to provide access to the new properties. The southern part of the present house, having lost its southern screen, remained the larger dwelling, whereas the two northern dwellings were very small.

The dwellings were finally united once more in the 20th century when the interior of the house was substantially altered.

The house has a complex structural history; the subsequent additions and alterations have tended only to conceal the substantial interest of this house.

SITE ARCHIVE

Details of the building recording, including a pdf copy of the final report will be submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (oakforda1-385602).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This project was commissioned by Alan and Helen Sandwell. It was monitored for Exmoor National Park Authority by Shirley Blaylock, the Archaeology Officer, and Thomas Thurlow, the Conservation Officer. The building recording was carried out by M. Steinmetzer and Lucy Browne undertook the historic research. The drawings for this report were prepared by E. Patkai. The authors wish to thank the staff of the South West Heritage Trust and Somerset Record Office for their assistance throughout the project.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Unpublished sources

Somerset Heritage Centre

DD\WO/65/2 Map of Nettlecombe and Old Cleeve – site is within the undetailed area marked as the lands of Thomas Southwood Esq; fields numbered 596 and 594 correspond with fields numbered 1131 and 1157 on the Tithe Map (1796)

DD\WY/9/2/25 Map of St Decumans, Old Cleeve, Sampford Brett 1801 – site not included

DD\MT/29/5/1 Map of the Manor of Leighland (1823)

DD\CPHS/28 Old Cleeve, Manor of Leighland “Particulars and Admeasurements of the Manor of Leighland in the County of Somerset, the property of Thos. Southwood Esq. P B Ilett, Surveyor, Taunton, 1823”

DD\SAS/C212/MAP/39A Copy of the Tithe Map of Old Cleeve. Plan of the Parish of Old Cleeve in the County of Somerset (1839)

Manorial documents register under Old Cleeve. Leighland not listed, but various items include multiple manors under Old Cleeve, kept in Taunton

Devon Heritage Centre: Old Cleeve Manor, Somerset. Description: rental and survey, with other manors 1746 – multiple parishes including Old Cleeve, but not Old Cleeve Manor. 1148 M/ add 6/20

Ordnance Survey County Series 1st Edition Sheet XLVII.15 (1888)

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2nd Edition 1904 Sheet XLVII.16 (immediately east of site)

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Fig. 1 Location of site.

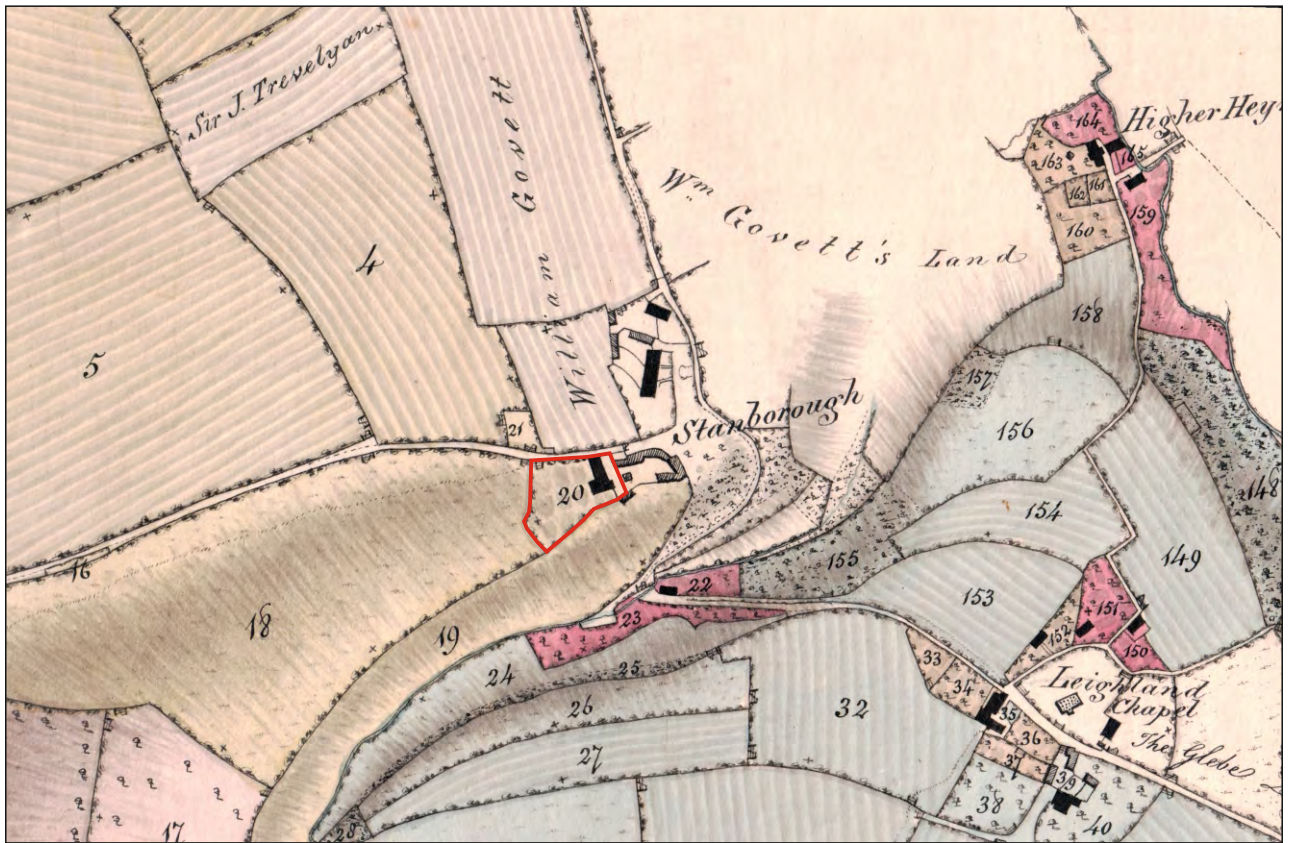


Fig. 2 Detail from the 1823 Map of the Manor of Leighland.

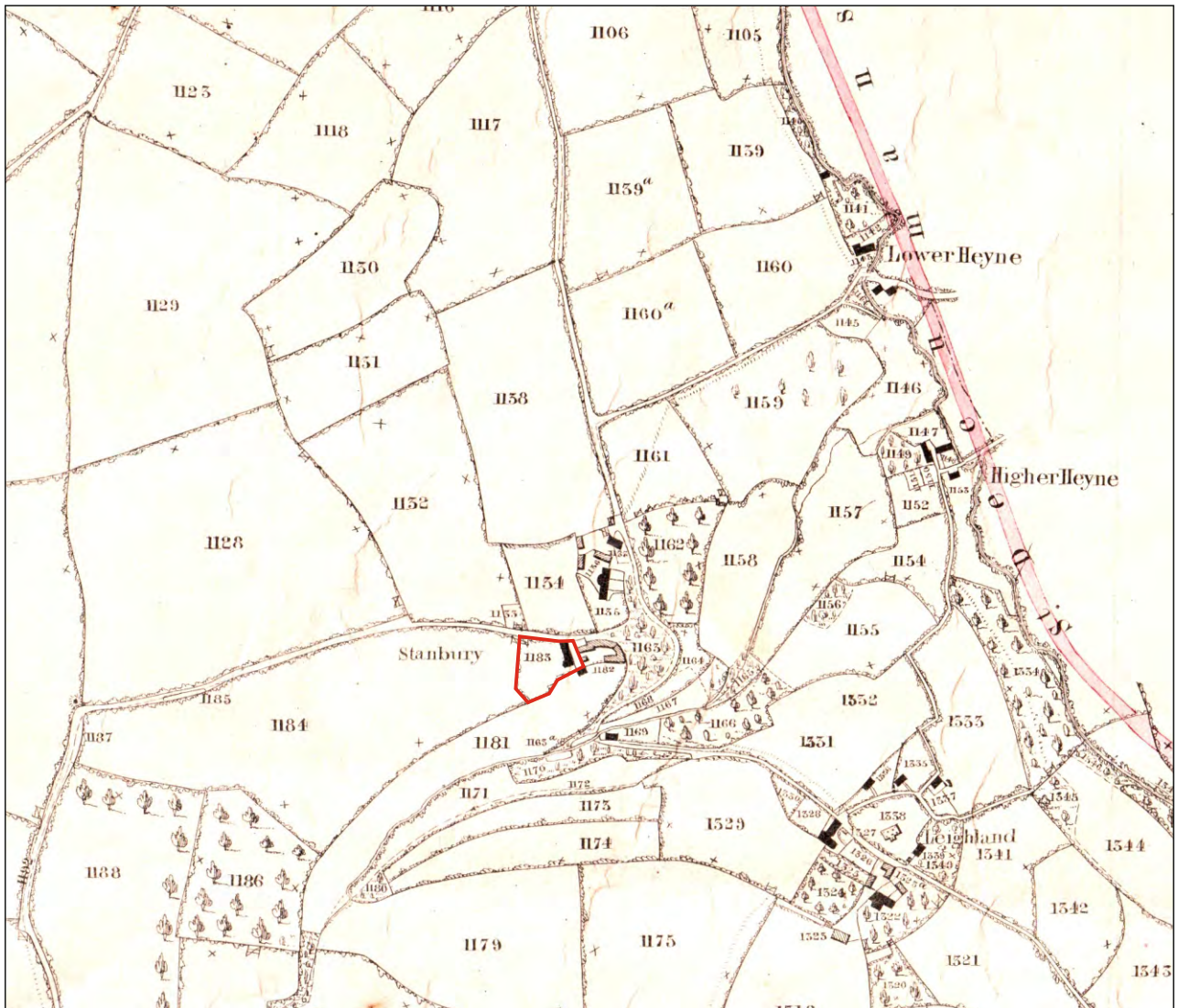


Fig. 3 Detail from the 1839 Old Cleeve Tithe map.

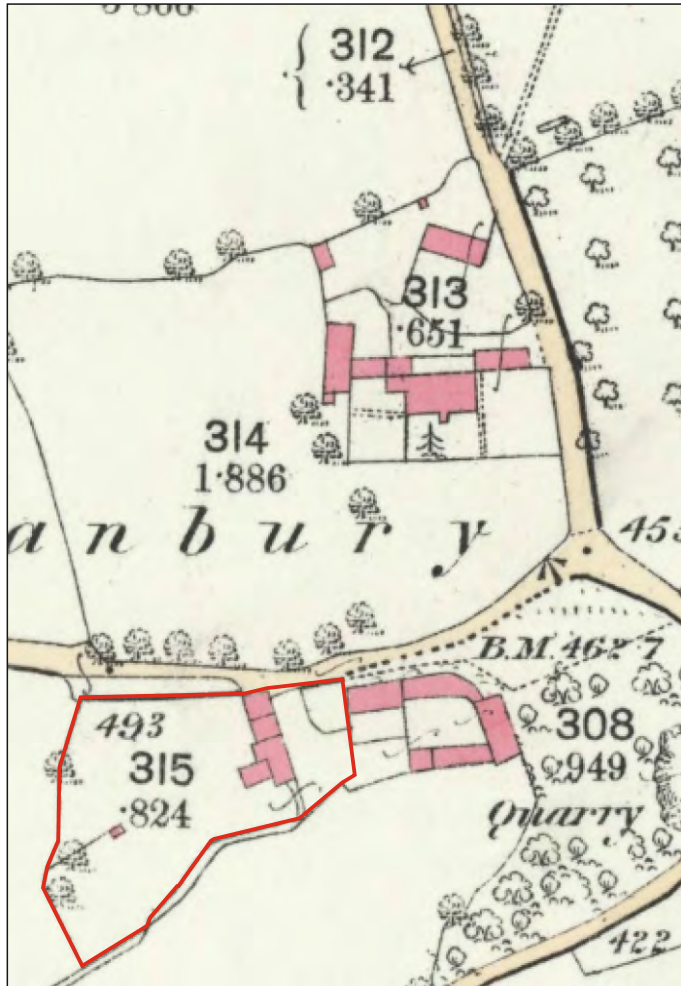


Fig. 4 Detail from the 1888 1st edition Ordnance Survey map Somerset Sheet XLVII.15.

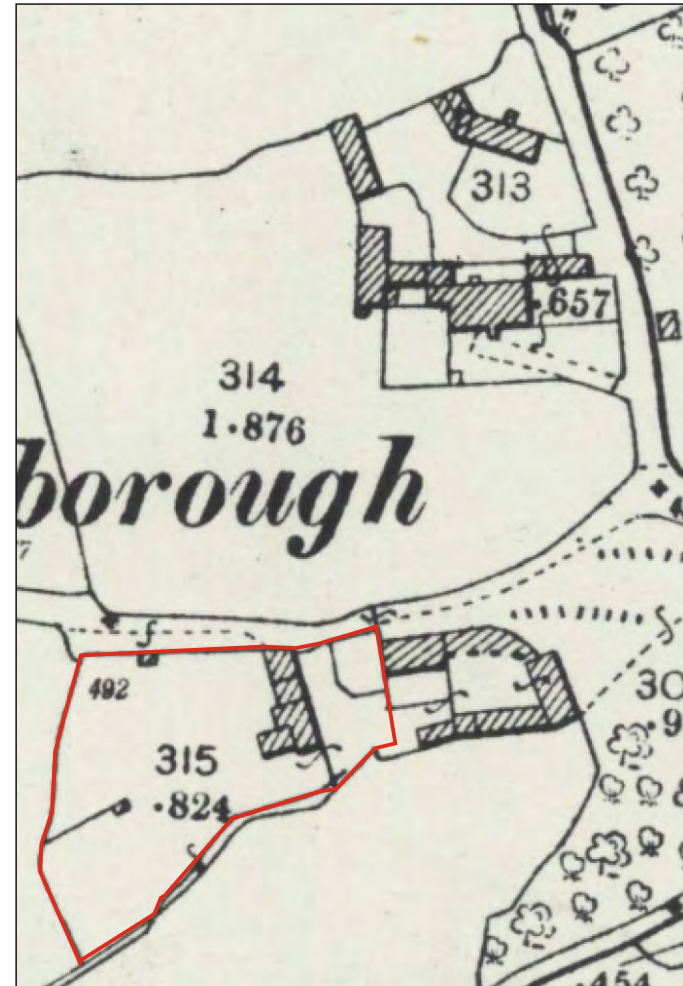


Fig. 5 Detail from the 1904 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map Somerset Sheet XLVII.15.



Fig. 6 Plan of ground-floor showing location of observations and suggested phases of development.

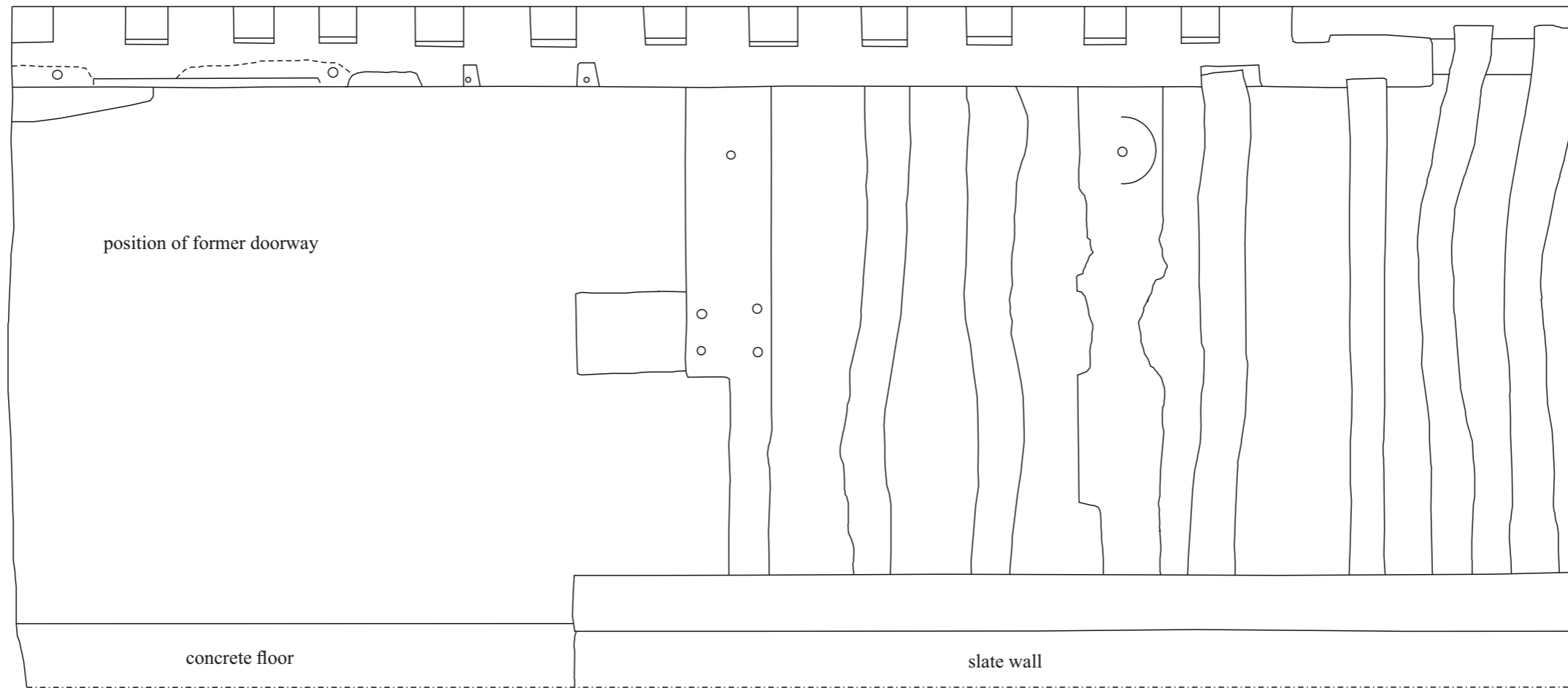


Fig. 7 Elevation drawing showing partition between former hall and inner chamber.



Fig. 8 Plan of the first-floor showing locations of observations and suggested phase of development.



Fig. 9 Plan showing location of observations.



Pl. 1 General view of east elevation of main range and 20th century extension. Looking southwest.



Pl. 2 General view of west elevation of main range with 17th and 20th century extensions. Looking southeast.



Pl. 3 General view of the plank-and-muntin screen showing original doorway and 20th century staircase. 2m scale. Looking southeast.



Pl. 4 General view of the plank-and-muntin screen showing the replaced planks and the construction of the floor of the hall in relation to the earlier screen. 2m scale. Looking southwest.



Pl. 5 General view of south elevation of passage screen showing replaced muntin. 2m scale. Looking north



Pl. 6 Close-up showing western end of screen with later doorway and replacement muntin. 2m scale. Looking northwest.



Pl. 7 Close-up of crossbeam showing three sockets. Looking west.



Pl. 8 General view of south elevation of former lower end showing former fireplace and later window. 2m scale. Looking south.



Pl. 9 General view of former partition between the hall and inner chamber. 2m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 10 General view of former partition following reduction of kitchen floor level showing exposed fireplace in former inner chamber. Looking northeast



Pl. 11 General view of west elevation of former hall showing lateral fireplace and later window. 2m scale. Looking west.



Pl. 12 General view of east elevation of former hall showing later window and doorway. 2m scale. Looking east.



Pl. 13 Close-up of west end of screen showing position of former doorway. Looking north.



Pl. 14 Close-up of east end of screen showing 19th century 'repairs'.
Looking north.



Pl. 15 General view of fireplace in north elevation of former inner room. 1m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 16 Close-up of west jamb showing blocked bread-oven. 1m scale. Looking northwest.



Pl. 17 General view of first floor ceiling in the kitchen showing location of former staircase. Looking south.



Pl. 18 General view of area at the top of the modern stair showing successive flooring and first-floor partition. 2m scale. Looking southwest.



Pl. 19 General view of passage head-beam showing arrangement of earlier floors and partitions. Looking southeast.



Pl. 20 Close-up of secondary collar showing circular lath holes.



Pl. 21 General view of room F08 showing 19th century floor joists. Looking southeast.



Pl. 22 Close-up showing 19th century floor joists resting on thin timber fillet above passage head-beam. Looking south.



Pl. 23 Close-up of secondary brace showing lap joints for later partition. Looking south.



Pl. 24 Close-up of northern jointed cruck truss apex showing cambered collar, trenched purlins, partition and extensive sooting. Looking north.



Pl. 25 General view of inner room G06 showing natural subsoil immediately below former concrete floor. 1m scales. Looking northeast.

Appendix 1:

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological works

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 This document has been produced by Oakford Archaeology (OA) for Mr and Mrs Sandwell. The document sets out the methodology to be used during building recording and monitoring and recording at Little Stamborough, Old Cleeve, Somerset (ST 0290 3670). The work is to be carried out to satisfy condition no. 3 attached to the grant of listed building consent (6/26/17/105LB) for external and internal alterations to the existing farmhouse and associated works. The present document represents the 'written scheme of archaeological work' required by the local planning authority, Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA), as advised by Shirley Blaylock, the Exmoor National Park Authority Conservation Officer (ENPA CO).

1.2 Little Stamborough is a Grade II Listed farmhouse, originally built as an open-hall house in c.1450-1500. The building has been subject to alterations and additions in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. Extensive work occurred in the late 18th, or early 19th centuries when it was sub-divided into individual cottages. The house was converted back to a single dwelling in the second half of the 20th century.

2. AIMS

2.1 The aim of the project is to ensure the adequate recording of any historic fabric exposed, to establish the presence or absence, character, depth, extent and date of archaeological deposits within the site and to excavate and record them as necessary prior to and during the development; and to report the results of the project as appropriate.

3. METHOD

Liaison will be established with the client and their contractors prior to works commencing in order to advise on OA requirements in relation to the works outlined below. If a good working relationship is established at the outset any delays caused by archaeological recording can be kept to a minimum. However, localised delays to site operations may be caused and time should be allowed within the main contractor's programme for the adequate investigation and recording of exposed historic building fabric.

Building recording

3.1 Historic building recording will be undertaken by a suitably qualified historic buildings specialist. All monitoring and recording will be carried out as per OA standard recording procedures and in accordance with the standards of the Institute for Archaeology (*Standards and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*, 1996, revised 2008).

3.2 The following method for historic building recording will be utilised, tailored to the level of recording required once historic features have been identified.

- A photographic record using a high-quality digital camera for interpretative and reporting needs.
- Production of floor plans (based on architect's plans where appropriate), with sections, elevations and more detailed drawings of architectural features and details as appropriate. (These will also utilise architect's drawings where

available.) These drawings will be prepared at scales of 1:100, 1:50 and 1:20 with smaller details drawn at larger scales as appropriate.

- A written record outlining the evidence for historic fabric, an interpretation of this evidence, and an outline of the development of the building.
- The archive will be either born digital or scanned to a suitable format for deposition in Archaeology Data Service (ADS).

3.3 If significant historic features that are worthy of retention are exposed during the stripping out the historic buildings specialist will request the contractor that these features are not removed and inform the ENPA of their presence.

3.4 The building recording works will entail:

- Investigative, and later mitigation, works (internal and external) relating to the removal of any plaster wall surfaces on historic walls as and if this arises, and where this involves the exposure and/or removal of historic fabric;
- the timber beam in G2 is the headbeam of the late medieval partition forming the south side of the cross passage. The beam will be drawn, photographed and recorded before repair;
- the blocking of GD5 may have an impact on the late medieval screen and any work will be archaeologically monitoring during opening-up and recorded;
- the opening-up of potentially historic fireplaces will be monitored and recorded;
- GD2 is proposed for replacement, if the frame is altered this may impact on the late medieval screen and will be monitored and recorded;
- the partition between G4 and G5 is said to be 19th century in date, although it incorporates older timbers from an earlier phase, and will require further assessment and recording;
- the insertion of the new staircase may have an impact on the late medieval screen, the additional impact of the new stair on the historic fabric should be assessed and monitoring and recording undertaken during the opening-up and removal of the existing stair, if replacement is permitted, and the dismantling, reconfiguration and reinstatement of the upper flights of stairs;
- FD4 may be located within the late medieval screen or 17th century cross-wall and the impact of the relocation on the historic fabric will require assessing and monitoring and recording undertaken during the opening-up;
- where any new internal insulation affects historic fabric and features, monitoring and recording will be undertaken during the opening-up;
- In addition, and in line with condition no. 3 of the listed building consent, OA would also provide specialist advice where necessary on the age and relative significance of elements such as the individual components of the upper stair flights, any historic features or fabric revealed for example by the investigative works on the damp issues, and by opening up fireplaces, and on the relative age of the windows and which would be more appropriate to provide a template for replacement timber windows.

Groundworks

3.5 The below-ground works will include:

- a programme of archaeological recording will be undertaken of the floor surfaces for which removal is proposed, including the floor surfaces in G1 (the 17th century

extension), G2 (the site of the late medieval service rooms and cross passage), G3, G4 and G5 (the former medieval hall, which, from the evidence of the smoke blackening in the roof had an open hearth), G6, G7 and G8;

- the excavation of new drainage and landscaping along the outside of the main building. These will be monitored and recorded by the attending archaeologist during the excavation. Provision will be made in the contractor's schedule for sufficient time and access for the archaeologist to complete any necessary recording. This may cause localised delays to the groundworks programme, although every effort will be made to keep any such delays to a minimum. Should any potentially significant or sensitive archaeological deposits or remains be encountered within the trench, but above the required formation or invert level, then these will be hand excavated and recorded by the archaeologist down to the required level. If no such deposits or remains be present then, once natural subsoil has been confirmed, or formation/invert level reached, across the whole of the development area, archaeological monitoring will be terminated. Similarly, if it can be demonstrated that there has been significant modern truncation, then archaeological monitoring will be terminated in these areas;
- Finally, any other ground works that also have the potential to reveal remains will be subject to archaeological monitoring and recording.

3.6 If archaeological features are present, then hand-excavation will normally comprise:

- The full excavation of small discrete features;
- half-sectioning (50% excavation) of larger discrete features;
- the excavation of long linear features to sample up to 10% of their length - with hand-investigations distributed along the exposed length of any such features, specifically targeting any intersections, terminals or overlaps.
- Spoil will also be examined for the recovery of artefacts.

3.7 The standard OA recording system will be employed, consisting of:

- standardised single context record sheets; survey drawings, plans and sections at scales 1:10, 1:20, 1:50 as appropriate;
- colour digital photography;
- survey and location of finds, deposits or archaeological features, using EDM surveying equipment and software where appropriate;
- labelling and bagging of finds on site from all excavated levels, post-1800 unstratified pottery may be discarded on site with a small sample retained for dating evidence as required.

Should the above percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined, full excavation of such features/deposits will be required. Additional excavation may also be required for the taking of palaeo-environmental samples and the recovery of artefacts.

General project methods

3.8 Health and Safety requirements will be observed at all times by archaeological staff working on site, particularly when machinery is operating nearby. Personal protective equipment (safety boots, helmets and high visibility vests) will be worn by staff when plant is operating on site.

- 3.9 Initial cleaning, conservation, packaging and any stabilisation or longer-term conservation measures will be undertaken in accordance with relevant professional guidance (including *Conservation guidelines No 1* (UKIC, 2001); *First Aid for Finds* (UKIC & RESCUE, 1997) and on advice provided by Alison Hopper-Bishop, Specialist Services Officer, RAM Museum, Exeter.
- 3.10 Should items be exposed that fall within the scope of the Treasure Act 1996, then these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- 3.11 The ENPA will be informed of the start of the project, and will monitor progress throughout on behalf of the planning authority and will wish to inspect the works in progress. Any amendments to the specific responses and methods set out elsewhere in this document will be reviewed and agreed with him prior to implementation and completion. A date of completion of all archaeological site work, including historic building recording, will be confirmed with the ENPA and the timescale of the completion of items under section 4 will run from that date.

4. REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

- 4.1 The reporting requirements will be agreed with the ENPA on completion of fieldwork.
- 4.2 The results of all phases of archaeological work and historic building recording will be presented within one summary report within six months of the date of completion of all archaeological site work. The summary report will contain the following elements as appropriate:
- i) location plan;
 - ii) a written description of the exposed historic fabric and a discussion and interpretation of their character and significance in the context of any locally available historical evidence from any nearby sites and historic mapping;
 - iii) A site location plan at an appropriate scale, and a plan of the site showing the location of the recorded buildings;
 - iv) Phased and annotated floor plans, along with copies of other drawn records (elevations, cross sections, etc) as appropriate to illustrate features of historic or architectural interest and/or the development of the building;
 - v) Photographs of features of significant historic or architectural interest;
 - vi) specialist reports as appropriate.
 - vii) if necessary, an assessment of what further work is necessary to analyse and publish any particularly significant finds and/or results.
- 4.3 A .pdf version of the summary report will be produced and distributed to the Client and the ENPA on completion of sitework within the timescale above (5.2). A copy of the .pdf version will also be deposited with the site archive and a copy sent to the ENPA HER.
- 4.4 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared with reference to *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991 2nd edition) and

Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE, English Heritage, 2006) upon completion of the project. The archive will consist of two elements, the artefactual and digital - the latter comprising all born-digital data and digital copies of the primary site records and copies of all photographs and associated metadata collected during the course of the historic building recording. This will be deposited with the ADS while any retained artefacts will be deposited with Taunton Museum in accordance with their current conditions of deposit (Taunton Museum reference number *pending*) within 12 months of the finish of site work. A retention and discard strategy will be agreed with Taunton Museum after the finish of site work, when it is clear what has been found, but before any processing of the material for archiving (other than cleaning).

- 4.5 A .pdf copy of the updated summary report will be submitted, together with the site details, to the national OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological investigationS) database within six months of the completion of site work.
- 4.6 A short report summarising the results of the project will be prepared for inclusion within the “round up” section of an appropriate national journal, if merited, within 12 months of the completion of site work.

Should particularly significant remains be encountered, then these, owing to their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance. If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements – including any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with the ENPA, in consultation with the Client. OA, on behalf of the Client, will then implement publication in accordance with a timescale agreed with the Client, and the ENPA. This will be within 12 months of the completion of all phases of archaeological site work unless otherwise agreed in writing.

- 4.7 Any amendments to the method or timescale set out above will be agreed in writing with the ENPA before implementation.

5. COPYRIGHT

- 5.1 OA shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in this document.

6. PROJECT ORGANISATION

- 6.1 The historic building recording will be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced OA archaeologist, in accordance with the Code of Conduct and relevant standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standards and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*, 1996, revised 2008, and *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, 1994, revised 2008). The project will be managed for OA by M. Steinmetzer MCIfA, who produced this document.

Health & Safety

- 6.2 All monitoring works within this scheme will be carried out in accordance with current *Safe Working Practices (The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974)*.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Specialists contributors and advisors

The expertise of the following specialists can be called upon if required:

Bone artefact analysis: Ian Riddler;

Dating techniques: University of Waikato Radiocarbon Laboratory, NZ;

Illustrator: Sarnia Blackmore;

Charcoal identification: Dana Challinor;

Diatom analysis: Nigel Cameron (UCL);

Environmental data: Hayley McParland (Historic England);

Faunal remains: Lorraine Higbee (Wessex);

Finds conservation: Alison Hopper-Bishop (Exeter Museums);

Human remains: Louise Loe (Oxford Archaeology), Charlotte Coles;

Lithic analysis: Dr. Linda Hurcombe (Exeter University);

Medieval and post-medieval finds: John Allan;

Metallurgy: Gill Juleff (Exeter University);

Numismatics: Norman Shiel (Exeter);

Petrology/geology: Roger Taylor (RAM Museum), Imogen Morris;

Plant remains: Julie Jones (Bristol);

Prehistoric pottery: Henrietta Quinnell (Exeter);

Roman finds: Paul Bidwell & associates;

Others: Wessex Archaeology Specialist Services Team

MFR Steinmetzer

5 December 2017

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