



Bronsil Castle, Eastnor

**Recording of a conservation and repair
programme.**



**Report prepared by
David Williams, Project Archaeologist**

**Herefordshire Archaeology Report No. 317
EHE 1992**

Herefordshire Archaeology
Environment, Planning and Waste
Places and Communities Directorate
Herefordshire Council



Bronsil Castle, Eastnor

Recording on a conservation and repair programme.

May 2012

**NGR: SO 74959 37228
EHE 1992**

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Herefordshire Archaeology is Herefordshire Council's county archaeology service. It advises upon the conservation of archaeological and historic landscapes, maintains the county Sites and Monument Record, and carries out conservation and investigative field projects. The County Archaeologist is Dr. Keith Ray.

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Summary

The fragmentary standing remains of Bronsil Castle are Grade II Listed Buildings and the site as a whole is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No. 62). A programme of consolidation was implemented to conserve the standing remains. This was delivered through a Higher Level Stewardship Scheme, part of the Environmental Stewardship Scheme administered by Natural England Environmental Stewardship Grant. Herefordshire Archaeology assisted the consolidation of the site through a programme of recording.

The structures undergoing consolidation included the remains of the west gatehouse, adjacent to the footbridge and a fragment of the staircase tower and the underlying supporting revetment wall that marks the eastern castle boundary. A third section of standing masonry, located in the southeast corner of the site was also recorded but was not subject to consolidation.

All three structures were photographed at all stages of the project, before work began, after the removal of vegetation and upon completion of the project. Stone for stone drawings were also made after the removal of vegetation and upon completion of the consolidation work.

As part of the consolidation of the stair tower, a supporting wall had to be constructed to protect overhanging masonry. This necessitated the excavation of a shallow trench on the south side of the structure but no archaeological deposits were encountered.

Consolidation of the curtain wall was not undertaken at this time as a substantial fallen tree impeded access, but the structure was archaeologically recorded as well as it could be under the circumstances.

Disclaimer: It should not be assumed that land referred to in this document is accessible to the public. Location plans are indicative only. National Grid References are accurate to approximately 10m. Measured dimensions are accurate to within 1m at a scale of 1:500, 0.1m at 1:50 and 0.02m at 1:20m

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1. Introduction

The specification for this project (Appendix 1) is based on the Bronsil Castle Specification document prepared by Ian Stainburn of Caroe & Partners with Stainburn Taylor (January 2012). The repair work was funded under Natural England's Environmental Stewardship scheme through the Higher Level stewardship scheme of Eastnor Estate. The works were granted Scheduled Monument Consent (Reference No. S00029828) on the condition that:

“No ground works/building works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological work before and during the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State advised by English Heritage”.

A written specification for the archaeological work was completed on the 7th February 2012 and approved by English Heritage. Work on-site subsequently started on the 1st March 2012.

The history of this site is not included in this report as a comprehensive description is contained within the English Heritage Report (Smith N. 2001).

2. Aims and Objectives (after Rimmington 2011, see Appendix 1).



Figure 1: Feature locations.

- A1 Repair at base of gatehouse
- A1.1 Once cleared record current profile at 1:20 and make a photographic record
- A1.2 Once completed record work undertaken on a detailed elevation drawing at 1:20 and make a photographic record.
- A2 Apron
- A2.1 Once cleared draw a plan at 1:20 and make a photographic record
- A3 Core work
- A3.1 Once cleared add new detail to existing elevation drawing and make a photographic record.
- A3.2 Once the work is completed repairs should be recorded on the 1:20 elevation drawing and a photographic record made.
- B Northern staircase and curtain wall.
- B1.1 Once cleared a detailed elevation should be drawn at 1:20. Mortar changes should be indicated. A photographic record should be made at this time.
- B1.2 One temporary support is removed an elevation drawing should be made at 1:20 and a photographic record made.
- B1.3 When repair is completed new work should be recorded in elevation and a photographic record made.
- B2 Curtain wall.
- B2.1 1:50 elevation outline should be drawn, with detail recorded at 1:20. A plan should be drawn at 1:50. A photographic record should be made.
- B2.2 Limited excavation should be undertaken near the waterline to facilitate and inform the installation of gabions.
- C Building fragment in Southeast corner.
- C1 Once cleared elevations are to be drawn at 1:20 and a photographic record made.

3. Location and Geology

Bronsil Castle is located approximately 4km east of Ledbury within the parish of Eastnor, Herefordshire. It is situated at the north end of a north-south orientated valley with steeply rising ground to the north and west and more gently rising ground to the east.

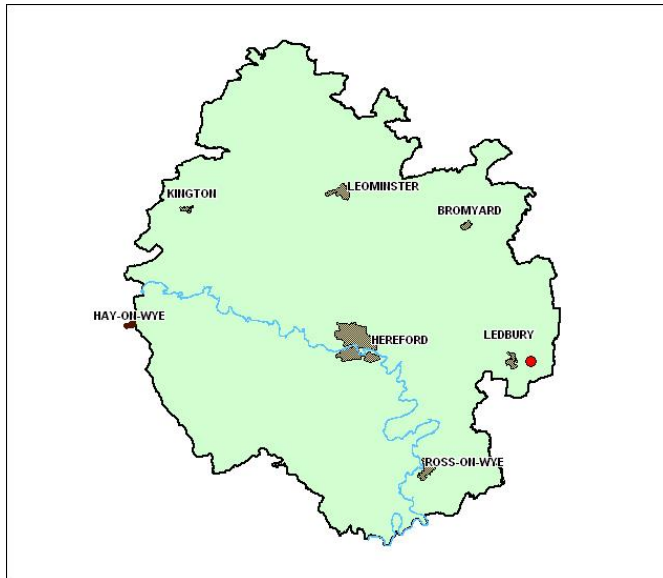


Figure 2: Location of Bronsil Castle, Eastnor in relation to the main towns and city in Herefordshire. © Herefordshire Council

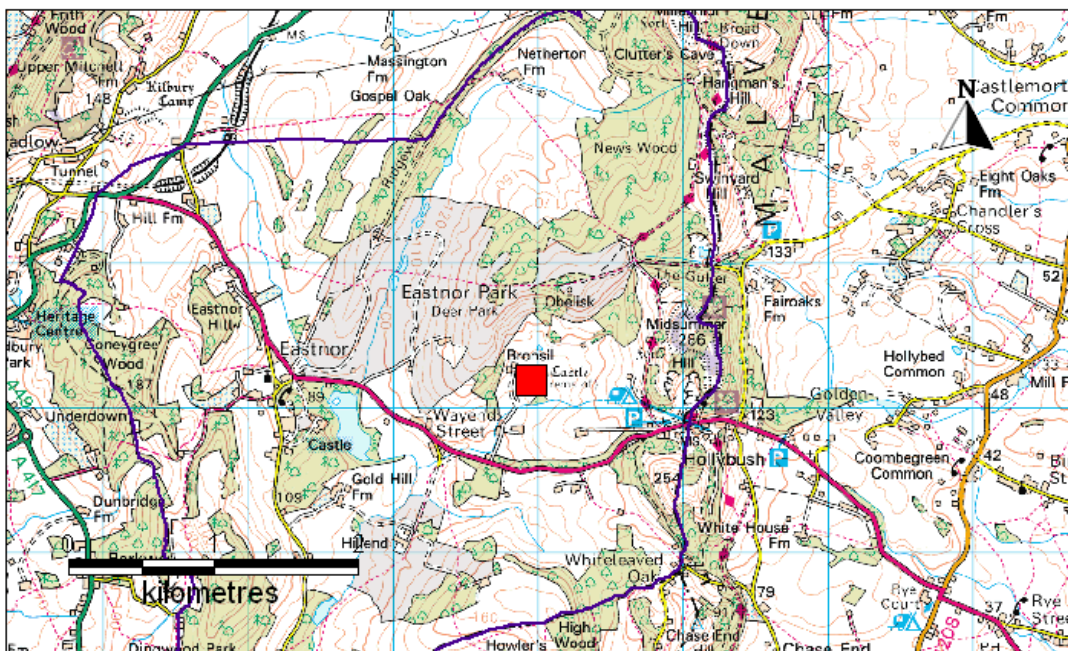


Figure 3: Site location and its immediate environment. © Herefordshire Council.

The geology is carboniferous limestone and the overlying soil is of the Crwbin series. This soil type consists of very shallow well drained loamy soils over limestone, often found on steep slopes; limestone pavements and other rock exposures are common.

4. Methodology

The work was carried out between 1st March and 20th March 2012

The grid reference was obtained using a hand held Garmin 60CSx and was recorded as SO 74959 37228 +/- 4m. The final levels were not tied in to Ordnance Datum.

Elevations were drawn stone for stone at a scale of 1:20 as per the specification, using levelled chalk lines.

A digital photographic record was made of all the relevant structures, before, during and after this programme of work.

The mortar was visually inspected and marked on the drawn elevations. The table below records each mortar type and its location.

Masonry structures are constructed primarily of Devonian red sandstone

5. Fieldwork Results



Plate 1: Vertical view of the tree covered Bronsil Castle, the moat bridge however is clearly visible (© Herefordshire Archaeology 2007).

Mortar descriptions identified during the project and used in this report.

Ref	Location	Context	Colour	Description
G1	Gatehouse (A)	Base of Stair tower, visible as a result of bank erosion	Buff	Lime rich mortar with fine sand. Inclusions of very fine lime nodules and charcoal. The face of this mortar is grey/white in colour due to leaching of salt from the mortar.
G2	Gatehouse (A)	Above ground masonry	Very light buff/ orange	Lime rich cement/mortar with an extremely fine sand
G3	Gatehouse (A)	Above ground masonry	Very light buff/ orange	As G2 but with courser sand inclusions
S1	Stair tower (B)	Faced wall joints	Light buff/ orange	Fine lime mortar with small off white lime nodules and sandstone flecks. Obvious salt leaching on exterior surface.
S2	Stair tower (B)	Rubble fill mix	Medium red/brown	Courser lime rich mortar with obvious white and buff/white lime nodules and very small grey sandstone fragments.
S3	Stair tower (B)	Significant patches within S2	Grey/ white and buff/white	Solid lime rich mortar
L1	Stump (C)	Faced wall joints	Very light buff/white	Very fine lime rich mortar
L2	Stump (C)	Rubble fill mix	Very light buff/ orange	Very fine lime rich mortar with clearly visible orange sand grains and small charcoal fragments
C1	Curtain wall	Rubble fill north of facing stone	Very light buff	Fine lime rich mortar with very small off white lime nodules. Occasional very small light grey/purple sandstone fragments
C2	Curtain wall	Rubble fill south of facing stones	Very light buff	Fine lime rich mortar with very small off white lime nodules. Occasional very small light grey/purple sandstone fragments.
C3	Curtain wall	Facing stone	Red brown	Very fine lime rich mortar with high grit content. Lime nodules visible.

Table 1: Mortar location and description.

Gatehouse (Location A [Mortar G1-3])

Three samples were taken from the southwest face of the stair tower. Mortar G1 is the oldest identified and may represent the original matrix; it is very mixed and includes visible lime flecks and charcoal. Both G2 and G3 are clean, fine, lime rich cement/mortars, the only difference being the very slight change in sand grain size, G3 being the courser.

Stair Tower (B [S1-3]) **Curtain Wall** (C1-3)

Three samples were taken from the stair tower. The first sample (S1) was taken from the faced wall joint of the staircase. The mortar is similar to G1 and most likely represents the original build. It is a mixed salt rich deposit but the charcoal flecks have been replaced by sandstone. The second sample (S2) was taken from the rubble fill of this feature and it is obvious that less care was taken over this mix. The constituents are easily identifiable with patches of sand and patches of almost pure lime (S3).

Three samples were taken from the curtain wall. The first two samples (C1 and C2) were taken from between the remaining section of the curtain wall facing stones and from the visible wall fill to the north. The third sample, C3 was taken from the curtain wall fill. This mortar fill is dark in colour like S2, the stair tower fill, but is less coarse.

Building fragment in Southeast corner (C [L1-2])

The mortar from this feature reflects that seen in the stair tower, where the visible mortar is clean and fine and the rubble fill mortar has unmixed lime patches and numerous inclusions.

A1.1 Gatehouse Tower (NGR 74959 37228 +/-6)



Plate 2: The gatehouse tower from across the moat as viewed from the southwest.



Plate 3: The gatehouse tower as seen from the southeast. Continued erosion of the earth around the base is clearly visible (bottom left).

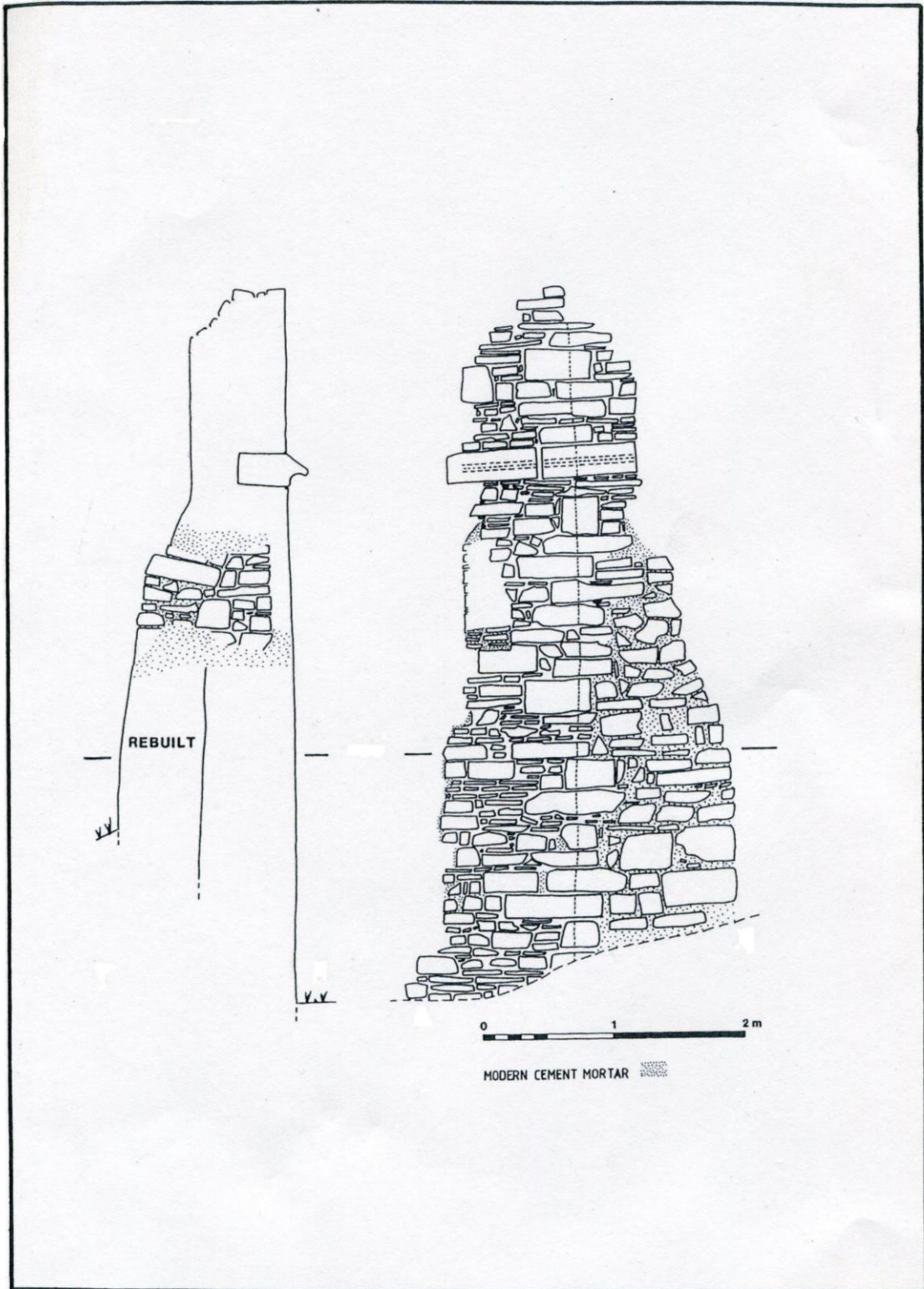


Figure 4: Drawing of the south facing elevation of the gate house tower, showing the previous south facing profile (after Thomas D).

A1.2 Gatehouse Tower (NGR 74959 37228 +/-6)

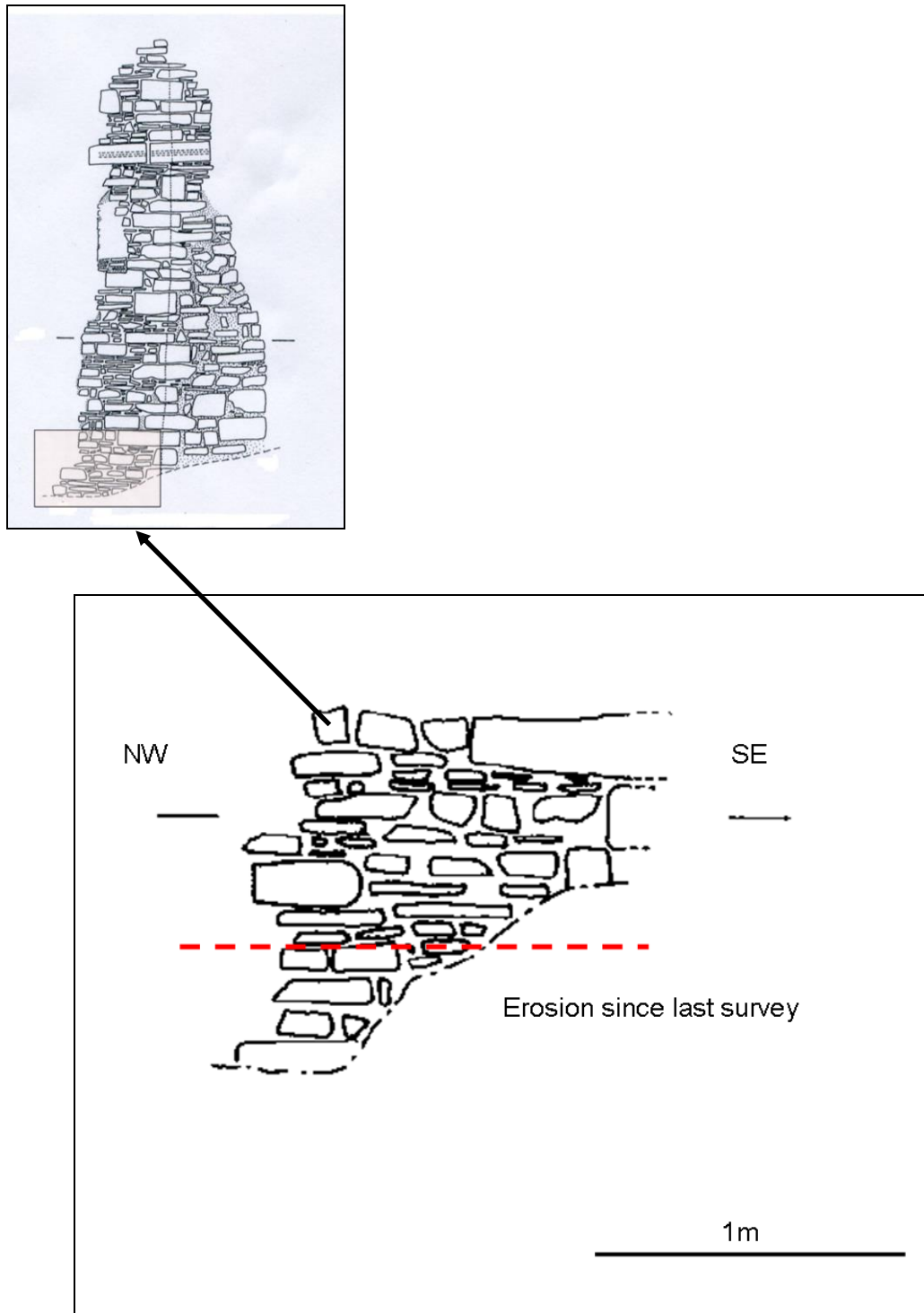


Figure 5: Re drawn lower section of the gatehouse tower showing the extent of erosion



Plate 4: Re-pointed section at the base of the Gatehouse tower as seen from the west.



Plate 5: Re-pointed section at the base of the gatehouse as seen from the South.

**A1.2.1 Gatehouse Tower (NGR 74959 37228 +/-6),
Additional works**



Plate 6: View of the top of the gatehouse tower as seen from the northeast.



Plate 7: View of the top of the gatehouse tower from the northeast after re-pointing.

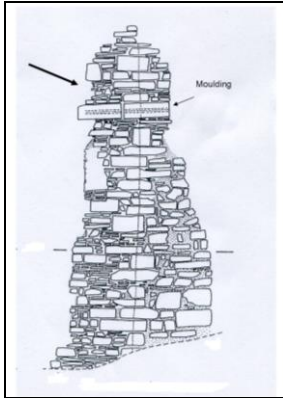


Plate 8: Upper portion of the raked out section above the moulding as viewed from the southwest.



Plate 9: Upper portion of the gatehouse tower after completion as seen from the southwest.

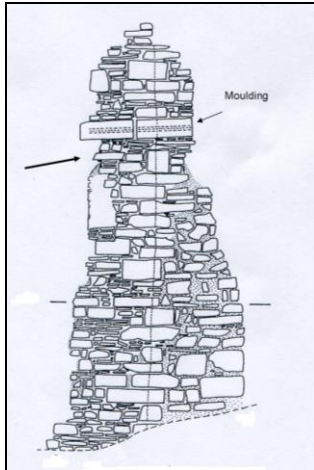


Plate 10: Raked out area beneath the moulding.



Plate 11: Area beneath the moulding after consolidation.

A2 Gatehouse Tower “Apron” (NGR 74959 37228 +/-6)



Plate 10: View of the ‘Apron’ before conservation as seen from the west.



Plate 11: Close up of the ‘Apron’.

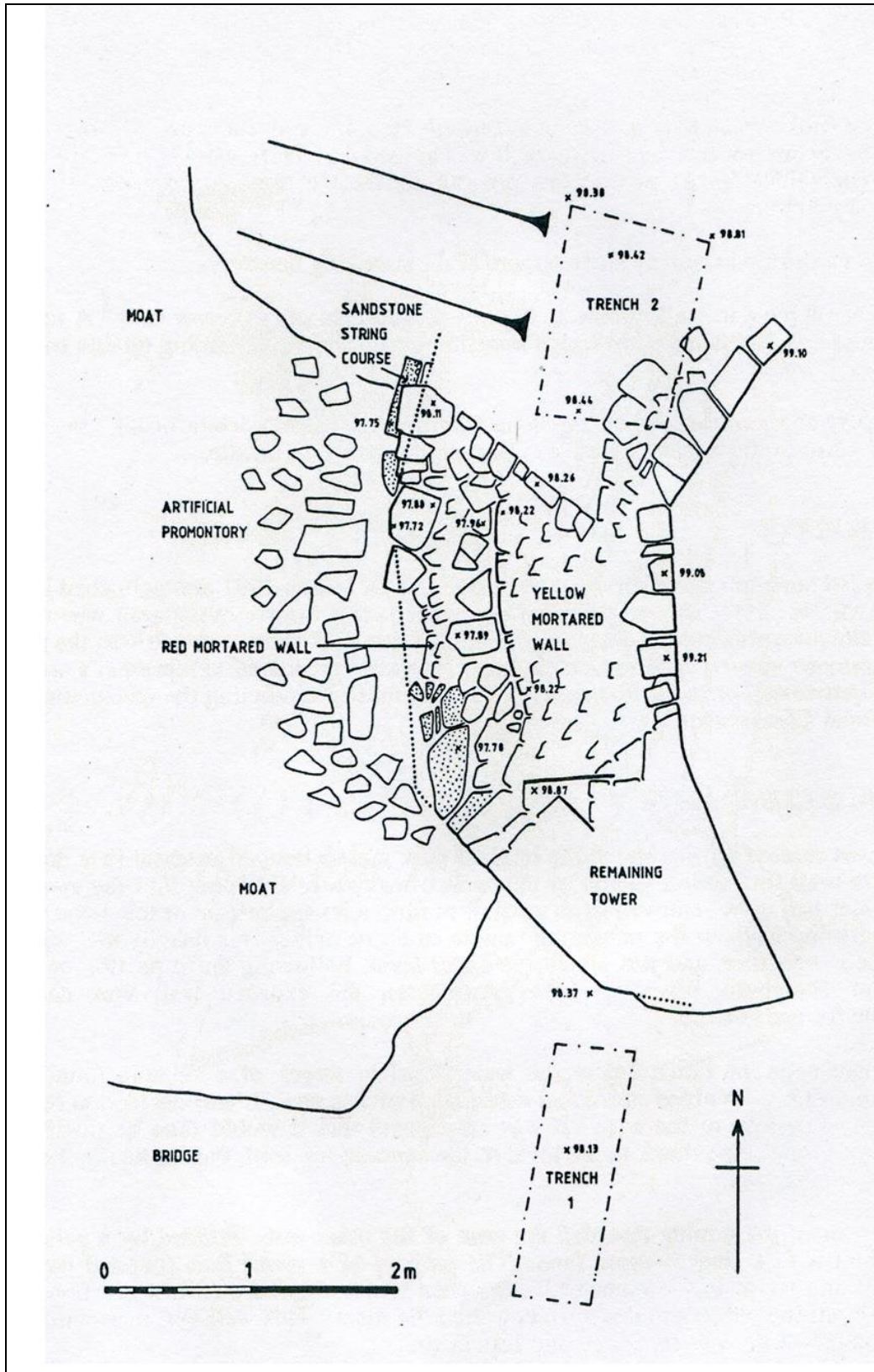


Figure 6: Previous plan of the gatehouse and “apron” (after Thomas D).

A2.1 Gatehouse Tower “Apron” after restoration



Plate 12: Apron upon completion of the project as seen from the northwest.



Plate 13: Completed apron as seen from the west.

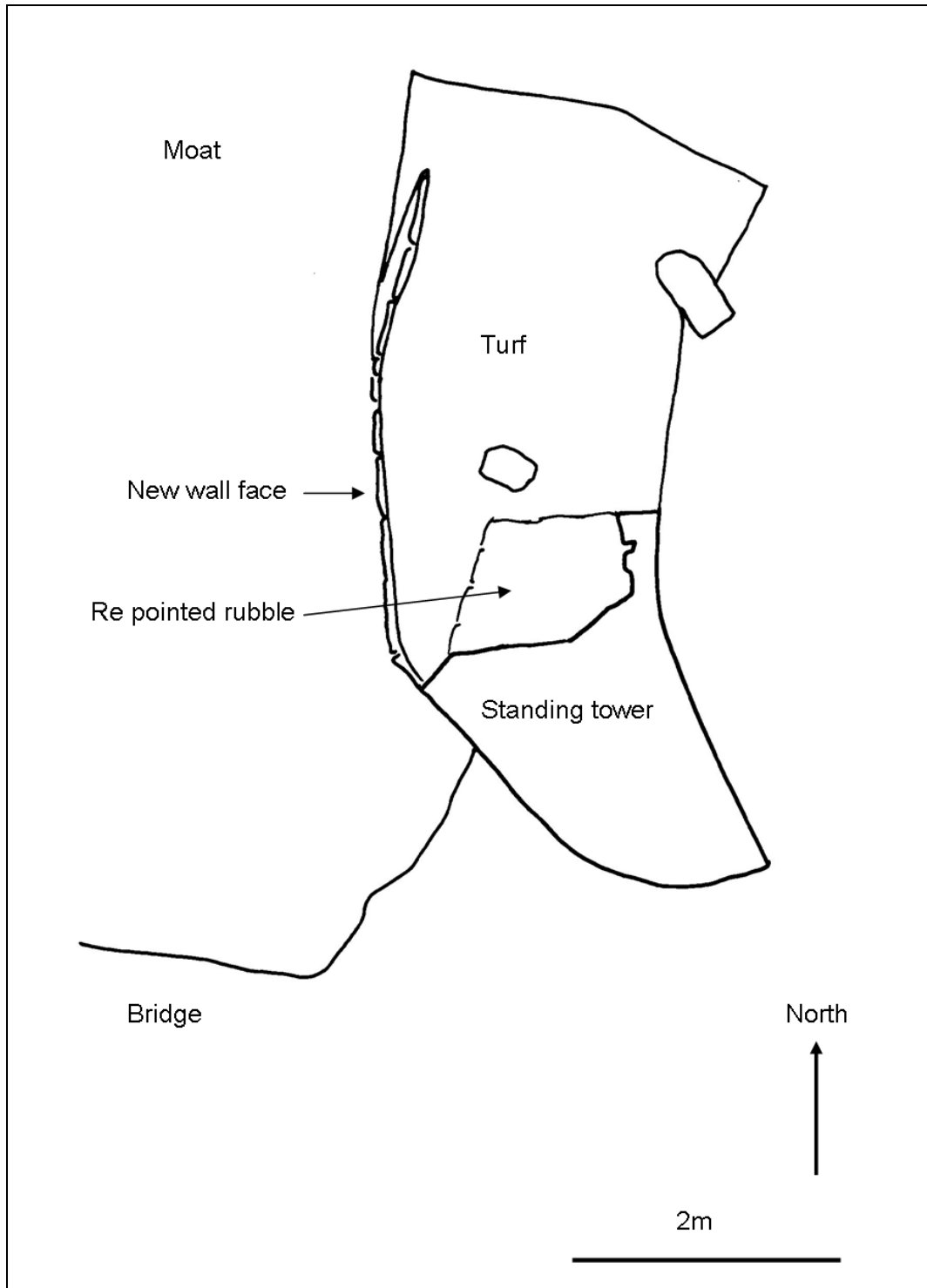


Figure 7: Plan showing the Gatehouse and Apron after restoration.

A3.1 Gatehouse Tower core work (NGR 74959 37228 +/-6)



Plate 14: View of the gatehouse tower core work from the northwest, before Consolidation.



Plate 15: Gatehouse core work from above, before consolidation.

A3.2 Gatehouse Tower core work (NGR 74959 37228 +/-6)



Plate 16: Corework upon completion of the project as seen from the west.



Plate 17: Core work upon completion of the project as seen from above.

B1.1 Stair Tower (NGR 74960 37195 +/-4)

Description

The remains of the stair tower are located in the northeast corner of the site (Figures 1 and 13) and was originally in a poor state of repair and covered in vegetation, predominantly ivy. The structure is irregular in shape but roughly rectangular, measuring 2.80m (north-south) x 2.60m high and 2.10m wide (east-west). For description purposes the four elevations are described separately.

Western elevation

This elevation was covered in ivy (Plate 18) and this was cleared off (Plate 19) prior to recording and consolidation. The removal of the vegetation allowed access to the whole elevation showing the full extent of the consolidation required and a measured drawing was produced at this stage (Figures 9 and 10). The lower section of this elevation was in a reasonable state of repair. It consists of an east-west aligned wall at the north end of the structure, which is 0.50m wide and stands to a faced (but damaged) height of 1.30m. The pointing mortar is S1 (see Table 1) and where the face has been damaged random rubble stonework is visible in a matrix of S2 mortar. The western end of this wall is faced suggesting that this marks the base or is near to the base of the staircase.

This staircase extends upwards from the west end of the previously mentioned wall, the south side of which marks the start of a concave stone faced wall (Figure 10) in which the staircase was located i.e. although only five steps remain, it appears to be the remains of a spiral staircase. This face remains to a height 1.30m and is made up of predominantly squared blocks of Devonian red sandstone and is pointed with S1 mortar.

There are five steps (Plates 18, 19, 20 and 21, Figure 13), four complete and one partial step (Plate 20). Each step is made up of a single flat stone slab overlying one or two layers of squared stone, the only exception to this being the second from bottom (Plate 21), that has a layer of tile inserted between the slab and the stone. The average step fall is c.0.25m and the maximum step width is 0.20m. The mortar, although highly degraded, appears to be S1.

The upper 1m of the Western elevation consists of corework, random rubble, mainly angular stone in a matrix of S2 mortar with S3 inclusions.

An area of interest is the southern end of this upper section, where previous masonry collapse left an unsupported overhang. This overhang however will be described in the 'Southern Elevation'.

Eastern Elevation

This elevation was covered in ivy (Plate 22) and this was cleared off (Plate 23) prior to recording and consolidation. The removal of the vegetation allowed

access to the whole elevation showing the full extent of the consolidation required. A measured drawing of this elevation was not undertaken at this time due to problems with access.

This elevation was 2.80m long (north-south) and 2.50m high. The entire elevation was made up of corework, random rubble, mainly angular stone in a disintegrating matrix of S2 mortar with S3 inclusions. No facing stones were evident.

Northern Elevation

This elevation was covered in ivy (Plate 24) and this was cleared off (Plate 25) prior to recording and consolidation. The removal of the vegetation allowed access to the whole elevation showing the full extent of the consolidation required and a measured drawing was produced at this stage (Figure 9).

This elevation was 2m long (east-west) and 2.60m high. It appears that the stair tower was built into an earthen bank, so more of the elevation is seen on the western side. On this side is the faced base of the staircase wall (see Western Elevation) but only a small section of this extends beyond the earth bank, 0.20m wide x 1.10m high.

The rest of this elevation was predominantly made up of corework, random rubble, mainly angular stone in a disintegrating matrix of S2 mortar with S3 inclusions. There were however, five in-situ facing stones near the base of the profile (above the bank) suggesting that a small section of faced wall at the west end survives under the bank

Southern elevation

This elevation was covered in ivy (Plate 26) and this was cleared off prior to recording and consolidation. The removal of the vegetation allowed access to the whole elevation showing the full extent of the consolidation required and a measured drawing was produced at this stage (Figure 9).

This elevation was 2m long (east-west) and 2.10m high before excavation (Plate 26 [see B1.2]) and 2.60m after (Plates 27 and 28). The majority of this elevation was made up of corework, random rubble, mainly angular stone in a disintegrating matrix of S2 mortar with S3 inclusions. Near the base, on the east side, were four squared facing stones devoid of mortar. Their function could not be determined at this stage.

A significant feature is the unstable overhang at the top of this elevation (Figure 9, Plates 18, 19 and 26). This overhang extends out from the vertical c.0.40m, it is 0.50m high and 0.70m wide. It consists of corework and is in a very unstable condition. This was supported, after the vegetation was removed, by a timber frame, before the construction of the stone pier, (Figure 11, Plates 29 and 30).

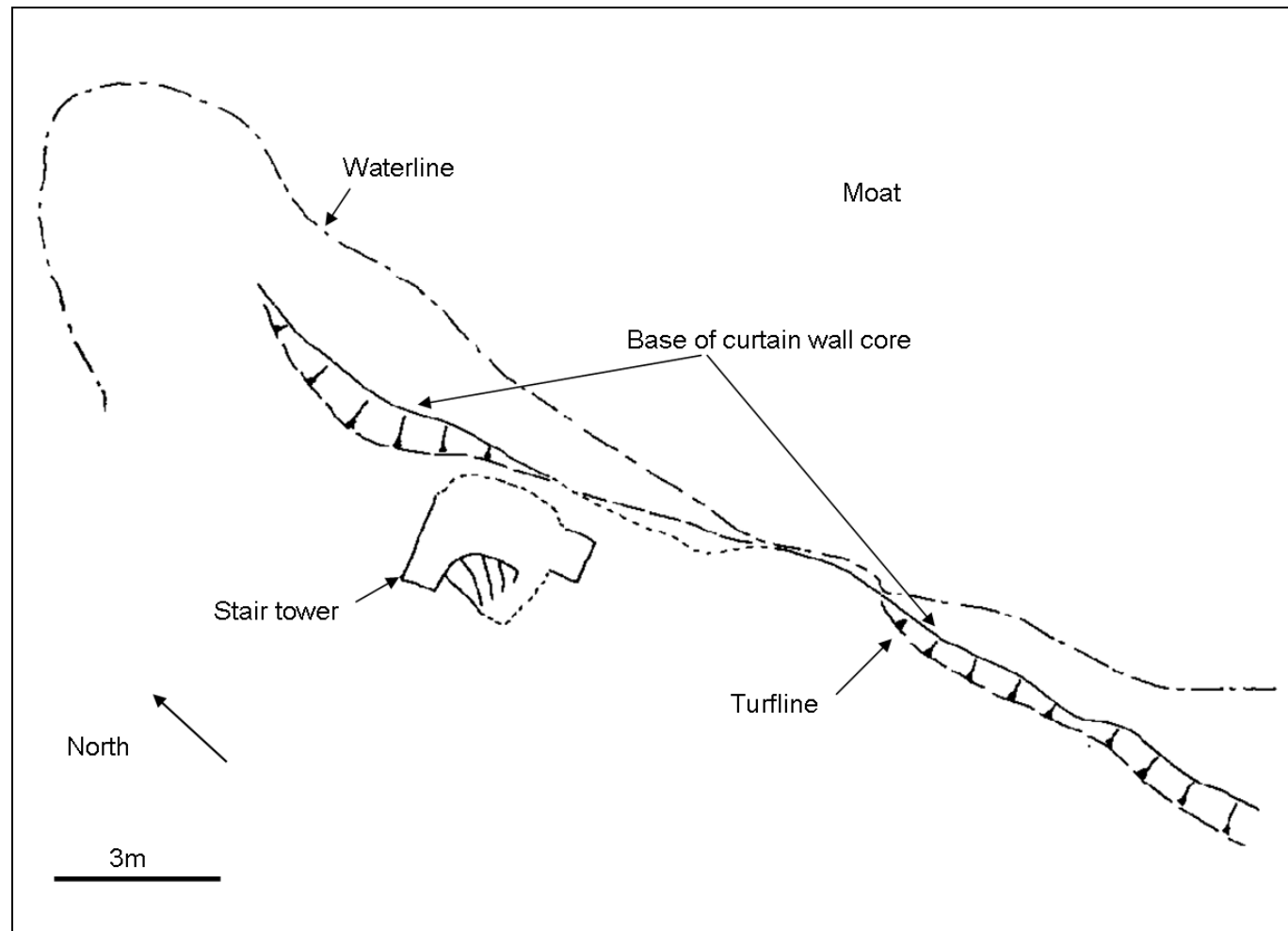


Figure 8: Location of the stair tower in relation to the curtain wall.

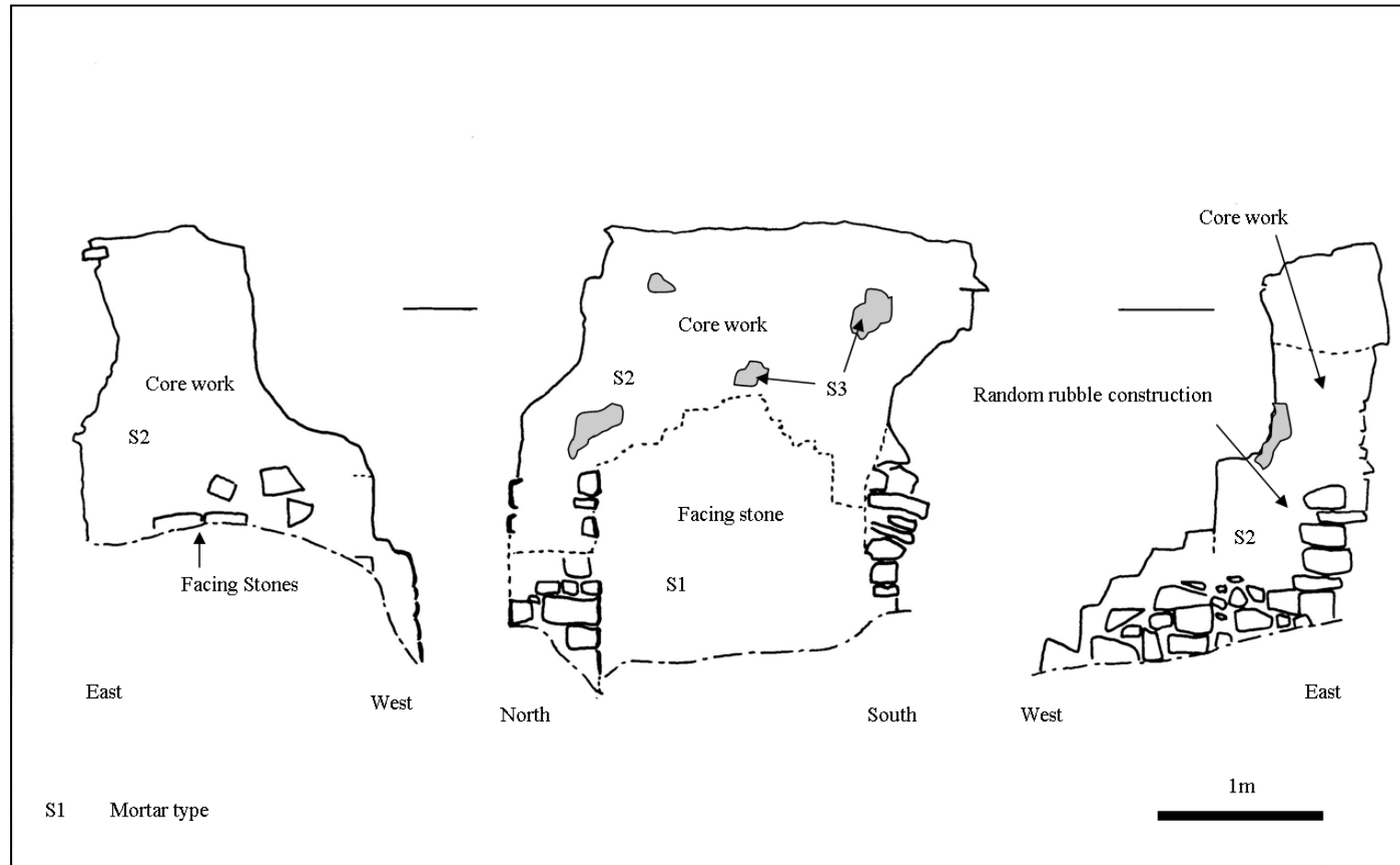


Figure 9: Profile of the stair tower after cleaning but prior to consolidation (north elevation, west elevation [after excavation], south elevation).

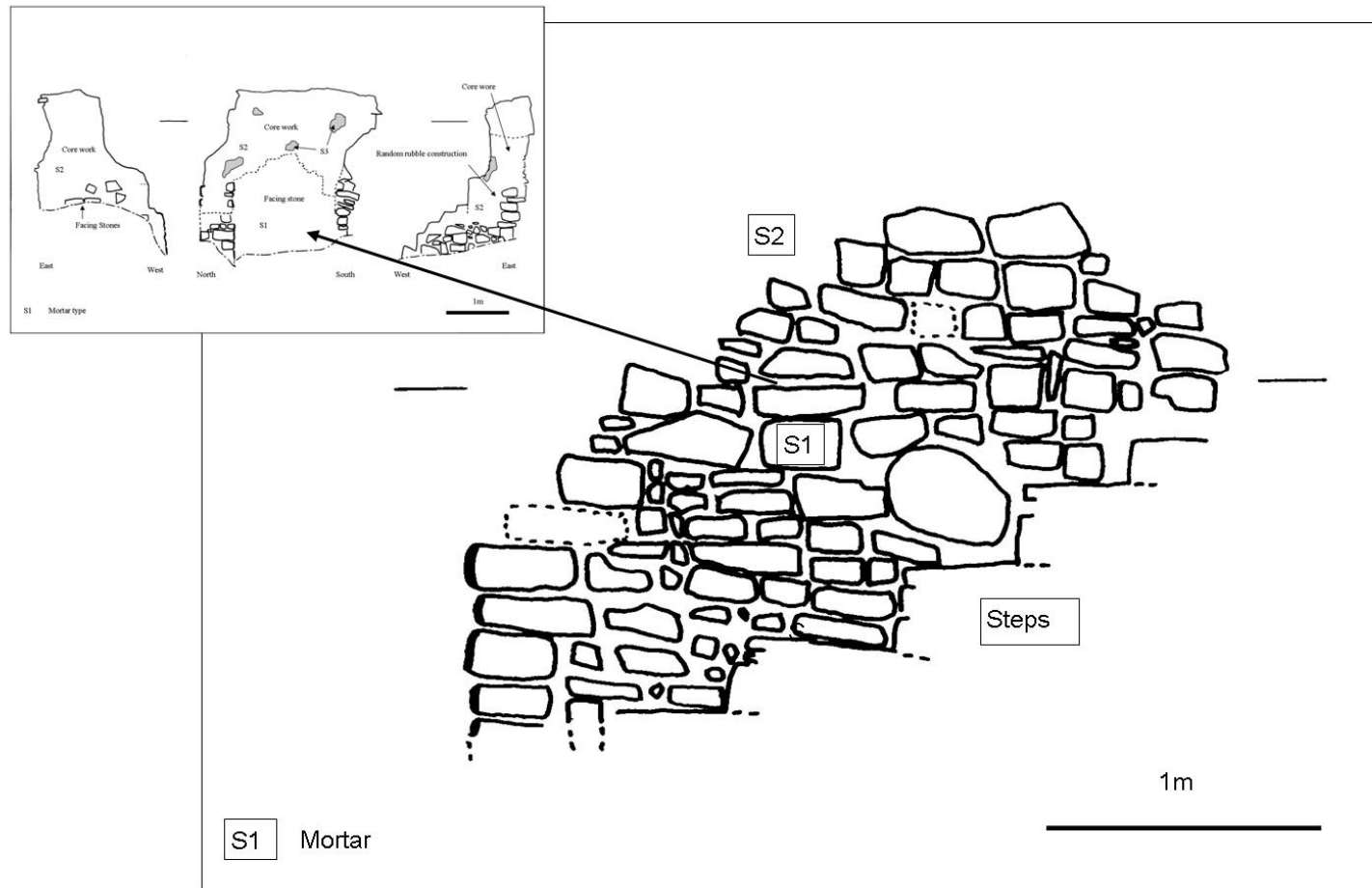


Figure 10: Close up the staircase facing stones after cleaning.



Plate 18: View of the Western elevation of the Stair Tower as seen from The southwest, before work began.



Plate 19: View of the Western elevation of the Stair Tower from the southwest after it had been cleaned and the over-hang supported.



Plate 20: First and second (from the top) steps showing stone construction.



Plate 21: Third step from the top showing the insertion of a tile layer.



Plate 22: View of the Stair Tower from the northeast before work began.



Plate 23: View of the Stair Tower from the northeast after the vegetation had been removed.



Plate 24: View of the Stair Tower from the north before cleaning.



Plate 25: View of the Stair Tower from the north after vegetation removal.



Plate 26: View of the stair tower from the south before clearance.

This Profile was not photographed after cleaning because the temporary support structure was erected during the cleaning process.

B1.2 Stair Tower B, Excavation (NGR 74960 37195 +/-4).

As previously noted (B1.1, Southern Elevation) a section of overhanging corework needed to be supported to stop further collapse. Prior to the support being put in place however an area beneath the overhang was excavated in order to investigate the base of the stair tower and to establish a solid base for the construction of the stone support wall. It was also thought that this excavation might reveal further detail of the underlying curtain wall.

A narrow trench was excavated at the base of the southern elevation in advance of its consolidation. This trench was aligned roughly east-west; it was 2m long by 0.40m wide with a maximum depth of 0.4m

As a result of this limited excavation no section of exterior/curtain castle wall was present (at this depth) but what was of note was a possible portion of wall aligned east-west that appears to have been built at the same time as the rest of the standing remains (Plates 27 and 28, Figure 9). In total there were six squared stones c.0.30m x 0.10m x 0.40m that were positioned in a stepped formation and bonded with a pale orange/white lime mortar (S1). These stones also curved out from the main structure base, upwards and outwards (towards the south). In total, from the stone at the base to the stone at the top is a north-south distance of c.0.20m. What is curious however, is that there are no footings, only a very loose mid red/brown humic fine soil. This soil has a maximum depth of c.0.20m and overlies a light orange/brown, very fine silty soil. Behind the stone face is the corework, made up of small angular and sub angular stones set in a pale brown/white mortar (S2) with sizable lime flecks (S3). This stone fill is both under and over the stones in the face that suggests that they were part of the same construction.

This stone face is not as regular as one might expect in a castle and the lack of footings is curious, but it is possible that some stone has been 'robbed' and the presence of a substantial tree stump immediately to the south may account for some of the damage.

The limited evidence from this trench and the overhanging masonry above it suggests that this stone face may represent an opening in the wall, either a window or a door and that it most likely represents the remains of a building inside the castle walls rather than part of the exterior castle walls themselves.

The rubble fill of the underlying curtain wall, is clearly visible in the east facing section of the moat, but was not identified in the excavated trench, as it was thought that further excavation would destabilize the standing structure.

No finds were recovered from this excavation.



Plate 27: South facing elevation after the trench was excavated.



Plate 28: Excavated trench as viewed from the west.

B1.3 Stair Tower B (NGR 74960 37195 +/-4)



Plate 29: The completed stair tower after pointing and the addition of the support wall.



Plate 30: View of the completed support wall as seen from the south.

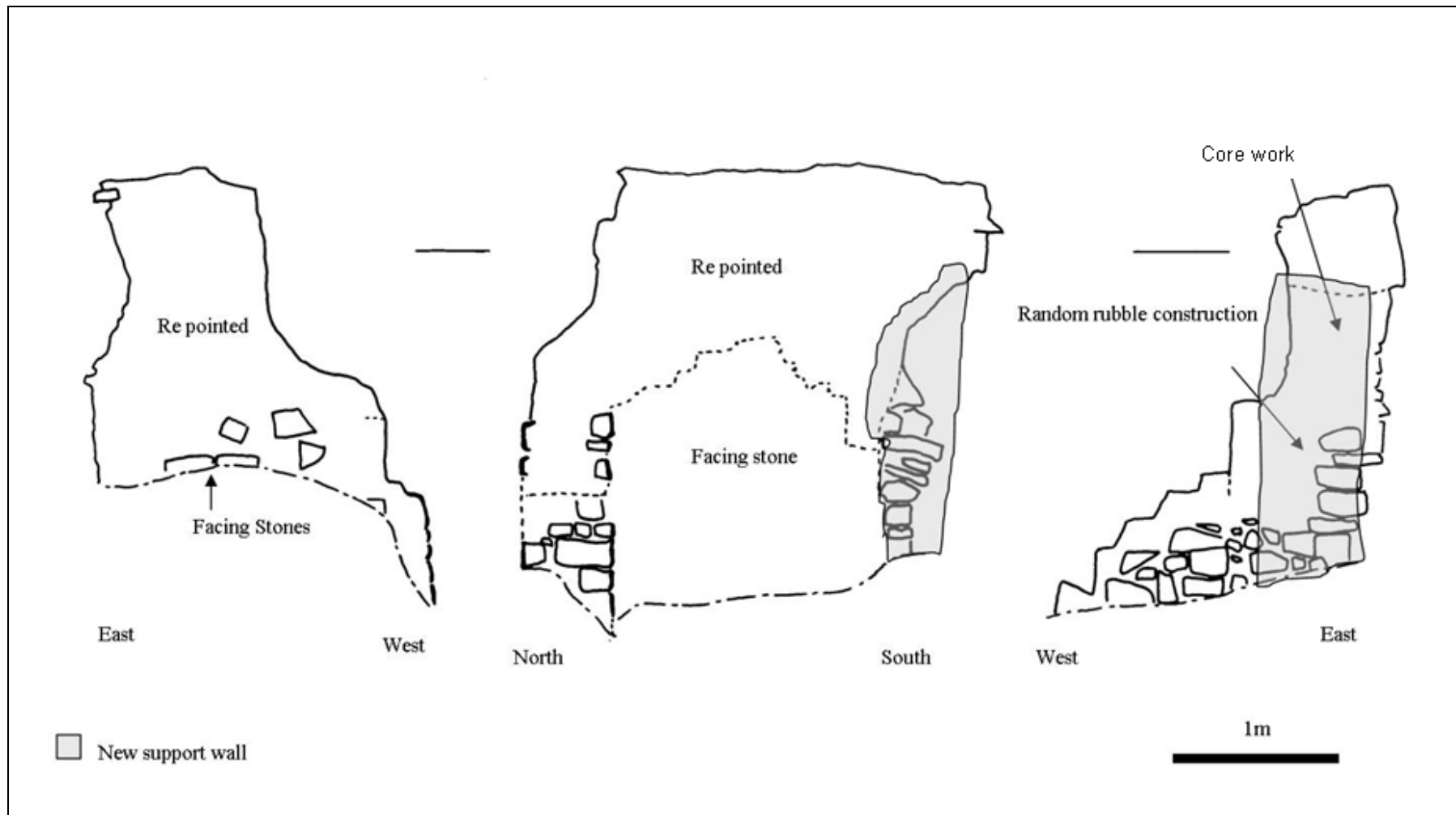


Figure 11: Elevations showing the repaired stair tower and the new support wall.

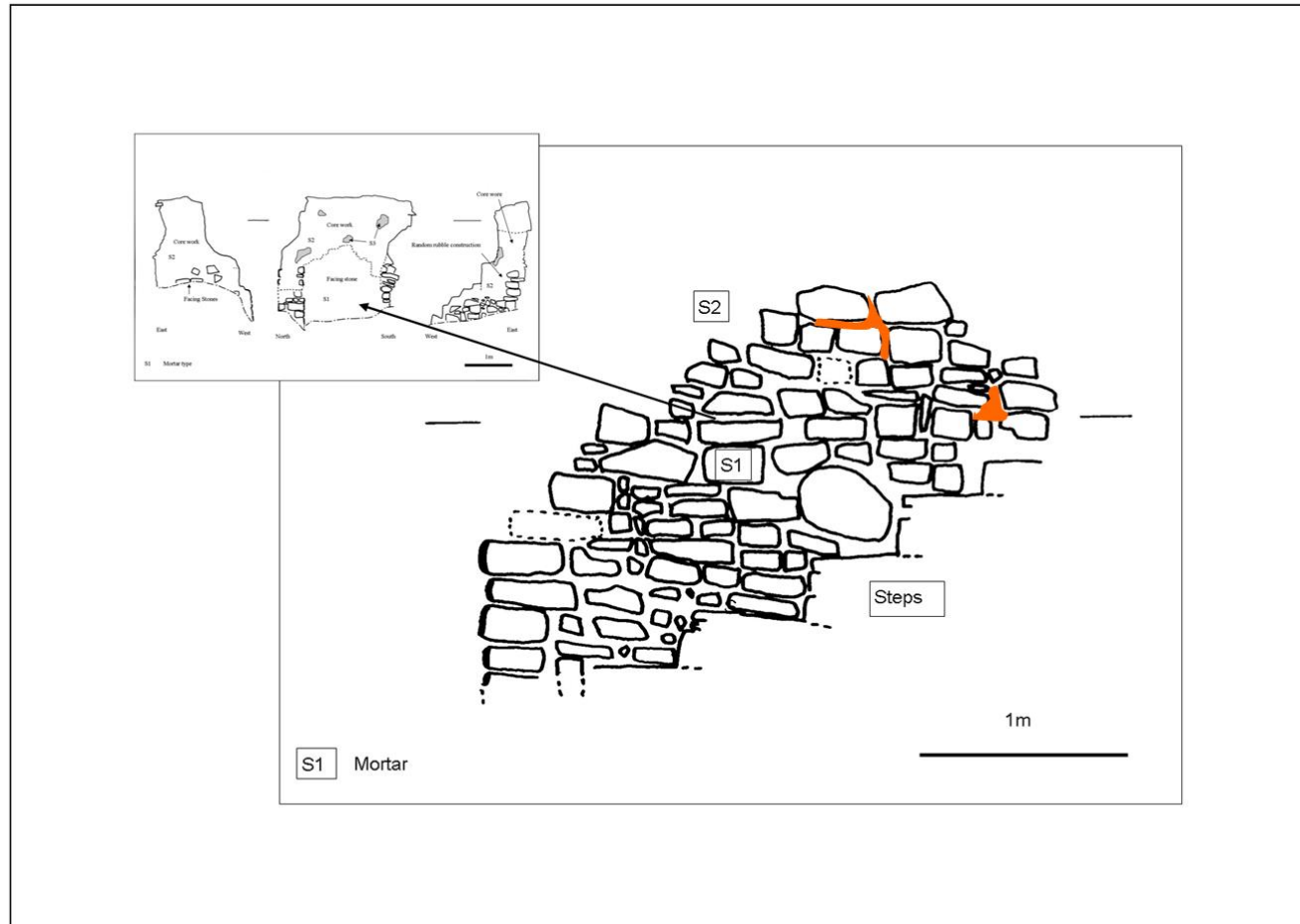


Figure 12: Staircase facing stones showing the limited pointing that was required.

B2.1 Curtain wall (NGR 74960 37195 +/-4)

The consolidation work on the curtain wall, as stipulated in the specification, was not undertaken at this time. This was due to the presence of a recently fallen tree, lying within the moat and therefore in the way and also due to on site discussion resulting in changes to the nature of consolidation works. Archaeological recording was however undertaken on a limited scale as access allowed, but the 1:50 outline elevation drawing was not produced.

The recorded section of curtain wall (Figures 13 and 14, Plates 31 and 32)) marks the eastern boundary of the castle and underlies the previously discussed stair tower. The remaining visible section of the wall is 6.50m long (north-south), stands to a maximum height of 3m and consists in the main of corework. This corework consists of mainly angular stone rubble in a fine lime rich mortar (C1 and C2).

The only remaining section of wall face (Figure 15) is located towards the centre of the remaining section of wall. This consists of ten cut stones either square or rectangular in shape that are bonded with a very fine, red/brown lime rich mortar (C3)

The curtain wall is in a very unstable condition. It is being progressively eroded by the fluctuating water level in the moat and is no doubt being effected by freeze/thaw. A humic soil has formed on the top of this section of curtain wall and this has in turn encouraged tree growth. The root system of one tree in particular (only the stump remains above ground) has had a dramatic effect on the underlying curtain wall. The roots passage through the wall has led to substantial damage. It is however also noticeable that the support of other sections of root have helped to preserve the only remaining section of wall face.



Plate 31: View of the Stair Tower and the eroding curtain wall as viewed from the east before work began.



Plate 32: View of the Stair tower after initial clearance as seen from the east.

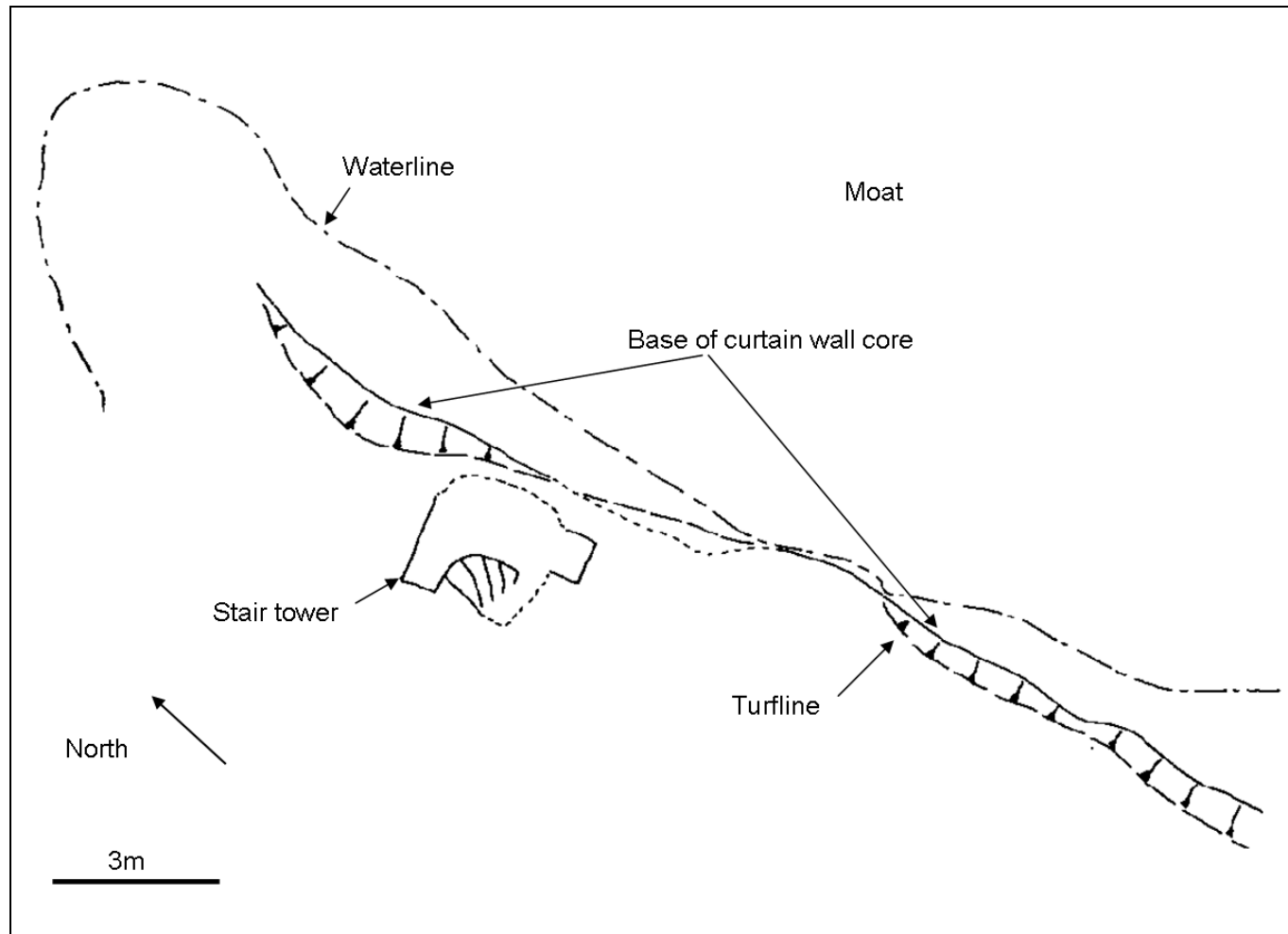


Figure 13: Location of the base of the curtain wall core work (the top is under the overhanging turf line).

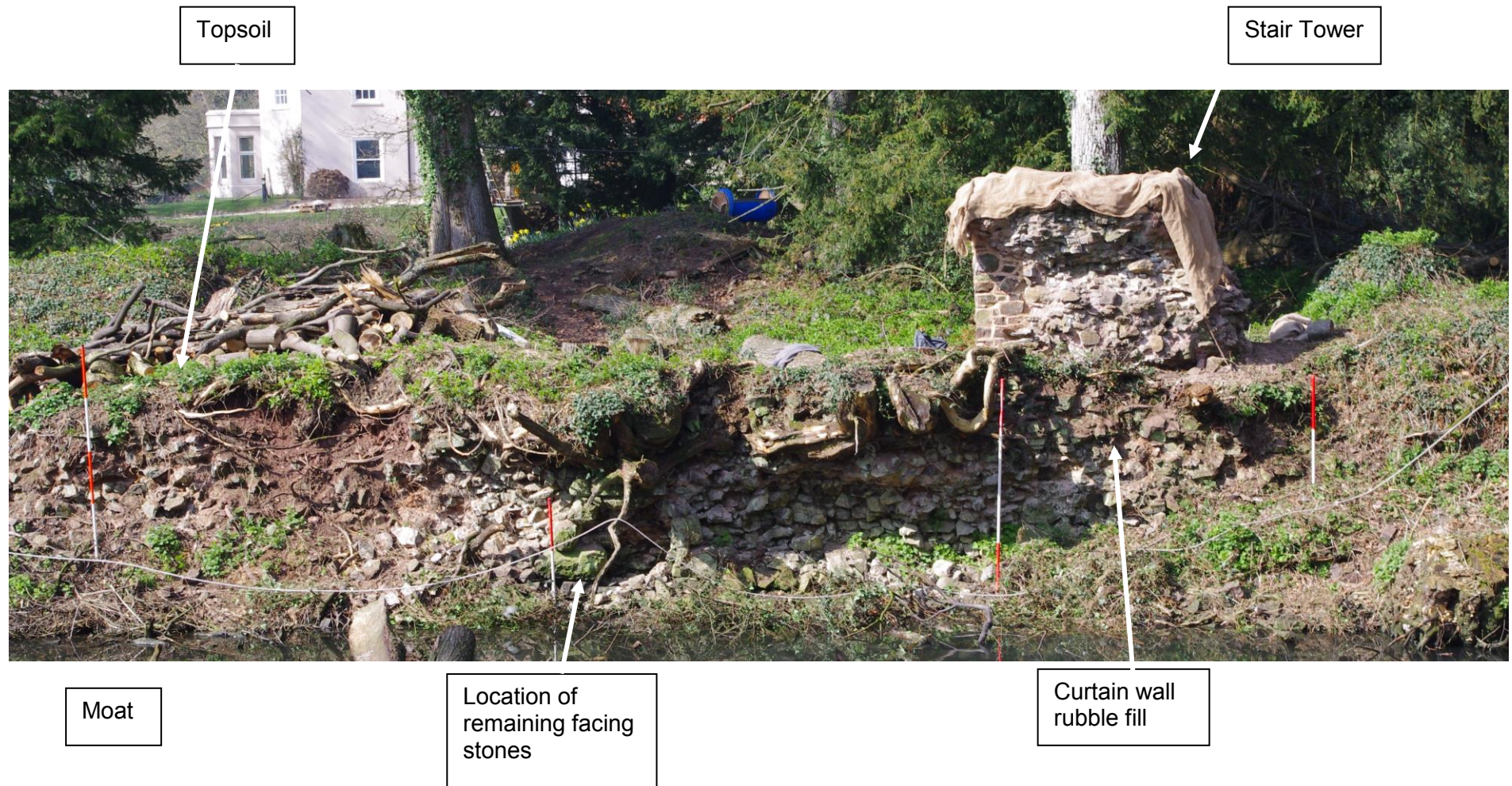


Figure 14: Curtain wall and the overlying Stair towers seen from the opposite bank of the moat. (it was not possible to do a section drawing due to the moat water level and the sub-surface collapsed tree branches) .

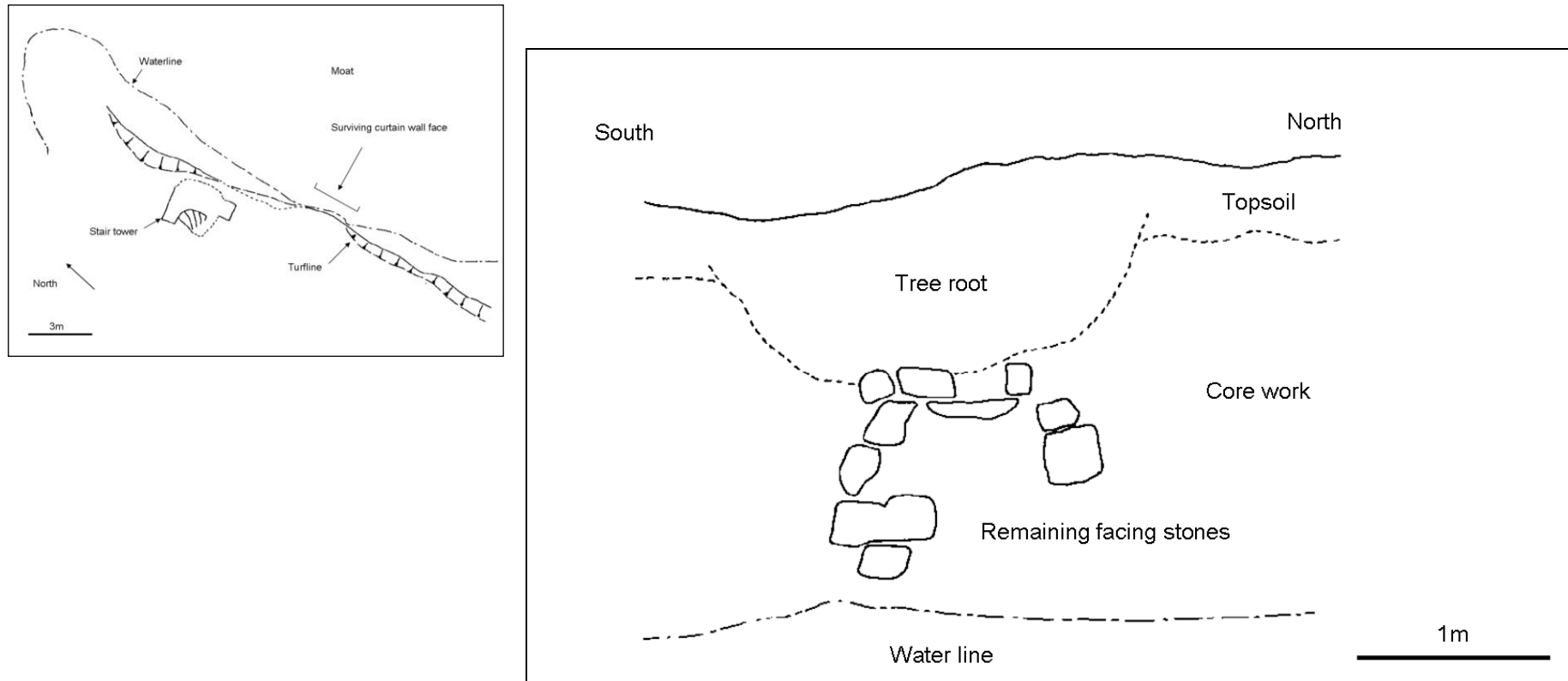


Figure 15: The remaining curtain wall facing stones and their location.

B2.2 Curtain wall (NGR 74960 37195 +/-4)

As previously mentioned the consolidation of this feature was not possible due to restricted access caused by a fallen tree. As a consequence the excavation at the base of this feature was not undertaken.

C1 Standing Masonry (NGR 74932 37226 +/- 5)

This section of standing masonry is located in the southeast corner of the castle. This roughly square wall fragment, like the previously mentioned stair tower, is built into a north-south aligned bank that runs parallel to the eastern section of castle wall, so only three sides of the structure are visible (Figure 16).

This roughly square piece of masonry is actually two separate walls. The first is aligned north-south and is parallel too and partially covered by the earthen bank, predominantly on the east side. It is 0.40m thick and its visible height is 0.80m high and is constructed with roughly squared blocks of Devonian red sandstone. Two distinct types of mortar were noted. The core consists of a mixture of squared and angular stone in a matrix of light buff/orange mortar (L2). This is a very lime rich mortar with clearly visible orange sand grains and small charcoal inclusions. The pointing was done with a light buff/white lime rich mortar (L1).

The second section of wall butts the first at a right angle. This second wall is 1m wide and stands to a visible height of 1.20m. Its method of construction and make-up appear the same as the first wall. It is possible that the first wall was under stress and that the second wall was constructed as a buttress.



Plate 33: North facing section before cleaning.



Plate 34: North facing section after cleaning.



Plate 35: West facing section before cleaning.



Plate 36: West facing section after cleaning.



Plate 37: South facing section before cleaning.



Plate 38: South facing section after cleaning.

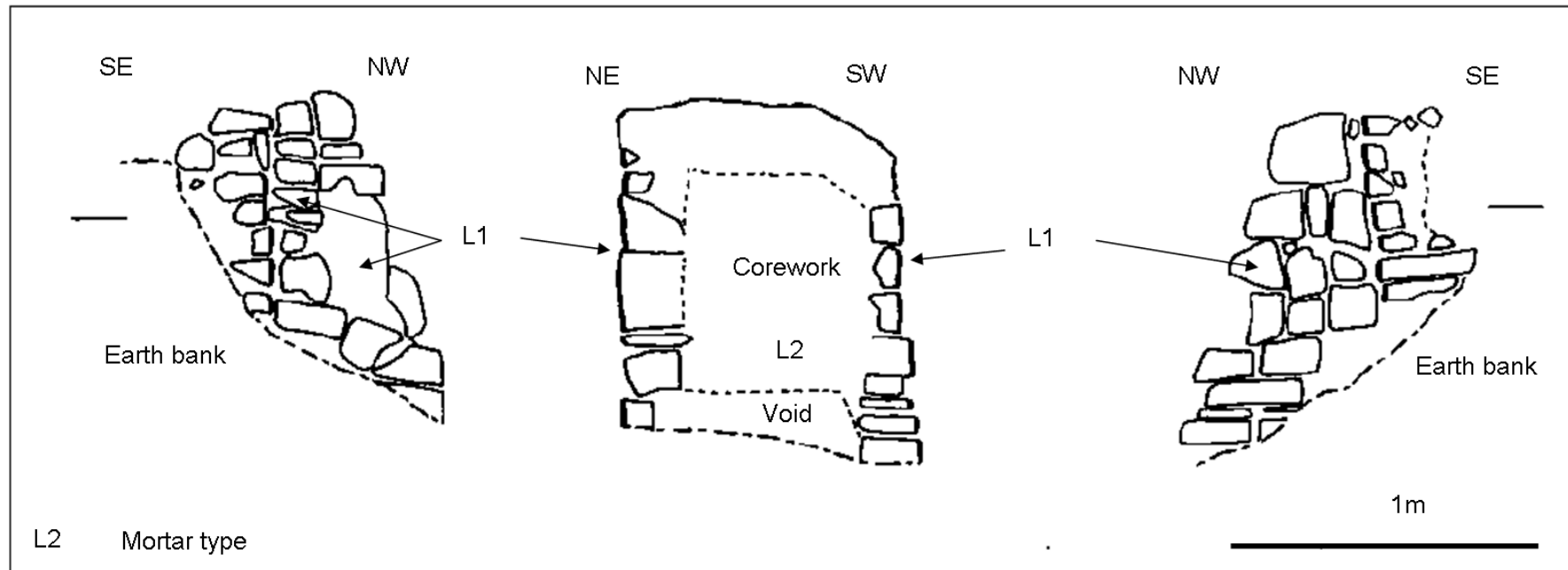


Figure 16: Drawn elevations of standing structure (C).

6. Acknowledgments

The owners and managers of the Eastnor Estate for help with access and on going support during the fieldwork.

Adam, Jan Kerr and the on-site staff of Nimbus Conservation Limited for their help and consideration during the fieldwork phase of this project.

I would like to thank other members of Herefordshire Archaeology for their help with the recording work, namely C. Atkinson and T. Hoverd.

I would also like to thank Dr. N. Rimmington, Countryside Adviser, for his editorial input into this report.

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| Rimmington N | 2011 | Conservation and repair programme at Bronsil Castle Archaeological Recording Specification (Appendix 1). |
| Thomas D A | 1992 | Bronsil Castle, Ledbury, Herefordshire: Archaeological recording in advance of consolidation work. Herefordshire Archaeological Series, 138a. |

Appendix 1

Draft prepared for comment:

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Introduction

The specification for archaeological recording set out below is based on the Bronsil Castle Specification document prepared by Ian Stainburn of Caroe & Partners with Stainburn Taylor (January 2012). The repair works are being funded under Natural England's Environmental Stewardship scheme through the Higher Level Stewardship scheme of Eastnor Estate. The works have been granted Scheduled Monument Consent (English Heritage Reference S00029828, 3rd February 2012), which requires a written scheme of archaeological recording to satisfy condition B (below) of the SMC.

(b) No ground works/ building works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological work before and during the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State advised by English Heritage.

This document has therefore been prepared to facilitate the discharging of this condition. Figure 1 shows the current English Heritage 1:500 measured survey plan of the site and three target locations for archaeological recording are annotated on the plan. The locations are as follows:

A: Gatehouse.

B: Northern staircase and curtain wall.

C: Building fragment in southeast corner.

Works are proposed to the remains at A and B. No works are proposed at C, but the remains are currently accessible and unrecorded and therefore recording is recommended.

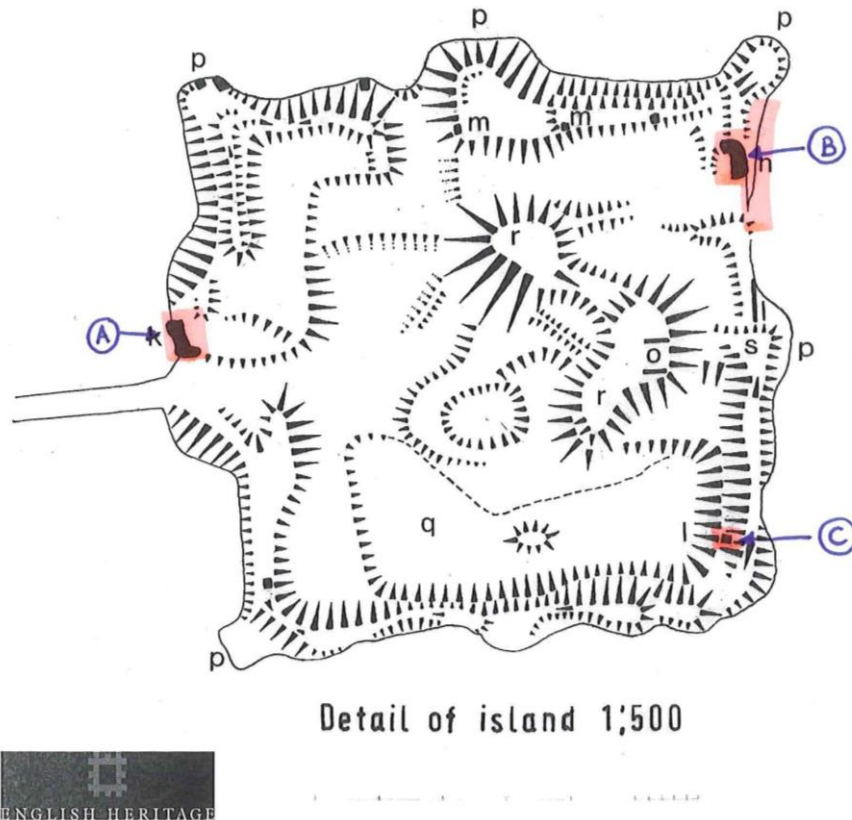


Figure 1: English Heritage Survey Plan with locations of annotated.

1: General Provisions for the site

Establish appropriate control points for all survey work to enable it to be incorporated into all future recording work on site.

Task

1. Identify and establish appropriate control points for all survey work.

Currently the site is recorded in plan at a scale of 1:500. This scale does not provide a sufficiently detailed plan to permit additional detail recorded under the current proposals to be integrated onto the plan. It is therefore recommended that a measured survey plan of the island of the castle (50m by 50m in size) be prepared at a scale of 1:100 to underpin the detailed drawn record of the gatehouse, northern staircase and other structural components.

Task

2. Prepare a measured survey plan of the island of the castle at a scale of 1:100.

2: Specific Recording Tasks

A: Gatehouse

The gatehouse has been subject to past detailed stone by stone recording of elevations and a photographic record (City of Hereford Archaeology Unit, reports number 81, 138 and 138a). It has also been subject to a programme of repair and re-pointing. The recording programme associated with the current proposals will therefore aim to provide a permanent record of the new work only.

Tasks

A1: Works described on drawing 383/2/03 (Repair at base of gatehouse)

A1.1: Once all vegetation has been removed and soil cleared away from the area to be repaired, confirm and mark on the existing 1:20 detailed elevation drawing the position of the current profile of the stonework and make a photographic record in advance of works.

A1.2: Once the repair has been completed this should be recorded on the existing 1:20 detailed elevation drawing and a photographic record made. The drawn record should clearly indicate this new work as repair so that future management strategies for the site can take this into account.

A2: Works described on drawing 383/2/04 ("Apron" area repair to stabilise slope)

A2.1: Once the ivy and shrubs have been removed any archaeological features should be recorded in a measured survey plan at a scale of 1:20, described and photographed prior to covering with soil and meadow turf. The measured survey plan should include the ground plan of the standing remains of the gatehouse in order to ensure good location information to facilitate any future interventions.

A3: Works described on drawing 383/2/06 (New corework to support base of gatehouse)

A3.1: Once the ivy has been removed any new detail should be added to the existing 1:20 detailed elevation drawings and a photographic record made in advance of works.

A3.2: Once the new core work has been completed and prior to the laying of topsoil and meadow turf the repairs should be recorded on the existing 1:20 detailed elevation drawing and a photographic record made. The drawn record should clearly indicate this new work as repair so that future management strategies for the site can take this into account.

B: Northern staircase and curtain wall

The north staircase and adjacent section of curtain wall has not been subject to any known previous recording or repair. Therefore, some limited excavation accompanied by a full drawn, descriptive and photographic record will be required to both inform the detail of the repair and establish a permanent record of this part of the site.

Tasks

B1: Works described in drawings 383/2/11 and 383/2/12 (Structural support and repair of northern staircase)

B1.1: Once vegetation from the remains has been removed, a detailed drawn record of the structure should be made in plan and in elevation at a scale of 1:20. The elevation drawings should record both full structural detail and changes in mortar type or stone type. A full descriptive and photographic record should be made to accompany these drawings.

B1.2: Once the temporary support is removed (drawing 383/2/11) and immediately prior to repair works (drawing 383/2/12) the soil and vegetation should be removed from the area of repair and a full drawn, descriptive and photographic record made.

B1.3: Once the repair work has been completed the new work should be recorded on the drawn record and a photographic record made to provide a permanent record of this intervention.

B2: Works described on drawings 383/2/15, 383/2/16 and 383/2/17 (Revetment repair to curtain wall)

B2.1: Once the tree and vegetation removal has been completed the remains of the curtain wall should be recorded as a measured 1:50 outline drawing in elevation with detail drawn as required at 1:20. It should also be recorded in plan at 1:50. Both plan and elevation should record the northern staircase to provide good location information. This should be accompanied by a full descriptive and photographic record.

B2.2: Limited excavation should be carried out near the waterline of the curtain wall where practical and necessary, to facilitate and inform the installation of gabions. New archaeological information should be added to the recording work completed under B2.1.

C: Building fragment in SE corner

This building fragment has not been subject to any known previous recording or repair. Although, no works are proposed to this structure the removal of vegetation on the site has provided the opportunity to carry out the recording and it is recommended that this is included in the current programme.

Task

C1: Vegetation should be cleared from the faces and the interfaces between faces and top to facilitate recording. A detailed drawn record of the structure should be made in plan and in elevation at a scale of 1:20. The elevation drawings should record both full structural detail and changes in mortar type or stone type. A full descriptive and photographic record should be made to accompany these drawings.

3: Reporting

Reporting will be required at various stages to both inform the development and delivery of the repair programme and to provide a permanent record of the historic fabric and the interventions made. Therefore the following reporting will be required:

- Preparation of drawings and provision of information to project manager/conservation architect to inform the design and implementation of repairs.
- Preparation of full report to provide a permanent archive of the historic fabric and the repairs.

The SMC requires the following reportage (below) under conditions J and K. A copy of the archaeological recording should also be provided to the Eastnor Estate and Natural England.

- (j) A report on the archaeological recording shall be sent to the County Sites and Monuments Record and to Mr A J Fleming at English Heritage within 3 months of the completion of the works (or such other period as may be mutually agreed).
- (k) The contractor shall complete and submit an entry on OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations - <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>) prior to project completion, and shall deposit any digital project report with the Archaeology Data Service, via the OASIS form, upon completion.

Validation

Herefordshire Archaeology operates a validation system for its reports, to provide quality assurance and to comply with Best Value procedures.

This report has been checked for accuracy and clarity of statements of procedure and results.



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