



# NAA

THE CURTAIN RISES  
THE WALLED GARDEN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
INVESTIGATIONS

NATIONAL TRUST  
SEATON DELAVAL HALL  
NORTHUMBERLAND

on behalf of  
the National Trust

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# THE WALLED GARDEN, SEATON DELAVAL HALL, NORTHUMBERLAND

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

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# THE WALLED GARDEN, SEATON DELAVAL HALL, NORTHUMBERLAND

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

### Summary

*This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological mitigation relating to the walled garden at Seaton Delaval Hall, Northumberland (NZ 32419 76699), undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd on behalf of the National Trust. This formed one of 15 of Archaeological Work Packages (AWP) conducted as part of 'The Curtain Rises' project, which is a two-year restoration scheme, part funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund, aimed at conserving the 18th-century hall and improving the overall visitor experience.*

*The walled garden mitigation works, conducted as part of AWP 5, comprised historic building recording of the walled enclosure and archaeological monitoring during ground interventions. This work was conducted at intervals between April 2019 and February 2021 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by the National Trust and approved in advance by the Northumberland County Council Assistant County Archaeologist. The fieldwork, together with this reporting, fulfils Condition 4 of Planning Permission 17/04417/FUL and relates to Listed Building Consent 17/04413/LBC.*

*The walled garden is believed to mainly date to the late 18th century, first depicted (perhaps under construction) on a 1781 plan of the estate. Plans dating to the first two decades of the 19th century show the garden set out with paths, planted beds and a rectangular pond as well as two large glasshouses and an Orangery. By 1793 the walled garden had been leased to a commercial market-garden operation and remained in use as such until the late 20th century.*

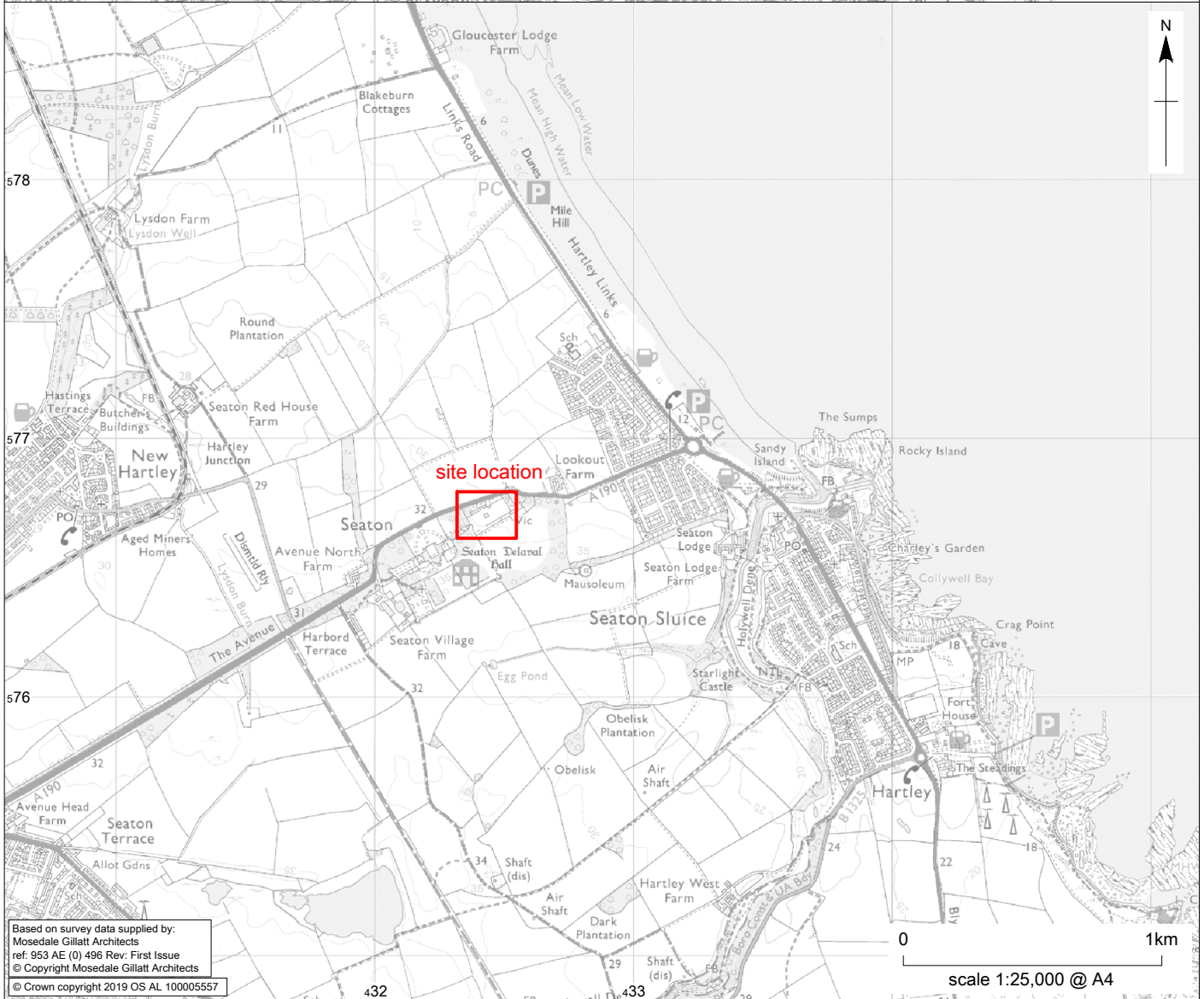
*The garden is approximately rectangular in form, orientated west-southwest to east-northeast. The walls are commonly c.2.2m high and are constructed of red, hand-made clamp brick, with the bond varying slightly on each wall. Midway along the north wall is the Orangery, which faces south across the garden, and to the west of this lies a group of late 19th-century cottages. Notably the present south wall was originally an internal division, the southern boundary of the garden having been demolished at the end of the 20th century prior to the Trust ownership. The garden was in use as a visitors' car park at the time of the survey, although the long-term aim is to restore the site to its original function. The walls of the walled garden are covered by three different Listed Building designations, all of which are Grade II.*

*The Seaton Delaval garden forms one of a small group of Northumberland walled gardens, the development of which has been shaped by the particular climatic and political pressures of the region. The asset is, without a doubt, an important feature of the Seaton Delaval landscape, and reflects the development of horticultural practice, as well changing fashions, social customs, habits and attitudes over a 200-year period.*

*As part of The Curtain Rises project the walls of the garden were repaired, repointed and consolidated. This included the erection of new brick buttresses against the exterior of the north and east walls, and the demolition of a dilapidated 20th-century greenhouse. All this work was covered under AWP 5. Recording and monitoring during the dismantling and rebuilding of the unstable northern section of the west wall of the garden formed part of AWP 3 and is covered in a separate report, although summarised here for the sake of completeness.*

*Overall, the work conducted as part of AWP 5 has provided a comprehensive record of the asset suitable to mitigate for the agreed conservation works. It has also contributed to a greater understanding of the use and development of the garden and its importance in terms of the broader Seaton Delaval landscape.*

*The walled garden report is one of five covering the archaeological works undertaken as part of The Curtain Rises project. The others cover the brewhouse, pleasure grounds, mausoleum and the hall itself. Together these complement, and in some areas expand on, the considerable body of research already undertaken in advance of the restoration works, adding to a broader understanding of life on the estate, and development of the hall and landscape over time.*



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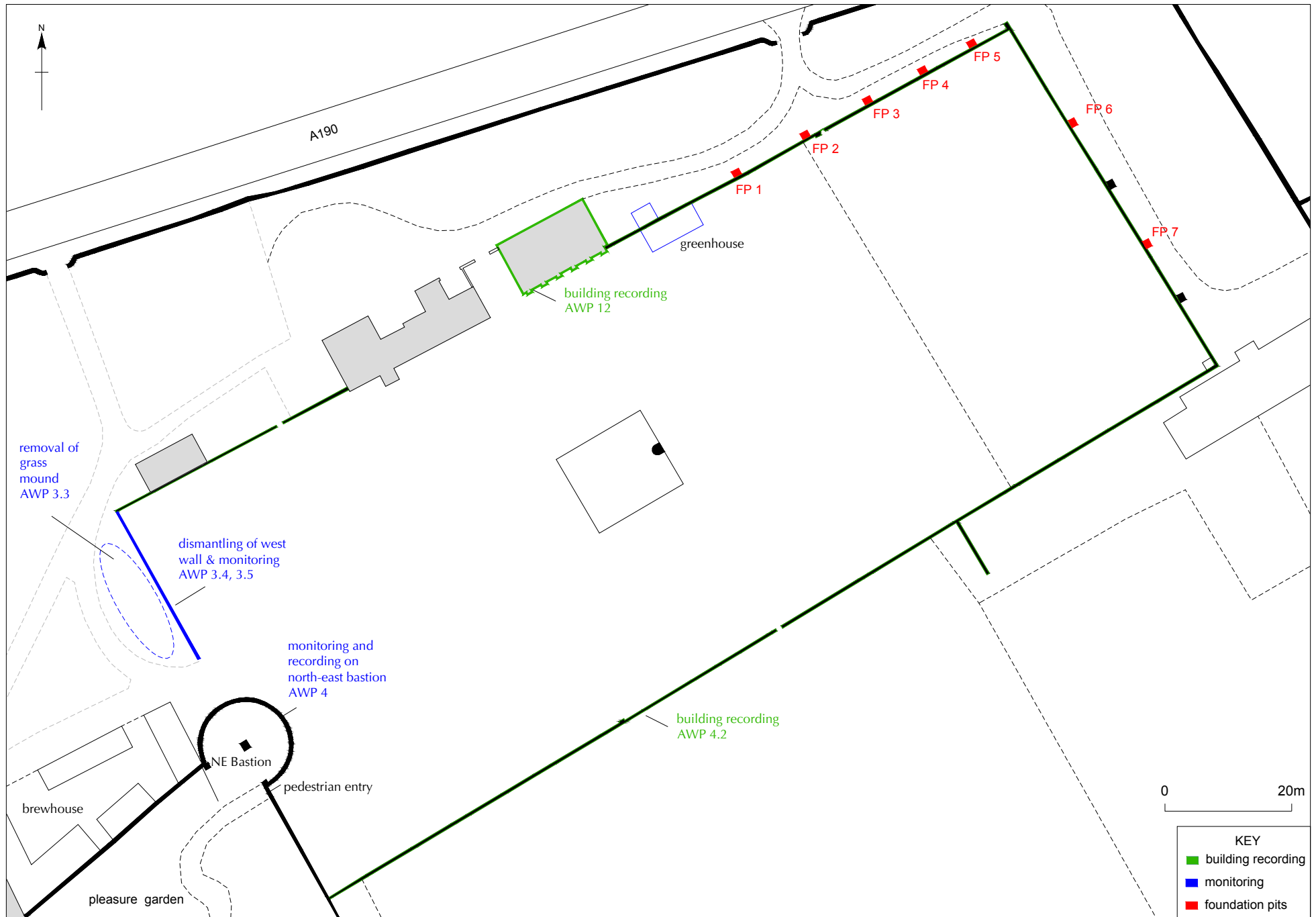
The Walled Garden, Seaton Delaval Hall: site location

Figure 1



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological mitigation undertaken in the walled garden at Seaton Delaval Hall, Northumberland (NZ 32419 76699; Fig. 1) conducted by Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd (NAA) on behalf of the National Trust. This formed one of a number of Archaeological Work Packages (AWP) (National Trust 2018a) conducted as part of 'The Curtain Rises' project, which is a two-year restoration and representation scheme, part funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund, aimed at conserving the 18th-century hall and improving the overall visitor experience.
- 1.2 The walled garden mitigation works were conducted as part of AWP 5 and comprised historic building recording of the walled enclosure and archaeological monitoring (a watching brief) during ground interventions (Fig. 2). This work was conducted at intervals between April 2019 and February 2021 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by the National Trust (National Trust 2018b) and approved in advance by the Northumberland County Council (NCC) Assistant County Archaeologist. The fieldwork, together with this reporting, fulfils Conditions 4 of Planning Permission 17/04417/FUL and relates to Listed Building Consent 17/04413/LBC.
- 1.3 The walled garden mainly dates to the late 18th century, appearing perhaps under construction on a 1781 plan of the estate. Plans dating to the first two decades of the 19th century show the completed garden set out with paths, planted beds and a rectangular pond. Two glasshouses are shown as well as the Orangery; the date of which is a matter of considerable debate (Newman 2018). Following a devastating fire in 1822, the hall was abandoned by the family, and the garden was leased to a commercial market garden operation (as it had been since 1793). It remained in use as such until the late 20th century.
- 1.4 As part of The Curtain Rises project, the walls of the garden were repaired, repointed and consolidated. This included the erection of new brick buttresses against the exterior of the north and east walls, and the demolition of a dilapidated 20th-century greenhouse (described in Newman 2017). These elements were covered all covered as part of AWP 5. In addition, the structurally unstable northern section of the west wall was dismantled and rebuilt, the monitoring and recording of which formed part of AWP 3. This work is discussed in a separate report on the brewhouse (NAA 2020a). Works on the north-east bastion and associated section of ha-ha, that forms the western boundary of the walled



Seaton Delavel Hall: location of Archaeological Work Packages and interventions

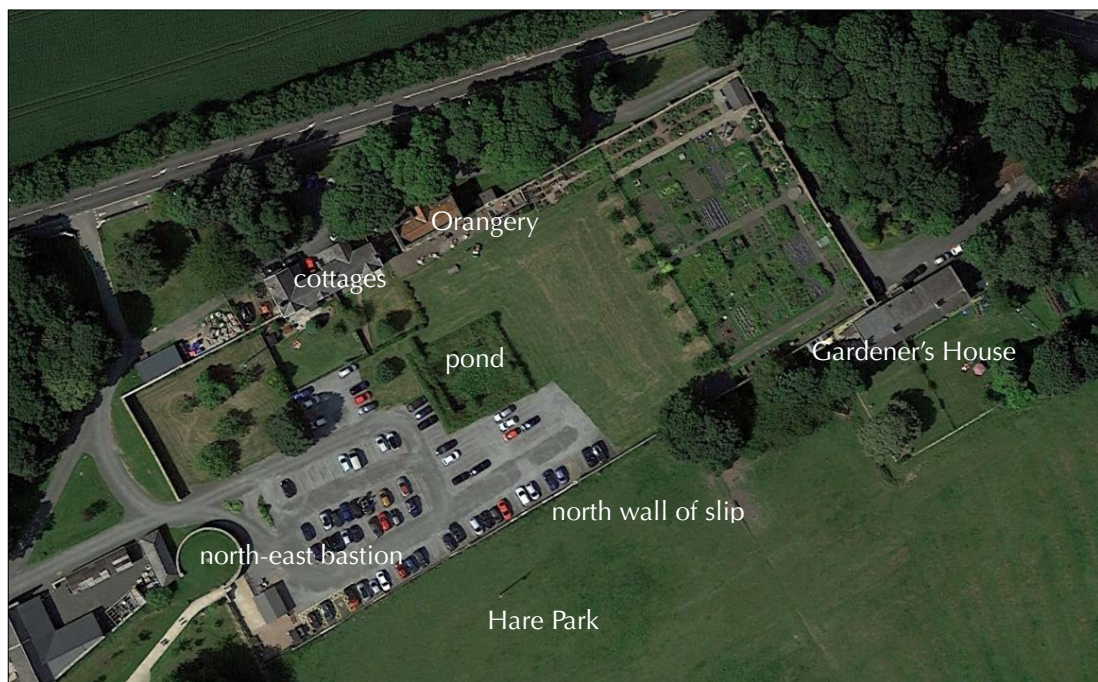
Figure 2

garden, were part of AWP 4 and are discussed in the pleasure gardens report (NAA 2020b). Both will be referenced here as appropriate.

## 2.0 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

### Location

2.1 Seaton Delaval Hall is located between Seaton Delaval and Seaton Sluice, approximately 5km south of the Port of Blyth. The walled garden lies 200m to the northeast of the main hall complex and is situated outside the ha-ha'd pleasure grounds enclosure. The north-east bastion and associated section of ha-ha form the southern section of the west boundary of the garden (Figs 2 and 3).



*Figure 3: aerial view showing key elements of the walled garden. Image © Google 2018 30/05/2020.*

### Geology

2.2 Seaton Delaval Hall is located above Devensian Diamicton: poorly sorted glacial till deposited during the last ice age. This layer lies above the Carboniferous Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation; a compilation of mudstones, siltstones and sandstones created in shallow seas (BGs 2020).

### **Description and land use**

- 2.3 The walled garden is approximately rectangular in form, orientated west-southwest to east-northeast. It tapers slightly at the eastern end where the east wall is 65m long, in contrast to the west wall which measures 70.5m. The south wall is 162m long and the north wall 159m. The reason behind the slight variation is uncertain. Walled gardens were sometimes designed with slightly unequal sides to maximise the amount of exposure to sunlight in the winter, but this seems unlikely at Seaton. Instead, the east wall may have been foreshortened to accommodate the pre-existing Gardener's House (later the Vicarage) to the south-east of the walled garden enclosure, so optimising the space available. However, the date of the Gardener's House is uncertain, although it was in existence by 1781. The building was extended west in the 19th century.
- 2.4 At the time of writing much of the south-west side of the garden was in use as the National Trust visitors' car park. Fruit trees were espaliered against the north-west wall, and the east end of the area cordoned off and cultivated as a community garden. The long-term aim for the walled garden is to relocate the car park and restore the whole area to its original function (Newman 2018).
- 2.5 Midway along the north wall is the Orangery, which faces south across the garden. West of this is a group of late 19th-century cottages—these have now been combined to form two properties. The gardens of the cottages encroach south into the walled garden enclosure. Built against the south-east corner of the walled garden is a small structure that clearly post-dated both the south and east walls. There is an ornamental pond in the centre of the area, to the south of the Orangery (Fig. 2).
- 2.6 The remains of a dilapidated 20th-century greenhouse stood against the north wall to the south-east of the Orangery, recorded by the Seaton Delaval Hall Archaeology Group in 2013 (Mosedale Gillatt Architects 2017). The greenhouse was dismantled as part of the later conservation works. The only other standing structures in the garden were two timber buildings: one a shed in the north-east corner and the other the visitors' entrance in the south-west corner, adjacent to the north-east bastion. Both are modern, introduced by the National Trust.
- 2.7 The main modern entrance into the garden at the time of writing was from the west. A second gated vehicular entrance was located between the Orangery and cottages on the north side of the enclosure. However, this was being used for storage at the time of the survey. Pedestrian access from the walled garden into the pleasure grounds was

through a gate in the south-east corner of the garden. There was also access for National Trust staff through the cottages. Further pedestrian gates also formerly communicated with the drive to the Vicarage and the southern part of the walled garden.

- 2.8 Immediately south of the garden is Hare Park and clearly visible across this are blocks of ridge and furrow running in various directions, indicative of multi-phased cultivation. The distinctive S-curve broad rigg visible in the eastern half of the field is generally considered to be evidence of medieval ploughing, suggesting the land was made over to grazing relatively early, probably by Sir Ralph Delaval in the 17th century, and has remained pasture ever since.

### **Designations**

- 2.9 The walls of the walled garden are covered by three different Listed Building designations, all of which are Grade II. The north, east and south walls are listed as National Heritage List Entry (NHLE) 1041326; the north-west corner and attached cottage are NHLE 1041327, and ha-ha wall to the south of the Gardener's House as NHLE 1041316. The west wall and north-east section of the north wall are not designated in their own right but form part of the curtilage of the other elements and the ha-ha and angle bastions (NHLE 1041323).
- 2.10 The Grade II\* listed Orangery (NHLE: 1154932) is an integrated part of the walled garden complex and is located midway along the north wall of the enclosure. Monitoring and recording of the Orangery formed part of AWP 12; however, at the time of writing, this has been placed on hold until further funding can be secured.
- 2.11 The walled garden forms a significant part of the setting of the Grade I Seaton Delaval Hall (NHLE 1041321). The gardens are also designated Grade II\* on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England (NHLE 1001052) and referred to directly in the listing description.

### **Previous work**

- 2.12 A number of surveys have been conducted over the past 10 years which have helped inform a greater understanding of the archaeological and historical evolution of the hall and grounds. In 2012, a detailed assessment of the landscape was prepared as part of a Historic Park Management Plan (Southern Green 2012). In 2014, a Conservation Management Plan was written by Simpson and Brown Architects, revised and updated in 2017, to inform the conservation works (Simpson and Brown Architects 2017).

2.13 In the same year, National Trust Archaeological Consultant, Mark Newman, prepared *Historic gardens within the and around the bastions at Seaton Delaval: the documentary and archaeological evidence*. This report re-evaluated the evolution of the pleasure gardens and bastions (Newman 2017). It was followed in 2018 by *Seaton Delaval Hall Walled Garden; Conservation Statement* (Newman 2018), which provides a very detailed account of the development of the garden and has informed the following report.

### 3.0 SUMMARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### **Historic background to the estate**

3.1 The Delaval family were first granted the manor of Seaton in the late 11th century. By the 14th century, documentary evidence suggests the estate comprised a manor house, garden, dovecote and windmill, together with 360 acres of arable and 10 acres of plantation (Newman 2017, 5). A tower is known to have existed on the site by the early 15th century, and by the mid-16th century a Tudor mansion, both of which are depicted on Speed's 1611 map of Northumberland (not reproduced).

3.2 In the early 17th century, Sir Ralph Delaval (1577–1628) made considerable modifications to the house and estate, building a large Jacobean hall around the core of the earlier complex. This was based around a forecourt and back-court and surrounded by three formal gardens (Simpson and Brown 2017, 25). An inventory produced at the time of Sir Ralph's death in 1628 shows a sizeable estate including hall, stables, dovecote, granary, brewhouse and bakehouse (*ibid.*; Newman 2017, 5).

3.3 The location of the Jacobean (and earlier) hall is uncertain; however, given the paucity of evidence for an alternative location elsewhere on the estate, it is probably safe to assume it lay on the site of the present 18th-century hall. The 17th-century formal gardens were probably set out in the area immediately surrounding the hall, as was the fashion of the period (Quest-Ritson 2001). Doddington Hall in Lincolnshire, later owned by the Delavals, is a prime example of this type of formal Jacobean garden.

3.4 In 1660, on the Restoration of King Charles to the throne, Ralph Delaval (1622–1691) was created baronet. This prompted a further phase of expansion in the late 17th-century (Newman 2017). The Delavals had amassed considerable wealth by this period from both coal and salt production (Simpson and Brown 2017, 25).

- 3.5 Following Sir Ralph's death there were a series of legal battles over inheritance. These had a considerable impact on the wealth of the estate, culminating in 1717 with the sale of the property. It was purchased by Admiral George Delaval (1668–1723), the younger son of George Delaval of Dissington, a cadet branch of the family (Craster 1909, 163). Soon after purchase, the Admiral commissioned the architect Sir John Vanbrugh (1664–1726) to build a new hall (NHLE: 1001052). However, he died before its completion following a fall from a horse. The estate passed to his nephew Captain Francis Blake Delaval (1692–1752) who continued work on the hall, the bulk of which was completed by 1730.
- 3.6 The new house later formed part of a quasi-defensive setting, comprising a rectangular platform set with four round bastions and interconnected by a 1km-long ha-ha. These are often cited as a prime example of Vanbrugh's fortified garden schemes but have been shown were not constructed until the 1740s, a number of years after the architect's death (Newman 2017). It is unclear the degree, if any, of Vanbrugh's direct involvement in the design of the bastion enclosure, although it was clearly influenced by similar schemes at Castle Howard and Blenheim. It also has parallels with the works of the landscape designer Charles Bridgman (Newman 2017; 2018).
- 3.7 In 1752, Captain Francis Blake Delaval died after a fall down the steps of the South Portico. He was succeeded by his son Sir Francis Blake Delaval (1727–1771) who was more at home in London than Northumberland and took very little interest in the estate except as the backdrop for a series of extravagant and theatrical parties. By 1761 he had accumulated considerable debt and, in a bid to preserve the estate from ruin, it was purchased by his brother John Hussey Delaval (1728–1808) in return for an annuity. Francis retained the right to occupy the hall until his death in 1771, although the management of the estate was taken over by his brother.

### **Development of the walled garden**

- 2.0 A leading industrialist and politician, John Hussey Delaval implemented a programme of improvements at Seaton Delaval Hall during his ownership, including the enclosure of Hare Park and an extensive tree planting campaign (Newman 2017 and 2018). His purchase of the Seaton Delaval estate from his brother in 1761 was undoubtedly a pragmatic manoeuvre not only to preserve the family seat from further decline but also to return the estate to a viable, profitable enterprise, including the expansion of the family's coal mines. He was assisted in this by his younger brother Thomas Delaval (d.1787).

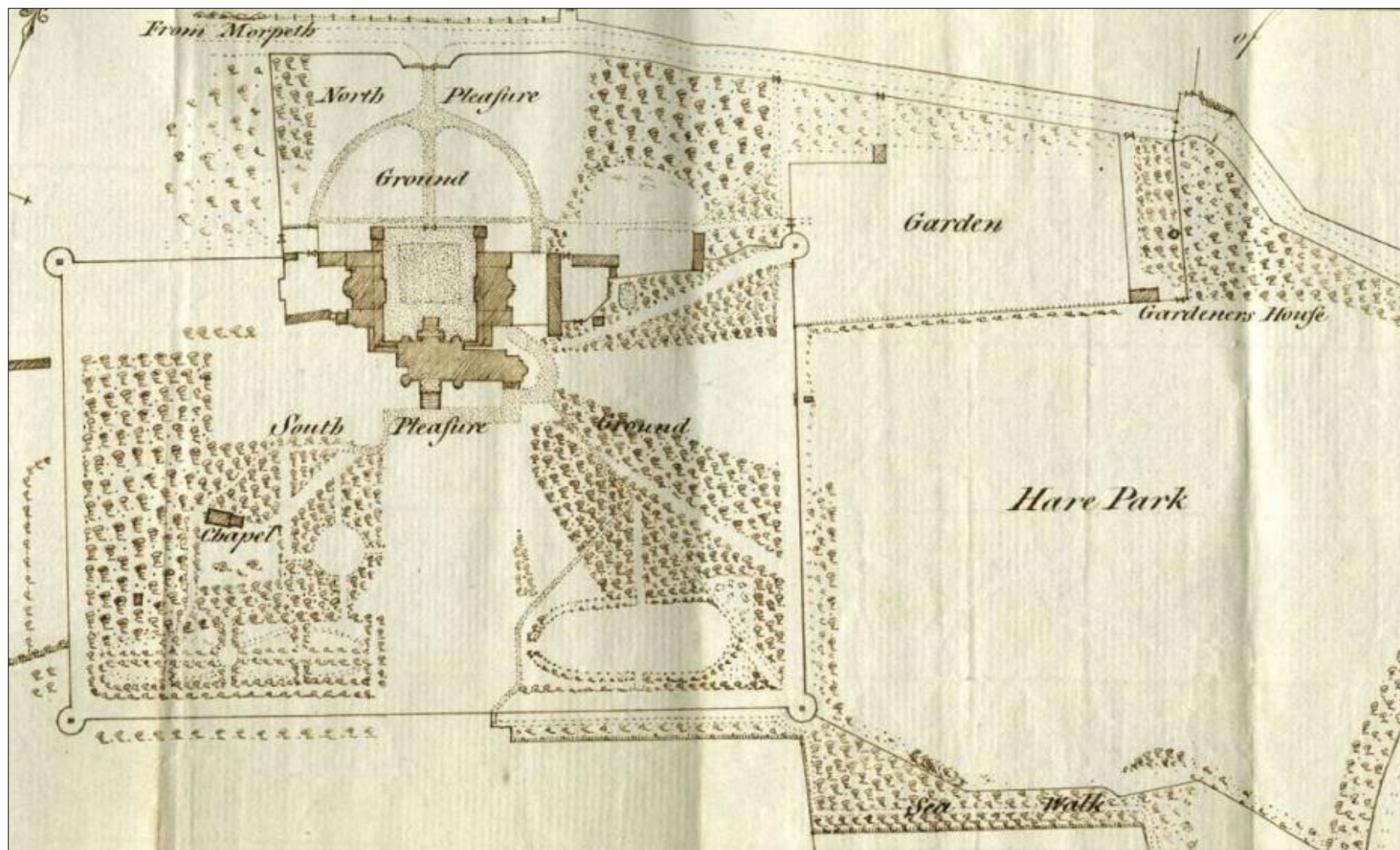


Figure 4: extract from a 1781 plan of the estate showing hall, pleasure grounds, Hare Park and walled garden (NRO 740/Box 14, Berwick-upon-Tweed Record Office).



***1781 estate plan (NRO 740/Box 14, Berwick-upon-Tweed Record Office).***

- 1.1 The earliest surviving plan of the estate dates to 1781 (Fig. 4) and was probably drawn to document the effects of the first 10 years of Sir John's direct management of the property. The layout of the landscape of the hall shown on the plan was undoubtedly very different from that conceived and set out in the first half of the century, including features that could only have been put in place in the preceding decade (Newman 2018).
- 1.2 Particularly noticeable are the large number of trees densely set in regimented plantations, in contrast to the clustered woodland, fox coverts and artful plantings more generally associated with the English Landscape Garden movement of the later 18th century. The three blocks of planting in the ha-ha enclosure to the south-west, south-east and north-east of the hall seem a particular anathema, blocking key views from the house to the chapel and encroaching on earlier parterres set at the southern end.
- 1.3 Although there had been extensive tree planting schemes in the 1720, Sir John is documented to have planted a huge number of trees across the estate, with 48,000 planted in 1772 alone (Simpson and Brown 2017, 38). The reasons behind planting on such an industrial scale was multi-faceted. It had an aesthetic purpose, revealing glimpsed views through the trees and enchanting perambulations via a network of paths and groves before the landscape opened out into impressive vistas. The wide variety of trees chosen would also have created colour and texture to the setting as well as appealed to the scientific, horticultural interests of a Georgian Gentleman (Quest-Ritson 2001). In addition, the woodland would have disguised the coal mines on the estate (Newman 2017) and served a commercial purpose providing timber for pit props and construction purposes.
- 1.4 The walled garden is shown on the 1781 plan, set outside the ha-ha enclosure, to the east of the north-east bastion. As such, it clearly forms part of a landscape scheme post-dating the hall and pleasure grounds. Indeed, it appears a rather awkward adjunct to the early 18th-century landscape setting, as opposed to an earlier feature that has been integrally designed into the scheme. Newman makes a sound argument that the central position of the north-west bastion along the west wall provided the reference point for the layout of the garden (Newman 2018). This would have provided a high viewpoint looking east across the garden from within the pleasure grounds.

- 1.5 Notably, the Orangery (Plate 1) and east section of the north wall is not shown on the plan. Newman argues that both were in existence at this time but not depicted, which seems rather odd given the detail of the rest of the map. Cartographers frequently exclude features from plans and maps depending on the specific purpose of the document, but it is puzzling in this case why this would be the case. An alternative interpretation is that the plan was drawn when the garden was under construction and that the Orangery and section of wall to the east, were not built at this stage. However, the relationship with the two adjoining walls is problematic. That on the west side adjoins the north-west corner of the building, while that on the east, the south-east rather than north-east corner. Similarly, the different treatments of the east- and west-facing facades, all of which suggest a slight readjustment in site arrangement and usage (Newman 2018). However, whether this relates to a pre-existing garden, incorporated into the later walled garden layout, remains a topic of debate.



*Plate 1: the Grade II\* listed Orangery, at the centre of the north (south-facing) wall of the walled garden.*

- 1.6 A small building is shown on the north side of the garden on the 1781 plan, terminating the west section of the north wall. This is marked as a dog kennel on a later 1808 plan of the estate (Newman 2018, 4). There is direct access north from the building to the road running from Morpeth to the coast, which could suggest it faced in that direction, although this is by no means certain.

- 1.7 The only other building depicted on the plan related to the walled garden is the 'Gardener's House'. This lies at the southern end of a separate plot to the east of the garden and was accessed via a gate in the northern estate boundary. A gate to the south provided access into Hare Park but there appeared to be no direct access into the walled garden. By the late 18th century, the Gardener's House was the residence of Elizabeth Hicks, Sir John's mistress (Newman 2018).
- 1.8 The plan shows the south wall of the walled garden extending west from the south-west corner of the Gardener's House to adjoin the ha-ha boundary to the south of the north-east bastion. This boundary is no longer extant, the present south wall being an internal division forming the 'south slip' which is shown on a later plan of the estate, dated 1808 (Fig. 5). The west wall of the garden is divided into two sections. The ha-ha and north-east bastion form the southern section of the wall, and the northern section comprises a brick wall abutting the earlier structure.
- 1.9 The main entrance into the garden is depicted as leading east from the hall, along a drive that passes in front of the brewhouse, with a gate just north of the north-east bastion. The remains of a stone plinth, associated with the north gate pier, was found during recent excavations as part of AWP 3 (NAA 2020a). Evidence of sockets for a gate mounting were also recorded as part of AWP 4 (NAA 2020b). A second path is shown extending north from the west gate to join the northern estate boundary. Access from the walled garden into the pleasure grounds was via a pedestrian gate depicted immediately south of the north-east bastion. This is extant and still in use today. No other access is shown at this point.

***1808 estate plan (National Trust archive)***

- 1.10 A plan dated 1st August 1808 was prepared by Edward Grace for Edward Hussey Delaval (NT object number 1277223) (Fig. 5). Edward had inherited the Seaton Delaval estate on the death of Sir John, his brother, in the same year. Although badly damaged, the plan depicts the walled garden as being well established by this period, with the main body of the garden set out in a series of beds. Individual plant beds within a walled garden were often raised and edged with wooden boards, brick or tile to both demarcate each plot and assist drainage. Alternatively, tight clumps of low-growing plants, such as saxifrage or sepervivum, were sometimes used (Goult 2010, 100).



*Figure 5: extract of the 1808 estate map © National Trust, object number 1277223.*

- 1.11 On the south side of the garden, the 1808 plan shows the slip as complete, with maybe an orchard on the east side and long glasshouse – marked ‘hot house’ – to the west. This is almost certainly a pinery, designed for the cultivation of pineapples and other exotic fruit. Recycled bark from the tanning process was used to heat hot-beds and, if well managed, could produce enough heat to grow pineapples for between three and six months each year (Goultly 2010, 104). The Seaton accounts reference the payment of James Somervell for his work on the construction of the pinery in March 1781 (Newman 2018, 4). However, plans for such a building were being discussed in the correspondence of Thomas Delaval as early as 1769 (Simpson and Brown 2017, 35).
- 1.12 The Seaton pinery was built against the north wall of the slip, creating a second productive south-facing wall within the garden. This perhaps raises a question about the nature of the main south wall. A full-height wall in this location would have cast the slip in shadow for part of the day, which would have been a significant disadvantage, limiting the productive viability of the glasshouse and south-facing slip wall. This suggests the southern boundary wall may have been substantially lower than the slip in order to maximise exposure to the sun, as is the case at Chesters Herb Garden near Chollerford (Goultly 2010, 100). Notably the southern boundary is depicted on the 1781 plan as a hachured line, suggesting it may have been a ha-ha wall with associated ditch on the south side. This would have provided protection to the garden while maximising sun into the southern slip, indicating it did form part of the original design concept even if constructed slightly later than the rest of the walled enclosure. Further evidence of

this is provided by the orientation of the garden on the north-east bastion, which sits symmetrically on the west side if the layout includes the south slip, but awkwardly asymmetrically without it (Newman *pers. comm.*).

- 1.13 Entrance into the south slip is shown on the 1808 plan as located to the east of the southern hothouse. A reused ornate 17th-century door (now blocked) is *in situ* marking this entry point. A second entry point was at the west end where the north wall of the slip did not adjoin the ha-ha but stopped short. A footpath is shown in this location leading south from the garden into Hare Park.
- 1.14 This plan is the first to show the north side of the garden complete, including the Orangery—with adjoining building marked as a dog kennel to the west—and the east section of the north wall. A second glasshouse is shown built up against the south face of the north wall, within the interior of the walled garden. As previously mentioned, the south-facing wall of any walled garden was the most important as it has the longest exposure to the sun's heat and light. This is even more significant in the colder climes of the north where the risk of frost extended well into spring, although the coastal location of the estate would have protected it from the worst extremes of the wintery weather experienced further inland. Heated walls, which allowed plants and fruit trees to withstand the severe winters, were a common feature of Northumberland gardens (Goultly 2010, 104) but there is little evidence to suggest that the walls here were heated. This is particularly surprising given the ample supply of locally sourced coal from the Delaval mines. The Orangery also appears originally not to have been heated, although account entries show that both glasshouses were (Newman 2018). Proximity to the sea may have reduced the risk of frost or horse manure may have been banked along the walls to gently heat the plants as it decomposed (Goultly 2010).
- 1.15 The Orangery and glasshouses would have enabled the cultivation of a variety of delicate, non-hardy plants and flowers including pineapples, vines, apricots and orchids, for consumption and display purposes. As early as 1766 there are records of pineapple plants being selected from the nursery of James Shiells of Lambeth for shipment by sea to be grown in the Seaton Delaval glasshouses (Goultly 2010, 105). Those in the walled garden were not constructed at that point, meaning there was probably an earlier building elsewhere on the site, which is to be expected given the interest and degree of social status attached to the cultivation of exotic fruit from the 17th century onwards. Newman suggests that there may have been an earlier glasshouse

closer to the hall forming the south side of the east (stable) court (Newman 2018, 7). If so, this could possibly be the 'conservatory or greenhouse', mentioned by author and local historian John Wallis in his 1769 description of the estate, which has often been interpreted as a reference to the Orangery.

- 1.16 The cultivation of exotic and soft fruits on the estate continued well into the 19th century, with record of 114 parcels of fruit being sent out from the walled garden to various parties between July and December 1806, including grapes, peaches and nectarines to the Officers' Mess at the Tynemouth Castle Barracks (Goulty 2010, 105). With an election in 1807, the palms of political power were being greased not so much with gold as with pineapples!
- 1.17 Slightly offset from the Orangery, the 1808 plan shows a broad tree-lined (box-hedge?) walk running south towards the slip wall. A second path is shown intersecting this running east to west, although partially obscured by the word 'GARDEN'. This second path is interrupted on the west side by a rectangular pond. Notably the pond was not set central to the Orangery but offset to the west, located opposite an enclosed area between the Orangery and the small building first shown on the 1781 plan, which is marked on the 1808 plan as a dog kennel.
- 1.18 The main entrance into the walled garden remained on the west side of the enclosure. However, the path leading north from this to the boundary wall is not depicted, the interceding area being covered by trees. Based on the available image of the plan, it is uncertain if any other access points were depicted.
- 1.19 The final thing of note on the 1808 plan is a second walled garden – annotated 'Kitchen Garden' - located outside the south pleasure garden, to the south of the south-east bastion (not illustrated in this report). The name suggests there may have been a greater focus on the production of herbs and vegetables for consumption, with the more exotic species reserved for the walled garden, although the relationship may have been more complex. Early kitchen gardens had traditionally been located close to the main house and stables, so ensuring convenient access from the kitchen as well as a ready supply of manure as fertilizer and – when decomposing - as a source of heating. However, development in 18th-century landscape design saw the kitchen garden generally hidden from view, often set at some distance from the main house (Campbell 2015). The kitchen garden, therefore, may have been erected at the same time, or soon after, the walled

garden; both forming part of a phase of mid to late 18th century expansion outside the immediate confines of the 'fortified' enclosure.

- 1.20 Newman draws attention to the fact that by the end of the 18th century, production in both gardens was being 'out-sourced' to a gardener, Lord Delaval paying a 'market price' for the production of both fruit and vegetables for the Delaval kitchens. This practice was probably the genesis of the later commercial market garden in operation by the mid-19th century (Newman 2018, 5).

***1818 estate plan (National Trust archive)***

- 1.21 The 1818 estate plan (Fig. 6) (NT collection, object no. unknown) was drawn up four years after the death Sir Edward Hussey Delaval. It shows less detail in terms of the beds and paths than the 1808 plan but the buildings seem to be depicted more accurately, particularly the two glasshouses. Both have small ancillary structures to the north which were almost certainly furnace or boiler houses. The small building added to the east of the Orangery may have served the same purpose.

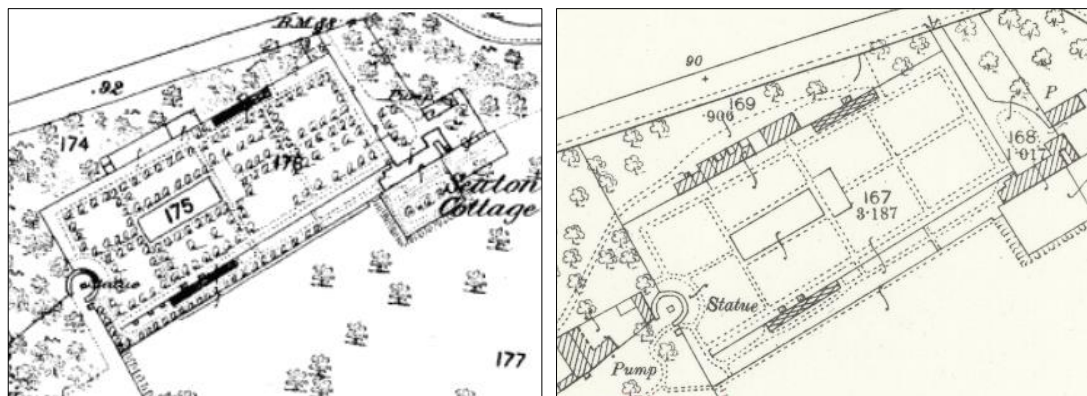


*Figure 6: extract of the 1818 estate map © National Trust, object no. unknown.*

- 1.22 Records of the purchase of 31 species of heather from the plant nursery of William Falla of Newcastle and Gateshead in 1804 suggest there might have been an erica house at Seaton Delaval (Goultly 2010, 105). The new building depicted in the south slip, set in

a separate enclosure between the pinery and Gardener's House, could have served this function, although equally one of the other glasshouses may have been utilised for erica cultivation. Access into the enclosure is not shown on the 1818 plan but a small path is shown on the 1896 25-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map (Fig. 8) indicating a door in the north wall of the slip. The 1818 plan is also the first to show the small square building in the south-east corner of the walled garden enclosure.

- 1.23 The pond first shown on the 1808 plan had been extended to the west by 1818 and a second much smaller pond added to the east, creating a water feature on each side of the path leading from the Orangery to the south slip. The reason for the expansion of the pond is not clear, particular given that the owner rarely visited the estate during this period (Newman 2018, 9).
- 1.24 Other features of note are two narrow enclosures set out to the north of the garden. The westernmost of these is shown on the 1858 first edition OS (Fig. 7) as the main entrance into the garden. The map suggests that the main entrance on the west side of the enclosure appears to have been modified for pedestrian use only and the related track removed. Access into the pleasure grounds via the door to the south of the bastion remained open. The closure of the west vehicular entrance may represent the final break with the estate and operation of the garden as a separate commercial enterprise.



*Figures 7 and 8: (left) extract of the 1858 25-inch OS map; (right) 1896 25-inch OS.*

### ***19th-century Ordnance Survey (OS) maps***

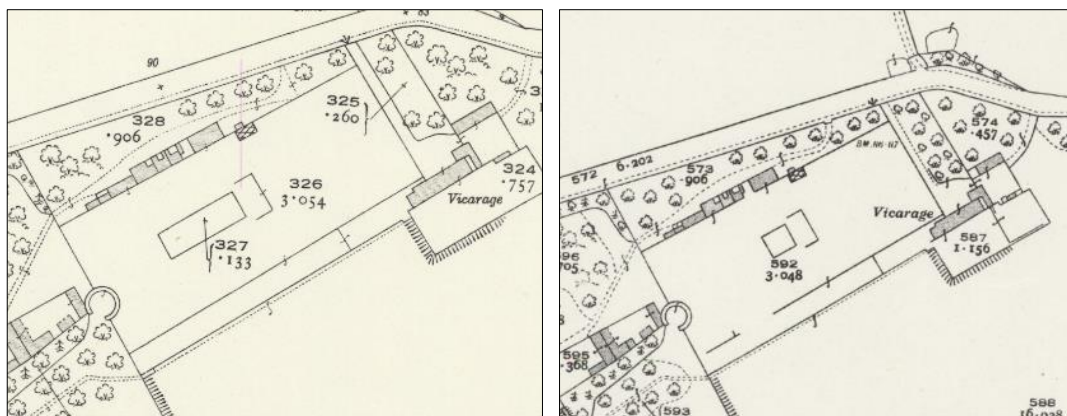
- 1.25 The 25-inch First Edition OS map, published in 1858 (Fig. 7), shows a layout very similar to that of the 1818 plan, although depicting additional detail of the beds. These were probably extant in 1818 but simply not illustrated. A series of narrow shrub- or tree-lined paths divide the beds. The ponds remain the same size. A path is also shown



- running the full length of the south slip, the enclosure and building at the eastern end being demolished by this point. If this were an erica house then that sort of horticulture may have been abandoned as of little commercial value.
- 1.26 On the north side of the garden, the small building (furnace house) adjoining the Orangery has gone. Two buttresses are also depicted on the exterior of the east wall, indicative of emerging structural problems. A further three buttresses are also shown at the western end of the north wall of the slip, just west of the glasshouse (pinery).
- 1.27 The Second Edition 25-inch OS, published in 1896 (Fig. 8) shows considerable change on the north side of the garden in the late 19th century with the construction of three cottages to the west of the Orangery, set with coal store or netty to the north. The small building shown on the 1781 plan appears to have remained *in situ* with two additional structures built adjoining to the west. The area to the north of the walled garden was reconfigured to accommodate the new dwellings with the addition of a driveway and yard area. Within the garden, the arrangement of the beds may have been rationalised with the setting out of eight rectangular beds, most of which appear similar in size and shape except for the two on each side of the surviving pond.
- 1.28 Primary access remained from the north, via the entrance shown in development on the 1818 plan. On the west side of the garden the two pedestrian gates remained in use, as did the route into the south slip. There was also an exit through the south boundary into Hare Park, and a second exit at the east end where the wall joined the garden to the south of the Gardener's House. This was labelled as the Vicarage at that time, although it will continue to be called the Gardener's House through this report for the sake of clarity.
- 1.29 The path leading from the Orangery to the north wall of the slip is still shown as is the entrance marked by the reused 17th-century door. East of this is a possible second door, associated with what was the enclosure shown on the 1818 plan. On the east side of the garden, the 1896 map is the first to show a defined path leading to the door (now blocked) in the south-east corner.
- 1.30 The Third Edition 25-inch OS map, published in 1920 (Fig. 9), shows a dramatic change from the 1896 map. The beds and paths have all apparently disappeared. Given that these have been shown on the earlier maps at the same scale it is probably safe to assume that the beds had been removed rather than were simply not drawn, and they

may have been ploughed during the First World War to produce extra food for the war effort. In addition, the north wall of the slip has been extended to abut the ha-ha and the pinery glasshouse demolished. The second glasshouse, on the north side of the garden enclosure, had also been demolished by this stage and replaced with a much smaller greenhouse. To the west of the cottages further structures had been added and the small building shown on the 1781 plan may, or may not, have been incorporated into the westernmost of the three late 19th-century cottages. This requires further investigation.

- 1.31 The Fourth Edition OS, surveyed in 1941 (Fig. 10), shows the partial demolition of the north wall of the slip. The entrance into the garden from the north had also been blocked by this stage and the pond reduced in size to its current dimensions. In addition, the small section of wall dividing the Gardener's House from the eastern end of the slip had been removed. This annexed the property on a permanent basis so it now forms part of the Gardener's House garden.



*Figures 9 and 10: (left) extract of the 1920 25-inch OS map; (right) 1941 25-inch OS map.*

- 1.32 Later iterations of the OS (not reproduced) show the layout of the garden remained largely unchanged throughout the later 20th century. The main south wall was depicted *in situ* into the early 1990s, although is no longer extant today. Traces of a linear boundary, and a possibly related cross wall, can be seen on an aerial photograph of the site taken in 2002 (Fig. 11). During the survey, a former estate worker, residing in one of the Gardener's House cottages, recounted how the western half of the extant wall had collapsed during the removal of ivy in the 1970s, although it is uncertain if this related to the standing slip wall or the now demolished main south wall.



*Figure 11: aerial photograph of the walled garden in 2002. Image © Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky 01/01/2002.*

### ***2002 Google Earth aerial photograph***

- 1.33 The 2002 aerial was taken when Edward Astley, the 22nd Baron Hastings, still owned and managed the estate. As mentioned, the main south wall had been demolished by this stage and the north wall of the slip repaired to form the current southern boundary of the garden. It also appears that part of the west wall north of the bastion had been dismantled to reform a wider vehicular entrance, much as it appears today. Rubble is shown banked up against the west wall and in front of the brewhouse, probably associated with remodelling works carried out by Lord Astley, archaeological evidence of which is discussed in the brewhouse report (NAA 2020a).
- 1.34 On the north side of the walled garden, all of the buildings west of the 19th-century cottages, including that shown on the 1781 plan, had been demolished by this period and a new modern garage block constructed. This remains standing. Part of the north-west section of the walled garden has also been separated off to provide private gardens for the cottages, while east of the 20th-century greenhouse a series of cold frames are shown running along the south-facing elevation. However, there are few other signs of cultivation. The pond has been at least partially drained as no traces of the smaller pond, shown on the 1818 plan, remain visible.

1.35 In 2009, the National Trust purchased Seaton Delaval Hall following a national and local fundraising campaign. Soon after the purchase, the topsoil was scrapped back from the surface of area on the south-east side of the walled enclosure to form the visitor's car park, and a section at the east end established as a community garden. In 2018 work began on 'The Curtain Rises' project, part funded by a £3.7 million National Lottery Heritage Fund award. With regards to the walled garden this involved the completion of critical repairs to stabilise and consolidate the structure, including the dismantling and rebuilding of the unstable northern section of the west wall, and six new supporting buttresses (Fig. 11). The unsafe remains of the 20th-century greenhouse was also demolished.

1.36 The Trust's long-term plan for the walled garden is to relocate the visitor parking and restore the site to a fully productive garden.

## 2.0 SCOPE OF WORKS

2.1 This report covers AWP 5, one of a series of 15 packages devised to provide archaeological mitigation during *The Curtain Rises* project. Package 5 comprised archaeological mitigation during two phases of repair to the walled garden (Fig. 2). This repair included consolidation and repair to the standing masonry, and construction of six buttresses along the exterior of the north and east walls. The 20th-century greenhouse abutting the south-facing elevation of the north wall was also demolished.

2.2 The archaeological works forming part of AWP 5 comprised:

- 5.2 watching brief during any groundworks and during repairs to the ha-ha wall south of the north-east bastion;
- 5.3 pre-intervention recording of significant traces of past function or design in the walls; and
- 5.4 particular pre-intervention recording of the apparent blocked gate in the north-west corner of the garden.

2.3 Due to a communication error, elements 5.3 and 5.4 were conducted after consolidation work had been completed. As it turned out, this proved beneficial because all vegetation had been cleared and a comprehensive record of the structure could be completed. The survey was enhanced with pre-intervention photographs kindly provided by Mosedale Gillatt Architects. These are referenced appropriately.

2.4 The demolition and rebuilding of the northern section of the west wall formed part of AWP 3 relating to the brewhouse complex and has been reported separately (NAA 2020a). This is referenced throughout where relevant. This work terminated south of any junction with the fabric containing the north-west gate.

### **3.0 STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES**

3.1 Work was carried out in accordance with the following published standards and guidelines of practice:

- *Understanding Historic Buildings. A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (Historic England 2016);
- *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2020a);
- *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (ClfA 2020b);
- *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2020c);
- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015);
- *Yorkshire, the Humber & the North East: A Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process* (South Yorkshire Archaeology Service 2018);
- *A Strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds* (English Heritage 1995);
- *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 2001); and
- *Written Scheme of Investigation, Seaton Delaval Hall*. (National Trust 2018b).

### **4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

4.1 The aim of the mitigation work was to both provide an analytical historic building record (Historic England Level 3) of the walled garden enclosure and to 'preserve by record' any archaeological evidence relating to the development of the asset. Similarly, the aim of the archaeological monitoring of below-ground interventions was to record any significant remains either relating to, or pre-dating, the garden enclosure that might have been lost as a result of construction.

4.2 In accordance with the WSI (National Trust 2018b, 7), the aim of the archaeological watching brief was to:

- optimise the recording and (where possible) recovery of archaeological data/material in order to develop our understanding of the history of Seaton Delaval Hall and its setting;
- meet the spirit and detail of the conditions in place in the Planning Consents;
- meet the requirements of the NT adopted conservation principles;
- maximise public benefit arising from physical loss to the archaeological resource, and
- provide appropriate level of archaeological mitigation in accordance with NPPF.

4.3 And of the building recording it was to:

- optimise the recording and (where possible) recovery of archaeological data/material in order to develop our understanding of the history of the buildings of Seaton Delaval Hall;
- meet the spirit and detail of the conditions in place in the Planning Consents and support some of those of the Listed Buildings Consents;
- meet the requirements of the NT adopted conservation principles;
- maximise public benefit arising from physical loss to the archaeological resource, and
- Provide appropriate level of archaeological mitigation in accordance with NPPF.

## 5.0 METHODOLOGY

### **Archaeological monitoring and excavation**

5.1 All works resulting in sub-surface intervention were monitored under a continuous watching brief. Where a mechanical excavator was used this was fitted with a toothless bucket. Where structures, features, deposits or finds of archaeological interest were exposed, mechanical excavation ceased to allow the investigating archaeologist to clean, assess, and excavate by hand where appropriate, then sample and record features and finds. A similar process was followed where the topsoil and overburden were dug by hand by the client's contractor.

5.2 A full record (written, drawn and photographic, as appropriate) was made using pro-forma record sheets. Plans and section drawings were drawn at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as required. The location of any archaeological features, together with the edges

of the excavated areas, were recorded in relation to readily identifiable and permanent structural features on the ground or surveyed in with a sub-centimetre-accurate GPS.

- 5.3 A full photographic record was created in digital format. This included general site shots, shots of each excavation area, and shots of individual features and groups of features. All photographs included a suitable scale and were recorded on a photographic register, noting the subject and direction of each shot. An ordered catalogue of all photographs is included with the site archive.
- 5.4 No stratified finds were found. Unstratified finds were collected where it was considered that they could contribute significantly to the project objectives or were of intrinsic interest. Following excavation, analysis and reporting of artefacts was undertaken by NAA in-house staff.
- 5.5 No undisturbed deposits were encountered which were considered suitable for environmental sampling.
- 5.6 All other aspects of the WSI (National Trust 2018b) were followed unless otherwise agreed with the NCC Assistant County Archaeologist and National Trust Archaeological Consultant. Any such cases of variation from this standard are indicated in the text.

#### **Historic building recording**

- 5.7 A historic building survey of the walled garden was completed in February 2021. Due to an issue with communication, it took place after the consolidation work had been completed. All vegetation had been stripped back by this point, providing ideal conditions for recording. Pre-intervention photographs provided by the architects Mosedale Gillatt Architects were used to enhance the archaeological record where available.
- 5.8 A Level 3 analytical survey was conducted following published guidelines (Historic England 2016) comprising a photographic and written record of both the interior and exterior faces of the garden enclosure. The existing architect's plan of the site was annotated on site.
- 5.9 All photographs were taken from a position as near parallel to the features as possible, using a Canon EOS5d MkII digital camera (20 megapixels). General shots were taken to establish context as well as detailed photographs of important archaeological or

architectural features. Each photograph contained a graduated photographic scale of appropriate dimensions as well as a north arrow where appropriate. A catalogue of all photographs has been submitted as part of the archive.

- 5.10 A general written record was made of construction type, purpose, plan, date and development. A more detailed record of any elements of particular significance was made where warranted. A list of context numbers assigned during the recording is in Appendix A.

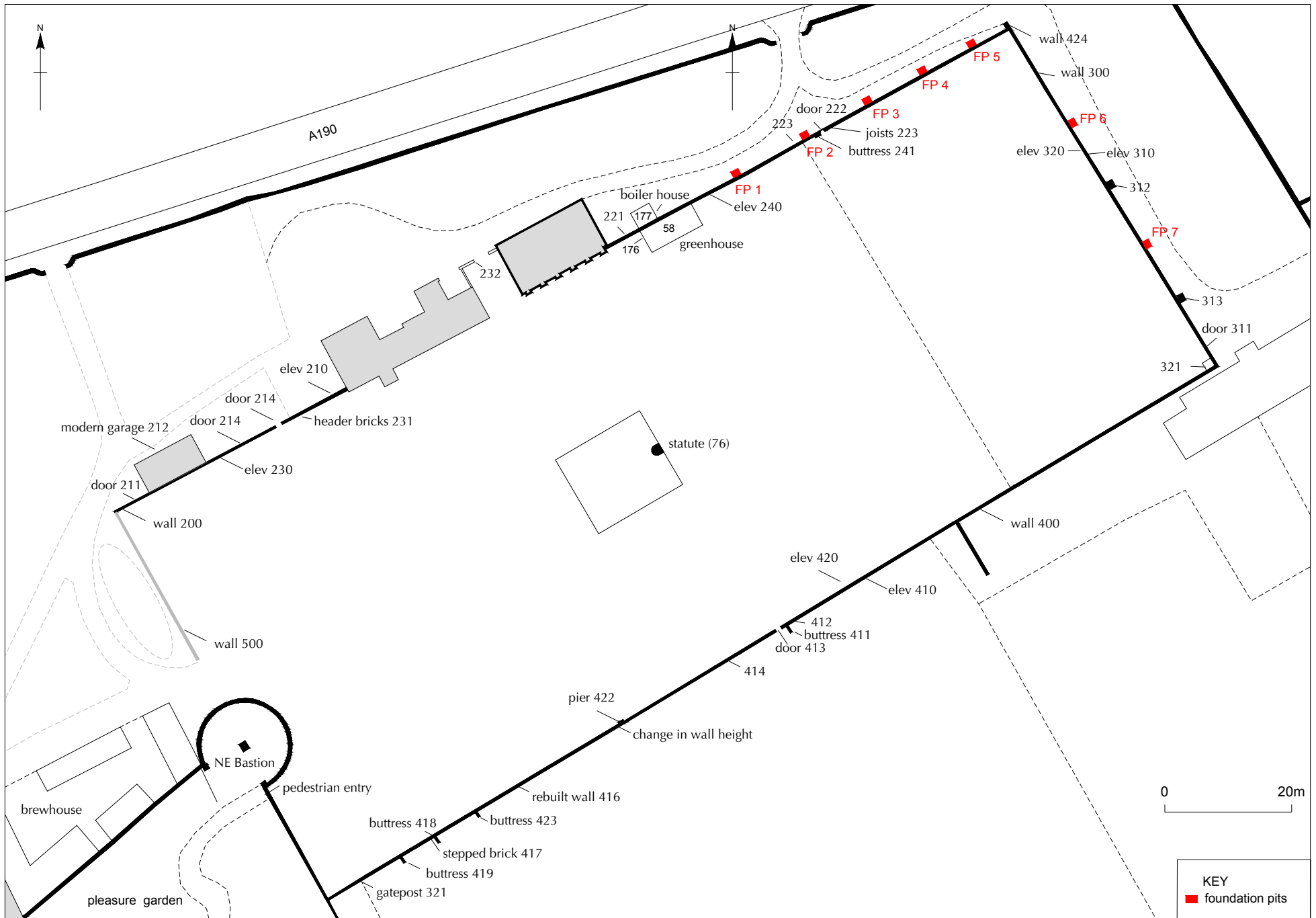
## 6.0 RESULTS

### 5.2 Watching brief during groundworks and repairs

#### *Monitoring of buttress foundation excavations*

- 6.1 Seven 1m by 1m foundation trenches were excavated against the external elevations of the north and east walls of the garden in advance of the construction of a series of new support buttresses (Fig. 2). Five foundation pits (FP1 to 5) were located the east of the Orangery against the north-facing elevation of the north wall, and two (FP 6–7) against the east-facing elevation of the east wall (Fig. 12).
- 6.2 All but two of the trenches were excavated by the contractor over the weekend of the 23–24 February 2019 without archaeological supervision and subsequently filled with concrete. Only two the two trenches at the eastern end of the north wall (FP 1–2) were properly photographed and recorded. These were both excavated to a depth of c.0.7m. A considerable build-up of soil was observed built up against the garden wall, the foundations of which extending c.0.45m below ground level (bgl). The brick structure was observed to stand on a mortared sandstone foundation level, c.0.25m deep.
- 6.3 The remains of a second wall (57) were observed extending north to south along the eastern edge of the FP1. This abutted the lower foundations of the garden wall and was probably the west wall of the boiler or furnace house associated with the late 18th-century glasshouse, first shown on the 1818 estate plan (Fig. 6). Both walls were constructed of handmade red brick, measuring 0.24m by 0.12m by 0.06m. The extant boiler house building (177) to the west is a much later structure relating to the 20th-century greenhouse (Fig. 9).





Seaton Delavel Hall: features identified during building recording

Figure 12



*Plate 2: FP 1 – buttress trench showing the stone foundations of the garden wall and wall of the 18th-century glasshouse boiler house.*



*Plate 3: FP 2 – buttress trench showing the wall foundations.*

- 6.4 Accumulated against both walls was a deposit (59) of mixed ash, small angular stones and brick fragments held in a dark grey-black silt. This extended for c.0.5m below the modern topsoil. There was no evidence of a construction cut for the wall on this side of the garden. The deposit was similar to the modern, semi-industrial made-ground recorded in relation to the brewhouse compound (NAA 2020a) and contained modern inclusions such as milk bottles. This was probably associated with modern building work around the Orangery and greenhouse, as well as perhaps domestic waste from the cottages.
- 6.5 The second buttress foundation trench (FP 2; Plate 3) was located c.10m east of FT1 and featured the same sequence of deposits recorded in FP1 apart from the cross wall (57).

#### *Demolition of the greenhouse*

- 6.6 Within the interior of the garden the early 20th-century greenhouse (58) shown on the 1920 OS (Fig. 9) was in a state of collapse and overgrown with brambles (Fig. 11; Plate 4). This presented a potential safety hazard and was of limited historic significance. The structure was carefully dismantled under archaeological supervision as part of the AWP 5 works. The greenhouse was 9m by 3.8m in plan comprising a superstructure of timber and glass sitting on a 0.75m-high modern brick wall, laid in common bond. It had an entrance (175) to the south-west (Plate 5).



*Plate 4: greenhouse prior to dismantling, looking north-northeast.*



*Plate 5: greenhouse viewed from the north-west, looking east.*



*Plate 6: greenhouse site after demolition with chimney and cast-iron pipes.*

- 6.7 At the back of the greenhouse, a door (176) had been cut through the garden wall to connect with a boiler house (177) built against the north-facing elevation of the wall (Fig. 11). The boiler house measured 3.5m by 2.7m, with a deep pit in the northern half of the floor (Plate 7), a coal chute (178) in the north-west wall, and exterior door (179) in the north-east wall (Plate 6). A flue (180) had been inserted into the garden wall above the pit, with brick stack constructed on the interior. Cast-iron pipework (181) ran

from the boiler house through the wall and around the greenhouse (Plate 6), and a standpipe for water was situated to the west of the chimney.

### *Fish sculpture*

- 6.8 A cast concrete fragment of a fish sculpture was recovered by the contractor during work just outside of the walled garden. This was identified by National Trust volunteers as belonging to a statue which had, until the latter half of the 20th century, stood in the centre of the garden pond (76). Only the tail was recovered, which included a metal armature for fixing to a pedestal or stand.



*Plates 7 and 8: (left) pit in the greenhouse boiler room; (right) fragment of fish sculpture (76).*

### *Monitoring of repairs to the ha-ha south of the north-east bastion*

- 6.9 In February 2019, archaeological monitoring was conducted during the repair of a damaged section of the ha-ha wall (34) to the south of the north-east bastion (Fig. 11). The installation of ceramic salt-glazed drainage pipe, probably in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, had caused the gradual collapse of the wall face leading to instability.
- 6.10 Turf was cleared from the top of the structure in order to assess the damage. The coping stones had already been removed, probably when the drainpipe was originally installed, and as a result rainwater had penetrated the core of the wall, contributing to its collapse

(Plate 9). The outer face of the wall was photographically recorded, and the individual stones were numbered to enable reinstatement after consolidation (Plate 10).

- 6.11 The masonry consisted of small, hammer-dressed, ashlar blocks, measuring 0.25–0.3m in width with a maximum length of 0.75m. These were laid in courses varying in thickness between 0.20m and 0.30m. Overall, the southeast-facing section of the ha-ha wall was 208m long and the visible part exposed above ground level stood to 1.4m high above the base of its adjoining ha-ha ditch. No repair work was conducted below the present ground level and the true height of the wall within the earthwork was not determined. Further repair and renovation work to other parts of the ha-ha wall was undertaken over the course of the project and are discussed in a separate report (NAA 2020b).



*Plate 9: damage to the ha-ha wall.*



Plate 10: ceramic drain and damage to the south-east face of the ha-ha wall.

### **5.3, 5.4 recording of the walls and blocked gate in the north-west corner**

- 6.12 As previously discussed, this work was scheduled to be completed pre-intervention but due to problems with communication the survey took place after the consolidation work had taken place. This was enhanced by reference to pre-intervention photographs taken

by the architects where available. Although this methodology varied somewhat from the original intention, the resulting survey nevertheless provides an important analytical record of the standing structure made under optimum conditions. This complements the earlier work completed by Newman as part of the Conservation Statement (Newman 2018).

- 6.13 The boundary wall was constructed of red, hand-made, clamp brick with the bond varying slightly on each wall. The western section of the north wall (210) was appropriately set in English Garden Wall (or Common) bond, with five to six stretcher courses to each header course. This was the same as the north end of the west wall (500), dismantled prior to the survey and recorded as part of AWP 3(NAA 2020a).
- 6.14 The eastern end of the north wall (220) is set in Running bond without header courses, although with intermittent headers, usually set in groups of two, interspersed at intervals to tie the faces of the brickwork together. The south wall (400), which forms the north wall of the south slip, is of the same construction. This suggests the two were built at a similar time (neither are shown on the 1781 plan). The variation in the build could indicate a different building contractor; perhaps a specialist (James Somervell?) brought in to construct the two glasshouses and related walls (220 and 400) as part of a separate contract. The main south wall was demolished probably in the late 20th century.
- 6.15 The east wall (300) is a hybrid of English Garden Wall bond, featuring two to three stretcher courses interspersed by a course of both stretches and headers together. The number of header courses varies considerably without a set pattern, although they are more frequent than those used in the north and south walls.
- 6.16 All the walls were historically capped with rectangular sandstone coping stones. These survive in places, although extensively replaced in concrete in many areas.

### ***North wall (200)***

#### *Exterior*

- 6.17 The north wall (200) was divided into two sections east to west by the Orangery and 19th-century cottages. As previously discussed, the bond was slightly different on each side (210/230 and 220/240), indicating they were perhaps built at different times. This may account for the absence of the east section of the wall on the 1781 plan.
- 6.18 At the west end of the north wall (210) was a blocked doorway or opening (211), c.1.4m

in width and 2.2m high with no evidence of a door frame or case (Plates 11 and 12). However, the shape of the blocking – larger at the base, centre and top sections – suggests it may very likely have originally featured a stone architrave similar to that of the door 311 at the southern end of the east wall (Plate 13).



*Plate 11: blocked doorway (211) at the west end of the north wall after consolidation.*



*Plates 12 and 13: (left) blocked doorway (211) prior to consolidation. Reproduced with kind permission Mosedale Gillatt Architects; (right) door at the southern end of the east wall (311).*



- 6.19 No entrance in this location is shown on the 1781 plan, on which only the west (vehicular?) entrance is depicted. Similarly, nothing appears on the 1818 plan or 1855 OS map, although a path is shown in association with **311** to the east. It is possible that both **211** and **311** date to the late 18th century but pedestrian access routes were not shown on the 1781 plan. Alternatively, the door case from **211** may have been moved from north-west wall to the south-east wall (**311**) in the mid-19th century, perhaps when the Gardener's House became the Vicarage.
- 6.20 East of the blocked door was a modern garage block (**212**) which was of no architectural or historic interest. East of this there was evidence of lime wash on the north-facing external elevation, together with evidence of former cross walls (**213**) (Plate 14). These are all associated with the dwelling and/or utility buildings, shown in this location on the 1920 and 1941 OS maps, that were demolished in the later 20th century before the garage was erected. Also relating to these buildings was door **214** and the possible blocked window or aperture **231**, visible as a line of header bricks east of this.



*Plate 14: wall render, wall scars (**213**) and door (**214**); all evidence of early 20th-century buildings which formerly stood against the north-facing elevation at the west end of the walled garden.*

- 6.21 The brick wall (**232**) between the 19th-century cottages and the Orangery was the only surviving section of the wall that formerly connected the small building marked dog kennels on the 1808 plan and the Orangery. Like the Orangery, this section of wall does not appear on the 1781 plan but appears to be similar in build to the rest of the west section of the wall—being set in English Garden bond.



*Plate 15: section of wall between the cottages and Orangery (232).*



*Plate 16: brick section on west-facing elevation of Orangery wall.*

6.22 The same brickwork formed part of the west-facing gable of the Orangery which appeared to be contemporary with the ashlar stonework associated with that building, although further assessment would be required to confirm this. The double gate (Plate

15) was a later insert, possibly replacing an entrance rather than being a new opening. The wall may have formed part of a sun terrace, which might account for the use of brick on this side of the orangery – brick radiating heat – in contrast to the east elevation of the building which is ashlar built (Plate 16).

- 6.23 The eastern section of the north wall abuts directly against the ashlar east-facing elevation of the Orangery. Analysis of the Orangery forms part of a separate AWP (AWP 12) and the building is therefore not discussed here. As previously mentioned, the east section of the north wall was not shown on the 1781 plan and varies slightly from the west section of the north (210), east (230) and west (500) walls.



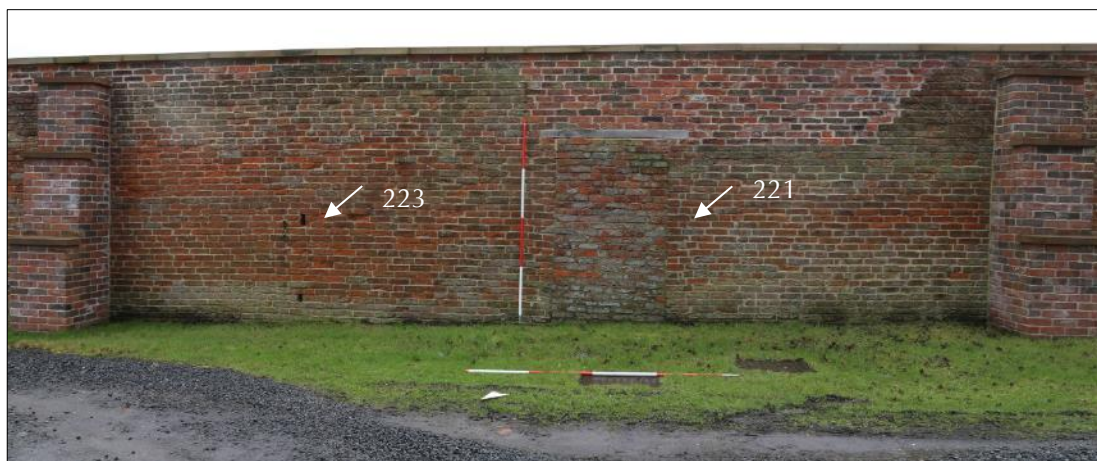
*Plate 17: section of wall east of the orangery (facing south) showing scarring associated with building on 1818 plan (221).*

- 6.24 The 1818 plan shows the 18th-century glasshouse extending for c.32m from approximately the west side of the extant 20th-century boiler house (225), to blocked doorway 222 towards the eastern end of the wall. At a point c.32m from the east wall of the Orangery was a linear variation in the brick (226), located c.1m west of the second new buttress (FP2; Plate 18). This comprised a c.2m section of the wall set slightly forward from the wall face at a height of c.1.1m above current ground level. The reason for this is unknown but may relate to the structure shown against the north face of the wall on the 1818 plan (Fig. 6). This was probably a furnace or boiler house of some form. A cross wall (57) associated with this was found during the excavation of FP1 (para. 6.3). However, based on the 1818 plan, 226 would have been located outside the furnace house. It may therefore relate to the roof of a low structure adjacent,

perhaps a cold frame situated to utilise the residual heat from the furnace, although there is no cartographic evidence for such a feature. Alternatively, **226** may relate to a bench, although again there is no evidence of any associated joist holes.



*Plate 18: section of wall east between the first and second of the new buttresses, showing feature 226.*



*Plate 19: blocked doorway 221 with the two joist holes (223) visible to the left.*

- 6.25 Blocked doorway **222** at the eastern end of the wall was the northern entrance into the garden first shown on the 1855 OS map (Plate 19). A path is shown leading to the door on the 1818 plan, suggesting it was inserted soon after this date (or not depicted clearly on the plan). The door had clearly been cut through the earlier brickwork and comprised a simple rectangular opening with timber lintel. Approximately 2m to the east of the door were two joist holes (**223**) possibly associated with mounting a wooden gatepost.
- 6.26 Wall **224**, a coursed small ashlar and rubble-built cross wall, butted wall **220** at the east end. This was the boundary division between the main estate and the plot of land associated with the Gardener's House. It seems probable that this was always a separate

structure, although shown as a continuous boundary line on the 1781 plan. However, at its north end, wall **224** it built against a blocked opening in the main west estate boundary wall. This indicates that wall **224** postdates the estate boundary wall by a number of years. The two piers on each side of the entrance are much later in date, probably the latter half of the 20th century. No access is shown through from the main estate to the garden of the Gardener's House on any of the historic OS maps.

*Interior*

- 6.27 Many of those features observed in relation to the external wall continue through into the interior, beginning at the west end with blocked door **211**, blocked probably by the early 19th century. East of this was a series of espaliered fruit trees extending up to the cottage garden enclosures (Plate 20). On the other side was door **214** (Plate 21), which was clearly more recent than **211** and provided access from the garden to the utility buildings shown on the early 20th century OS maps. There was a relieving line of slightly protruding header bricks above the door. A similar line was observed further to the east (**231**), possibly related to an opening of some form, although there was no obvious disturbance in the brickwork below (Plate 22).



*Plate 20: south-facing elevation (230) of wall 200 showing espaliered fruit trees.*

- 6.28 There was no access to the cottage gardens during the survey, and the related west section of the north wall was not fully assessed in this area. The area between the cottages and the orangery (**232**) has already been discussed above.



*Plates 21 and 22: (left) doorway 214; (right) line of slightly protruding headers (231).*



*Plate 23: remains of 20th-century greenhouse.*

- 6.29 East of the Orangery was evidence of the recently demolished greenhouse, including door into the boiler room, related chimney and limewashing. The glass and roof of the building had been removed leaving only a low brick wall remaining that matched the dimensions of the former building (Plate 23). This was constructed of modern, machine-made brick and is of low archaeological significance.

- 6.30 East of the greenhouse, a glance along the wall showed the structure bowed significantly inwards and then out, forming an undulating line until it reached the east wall (300) (Plate 24). This instability was possibly caused by the early 20th-century demolition of the 18th-century glasshouse which would have provided a degree of structural support. Traces of mortaring and limewashing associated with the former building remained visible on the wall. Many of the brick faces in this section were badly damaged and falling off, possibly caused by humidity inside the former glasshouse.



*Plates 24 and 25: (left) wall leans inwards where the former 18th-century glasshouse once stood; (right) brick pier 242 with blocked door 221 beyond.*

- 6.31 Just west of blocked entrance 221 was a brick pier (241) (Plate 25), at what would have been the eastern extent of the 18th-century glasshouse. This was probably a buttress, constructed to provide additional support following the demolition of the glasshouse, as opposed to being part of the 18th-century building. Without the support provided by the glasshouse, door 222 would have created a weak point in the wall requiring some form of buttressing, although it is unclear at which point the north entrance itself fell out of use and was blocked. Structure 241 abutted the wall with no indication that it continued through on the north side, indicating it is unlikely to be a furnace chimney like that associated with the 20th-century greenhouse. Added to which, the 1818 plan

shows the glasshouse's furnace house was located further to the west. The buttress was constructed of handmade brick, similar to that used in north wall. Entrance 221 is blocked with the same brick, the source material for both possibly salvaged from the demolition of the glasshouse.

- 6.32 Beyond door 221 the rest of the south-facing elevation was fairly uniform in terms of wear patterning and without any significant features (Plate 26), apart from fixtures which may be evidence of further espaliered trees, similar to those surviving at the west end of wall. The south-facing elevation would have provided the best growing conditions in the garden for the cultivation of fruit trees.



*Plates 26: east end of the south-facing elevation of the north wall.*

### ***East wall (300)***

#### *Exterior*

- 6.33 The east-facing elevation (310) of the east wall (300) was fairly uniform, the only features of note being the blocked doorway at the southern end (311) and two brick buttresses (312, 313) (Plate 27). The latter were shown on the 1855 OS map and were substantial square buttresses, constructed of red clamp brick and extending the full height of the wall. Two further stepped buttress were added as part of the conservation work.





*Plate 27: east-facing elevation (310) of east wall (300) with the two square buttresses visible (312, 313) and new stepped buttress in between.*



*Plate 28: doorway 311 and opening 314 just visible behind the car.*

- 6.34 Door 311 measured c.2m by 1.2m and featured a single, squared-stone lintel with slightly projecting, long and short ashlar surround and a stone threshold (Plates 29 and 30). On the north side, the fifth ashlar from the base featured a recessed metal bolt, associated with a loop on the west-facing (internal) side of the feature. This was of unknown function, there being no wear on the stonework to suggest a securing bolt of any form. The lintel was much less worn than the surrounds and looked to be of a different type of stone, suggesting either a later replacement or the reuse of materials

from a different source at the time of construction. The brickwork around the door aperture was disturbed indicating the door was a later insert.

- 6.35 Just south of door **311** was a second door (**314**) (Plate 28) which provided access through into what would have previous been the south slip. This looked to be a later insert, although the lintel was similar to those of the Gardener's House.



*Plates 29 and 30: (left) west-facing (internal) elevation of east wall showing doorway **311**; (right) doorway **314** leading to the Gardener's House garden. Reproduced with kind permission Mosedale Gillatt Architects.*

*Interior*

- 6.36 Apart from door **311**, the only feature of note associated with the west-facing elevation of the east wall was the small, square structure in the south-east corner of the garden (**321**) (Plate 31 and 32) which was first shown on the 1818 plan. This measured c.1.5m by 1.5m and stood 2.2m high at the south end (the full height of the garden wall) dropping to c.1.5m at the north end, with a sloping cat-side roof. It was constructed of red clamp brick of the same type used elsewhere in the garden. The structure was entered from the former south slip, but there was no access to this area during the survey.

- 6.37 On the north-facing elevation of the structure was evidence of a blocked window, with a second *in situ* but modified window on the west-facing elevation. The function of the building is unknown but was probably related to the Gardener's House. The large window on the east side suggests it is unlikely to have been a privy or coal hole. The tinted red glass might indicate that the building has been use as a photographic dark room at some point in the 20th century (Newman *pers. comm.*)



*Plates 31 and 32: structure 321 (left) west-facing elevation; (right) north-facing elevation.*

- 6.38 The rest of the elevation was uniform with no features of archaeological interest (Plate 33).



*Plate 33: example section of west-facing (internal) elevation of east wall, showing brickwork.*

*South wall (400)*

*Exterior*

- 6.39 The present south wall (400) is actually the north wall of the south slip. As such, it would have provided a second south-facing wall in the garden to optimise productivity. Like the other walls it was constructed of handmade red brick and measured 2.2m in height at the east end, dropping to 1m at the west end, the transition point being marked by a brick pier (422). The wall did not extend the full length of the garden but stopped c.7m from the ha-ha that formed the west side of the garden enclosure. There was no coping along the length of the wall. Presumably this has been removed rather than never existed.
- 6.40 The east end of 410 formed the rear wall of the garden of the Gardener's House (Plate 34). This was not inspected as access could not be obtained and instead it was photographed from a distance. No obvious features of significance were apparent but further investigation would be desirable. The 1941 OS map (Fig. 10) clearly shows that the area now occupied by the house gardens formed the eastern end of the south slip.
- 6.41 Notably there was no standing evidence of the main south wall. Although this was demolished in relation to the walled garden some remnant of it might have been expected to survive marking the boundary of these private gardens. Instead a wooden fence marked the north and west boundaries. This seems a little odd given the continuity of use of this area and again raises a question as to the nature of the primary south boundary originally.



*Plates 34: east end of south-facing elevation (410) of south wall (400). Section forms the rear wall of the Gardener's House gardens.*



*Plates 35 and 36: (left) south-facing; (right) north-facing side of door 413.*

- 6.42 A door (413), with ornate late 17th-century reused decorative doorcase, was located c20m east of the west boundary of the Gardener's Cottage gardens (Plates 35 and 36). This was the former entrance into the south slip from the main body of the walled garden. The 1808 plan shows a central path running along the short axis of the garden, linking the Orangery with 413. As such, the decorative doorcase would have formed a distinctive focal point on the south side of the garden. The size and quality of the doorcase, resplendent with the Delaval ram's head crest set in a broken pediment, obviously came from a high-status building. It was perhaps salvaged from the former Stuart hall and incorporated in the garden not only for its aesthetic value but as a relic of the ancestry of the Delavals; setting them apart from the new moneyed industrialists and coal barons (even if their wealth was now coming from remarkably similar sources).
- 6.43 If the door did come from the old hall it begs the question where it was stored for the preceding eighty or so years after the demolition of the Jacobean building. This of course assumes that the earlier hall was located beneath the present Vanbrugh mansion. Alternatively, the door could have been brought from one of the other Delaval properties. Perhaps it was purchased from Dissington Hall, formerly owned by the Delavals, which was demolished in the late 18th century.

- 6.44 On the south-facing side of the door the pediment was supported on two massive stone square-cut pillars that stood proud of the door surround (Plate 35). These were erected to support the failing cornice but in themselves seem of some considerable antiquity. Problems with the substantial piece of masonry may therefore have occurred quite early in the history of the garden. There was the potential that the pediment was separate from the surround, with the two pieces brought together as a composite feature, although both seem to match well and do form an integrated unit, especially when viewed from the north side.

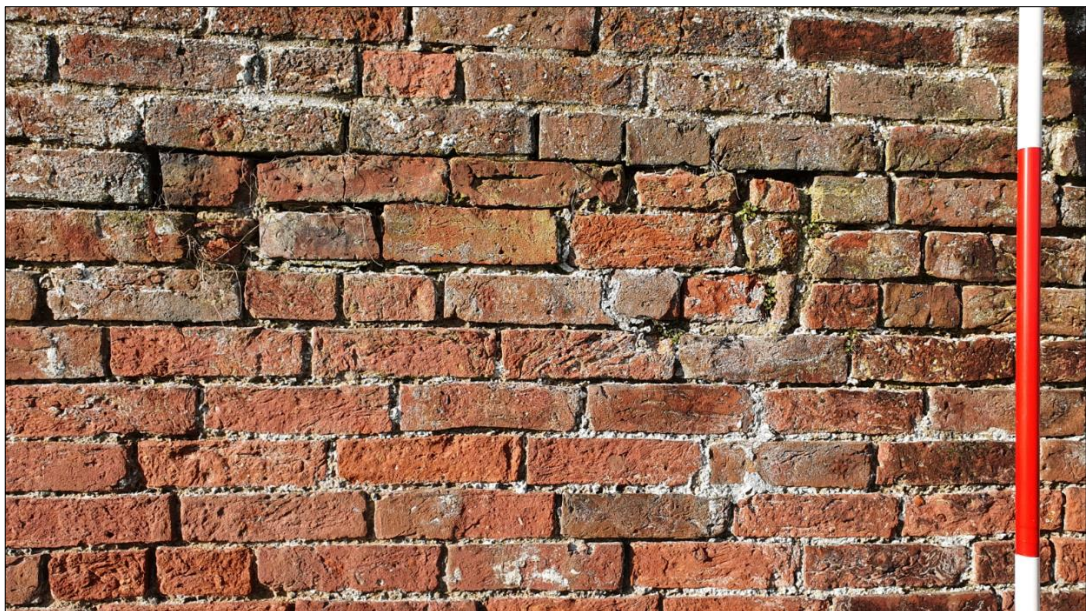


*Plate 37: doorcase 413, buttress 411 and infill section 412.*



*Plate 38: buttress and rectangular infilled brick panel (412).*

- 6.45 Approximately 5m east of the ornamental door was a raked buttress (411) (Plate 37), which measured c.0.5m in width and stood to a height of c.2m. It was built of handmade brick, the brickwork angled downwards. Unlike the buttresses on the east (312, 313) and north walls (418–19, 423), 411 does not appear on the 1855 25-inch OS map but was clearly of some antiquity.
- 6.46 Located approximately 1m east of the buttress was a rectangular area of brick infill (412) (Plate 38) which measured c.2m in length and extending 0.75m from the top of the wall. It was unclear what this related to as nothing was shown in this location on the historic maps and plans. The two vertical joints on each side of the feature were too well defined to simply be an area of wall repair, and the brickwork was slightly recessed, especially on the west side. There was no apparent trace of the feature on the north-facing elevation
- 6.47 A second blocked opening (414) was located further to the west (c.12.5m west of the door 413) (Plate 39). This was a small slot, infilled with brick, measuring c.0.6m by 0.2m, and of unknown function. In the bottom east corner was a shaped piece of tile and running along the top a single flat stone, possibly suggesting a vent or flue, although there was no visible evidence of burning on the brick.



*Plate 39: rectangular opening (414) in south-facing elevation of wall 400.*

- 6.48 The rest of the wall was remarkably uniform, showing very little sign of wear compared with the south-facing elevation on the north wall (Plate 37). Approximately 0.55m east

of the ha-ha, and c.28m west of door **213**, the wall height dropped from 2.2m to 1m (Plate 40). The transition between the two was marked by wall pier **422**; the main body of which was on the north side, visible only as line of recessed bricks on the south side (Fig. 9). This point marked the eastern extent of the former 18th-century hothouse, as shown on the 1896 OS map. The hothouse extended c.40m west, **400** forming the rear wall of the structure.



*Plate 40: south-facing elevation of the south wall looking west with variation of wall height visible in the distance.*



*Plate 41: change in wall height and section of blocking **415**.*

- 6.49 Wall pier **422** may have formed part of the hothouse structure, or more likely was erected following the demolition of the building to provide additional support.



Approximately 2.6m west of **422** a vertical joint was visible (**215**). East of this, between the joint and the wall pier, the brickwork was damaged on the internal, north-facing elevation. This included a roughly central area filled with brick and mortar (Plate 42). However, the brickwork on the south-facing side (Plate 41) shows little sign of disturbance.



*Plate 42: north-facing elevation of the south wall showing wall pier **422** and vertical joint with section of blocking to the east (**415**).*



*Plate 43: rebuilt section of south wall (**416**) with buttress **423** visible.*

- 6.50 West of the vertical joint the wall is well-preserved and featureless (416) (Plate 43). This was a section of rebuild corresponding with the missing section of wall shown on the 1941 OS map (Fig. 10). The single-skin construction was of a lower standard than that observed elsewhere and the colour of the brick slightly different.



*Plate 44: stepped brickwork (417) and buttress 418.*



*Plate 45: buttress 419 on south side of south wall.*

- 6.51 Approximately 15.5m east of the west gate pier (421) located at the terminal of the south wall, was an area of stepped brickwork that marked the western extent of the rebuilt wall (416). West of this was the remains of a buttress (418); one of three first

shown on the 1855 OS map. Only the base of the feature survived, extended 1.4m south of the wall. The buttress measured 0.6m in width. The bricks were raked at an angle, similar to those of **411**. A second buttress (**419**) (Plate 41) was located c.6m to the west (c.7.5m from the gate post). This was slightly smaller, measuring just 1m north to south, and 0.5m in width. A third buttress (**423**), surviving only as a grassed mound, was recorded c.21m east of the west gate pier (Plate 43).

- 6.52 Together, the buttresses are evidence that the west section of wall formerly stood to the same height as the east section (Newman 2018, 14). The date of the buttresses against the south wall is uncertain. Their appearance on the 1855 map reflects the advance in cartographic accuracy offered by the then-new OS surveys and not necessarily that they were built in the early 19th century. It is currently uncertain if they were constructed as part of the south wall or added later to provide additional stability.



*Plate 46: gatepost **421** at the west end of south wall.*

- 6.53 The west end of the wall terminated in a squared gatepost (**421**) (Plate 46). This was a fairly recent construction, the brick being distinctly different from that used elsewhere. The gatepost stood c.1.3m high and was c.0.5m wide, capped with a sandstone slab. There was a 6.3m gap between the end of the gate post and the east-facing elevation of the ha-ha wall which formed the southern end of the west boundary. The south wall never originally adjoined the west boundary (where it would have encountered the now infilled ha-ha ditch) although later OS maps show the wall was extended in the early

20th century. The opening at the west end was spanned at the time of survey by a modern wooden fence.

*Internal*

- 6.54 The section of rebuilt wall (416) was even more obvious on the north-facing elevation (Plate 47). At the east end of this section was a 2m area of damaged wall (415), discussed previously. Pier 422 stood 2.25m high and measured 0.5m in width. It appeared to post-date the wall, abutting the earlier structure and was only bonded into it at certain points.



*Plate 47: north-facing elevation showing rebuilt section of wall at the west end, associated with the demolished glasshouse.*



*Plate 48: north-facing elevation with door 413 just east (left) of second ranging rod.*



*Plate 49: east end of north-facing elevation.*

- 6.55 The eastern end of the north-facing elevation was devoid of any significant legible features (Plates 48, 49), apart from door **413**.

#### *West wall (500)*

- 6.56 The north-east bastion and section of ha-ha to the south formed the southern part of the west wall. Recording of the bastion, adjacent gate and ha-ha was undertaken as part of AWP 5 and discussed in the Pleasure Gardens (NAA 2020b).
- 6.57 The northern section of the west wall comprised a brick wall which measured 26.30m in length, was 0.5m wide, and 3m high. It was laid in English Garden Wall bond, the same as the west section of the north wall (**210**) (Plates 50-52). The wall head was capped with concrete coping.
- 6.58 The wall had become unstable and was dismantled and rebuilt as part of the conservation works, with recording of the wall (**500**) and monitoring during ground works being undertaken as part of AWP 3. A visual inspection of the wall was conducted prior to demolition, this indicated that the build was all one phase, although with evidence of later repair and repointing (Plate 52). The upper courses were slightly darker in colour which was attributed to uneven weathering and the loss of mortar along the joints rather than any evidence that the wall had been heightened. No other features of note were identified.



*Plate 50: north section of the west wall (500); internal east-facing elevation (north end).  
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*Plates 51 and 52: (left) cross-section through the wall exposed during dismantling;  
(right) sample section of brickwork with concrete capping.*

- 6.59 A large, squared stone plinth (Plate 53) was discovered during monitoring of a foundation trench for the rebuilt wall. This was buried under the edge of the modern

access road at the south end of the wall. The stone plinth was square with sides of 0.75m and height of 0.23m and would have formed the base of a pillar at the entrance to the walled garden. Inspection of the outer wall of the north-east bastion revealed two carved insets measuring 5cm by 7cm which would have supported the ironwork for a gateway (Plate 54).

6.60 See the brewhouse report for further information (NAA 2020a).



*Plate 53: stone plinth belonging to gate pier.*



*Plates 54: carved recess in north-east bastion wall for gate.*

## 7.0 DISCUSSION

7.1 The Seaton Delaval Hall walled garden forms one of a small group of Northumberland walled gardens, the development of which has been shaped by the particular climatic and political pressures of the region. The first such gardens were attached to medieval monasteries and other ecclesiastical institutions; however, by the 16th century the form had become increasing popular with the local gentry. Walled gardens provided a

pleasant setting for a house or mansion, coupled with a degree of both perceived and tangible defence (Goultly 2010, 97).

- 7.2 By the early 18th-century the walled garden had developed as a separate landscape element, frequently set at a distance from the main dwelling. This reflected the degree of political security across Northumberland after the end of the second Jacobite rising (1745), but more especially an increasing nationwide interest in the science of horticulture among wealthy local landowners (*ibid.*). At Seaton Delaval, as early as 1761 John Wallis refers to ‘a garden, very handsome, with conservatory or greenhouse’. However, this is more likely to be describing a garden closer to the Hall; the conservatory being the building on the south side of the east court (stable yard) (Newman 2018, 7; NAA 2021).
- 7.3 The present garden was laid out after the completion of the ha-ha’d enclosure, which new research has now dated to 1743 or later (*ibid.*). The ‘fortified’ enclosure was clearly conceived as self-contained unit, referencing the symbolism of the medieval castle. At its centre was Vanbrugh’s classical hall, bringing together allusions of both the Roman and medieval past (Simpson and Brown 2017, 29). Within this context the walled garden is clearly a later addition (albeit one whose general form and function might have been contemplated earlier), sitting as a slightly awkward appendage off the north-east bastion.
- 7.4 The close pleasure grounds were probably completed before the death of Captain Francis Blake Delaval in 1752. His wayward son, Sir Francis Blake Delaval, is unlikely to have dedicated much time to the setting out of flower beds and espaliered fruit trees, being rather too preoccupied with other activities. This would push the date of the construction of the garden into the tenure of Sir John Hussey Delaval who acquired ownership of the estate in 1761 and took over residency in 1771. This could accord with the progress of construction depicted on the 1781 map which shows the outline of the garden in place but not key elements like the Orangery and glasshouses.
- 7.5 Prior to taking up residence at Seaton Delaval Hall, Sir John had lived at Doddington Hall in Lincolnshire. This was renowned for its extensive late 16th-century walled gardens, depicted by Kynff and Kip on an early 18th-century engraving of the estate. As such, he would have been familiar with both the productive and social advantages offered by a walled garden, which may have prompted him to construct something similar on succeeding to the family seat at Seaton Delaval.



- 7.6 A late 18th-century construction date for the walled garden would also fit well with other developments in landscape design during this period. Although the early 18th-century English Landscape movement had done away with the traditional pattern of formal gardens, the upper-classes continued to attribute great importance to sophisticated and resource hungry growing of fruit and vegetables, flowers and hothouse plants. A large number of walled gardens were laid out during this period, and the famous nurseryman John Veitch was said to have set out a garden in nearly every county in England between 1785 and 1808 (Quest-Ritson 2001, 154).
- 7.7 Without the labour-intensive demands required to tend to a formal landscape, time, money and resources were freed-up to develop walled gardens. The planting of fruit and vegetables for both consumption and ornament, and hothouse flowers became an important expression of the wealth and social status, reflecting the intellectual, scientific and cultural interests of an estate owner (Goultly 2010, 99). As at Seaton, the route from the house to the garden also formed an important part of the design and intended to take in particular views or elements of interest or beauty. The gardens also provided a sanctuary in inclement weather and were particularly important as a recreational resource for the women and children of a household (Quest-Ritson 2001).
- 7.8 Seaton Delaval Halls two Georgian glasshouses were significant to both the status and productive success of the garden. Unfortunately, little above-ground evidence of them survives. Consideration might be given to the excavation of a small trench across the southern glasshouse (pinery) to understand more about its use and construction or even a larger excavation with permanent display of the remains. A trench across the route of the missing south wall would also be of merit to determine its nature. Such a project might even make an interesting and fairly contained community excavation, assuming suitable health and safety measures were taken given the potential for significant amounts of glass that might be present, and resources for quality consolidation found.
- 7.9 Apart from the walls, the only other surviving 18th-century building within the garden is the Orangery. Its high standard of construction provides a good indication of the likely quality of the other garden structures and contributes considerably to the overall character of the garden. The building has previously dated to the early 18th century and attributed to the work of the York architect William Etty (c.1675–1734), although the source of this information is unclear (Simpson and Brown 2017, 34), though Etty was certainly involved in works to the wider landscape in the 1720s. If the Orangery does

pre-date the layout of the garden it seems very odd that such a large and obviously significant building would be left off the 1781 estate map. Instead, is it possibly more likely that the building was constructed sometime between 1781 and 1808. Several other nearby Orangeries were constructed in the latter half of the 18th century including Close House (NHLE: 1154794), Swinburne Castle (NHLE: 1370494) Bywell Hall (NHLE 1370557), Gibside (NHLE: 1299709) and Bradley Hall (NHLE: 1355111).

- 7.10 Assuming the Orangery is a late 18th-century addition, then James Paine (1717–1789) may be a possible candidate for the architect. Apart from the dancing putti (now relocated to the Hall (National Trust ref. 1276672)) which may themselves be a later addition, the measured style of the building, with its Doric columns and triglyph frieze, bears many of the hallmarks of his work. Paine is known to have been working extensively across the region in the latter half of the 18th century at Hardwick Park, Ravensworth and Bywell to name but a few. Notably, the Orangery at Gibside (built c.1760) is attributed to him. Another candidate might be John Carr (another York architect) who designed the summerhouse at Gledstone Old Hall which has some similarity with the Seaton Delaval Hall Orangery.
- 7.11 Another problematic feature is the blocked north-west corner gate (211). This was obviously a significant feature but is not shown in association with any paths on surviving historic maps. Given that a period of time would have been needed for the use and disuse of the gate to have occurred prior to 1781, it has been suggested that 211, and associated section of wall, are evidence of an earlier garden arrangement predating the late 18th century (Newman 2018, 26). The north-west entrance had been blocked by the mid-19th century and the stonework possibly moved to the east gate (311), although this is only speculative.
- 7.12 The archaeological elements of AWP 5 were quite limited in scope but did provide additional information on the construction of the north wall – including details of its stone foundations – and revealed part of the furnace house associated with the 18th-century glasshouse. However, there were no finds of significance, all material being modern.
- 7.13 Overall, the work conducted as part of AWP 5 has provided a comprehensive record of the walled garden suitable to mitigate against the agreed conservation works. The results compliment the research already undertaken by Newman (2017 and 2018) and

contribute to a greater understanding of the use and development of the garden. However, the results of the survey have not altered the specific heritage values and outstanding significance of the garden discussed in the Conservation Statement (Newman 2018, 33). The asset remains, without a doubt, an important feature of the Seaton Delaval Hall landscape, and reflects the development of horticultural practice, as well changing fashions, social customs, habits and attitudes over a 200-year period

## **8.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION**

8.1 The full archive from the archaeological investigations, including paperwork, drawings, photographs, digital data and the finds assemblage has been deposited with the National Trust at Seaton Delaval Hall. This is in accordance with written guidelines on archive standards and procedures (ClfA 2020c). Copies of the digital data will be archived with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

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**APPENDIX A:  
CONTEXT CATALOGUE**

*Table A1: the walled garden archaeological context list.*

Context	Archaeological Work Package	Description	Type	Project element	Notes
57	Package 5	Wall of 18th-century glasshouse boiler	brick	glasshouse	contemporary with the garden wall
58	Package 5	greenhouse	structure	greenhouse	20th-century greenhouse
59	Package 5	made-ground	deposit	north exterior of wall	deposit below topsoil north of walled garden
76	Package 5	arch frag	sculpture		concrete fish sculpture from pond
79	Package 5	gate setting	gateway	NE bastion	settings for ironwork
175	Package 5	greenhouse door	door	greenhouse	doorway to greenhouse
176	Package 5	greenhouse door		greenhouse	boiler-room door
177	Package 5	boiler room		greenhouse	boiler-room
178	Package 5	coal chute		greenhouse	boiler-room
179	Package 5	greenhouse door		greenhouse	exterior door
180	Package 5	chimney plinth		greenhouse	boiler-room chimney
181	Package 5	pipework		greenhouse	heating system

*Table A2: the walled garden building recording context list.*

Context	Description	Date	Associated with
200	North wall of walled garden	18th century	210/230 west end 220/24 east end
210	North-facing (external) elevation of walled garden – west of orangery.	18th century	230 south-facing elev
211	Blocked doorway in north-west corner	18th century?	311 door in SE corner
212	Modern garages	20th century	
213	Wall scars and internal render	Early 20th century	210 north-facing elev
214	Doorway set with timber door	Early 20th century	213 wall scars
220	North-facing (external) elevation of walled garden – east of orangery.	Late 18th-century	210 west end 240 south-facing elev
221	Wall scars and possible flue to the east of the orangery	Late 18th e.19th century	220 north-facing elev
222	Blocked door at east end	E. 19th century	
223	Fitting holes east of door 222	E. 19th century?	
224	Cross wall, entrance and gate piers	18th-century but modified	220 north-facing elev
225	20th-century boiler house	Early 20th century	Same as 177 boiler house

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226	Linear variation in brickwork	18th century?	220 north-facing elev
230	South-facing elevation of north wall, west end	18th century	240 east end
231	Line of end on bricks – relieving arch – blocked opening?	Unknown	222 door – same line of bricks above.
232	Gateway and section of wall between the cottages and orangery	Late 18th century	233 west-facing wall of orangery
233	West-facing wall of orangery	Late 18th century	232 section of wall
240	East end of north wall (interior)	Late 18th century	230 west end
241	Pier relating to 18th century glasshouse	late 19th – e.20th century	
300	East wall of walled garden	18th century	310 east-facing elev 320 west-facing elev
310	East-facing elevation of east wall	18th century	320 west-facing elev
311	Blocked door at the southern end of the east wall	19th century?	211 door in NW corner of garden
312	Brick buttress	19th century	313 buttress
313	Brick buttress	19th century	312 buttress
314	Door into south slip	18th century?	
320	West-facing (internal) elevation	18th century	310 east-facing elev
321	Structure in south-east corner	Early 19th century	
400	South wall (north wall of slip)	Late 18th century	
410	South-facing elevation of south wall	Late 18th century	420 north-facing elev
411	South wall buttress	L. 18th century – e.19th	410 south-facing elev
412	Rectangular infill section of brick	Unknown	
413	Ornated blocked door	Late 18th century (reused 17th-century feature)	
414	Small blocked rectangular opening	Late 18th century?	
415	Section of disturbed brickwork west of wall pier	Late 18th century and later	
416	Rebuilt section of wall	Late 20th century	
417	Stepped brickwork marking end of rebuilt section	Late 18th century and later	
418	Remains of buttress	L. 18th century – e.19th	419 buttress, 423 buttress 412 buttress, 413 buttress
419	Remains of buttress	L. 18th century – e.19th	418 buttress, 423 buttress 412 buttress, 413 buttress
423	Remains of buttress	L. 18th century – e.19th	419 buttress, 418 buttress 412 buttress, 413 buttress
420	North-facing (internal) elevation	18th century	410 south-facing elev



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421	West gate pier	Modern	
422	Wall pier	19th century?	415 disturbed brickwork
500	North section of west wall	18th century	

**APPENDIX B:  
BUILDING MATERIALS**

*Chrystal M. L. Antink*

**INTRODUCTION**

This report discusses the ceramic building materials (CBM), mortar, and decorative ceramics and concrete recovered from the 2018–20 archaeological excavations at the walled garden, Seaton Delaval Hall, Northumberland. A total of three fragments (364g) of possible sanitary ware were recovered from context **58**, and a fragment of a modern decorative concrete fish statue (184g) originating from the garden pond (Table B1).

**METHOD**

All materials were recorded in a Microsoft Access by count and weight, complete remaining measurements, and were described in the comments.

**Decorative concrete fish**

A single, post-1850CE (based on the excavator's discussion with local volunteers), 184g fragment of a cast concrete fish was recovered from the walled garden context **76**. The fragment comprises part of the lower body of the fish and most of its tail fin. It retains the void of an iron armature on the interior, which presumably would have continued into the upper part of the fish.

**Possible sanitary ware**

Three fragments of possible sanitary ware were recovered from context **58**. Though glazed and of non-CBM fabrics, their forms do not suggest they are pottery.

One, possibly the foot of a pedestal from a basin or toilet, has a thickened foot rim (11mm) of a polygonal plan, the two surviving faces meeting at an angle of approximately 35°. Viewed in section, above the foot the wall is narrowed in thickness, angled inwards, and then sweeps upwards before being broken. It is glazed on both faces, and partly glazed on the underside of the foot; the glaze is crazing, more severely on the concave surface. The edge does not show wear from movement (such as you might see on the base of a bowl or vase), and retains a light layer of fine mortar, suggesting it was mortared into place. The interior was presumably hollow.

Of the two remaining possible sanitary ware fragments, one is 6mm thick, appears footed or lipped, now broken away, and is slightly dished; the other, 7mm thick, has an S-shaped profile. The glaze on these two is not crazed.

**DISCUSSION**

The material from the walled was identifiable post medieval (modern). The cast concrete fish fragment, was identified by National Trust volunteers as coming from a statue originally in the centre of the garden pond (now truncated) 'within recent times'. This should be retained for display.

*Table B1: material by context, with count and weight*

Context	Brick		Decorative architectural ceramic		Decorative concrete fish		Mortar		Sanitary ware?		Tile		Unidentified		Total Count	Total Weight (g)
	Count	Weight (g)	Count	Weight (g)	Count	Weight (g)	Count	Weight (g)	Count	Weight (g)	Count	Weight (g)	Count	Weight (g)		
58									3	364					3	364
76					1	184									1	184
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>548</b>

## OUTLINE OF THE ASSEMBLAGE

*Table E2: non-brick materials by date, with count and weight*

Form/Date	Count	Weight (g)
Decorative concrete fish	1	184
Post-1850CE	1	184
Sanitary ware?	3	364
Post-medieval	3	364
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>548</b>