Statement Heritage

Kempthorne House, 4 St Peters Rd, Flushing, Falmouth, TR11 5TP

Archaeological Watching Brief KEMP0718wb 07/08/2018



Statement Heritage KEMP0718 Kempthorne House Falmouth

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This project was commissioned by Tony Birse and carried out by Daniel Ratcliffe BA MA MCIfA in September / August 2018

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OASIS ref statemen1-325334

Non Technical Summary

This report presents the results of analysis of and watching brief observation of the demolition of ancillary buildings consented for demolition by Cornwall Council per LBC PA18/03130.

Buildings on the footprint of the current rear buildings have existed since at least 1877, probably originating as stables for the main house. 2 inspections were made, one in advance of and one during demolition works.

An initial visit photographically recorded evidence confirming the information submitted with the planning application that these buildings were been substantially re-constructed during the later 20th century, and clarified which elements could, in be demolished according to the extant consent, and which required further observation, recording and potentially retention further to conditions 5 (retention of historic fabric) and 6 (archaeological recording) on that consent. Following production of an interim note and written scheme of investigation this approach was approved by Cornwall Council's archaeological planning officer Mr Johns on 17th July, 2018.

Subsequently further observations were made during demolition works on 18th July 2018 including 2 trial pit excavations within the area of the former stables. These observations identified that when the stables were rebuilt in the late 20th century any original floor surfacing was lost, and that a well, probably original to the house, had been covered over and buried. A small length of timber stud walling from the original build of the stables was identified. These historic components form part of the Listed Building's special interest and so have been retained in-situ and archaeologically recorded.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Location: Kempthorne House 4 St Peters Road Flushing Falmouth TR11 5TP (see figure 1 and 3)
- 1.2 Background and Summary: This report presents the results of analysis and watching brief observation of ancillary buildings consented for demolition by Cornwall Council per LBC PA18/03130. Buildings on the footprint of the current rear buildings have existed since at least 1877, probably originating as stables for the main house. Our inspection has photographically recorded evidence confirming the information submitted with the planning application that these buildings have been substantially re-constructed during the later 20th century, and, during demolition of works dating to this later reconstruction, has produced an archaeological record of a late 18th century to early 19th century well and stud wall exposed in the course of works.
- 1.3 **Designation:** Kempthorne House is a Listed Building GII, listed in 1967 as the 'Nankersley Hotel'. It was described as follows:

 House in row. Probably circa late C18 early C19, but remodelled in the late C19.

 Rendered front, some slate sills and asbestos slate roof with gable end, right, and adjoining No 5, left. Plan of 2 front reception rooms with passage between leading to central stair between rear service rooms and further extended to rear in the C20. 3 storeys. 2-window south west road front. Central doorway with panelled door. Ground and first floor windows are circa late C19 canted bays with horned sashes and hipped slate roofs over. Original openings to second floor with original hornless 20-pane sash, left, and horned copy, right. There is a C20 folding canopy over ground floor openings. Interior not inspected. Included for group value.
- 1.4 Aims and Method: Initial work focussed on the establishment of a basic photographic record of the area subject to the consent in its current (pre-works) condition, consultation of readily available historic maps, and inspection of the building by Dan Ratcliffe MA MCIfA on 07/07/2018, in order to identify constructional phases and significant fabric. This work informed which parts of the building may be demolished without further archaeological observation and where further inspection was warranted. This work was set out in a 'Written Scheme of Investigation' (Appendix 1) approved on 17/07/2018 by Cornwall Council Historic Environment officer.
- 1.5 The aims of the further recording as set out in the WSI were 'to better understand the history, phasing, condition and significance of the building in order to inform the conservation of its significance through development'
- 1.6 The objectives of this second stage of work were:

- 1.6.1 An archival quality photographic and written record of the building.
- 1.6.2 A brief written report analyzing the fabric and assessing the history, phasing, condition and significance of the building and any significant fabric to be lost and making recommendations for its conservation.

2. Results

- 2.1 **Historic Maps:** Figure 2 shows the 1877 and 1907 OS 25 inch mapping of the site. Both maps show buildings on the current footprints. The 1907 map indicates the surviving vaulted passageway from the front elevation to the rear ranges (see figure 4 i).
- 2.2 Initial Survey Evidence (07/07/2018): This passageway, which is paved by cobbles and leads to a wide, re-hung half glazed doorway, opens into the most south westerly space of the rear range subject to this consent. This space is also paved in cobbles (figure 4 retained). The wall between this space and the area of the building consented for demolition (labelled 'D' on Plan 1; photos at figure 5 i and 5 ii) is considered 19th century in date and originally to have functioned as an internal division. It is of stone construction, but is of approximate 150mm thickness. The wall retains an early 19th century 6 panel internal door, and evidence of a further blocked doorway.
- 2.3 It is clear from the threshold step within this doorway that the floor level of the area of the building to be demolished, now of concrete screed, has been raised by approximately 100mm. It was not known during our initial inspection on 07/07/2018 if the cobbles of the space to its SW had been retained, or the condition of any such surviving surface within the consented area of demolition.
- 2.4 The entire range along the south east boundary of the curtilage is shown by **figure** 3 ii and **figure 3a**.
- 2.5 The **roof** of the structure was covered in late 20th century fibre cement slate, set on an entirely modern monopitch common rafter structure (**figure 7**). At its rear (along the property boundary) this structure rested on a historic stone wall to the north and south of the area consented for demolition.
- 2.6 This **boundary wall** was broken by the current modern uPVC patio doors, which opened onto a small enclosed garden areas, shown on historic maps as having been a small rectangular building or glass-house. Above the uPVC doors this gap was closed by modern weatherboarding (see **figure 7** right of shot).
- 2.7 The **north western elevation** of the range features three windows. The northern-most window lies outside the area of the consent (and has been retained during later demolition work). It is a late 20th or early 21st century 3/6 spring loaded

- wooden sliding sash. The central window ('A' on Plan 1 / see figure 3a ii) was a late 20^{th} century 'stormseal' type casement. The southernmost window ('B' on Plan 1 / see figure 3a iii and retained *in situ* during later work) is a potentially reused 8 pane sash with lambs-tongue glazing bars, re-hung as a top hung casement. This window does not fit the space in which it hangs, overlapping the 19^{th} century wall 'D'.
- 2.8 Internally the space was ceiled in modern plasterboard, and had been plastered out in modern gypsum based plasters or plasterboard. Modern walls as they existed prior to works are shown hatched in red on our sketch Plan 1. The WC / Shower area in the SW corner of the area for demolition was been formed in brickwork and timber stud / plasterboard.
- 2.9 Watching Brief Results (18/08/2018)
- 2.10 Recording took place following demolition of those areas marked in red hatching on Plan 1 as agreed with the LPA prior to works.
- 2.11 Prior to our visit concrete was broken, with the use of a small handheld 'Kango' type hammer, for the two proposed test pits, designed to test for any in-situ archaeological structural evidence below the modern floor level.
- 2.12 At our visit we repeated our photographic record of the site (figure 8) following the demolition pf the modern structural evidence, and cleaned the deposits within the two test pits.
- 2.13 *Photographic recording* (figure 8) on demolition revealed further constructional detail of walling 'D', 'F' and 'G' (figure 9)
- 2.14 Removal of the modern ceiling above Wall D, revealed that this wall is constructed of timber studwork infilled with mud and stone. This constructional technique has the characteristics of early 19th century work, which would accord to our stylistic dating of the door set within it (see above). The plaster covering to the north east side of this wall is confirmed as being modern in character being composed of gypsum-based plaster.
- 2.15 Removal of modern cement render as a result of the demolition of modern blockwork walling to its north east shows that the retained section of the north western elevation of the former stable 'F' is of similar character to that wall 'D'.
- 2.16 Wall 'G' (at right angles to this stub) is also of 19th century date but is butt jointed to 'F'. This wall is constructed of timber studwork infilled by re-used brick. We would interpret this wall as later than 'F' as it is not joined into it, but has been constructed to abut it. To the south east of the section retained the wall had been rebuilt in modern timber and plasterboard stud work.
- 2.17 *Test pit 1* (plan 3 photo figure 10) measured c.1700mm by 1400mm and lay in the south eastern corner of the site.
- 2.18 The latest deposit consisted of a late 20th century concrete screed (context 1001) averaging 80mm in depth. Below this lay an unconsolidated 80mm thick

layer (1002) of mixed lime and redeposited subsoil containing late twentieth century artefacts such as pvc wire sheathing along with 20th century pottery sherds. (1002) is interpreted as a modern sub-base laid in advance of concrete (1001) Directly beneath this layer is a circular well of approximately 500mm diameter (1007) which is constructed of regularly coursed killas blocks of approximately 100mm X 60mm set in a lime / clay mortar. The well is set in roughly backfilled (1008) construction cut [1006]. The well is cut into a natural periglacial clay (1009) with occasional slate stone inclusions and sealed by a massive limewashed granite flagstone (1003) to its east. Artefacts (mid twentieth century glass bottles) recovered from within the well by the demolition team prior to our inspection (figure 10 ii) indicate closure its closure in the mid 20th century. Examination of the well void from the surface revealed a culvert, presumably constructed to feed the structure leading from its south eastern side towards the adjacent property.

- 2.19 A square post-hole [1004] cut into natural (1009) may indicate a continuation of the stub wall 'G' across the range.
- 2.20 The demolition brief for the removal of the floor surface only required the removal of the consolidated concrete layer (1001) and so the well structure currently survives *in situ* and no further recording was carried out.
- 2.21 *Test Pit 2* revealed a simpler sequence of concrete overlying sub-base, overlaying natural.

3 Discussion.

- 3.1 Our observations have confirmed that the elements demolished once formed part of a range of outbuildings projecting from the rear elevation of Kempthorne House a late 18th to early 19th century house in 'polite' Georgian style remodelled in the late 19th century and rebuilt during the late 20th century.
- 3.2 The interesting and unusual surviving access passage for horses through Kempthorne House indicates the former use of this rear range.
- 3.3 Houses of this size and status in the mid-19th century can generally be expected to have been provided with stabling and service wings to the rear, although it is rare to find un-converted and un-altered examples of either. Such buildings were rarely as robustly constructed as the main house, as verified by the constructional character of the surviving walls. With changes in the social structures underpinning domestic service, and the obsolescence of horse hauled passenger transport most have been subject to new uses. It is likely that a hotel business, such as is known to have occupied the property at the time of Listing (1967) would have sought to convert such buildings to staff or visitor accommodation.

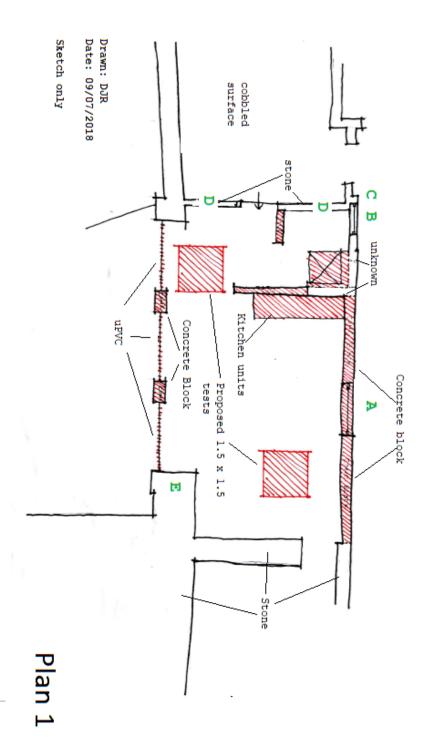
- 3.4 This central section of the buildings has clearly largely been rebuilt, evidenced by the use of concrete blockwork and modern fenestration to remodel the front and rear elevation of the range, of modern ceiling and wall linings, of the entirely modern roof structure and covering and of the screed levelling of the floor. The absence of any cobbling to the north east of wall B indicates that the buildings here were either provided with an ephemeral earthen floor or that the historic floor level was grubbed out in advance of the laying of this concrete screed.
- 3.5 Areas of fabric which survived the mid-20th century rebuilding of the range include the stubs of stone walling forming the jambs of the uPVC patio doors, and the stone walls to the north east and south west of the consented area (which sperate it from areas where more historic walling may survive) as well as a fragment of the north west elevation and of an internal dividing wall 'G'. These 19th century stud walls survive only as fragments, now exposed to the weather by the consented demolition, and considered to be of low architectural and historic significance due to their incompleteness. Their archaeological interest lies in the evidence they provide of the historic structure. This interest has been adequately recorded by the current investigation and no further recording, and retention are not recommended.
- 3.6 The survival of a post-medieval well may indicate an original feature of the stable, or it may be a feature pre-dating its construction. It is of local archaeological significance, is currently adequately conserved *in situ* and its retention in any future design should be considered.

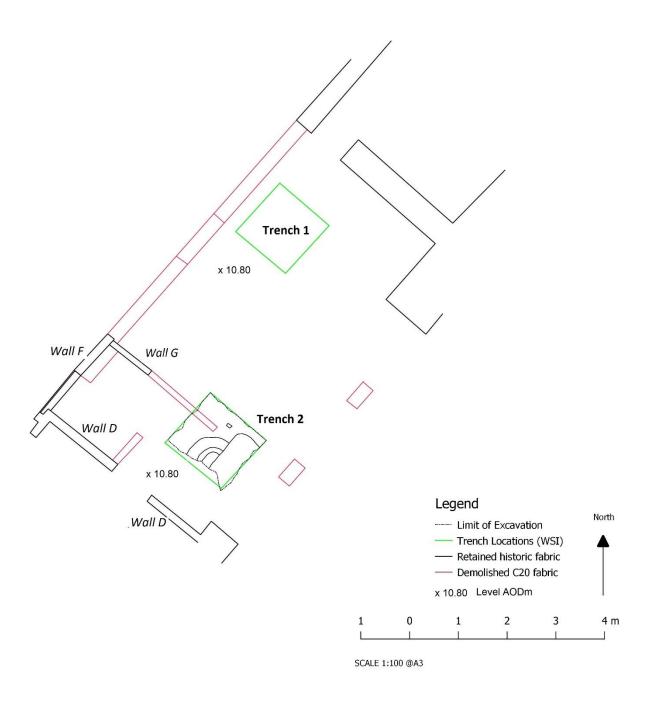
4 Conclusions and Recommendations

- 4.1 Our observations of these demolition works have increased the understanding of the constructional character and sequence of an early 19th century stable range to the rear of Kempthorne House. The range has been shown to have been comprehensively rebuilt in the late 20th century these works damaging its historic, architectural and evidential values.
- 4.2 The rebuilding of the range in the later 20th century (stylistically datable by the materials used) involved the laying of a concrete floor, sealing a well which may have been contemporary with or slightly earlier than the stable block, the rebuilding of a central section of the range in concrete block and its re-roofing with mostly modern materials. Any historic floor structures in the area of the site were removed in preparation for laying the new floor, although the well itself was retained, sealed by a large re-used granite slab.
- 4.3 The rebuilding retained historic walling at either end of the new works and partially in the south west corner of the re-roofed section. These surviving timber

- stud walls are of very low architectural and historic significance, their archaeological value having been captured by our recording.
- 4.4 This report will be submitted to the LPA in satisfaction of condition 6 on LBC PA18/03130 and to document the fulfilment of condition 5.
 - 4.5 The archive of this work has been indexed with the OASIS project (ref statemen1-32533, who will also hold a copy of this report once approved by the LPA, and will be deposited in due course with the Cornwall Record Office.

5 Figures

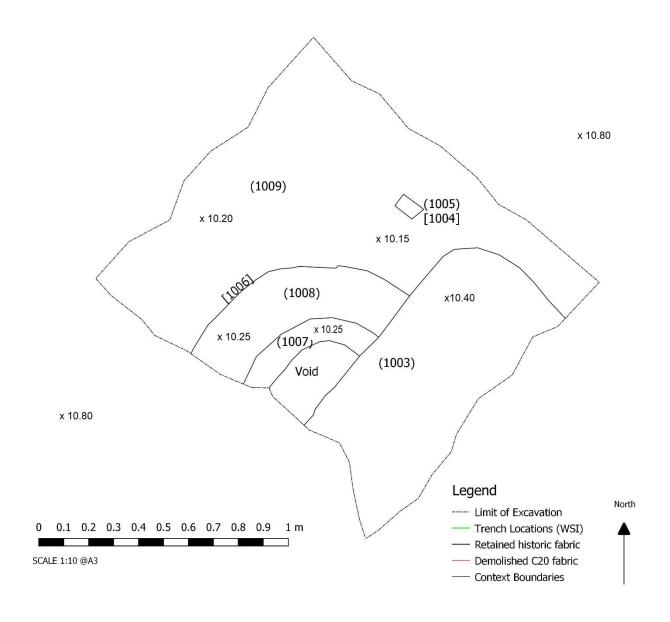




Plan 2 Phase / Site Plan Project Code: KEMP0718 Project Name: Kempthorne House Flushing

(c) Statement Heritage

Surveyed: 18/07/2018 DJR Drawn: 09/08/2018 DJR Do not scale from this drawing All dimensions to be checked on site.





Project Code: KEMP0718

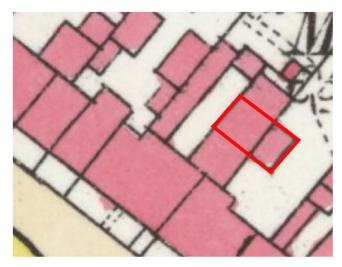
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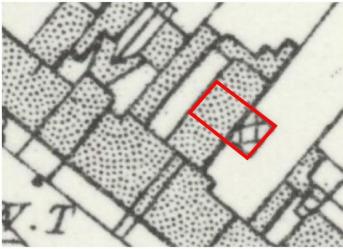
Do not scale from this drawing All dimensions to be checked on site.



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i) 1878



ii) 1907: - Note the area now used as a garden shown as a glasshouse. Note also stable passageway through to the road.

Figure 2 Historic Maps

(c) Dan Ratcliffe 2018 Project Code KEMP0718 Project Name: Kempthorne House, Flushing, Cornwall



i) Kempthorne House , principal elevation

ii) Below left - Modern (fibre cement slate) roof coverings of the rear ranges of Kempthorne House



Figure 3 Main elevations

(c) Dan Ratcliffe 2018 Project Code KEMP0718 Project Name: Kempthorne House, Flushing, Cornwall



i) Consent site (between yellow annotations)



ii) Window 'A' Late 20th century 'weatherseal' type casement. The window has been set across the internal wall. Note cast iron rain hopper and downpipe to be retained (outside consented area).



ii) Window 'B' Probably reset and reglazed 19C top hinged casment sash.

Figure 3a Main elevations

(c) Dan Ratcliffe 2018 Project Code KEMP0718 Project Name: Kempthorne House, Flushing, Cornwall



i) Stable passageway (to right of and underneath Kempthorne House)



ii) The room to the immediate south west of the consented demolition contains the original cobbled stable floor 'D' (to be retained)



iii) Below right - modern first floor structure in room to SW of consent (to be retained).

Figure 4 Main elevations

(c) Dan Ratcliffe 2018 Project Code KEMP0718 Project Name: Kempthorne House, Flushing, Cornwall



i) Dividing wall 'D' from the SW - - note evidence of older blocked door to left of shot. This wall is of thin stone construction - probably built as a non-supporting internal wall. Doorway is a wide stable-type internal door of early 19th century 6 panel style.

Figure 5- interiors Main elevations

(c) Dan Ratcliffe 2018 Project Code KEMP0718 Project Name: Kempthorne House, Flushing, Cornwall

ii) NE elevation of wall 'D'. Modern cememtitious plaster coating.

iii) Modern stud wall and door into L WC / shower room - modern linings, ceilings and floor coverings







i) Looking SW across the main space consented for demolition.



ii) Looking NE across the main space consented for demolition



i) NW corner of space consented for demolition. Note exposed modern concrete blockwork to the left of ranging pole

Figure 6- interiors

(c) Dan Ratcliffe 2018 Project Code KEMP0718 Project Name: Kempthorne House, Flushing, Cornwall



i) Interior of roof to be demolished looking NE. The roof structure is of entirely modern common rafter construction. The modern weatherboarding above the patio doors is to the right of shot. Behind is the top of historic stone wall 'E' which appears to be neatly quoined indicating that this wall always terminated at this point.

Figure 7- interior of roof

(c) Dan Ratcliffe 2018 Project Code KEMP0718 Project Name: Kempthorne House, Flushing, Cornwall



i) Looking south across the site following demolition of modern fabric.



i) Looking north east towards retained wall at edge of site. This wall is a historic timber stud wall faced with blockwork to its south western face.



iii) Wall 'E' (see Plan 1), as predicted a historic stone wall.

Figure 8 Post demolition record

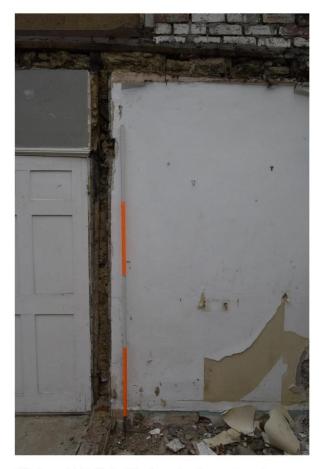
Project Code: KEMP0718

Project Name: Kempthorne House

Flushing

Photos taken: 18/07/2018 DJR

(c) Statement Heritage



i)(above) Wall D. Timber stud construction with mud and stone infill visible at top where modern ceiling has been removed. Plaster is modern.



ii)(above) Wall F: Timber and stud construction visible at left-hand side beneath modern cementitious render

oii)(below) Wall G (nearest camera) is butt-jointed to 'F' and of timber and brick infil construction, faced in modern plaster.



Figure 9 Retained walls

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Flushing

Photos taken: 18/07/2018 DJR

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i) Trench 2: (NW to top of picture) showing the late 18th century / 19th century well and its covering slab



ii) early / mid 20th century bottles recovered from well by demolition team



ii) Trench 1

Figure 10 Test pits in concrete floor

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Photos taken: 18/07/2018 DJR

(c) Statement Heritage

Appendix 1 – Approved WSI

Site location and description

- 1.1 ADDRESS: Kempthorne House, 4 St Peters Rd, Flushing, Falmouth, TR11 5TP
- 1.2 DESIGNATION DESCRIPTION: GII, Listed 1967, "House in row. Probably circa late C18 early C19, but remodelled in the late C19. Rendered front, some slate sills and asbestos slate roof with gable end, right, and adjoining No 5, left. Plan of 2 front reception rooms with passage between leading to central stair between rear service rooms and further extended to rear in the C20. 3 storeys. 2-window south west road front. Central doorway with panelled door. Ground and first floor windows are circa late C19 canted bays with horned sashes and hipped slate roofs over. Original openings to second floor with original hornless 20-pane sash, left, and horned copy, right. There is a C20 folding canopy over ground floor openings. Interior not inspected. Included for group value."
- 2. Aims and Objectives
- 2.1 This project has been commissioned by Tony Birse in order to satisfy Condition 6 on PA18/03130 relating to partial demolition of buildings at the above property.
- 2.2 The aims are to better understand the history, phasing, condition and significance of the building in order to inform the conservation of its significance through development.
- 2.3 The objectives are
 - An archival quality photographic and written record of the building.
 - A brief written report analyzing the fabric and assessing the history, phasing, condition and significance of the building and any significant fabric to be lost and making recommendations for its conservation.
- 3. Desk-based assessment
- 3.1 Desk based research will consist of a map regression based on historic Ordnance Survey maps; tithe map(s) and apportionments; and such other

historic plans as are available. An examination will also be made of records held by the local Historic Environment Record. Where held, records held by local records offices and local studies centres will be consulted.

- 3.2 This desk-based work will be undertaken in advance of any fieldwork commencing.
- 3.3 The results of this desk-based research will be presented as part of the final report along with the results of the fieldwork.
- 4. Historic building recording
- 4.1 A record shall be made of the historic fabric of the building affected by the development. This work shall conform to the 'Level 2' with elements subject to significant proposed change subject to a 'Level 3' analysis as set out in the recording levels described in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording* practice and described in outline below:
- 4.2 Previously prepared architect's plans will be used as the basis of any drawn record made on site, but will be checked on site for accuracy or redrawn. All drawings will be made on archivally stable material with 4H pencils, titled, annotated and styled according to the guidance in *Understanding Historic Buildings*. Drawings made on site will include, as a minimum, dimensioned plans of each principal spaces and a plan showing the photographs taken, with further measured elevations, detail plans and cross sections drawn where required. Following field work security digital copies of all had drawn field notes will be made.
- 4.3 An adequate **photographic record** of the historic building recording work will be prepared. This will include photographs illustrating the building in its context in addition to its principal facades, interior spaces, architectural detailing and any finds discovered, in detail and in context. All photographs of archaeological detail will feature an appropriately-sized scale.
- 4.4 Photography will be undertaken using a Nikon D3300 Digital SLR producing .JPG data files of 24MP in the Adobe RGB 1998 colour space.
- 4.5 Post production image processing will be limited to correction for lens and vertical distortion and to balance lighting as required. EXIF metadata created at capture will be supplemented with IPTC metadata as specified in Historic England's 'Digital Image Capture and File Storage Guidelines for Best Practice'.

Files may be converted to the archivally stable TIFF format for long-term curation

- 4.6 Written records made during field work will include
 - A description of the building's exterior and structural character, noting roof covering and roof truss, walling material, coursing, fenestration and joinery, rainwater goods, signage, architectural style, plan form, and other relevant detail.
 - Descriptions of each internal space (noting evidence of use, decorative schemes, machinery, lighting, and patterns of movement / access etc.
 - Notes of any oral history (recorded as appropriate as .wav files.) gathered during the recording exercise.
- 4.7 Should significant historical and/or architectural elements be exposed within the building by conversion/construction works the Planning Authority's Conservation Officer and the HET will be informed. English Heritage must be consulted with regard to developments affecting Grade I or II* listed building. The applicant will ensure that any such exposed elements remain undisturbed until their significance can be determined and to allow consideration of their retention in situ.
- 5. Reporting
- 5.1 Upon completion of the fieldwork and required post-excavation analysis an illustrated report will be prepared. The report will collate the written, graphic, visible and recorded information outlined in section 4 above.
- 5.2 The report will include:
- a summary of the project's background;
- description and illustration of the buildings location;
- a methodology of all works undertaken;
- include plans and reports of all documentary and other research undertaken;
- a description of the project's results;
- an interpretation of the results in the appropriate context;

- a summary of the contents of the project archive and its location (including summary catalogues of finds and samples);
- a site location plan at an appropriate scale on an Ordnance Survey, or equivalent, base-map;
- a plan showing the layout of the buildings subject to this programme of work in relation to identifiable landscape features and other buildings;
- the results of the historic building recording that shall include a written description and analysis of the historic fabric of the building, appropriately illustrated with a phased sketch plan.
- photographs showing the general site layout and exposed significant features of historic or architectural significance that are referred to in the text. All photographs should contain appropriate scales, the size of which will be noted in the illustration's caption;
- a consideration of evidence within its wider context;
- 5.3 The timetable for the production of the report will be within 1 month of site attendance.
- 5.4 Where the report is submitted to the LPA a copy will also be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record on the understanding that it will be made available to researchers via a web-based version of the Historic Environment Record.
- 5.5 At this point Statement Heritage shall complete an online OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS) form in respect of the archaeological work. This will include the uploading of a digital version of the report. The report or short entry will also include the OASIS ID number.
- 6. Personnel
- 6.1 The recording work shall be carried out Daniel Ratcliffe MA MCIfA (a member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists).
- 6.2 A site specific Risk Assessment will be completed by Statement Heritage before going on site.

- 6.3 The work shall be carried out in accordance with *ClfA Standard and Guidance* for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures and Historic England's *Understanding Historic Buildings* (2015)
- 7. Deposition of Archive and Finds
- 7.1 An ordered and integrated project archive will be curated by Statement Heritage in accordance with this this specification and with Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE). In the event of a requirement by the Local Planning Authority the archive will be transferred for long-term curation to a recognised, accredited or trusted repository. An archive is defined as "all records and materials recovered during an archaeological project and identified for long term preservation, including artefacts, ecofacts and other environmental remains, waste products, scientific samples and also written and visual documentation in paper, film and digital form" (ARCHES forthcoming).
- 7.2 It is anticipated that the archive will consist of two elements:
 - a copy of the report and
 - copies of all digital drawings, photographs and associated metadata collected during the course of the historic building recording.
- 7.3 In the event of such a requirement by the LPA arrangements for the transfer of the archive will be made within 6 months.
- 7.4 The collecting archive in Cornwall is the Cornwall Record Office. Their current Digital Policy requests that depositors retain digital archives pending implementation of their Digital Strategy after the opening of Kresen Kernow in 2018 https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/24903613/2017-acss-digital-policy.doc In the interim Statement Heritage will either maintain this data according to their internal Digital Archive Strategy (forthcoming) or deposit the data with the Archaeological Data Service.
- 7.5 The digital archive will consist of:
- a copy of the final report and
- digital images, along with associated meta-data, of the historic building that are not presented in the report.

- Digital copies of the primary written and drawn records.
- 7.6 The digital archive must be compiled in accordance with the standards and requirements of the ADS, which may be accessed through the ADS website
- 7.7 It is expected that a licence to copyright for the archive material, in both physical and digital forms, will be given to the receiving repository.