Valleyfield, Fife:
Historic Building Recording

Data Structure Report

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revised 14th November 2011

RATHMELL ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Quality Assurance

This report covers works which have been undertaken in keeping with the issued brief as modified by the agreed programme of works. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance of Rathmell Archaeology Limited on the preparation of reports. All works reported on within this document have been undertaken in keeping with the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct.

Signed …….. Date ……14th November, 2012…….

In keeping with the procedure of Rathmell Archaeology Limited this document and its findings have been reviewed and agreed by an appropriate colleague:

Checked …….. Date ……14th November, 2012….

Contents

Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Fife Council with respect to five historic structures that are to be consolidated as part of on-going restoration works at Valleyfield Designed Landscape. All five structures are critical elements of the surviving Repton designed landscape, and as such, they have been designated grade 'B' Listed status.

2. These recording works were required as a condition of Listed Building Consent and they comprised the creation of a baseline record of all five historic structures prior to the consolidation works.

3. Rathmell Archaeology Limited were appointed by Fife Council to undertake the development and implementation of these mitigation works.

4. All work was undertaken in accordance with Fife Council Archaeology Service Standard Conditions, the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

Methodology

5. The works comprised the preparation of measured drawings – to Level 4 standard, as established by the RCHME – in order to provide a detailed and accurate record of each structure as it was prior to the restoration works commencing. The finished drawings were also intended to provide a resource which can be utilised in future by the community of High Valleyfield.

6. At each historic structure the survey work was dominated by recording the main elevations in detail using a Leica TCR705 reflectorless EDM. Where necessary, this work was to be supported by hand-drawn detail: such hand-drawn elevations were required only in those areas where the ornamental stairs abutted the wall of the walled garden and there was insufficient room for the total station to operate. All elevations were accurate to the individual stone detail with no generic infilling of fabric.

7. Works were carried out on various dates between March and August 2012. While the instrument and drawn survey formed the core of the works, this was supported by written and photographic records of the structure that enabled the comprehension of architectural details.

8. All work undertaken complied with the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct.

Historical Background

9. Documents have been prepared previously which give a detailed history of the Preston family and the development of their Valleyfield estate (see, for example, Peter McGowan Associates, 1992 and Ewart et. al. 1996). A substantial quantity of primary source material is also available for consultation at the National Archives of Scotland, the most significant of which must be the Valleyfield Estate Papers which include letter books and accounts.

10. With such comprehensive reference works already pre-existing, only a brief summary of the estate's development will be presented here as a means of contextualising the five structures which were subject to survey during the course of these works.

11. The estate of Valleyfield first came into the possession of the Preston family in 1543, when James Preston bought the land from Patrick Bruce (Peter McGowan Associates, 1992, A24).

12. From an early stage, it can be surmised that the family were keen to improve their land and the infrastructure upon it. The earliest evidence of this is represented purely by their attempts to maximise the income from their lands by improving its productivity. This included the acquisition of burgh status for Valleyfield c. 1663, and efforts to mine coal from 'a great depth' undertaken prior to 1793 by Sir Charles Preston (Peter McGowan Associates, 1992, A24). Such efforts occasionally led to disputes with neighbouring land-

owners, as illustrated by the disagreements between Sir George Preston of Valleyfield and John Erskine of Carnock, over the damming of the New Miln Water (National Archives of Scotland: GD15/834).

13. That these improvements included investment of Valleyfield House and its gardens is attested to by map evidence. The map sequence which begins with Roy's Military Map of 1747-55 demonstrates quite clearly that a designed landscape was in place here by at least the mid-eighteenth century, and that this was actively evolving throughout the period prior to Sir Robert Preston's involvement in the estate.

14. Roy shows a single structure – Valleyfield House – located to the west of the Bluther Burn, with two areas of woodland located at the north and south ends of the policies (Figure 1a). No formal gardens as such are apparent: instead, we see areas of tree-planting which appear to represent shelter belts, a single avenue running east-west and a line of trees (with some more isolated specimens in the vicinity) running parallel with, and perhaps screening off, the Bluther Burn.

15. Just a few decades later, this layout has been transformed (Fig. 2a). Two avenues of trees have been planted, both leading away from the house, one following a north-northeast to south-southwest axis, and the other following a north-northwest to south-southeast axis. These do not appear to be associated with the physical approach to the house, as a roadway is shown running roughly north-south past the house. To the south of the house, this road is associated with a short stretch of tree-lined avenue, kinking slightly to the west – presumably to allow views of the house through the tree-lined avenues described above - then resuming its north-west course.

16. Beyond the introduction of these new avenues, the planting scheme remains largely similar, though the woodlands to the north and south have now been cleared, leaving only stretches of shelter belt around the perimeter of the estate and a square area of woodland which appears to correspond to the north-westernmost of the two square enclosures depicted on Roy.

17. All five structures form individual elements of a much-larger designed landscape designed c. 1803 at the instigation of Sir Robert Preston of Valleyfield. To improve the appearance and character of his estate, Preston employed the services of the English Landscape designer Humphry Repton.

18. Valleyfield was Repton's first and only commissioned work in Scotland: the designer, was not, however, granted any opportunity to visit the site following a carriage accident which left him crippled. The work was instead carried out by two of his sons.

19. A detailed account of Repton's contribution to Sir Robert Preston's estate, and contemporary reactions to his work (not always favourable) is included in Valleyfield Wood Repton Landscape: Restoration Management (Peter McGowan Associates, 1992), so it is not proposed to repeat this information in any great detail here. Suffice it to say that Valleyfield was already renowned for its outstanding beauty even prior to Repton's involvement at the site: indeed, he commented upon its 'ample lawns and bold woods', contrasting them with the 'romantic Valley which seems to have been formed by Nature in her happiest mood' (Peter McGowan Associates, 1992, 9).

20. Repton's designs were intended to enhance the owners' enjoyment of these pre-existing qualities. To this end, he added a winding gravel drive which ran through the valley of the Bluther Burn, replaced some existing estate buildings (in particular lodges) with structures more in keeping with the recently built 'modern' mansion, constructed at the behest of Sir Robert in the late-eighteenth century, and created additional designed landscape features which will be discussed in more detail at a later point.

Figure 1a: Roy's Military Survey 1747-1755

Figure 1b: Extract from Ainslie's Map of 1775

21. Repton's changes to the designed landscape are clearly shown on nineteenth century mapping. Perhaps the earliest and arguably the most valuable depiction of his work is an estate map of Valleyfield dated 1810 which features the individual elements of his creation in minute detail.

22. Figure 2a shows a detailed plan of the house, lying to the north-northwest of the remains a line of trees, the latter representing the remains of one of the tree-lined avenues or drives clearly shown on Ainslie's map of 1778. It also shows a large structure lying to the northwest of the house. Comprising four roofed buildings, square on plan, arranged around a central square courtyard. This represents the estate offices, which Repton argued in his Red Book should be placed in close proximity to the house. A fragment of the walled garden can also be glimpsed in this extract – an important feature which will be considered in detail at a later point.

23. Figure 2b shows another important element of the estate – the kitchen garden. Repton considered this an important element of the estate's infrastructure and suggested that it should be located close to the main house. While it lies slightly further to the north, it is easily accessible, linked by a roadway which connects kitchen garden and offices, and from which a driveway branches off towards the main house itself.

24. With Valleyfield straddling two counties, the earliest Ordnance Survey mapping of the area, published in 1860, provides us with a disjointed picture (Figures 3a and b). Nonetheless, it is useful to understanding the broader layout of the estate's landscape feature and it provides a helpful contrast with earlier and later mapping of the area. It shows all the features described above, as well as a number of structures located in and around the Bluther Burn, including a weir and several bridges (Figure 3a). These correspond to the various bridges that remain upstanding to this day (and include the two rusticated-style bridges which are included within this survey).

25. The Fife mapping shows, in addition, the walled flower garden, designed by Repton and located to the south of the deer park (Figure 3b). This comprises an area of ground surrounded by a high wall on three sides but open to the south, where it overlooks a length of ornamental canal. Located immediately to the rear (north) are a group of structures, which originally included glasshouses and pineapple pits and which now survive only in ruinous condition. Again the 1810 estate plan is more helpful in understanding this feature and it will be included for reference at a later point.

26. The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in the closing years of the nineteenth century, shows little change in the intervening period. It is in subsequent editions that we see the decay of the estate and the encroachment of modern housing which ultimately transformed the location into something resembling that which we see today.

27. Valleyfield's decline commenced in 1864, when the house and its associated parkland were separated from the lands which had formerly provided the income to maintain it (McGowan Associates, 1992). In 1904, it was sold to the East Fife Coal Company, who founded the High Valleyfield mine nearby. Figure 3a shows the area

28. Figure 4a shows the site as it was in 1915. The house remains roofed and intact at this time, but the area once occupied by Flagstaff Park and East Park has already been transformed into housing. A revised version of this map published in the 1940s shows an increase in housing density, and the decay of Valleyfield house, which was left to become ruinous following the removal of copper from its roof by the East Fife Coal Company. By this time, the woodlands had been sold on to the Forestry Commission, who removed the original plantations and replanted with commercial species such as spruce and larch.

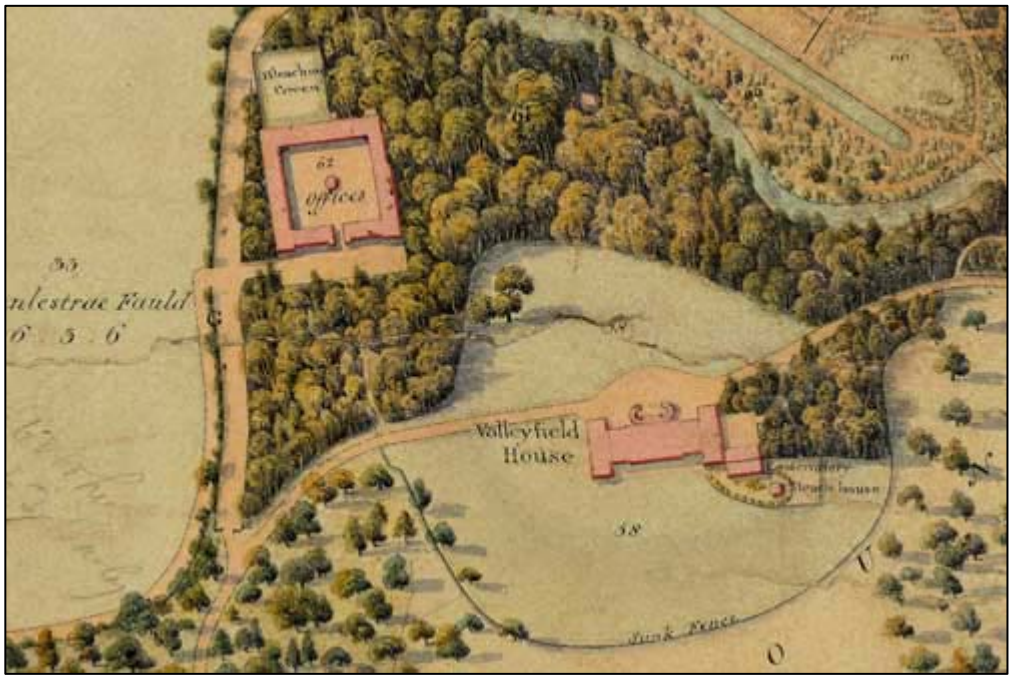

Figure 2a: Extract from Valleyfield Estate Plan of 1810, Showing Valleyfield House & Offices with Canal and Fragment of Walled Garden visible at top-right corner

Figure 2b: Extract from Valleyfield Estate Plan of 1810, Showing Kitchen Garden and Associated Buildings

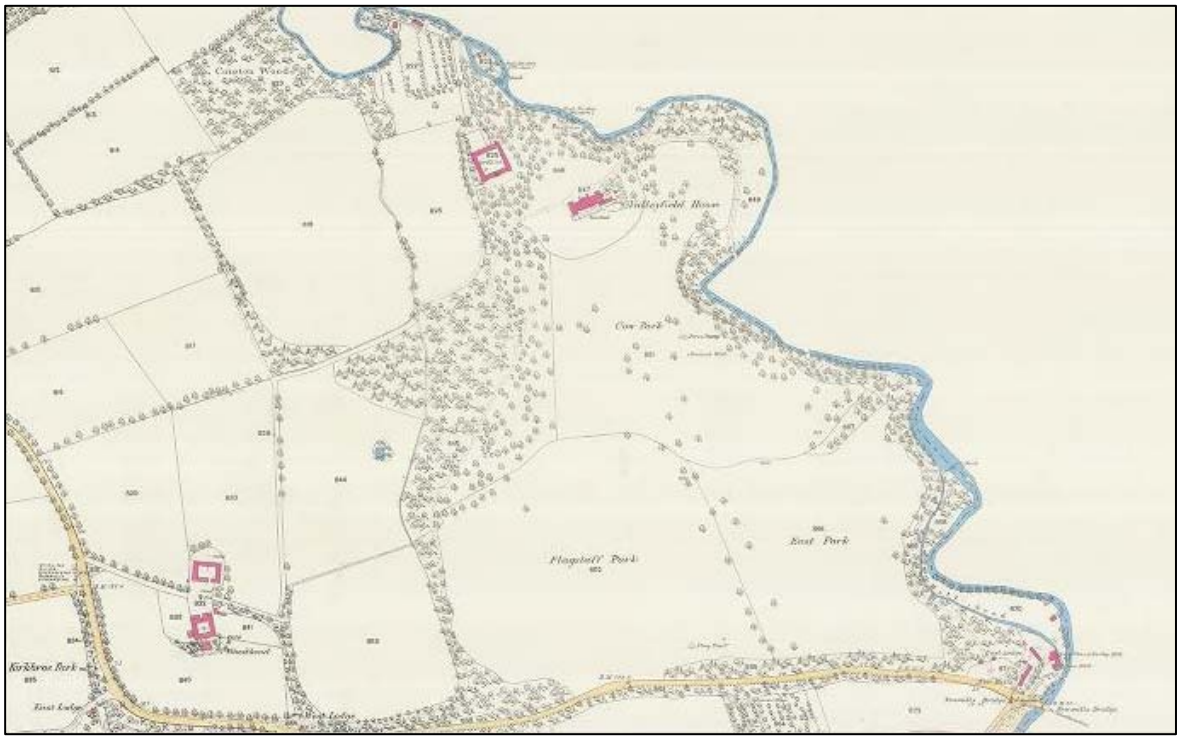

Figure 3a: Extract from First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1860 (Perthshire)

Figure 3b: Extract from First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1860 (Fife)

Figure 4a: Extract from Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1915 (Fife)

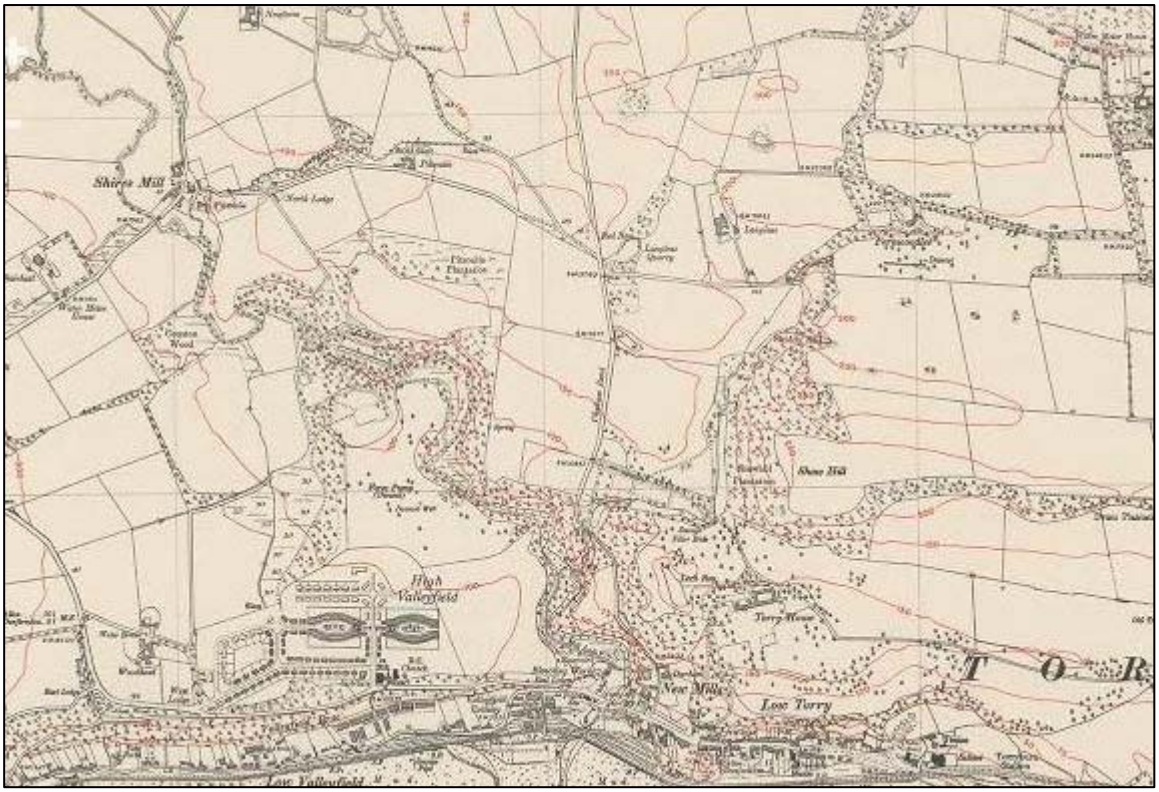

Figure 4b: Extract from 4th Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1951 (Fife)

29. In the 1980s, Dunfermline District Council acquired much of the estate from the Forestry Commission, and since then there have been a number of small scale improvements to the site, carried out with the long-term aim of creating an amenity which will be of benefit to the local community and which will also attract visitors to the area. Previous projects had included the improvement of the north and south site entrances, and the main drive. The project works described here form another component part in this long-running programme of improvements, contributing to the restoration of five structures which were created at Repton's behest as part of his scheme for Valleyfield, and which remain important features of interest within the designed landscape.

Project Works

30. The programme of mitigation works was agreed to comprise the following key components:

    a. the recording of all five structures to Level 4 of the RCHME standards;

    b. the production of an illustrated report which integrates the findings of the works through a Data Structure Report characterising the structures.

31. At each historic structure the survey work would be dominated by recording the main elevations in detail using a Leica TCR705 reflectorless EDM. This would be supported by hand-drawn detail where appropriate to record the character of the stonework. All elevations were to be accurate to the individual stone detail with no generic infilling of fabric.

    The instrument and drawn survey was supported by written and photographic records of the structure that enable the comprehension of architectural details.

32. All works have complied with the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

Findings: Building Recording

33. A total of five structures were included within this programme of building survey work. These comprised two ornamental stairs, two rusticated bridges and a rusticated arch. Detailed elevation drawings and ground plans were made of each structure, with accompanying notes and photographs prepared to support this data. Unless stated otherwise in the text, all elevations were drawn using the Leica TCR705 reflectorless EDM.

Structure 1, The West Stair

34. The first two structures form integral parts of the Repton-designed Flower Garden, which is shown in detail on the 1810 estate plan (Figure 5) as a rectangular area defined on the north,west and east sides by a 'C'-shaped stretch of walling, open to the south and with a number of ancillary buildings to the rear. The latter, which include a series of pineapple pits, still survive in ruinous condition.

35. The enclosing wall of the Flower Garden is composed of hand-made bricks, double-skinned in places to allow the passage of warm air from furnaces located in the buildings to the rear. On the first site visit, which took place in February 2012, the interior of the flower garden formed a gradual slope from north to south: at the base of this slope, a track ran in a roughly east-east direction, beyond which lay the remains of the Repton-designed canal/water feature which had once formed a focus of visual interest in the landscape.

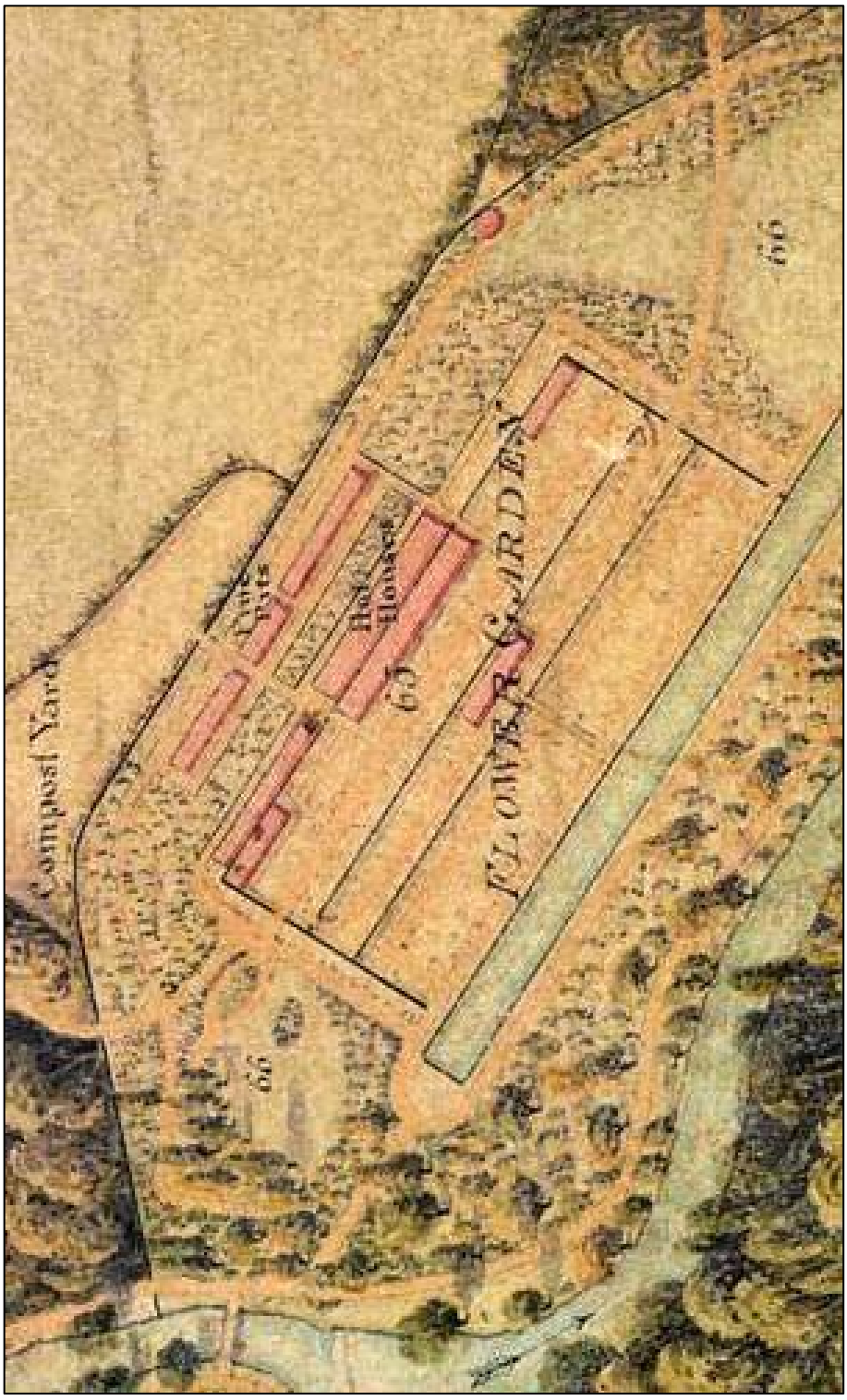

Figure 5: Extract from Valleyfield Estate Plan of 1810, Showing Detailed Layout of Walled Flower Garden, with Canal Extant at Base of Slope

36. The presence of the stairs (also shown on the 1810 estate plan) suggested that the garden had once been terraced, and contemporary illustrations confirm this. By the time the survey works commenced in May 2012, the existing land form had been reworked to resemble this original design, giving three levels within the limits of the walling. The two stairs were arranged in a symmetrical fashion on the west and east sides, their upper surfaces flush with the highest terrace, and their steps allowing access to the middle one.

37. Both stairs were largely similar on plan, but there were sufficient differences evident between the two structures, both in their fabric and their condition, to merit detailed discussion of each.

38. The first structure to be surveyed was the westernmost stair (Figures 6a & b), which comprised a roughly 'L'-shaped revetment wall, terraced into the slope and abutting the adjacent boundary wall. Projecting south from this revetment wall was a flight of stone steps which curved around to the east as it descended.

39. The character of the revetment wall, represented by Elevations a, b and e, varied markedly across its extent. The eastern elevation, Elevation a (Figures 7a & b), survived in reasonable condition throughout, though the quoins had been displaced at the south end, and the coping stones were also absent in this location. The masonry comprised 4 courses of coursed rubble, with no mortar present. Each block had been roughly squared, and the faces coarsely finished by way of horizontal broaching. Two sizes of chisel had evidently been used in dressing the stones, a narrow-bladed form and a broad-bladed form, as shown in Figure 7b. In some places, the surface of the rubble blocks had been obscured by moss, while in several examples, the surfaces had entirely spalled due to environmental damage. Fragments of slates were occasionally to be found, bedded within the existing mortar.

40. Elevation b formed part of the south revetment wall of the feature (Figures 8a and b). It survived in poor condition, with around half of its fabric absent, including the quoins at the east end (abutting Elevation a). In the fabric that survives, it is possible to identify the lines of possible courses, but these appear to be less well-defined than those surviving on Elevation a. Also of interest was a small section of hand-made bricks which abutted the adjacent Elevation c (east staircase) and obscured part of Elevation b to the rear. These bricks did nothing to enhance the structure visually (c.f. Structure 2, Elevation b) but they may have had a functional use in helping to support the adjacent stair,

41. The third elevation of the revetment was Elevation e (Figures 9a and b). This elevation had to be hand-drawn, as access for the machine was limited due to the narrow nature of the gap between the western wall of the stair and the nearby boundary wall of the Flower Garden. This elevation was composed entirely of hand-made bricks, standing to a height of 17 courses. This was considerably lower than its counterpart on Structure 2 (East Stair) which suggested that a significant amount of soil may have built up here, obscuring the lower courses. Some spalling of the outer surfaces of the brick had occurred, and there was evidence of re-pointing in places, concentrated in particular in the lower western corner. This repair work appeared to have been carried out using cement, as opposed to lime mortar, and the modern pointing could be distinguished by its darker greyish hue.

42. The second element of the structure was the stair itself, which abutted the south edge of the revetment wall and then curved smoothly round to the east. The steps were made up of individual wedge-shaped blocks sandstone, of which twelve remained *in situ* with several displaced examples surviving nearby. Each step had been polished to a fine smooth finish with rounded edges to front and sides and two mouldings beneath, the upper beaded, the lower squared (Figure 10a). Originally, iron banister rails ran down either side of the stair – the stumps of these still survived *in situ* (Figure 10b).

Fig. 6a: Structure 1 – West Stair, Flower Garden: General View From East

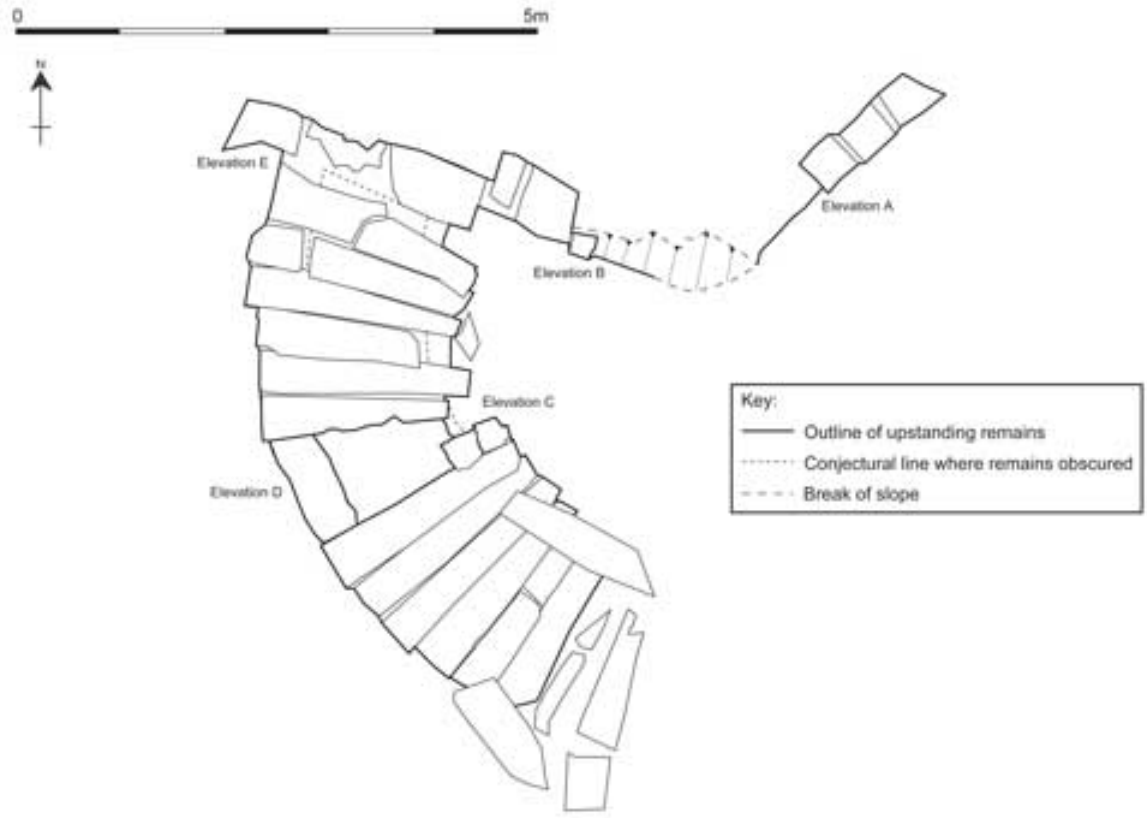

Figure 6b: Structure 1 – West Stair, Flower Garden: Plan

Figure 7a: Structure 1, West Stair: Elevation a (East-facing revetment)

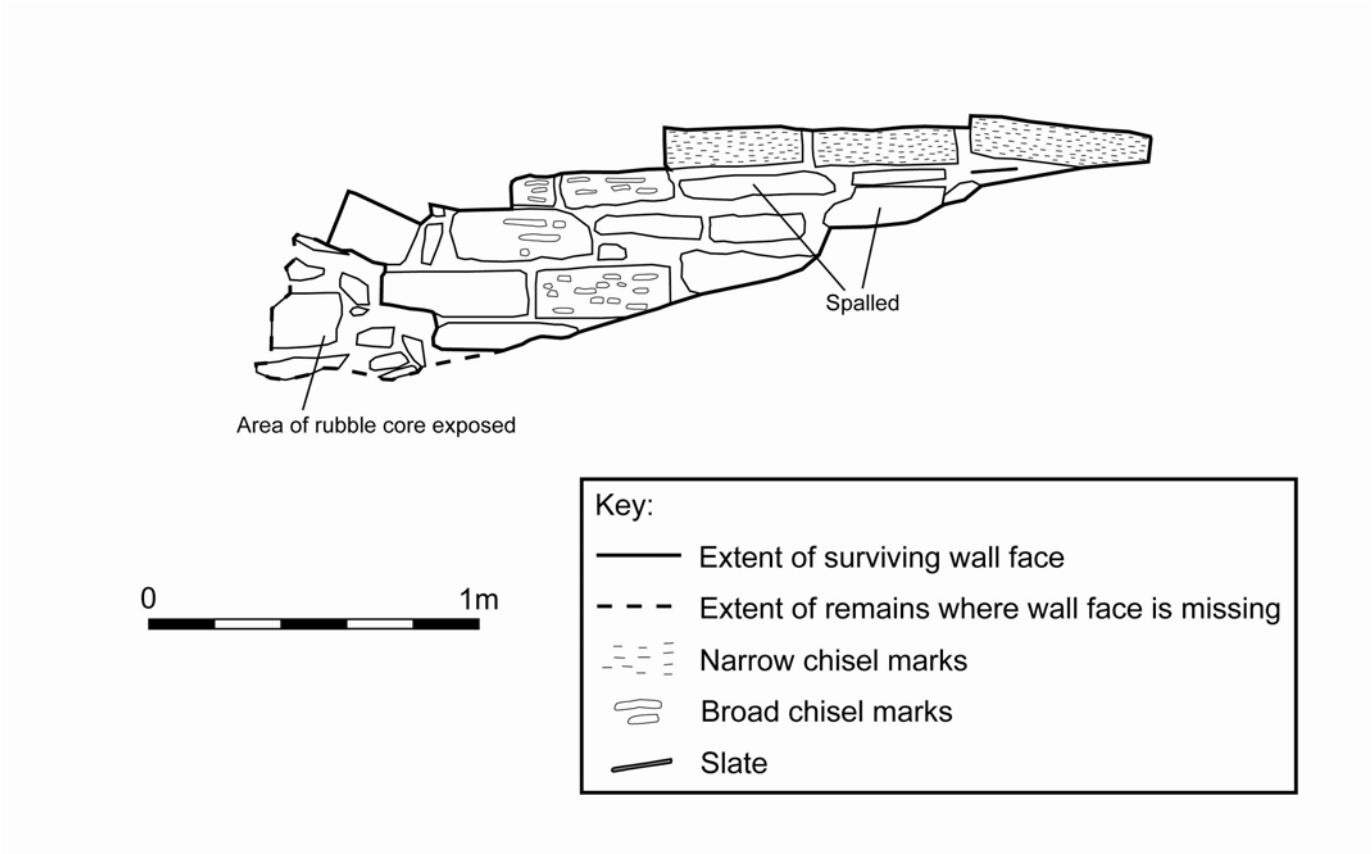

Figure 7b: Structure 1, West Stair: Elevation a (East-facing revetment)

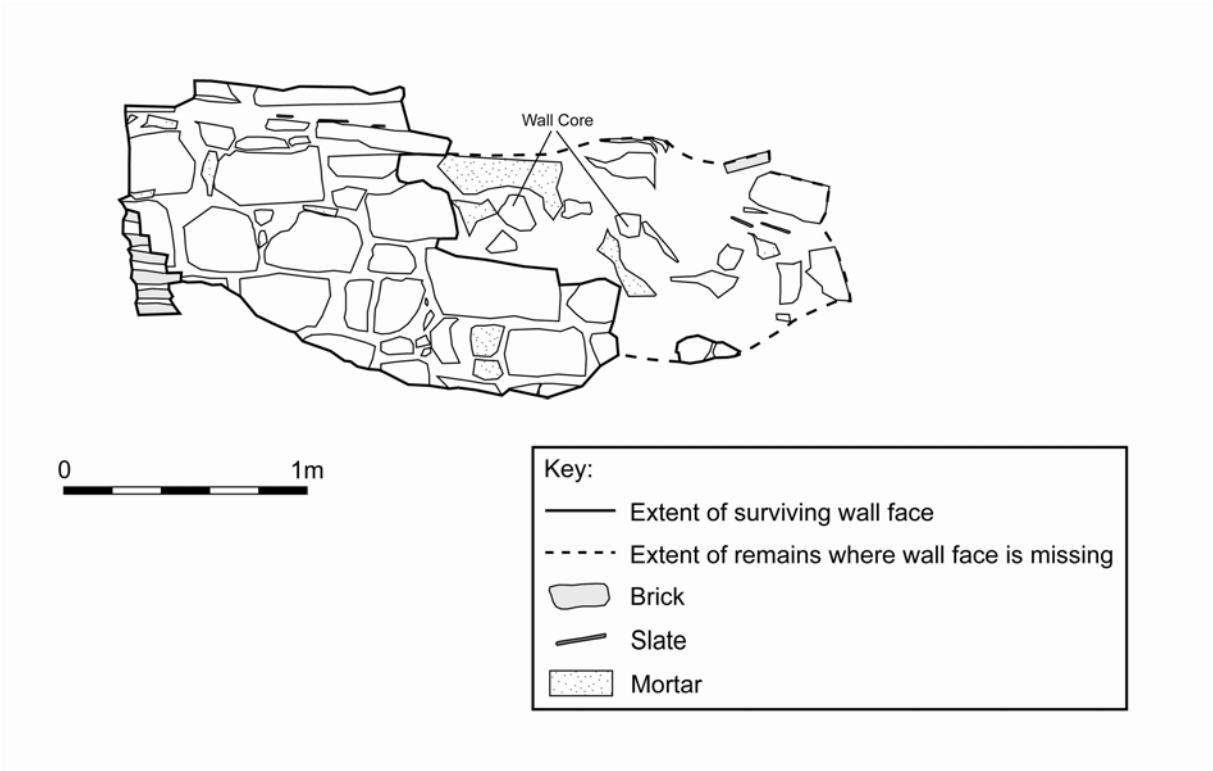

Figure 8a: Structure 1, West Stair: Elevation b (South-facing revetment)

Figure 8b: Structure 1, West Stair: Elevation b (South-facing revetment)

Fig. 9a: Structure 1, West Stair: Elevation e (South-facing revetment)

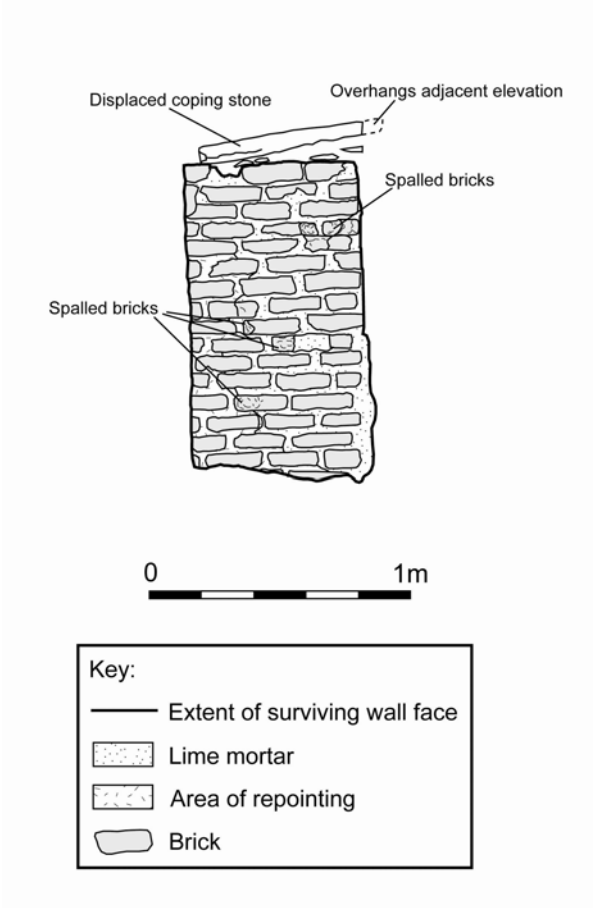

Figure 9b: Structure 1, West Stair: Elevation e (South-facing revetment)

Figure 10a: Structure 1, West Stair: Elevation d – Profile of Step

Figure 10b: Structure 1, West Stair: Elevation d – Remains of Iron Bannister Rail

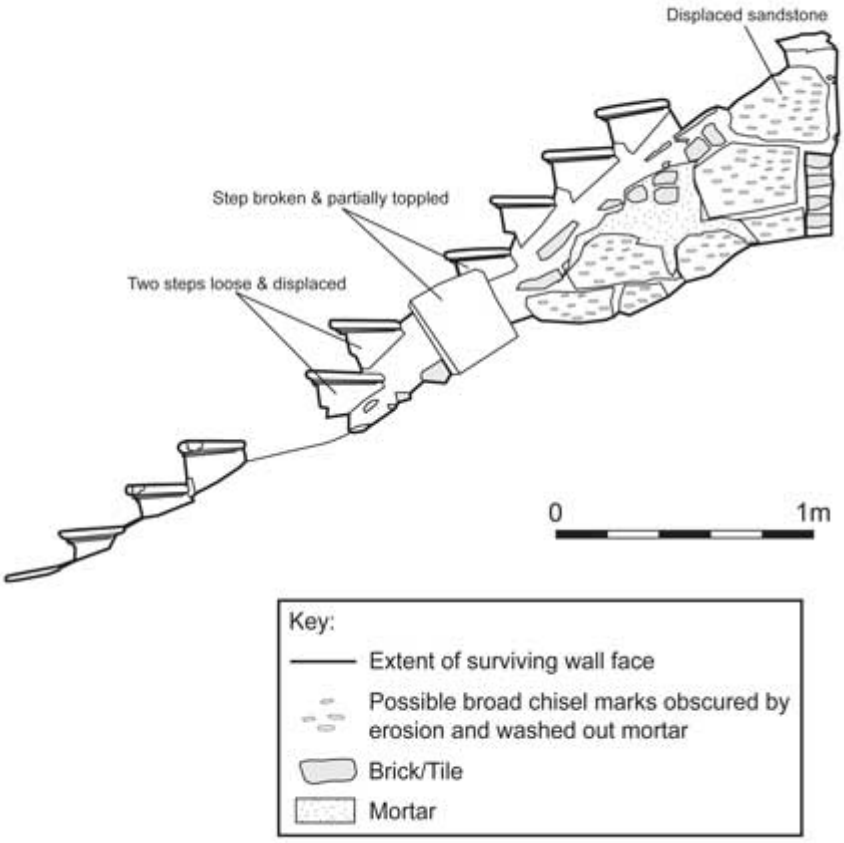

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Fig. 11a: Structure 1, West Stair: Elevation e (South-facing revetment)

Fig. 11b: Structure 1, West Stair: Elevation e (South-facing revetment)

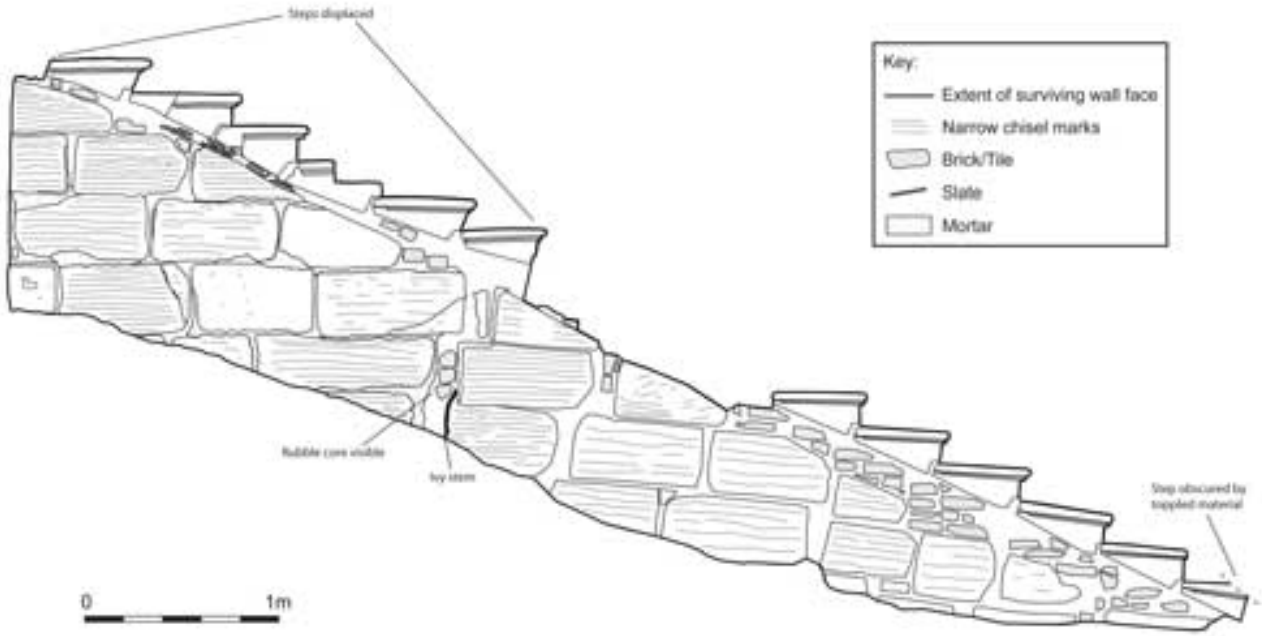

Figure 12a: Structure 1, West Stair: Elevation d (South-facing revetment)

Figure 12b: Structure 1, West Stair: Elevation e (South-facing revetment)

43. The steps were supported by two curving walls. The sides of the steps were flush with the external edges of these walls, with the upper surface of the treads slightly overhanging. Where visible, the walls were seen to be largely rubble built and approximately 0.4m in width, with brick fragments and slates incorporated into the mortar. The external facing stones on the east and west sides were, however, well finished.

44. The smaller of these two walls, Elevation c, was the eastern wall (Figures 11a & b). Standing a maximum of only four courses high, it is possible that further courses survived beneath the modern ground surface, having been obscured by soil build-up. What stones remained had been neatly squared and their surfaces finished through horizontal broaching, applied by a narrow chisel (c.f Elevation a).

45. Elevation d was much larger in extent than Elevation c, representing the external edge of the curve (for a general view, see Figure 9a, and Figure 12a). Here the north end had to be hand drawn due to the cramped and overgrown conditions which prevailed between this particular elevation and the adjacent enclosure wall. The individual blocks which made up this elevation were all squared and most showed horizontal droving (again undertaken by a narrow-bladed chisel) over their faces. They were also extremely large, measuring up to 0.6 x 0.4m in extent (Figure 10b). This elevation had evidence of substantial cracks in places, probably caused in response to the shifting of the slope on which it sat. The occasional small blocks which were present in the elevation may represent earlier attempts to combat this slumping of the structure, and it may also be the case that the numerous small fragments of brick and slate which are used to raise the level of the steps at the lower, south, end of the structure represent a similar attempt to repair the steps in response to changes in ground level.

Structure 2, The East Stair

46. The second of the two ornamental stairs is located on the eastern side of the enclosed Flower Garden (Figures 13a & b). Both features would originally have been identical, but it is clear that this particular structure survives in better condition than its western counterpart, particularly with regards to the revetment wall (Elevations a, b and e).

47. The most striking difference lies in the fact that the quoins are still in place on the eastern stair (Figures 14a & b). Composed of roughly squared blocks of sandstone, these are marked with diagonal broaching, imparted by a broad chisel. This diagonal broaching seems to be confined to the quoins, and could be a means of differentiating the quoins in the western stair from the remainder of the displaced fabric there. Elevation a is made up of coursed rubble, but there is evidence that smaller blocks were used in conjunction with the larger squared blocks in places, with slate and brick fragments also present in small quantities.

48. With the quoins still in place, the integrity of the revetment wall has been retained, and as a result, it is clearly evident that Elevation a possesses a pronounced batter, a characteristic which is clearly visible in the abutting Elevation b (Figures 13 a & b). This batter would probably have been duplicated in Structure 1, the west stair. However, even though the wall itself survives in a better level of preservation, the coping stones survive in smaller numbers on this particular structure.

49. Elevation b, the south revetment wall, is similarly better preserved, again thanks to the retention of the quoins (Figures 14 a & b). The batter has already been commented upon, but there are other features of note which deserve a mention. Firstly, the courses appear to be less well-defined here than they were in Elevation a, particularly in their upper levels, which may indicate that partial collapse and rebuilding once took place here. Secondly, this particular structure mirrors Structure 1 (West Stair) in that it possesses an outer skin of hand-made bricks, abutting the west wall of the stair (Elevation c) and obscuring some of Elevation b, which lies behind. The use of hand-made bricks indicates an early (i.e. early 19th century date) but again the relationship with the adjacent curving stair wall is hard to define.

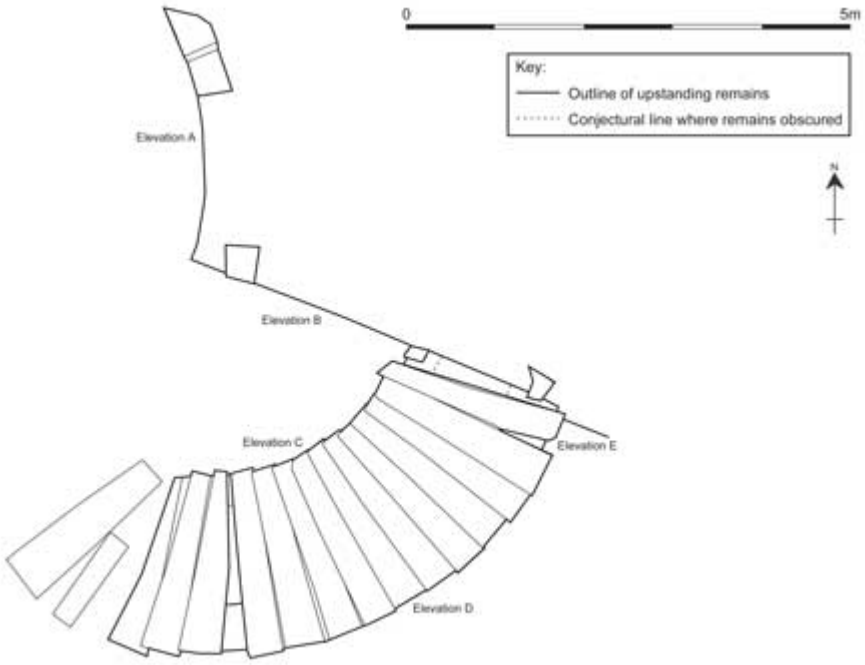

Figure 13a: Structure 2, East Stair: Plan

Figure 13b: Structure 2, East Stair: General View, in Wider Setting of Flower Garden

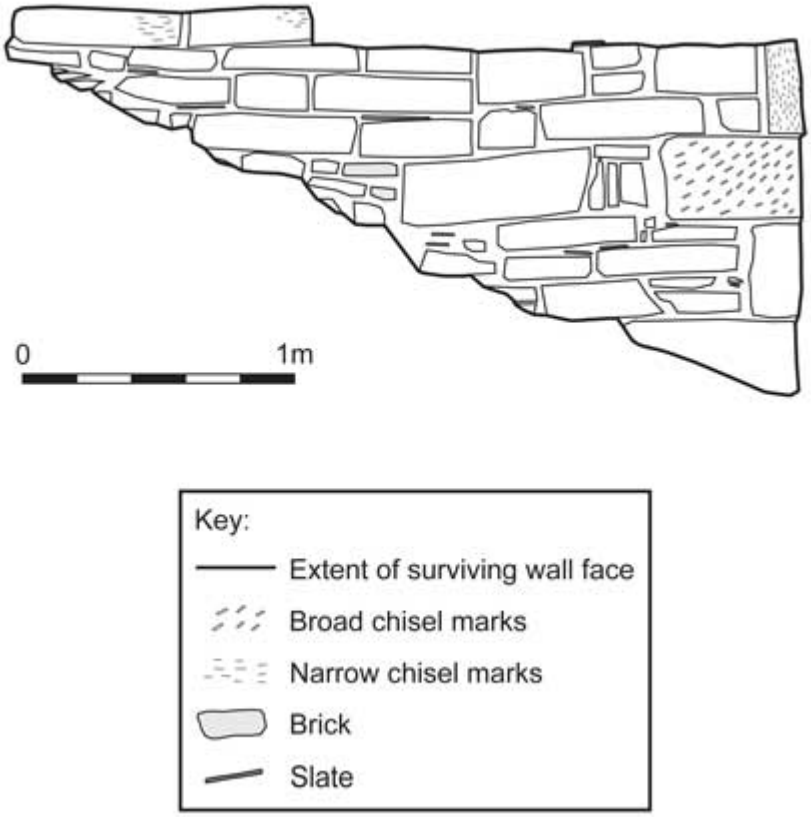

Figure 14a: Structure 2, East Stair: Elevation a (West-facing Revetment)

Figure 14b: Structure 2, East Stair: Elevation a (West-facing Revetment)

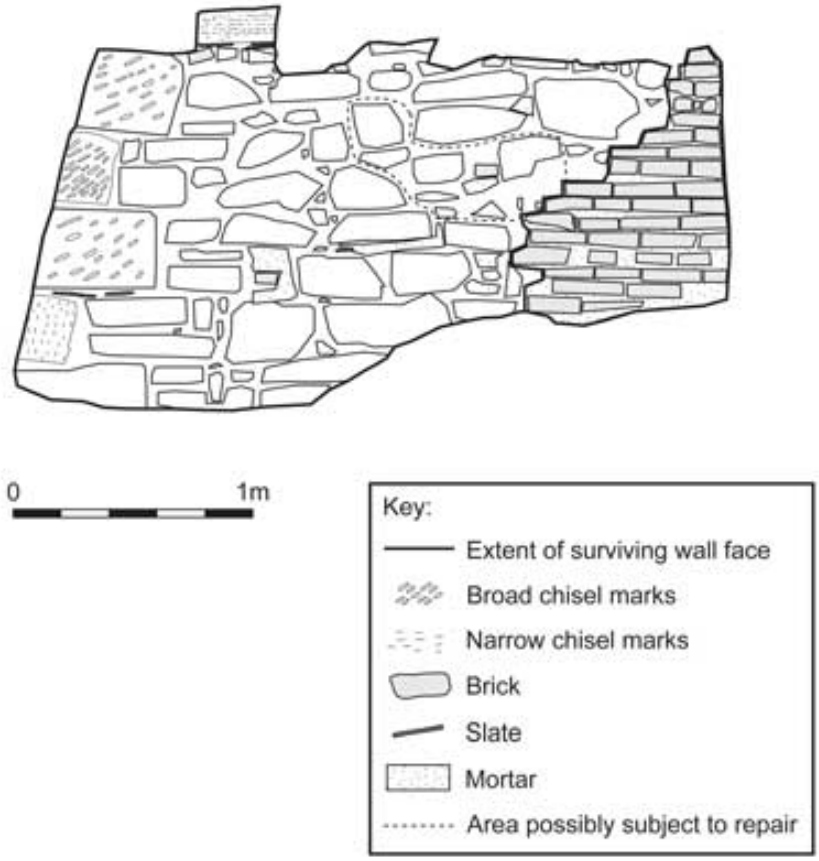

Figure 15a: Structure 2, East Stair: Elevation b (South-facing Revetment)

Figure 15b: Structure 2, East Stair: Elevation b (South-facing Revetment)

Figure 16a: Structure 2, East Stair: Elevation e (South-facing Revetment)

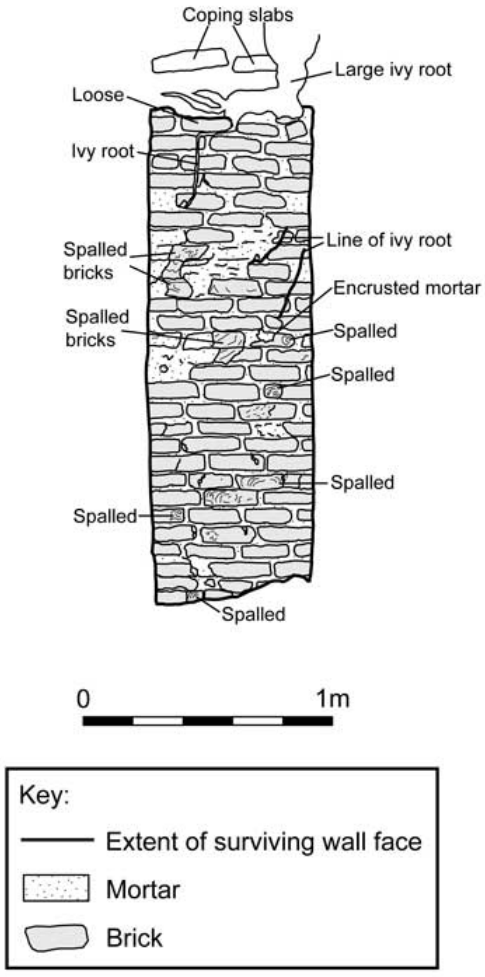

Figure 16b: Structure 2, East Stair: Elevation e (South-facing Revetment)

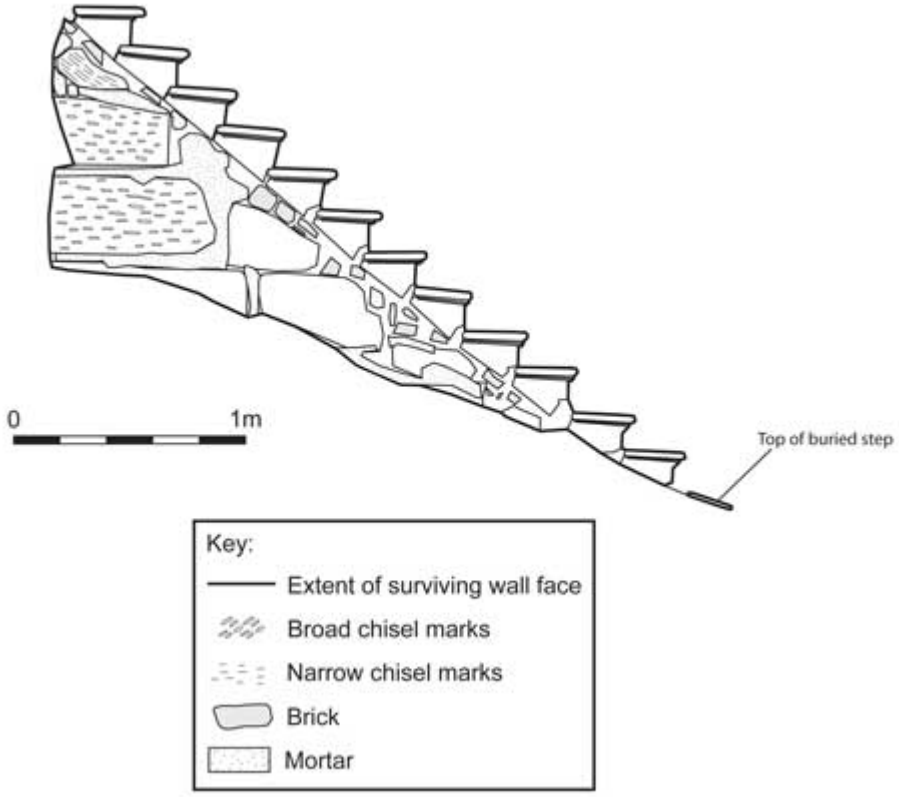

Figure 17a: Structure 2, East Stair: Elevation c (west wall of stair)

Figure 17b: Structure 2, East Stair: Elevation c (west wall of stair)

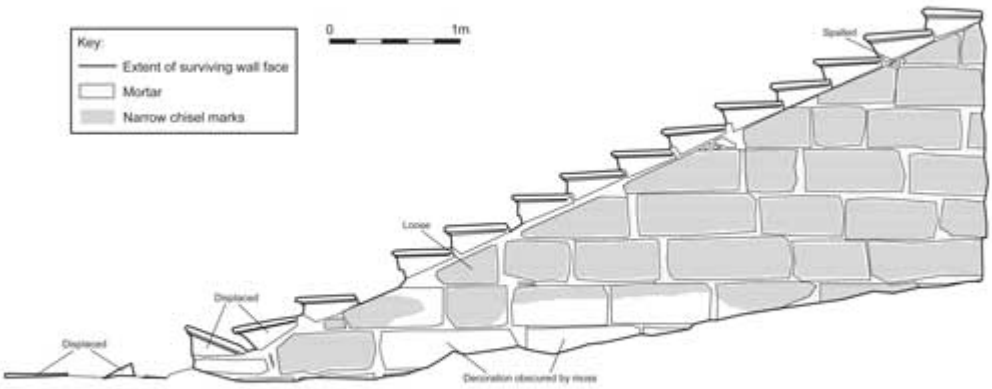

Figure 18a: Structure 2, East Stair: Elevation d (East wall of Stair)

Figure 18b: Structure 2, East Stair: Elevation d (East wall of Stair)

50. The final element of the revetment wall is elevation e, a short length of wall which lies between the curving stair and the nearby external wall of the Flower Garden (Figures 16a & b). It survived to a much greater height than its corresponding elevation in Structure 1 (West Stair) upstanding to a height of 28 courses in total. Again, it was composed of hand-made brick mortared with lime mortar: the wall remained in relatively good condition over much of its extent, though the condition of the bricks themselves was doubtful at times, with considerable amounts of spalling evident. An ivy plant had seeded itself between the uppermost course of bricks and the coping stones above, and this had grown to a considerable height, creating a substantial void between wall face and coping.

51. In this particular structure, the projecting stair had – like the revetment wall – survived in better condition. The stair itself was identical in terms of the form of the steps, and the presence of wrought iron banister rails at either edge, with the layout arranged in a mirror image of those already described in Structure 1. Here, virtually all of the steps remained in their original locations, concealing the fabric of the supporting walls below.

52. In terms of their fabric, Elevations c and d were once again similar to those previously described in Structure 1 (Figures 17 & 18, a & b). They were made up of substantial blocks of squared masonry, built with an integral curve to each block, and there was frequent evidence that the external surfaces were finished off by broaching, with a narrow-bladed chisel used to carry out this work.

53. As with the steps themselves, the supporting walls survived in much better condition than their counterparts in Structure 1, with none of the cracking and slumping evident at the latter replicated here. One interesting point of note was the lack of bedding material – in the form of fragmented bricks, small blocks of sandstone and slate fragments – evident in Elevation d. In Elevation c, however, such material was frequently encountered. Whether this represents a later repair to rectify an unlevel surface to the stair or something contemporary with the structure's original construction cannot, however, be established.

Structure 3: Rusticated Bridge No. 1 (Upper Bridge)

54. This was the northernmost example of the two rusticated bridges built at Repton's instruction along the driveway, instigated as part of his designed landscape, which ran from north to south along the valley of the Bluther Burn towards the mansion that once formed the heart of the Valleyfield estate (Figure 19).

55. Both bridges are of similar construction, but this – the first of the two bridges to be surveyed during these works - is substantially larger, incorporating along its length stretches of parapet walls which merge and extend back from both main elevations (Figures 20-22, a, b & c).

56. This bridge possesses a single span, with the underside built of rectangular blocks of ashlar. These remain in good order, and have not been included within this survey. The majority of the structure appears to comprise a mortared rubble core, with a coursed rubble face on either external elevation. It is this coursed rubble face which gives the structure its unusual character: the sandstone blocks are often of unusually massive size, and the external surfaces treated (presumably using chemicals) to give the appearance of naturally weathered limestone. This gives the structure its rusticated character, reminiscent of Mediterranean structures. On both main elevations, the voussoirs make use of alternating blocks of squared and rusticated sandstone, with the keystone comprising an extremely large and heavily rusticated block which projects beyond its fellows.

57. Throughout most of their extent, both elevations survive in good order, though some areas of facing stones have now been lost (see in particular, the north-west end of the north-facing elevation, Figure 18c), revealing the rubble core beneath. The parapet is surviving only in vestigial form throughout its length, with only isolated remnants upstanding. The rest have been displaced, with a number still located nearby, and others located within the water.

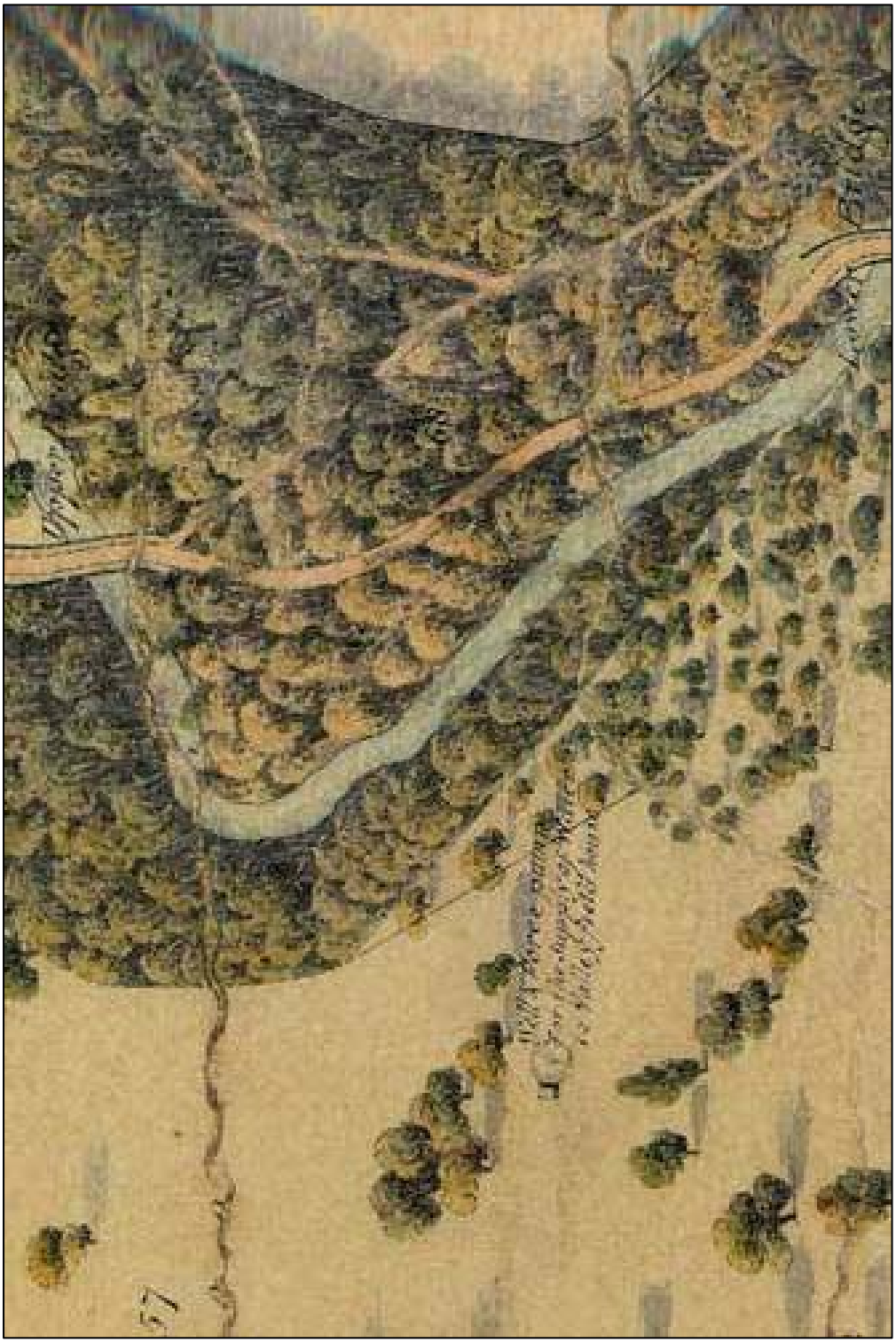

Figure 19: Extract from 1810 Estate Plan Showing Upper and Lower Bridges Along Carriage Drive

Figure 20a; Structure 3, Rusticated Bridge #1 (Upper Bridge)

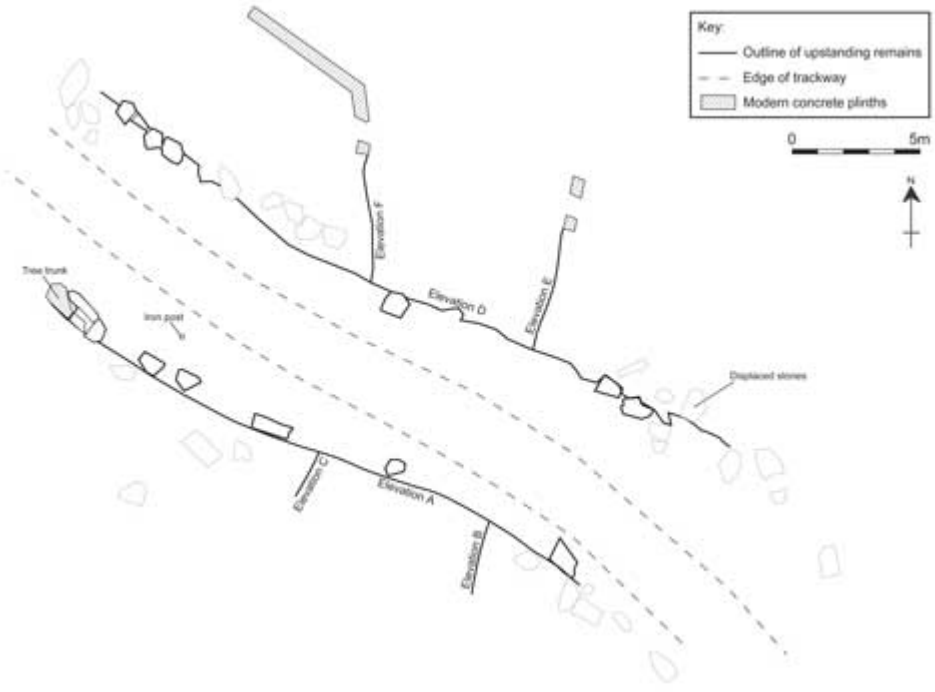

Figure 20b; Structure 3, Rusticated Bridge #1 (Upper Bridge)

Figure 21a; Structure 3, Rusticated Bridge #1 (Upper Bridge) – Elevation a, detail

Figure 21b; Structure 3, Rusticated Bridge #1 (Upper Bridge) – detail of parapet

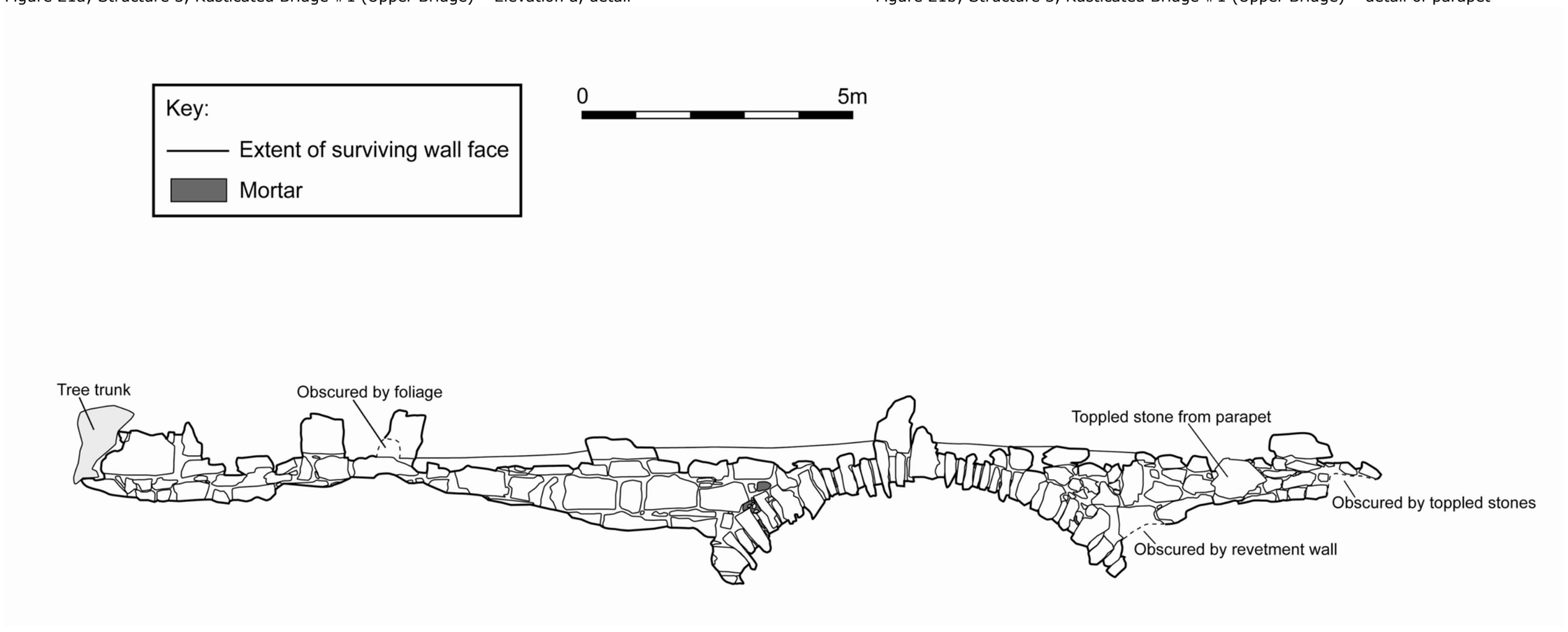

Figure 21c; Structure 3, Rusticated Bridge #1 (Upper Bridge) – Elevation a

Figure 22a; Structure 3, Rusticated Bridge #1 (Upper Bridge) – Elevation d

Figure 22b; Structure 3, Rusticated Bridge #1 (Upper Bridge) – Elevation d – parapet

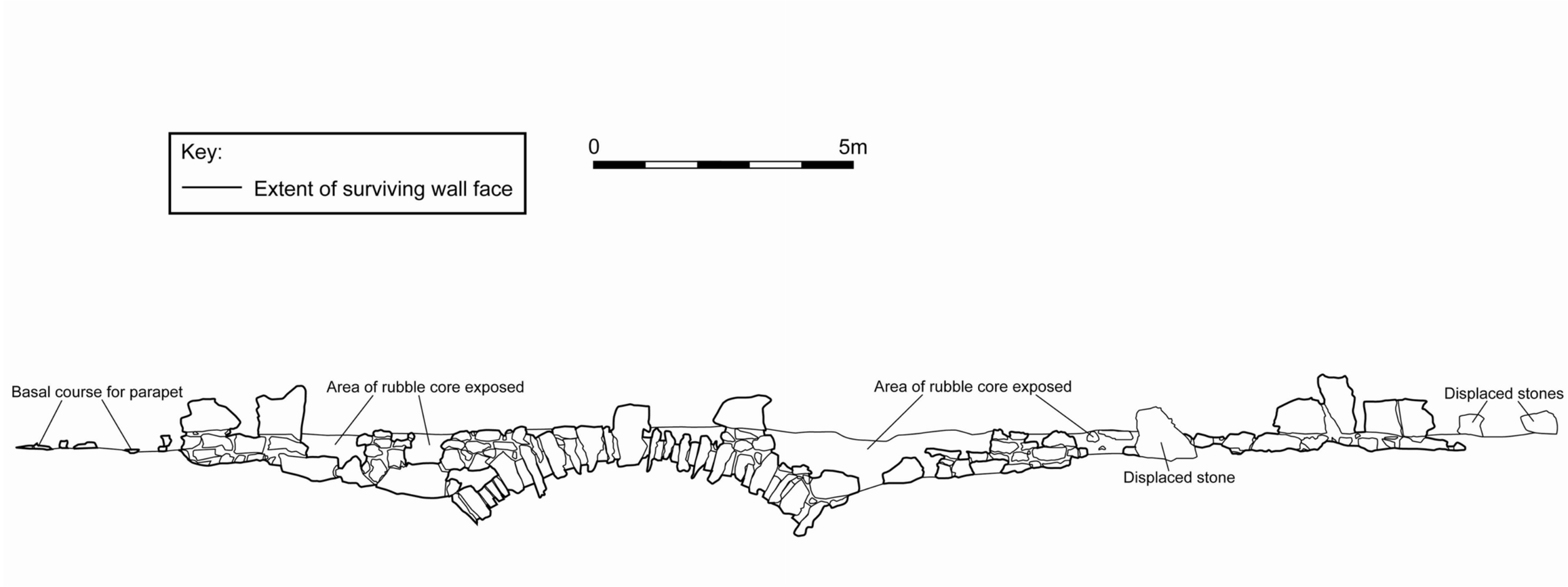

Figure 22c; Structure 3, Rusticated Bridge #1 (Upper Bridge) – Elevation d

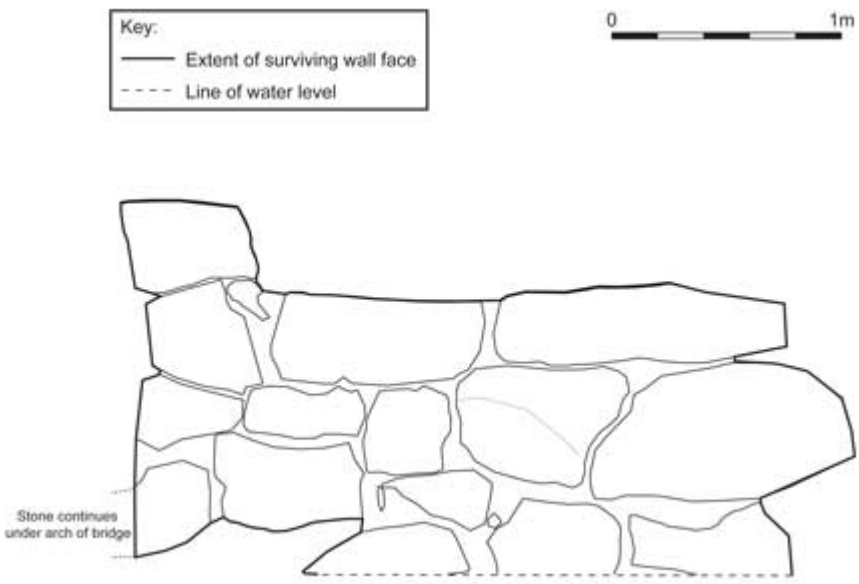

Figure 23a; Structure 3, Rusticated Bridge #1 (Upper Bridge): Elevation b

Figure 23b; Structure 3, Rusticated Bridge #1 (Upper Bridge): Elevation b

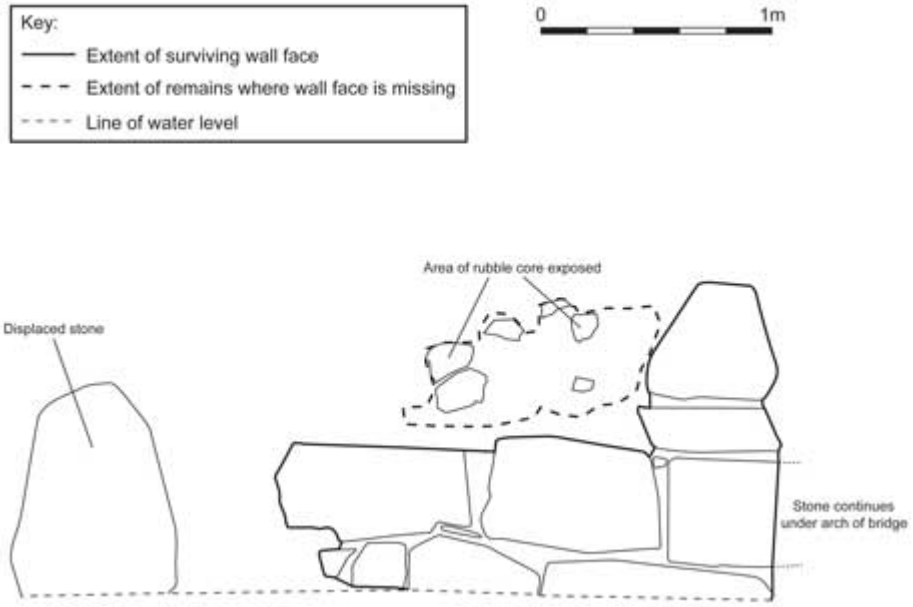

Figure 24a; Structure 3, Rusticated Bridge #1 (Upper Bridge): Elevation c

Figure 24b; Structure 3, Rusticated Bridge #1 (Upper Bridge): Elevation c

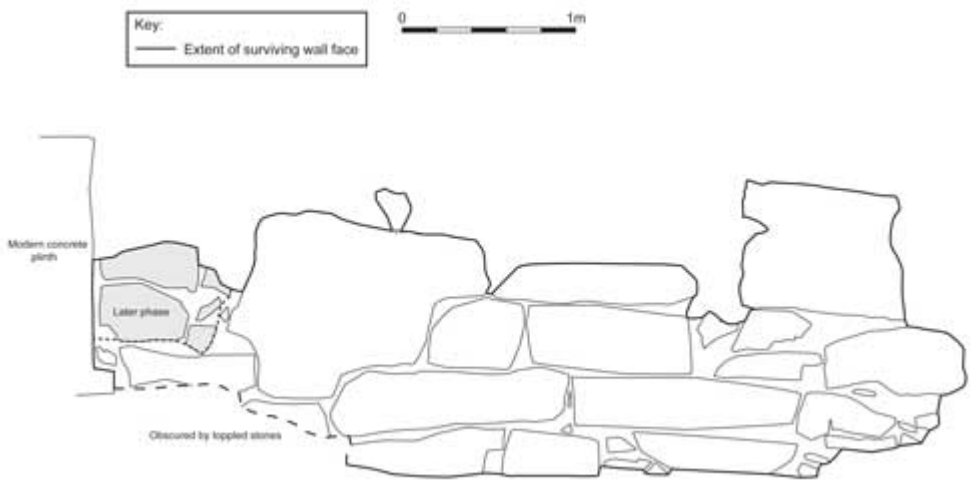

Figure 25a; Structure 3, Rusticated Bridge #1 (Upper Bridge): Elevation e

Figure 25b; Structure 3, Rusticated Bridge #1 (Upper Bridge): Elevation e

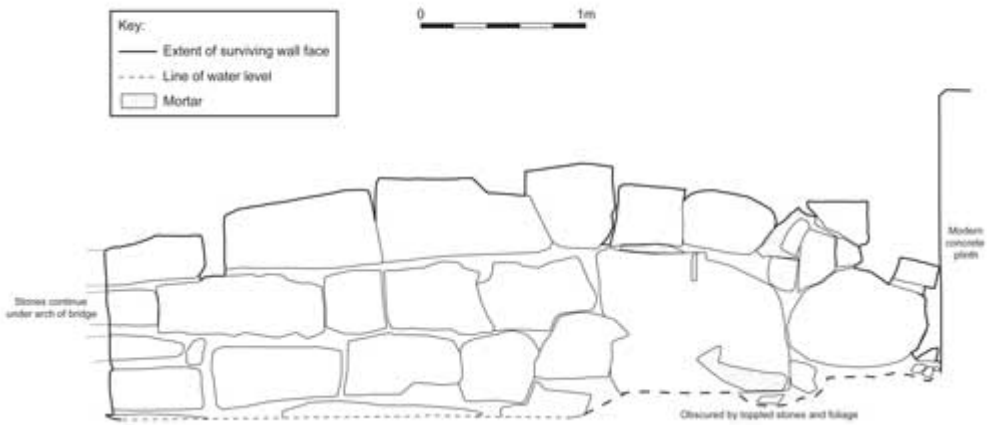

Figure 26a; Structure 3, Rusticated Bridge #1 (Upper Bridge): Elevation f

Figure 26b; Structure 3, Rusticated Bridge #1 (Upper Bridge): Elevation f

58. The main bridge structure also incorporates four revetment walls, created to help secure the banks on either side of the bridge structure. Their conditions varied throughout. On the south side of the bridge, the east revetment (Elevation b) survived in good condition reaching a height of four courses (Figures 23a & b), while the west revetment (Elevation c) had been subject to substantial collapse and was now only partially complete (Figures 24a & b).

59. On the north south of the bridge, both revetment walls abutted a recent concrete plinth, which functioned as the support for carrying a modern sewage pipeline across the Bluther Burn. In both examples, the revetment walls remained in good order, upstanding to a height of four courses (Elevation e: Figures 25a & b; Elevation f: Figures 26a & b). However, it was possible that the ends of the revetments lying closest to the concrete plinths had been rebuilt in recent times, most probably at a period contemporary with the construction of the pipeline. This was particularly marked in Elevation e, where the larger worked sandstone blocks contrasted with smaller, roughly shaped blocks of a material that may have been whinstone.

Structure 4: Rusticated Bridge No. 2 (Lower Bridge)

60. The second of the two rusticated bridges lay further to the south, and once again it had functioned originally as a means of carrying the winding scenic driveway that accessed the estate from a gateway in the south along the valley of the Bluther Burn.

61. This particular bridge contrasted with its fellow in its much smaller size on plan (Figures 27a & b). While the scale of the span was similar, it lacked the long parapet wall that formed an integral part of Rusticated Bridge #1. No traces of such a feature could be identified, though there were a number of large displaced rusticated blocks present in the vicinity which suggested that a parapet wall might once have been present, and that it had now been entirely removed. This possibility was supported by the depiction of the structure on the 1810 estate plan, where a thin solid line on either side of the roadway, similar to that shown in association with the Upper Bridge, where a parapet wall is still upstanding, suggests that such a feature was originally present.

62. The main elevations (Elevations a and d) clearly show the character of the masonry (Figures 28 & 30, a & b), and reveal a similar construction technique to that employed in the building of Rusticated Bridge #1 which has previously been discussed. The interior of the span is composed of squared ashlar blocks, which extend downwards to form the abutments on either side. This portion of the bridge remains in good condition throughout.

63. With the arched span forming the main element, the rest of the structure is composed of a mortared rubble core, with facing stones of coursed rubble that once again feature a high degree of rustication, and that vary in size from very small (0.1 x 0.1m in extent) to extremely large (0.7 x 0.5m). The larger blocks are often roughly squared. Once again, the voussoirs of the arch can be characterised by alternating squared blocks of a similar size, with blocks which have a heavily rusticated external face which may project down by a considerable extent. On both main elevations, the keystones once again comprise extremely large blocks which are heavily rusticated.

64. At either side of the bridge, the banks were again supported by revetment walls. The condition of these varied considerably throughout. On the east side, the construction of concrete pipes to support a sewage pipe had slighted the revetment wall on either bank. Elevation b, the SW revetment wall, survived in very poor condition (Figures 29 a & b), upstanding to a height of two courses, In addition to the nearby concrete plinth, located immediately to this feature, there was another smaller concrete plinth located immediately above it, the construction of which may have resulted in the partial dismantling of the revetment. This had once supported a pipe, but had now been superseded, presumably by the larger plinth located adjacent.

Figure 27a: Structure 4, Rusticated Bridge #2 (Lower Bridge): General View

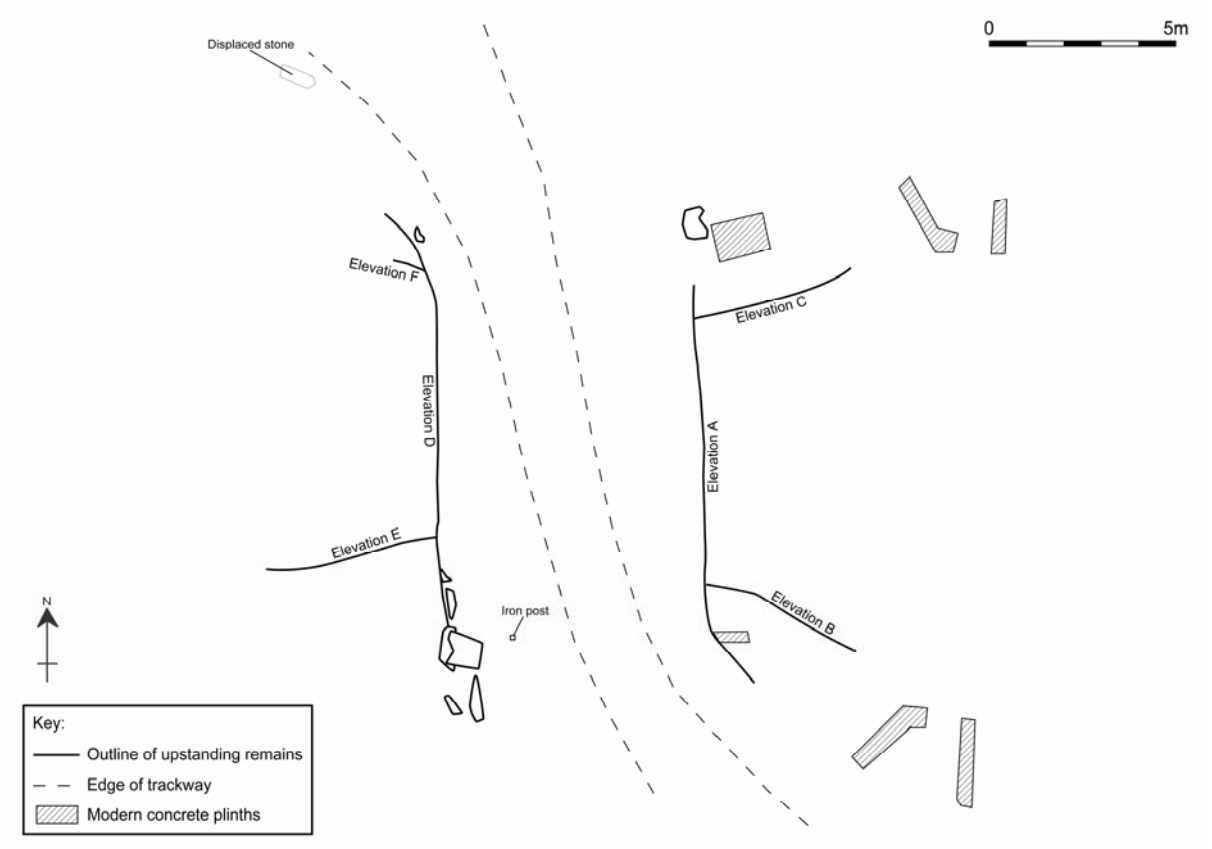

Figure 27b: Structure 4, Rusticated Bridge #2 (Lower Bridge): Plan of Structure

Figure 28a: Structure 4, Rusticated Bridge #2 (Lower Bridge): Elevation a

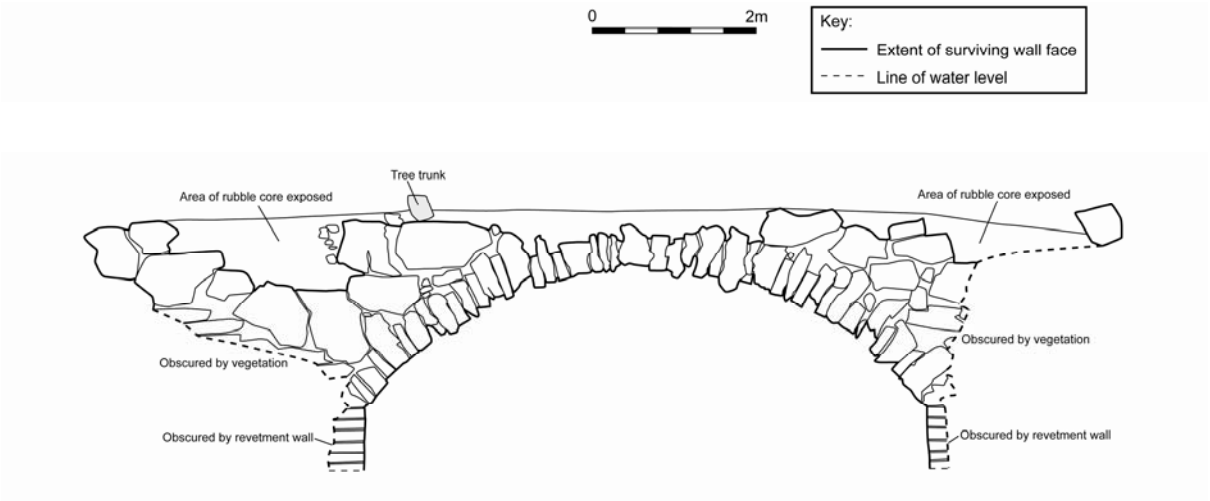

Figure 28b: Structure 4, Rusticated Bridge #2 (Lower Bridge): Elevation a

Figure 29a: Structure 4, Rusticated Bridge #2 (Lower Bridge): Elevation b

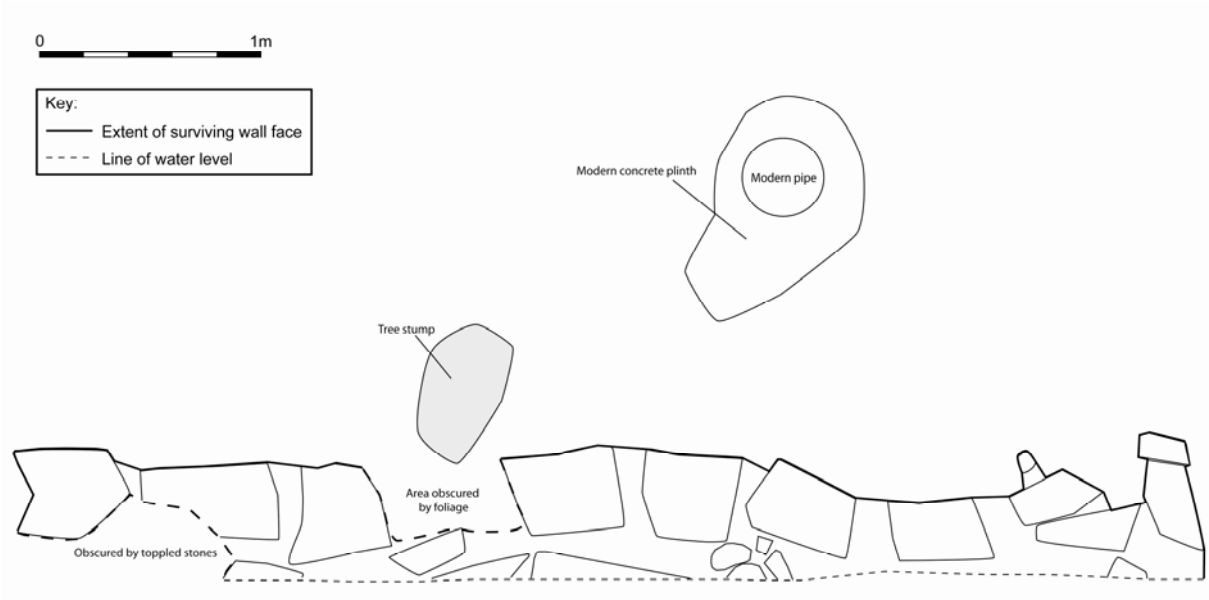

Figure 29b: Structure 4, Rusticated Bridge #2 (Lower Bridge): Elevation b

Figure 30a: Structure 4, Rusticated Bridge #2 (Lower Bridge): Elevation c

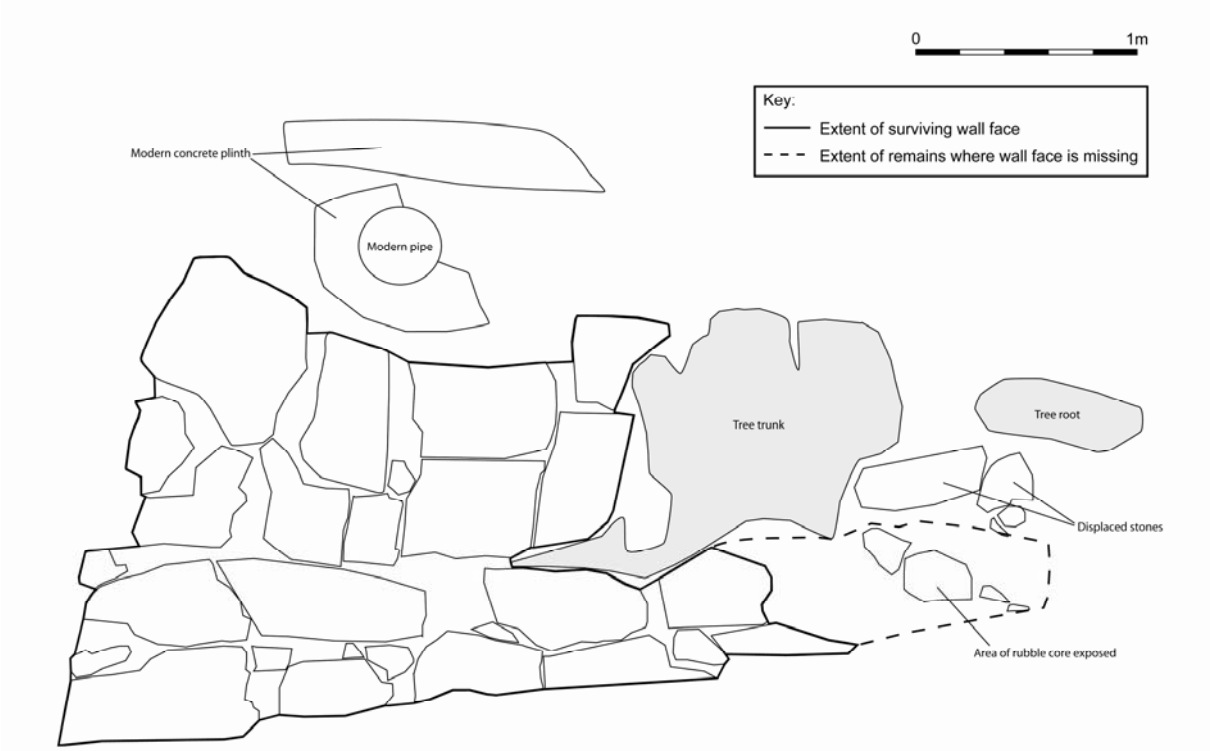

Figure 30b: Structure 4, Rusticated Bridge #2 (Lower Bridge): Elevation c

Figure 31a: Structure 4, Rusticated Bridge #2 (Lower Bridge): Elevation d

Figure 31b: Structure 4, Rusticated Bridge #2 (Lower Bridge): Elevation d

Figure 32a: Structure 4, Rusticated Bridge #2 (Lower Bridge): Elevation e

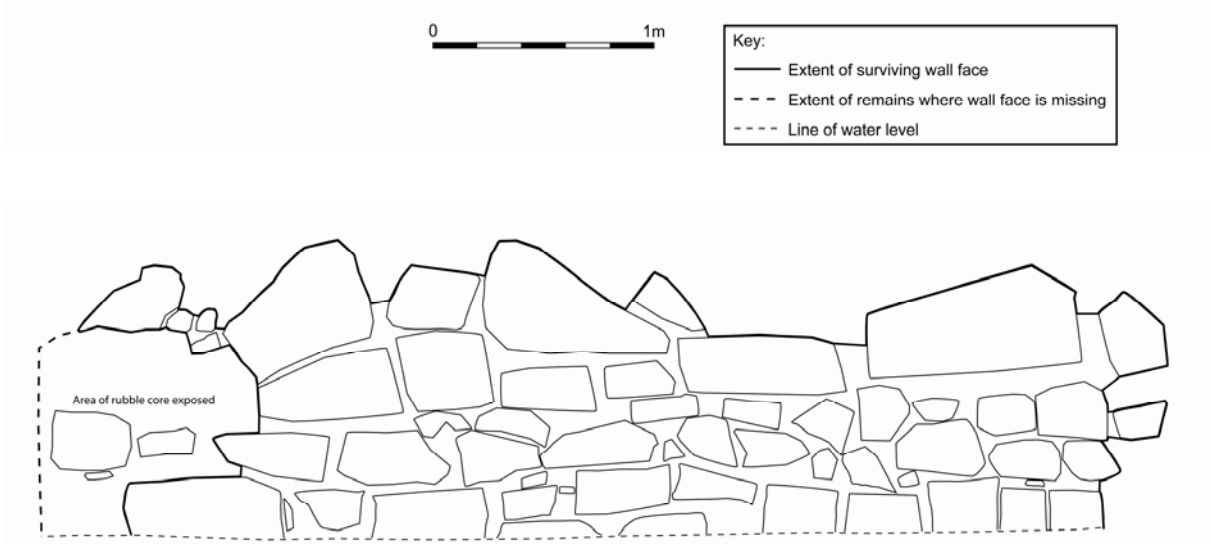

Figure 32b: Structure 4, Rusticated Bridge #2 (Lower Bridge): Elevation e

Figure 33a: Structure 4, Rusticated Bridge #2 (Lower Bridge): Elevation f

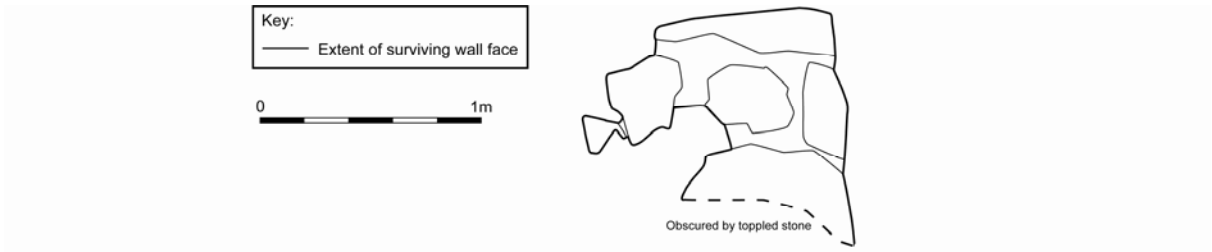

Figure 33b: Structure 4, Rusticated Bridge #2 (Lower Bridge) - Elevation f

65. Elevation c (Figures 30 a & b) survived in much better condition, comprising a coursed rubble revetment which survived to a height of four courses. The masonry was heavily rusticated, with individual blocks varying in size. The largest measured 0.7m x 0.4m in extent, but the majority were much smaller. Some disruption of the upper courses had been caused by the growth of a tree on the bank in this location, and the wall face was itself much obscured by vegetation.

66. On the west side of the bridge, Elevations e and f displayed similar variation in their condition. The south west elevation, Elevation e, survived in excellent condition (Figures 32 a & b), and appeared to merge into a longer stretch of revetment wall which extended further up the west bank of the Bluther Burn. Only the stretch lying closest to the bridge and forming the bridge revetment was recorded, in keeping with the scope of the works. Rusticated blocks of sandstone was used throughout, forming four rough courses, again with sizeable blocks used in places, measuring up to 0.6 x 0.4m in extent. One facing stone was missing: this would have lain immediately adjacent to the main face of the arch (Elevation d).

67. The final elevation, Elevation f (NW revetment) was much less well-preserved. While four courses survived in vestigial form, the walling was absent over much of its length, with large voids and tumbled blocks providing evidence of displacement (Figures 33 a & b). Again, there was evidence of rustication, and the larger blocks appear to have been roughly squared off, with the largest measuring 0.7 x 0.3m in extent.

The Rusticated Arch

68. The final structure of the five was a rusticated archway which stood northwest of the walled Flower Garden and which would originally would formed part of an access path to this structure (Figure 34a). On its south side, it was associated with several 'standing stones', also of rusticated character, which helped define the line of the path and to enhance the rustic nature of the route.

69. Seen on plan (Figure 34b), this structure's role in the wider designed landscape can be seen more clearly. It sits at the south-west end of a ha-ha, comprising a low ditch, the rear (south) wall of which features a surviving stone revetment in places. The remains of a beech hedge still survive here, the beeches in question now surviving as upstanding mature trees. This feature was not included in the survey.

70. The arch itself resembles a flattened lozenge on plan, with low walls extending off on either side. To the north-east, this wall blends in with the revetment wall of the ha-ha, while to the south-east, it continues as a low feature for some distance from the monument. Like the 'standing stones', this low wall helps to define the archway in its wider landscape context and it also adds a ruinous air to the monument.

71. Seen from the north-east, Elevation a is dominated by an amorphous mass of random rubble, heavily mortared to keep it in place (Figures 35a & b). This gives the appearance of an exposed rubble core, dominated by small fragments of sandstone, with some occasional fragments of slate also present. There are some larger blocks within this rubble core – these have been represented in the elevation drawing.

72. Blocks of facing stone still survive in places, forming a low wall around the base of the monument and establishing its shape on plan, with two virtually straight faces extending back from the arched opening for roughly 0.6m before turning sharply back to form wing walls. Some of these facing stones bear horizontal broaching over their surfaces and may even be derived from other buildings, and rustication is absent from these features.

73. Elevation b, the south-west facing wall, is similar in many respects (Figures 36a & b), though the broached masonry is absent here, and the large facing stones instead show signs of rustication, suggesting perhaps a transition from the ordered, 'artificial' world beyond the ha-ha to the natural 'rustic' world beyond.

Figure 34a; Structure 5, Rusticated Arch: General View

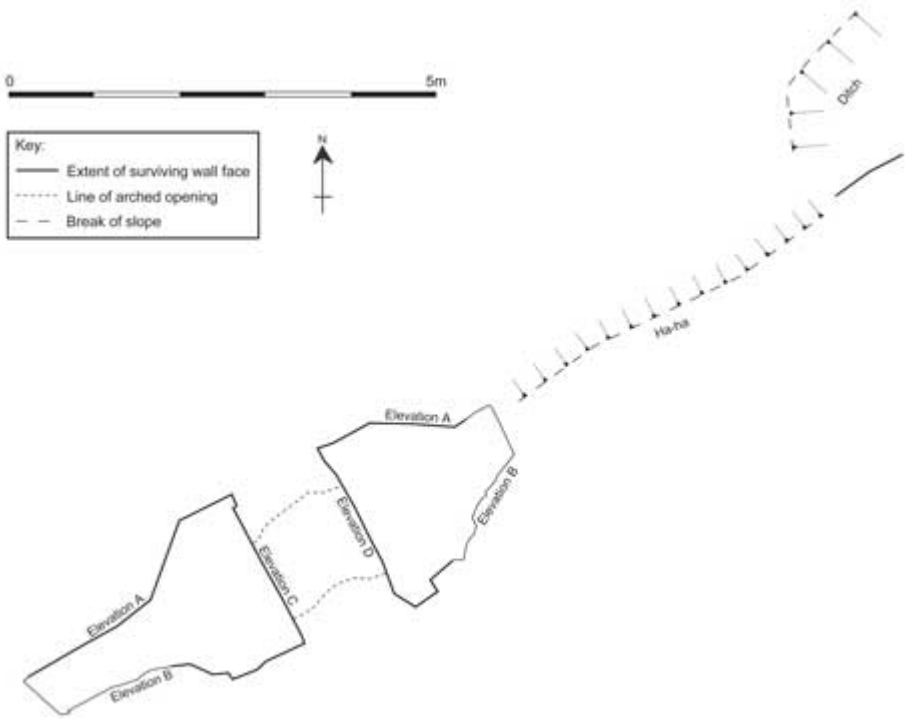

Figure 34b; Structure 5, Rusticated Arch: Plan

Figure 35a; Structure 5, Rusticated Arch: Elevation A

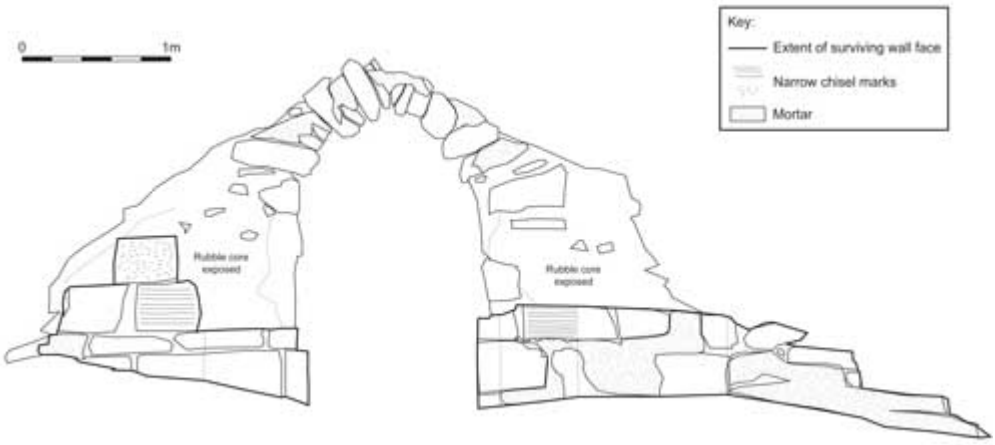

Figure 35b; Structure 5, Rusticated Arch: Elevation a

Figure 36a; Structure 5, Rusticated Arch: Elevation b

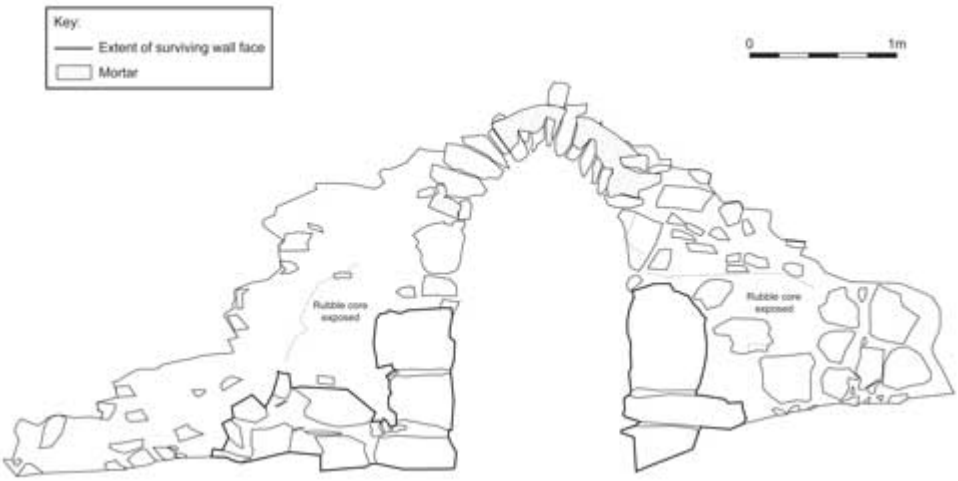

Figure 36b; Structure 5, Rusticated Arch: Elevation b

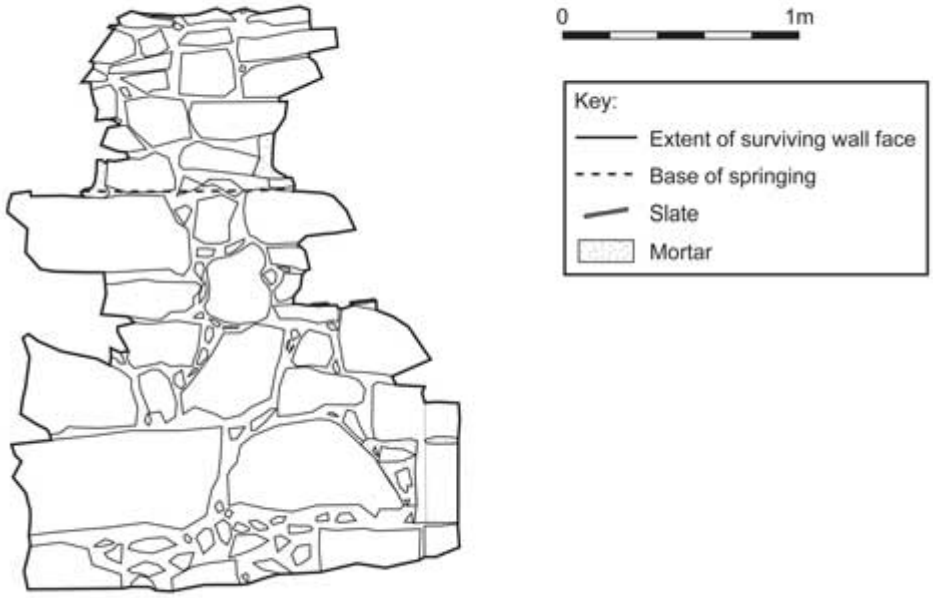

Figure 37a; Structure 5, Rusticated Arch: Elevation c

Figure 37b; Structure 5, Rusticated Arch: Elevation c

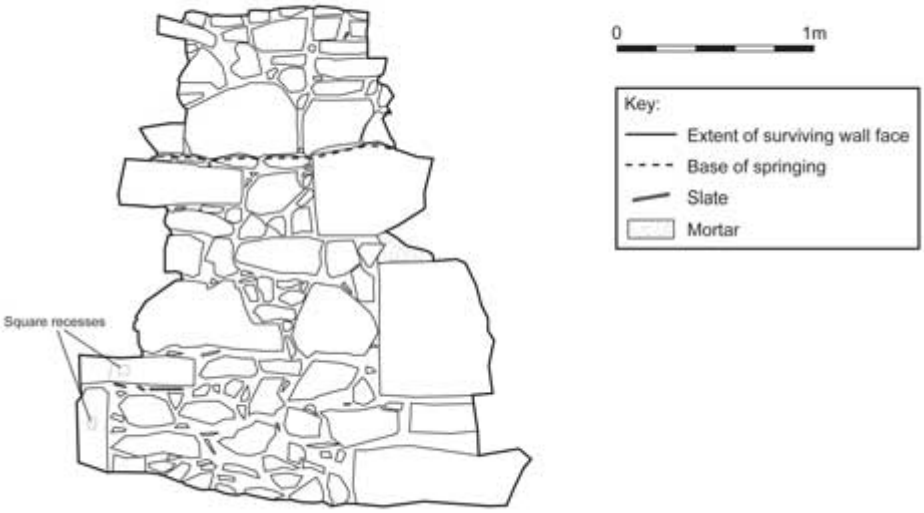

Figure 38a; Structure 5, Rusticated Arch: Elevation d

Figure 38b; Structure 5, Rusticated Arch: Elevation d

74. The arched opening was formed from rusticated blocks of sandstone of varying sizes, laid in informal courses. Some of these blocks were extremely large, measuring up to 0.8 x 0.5m in extent.

75. In both elevations, the wall faces remained straight for a height of approximately 1.5m before the springing for the arched opening began. On Elevation c, this was at a height of five courses (Figures 37a & B), while on Elevation d, 6 courses were evident. The external faces of the outer voussoirs which defined the arch were again heavily rusticated, the arch itself quite pointed in character. On both elevations, the outer facing stones of the basal courses were broached as opposed to rusticated, in keeping with the general character of the masonry in this particular location.

76. One last observation which was worthy of note was the presence of square recesses on two of the broached facing stones in the wall face of Elevation d (Figures 38 a & b). These might represent former door checks or similar features, and their presence may further support the possibility that this broached stonework might represented masonry derived from an earlier building located elsewhere on the Valleyfield estate and demolished during the period when the estate was subject to large-scale building works in the late 18th and early 19th century.

Discussion

77. The baseline survey of the five structures revealed that the fabric of each structure had survived virtually unchanged since their original construction at the behest of Humphry Repton c. 1800. The current condition of each structure did, however, vary greatly.

78. The structures which had suffered most in the way of later damage were the two ornamental stairs within the walled Flower Garden (Structures 1 & 2) where the steps had been displaced in places (Structures 1 & 2) and suffered collapse in others (Structure 1). While the revetment wall of Structure 2 remained in good condition throughout, some collapse was evident in Structure 1. In both ornamental stairs, the brick elevations of the revetments had been subject to repointing, but in all other respects, modern alteration or rebuilding appeared to have been minimal.

79. The two ornamental bridges (Structures 3 & 4) were sound in structural terms, and their main elevations were in good condition, though some areas of facing stones were absent. In the larger of the two (Structure 3) traces of an extensive parapet wall still remain, though many stones had now been displaced, with some toppled into the Bluther Burn.

80. In Structure 4, no upstanding traces of a parapet wall remained, though the presence of large rusticated blocks in the vicinity suggested that such a feature may once have existed. In comparison to Structure 3, however, this would have been a much smaller feature, extending for a lesser distance along the banks from the main body of the bridge.

81. Both bridges had traces of revetment walls surviving, supporting the banks at either side of the bridge structures. These survived in varying conditions, with damage caused variously by water erosion, or by the removal of masonry (whether deliberate or accidental) which took place during the construction of a sewage pipeline which crossed the Bluther Burn in close proximity to both structures. In one example – Structure 3 – it was possible that some rebuilding of the revetment wall had taken place following the construction of the sewage pipeline.

82. The final structure, Structure 5, was a rusticated arch located just to the north-west of the walled Flower Garden. Again, it survived in reasonably good condition, with the arch intact and few traces of any sizeable facing stones lying displaced in the vicinity. However, the rubble core in particular was decaying in places, with fragments of mortar and the occasional small stone being dislodged from the main structure on occasion.

Summary & Conclusions

83. A baseline survey was carried out of the five early nineteenth century structures at the

estate of Valleyfield in Fife, between March and July 2012. These structures formed component parts of a much larger designed landscape, built for Sir Robert Preston to designs put forward by Humphry Repton.

84. The five structures comprised two ornamental stairs within a walled Flower Garden, two rusticated single span bridges which carried a driveway through the valley of the Bluther Burn, and a rusticated arch which formed a feature of interest at the western end of a ha-ha which lay just to the north-west of the walled Flower Garden.

85. All five structures survived in reasonably sound condition, though some loss of facing stones had occurred to both the bridges and the revetment walls of the ornamental stairs, and the bridges had in addition lost most, if not all, of their original parapets. The elevations of each structure (excluding only the undersides of the two bridges) were accurately recorded using a Leica TCR705 reflectorless EDM, supported by hand-drawn elevations where necessary, and augmented by notes and photographs as appropriate.

References

Documentary

Ewart, G, Stewart, D and Dunn, A	1996	Preston Island: Archaeological Research & Excavations Tayside & Fife Arch. Journal pp. 1-26
Peter McGowan Associates	1992	*Valleyfield Wood Repton Landscape: Restoration Management Plan* Dunfermline District Council
Repton, Humphry, c. 1800		Valleyfield – Red Book

Cartographic

Anon	1810	The Plan of Valleyfield Estate, property of Sir Robert Preston
Ainslie, J	1775	Counties of Fife & Kinross, with the Rivers Forth & Tay, SW Section
Ordnance Survey	1856	1st Edition Fife & Kinross, Sheet XXXV
Ordnance Survey	1860	1st Edition Perthshire & Clackmannanshire Sheet CXLIII.I
Ordnance Survey	1928	3rd Edition, Fife & Kinross, Sheet XXXVIII.NW
Roy	1747-55	Military Survey of Scotland

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Fife
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Valleyfield
PROJECT CODE:	12005
PARISH:	Torryburn
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Louise Turner
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Building Recording
NMRS NO(S):	Canmore ID's 101214; 222316; 222318 & 281936
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Garden; Bridge
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 004 873
START DATE (this season)	8th March 2012
END DATE (this season)	20th July 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. *DES* ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	A programme of archaeological works were undertaken in advance of works which aim to restore several elements of the Humphry Repton at Valleyfield. Built at the behest of Sir Robert Preston of Valleyfield in the early 1800s, these constitute the surviving remnants of the only Repton-designed landscape in Scotland. Five structures within this landscape were recorded, making use of photography and drawn elevations, completed largely by a Leica TCR307 reflectorless edm but augmented by hand-drawing where approproate. The structures in question comprised two ornamental stairs located within the walled Flower Garden, a rusticated arch lying to the north-west of the Flower Garden, and two rusticated bridges. These latter features were located on the driveway through the valley of the Bluther Burn which once led to the now-demolished mansion of Valleyfield.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Fife Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
E MAIL:	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to Fife Council Archaeology Service and archive to RCAHMS Collections.

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87. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service can be contacted at their office or through the web:

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20 India Street
Glasgow
G2 4PF

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f.: 0141 287 9259
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