

BARN AT BRIGHTMANSHAYES

PETROCKSTOWE

TORRIDGE

DEVON

Building Recording & Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

Work undertaken by SWARCH for a Private Client

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SUMMARY

This report presents the results of a programme of historic building recording and archaeological evaluation trenching undertaken at Brightmanshayes, Petrockstowe, Torrridge, Devon. Works focused on a small ruinous outbuilding (an out-barn) in a field to the east of the farm. This building appears to have been built as a barn likely in the early 19th century, and substantially rebuilt and re-roofed at the start of the 20th century, incorporating Marland brick into the (surviving) door surround. The floor was made up of cobbles, which directly overlay the bedrock. A single removed boundary (shown on the tithe map) was the only archaeological feature encountered within the evaluation trenches.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Planning permission was obtained on appeal for change of use for a small outbuilding to the east of Brightmanshayes, Petrockstowe, Torridge, Devon. This structure had fallen into ruin since the loss of its roof, sometime after 2010.

The building was recorded, and evaluation trenches were opened within the footprint of the proposed development works, by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a private client. This was carried out by S. H. Walls on the 20th October 2023. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Boyd 2022) agreed with Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCHET).

1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within a scrubland area, enclosed by mature trees. The surrounding landscape is agricultural, with pockets of trees and areas of plantation. The site lies at a height of approximately 145m AOD. The site lies on the well drained fine loamy soils often over rock, containing small patches of similar soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging, of the Neath Association (SSEW 1983). These overlie the sedimentary sandstone of the Bude Formation (BGS 2023).



FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION.

1.3 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within the parish of Petrockstow(e) in the historic hundred of Shebbear and the deanery of Torrington (Lysons 1822). In the Domesday survey, the manor of Petrockstowe is recorded among the possessions of the abbot and convent of Buckfast. A further mention of the manor being in the same ownership occurs during the reign of Edward I in the 13th century. At this time, the abbot and convent had the power to inflict capital punishment. There do not appear to be any later references to the manor. The site lies adjacent to the manor of Heanton Sachville, which belonged to the Sachville between the reigns of Richard I and Henry III (12th-13th century). It was then held by the Killigrews, then the Yeos in the early 14th century. From the Yeos, an heiress took the manor to a younger son of the Rolles of Stevenstone, an heiress taking it to the Walpoles, earls of Orford, in 1724. Upon the death of George, Earl of Orford, in 1791, the manor passed, with the barony of Clinton and Say, to George William Trefusis, Esq.

The site appears on the Petrockstowe Tithe Map of c1840 as one of a cluster of barns associated with Cudmore farmstead, plot 548, owned by the Right Honourable Lord Clinton and occupied by John Bond. The barn sits on the edge of plot 562, Barn Park, with the same owner and occupier,

but indicating the presence of this barn and its neighbours. At this time, Brightmanshayes was in separate tenancy from the barn, the Tithe Apportionment indicating it was occupied by a William Balkwill. The census records John Bond as a 58 year old yeoman or farmer, living with his wife and son, both also recorded as yeomen, with two agricultural labourers and two house servants. By 1851, no mention of the bond family or of Cudmore, are found in the census.

By the production of the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1886, the majority of the buildings at Cudmore have been removed, with the exception of the single barn, as remaining on the site today. A lane has been established linking the barn to Brightmanshayes, so it is assumed that the ownership/tenancy had transferred by this point. The 2nd Edition OS Map does not appear to show much further change.



FIGURE 2: EXTRACT OF THE PETROCKSTOWE TITHE MAP OF c.1840 (GENEALOGIST).

BARN AT BRIGHTMANSHAYES, PETROCKSTOWE, DEVON

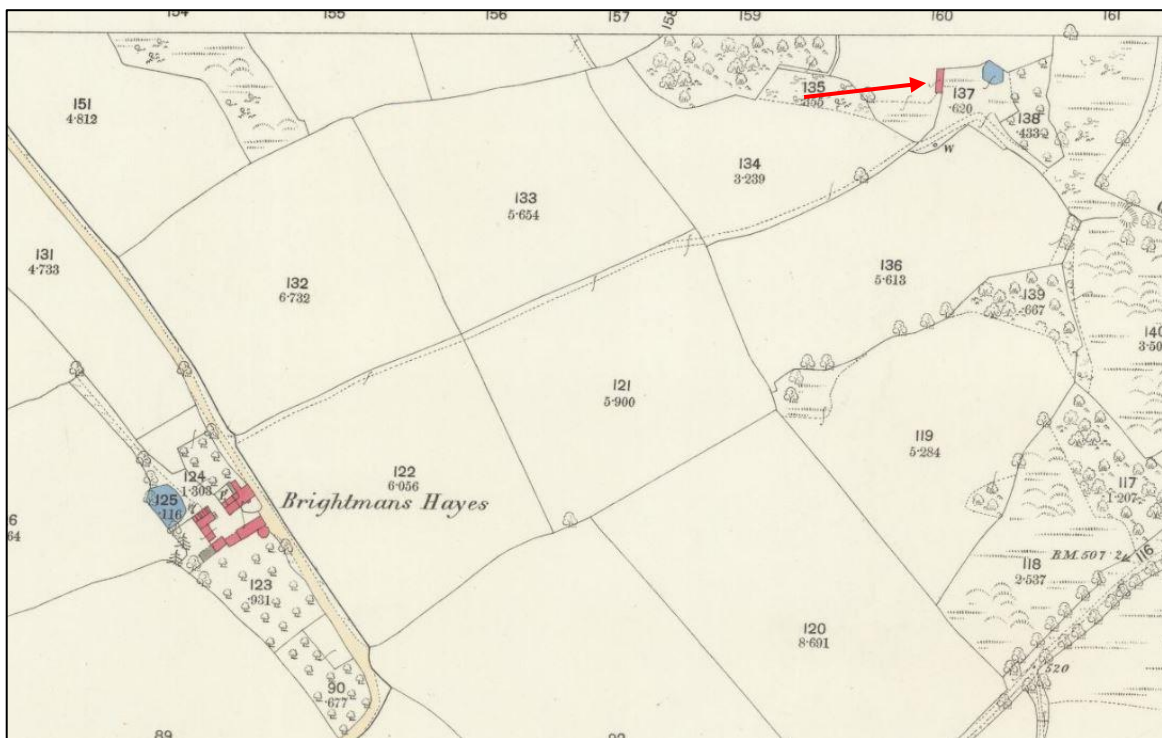


FIGURE 3: EXTRACT OF THE 1ST EDITION OS MAP OF 1886. THE BARN IS INDICATED (NLS).

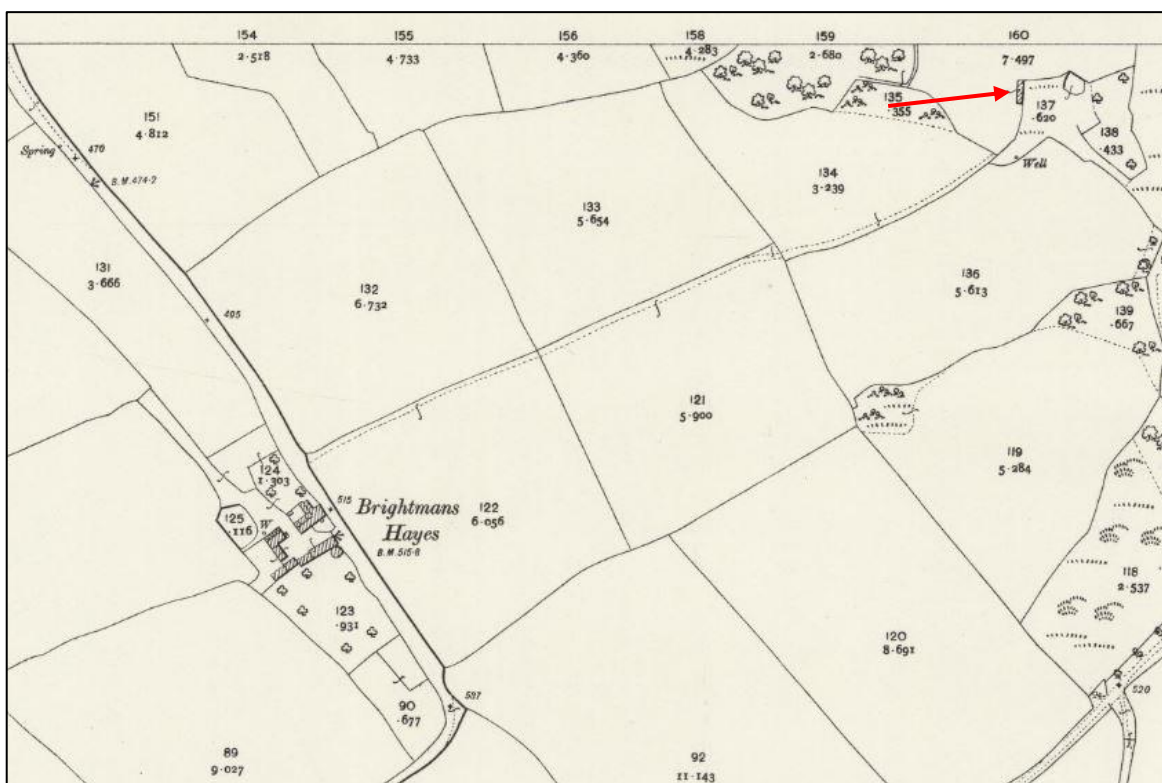


FIGURE 4: EXTRACT OF THE 2ND EDITION OS MAP OF 1906. THE SITE IS INDICATED. (NLS).

The barn lies within an area recorded on the Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) as Modern Enclosures: *These modern fields have been created out of probable medieval enclosures. The sinuous medieval boundaries survive in places.* The land surrounding Brightmanshayes is recorded as Barton Fields: *These relatively large, regular enclosures seem likely to have been laid out between C15th-C18th. Some curving boundaries may be following earlier divisions in the pre-existing medieval fields. In Cornwall these are sometimes called Barton fields.*

The HER does not record any historic assets within the immediate surround of the barn. Brightmanshayes is noted as first appearing in the subsidy rolls of 1333 as *brightmansheye*, which possibly derives from 'beorhtman's enclosure'. To the south-west of the site lies a windmill (MDV95086) and to the south-east are Heanton Barton Farm (MDV118124) and Heanton Deerpark (MDV19687).

2.0 RESULTS

2.1 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

The barn is located in a single large agricultural enclosure, approached via an agricultural track, which approaches the site from the west, before looping around to approach the barn from the south-south-east. The stone building is c.15m long by c.5.4m wide, almost 1½ storeys in height, formerly with a pitched roof of corrugated fibre sheets; only the northern end bay of the roof remains (in part). The walls are of lime/earth bonded stone, between 0.48-0.52m thick. The build is generally of roughly coursed sub angular to sub rounded stone mostly c.0.2m x 0.08m. Some squarer blockier stone (0.2-0.25m x 0.25m) is spread throughout the build and used as the quoins and cornerstones. The walls are bonded with a light yellow-grey earth and lime mortar bond, although there is evidence of re-pointing/rebuilding the northern end of the building with a harder lime with sandy grey-yellow earth with more common small pebble inclusions. There is also some evidence of cement re-pointing, mostly to the west elevation.

The west wall is blind and survives largely to 1½ height (c.2.3m high). The north gable survives to full height and has a single door opening with Marland brick reveals and damaged stone threshold. The gable was covered with corrugated roofing sheets (see Figure 5). The east elevation has mostly collapsed, with only the northern end upstanding, and this has significant structural cracks which may suggest collapse is likely to occur. There is a single surviving square window with timber lintel to the centre of the surviving portion of this wall. The southern portion of the east elevation has collapsed almost to ground level, but it appears likely that there was a large door opening. Likely to full height or near full-height of the building, to the centre of the elevation. There are a series (five surviving) of small square holes low in the elevation for drainage out of the building, emphasising the building's former use as a cow/livestock shed. The south elevation survived to c.1.3m high and had no surviving evidence of any openings.



FIGURE 5: NORTH ELEVATION FOLLOWING VEGETATION CLEARANCE, FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 6: EAST ELEVATION FOLLOWING VEGETATION CLEARANCE, SHOWING DRAINS AND SINGLE WINDOW, FROM THE NORTH-EAST (1M SCALE).

The building was filled with collapsed roof material and stone, but there was a partial rough cobbled floor evident to the north end of the building. The surviving (and collapsed) roof is pine, pinned with iron pins. The shallow pitched trusses were propped on to the top of the wall plate with a single light purlin to each side and central ridge, with extra pine timbers added at the ridge to increase the pitch, presumably when corrugated sheeting added.

There was single in-situ timber to the north end, evidence of the presence of a former loft, this looks like a later replacement and or has been re-set; it was roughly hewn, still part in the round. Regular socket holes were noted for the full length of the barn so likely there was a fodder loft over throughout. The only evidence for fittings were a few irregular sockets low to the west wall, probably once for animal stalls.

2.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRENCHING

Trench 1 was located inside the building, running roughly east to west. 1.2m wide and 2m long and up to 0.1m deep. Below the collapsed debris was a cobbled surface, of very small sub-rounded to sub-angular stones (c.0.07m dia.), these were bedded directly into the natural: a hard yellow clay. These cobbles were very different to the larger cobbles visible to the north end and are likely repairs within a more heavily worn part of the floor.

Trench 2 was located to the south of the building and was 11.6m long and 1.4m wide up to 0.4m deep. A 0.2m deep mid yellow-brown silt-clay directly onto natural, except to east end where the topsoil overlay a stoney grey-yellow-grey silt-clay with common sub-angular stones; this deposit contained red-brick fragments. This may represent a terrace, and it would correspond with the location of a boundary on historic maps (see Figure 2-3). It may have been that a track once ran to the east of the boundary. The change in stratigraphy also corresponds with a natural variation, with the clean yellow clay changing to a grey clay to the east end, suggesting that this area was likely once wetter and formerly reedy. The barn was therefore seemingly constructed on the edge of this change of geology.



FIGURE 7: CHANGE IN NATURAL/ POSSIBLE EVIDENCE OF A TERRACE IN TRENCH 2, VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).

Trench 3 was located to the east of the building and was 12.6m long and 1.4m wide. To the north end there is an erosion hollow near entrance into the barn, filled with a dark grey-brown silt-clay with occ. Sub-angular stones. Topsoil was only 0.15m thick in this trench, and was shallower to the north, but directly overlay the natural clays.

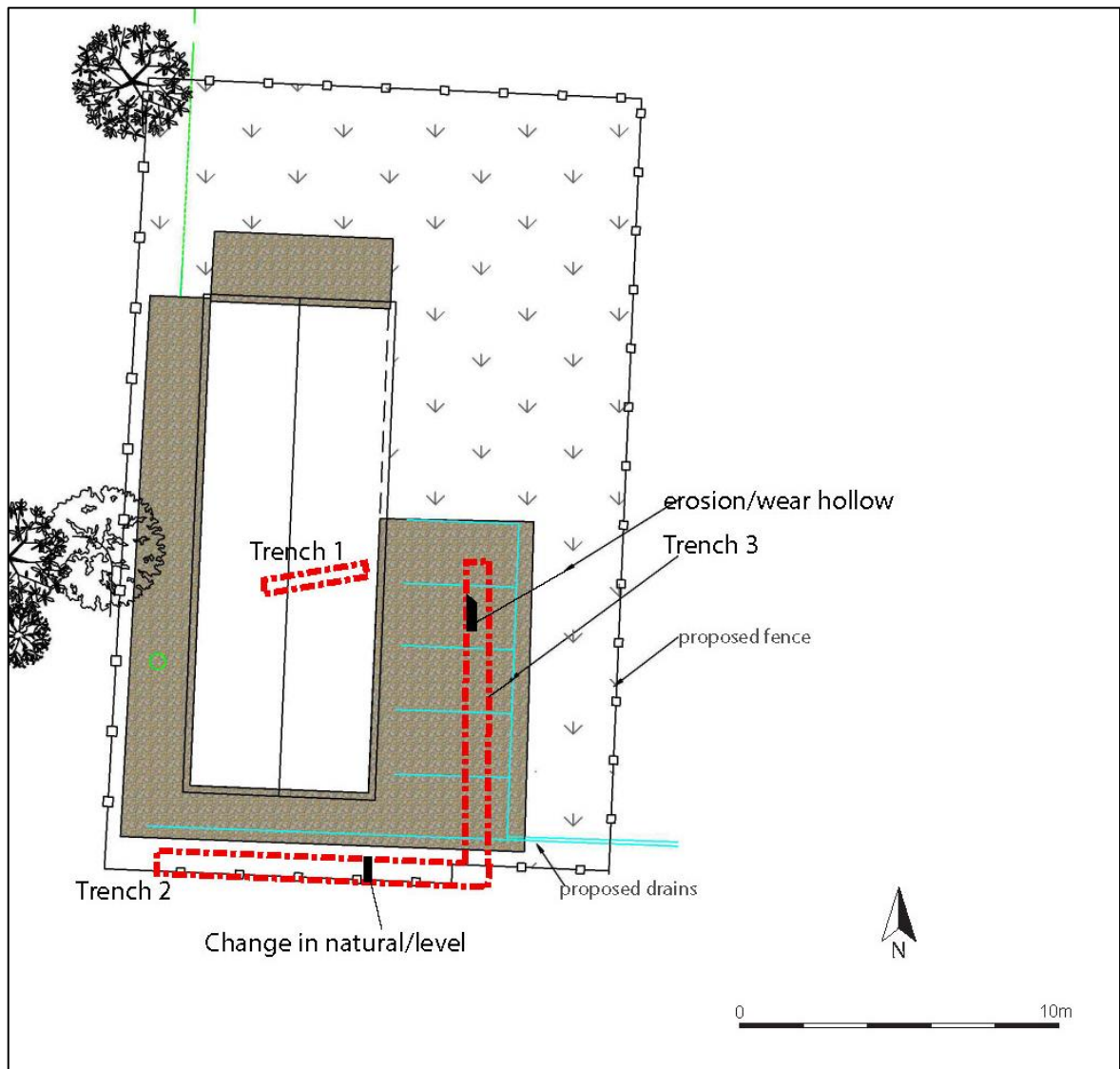


FIGURE 8: TRENCH PLAN OVERLAIN ON PROPOSAL PLAN (BASED ON ARCHITECTS DRAWING).

2.3 FINDS

Some red-orange frogless bricks were noted in the rubble collapse, primarily at the south end of the building, which may suggest brick details (window reveals?) or repairs to this elevation. Also with the collapsed material was evidence of the former roof covering, with fairly square slates (c.0.27m x 0.23m in size); several partial and whole examples were found, and these had two nail holes. Fragments of red ceramic ridge tiles were also noted during clearance around the barn. No other artefacts of finds were made, all material was discarded on site.

3.0 CONCLUSION

The historic building recording and trenching demonstrate that the standing structure was built, and has seemingly always functioned as a barn, originally as part of a small farmstead but later as an out barn. Primarily having been used for animal(cows?) housing with fodder loft above. The

northern end of the building and roof appears to have been rebuilt in the late 19th or most likely early 20th century, and the building likely has an early 19th century origin.

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FIGURE 9: THE WEST ELEVATION, SHOWING CHANGE IN BUILD; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (1M SCALE).