

# THE CHAPEL LOWER ALSWORTHY FARM BRADWORTHY DEVON

Results of a Desk-Based Assessment  
&  
Archaeological Building Recording



The Old Dairy  
Hacche Lane Business Park  
Pathfields Business Park  
South Molton  
Devon  
EX36 3LH

Tel: 01769 573555  
Email: [mail@swarch.net](mailto:mail@swarch.net)

Report No.: 100803  
Date: 03.08.2010  
Authors: T. Green  
C. Humphreys

Contents	Page No.
List of Illustrations	3
List of Appendices	3
Acknowledgements	3
1.0 Introduction	
1.1 Background	4
1.2 Summary of Results	4
1.3 Methodology	4
2.0 Results of the Desk-Based Study	5
2.1 Historic Background	5
2.1.1 The Manor of Bradworthy and Torre Abbey	5
2.1.2 Lower Alsworthy	5
2.2 The Lower Alsworthy Chapel	6
2.3 The Holy Well	7
2.4 The Lower Alsworthy Chapel in the Devonshire Context	8
2.5 The National Context	8
3.0 Results of the Building Recording	10
3.1 Building Description	10
3.2 The Roof Structure	10
3.3 Archaeological Monitoring	11
4.0 Conclusions	12
5.0 Bibliography and References	13

## List of Illustrations

Cover plate: The chapel at Lower Alsworthy, post-conservation, viewed from the south-west.

Figures:	Page No.
1a. Regional location.	14
1b. Site location.	15
2. Extract from the Bradworthy tithe map of 1843.	16
3. Extract from the Ordnance Survey First Edition map at 25 inches to one mile, published 1891.	16
4. The chapel at Lower Alsworthy, ground and first floor plans.	17
5. The chapel at Lower Alsworthy, exterior elevation, south wall.	18
6. The chapel at Lower Alsworthy, exterior elevations, east and west.	19
7. The chapel at Lower Alsworthy, interior elevation, south wall.	20
8. The chapel at Lower Alsworthy, interior elevation, north wall.	21
9. The chapel at Lower Alsworthy, interior elevations, east and west.	22
10. The chapel at Lower Alsworthy, east-facing interior profile at Truss 2.	23
11. Carpenter's marks on the chapel roof trusses.	24
12. The chapel, showing the position of the demolished structure, and with extended cross-section.	25
Plates:	
1. The chapel in the 1970s with the possible priest's dwelling still in place.	26
2. The chapel before conservation, viewed from the south.	26

## List of Appendices

1. DCHES Brief	27
2. Written Scheme of Investigation	31
3. Text of English Heritage Listing	36
4. Devon Historic Environment Record	37
5. List of Jpegs on CD to the rear of report	38

## Acknowledgements

Thanks for assistance are due to:

The Staff of the Devon Record Office  
The Staff of the West Country Studies Library  
The Staff of the Devon County Historic Environment Service  
Professor Nicholas Orme  
Robert Waterhouse

## 1.0 Introduction

**Location:** Chapel, Lower Alsworthy Farm  
**Parish:** Bradworthy  
**District:** Torridge  
**County:** Devon  
**NGR:** SS29401177  
**Planning Application no:** 1/01907/2008/LBC  
**Oasis ID:** Southwes1-63461  
**OS Map copying Licence No:** 100044808

### 1.1 Background

South West Archaeology Limited (SWARCH) was commissioned by John Alexander of Jonathan Rhind Associates (the agent) on behalf of Richard Ashton (the client), to undertake desk-based research and archaeological building recording of the chapel at Lower Alsworthy Farm, Bradworthy, during repairs to the Grade II\* Listed building. The work was commissioned to comply with a planning condition on the development and was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES) (Appendix 1) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Appendix 2).

The Grade II\* Listed building is described in its Listing as being of 15<sup>th</sup> century date, with later alterations (see Appendix 3). The List refers to references to a chapel here in 1315 in the records of Torre Abbey. Although it is unlikely that any burials would have taken place here, it is possible that elements of a previous structure may survive as buried archaeological deposits beneath, or in the vicinity of the present building.

### 1.2 Summary of Results

The origins of the chapel at Lower Alsworthy remain uncertain although documentary evidence indicates that a chapel existed here by at least the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century. The roof structure of the existing building dates to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, which would imply that the Cruwys family was responsible for its construction. The chapel underwent a substantial amount of repair and/or rebuilding work and was transferred to agricultural use after the Reformation, but it still retains elements of the primary build and traces of its ecclesiastical architecture, including the outline of the arched east window.

### 1.3 Methodology

The desk-based study was carried out by Terry Green and was undertaken with reference to IfA guidelines on the preparation of a desk-based study. The necessary research was conducted at the Devon Record Office and the West Country Studies Library and involved a search of the County Historic Environment Records (HER).

The building recording was conducted by Colin Humphreys, Deb Laing-Trengove and scholarship students from the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings (SPAB). The site was visited during repair works in January, February and May 2009 when groundworks were monitored. The archaeological monitoring and the building recording were undertaken in accordance with English Heritage and IfA guidelines.

## 2.0 Results of the Desk-Based Study

### 2.1 Historic Background

#### 2.1.1 The Manor of Bradworthy and Torre Abbey

In 1086 (Domesday Book) the manor of Bradworthy with its sub-manors was held by Ralph de Pomeroy. In April 1198 his successor, Henry de Pomeray, sold the manor and its sub-manors as well as the manor of Pancrasweek to Lord William Brewer (Reichel 1932, 234). Two years earlier, in 1196, William Brewer had founded an abbey at Torre in South Devon, and had provided his new foundation with sufficient endowments to ensure its income. William Brewer now added the church of Bradworthy and the chapel at Pancrasweek to his endowments, as described in the Cartulary of Torre Abbey (entry 150) in the year 1199, viz: “A gift in perpetual alms from William Brewer of the church of Bradeworthi with the chapel of Pankradeswike and all other appurtenances to the Church of St Saviour of Torre” (Seymour 1977, 171). Other entries of this same period confirm the gift, which was not in fact straightforward since the family of Pomeray (Pomeroy) had previously granted the church of Bradworthy to the Abbey of St Mary de Valle at Bayeux. By 1219 the matter was resolved with the renunciation by the Abbot of St Mary de Valle of any claim to Bradworthy (Seymour 1977, 174). The church of Bradworthy, the chapel at Pancrasweek and additionally a ferling of land and a mill at Bradworthy remained in the possession of Torre Abbey until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 2.1.2 Lower Alsworthy

The current form of the name Alsworthy is a contraction of the earlier form Alfardisworthy which suggests a pre-Conquest origin, when the settlement grew out of the ‘worþig’ of Aelfheard (Gover, Mawer and Stenton 1931, 133). Alfardisworthy is not recorded as such in Domesday Book, but appears in the Book of Fees in the distorted form ‘Fereurde’ where it represents collectively the holdings of William Cheever, brother of Ralph de Pomeroy, in the parish of Bradworthy (Thorn and Thorn 1985, Part 2, 19.2). In the century following 1086, Cheever’s holdings, including the sub-manor of Alfardisworthy, passed by gift or descent to Roger Tyrel, who is recorded in 1166 as holding two fees under William de Tracey, representing Cheever’s original holdings. By 1241 the land had come to Robert Tyrel (Reichel 1932, 235-6) whose descendants continued to be associated with Alfardisworthy up to the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century maps, the hamlet of Alfardisworthy goes by this undifferentiated name, but the land tax records of 1782-1834 introduce the distinction ‘Lower Alfardisworthy’ and identify it by its taxable value as the largest holding among five. Listing farms in the parish of Bradworthy in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century, the Dublin Cartulary values ‘Alfarsworthy’ at 43/-, the highest in the list (Seymour 1977, 180), while the Devonshire Lay Subsidy of 1332 records Richard Tyrel as paying 2/-, one of the higher liabilities in the parish. The name of Tyrel was associated with Alfardisworthy until at least the middle of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. After this Alfardisworthy was held for over three hundred years by the Cruwys family (of Cruwys Morchard). In 1681 the ‘heir of Alfardisworthy’ was the son of Sir John Stawell (of Somerset?) The property passed to the Walpoles and, after the death of Grace, Countess of Orford in 1781, to Lord Clinton (Collacott, 1984 and 1991). It is reasonable to assume that the present Lower Alsworthy represents the core and direct descendant of the Tyrels’ holding and that its status has been maintained throughout.

The sub-manor of Alfardisworthy was apparently not part of Brewer’s endowment to his new abbey at Torre. He presented the abbey with a ferling of land called Hidesburga which Seymour has identified as lying to the south-east and south-west of the church. However, as recorded in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century Dublin Cartulary (see above)

‘Alfarsworthy’ paid tithes to the value of 43 shillings to the church of Bradworthy and thus to the abbey. This was a considerable sum, and as will be seen below, the Tyrels tried to persuade the abbey that it had an obligation towards them, a claim that was rebuffed.

## 2.2 The Lower Alsworthy Chapel

Standing close to, but detached from the present domestic buildings at Lower Alsworthy is a small building with an east-west axis, which was until recently used as an agricultural store, but which is considered to represent a medieval private chapel. As it stands on higher ground than the main house, it is unlikely that it was ever attached. Certainly it has been free-standing since at least the 1840s as can be seen from the Bradworthy tithe map of 1843 (Fig.2). The orientation of the building, the large east window, the distinctly ecclesiastical style of the roof timbers and the stone bracket are all accepted as evidence that this small building corresponds to the chapel whose presence at Alfardisworthy is attested in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

The period from the later 13<sup>th</sup> to the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century saw the licensing of some 1300 chapels within the Exeter Diocese (James 1997). These included chapels of ease in large parishes, chantry chapels and private oratories established within or free-standing beside the houses of the wealthy. By the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century practically every manor house had a chapel and its resident chaplain (Oldham 1906, 398). The receipt of a licence for a private chapel was subject to conditions: its use should not reduce the income of the parish church, it was to be maintained and a priest should be kept in food and lodging at the owner’s expense (tithes should continue to be paid) and the owner and his family must attend the parish church on Sundays and important feast days (Coulter 1993, 6). It appears that a private chapel was established at Lower Alsworthy probably either in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century or the early 14<sup>th</sup>. This was a period when the proliferation of domestic chapels during the 13<sup>th</sup> century had led in 1287 to the issuing of a decree from Exeter that no new chapel should be built without a licence from the bishop (James 1997, 23). However, no record of the licensing of a chapel at Alsworthy has as yet been found in the Episcopal Registers, and we first find mention of a chapel here in Entry 158 of the Torre Abbey Cartulary (Seymour 2000). Neither is there any record of a licence for this chapel in the Cartulary, whereas Entry 169 dating from 1284 records the Abbot’s permission for a chapel to be built at nearby Wooda. In addition, a licence for a chapel at Ash, also in Bradworthy parish, was issued during the episcopacy of Bishop Grandison (1327-69) (James 1997, Gazetteer). The absence of any available record of the licensing of a chapel at Alsworthy may be due to the vagaries of medieval recording or to fact that not all documents have been studied and transcribed. There is nothing to indicate that the Tyrels had set up their chapel illegally.

The entry (No.158) in the Torre Abbey Cartulary which relates to the chapel at Alsworthy is estimated to date from the period between 1315 and 1350 (Seymour 2000). It involves a quitclaim from Henry Tyrel renouncing any claim that he might have made upon the mother church of Bradworthy to provide three services a week in his chapel of Alfardisworthy. Declaring this before the Chapter at Exeter, Henry Tyrel had to say he would be content with the provision by the church of Bradworthy of one mass a year on the feast day of the chapel. From this single entry the relationship between Tyrel’s chapel and the church of Bradworthy and thus the abbey is not clear. In his statement before the Chapter at Exeter Tyrel clearly refers to Bradworthy as the mother church (*matrix ecclesia*) and he had evidently felt that the church and the abbey owed him his three services weekly. The place of Torre Abbey in this affair was as holder of the advowson of the mother church of Bradworthy and thus involved in the regulation of the chapel at Alsworthy to the extent that the Abbey’s rights might have been compromised by any acceptance of liability to provide the services of a priest (Prof. N. Orme, *pers.comm.*)



It is interesting to compare Tyrel's situation with that of fellow Bradworthy parishioner, Robert de Bosco. Risdon tells us (1714, 247) that Robert de Bosco 'dwelt at Wooda in this parish and built a chapel here by licence of the Abbot of Torre'. Robert, whose Latinised name means 'of the wood', was a near neighbour of the Tyrels, Wooda lying about two kilometres to the south of Lower Alsworthy. Entry number 169 of the Torre Abbey Cartulary dating from 1284 details an agreement between Robert de Bosco and the Abbot of Torre that Robert might build a chapel at his 'Court of de Bosco' and, on account of the distance from the parish church, might have a chaplain to celebrate divine service there, as long as the church of Bradworthy and the chapel of Pancrasweek should suffer no loss (Seymour 2000). Apparently the Abbot had been ready enough to grant a licence to Robert to establish a private chapel and presumably Robert, for his part, had been quite ready to provide for a priest out of his own resources. At Wooda there is a building which is potentially comparable with the chapel at Lower Alsworthy. Seymour suggests (2000, 282 note) that among the older buildings at Wooda there is one which is similar in size and shape to the Alsworthy chapel, and this may represent the chapel granted to Robert de Bosco in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Out of this comparison arises the question: was the chapel at Lower Alsworthy likewise licensed by Torre Abbey, and if so, why did a problem arise over the provision of services? Perhaps we have to assume that Henry Tyrel was trying to evade the cost of providing for a priest by making a claim that ultimately he could not substantiate (although one then has to ask why he thought he could make it in the first place). Being obliged to give up his claim, he would have had to settle for the vicar of Bradworthy celebrating one mass per annum, and for the rest of the time he would have had to hire a priest to be part of his household or to appear from time to time to conduct a service. For the rest of the time he might have used his chapel as an oratory (i.e. a place for private prayer) or as a shrine to the saint (whose identity remains unknown).

The existing building shows signs of its ecclesiastical origin in its moulded roof-timbers with their (unfortunately now removed) bosses, its blocked east window, its orientation and a bracket on the east wall. According to Seymour, the knowledge that it was a chapel has never been lost. In the estimation of English Heritage (Listing document, Appendix A) the building dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> century, a conclusion tenuously supported by the presence of a late medieval door, unsuitably inserted into the wall of an outbuilding and which *may* have come from the chapel. More recently, an examination of the building by South West Archaeology has concluded that the existing roof timbers are evidence of 15<sup>th</sup> century work. If this is correct, then the present building would seem to post-date the claims of Henry Tyrel which date from the early to mid- 14<sup>th</sup> century. It is possible therefore, that there was an earlier chapel or that the present building represents a re-building. (It is unlikely that Tyrel's claim relates to an oratory within his house, since this would not have been dedicated to a saint whose feast day could be celebrated once a year.) If the existing building is indeed of 15<sup>th</sup> century origin, it would represent the work not of the Tyrels, but of the Cruwys family who, as noted above, held Lower Alsworthy after the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century. Until relatively recently there was an extension to the building on the west side. A photograph from the 1970s (Plate 1) shows this as single storey with a corrugated iron pent roof. Possible remnants of a door at first floor level in the west wall of the chapel (South West Archaeology 2006) suggest access to and from an originally taller structure to the west which was possibly the priest's dwelling.

## 2.3 The Holy Well

According to James (1997, Fig.3) around 25% of surviving medieval chapels in Devon are associated with springs or wells which are traditionally described as 'holy'. At Lower Alsworthy the chapel stands in close proximity to a rock-cut spring-fed basin with a rubble stone well house. This is set into a bank to the west of the chapel, and what

appears to be a building platform adjacent to the well suggests an earlier structure associated with it. The association of medieval chapels with 'holy wells' is particularly marked in this north-western corner of Devon, the neighbouring parish of Hartland containing several. The supposition is often made that chapels next to 'holy wells' perpetuate a tradition of veneration from the pagan past, but the association may very well be a practical one, merely representing easy access to water both for the priest and for the lordly residence.

## 2.4 The Lower Alsworthy Chapel in the Devonshire Context

The estimated total of 1300 originally licensed medieval chapels in Devon includes everything from memorial chapels associated with major ecclesiastical centres to chantry chapels to guild chapels to community chapels of ease to private domestic chapels and domestic oratories. By 1287, at which date the creation of chapels was brought under strict regulation through the Statutes of Exeter III, there is documentary evidence for 137 chapels in Devon. The process had been accelerating since around 1200 and continued to gather pace after 1287, leading to a peak period for the recording of chapels in Devon between 1370 and 1450 when over 500 were first documented. Among the various types of chapel that became established in this broad period, private domestic chapels represented the most numerous category. The majority of these were set close to dwellings, so that the important liturgical and pastoral provision ordained by the Church could be assured to wealthy families with minimum inconvenience (after James 1997).

After the Reformation private devotions were discouraged, so that numbers of cult chapels and chantry chapels went out of use (Orme 1997, 103). Subsequently former chapels were converted to dwellings, to farm buildings and even to schools, while others were allowed to become ruinous and were finally swept away. Of the estimated total of 1300 medieval chapels originally licensed in Devon, some 15% have surviving archaeological or architectural evidence. Remnants of some 200 former medieval chapels and oratories can be identified and from among these around 75 have been transformed into parish churches, leaving around 125 for which evidence remains intact to varying degrees. (James 1997). Against this background it will be understood that the chapel at Lower Alsworthy is a rare survival of a once numerous breed. How rare, can be judged from a study of Coulter's 'Ancient Chapels of North Devon'. This study produced in 1993 listed 103 chapels recorded in the area of northern Devon from the north and west coast as far south as Dolton. Of the 103 for which Coulter found documentary evidence only 20 were found to remain in some physical form, that is as a wing of, or a room within a house, as a farm building, as a ruin or indeed as a chapel, and of these, 12 could be identified as originally private chapels. Finally among these 12, only two, at Cadbury Barton in Chulmleigh parish and at South Furzehill in Lynton parish, could be identified as distinct, free-standing buildings, though the chapel at Wooleigh Barton, Beaford might be considered almost free-standing. Coulter's survey did not claim to be fully comprehensive, and in fact the chapel at Alsworthy and the possible chapel at Wooda are missing, but as a wide-ranging sample of the documented and in some way extant medieval chapels of this geographical area, it provides the statistical basis on which to state that the chapel at Lower Alsworthy is a great rarity (note that James (1997) lists 385 documented chapels in north and west Devon). Furthermore, although the chapel at Wooleigh Barton retains a number of distinctive features, none of the chapels listed by Coulter retains a roof structure such as that at Lower Alsworthy.

## 2.5 The National Context

In medieval England chapels were very numerous. The proliferation of chapels in the period 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century was principally due to two factors: firstly the ever strengthening hold of the church on Society, dictating a regularity and frequency of worship which the



individual might ignore only at the risk of eternal damnation or at least a hefty fine; secondly the growth of wealth based on wool which enabled the rich to build grand houses and compete with their neighbours in ostentation. Having an oratory with the Bishop's permission to hold masses marked the owner as wealthy and important (Orme 1997, 76). Despite the truth of this general statement, the number of original or surviving medieval chapels in England is not known, since surveys to date have been infrequent and partial. An exception is Lincolnshire, where a thorough survey has been carried out which for James (1997) offered a comparison with her findings for Devon. James found that Devon had over three times as many documented chapels as Lincolnshire, which bears out Orme's suggestion (1997, 82) that in medieval England chapels were possibly more numerous in the highland zone of western England than in the lowlands of the east, because in these more hilly regions travel was more difficult and the convenience of a private chapel was a more pressing requirement.

In this broad context the Lower Alsworthy chapel is both representative of a national phenomenon of the medieval period and an exemplar of the regional characteristic of providing private facilities for worship in remote places.

## 3.0 Results of the Building Recording

### 3.1 Building Description

A rectangular, single-cell building set on an east-west axis with an east-west roof pitch gabled at both ends and now with a corrugated-iron covering. The building is terraced into the slope to the north, with the top of the rear wall virtually level with the building platform of a recent agricultural building immediately to the north. The primary construction is of roughly coursed clay-bonded, blocky sandstone with the eaves closed with cob. Later repairs are in stone, cob and brick. Primary openings appear to have been the ground floor doorway and a window in the south wall (Figs. 5 & 7), and a splayed round headed window with shale voussoirs reaching high into the gable of the east wall (Fig. 6 & 9)

The building was later used as an animal byre and a first floor was inserted. The upper part of the window opening in the east wall was converted into a doorway, giving access to the first floor and a stone and earth ramp raised to the doorway from the south. External inspection shows in many places in the south, west and east walls that at least the external skin of the building has been rebuilt or repaired. The blocked window in the south wall to the east of the doorway (Figs. 5 & 7) demonstrates this point; the splays of the window, which are clearly visible from the interior of the building, are completely closed by the rebuilding of the external skin. A vertical join in the exterior stonework of this wall is likely to be a jamb of the window; however, the rebuild/repair closing the opening has removed most of the evidence of the former opening.

A straight join in the west wall at first floor level (see Figs. 6 & 9) may be the jamb of a former doorway, giving access to the first floor of a former building to the west of the extant chapel, possibly a priest's dwelling (Plate 1; Fig. 12). However this is an area of major rebuild so there is a question of whether this was part of the primary layout. On the ground floor, the internal skin of the north, west and east walls all appear to be medieval build with some evidence of a lime plaster. The south wall has been rebuilt in parts but the window and doorway do appear to be part of the primary build. The splayed sill of the window in the east wall is visible and which is partially filled to the north. To the north of this at eye level is a stone ledge projecting from the wall (Figs. 4 & 9) which is part of the primary structure and probably a plinth for a statue or icon.

The ground floor has recently been used as an animal house and the internal area around the doorway is cobbled, but where extant, to the east of the door, the building is floored with lime (Fig. 4). The first floor is constructed of roughly squared joists inserted into oversize sockets (suggesting a later insertion of the floor) in the north and south walls. On the first floor, the north wall clearly shows the primary structure of the wall top with a timber wall plate running the full length of the building with the inner edge (probably formally moulded but now much decayed) projecting in to the room. The outline of the window is visible in the east wall, however the south and west walls have suffered several phases of rebuild, mostly in cob.

### 3.2 The Roof Structure (Figs. 7, 8, 10 & 11)

The four bay roof structure, dating to around 1450, has only 2½ of the early trusses extant (Trusses 1, 2 and the northern part of Truss 3). These consist of oak arched-braced A-frames with straight blades and curved feet; mortise, tenoned and pegged at the collar and apex. The lower parts of the blades are moulded; a feature which continues around the arch-bracing. There are two pairs of purlins on each side passing through

the blades; the lower set on edge with the inner face moulded as elsewhere, the upper is set plain and on the flat. The space between the wall top and rafters is closed by a wide board tenoned into the truss blades. This board is at right angles to the rafters and affectively forms an extra lower purlin. A collar purlin, connecting the collars of the A-frames and held in place by the arch-braces, formerly ran the full length of the building but is now only extant at the east end. Some of the light-weight wind-braces set between the lower purlins and the blades of the trusses remain, areas not affected by the darkening of the roof structure (possible smoke-blackening) shows the position of others. A diamond set ridge pole passes through the apex of the truss blades with the rafters pegged to the backs of the purlins and ridge pole.

The whole of the roof structure has racked to the west, pulling the ends of the purlins from their sockets in the east wall. The first truss from the east is complete, moulded on one side only, showing that it was formerly against the east wall. The 2<sup>nd</sup> truss from the east is mostly complete. Only the north elements of the central truss are extant, the south elements of this truss and that to the west are crudely constructed in elm and pine and are modern. The possible smoke-blackening on all of the primary timbers shows where bosses have been removed from the junctions of the major elements of the structure. Each roof truss carries incised carpenter's marks at the junction of the truss, collar and arch brace to north and south (Fig. 11), although only the marked collar remains to the south of the central truss.

### 3.3 Archaeological Monitoring

Before consolidation works commenced, animal manure and rubbish were removed from the interior, revealing the cobbled floor of the entrance. Levels were reduced over a small area to the south of the chapel, but no archaeological deposits were encountered. Behind the chapel to the north and north-east, levels were also reduced by up to 0.5m in a strip 2m wide adjacent to the chapel. This work was undertaken to protect the restored wooden elements of the chapel roof and wall plate, and demonstrated that levels to the north had been raised during the 20<sup>th</sup> century to provide a flat platform for storage/machinery/building. No features of archaeological significance were encountered.

## 4.0 Conclusions

The origins of the extant chapel at Lower Alsworthy remain uncertain. As the roof structure of the existing building dates to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, this would imply the Cruwys family was responsible for its construction and not the earlier Tyrels. However, entry 159 in the Torre Abbey Cartulary demonstrates that a chapel existed here by, at the latest, the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century, although this need not refer to the extant building. Given that the relationship between the Tyrels, their chapel and the Abbot of Torre was apparently somewhat fraught, this would suggest that the license for the chapel was not received from the Abbey, but again there is no reference in the episcopal registers (as far as is known to date) to indicate the date or manner of the chapel's origin. Indeed, there is a certain irony in the fact that other, less well preserved chapels in Devon are better represented in the episcopal registers.

The existing rectangular single-cell building has undergone a substantial amount of repair and/or rebuilding work, but it still retains elements of the primary build and traces of its ecclesiastical architecture. The primary construction is of roughly-coursed clay-bonded blocky sandstone, and the primary openings appear to have been a doorway and window in the south wall on the ground floor, and a splayed round-headed east window which fills the gable of the east wall. Three of the moulded arch-braced roof-trusses, which were once embellished with carved bosses, survive, and the apparent join in the stonework of the west wall may indicate the presence of a former priest's dwelling to the west of the chapel, where a small building stood until the 1970s.

Like others of its kind, the chapel at Alsworthy was transferred to agricultural use after the Reformation, but it managed to retain important elements from its earlier days. Despite its demotion, and notwithstanding the uncertainty about its origins, the chapel at Lower Alsworthy – simple though it is – is a rare and valuable example of the once numerous medieval private chapels of Devon.

## 6.0 Bibliography and References

### Published Sources:

- Collacott, C.T.** 1984 and 1991: *Bradworthy Past and Present*.
- Coulter, J.** 1993: *The Ancient Chapels of North Devon*, Barnstaple.
- English Heritage.** 2006: *Understanding Historic Buildings, a Guide to Good Recording Practice*.
- Gover, J., Mawer, A. & Stenton, F.** 1931: *The Place-Names of Devon* 2 vols, The English Place-Name Society Vol. 8, Cambridge.
- Institute of Field Archaeologists.** 1994 (Revised 2001 & 2008): *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*.
- Institute of Field Archaeologists.** 1996 (Revised 2001 & 2008): *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures*.
- Institute of Field Archaeologists.** 1996 (Revised 2001 & 2008): *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief*.
- James, J.** 1997: *The Medieval Chapels of Devon*, unpublished Mphil Thesis, University of Exeter.
- Oldham, D.O'W.** 1906: 'Private Chapels of Devon, Ancient and Modern', *Transactions of the Devonshire Association* vol.38, pp.391-403.
- Orme, N.** 1997: 'Church and Chapel in Medieval England', *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society* vol.6, pp.75-102.
- Reichel, O.J.** 1932: *The Hundred of Black Torrington in Early Times*, Transactions of the Devonshire Association Special Volume.
- Risdon, J.** 1714: *Survey of the County of Devon*, London.
- Seymour, D.** 1977: *Torre Abbey*, Exeter.
- 2000: *The Exchequer Cartulary of Torre Abbey*, Torquay.
- Thorn, C. & Thorn, F (eds).** 1985: *Domesday Book: Devon* 2 vols, Chichester.

### Unpublished Sources:

- Devon County Historic Environment Records: 7132, 74310.
- Land-Tax Records, 1780 – 1832 (North Devon Records Office).
- The 1841 Census: Transcript (North Devon Records Office).
- The Bradworthy Tithe Map and Apportionment (Devon County Records Office).

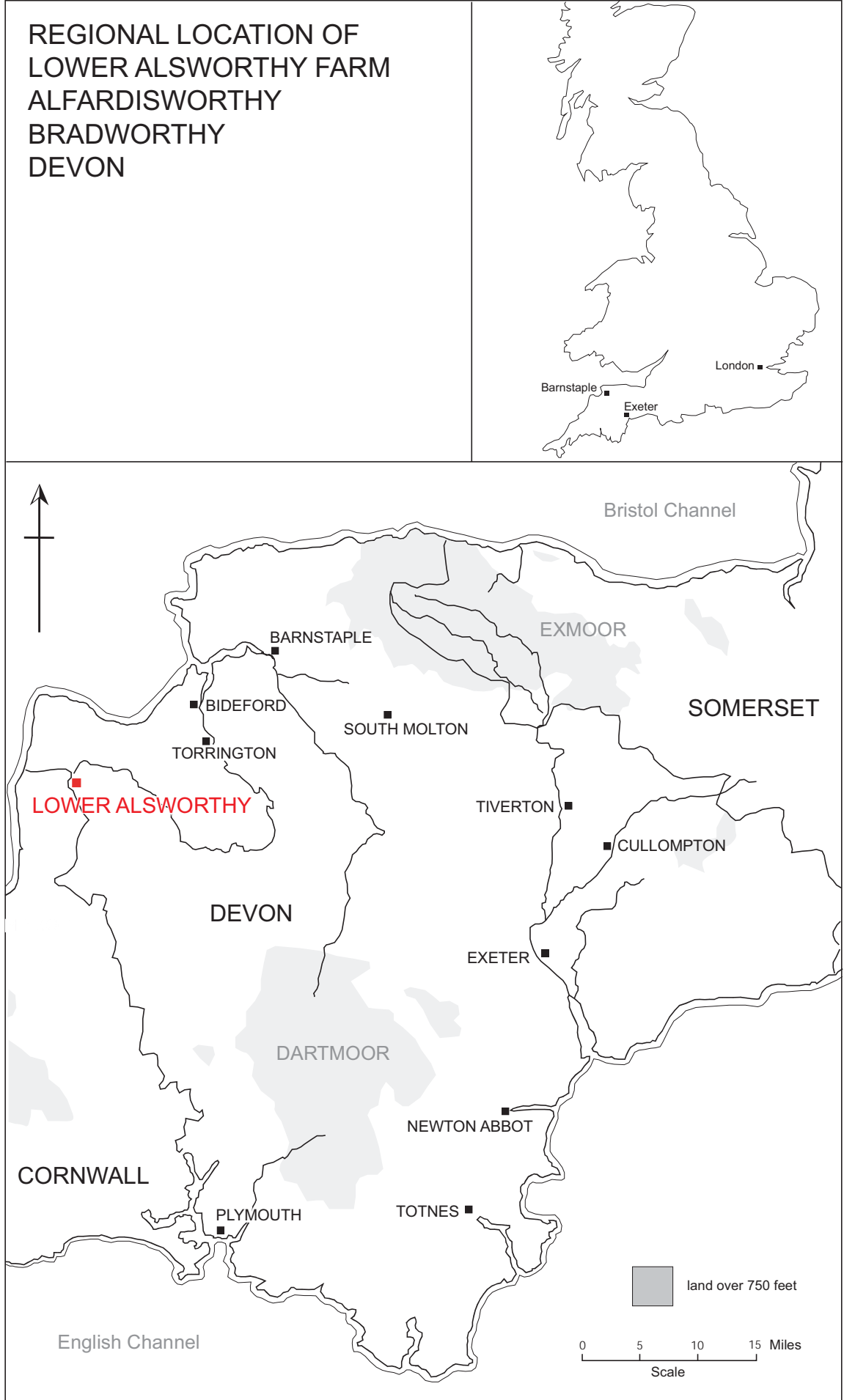


Fig. 1a: Regional location.



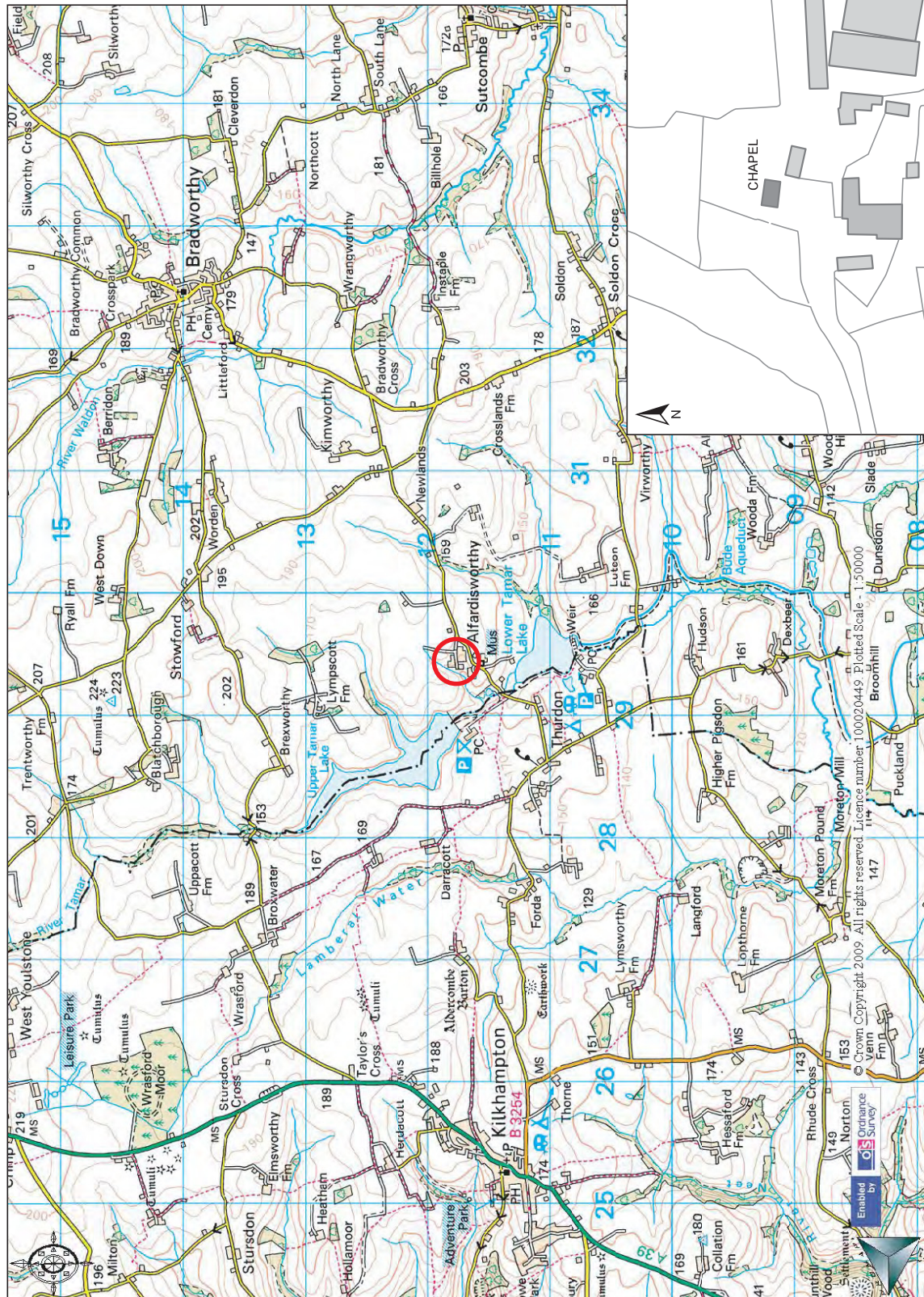


Fig. 1b: Location of Lower Alsworthy Farm, with inset showing farm buildings.

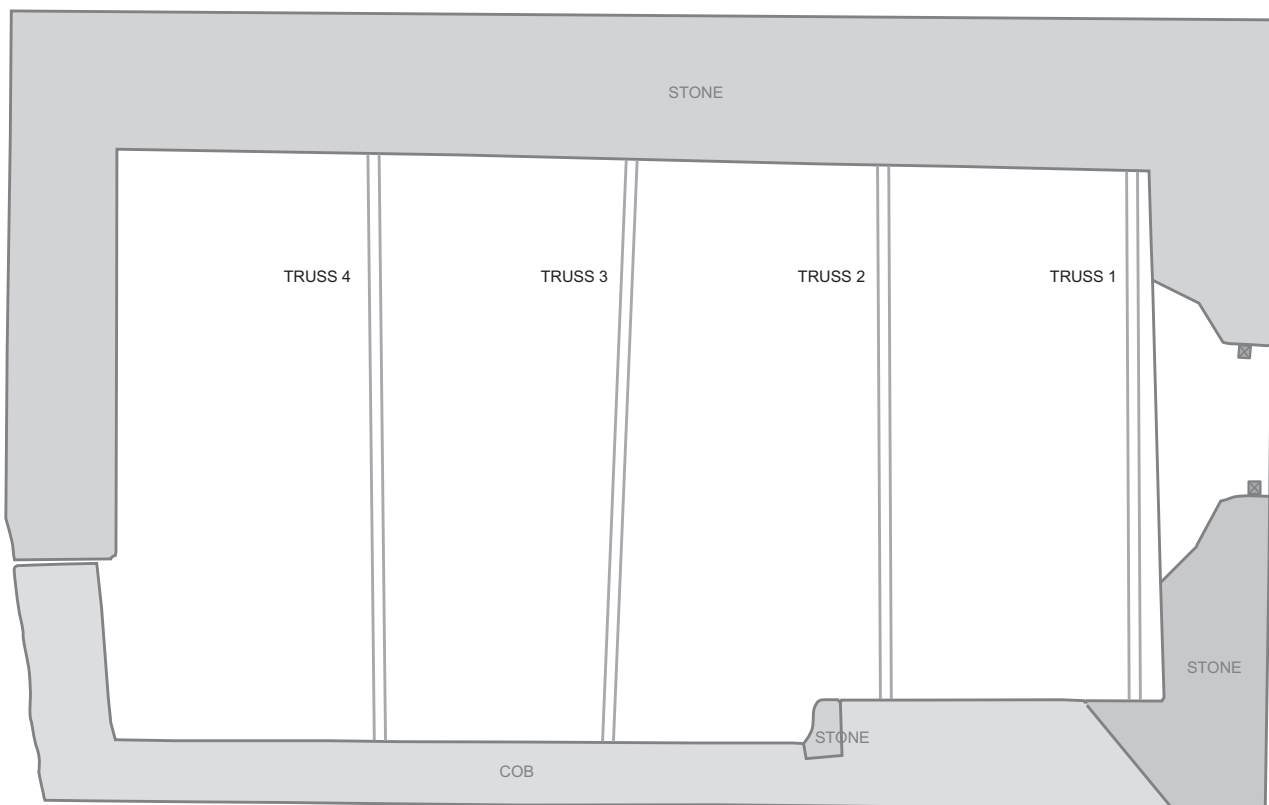




Fig. 2: Extract from the Bradworthy Tithe map of 1843 (DRO). The chapel is indicated.



Fig. 3: Extract from the Ordnance Survey First Edition map at a scale of 25 inches to one mile, published 1891 (courtesy West Country Studies Library).



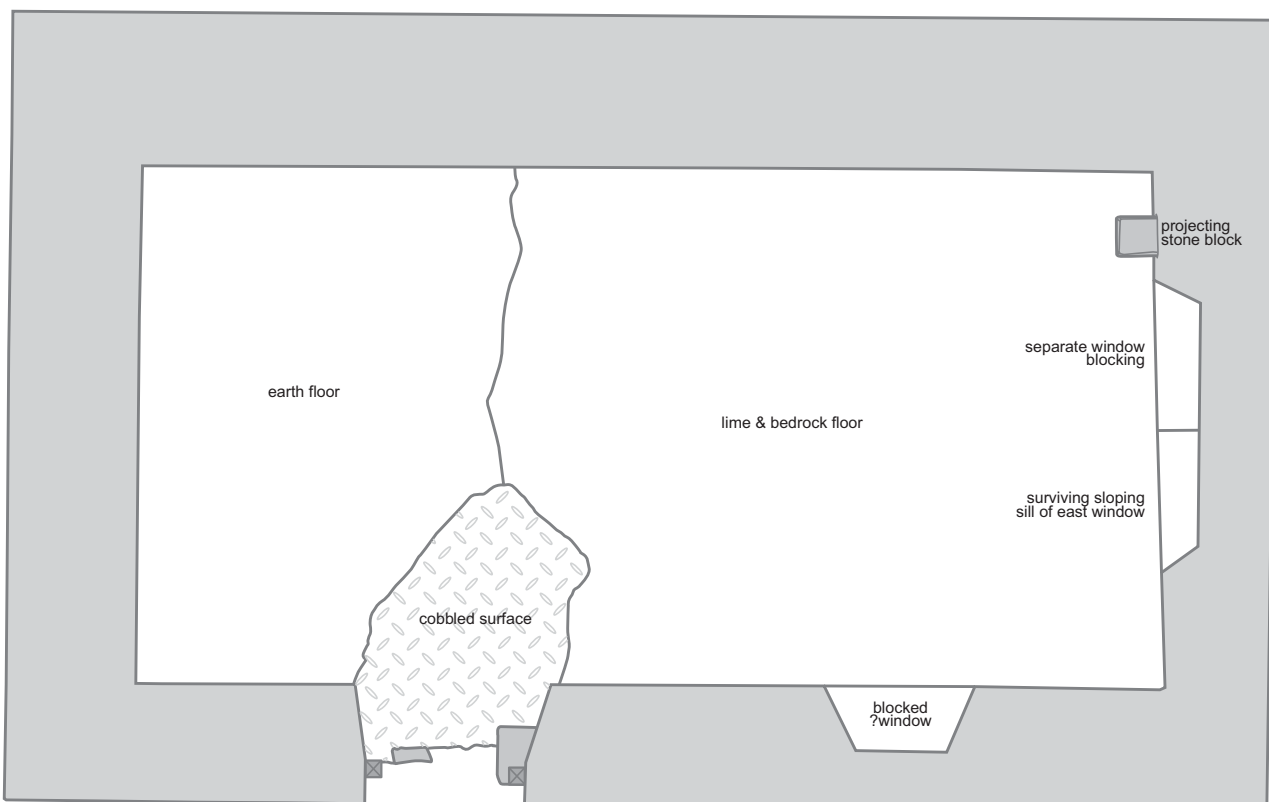
Chapel plan (first floor)



0



5m



Chapel plan (ground floor)

Fig. 4: The chapel at Lower Alsworthy, ground and first floor plans (scale 1:50 @A4).

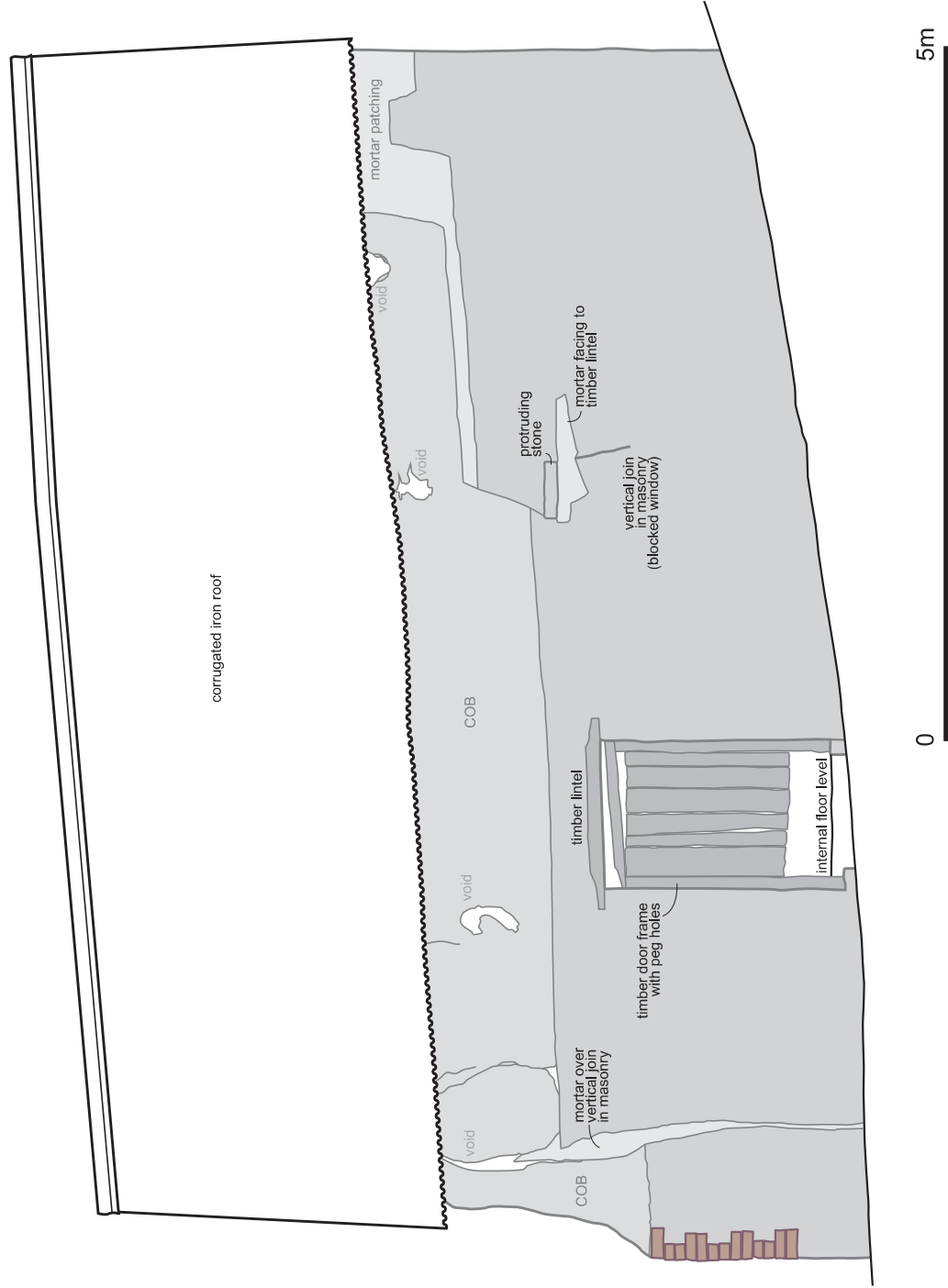
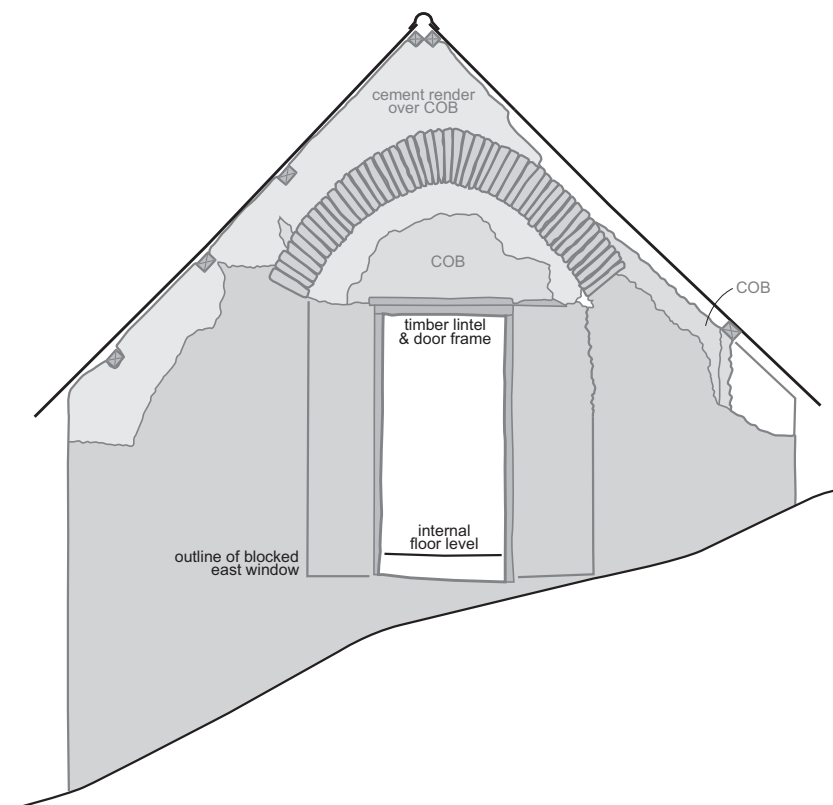
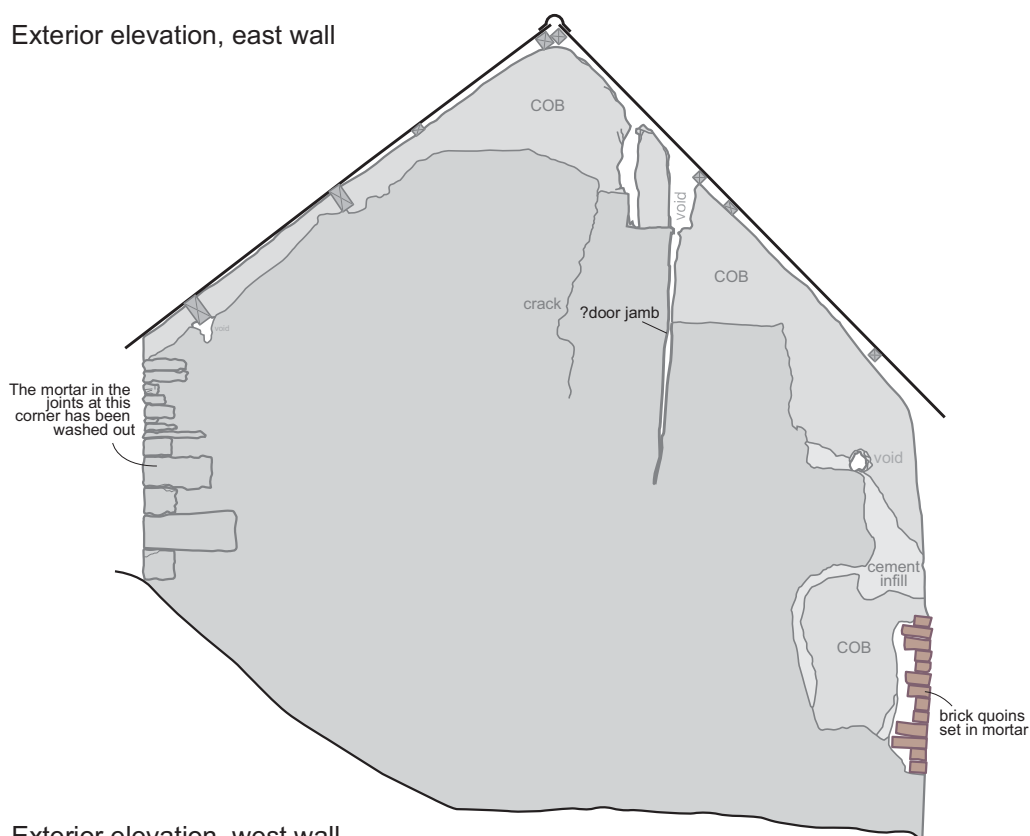


Fig. 5: The Chapel at Lower Alsworthy, exterior elevation of south wall (scale 1:50 @A4).



Exterior elevation, east wall



Exterior elevation, west wall

0 5m

Fig. 6: The chapel at Lower Alsworthy, exterior elevations of east and west walls (scale 1:50 @A4).

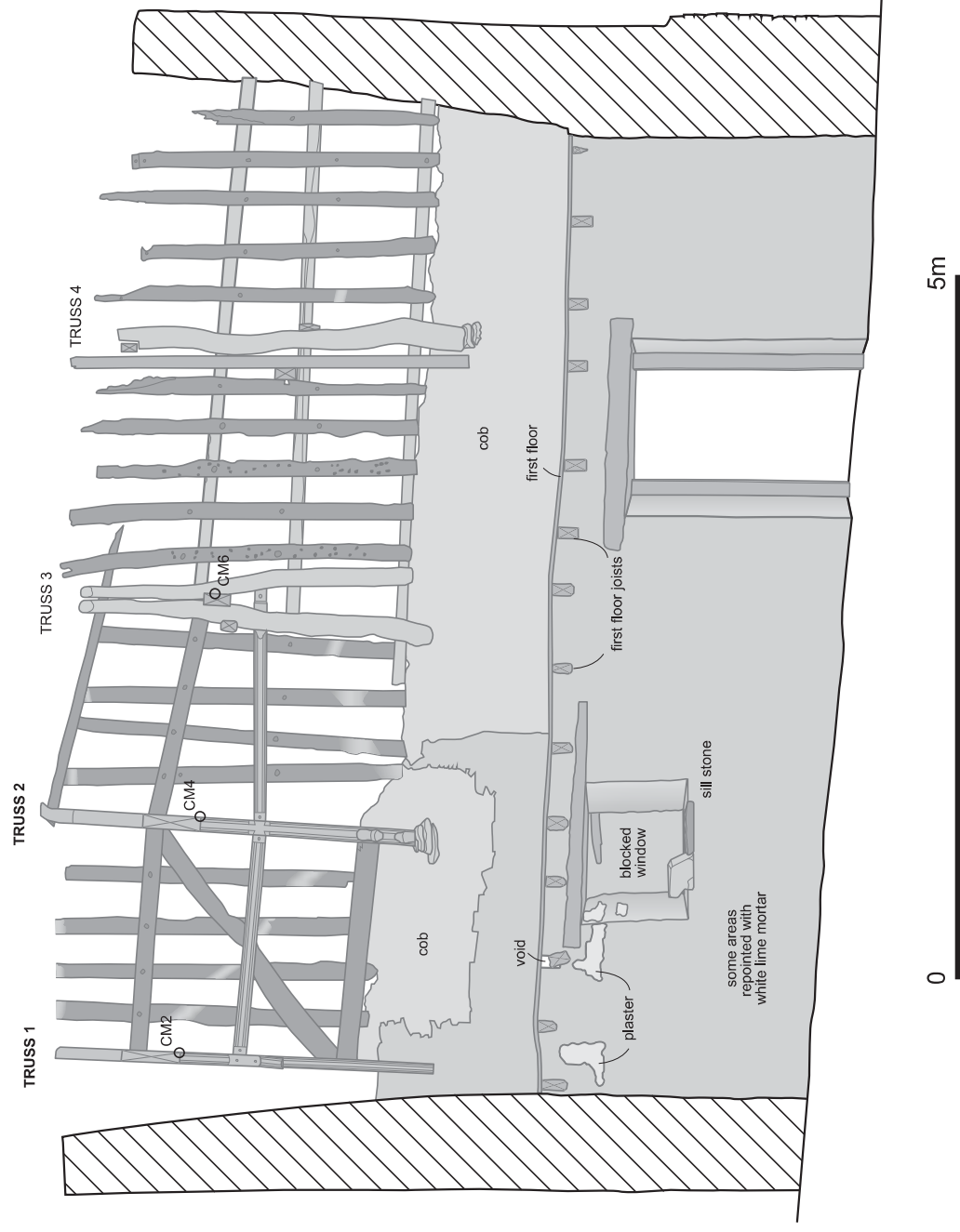


Fig. 7: The chapel at Lower Alsworthy, interior elevation of south wall (scale 1:50 @A4). Carpenter's Marks (CM*n*) as shown in Fig. 11; original truss blades labelled in **bold**. Surviving 15<sup>th</sup> century roof timbers depicted in a darker tone.



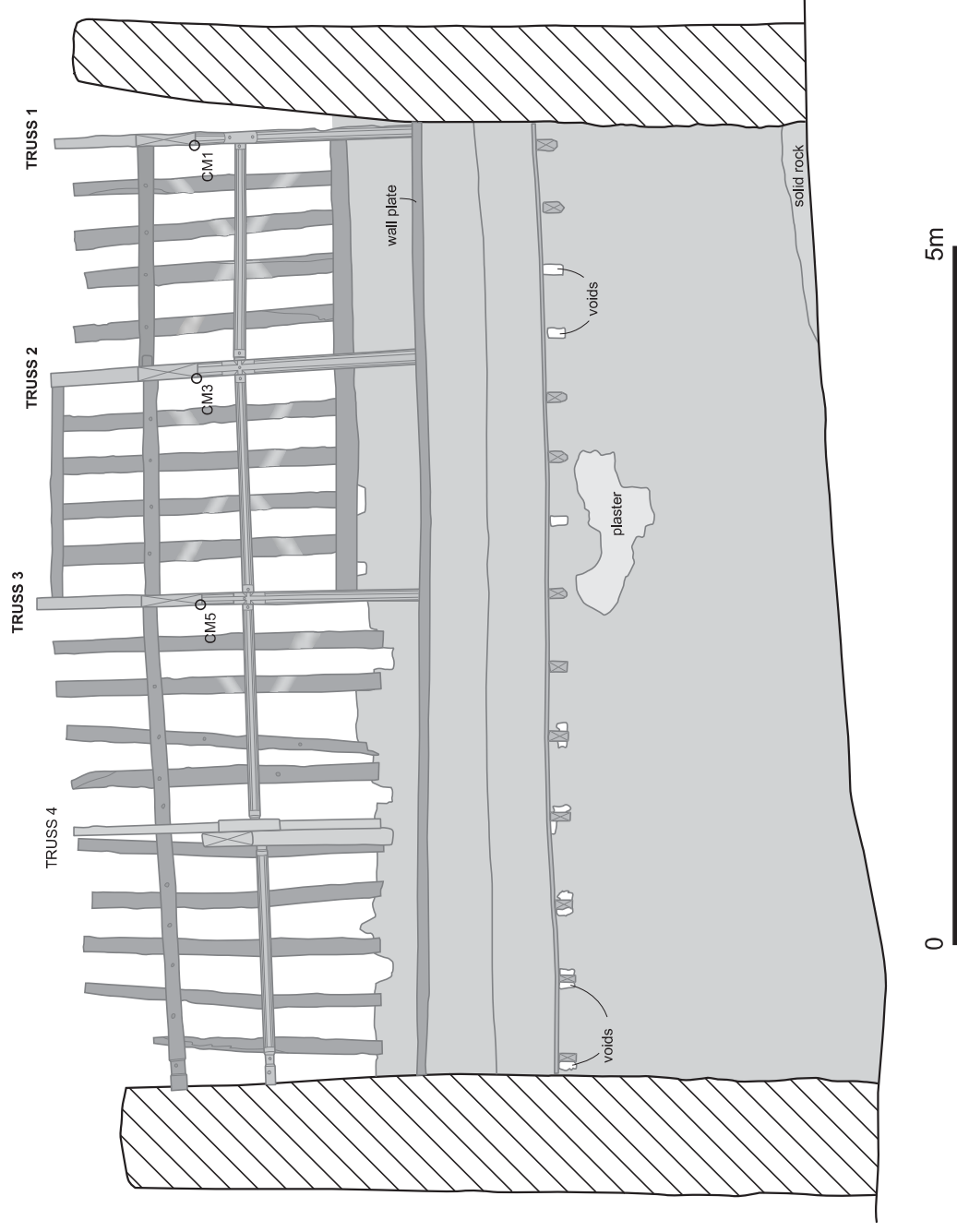
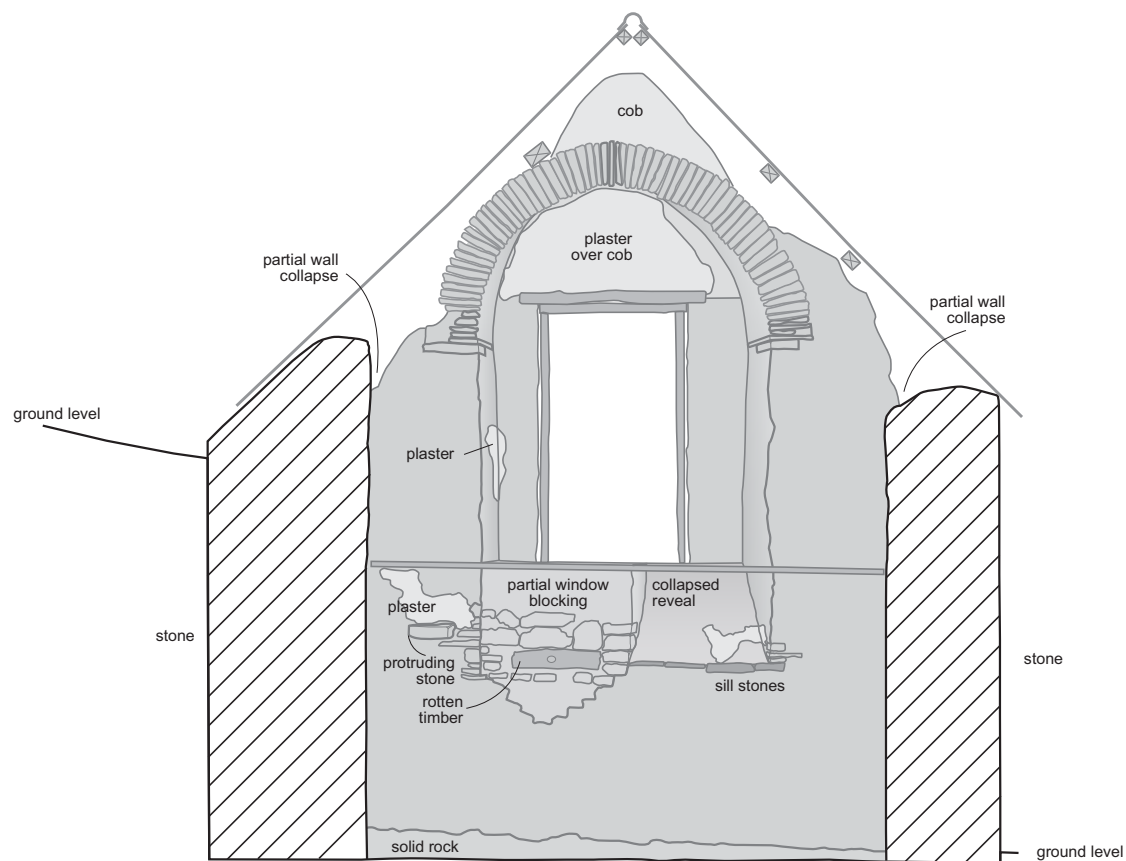
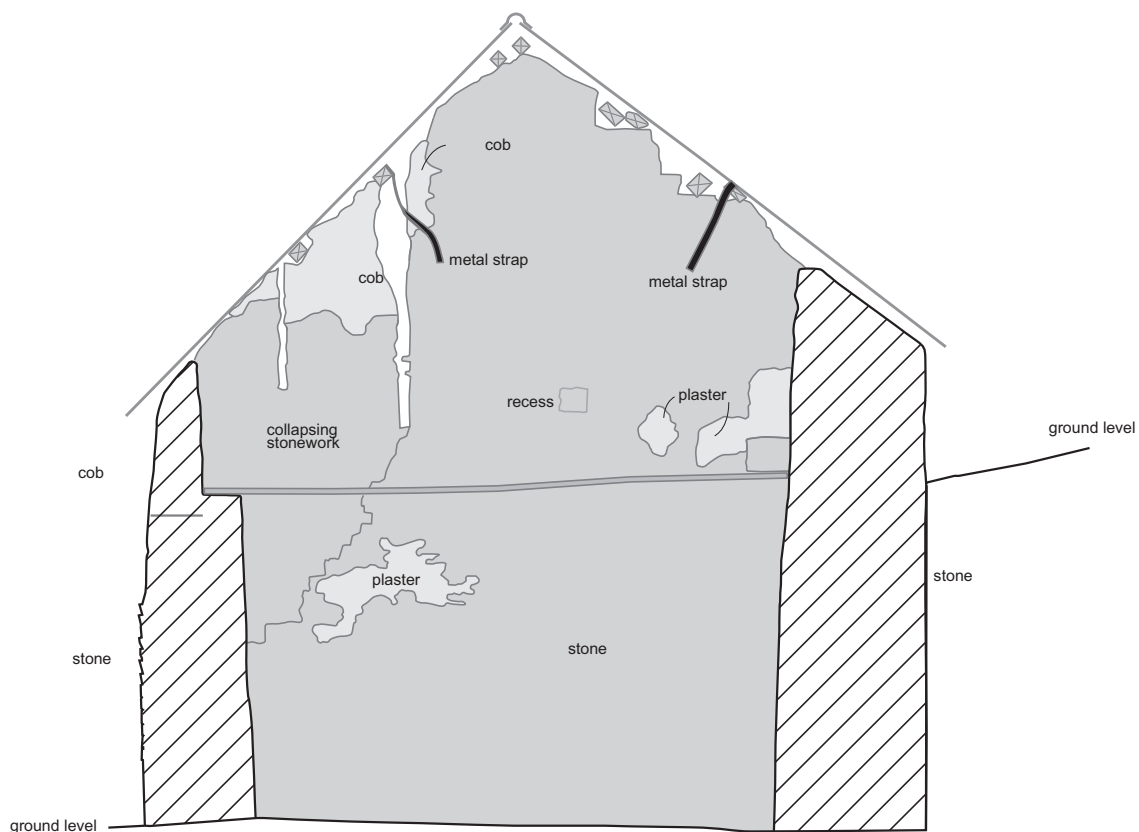


Fig. 8: The chapel at Lower Alsworthy, interior elevation of north wall (scale 1:50 @A4). Carpenter's Marks (CM*n*) as shown in Fig. 11; original truss blades **in bold**. Surviving 15<sup>th</sup> century roof timbers depicted in a darker tone.



Interior elevation, east wall



Interior elevation, west wall

0 5m

Fig. 9: The chapel at Lower Alsworthy, interior elevations of east and west walls (scale 1:50 @A4).

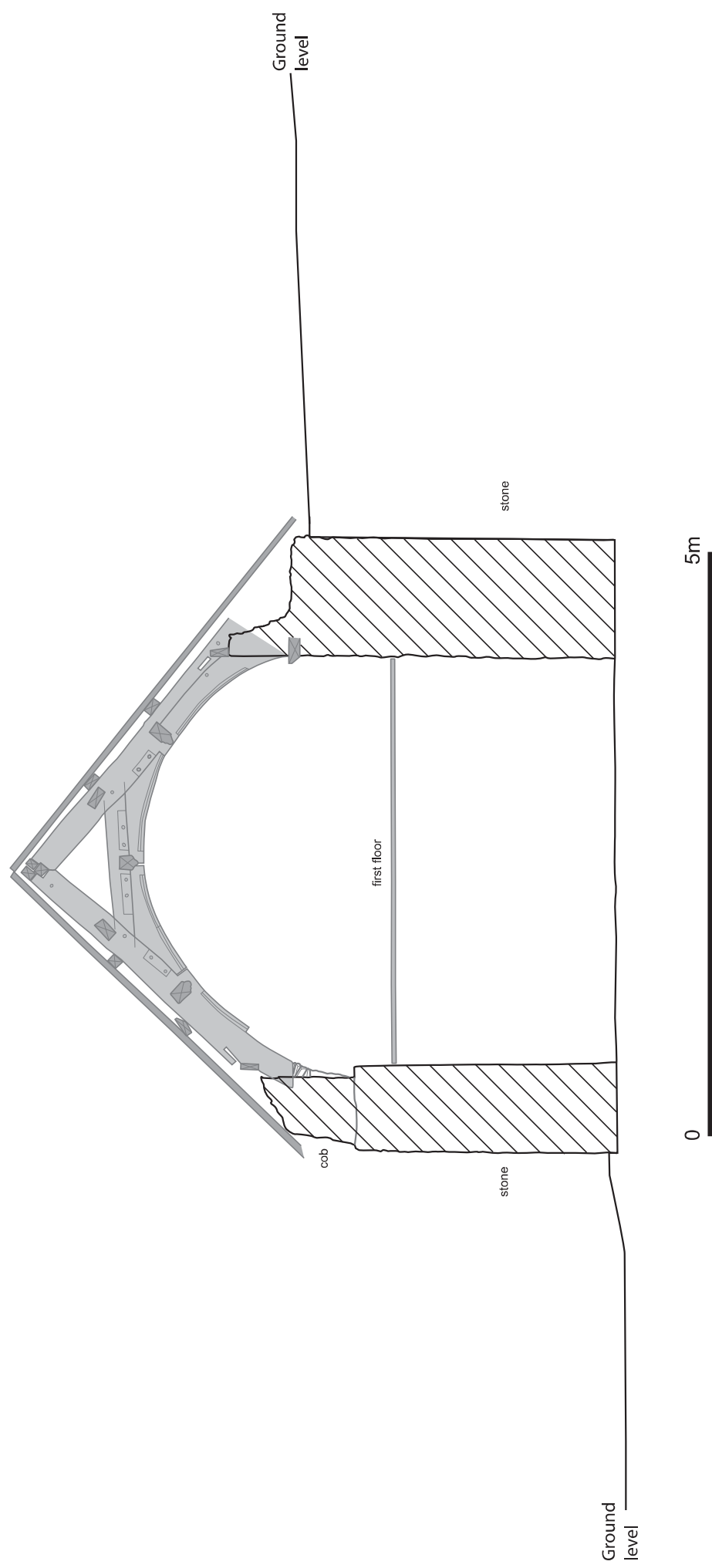


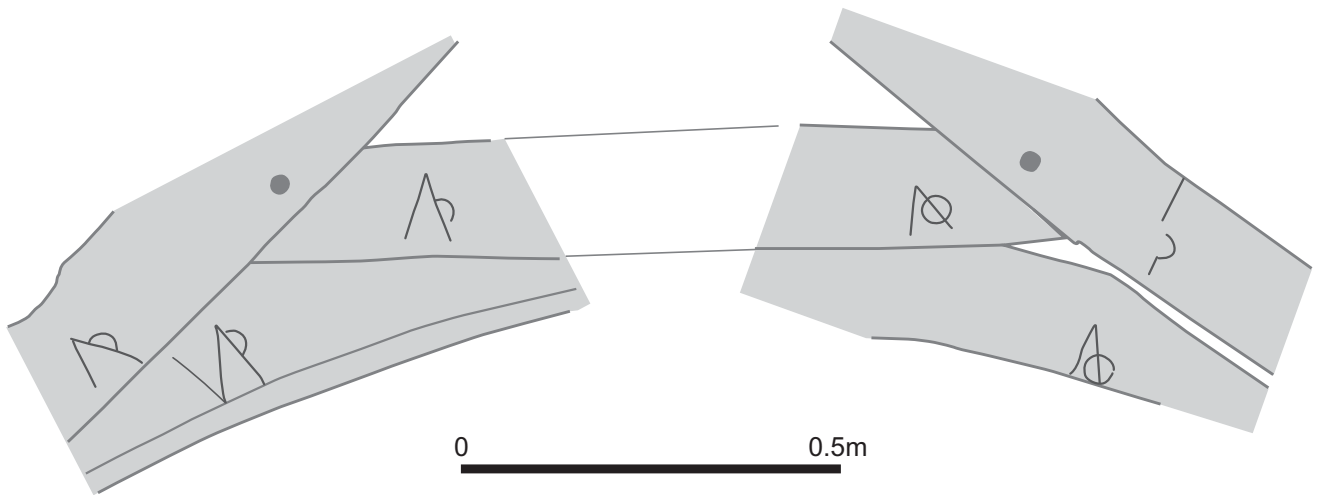
Fig. 10: The chapel at Lower Alsworthy, east-facing interior profile at Truss 2 (scale 1:50 @A4).

①

CM1: TRUSS 1 NORTH W-FACING

②

CM2: TRUSS 1 SOUTH W-FACING

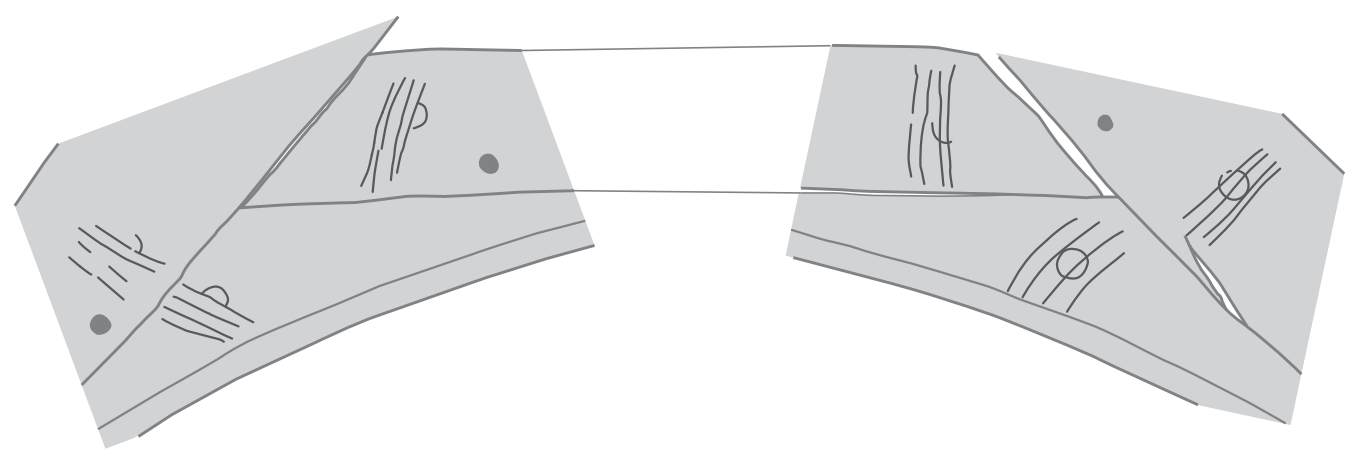


③

CM3: TRUSS 2 NORTH W-FACING

④

CM4: TRUSS 2 SOUTH W-FACING



⑤

CM5: TRUSS 3 NORTH W-FACING

⑥

CM6: TRUSS 3 SOUTH W-FACING

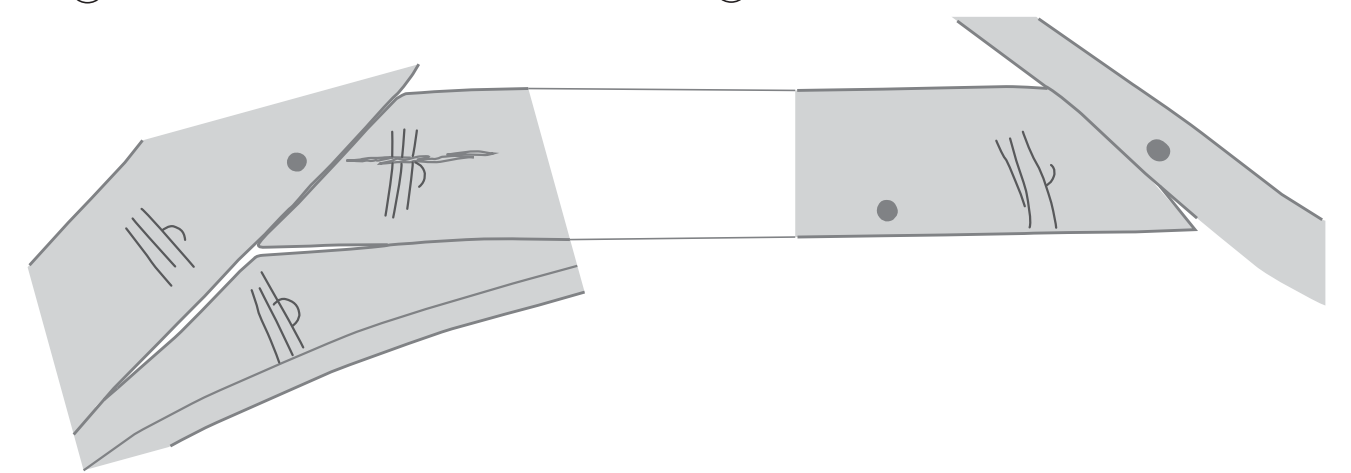


Fig. 11: Carpenters Marks (CM $n$ ) on the chapel roof trusses (scale 1:10 @A4).

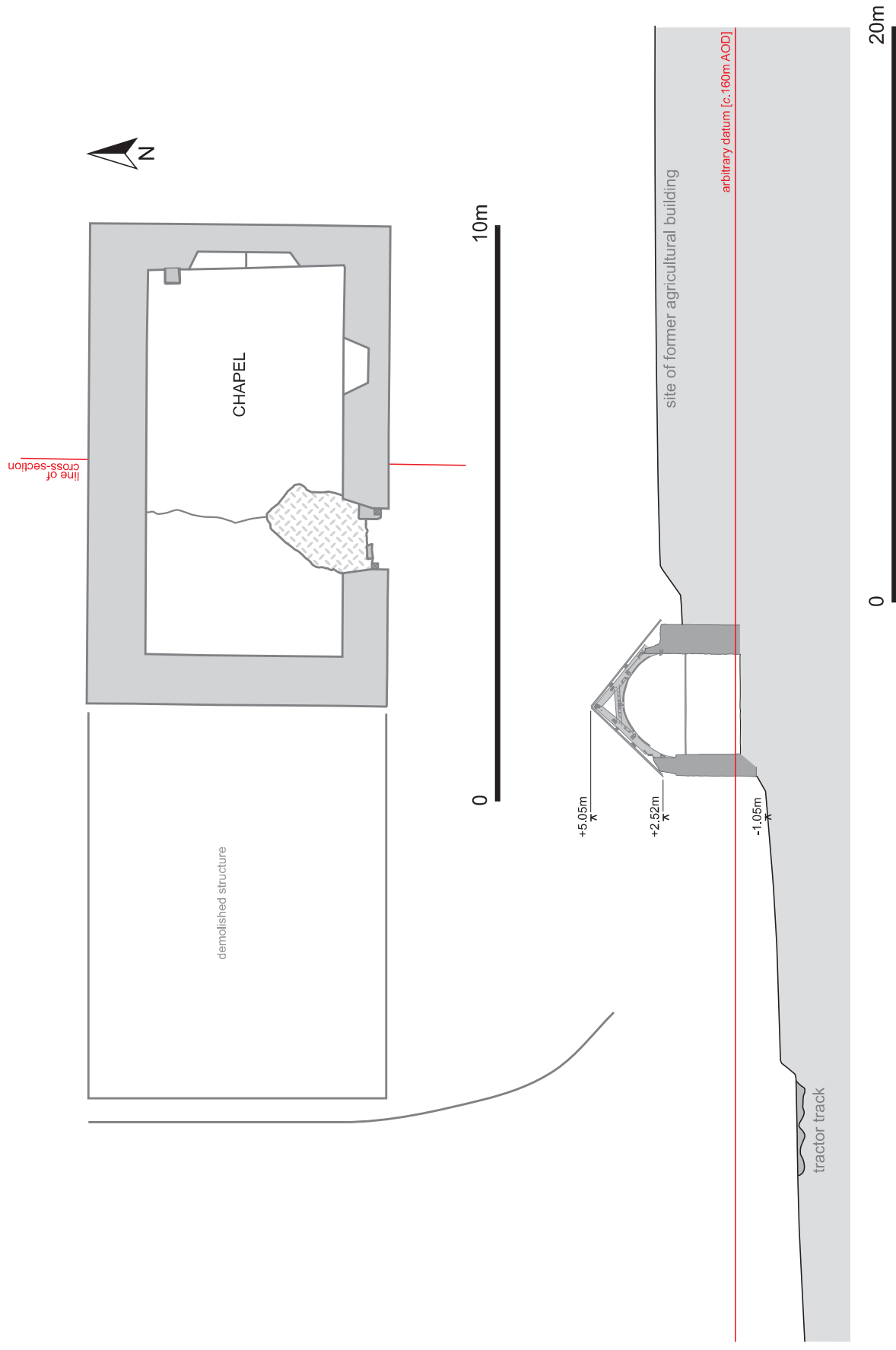


Fig. 12: The chapel at Lower Alsworthy: ground floor plan showing position of demolished extension (scale @1:100), and cross section at 90° through chapel (scale @1:200).



Plate 1: The chapel in the 1970's with the possible priest's dwelling still in place.  
(From Seymour 1977, Photo by M.Leach.)



Plate 2: The chapel before conservation, viewed from the south.



## BRIEF FOR HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING OF GROUNDWORKS

**Location:** Lower Alsworthy Farm  
**Parish:** Bradworthy  
**District:** Torridge  
**County:** Devon  
**NGR:** SS29401177  
**Plan. App. no:** 1/01907/2008/LBC  
**Proposal:** Repairs to Grade II\* Listed Chapel  
**HES ref:** ARCH.DC.TO.13348

### 1. INTRODUCTION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1.1 This brief has been prepared by the Devon County Council Historic Environment Service (HES), in consultation with Francis Kelly (English Heritage), at the request of Southwest Archaeology, with regard to the archaeological works at Lower Alsworthy Farm.

1.2 In accordance with PPG15 (1994) Planning and the Historic Environment, PPG16 (1990) Archaeology and Planning Policy and the Local Development Framework Policy on archaeology, the HES has advised that any consent issued in respect of the proposal should be subject to the following condition:

*'No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.'*

*The development shall be carried out at all times in strict accordance with the approved scheme, or such other details as may be subsequently agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

Reason: *'To ensure that an appropriate record is made of archaeological evidence that may be affected by the development'*

1.3 The principal objectives of the programme shall be to:

- i) investigate and record any historic building fabric or architectural detail that is obscured, removed or otherwise affected by the development and
- ii) monitor groundworks associated with the development to allow any exposed archaeological deposits to be investigated and recorded.

1.4 The chapel is a Grade II\* Listed Building. The List describes the present building as being of 15<sup>th</sup> century date, with later alterations, and refers to references to a chapel here in 1315 in the records of Torre abbey. Although it is unlikely that any burials would have taken place here, it is possible that elements of a previous structure may survive as buried archaeological deposits beneath, or in the vicinity of the present building, and that these may be disturbed by the proposed groundworks within and around the building.

1.5 This Brief covers the application area as defined in the plans submitted in support of this application.

### 2. WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

2.1 This document sets out the scope of the works required to record the historic fabric affected by the proposed development and to investigate and record the extent and character of any surviving archaeological deposits affected by the development within the application area and will form the basis of the *Written Scheme of Investigation* to be prepared by the archaeological consultant and approved by the HES and the Local Planning Authority.

2.2 The Written Scheme of Investigation must be submitted by the applicant or on their behalf by their agent or archaeological consultant and approved by the HES and the Local Planning Authority *prior* to any development commencing on site.

### 3. PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

#### 3.1 Desk-based assessment

The archaeological contractor shall familiarise themselves with Southwest Archaeology's report 050312: *Lower Alsworthy Farm, Alfardisworthy, Devon.*

#### 3.3 Historic building recording

A record shall be made of the historic fabric of the building affected by the development. This works shall conform to Level 4 of recording levels as set in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice - English Heritage 2006* (available on-line at the English Heritage website) and described below:

*Level 4 provides a **comprehensive analytical record** and is appropriate for buildings of special importance. Whereas Level 3 analysis and interpretation will clarify the building's history in so far as it*

may be deduced from the structure itself, the record at Level 4 will draw on the full range of available resources and discuss the building's significance in terms of architectural, social, regional or economic history. The range of drawings may also be greater than at other levels.

The drawing element of the record will include:

- plans at 1:20 minimum
- elevations (internal and external) at 1:20 minimum
- internal cross-sections at 1:20 minimum

(Plans, elevations and cross-sections will be marked up with any diagnostic features.)

- Significant architectural features will be drawn at 1:10 minimum

Subject to suitability, the plans, elevations and cross-sections may be based upon existing architects' plans.

English Heritage believes that the roof structure has been recorded by John Alexander Architects. If this is the case, a copy of those plans shall be included within the present record in an archivable format. Otherwise a drawn record of the roof structure shall be made, with elevations of the trusses, marked up with carpentry detail at 1:20 minimum.

A topographical cross section of the site shall be drawn at 90° to the contour, with spot heights at ridge, eaves and ground levels. The cross section shall extend at least 20 metres either side of the chapel.

The drawn and written record will be made on an appropriately archivable medium.

The photographic record shall be in a format acceptable to the Museum of North Devon and Barnstaple. *It shall also include B/W prints which will be archived with the Devon Record Office.* The contracted archaeologist should make themselves familiar with the specification required for each of the recording levels and the detail of the proposed archaeological works should be set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation.

### 3.3 Monitoring and Recording of Groundworks

#### *Comprehensive monitoring and recording.*

Topsoil removal and all groundworks across the site should be undertaken by a 360° tracked or wheeled JCB-type mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket under the supervision and control of the site archaeologist to the depth of formation, the surface of *in situ* subsoil/weathered natural or archaeological deposits whichever is highest in the stratigraphic sequence. Should archaeological deposits be exposed machining will cease in that area to allow the site archaeologist to investigate the exposed deposits.

3.3.1 Archaeological features and deposits will be cleaned and excavated by hand and will be fully recorded by context as per the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (1994 - revised 2001). All features shall be recorded in plan and section at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50. All scale drawing shall be drawn at a scale appropriate to the complexity of the deposit/feature and to allow accurate depiction and interpretation.

As a minimum:

- i) small discrete features will be fully excavated;
- ii) larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated); and
- iii) long linear features will be excavated to sample 20% of their length - with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature.

Should the above percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined full excavation of such features/deposits will be required.

The photographic record shall be made in a format acceptable to the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon, supplemented by B/W prints which will be archived with the Devon Record Office. Laser or inkjet prints of digital images, while acceptable for inclusion in the report, are not an acceptable medium for archives. The drawn and written record will be on an appropriately archivable medium.

Any variation of the above will be undertaken in agreement with the HES.

3.3.2 Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts.

3.3.3 Should deposits be exposed that contain palaeoenvironmental or datable elements appropriate sampling and post-excavation analysis strategies will be initiated. The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on finds or advise or report on other aspects of the investigation (e.g. palaeoenvironmental analysis) can be called upon and undertake assessment and analysis of such deposits - if required.

3.3.4 Human remains must initially be left in-situ, covered and protected. Removal can only take place under appropriate Ministry of Justice and environmental health regulations. Such removal must be in compliance with the relevant primary legislation.

3.3.5 Any finds identified as treasure or potential treasure, including precious metals, groups of coins or prehistoric metalwork, must be dealt with according to the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (2nd Revision) (Dept for Culture Media and Sport). Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures must be taken to protect the finds from theft.

## 4. MONITORING

4.1 The archaeological consultant shall agree monitoring arrangements with the County Historic Environment Service and the District Conservation Officer and give two weeks notice, unless a shorter period is agreed with the HES, of commencement of the fieldwork. Details will be agreed of any monitoring points where decisions on options within the programme are to be made.

4.2 Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the site archive and finds, and the satisfactory completion of an OASIS report - see 5.5 below.

## 5. REPORTING

5.1 The reporting requirements will be confirmed with the HES on completion of the site work.

5.2 The report shall be prepared collating the written, graphic, visible and recorded information outlined above. The report shall include plans of the features, including their location, description of the historic building fabric, architectural features of interest, below-ground archaeological deposits and artefacts together with their interpretation. It is recommended that a draft report is submitted to the HES for comment prior to its formal submission to the Local Planning Authority.

5.3 A copy of this brief shall be included in the report.

5.4 In addition to the copy sent to the Local Planning Authority, a copy of the report shall also be submitted to the Torridge District Council's Conservation Officer and to English Heritage – addresses below.

5.5 The HES would normally expect to receive the report within three months of completion of fieldwork - dependant upon the provision of specialist reports, radiocarbon dating results etc the production of which may exceed this period. If a substantial delay is anticipated then an interim report will be produced. A copy of this brief shall be included in the report.

5.6 On completion of the report, in addition to copies required by the Client, hard copies of the report shall be supplied to the HES on the understanding that one of these copies will be deposited for public reference in the HER. In addition to the hard copies of the report, one copy shall be provided to the HES in digital format - in a format to be agreed in advance with the HES - on the understanding that it may in future be made available to researchers via a web-based version of the HER.

5.7 The archaeological consultant shall complete an online OASIS (*Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS*) form in respect of the archaeological work. This will include a digital version of the report. The report or short entry to the Historic Environment Record will also include the OASIS ID number.

### 5.8 Publication

Should particularly significant historic fabric, architectural features, below-ground remains, finds be encountered, then these, because of their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance. If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements – including any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with the HES.

## 6. PERSONNEL

6.1 Staff must be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles. All work should be carried out under the control of a member of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC), the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), or by a person of similar standing. The Written Scheme of Investigation will contain details of key project staff and specialists who may contribute during the course of the works - excavation and post-excavation.

6.2 Health and Safety matters, including site security, are matters for the consultant. However, adherence to all relevant regulations will be required.

6.3 The work shall be carried out in accordance with *IFA Standards and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (1996)*, as amended (2001).

## 7. DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE AND FINDS

7.1 The archaeological consultant shall contact the museum that will receive the site archive to obtain an accession number and agree conditions for deposition. *The accession number will be quoted in the Written Scheme of Investigation.*

7.2 Archaeological finds resulting from the investigation (which are the property of the landowner), should be deposited with the appropriate museum - in a format to be agreed with the museum, and within a timetable to be agreed with the HES. The museum's guidelines for the deposition of archives for long-term storage should be adhered to. If ownership of all or any of the finds is to remain with the landowner, provision and agreement must be made for the time-limited retention of the material and its full analysis and recording, by appropriate specialists.

7.3 The artefact discard policy must be set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation.

7.4 Any archaeological condition imposed upon the consent for this development will not be regarded as discharged until the archaeological works as set out in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation have been fully implemented.

## **8. CONTACT NAME AND ADDRESS**

Ann Marie Dick, Archaeological Officer, Devon County Council, Environment, Economy and Culture Directorate, Matford Offices, County Hall, Exeter EX2 4QW

Tel: 01392-383405 Fax: 01392-383011 E-mail: [ann.dick@devon.gov.uk](mailto:ann.dick@devon.gov.uk)

Sarah Chappell, Torridge District Council, Riverbank House, Bideford, Devon EX39 2QG

Tel: 01237 428700 Fax: 01237 424971 E-mail: [sarah.chappell@torridge.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.chappell@torridge.gov.uk)

Francis Kelly, English Heritage, 29 Queen Square, Bristol, BS1 4ND

Tel: 0117 975 0700 Fax: 0117 975 0701 E-mail: [francis.kelly@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:francis.kelly@english-heritage.org.uk)

16<sup>th</sup> December 2008

### WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING, AT THE CHAPEL, LOWER ALSWORTHY, BRADWORTHY, DEVON.

**Location:** Lower Alsworthy Chapel  
**Parish:** Bradworthy  
**District:** Torridge  
**County:** Devon  
**NGR** SS29401177  
**Planning Application no:** 1/0197/2008/LBC  
**Proposal:** Repairs to Grade II\* Listed Chapel  
**Historic Environment Service ref:** ARCH.DC.TO.13348

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document forms a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which has been produced by South West Archaeology (SWARCH) at the request of John Alexander of Jonathan Rhind Architects, (the Client), and sets out the methodology for historic building recording and archaeological monitoring and recording to be undertaken during repairs and conservation works to the chapel and for related off site analysis and reporting. The WSI and the schedule of work it proposes conforms to a brief issued by Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES) and is being commissioned in line with government planning policy (PPG No. 16 *Archaeology and Planning* (DoE, 1990), PPG No. 15 *Planning and the Historic Environment*, (1994)) in accordance with Archaeology and Planning Policy and the Local Development Framework Policy on archaeology, and the HES advised condition that any consent issued in respect of the proposal should be subject to the following:  
*'No development work shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.'*  
*The development shall be carried out at all times in strict accordance with the approved scheme, or such other details as may be subsequently agreed in writing by the Planning Authority.'*  
Reason: *'To ensure that an appropriate record is made of archaeological evidence that may be affected by the development.'*
- 1.2 The programme of work to be carried out by SWARCH and covered by this WSI consists of:
- 1.2.1 Historic building recording and related analysis and reporting.
  - 1.2.2 The archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks in areas subject to development; during the removal of the existing structure, surfaces, turf and topsoil, the reduction of ground levels, and the excavation of any service trenches and foundations.

#### 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Chapel at Lower Alsworthy is a Grade II\* listed building. The List describes the present building as being of 15<sup>th</sup> century date, with later alterations, and refers to references to a chapel here in 1315 in the records of Torre abbey. Although it is unlikely that any burials would have taken place here, it is possible that elements of a previous structure may survive as buried archaeological deposits beneath, or in the vicinity of the present building, and that these may be disturbed by the proposed groundworks within and around the building.

#### 3. AIMS

- 3.1 The principal objectives of the programme will be to:
- 3.1.1 Investigate and record any historic building fabric or architectural detail that may be obscured, removed or otherwise affected by the development.
  - 3.1.2 Investigate, excavate and record any surviving below ground deposits exposed by construction works for the development.
  - 3.1.3 Analyse and report on the results of the project as appropriate.
- 3.2 All archaeological deposits that are exposed will be investigated and recorded. In the event of significant *in situ* archaeological remains being encountered it may be considered necessary to temporarily halt development and recording work so that discussion can take place regarding preservation of these remains, possible design/engineering alternatives and appropriate levels of archaeological recording.

#### 4.0 METHOD

- 4.1 Historic Building Recording
- An archaeological record shall be made of the historic fabric of the building affected by the development. The recording will be in accordance with the IFA *Standard and Guidance on the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (2001) and shall conform to **Level 4** of recording levels as set in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good*



recording practice - English Heritage 2006 (available on-line at the English Heritage website) and described below:

Level 4 provides a **comprehensive analytical record** and is appropriate for buildings of special importance. Whereas Level 3 analysis and interpretation will clarify the building's history in so far as it may be deduced from the structure itself, the record at Level 4 will draw on the full range of available resources and discuss the building's significance in terms of architectural, social, regional or economic history. The range of drawings may also be greater than at other levels.

4.2 The drawing element of the record will include:

- 4.2.1 Plans, elevations (internal and external) and internal cross-sections at 1:20 minimum.
- 4.2.2 Plans, elevations and cross-sections will be marked up with any diagnostic features.
- 4.2.3 Significant architectural features will be drawn at 1:10 minimum.
- 4.2.4 A drawn record of the roof structure shall be made, with elevations of the trusses, marked up with carpentry detail at 1:20 minimum.
- 4.2.5 A topographical cross section of the site shall be drawn at 90° to the contour, with spot heights at ridge, eaves and ground levels. The cross section shall extend at least 20 metres either side of the chapel.
- 4.2.6 The drawn and written record will be made on an appropriately archivable medium.
- 4.2.7 The photographic record shall be in a format acceptable to the Museum of North Devon and Barnstaple. It shall also include B/W prints which will be archived with the Devon Record Office.

4.3 Monitoring and Recording of Groundworks

- 4.3.1 Topsoil removal and all groundworks across the site will be undertaken by a 360° tracked or wheeled JCB-type mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket under the supervision and control of the site archaeologist to the depth of formation, the surface of *in situ* subsoil/weathered natural or archaeological deposits whichever is highest in the stratigraphic sequence. Should archaeological deposits be exposed machining will cease in that area to allow the site archaeologist to investigate the exposed deposits.

- 4.3.2 Archaeological features and deposits will be cleaned and excavated by hand and will be fully recorded by context as per the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (1994 - revised 2001). All features shall be recorded in plan and section at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. All scale drawing shall be drawn at a scale appropriate to the complexity of the deposit/feature and to allow accurate depiction and interpretation.

As a minimum:

- i) small discrete features will be fully excavated;
- ii) larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated); and
- iii) long linear features will be excavated to sample 20% of their length - with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature.

Should the above percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined full excavation of such features/deposits will be required.

The photographic record shall be made in a format acceptable to the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon, supplemented by B/W prints which will be archived with the Devon Record Office. The drawn and written record will be on an appropriately archivable medium.

- 4.3.3 Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts.
  - 4.3.4 Should deposits be exposed that contain palaeoenvironmental or datable elements appropriate sampling and post-excavation analysis strategies will be initiated. The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on finds or advise or report on other aspects of the investigation (e.g. dendrochronological or palaeoenvironmental analysis) can be called upon and undertake assessment and analysis of such deposits- if required.
  - 4.3.5 In the unlikely event of any human remains being found on this site they will be dealt with in accordance to procedures in published guidance (*McKinley and Roberts 1993 (IFA technical paper no. 13)* and *EH/CofE 2005 (Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England)*). SWARCH will advise the client as to obtaining the necessary Licence from the Dept of Constitutional Affairs. Where necessary, SWARCH will consult with an appropriate specialist (see attached list).
  - 4.3.6 Any finds identified as treasure or potential treasure, including precious metals, groups of coins or prehistoric metalwork, must be dealt with according to the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (2nd Revision) (Dept for Culture Media and Sport). Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures must be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- Any variation of the above will be undertaken in agreement with the HES.



- 4.4 The Client will provide SWARCH with details of the location of existing services and of proposed groundworks within the site area, and of the proposed construction programme.
- 4.5 Health and Safety requirements will be observed at all times by any archaeological staff working on site.
  - 4.5.1 Appropriate PPE will be employed at all times.
  - 4.5.2 The site archaeologist will undertake any site safety induction course provided by the Client.
  - 4.5.3 If the depth of trenching exceeds 1.2 metres the trench sides will need to be shored or stepped to enable the archaeologist to examine and if appropriate record the section of the trench. The provision of such measures will be the responsibility of the client.
- 4.6 Sufficient time must be allowed for archaeological excavation, sampling, and recording appropriate to the deposits revealed. This may necessitate some delay to development work, although the site archaeologist will attempt to keep delays to a minimum. If complex or extensive archaeological deposits are exposed within the watching brief, then DCHES will be consulted as to the appropriate level of further investigation required. However, unless there are exceptional circumstances, excavation will not normally extend beyond the limits (extent and depth) of the ground works required for this development.
- 4.7 The HES shall inspect the site and monitor the fieldwork being undertaken by the archaeological contractor. This monitoring will include examination of excavated areas as well as the primary site record (context sheets, drawings, sample record sheets etc). No areas subject to archaeological work will be regarded as completed and available for construction without such monitoring and upon confirmation from the HES that the agreed works in those areas have been satisfactorily completed.

## **5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING**

This will be based on IFA guidelines and those advised by DCHES and will consist of:

- 5.1 Standardised single context recording sheets, survey drawings in plan, section and profile at 1:10, 1:20, 1: 50 and 1:100 as appropriate, and B/W and digital photography.
- 5.2 Survey and location of trenches and archaeological features.
- 5.3 Labelling and bagging of finds on site. Post-1800 unstratified pottery may be discarded on site after a representative sample has been retained.
- 5.4 Any initial cleaning, conservation, packaging and any stabilisation or longer term conservation measures necessary will be undertaken in accordance with relevant professional guidance (including *Conservation guidelines No 1* (UKIC, 2001); *First Aid for Finds* (UKIC & RESCUE, 1997) and on advice provided by an appropriate conservation specialist (see attached list), and in accordance with the requirements of the receiving museum.
- 5.5 Should palaeoenvironmental or other deposits or material of potential interest be exposed they will be assessed on site by SWARCH staff and where appropriate by an appropriate environmental specialist (see attached list) - with advice as necessary from the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor - regarding the potential yield (if any) of environmental or microfaunal evidence. Should this assessment prove positive, appropriate sampling procedures would be initiated in line with national guidance (*Environmental Archaeology (English Heritage CFA Guidelines No. 2002/01)*), and further liaison with outside specialists organised, including the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor.

## **6.0 PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 The project will be managed by Colin Humphreys of SWARCH who will undertake the building recording and watching brief assisted by SWARCH personnel.
- 6.2 SWARCH will agree monitoring arrangements with DCHES and give two weeks notice, unless a shorter period is agreed, of commencement of the fieldwork. Details will be agreed of any monitoring points where decisions on options within the programme are to be made. Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the site archive and finds and the completion of the OASIS entry.

## **7.0 ARCHIVE AND REPORT**

- 7.1 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991 2nd edition) upon completion of the entire project. This will include relevant correspondence together with context sheets, field drawings, and environmental, artefactual and photographic records. The archive and finds will be deposited in the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon under accession number 2008.119.B/W prints arising from the building recording will be archived with Devon Record Office
- 7.2 Archaeological finds resulting from the investigation (which are the property of the landowner), will also be deposited with the above museum (under the accession number above) in a format to be agreed with the museum, and within a timetable to be agreed with the HES. The museum's guidelines for the deposition of archives for long-term storage will be adhered to and any sampling procedures will be carried out prior to deposition and in consultation with the museum. If ownership of all or any of the finds is to remain with the landowner, provision and agreement must be made for

the time-limited retention of the material and its full analysis and recording, by appropriate specialists.

- 7.3 The reporting requirements will be confirmed with the HES on completion of the site work.
- 7.4 A draft report will be submitted to the HES for comment prior to its formal submission to the Local Planning Authority and the draft building survey element will be submitted to Francis Kelly of English Heritage for comments.
- 7.5 A report will be prepared collating the written, graphic, visible and recorded information outlined above. The report shall include plans of the features, including their location, description of the historic building fabric, architectural features of interest, below-ground archaeological deposits and artefacts together with their interpretation. The report will include:
- 7.5.1 Copies of the plans, elevations and cross-sections and drawings of significant architectural features, the roof structure and a topographical cross section of of any measured record drawings, showing the location and extent of historic fabric and features within the buildings and a summary description of these elements as indicators of the age and development of the building;
  - 7.5.2 Relevant maps, plans and images;
  - 7.5.3 A location plan and overall site plan showing the location and distribution of archaeological features;
  - 7.5.4 Plans and sections of significant features or deposits at a relevant scale;
  - 7.5.5 A description of any remains and deposits identified including an interpretation of their character and significance;
  - 7.5.6 An assessment of significant artefacts, environmental and scientific samples together with any recommendations for further analysis;
  - 7.5.7 Any specialist reports commissioned;
  - 7.5.8 Discussion of the historic building fabric and archaeological deposits encountered and their context,
  - 7.5.9 The OASIS number.

Copies of the report will be submitted to the DCHES and deposited with the County HER, the Local Planning Authority, Torridge District Council's Conservation Officer and to English Heritage, and a copy deposited with the site archive, within 6 months of the close of fieldwork unless agreed otherwise with DCHES.

- 7.6 Should particularly significant remains, finds and/or deposits be encountered, then these, because of their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance. If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements - including any further analysis that may be necessary - will be confirmed with the DCHES, in consultation with the Client. SWARCH, on behalf of the Client, will then implement publication in accordance with a timescale agreed with the Client and the DCHES.
- 7.7 A copy of the report detailing the results of these investigations will be submitted to the OASIS (*Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS*) database.

Deb Laing-Trengove

South West Archaeology

The Old Dairy, Hatches Lane Business Park, Pathfields Business Park, South Molton, Devon EX36 3LH

Telephone: 01769 573555 Email [deblt@swarch.net](mailto:deblt@swarch.net)

## **Appendix 1 – List of specialists**

### **Building recording**

Robert Waterhouse

13 Mill Meadow, Ashburton TQ13 7RN Tel: 01364 652963

Richard Parker

Exeter Archaeology, Tel: 01392 665521 [exeter.arch@exeter.gov.uk](mailto:exeter.arch@exeter.gov.uk)

### **Conservation**

Richard and Helena Jaeschke

2 Bydown Cottages, Swimbridge, Barnstaple EX32 0QD Tel: 01271 830891

### **Curatorial**

Alison Mills

North Devon Museum, The Square, Barnstaple Tel: 01271 346747

### **Geophysical Survey**

Ross Dean

South West Archaeology Limited.

GSB Prospection Ltd.  
Cowburn Farm, Market Street, Thornton, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD13 3HW Tel: 01274 835016  
gsb@gsbprospection.com

### **Human Bones**

Seana Cummins  
South West Archaeology Limited.  
Louise Lou  
Head of Heritage Burial Services, Oxford Archaeology, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 OES  
Tel: 01865 263 800

### **Lithics**

Martin Tingle  
Higher Brownston, Brownston, Modbury, Devon, PL21 OSQ martin@mtingle.freemove.co.uk

### **Metallurgy**

Sarah Paynter, Centre for Archaeology, Fort Cumberland, Fort Cumberland Road, Eastney, Portsmouth  
PO4 9LD Tel: 02392 856700 sarah.paynter@english-heritage.org.

### **Palaeoenvironmental/Organic**

Vanessa Straker  
English Heritage SW, 29 Queen Square, Bristol BS1 4ND Tel: 0117 9287961  
vanessa.straker@english-heritage.org.uk  
Dana Challinor (wood identification)  
Lavender Cottage, Little Lane, Aynho, Oxfordshire OX17 3BJ Tel: 01869 810150  
dana.challinor@tiscali.co.uk  
Julie Jones (plant macro-fossils)  
juliedjones@blueyonder.co.uk  
Heather Tinsley (pollen analysis)  
heathertinsley@aol.com  
Ralph Fyffe (pollen analysis)  
University of Plymouth

### **Pottery**

John Allen,  
Exeter Archaeology, Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter EX4 3LS Tel: 01392 665918  
Henrietta Quinnell  
9 Thornton Hill, Exeter EX4 4NN Tel: 01392 433214

### **Timber Conservation**

Liz Goodman  
Specialist Services, Conservation Museum of London, 150 London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN  
Tel: 0207 8145646 lgoodman@museumoflondon.org.uk

## Appendix 3

### Text of English Heritage Listing

#### Lower Alsworthy: The Chapel – Grade II\*

Outbuilding, Formerly Chapel 25 metres north east of Lower Alsworthy Farmhouse (Formerly listed as: ALFARDISWORTHY CHAPEL) GV II\* Chapel, now store. C15, subsequently much altered. Squared and coursed local stone, upper section cob, cement repairs, corrugated iron roof. Plan: 4-bay, single cell set into slope on north (rear elevation), entrance via blocked east window at first floor level and on south front at ground floor level. South front ground floor square headed opening with wooden lintel and plank door, probably C19/C20 on site of original opening. West gable end relieving arch of thin fieldstone, the head of the east window, tympanum filled with cob, wooden doorframe of indeterminate date. Interior: wooden wallplate running length of north wall, 2 and a half pairs of moulded arch-braced trusses, moulded collar purlins, bosses removed, apices renewed, 2 tiers of curved wind braces in south-east corner, evidence of some smoke blackening on original rafters. The east wall has splayed out and the unmoulded east face of the eastern-most truss was originally flush with the wall. Ground floor, only accessible in part at time of survey but appeared to contain corbels or brackets on east wall that originally flanked the east window. No evidence visible of the cill of this window. Blocked window opening partially visible on south wall. There are references to the chapel here in 1315 in the records of Torre abbey who held the advowson. To the north-west rises a spring which had a reputation as a Holy Well although its healing properties are unrecorded. (D.Seymour, Torre Abbey, 1977).

## Appendix 4

### Devon Historic Environment Record

#### Monument

Admin Area: Devon

Lower Alsworthy Farm

Building Survey 12 March 2005, Southwest Archaeology

Lower Alsworthy Farm Condition Report: Building Survey 28 February 2007, Jonathan Rhind Architects

Historic Houses Register: Bradworthy 1989, (Department of Environment)

#### Sources

Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division Card; SS21SE 15 1977, (Ordnance Survey, Archaeology Division)

**Chapel, now store.** 15<sup>th</sup> century, subsequently much altered. Squared and coursed local stone, upper section cob, cement repairs, corrugated iron roof.

Plan: 4-bay, single cell set into slope on north (rear elevation), entrance via blocked east window at first floor level and on south front at ground floor level. South front ground floor square headed opening with wooden lintel and plank door, probably 19th/20th century on site of original opening. West gable end relieving arch of thin fieldstone, the head of the east window, tympanum filled with cob, wooden doorframe of indeterminate date. Interior: wooden wallplate running length of north wall, 2 and a half pairs of moulded arch-braced trusses, moulded collar purlins, bosses removed, apices renewed, 2 tiers of curved wind braces in south-east corner, evidence of some smoke blackening on original rafters. The east wall has splayed out and the unmoulded east face of the eastern-most truss was originally flush with the wall. Ground floor, only accessible in part at time of survey but appeared to contain corbels or brackets on east wall that originally flanked the east window. No evidence visible of the cill of this window. Blocked window opening partially visible on south wall. There are references to the chapel here in 1315 in the records of Torre Abbey who held the advowson. To the north-west rises a spring which had a reputation as a Holy Well although its healing properties are unrecorded. (Department of Environment 1989)

#### Description

Chapel at Alfordisworthy farm is a single storey structure of stone and cob with modern doorway on south long side. Sole evidence for 15th/16th century date seems to be roof timbers which consist of moulded arched braces and purlins, but with no windbraces. Whole is roofed with corrugated iron and in poor condition. (Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division 1977)

The former chapel at Lower Alsworthy farm was undergoing slow decay in 2006 with no solution agreed. (English Heritage 2006). Chapel referred to in document of 1315. Shown on Tithe Map of 1843. Roof structure appears to date between 1450 and 1530. Rubble stone and cob. Rectangular building with inserted floor and much alteration to south wall. Doorway at first floor level in west wall may have been access to accommodation in former extension to west for a resident priest. (Southwest Archaeology 2005)

Small stone and cob building to north of farmhouse with corrugated iron roof. May have originally been thatched. Formerly a chapel but which has been used in more recent centuries as a barn. Photo of 1977 shows small stone and cob structure with monopitch roof which formerly abutted west elevation. Originally a simple single space used as a place of worship. Internal stone ledge below east window survives as an early feature. Carved oak roof structure of the chapel still survives in eastern half of roof. Cobbled floor probably post-dates use of building as a chapel. Following removal of building abutting west elevation, movement of the wall has been noted and it is currently shored up. Repair work recommended within next 12 months. See report for full details. (Jonathan Rhind Architects 2007)

## Appendix 5

List of jpegs contained on CD inside the rear of the report.

1. The exterior of the chapel before conservation viewed from the south.
2. As above viewed from the east.
3. As above viewed from the south-east.
4. As above viewed from the south-west showing the west gable.
5. As above.
6. As above viewed from the north-west.
7. As above viewed from the west.
8. The chapel viewed from the north.
9. The northeast corner viewed from the north.
10. The ground floor of the chapel facing west.
11. The west wall viewed from the east.
12. The blocked window in the east end of the south wall.
13. The west end of the south wall.
14. The south-west corner of the building.
15. The east end of the building viewed from the west.
16. The east wall viewed from the south showing the stone shelf to the north of the window.
17. The cobbles exposed at the west end of the south wall during the conservation work.
18. As above.
19. The west gable showing the quoined corner to the north that demonstrates that the former attached building to the west was not part of the primary build.
20. The interior of the east wall after conservation.
21. As above.
22. As above.
23. As above.
24. As above.
25. As above.
26. Roof, north, bay 1 (east end).
27. Roof, north, bay 2.
28. Roof, north, bay 3.
29. Roof, north, bay 4 (west end).
30. Roof, south, bay 1 (east end).
31. Roof, south, bay 2.
32. Roof, south, bay 3.
33. Roof, south, bay 4 (west end).
34. East wall, internal elevation (north).
35. East wall, internal elevation (south).
36. Carpenter's marks, Truss 1 (north).
37. Carpenter's marks, Truss 1 (south).
38. Carpenter's marks, Truss 2 (north).
39. Carpenter's marks, Truss 2 (south).
40. Carpenter's marks, Truss 3 (north).
41. Carpenter's marks, Truss 3 (south).
42. Chapel roof trusses (Trusses 3 & 4), after conservation.
43. Chapel roof trusses, (Trusses 1-3), after conservation.
44. The chapel, after conservation, viewed from the south-west.