

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Monkokehampton, West Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SX21849227	<b>Number:</b> (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
<b>Subject:</b> Scoping visit and monitoring and recording of alterations/ groundworks at Grudgeworthy, Monkokehampton.		<b>Photo attached?</b> N
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 12960/2009/OKE & 12961/2009/OKE	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Plymouth City Museum	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-78624	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> AR.2010.22	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> MG10	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> May, 17 <sup>th</sup> June, and 24 <sup>th</sup> and 25 <sup>th</sup> August 2010	

**Description of works.**

Grudgeworthy Farmhouse (formerly Little Park) is a Listed Building (Grade II), thought to be of at least C17th origin. The eastern end of the farmhouse represents the oldest part of the building, and held originally to a 3-room and through passage plan. The western half of the building was probably extended in the C18th and there were also modifications in the C19th and modern period.

A scoping visit was undertaken by South West Archaeology (SWARCH), at the request of Cressida Whitton of DCHES and Dr & Mrs Downie (the Clients) to assess the impact of groundworks and the potential impact of works on the house at Grudgeworthy. Following the scoping visit and in consultation with DCHES, the exterior groundworks and interior detail of the proposed location of an inserted stair were inspected and photographically recorded and monitoring and recording was undertaken when two floors were removed prior to the insertion of underfloor heating. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by DCHES, and was undertaken by Deb Laing-Trengove and Lee Bray.

At the time of the scoping visit most of the service trenching had been back filled and the foundations for the new extension had been laid (see Fig. 1). In the spoil heap and the sections of the trenches the top soil and clay natural were mixed and contained a significant amount of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century metal and ceramic artefacts. It was apparent that the ground in this area had already been subject to disruption, probably during the construction of an existing modern porch and associated services. A strip of ground surface abutting the north wall from the east end of the extant stone stair projection, approximately 1.5-2.0m wide, had been lowered prior to the current works. A significant rise in ground level beyond this to the north suggests that the earth may have been scooped from this area and piled on what is now a raised lawn. An earlier cobbled surface which elsewhere had been removed is still extant at the north-east end of the building, where the ground level has been retained and appears undisturbed (see Fig. 1).

The potential impact of alterations on the earlier historic fabric of the building was assessed to be minimal. Where the roof of the new extension is to be tied into the existing roof structure the only impact would be on modern inserted rafters and joists, the earlier roof timbers being located further to the east. A number of former doorways, now filled by modern windows to be reopened have no significant impact on the historic fabric around these openings as they have been forced through and are not part of the original build. A new stair to be inserted is also unlikely to impact on any significant historic elements (Fig.1). Here the rough slim pine joists appear to be 19<sup>th</sup> century, with at least one being a reused timber. The joists sit uncomfortably in the main beam running through the wall to the east - a number of the slots are larger than the joists and there are some unused slots suggesting that the existing joists are not original. The boards were not viewed because they are plastered to the underside and carpeted above but the owner stated that they are relatively modern.

The installation of underfloor heating in rooms 1 and 2, at the eastern end of the building (Fig. 2), necessitated archaeological monitoring as it involved the lowering of floor levels. Removal of the modern concrete floor revealed a layer of silty sand ((102) in room 1 and (201) in room 2) with a high mortar content, containing abundant rounded to sub-rounded stone inclusions up to 0.25m in size with a moderate to high degree of sorting. This was 50mm thick on average and was formed of a layer of cobbling that had been broken up to create a foundation of hardcore for the latest concrete floor. In room 2 this rested directly on the natural subsoil while in room 1 it was underlain by a 50-70mm thick layer of re-deposited natural clay (101) containing fragments of mortar, brick, charcoal and bone. A sondage in the north-eastern corner of the room revealed this context directly overlay the natural subsoil, sherds of pottery and glass recovered from it suggesting a 19<sup>th</sup> century *terminus post quem*. In room 2, the removal of a partition wall that formed a small vestibule around the front door of the building revealed a strip of *in situ* cobbling c. 1m long and 0.25m wide at maximum consisting of roughly equal-sized rounded to sub-rounded stones up to 0.25m in size orientated with their long axes east to west. This cobbling directly overlay the natural subsoil on the site which consisted of a firm, orange-yellow silt clay mottled with light grey and containing occasional sub-rounded to sub-angular stone inclusions up to 50mm in size. In the area examined the subsoil also contained many roots, probably of ivy which was present on the building exterior in the recent past.

**A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.**

**Recorder:**  
Deb Laing-Trengove & Lee Bray –South West Archaeology

**Date sent to HER:**  
14.10.2010

Please email completed form to: [archaeol@devon.gov.uk](mailto:archaeol@devon.gov.uk) or post to County Archaeology Service, Environment Directorate, Matford Lane Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QW. Information recorded on this form will be added to the Historic Environment Record, and made available to all researchers.

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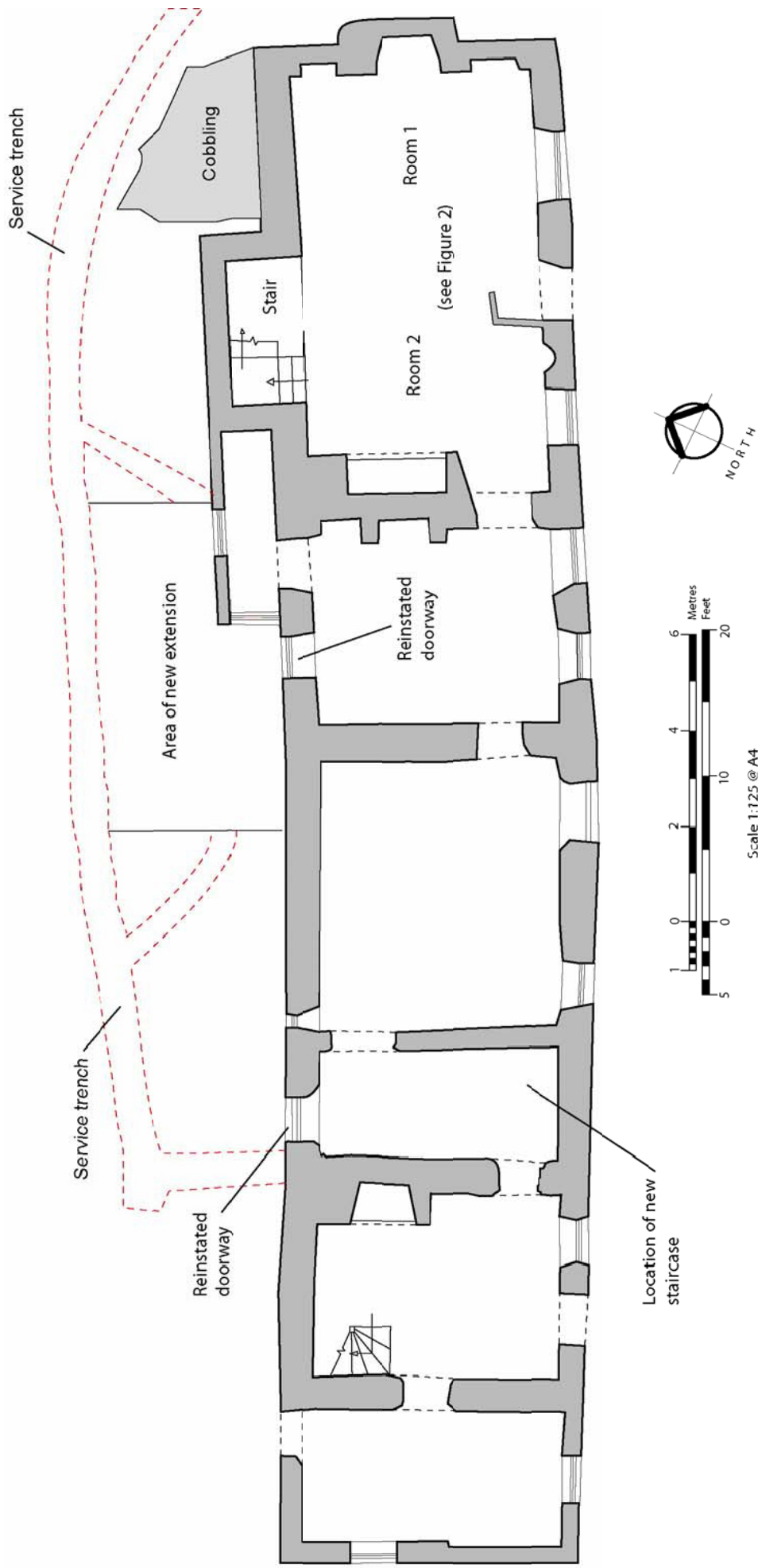


Figure 1: Plan of the house at Grudgeworthy showing the location of groundworks.

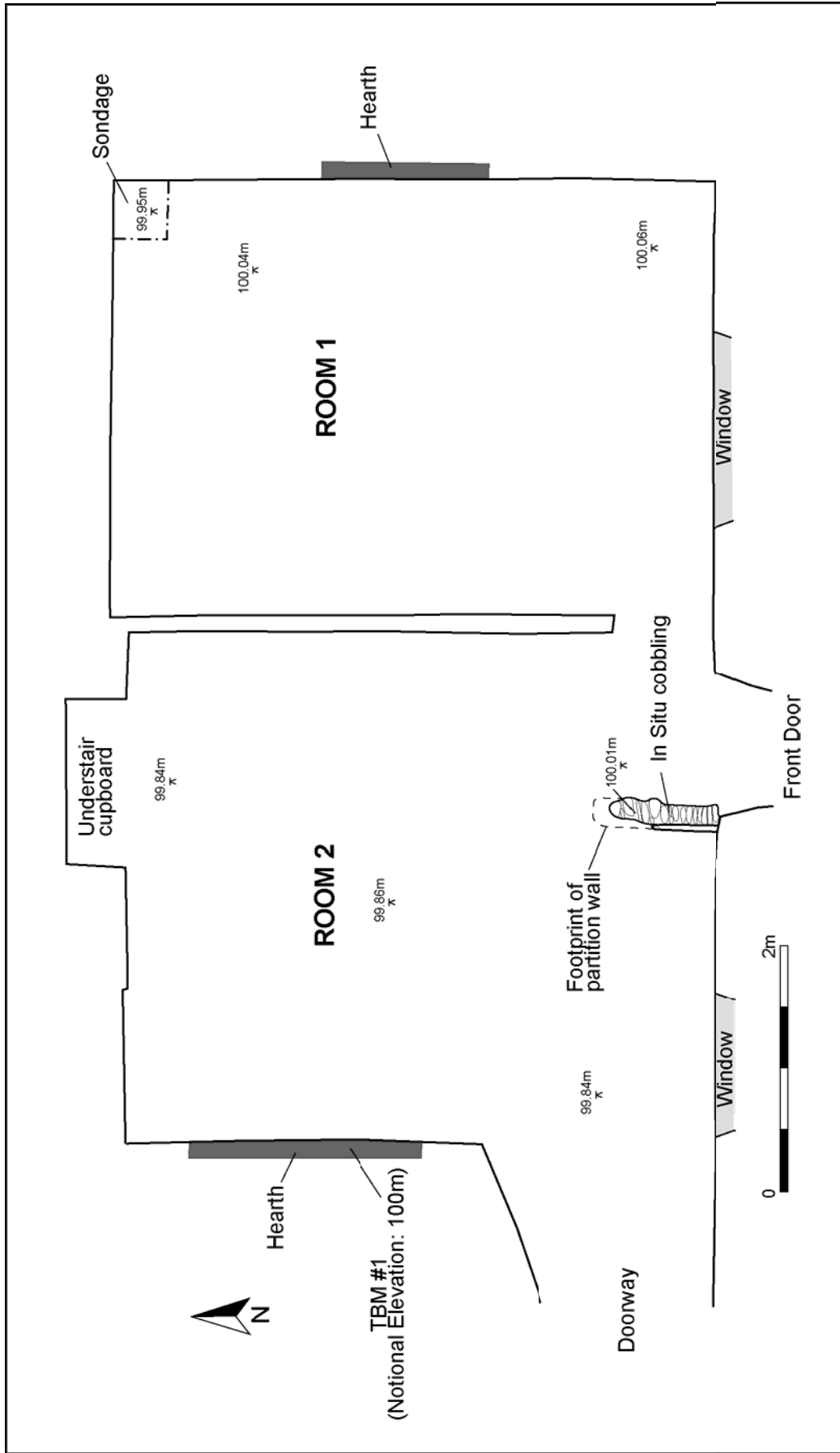


Figure 2: Plan of the rooms with the floors removed.