

STOCKLEIGH POMEROY VILLAGE HALL, STOCKLEIGH POMEROY, DEVON

(NGR SS 87605 03604)

Results of historic building recording

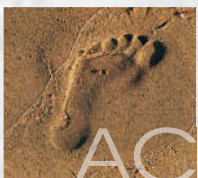
Mid Devon District Council planning reference
13/00906/FULL, condition 3

Prepared by:
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On behalf of:
Stockleigh Pomeroy Village Hall
Committee

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archaeology

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<i>Summary</i>		
1.	Introduction and project background	1
2.	Aim	1
3.	Methodology	1
4.	The village hall	1
5.	Comments	3
6.	OASIS entry and Archive	3
7.	Acknowledgements	3
8.	Sources consulted	3

List of illustrations

Fig. 1: Site location

Fig. 2: Plan of the building

List of plates

Plate 1: The south side of the hall showing the entrance lobby, viewed from the southeast.
Photograph © Mike Passmore

Plate 2: The hall viewed from the northeast showing its location within the plot.

Plate 3: The hall during demolition showing the metal frame base supported on brick piers,
and the internal wall to the kitchen, viewed from the east.

Plate 4: A close-up view of the metal frame base, viewed from the northwest.

Plate 5: The hall during demolition showing the ribs and purlins supporting the outer covering
and inner lining, viewed from the east.

Plate 6: The north side of the hall showing the corrugated iron covering and windows,
viewed from the northeast. Photograph © Mike Passmore

Plate 7: The south side of the hall showing the corrugated iron covering and windows,
viewed from the southeast.

Plate 8: The interior of the hall showing the interior lining, viewed from the southeast.

Plate 9: The lobby, viewed from the south.

Plate 10: The west elevation of the bar/store extension, viewed from the northwest.

Plate 11: The hall during demolition following removal of the lobby, viewed from the east.

Summary

An historic building recording report was prepared by AC archaeology in February 2015 during the replacement of the village hall at Stockleigh Pomeroy, Devon (SS 87605 03604). The existing building was opened in 1950 and had been constructed using a Second World War Quonset hut as the main hall, with additional timber framed entrance lobby and concrete block kitchen. The former was later extended to form a bar/store.

1. INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT BACKGROUND (Fig. 1)

1.1 This document presents an historic building report on the former village hall at Stockleigh Pomeroy, Devon (NGR SS 87605 03604), prepared by AC archaeology in February 2015 on behalf of the Stockleigh Pomeroy Village Hall Committee. Planning permission (Mid Devon District Council planning reference 13/00906/FULL) has been granted for the demolition of the existing building – incorporating a former Second World War temporary Hut – and replacement with a new village hall.

1.2 The planning condition required an historic building record of the village hall to be prepared before works commenced. However, the building was demolished in November 2014 without such a record being made. Following discussions with the Devon County Historic Environment Team it has been agreed that a summary report will be prepared using readily available information.

2. AIM

2.1 The aim of the work was to retrospectively produce a report on the former village hall to outline its known history, development and the character of the former building.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 The report was prepared in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AC archaeology (Passmore 2015), and has utilised the following sources:

- Archive material held by Mike Passmore who visited the hut in 2010, and whose leaflet on *Village Halls with Military Connections* forms the basis of the Devon County Historic Environment Record entry (MDV78431);
- Documents and drawings produced by the Stockleigh Pomeroy Village Hall Committee for the planning application;
- Photographs taken by the Stockleigh Pomeroy Village Hall Committee during the demolition of the building; and
- Published information on military architecture and history.

4. THE VILLAGE HALL (Fig. 2; Plates 1-12)

4.1 The village hall is located on the west side of the village, to the west of the Church of St Mary. The demolished building was located against and parallel to the southern boundary of the plot, with the remainder of the site laid down to grass (Plates 1-2).

- 4.2** The original location of the hut is not known, but is locally thought that it came from Plymouth. This seems plausible since large numbers of temporary huts were erected in new camps and hospitals, and in bombed-out residential streets (Clamp n.d.).
- 4.3** The hall was officially opened in October 1950 by Major R.E.C. Knight-Bruce after 'long endeavour and hard work on the part of the local people'. It was reported that the campaign was launched in 1945 by the Vicar R.P. Long and £750 had been raised by the local community.
- 4.4** The hall comprised three elements – a central open space formed by a reused Second World War temporary hut, with a kitchen and cloakroom at the west end and an entrance lobby and bar/store at the east end. The central hall element measured 6.35m wide by 15m long (approx. 21ft by 49ft), and was constructed using a frame from a United States (US) Navy 20ft by 40ft Quonset Hut. It was raised off the ground (to create a level floor surface) with a frame of steel bars, manufactured from pairs of Span-Steel spot welded w-shaped grooved channels (Rogers n.d.) laid onto brick piers (Plates 3-4). The gaps between the external piers were infilled with concrete blocks creating continuous walls. A supplementary wooden frame was added between the steel frame to support the wooden floor. The main structure was constructed using the standard frame from a 20ft by 40ft Quonset Hut, with a curved frame of ribs formed from steel channels as used in the floor frame, with rows of horizontal purlins made from L-shaped steel bars (Plate 5). The outer covering was bands of corrugated galvanised sheeting incorporating three dormer windows on each side under flat corrugated galvanised sheet roofs. This covering was laid in vertical bands, unlike on the original buildings where they were laid horizontally (Plates 6-7). The inside of the building was finished in with a smooth lining formed from bands of panels (Plate 8). These may well have been the original Masonite panels. Insulation had been added between the inner and outer skins.
- 4.5** The kitchen (incorporating an integral cloakroom) was located at the west end of the building (Plates 3 and 8) and was constructed of rendered concrete blocks under a pitched tiled roof. Internally there were two doors into the rooms, along with a serving hatch, whilst there was also an external door in the south elevation. It was lit by windows in the north, south and west elevations. A further cloakroom had been added to the west end of the building.
- 4.6** The lobby at the east end of the hall was within a narrow wooden-framed, weatherboard structure under a pitched roof (Plate 9). The external double doors are modern replacements; they were originally glazed with frosted glass. The lobby had been extended to the west with a flat-roofed timber-framed extension, incorporating a further external door (Plate 3). When this was added the whole of this part of the hall was re-clad in wood. It had been further extended to the west to form a bar/store. The north and west walls had concrete block bases supporting timber framing finished with corrugated asbestos sheets on the west side and a row of windows set into asbestos cement panels (Plate 10). This section had a pitched roof of corrugated asbestos sheets. Beyond this, the walls and roof were clad in corrugated iron sheets.
- 4.7** Most of the interior fittings are modern. As noted above, the floor of the main hall is wooden. In the lobby a carpet had been laid over a concrete surface. The extension to the lobby had a tiled lino floor. The partition between the hall and lobby was a wooden frame (Plate 11).

5. COMMENTS

- 5.1 The former village hall at Stockleigh Pomeroy has its origins as a Second World War temporary hut. The reuse of such buildings as village halls and for other purposes was commonplace after the war, and continued a trend that started after the First World War (Passmore and Passmore 2010). These buildings were only designed for use during the duration of the (relevant) war, and it is not uncommon that they are now requiring replacement; in the case of village halls they frequently don't meet current community requirements and building regulations.
- 5.2 The building reused at Stockleigh Pomeroy was a type known as a Quonset hut. These were developed in 1941 for the US Navy, based on the earlier design of the Nissen hut. The hut is thought to have originally been located in Plymouth, which would correspond with use by the US Navy who had a number of establishments in the city. The basic hut was reused at Stockleigh Pomeroy, but with new windows, and the exterior cladding laid in vertical strips rather than rows. This technique seems to have been preferred when this type of building was re-erected post-war.
- 5.3 When re-erected at Stockleigh Pomeroy additions were made to the hut, to accommodate a kitchen and an entrance lobby. The latter has subsequently been enlarged to provide a bar/store.

6. OASIS ENTRY AND ARCHIVE

- 6.1 An OASIS entry has been completed under the unique identifier 203662.
- 6.2 This report and the OASIS entry will form the archive for the project.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 This report was commissioned by Stockleigh Pomeroy Village Hall Committee and managed for them by Jon Tricker and for AC archaeology by Andrew Passmore. The illustrations were prepared by Elisabeth Patkai. Thanks are due to Jon Tricker for providing information on and photographs of the building, and to Mike Passmore for allowing his photographs to be used.

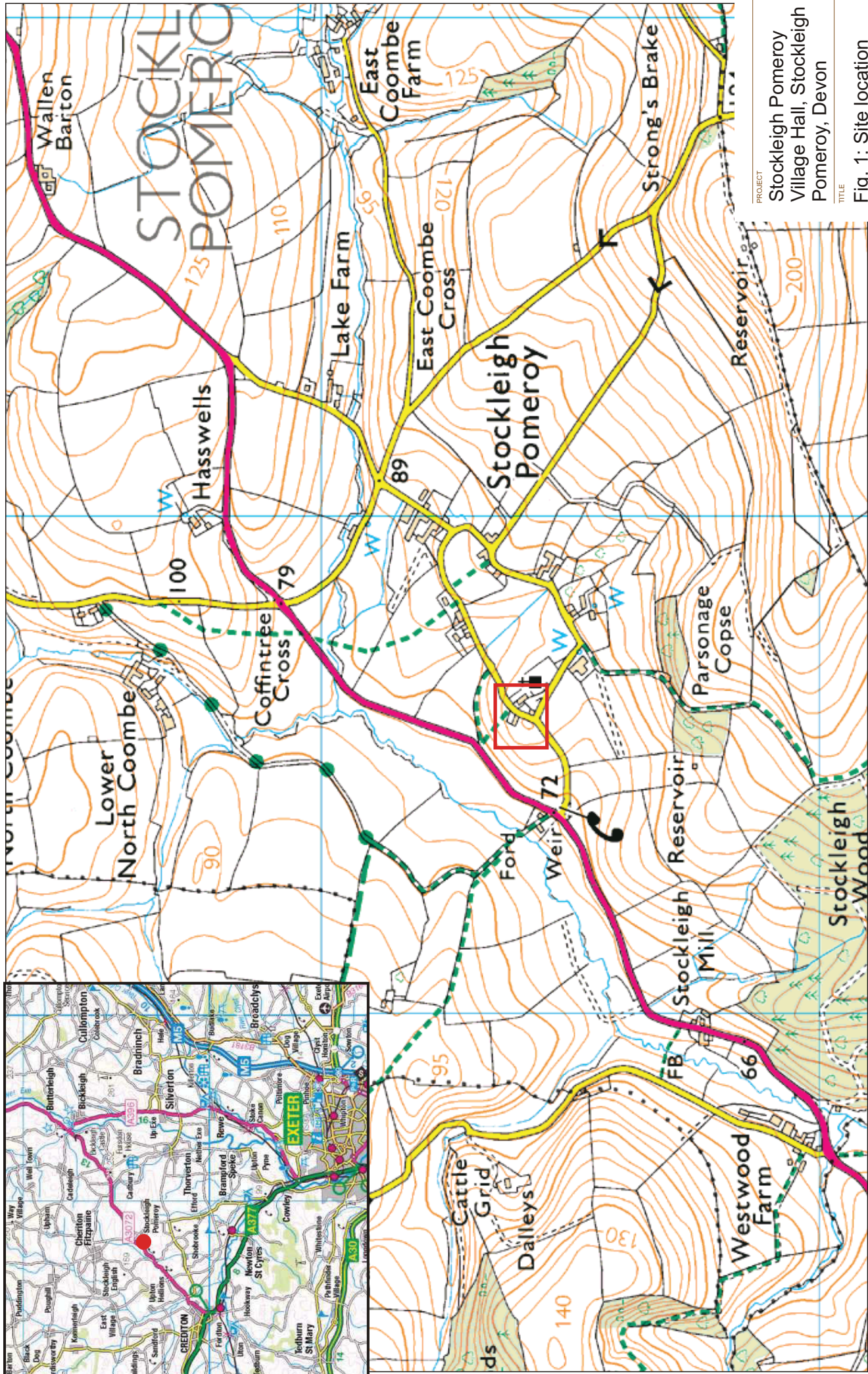
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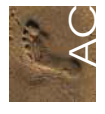
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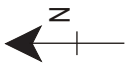
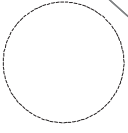


PROJECT
 Stockleigh Pomeroy
 Village Hall, Stockleigh
 Pomeroy, Devon

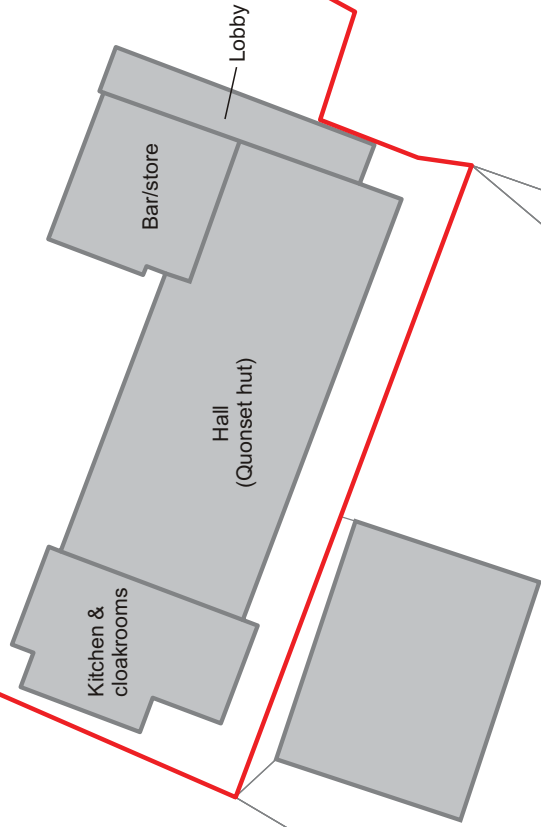
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 Fig. 1: Site location



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Development area



Scale 1:2500@A4

PROJECT

Stockleigh Pomeroy
Village Hall, Stockleigh
Pomeroy, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 2: Plan of the
building



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Plate 1: The south side of the hall showing the entrance lobby, viewed from the southeast. Photograph © Mike Passmore



Plate 2: The hall viewed from the northeast showing its location within the plot.



Plate 3: The hall during demolition showing the metal frame base supported on brick piers, and the internal wall to the kitchen, viewed from the east.



Plate 4: A close-up view of the metal frame base, viewed from the northwest.



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Plate 6: The north side of the hall showing the corrugated iron covering and windows, viewed from the northeast. Photograph © Mike Passmore



Plate 7: The south side of the hall showing the corrugated iron covering and windows, viewed from the southeast.



Plate 8: The interior of the hall showing the interior lining, viewed from the southeast.



Plate 9: The lobby, viewed from the south.



Plate 10: The west elevation of the bar/store extension, viewed from the northwest.



Plate 11: The hall during demolition following removal of the lobby, viewed from the east.

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