

Archaeological Recording
of
**GARDEN WALLING AT THE FORMER HEAD'S HOUSE,
SILVERHILL SCHOOL, SWAN LANE, WINTERBOURNE,
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**
for
Mr R. Tanton



Report No. 2650/2012
SGSMR No. 20066

By Simon Roper &
Tracey Smith



Bristol and Region Archaeological Services



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Centred on
N.G.R. ST 64964 81345

Client: Mr R. Tanton

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<i>Date Issued:</i>	8 March 2012

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Abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini	Km	Kilometre
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum	m	Metre
BaRAS	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services	NGR	National Grid Reference
BC	Before Christ	NMR	National Monuments Record
c.	Circa	OS	Ordnance Survey
HER	Historic Environment Record	SGSMR	S. Glos Historic Enviro Record

NOTE

Notwithstanding that Bristol and Region Archaeological Services have taken reasonable care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

March, 2012.

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SUMMARY

Archaeological recording was carried out in advance of the demolition of a segment of historic garden wall formerly of Winterbourne House, now in the grounds of Silverhill School, Winterbourne, South Glos. The work was carried out to comply with the WSI previously prepared by Simon Roper of Bristol and Region Archaeological Services and agreed by David Evans, Historic Environmental Records Officer of South Gloucestershire Council.

Prior clearance of ivy and other vegetation revealed a number of architectural features within the segment of wall concerned, including remains of a blocked arched opening at the southern extent, what appeared to be a vertical break in the centre of the wall and a second blocked arched opening at the northern extent of the area recorded.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) were commissioned by Mr. R Tanton to undertake archaeological recording prior to demolition of a segment of the Grade II Listed wall that formed part of the Winterbourne House walled gardens, now enclosing The Former Head's House and gardens.
- 1.2 The recording was commissioned to comply with a condition of planning consent (PT11/1734/F, listed building consent PT11/1729/LB) for building recording to English Heritage level 3 standard of the segment of wall to be demolished, and in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS 2012).
- 1.3 The building recording was carried out on 28th February 2012 by Simon Roper and Tracey Smith.
- 1.4 The project archive will be deposited with Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery under the Accession Number BRSMG 2012/6 and a digital copy of the report will be made available to the National Monuments Record maintained by English Heritage. The project has been entered in the South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record as: SGSMR 20066 and in the OASIS Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations as: bristola1-119889.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 The segment of wall to be recorded (centred on NGR ST 64964 81345) lies to the western side of Winterbourne Village, and formed part of the walled garden of Winterbourne House (**Figs 1 & 2**). The house was in existence by the later 17th century (1698), but may be much earlier as the earliest recorded resident, one Hezekiah Cole, is listed as a resident of Winterbourne in the records of the Society of Friends (Quakers) in 1654. The house and grounds saw a succession of private owners and tenants, including from 1940 to 1944 the RAF in the form of No. 935 Balloon Squadron, after which point it became a school for the first time in 1945. Today the house remains a school but the area of the walled garden is under private ownership once more.
- 2.2 The earliest dated map evidence for the site is the 1844 Winterbourne Tithe map, which shows the house, outbuildings and internal divisions of the grounds. The walled garden is shown as a separate entity, with a road now known as Green Lane bounding it to the north and west and an internal division forming its eastern and southern boundaries with a gazebo in the south-east corner. Although the map shows the boundaries of the garden it does not show the actual wall. In 1980 a house was constructed within the walled garden for use by the schools' headmaster but this was demolished and the present house constructed in 2010.
- 2.3 Previously to the present project the area of the garden was formed part of an archaeological desk-based assessment (BaRAS 2008). A detailed historical and archaeological background is contained within this document.

3. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The fieldwork complied with the methodology contained within the Written Scheme of Investigation (BaRAS 2012), which was approved by David Evans, Historic Environment Record Officer for South Gloucestershire Council, on 24th February 2012. The building recording was carried out to English Heritage Level 3 standard (2006b) and the IfA Standard and Guidance for the investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (2008). The aim of the project was to record any archaeological features or deposits revealed once any covering vegetation had been removed, prior to the demolition of the segment of wall specified (see 2.1).
- 3.2 The recording consisted of both monochrome and digital photography of both elevations and visible architectural features within the wall segment, and a scaled 1:20 drawn elevation of both wall faces.

4. RESULTS

- 4.1 Prior to the arrival of BaRAS' archaeologists, the grounds and wall had been cleared of most of the vegetation and ivy that had previously partially obscured the segment of wall concerned. With this clearance architectural features within the wall were clearly visible and recording could commence un-obstructed. Photographs were taken of both internal and external elevations, with detailed views of the blocked arched openings and other features. Both elevations were then drawn to a scale of 1:20, with the main architectural features fully illustrated and a sample of the main wall length between these recorded.
- 4.2 The main wall is constructed of locally quarried, un-worked Pennant Sandstone, forming a roughly coursed rubble wall. The area under investigation for the purposes of this report formed a 7 metre length of the wall at its north-western extent, with the 4m length proposed for demolition located within this recorded extent. The recorded segment extended beyond that proposed for demolition to allow full recording of the southern side of a blocked arched opening (opening A) and a second blocked arched opening (opening B) to the northern end of the elevation, which, although it is outside of the proposed area of demolition is close enough to have been included in the survey (**Plates 1 & 2**).
- 4.3 The internal elevation (south-east facing) provided perhaps the clearest view of the architectural features within the wall, although the existing ground level was higher on that side than the external Green Lane elevation. The damage inflicted on the wall from the ivy roots recently removed was evident, with a considerable loss of mortar bonding in the areas of heaviest growth. It was evident from the missing upper portions of the arched openings that the wall had also been lowered at some point in its life, possibly quite late based on the cement mortar used to bond the top of the wall (**Plate 3**).
- 4.4 At the southern end of the area under investigation a large blocked-off arched opening (opening A) with chamfered sides was evident, clearly visible in the internal elevation (**Plate 3**) where the blocking was off-set approximately 0.30m into the window and not flush with the wall face. The base of the window has been badly cemented over in the near past and this had mostly crumbled away at the time of recording, revealing eroded sandstone slabs but no obvious sill. Although missing due to the wall being lowered in height, the inward curve recorded in the last remaining three or four stones at the top of the wall suggests the opening was originally arched. Possibly the most interesting detail of this opening was its construction, for while on the internal face of the wall it was built to a depth of 1.90m from the remains of the top of the wall (the top of the arch now missing), on the external elevation it appeared to be only 1.20m deep (**Plate 4**). These differences in depth appear to be deliberate and not a later alteration as in both cases the rough coursing around and below the opening appears undisturbed and not a later re-build. The only explanation for the differences in height would be if the opening had been meant to have a deep 'alcove' below the window opening on the internal wall face, possibly for observation or simply sitting in.
- 4.5 The central area of wall in the recorded segment showed evidence of later repair work. When first observed it was thought that a vertical break in the wall, visible in the internal elevation and running the complete height of the wall (**Plate 5**), indicated a possible re-build or different phasing of wall construction. In fact with the wall cleared of ivy on both sides, it was clear that while very evident on the internal elevation, the break did not appear on the external north-west facing elevation (**Fig. 4**). This, and the fact that while the main 'break' is obvious on the internal elevation, no corresponding southern edge was seen, to indicate a full re-build, which suggests that re-facing had been carried out at some point in the life of the wall. There were differences in the rough coursing of the sandstone slabs to the south of the main break but these were only partial and suggested the repair was fitted into the existing wall face. To the north, the main break with its vertical edge suggested that at least the inner face must have stopped at that point when originally built. There may have been something constructed into

this internal elevation of the wall, an outbuilding perhaps, which on its removal had left the gap that needed to be re-faced. This has to remain conjectural however as no definite southern side of any such structure could be seen in the rest of the wall. The line of the 'break' as seen on the internal elevation formed the northern extent of the segment due to be demolished.

- 4.6 A small stepped area of wall at the very base of the internal elevation was also recorded just to the south of the main 'break' line, with disturbance evident between it and the 'break'. However as only a very small section of this was uncovered above the existing ground surface it is not possible to explain its function. It does not appear to have been a stepped footing as there was no indication of it continuing to the north, or to the south in places where the ground level dipped enough to have exposed it, had it been there. This 'step' protruded approximately 0.20m from the face of the wall. On the external wall elevation a drainage hole was evident in the wall below opening A (**Plate 7**).
- 4.7 At the northern extent of the recorded segment and just outside of the 4m length to be demolished was a second opening (opening B), un-chamfered and 1.20m deep from the disturbed top of the wall (**Plates 8 & 9**). This opening had been completely blocked-in flush with the wall on both sides, unlike opening A. It also displayed a slight inward curve at the top suggesting it had originally been arched before the height of the wall was reduced. This was a simpler design than opening A, and though if looked at from the Green Lane side of the wall (external) it would have appeared nearly identical to opening A, it lacked both the depth and the chamfering on the internal elevation.
- 4.8 The mortar used along the length of the recorded segment, on both sides of the wall, was a pale grey-ash mortar containing abundant fragments of coal and small lumps of lime. It also had iron pins embedded into it at scattered intervals. On first inspection no differences could be seen in the mortar at any point in the wall, raising the question of whether this could be the original mortar, though its' make-up would suggest a late 18th or early 19th-century date, far later than the supposed date for the boundary wall. On closer inspection however, small areas of pinkish-red sandy mortar with very small fragments of lime could be seen still adhering to the surface of occasional stones (**Plate 10**). It was un-clear whether this was original mortar or whether the stones had been re-used from elsewhere until a closer look was made at a small segment of the wall further around the boundary, where the face had partially collapsed and the core had been exposed. This small area indicated that the pinkish-red mortar had originally been used in the construction of the wall, but that the whole circuit had been scraped and re-pointed using the grey-ash mortar later in its history, possibly when the openings were blocked in. The use of the pinkish-red mortar would suggest an earlier date than 19th century, making it more likely that the wall could be contemporary with the building of Winterbourne House.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The brief for this project was to record the historic architectural features evident in the segment of wall due for demolition. This detailed examination highlighted original features such as the blocked-in chamfered opening with its deeper internal dimensions and possible 'seat' area, the simpler blocked-in opening to the north, and the internal re-facing and possible in-filling of a gap in the centre of the recorded segment. Evidence from the mortar used suggests the wall was originally built earlier than the 19th century, probably at the same time, or just after, Winterbourne House itself was built, being completely repaired and re-pointed at some time during the 19th century. The existence of iron trellis pins (**Plate 11**) set into the ashy mortar and scattered across the internal face of the wall, hints at some form of support for climbing plants being trained along the wall during the 19th century. That may also have been the period in which the openings were blocked and any outbuildings removed, leading to speculation of a more formalised Victorian style of garden being implemented.

6. PROJECT TEAM

The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Roper and Tracey Smith who also produced this report. The illustrations were prepared and the report compiled by Ann Linge. The archive was compiled and prepared for deposition by Simon Roper. The project was managed by John Bryant.

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8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

BaRAS would like to thank Mr R. Tanton for his assistance and co-operation, Simon Fitzgibbon of Richard Pedlar Architects for providing drawings of the proposed works and David Evans, South Gloucestershire Council Historic Environment Officer, for his advice.

APPENDIX 1: Policy Statement

This report is the result of work carried out in the light of national and local authority policies.

NATIONAL POLICIES

Statutory protection for archaeology is enshrined in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), amended by the National Heritage Act, 1983. Nationally important sites are listed in the Schedule of Ancient Monuments (SAM). Scheduled Monument consent is required for any work that would affect a SAM.

GOVERNMENT POLICY GUIDANCE

Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (1994) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (1990) have been replaced (23 March 2010) by Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (2010) which sets out the Government's national policies on conservation of the historic environment. Those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are called heritage assets.

Of particular relevance within the Planning Policy Statement are:

Policy HE6: Information Requirements for Applications for Consent Affecting Heritage Assets

HE6.1 Local planning authorities should require an applicant to provide a description of the significance of the heritage assets affected and the contribution of their setting to that significance. The level of detail should be proportionate to the importance of the heritage asset and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of the heritage asset. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets themselves should have been assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary given the application's impact. Where an application site includes, or is considered to have the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation.

Policy HE9: Additional Policy Principles Guiding the Consideration of Applications for Consent Relating to Designated Heritage Assets

HE9.1 There should be a presumption in favour of the conservation of designated heritage assets and the more significant the designated heritage asset, the greater the presumption in favour of its conservation should be. Once lost, heritage assets cannot be replaced and their loss has a cultural, environmental, economic and social impact. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. Loss affecting any designated heritage asset should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, including scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I or II* listed buildings and grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.

Policy HE12: Policy Principles Guiding the Recording of Information Related to Heritage Assets

HE12.3 Where the loss of the whole or a material part of a heritage asset's significance is justified, local planning authorities should require the developer to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is lost, using planning conditions or obligations as appropriate. The extent of the requirement should be proportionate to the nature and level of the asset's significance. Developers should publish this evidence and deposit copies of the reports with the relevant historic environment record. Local planning authorities should require any archive generated to be deposited with a local museum or other public depository willing to receive it. Local planning authorities should impose planning conditions or obligations to ensure such work is carried out in a timely manner and that the completion of the exercise is properly secured.

South Gloucestershire's Local Plan (adopted January 2006) states:

Archaeology L11

Development which would not physically preserve sites of national archaeological importance, whether scheduled or not, or would have a significant impact on the setting of visible remains, will not be permitted.

Planning permission will not be granted for development on sites or landscapes of archaeological interest or of high archaeological potential without an archaeological assessment and if necessary a field evaluation.

Where the assessment indicates that the proposed development would harm a site, structure or landscape of archaeological or historic importance or its setting, development will not be permitted unless applicants can demonstrate a satisfactory scheme indicating how the impact of the proposal on the archaeological resource can be mitigated. The council will negotiate agreements to preserve and manage archaeological remains.

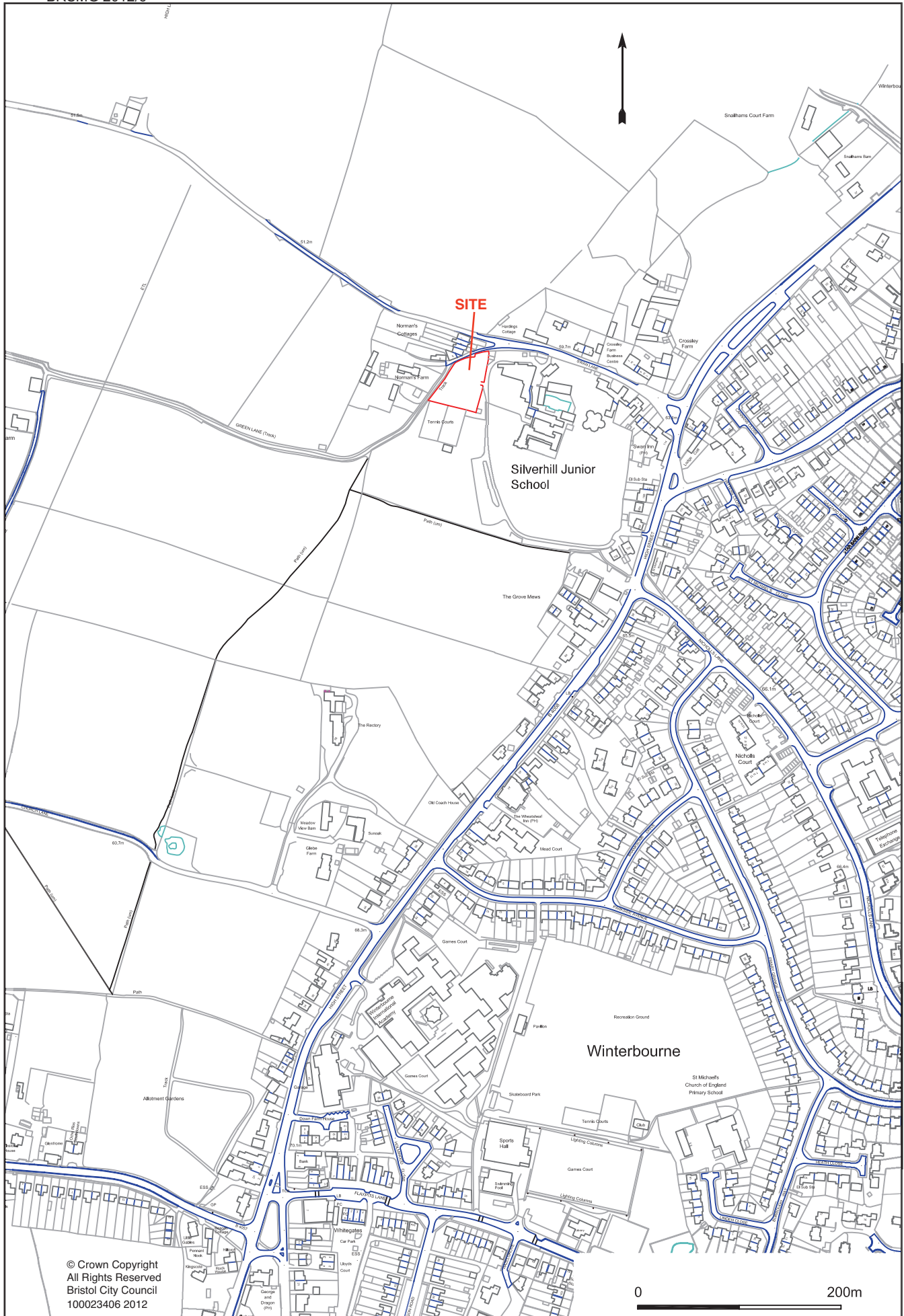


Fig.1 Site location plan, scale 1:5000

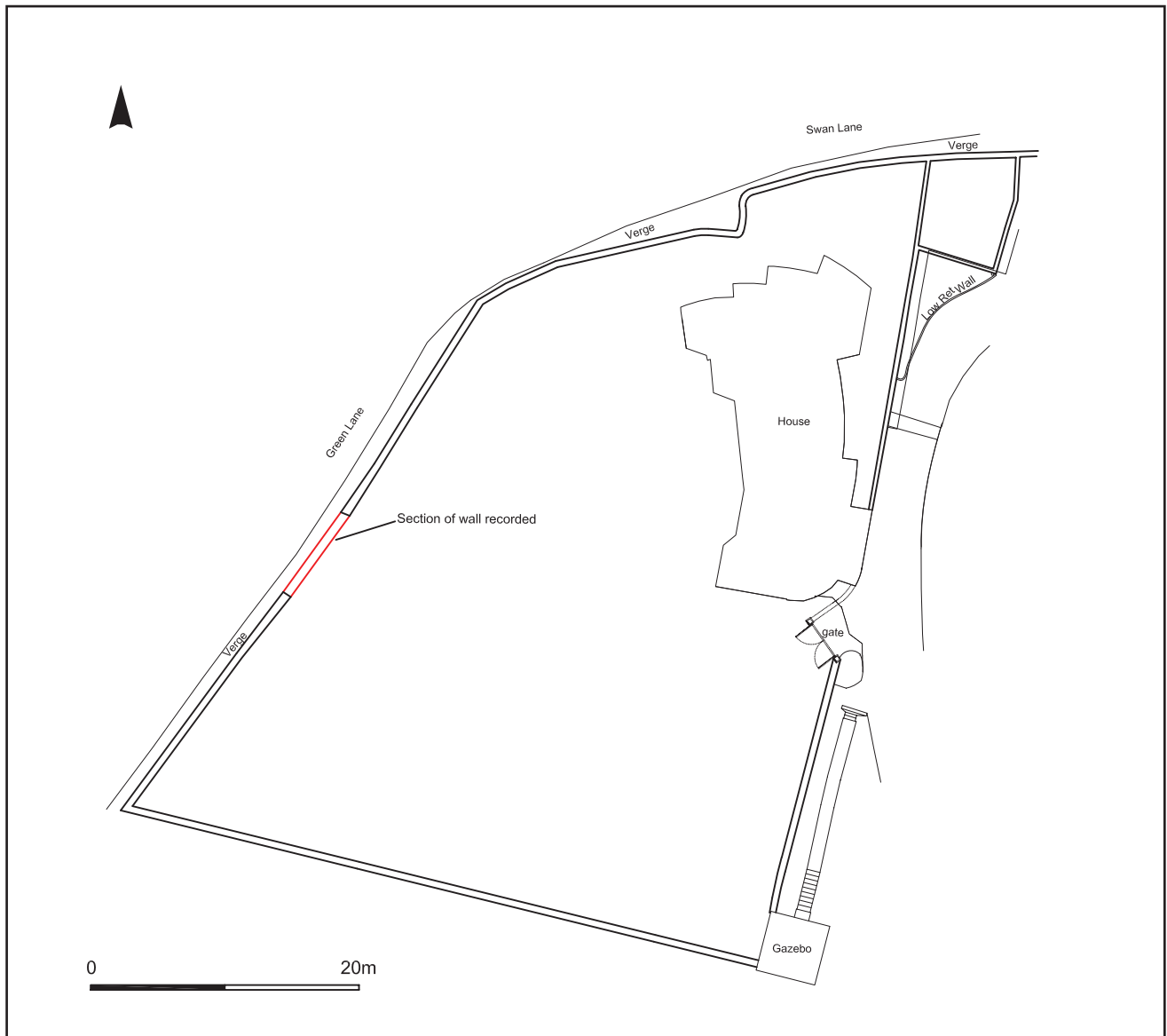


Fig.2 Plan of the site, scale 1:500

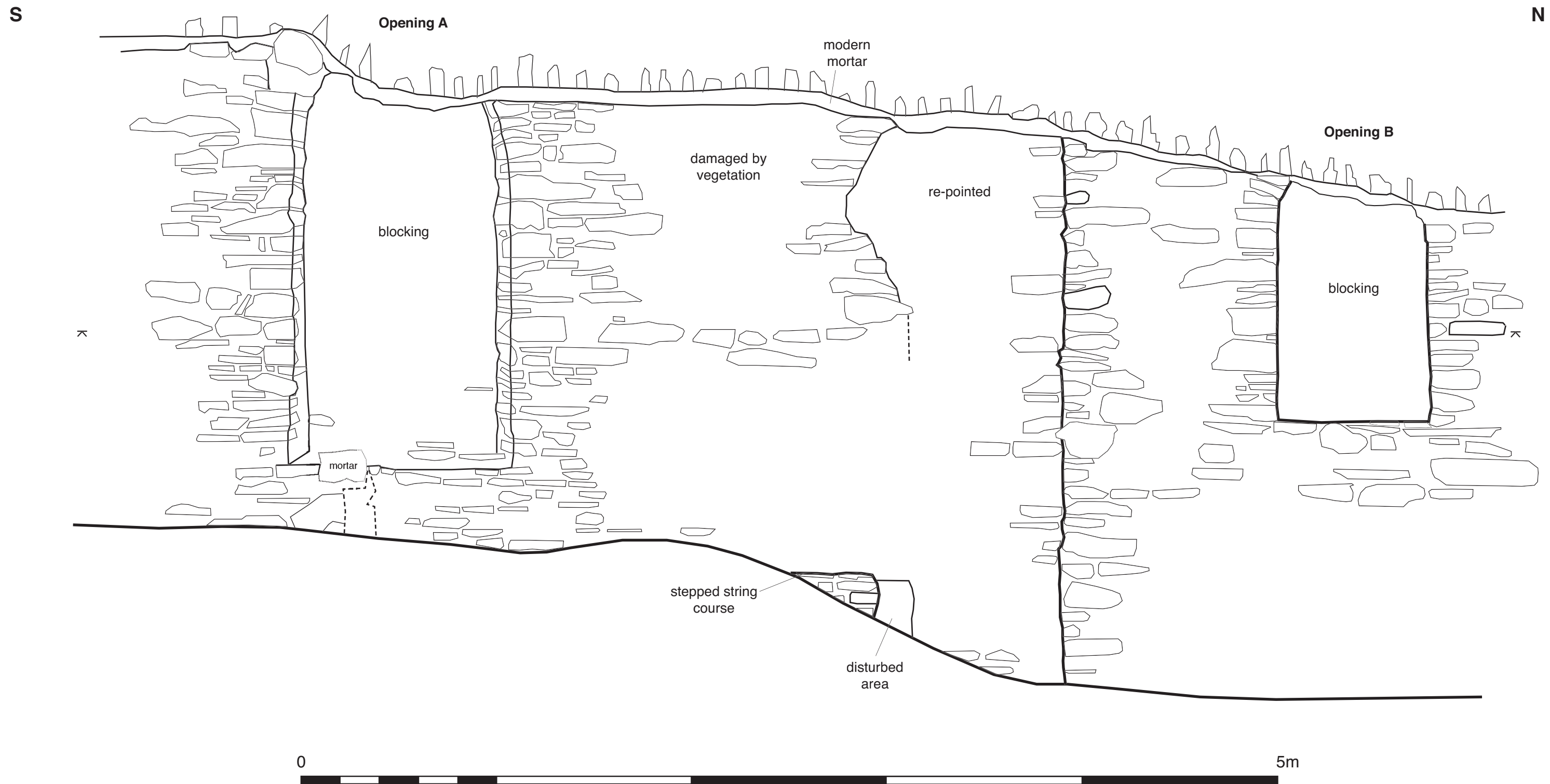


Fig.3 South-east facing (interior) elevation

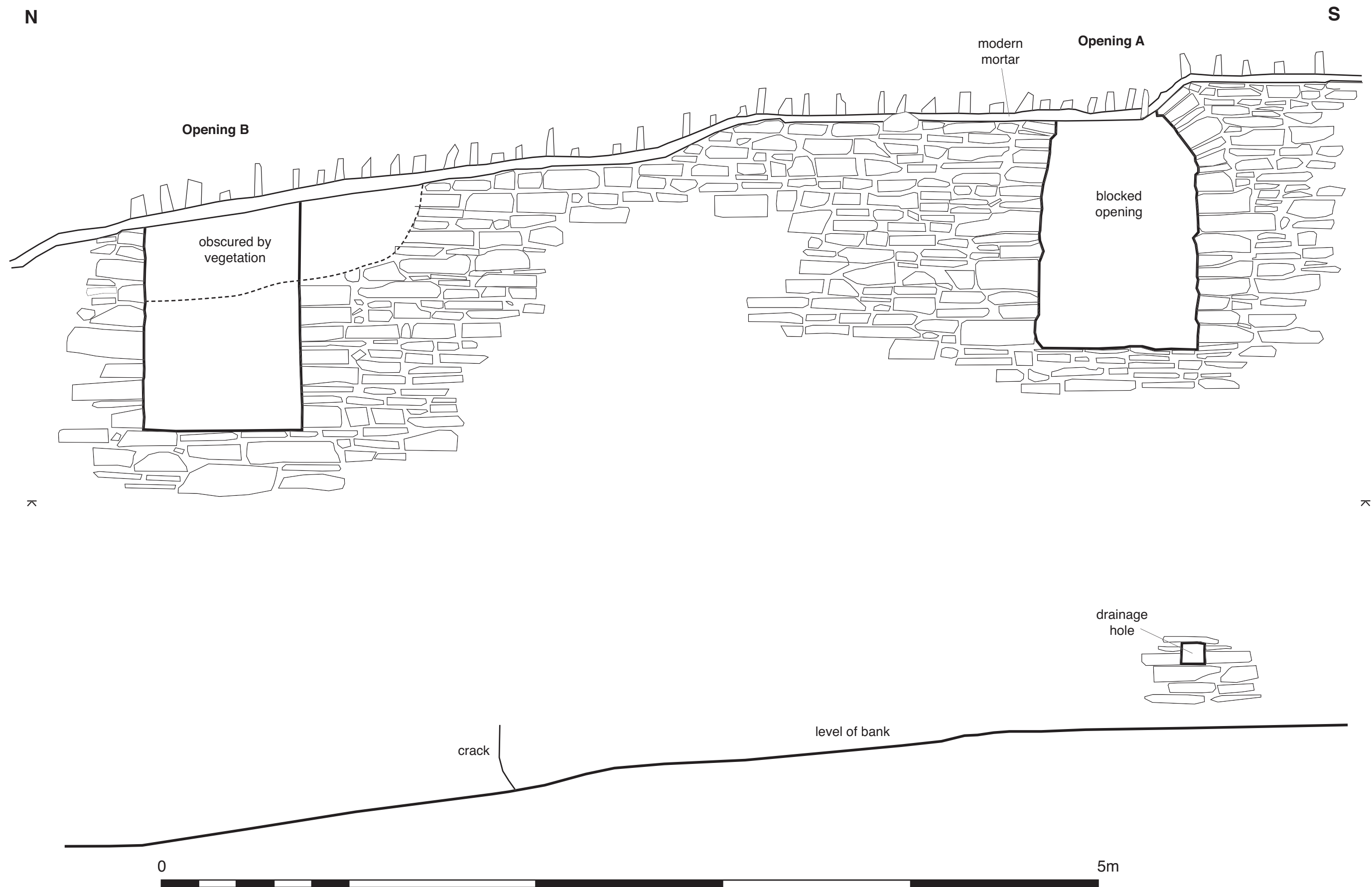


Fig.4 North-west facing exterior elevation



Plate 1
General overview of the
recorded segment of
wall, interior face, looking
west



Plate 2
General overview of the
recorded segment of wall,
exterior face, looking
north-east



Plate 3
Southern blocked-in Opening
A, interior face, looking west



Plate 4
Southern blocked-in
Opening A, exterior face,
facing east



Plate 5
Central area of the wall
segment showing vertical
'break', interior face,
looking west



Plate 6
Central area of the wall
segment, exterior face,
looking east



Plate 7
Drainage hole on exterior
wall face, looking east



Plate 8 Northern blocked-in Opening B, interior wall face,
looking west



Plate 9 Northern blocked-in Opening B, exterior wall face,
looking east



Plate 10
Mortar details on interior wall, showing 'scraped out' pinkish mortar and later ashy mortar re-pointing



Plate 11
Example of iron trellis pin set into ashy mortar, looking north