

BOULSTON MANOR, PEMBROKESHIRE: BUILDING RECORDING



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**BOULSTON MANOR, PEMBROKESHIRE:
BUILDING RECORDING**

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BOULSTON MANOR, PEMBROKESHIRE: BUILDING RECORDING

SUMMARY

Boulston Manor Old Hall (PRN 3363) is the site of an unusual survival of the impressive remains of a 15th and 16th century manor house complex on the banks of the Western Cleddau, to the southeast of Haverfordwest (NGR SM 9807 1238). The manor house was occupied by the Wogan family until the early 18th century. The remains consist of the partial standing remains of two towers that would have flanked the main hall, with a well-preserved earlier undercroft below. The hall is surrounded by a series of high-walled enclosures, including a long walled garden terrace fronting the small inlet of the Cleddau on which the complex was established. It is believed that the majority of these structures date to the second half of the 16th century, although the undercroft may be late medieval in date.

The special interest of the garden and grounds is recognised in its Grade II listing in the Cadw/ ICOMOS Register of Parks and Garden of Special Historic Interest in Wales, however the buildings are not afforded any protection from Scheduled Monument or Listed Building status.

The site was identified during the pilot year of the Arfordir project of being a coastal site under direct threat from tidal and other erosion. The ruined structures are in differing states of preservation. A more detailed record of the site was considered necessary to determine the extent of the standing structures, identify specific elements and the significance of the site.

Cadw commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust to undertake a detailed topographical survey and photographic survey of the site and its structural remains in February 2012.

Due to its tidal riverside location the site is susceptible to further coastal erosion, and the impressive standing remains are also under active threat from tree and vegetation cover, as well as stream action within the complex and general structural erosion. It is hoped that this project has highlighted the site as being considered of high archaeological importance (national). Without intervention, elements of the site will soon collapse. The height of the surviving remains, the presence of a well preserved undercroft and the extent of associated walls and structures demonstrate the importance of the site.

INTRODUCTION

Project commission

Boulston Manor Old Hall consists of a complex of medieval and 16th century ruined structures on the banks of the Western Cleddau (PRN 3363, NGR SM 9807 1238). The ruined structures are in differing states of preservation, suffering mainly from coastal erosion, undermining from a stream and damage caused by vegetation and tree growth that has established itself over the area. The special interest of the garden and grounds is recognised in its Grade II listing in the Cadw/ ICOMOS Register of Parks and Garden of Special Historic Interest in Wales, however the buildings are not afforded any protection from Scheduled Monument or Listed Building status, yet would seem to be a site of high archaeological and historical importance.

The site was identified during the pilot year of the Arfordir project of being a coastal site under direct threat from tidal and other erosion. Although the Arfordir project encourages volunteers to become involved in recording our coastal heritage, the Boulston manor site has a large number of constraints that precluded direct volunteer involvement on-site. However, a more detailed record of the site was considered necessary to determine the extent of the standing structures and identify specific elements and the significance of the site.

It was proposed that a scheme of building recording work and photographic survey be undertaken of the surviving structures to create a record of the structures safely and accurately. Cadw commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust to undertake the survey work.

The fieldwork was undertaken in February 2012.

Scope of the project

The project aim was to create an accurate record of the surviving structures safely and accurately. It is hoped that the results of this information can be used to determine whether a management plan for the structures is necessary, as well as determining roles and responsibilities of landowners, local authorities and Cadw.

In addition it is also hoped that the information can confirm its significance as being worthy of scheduling.

This project also touches upon many of the period research issues identified in the Introducing a Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales, as well as Post-medieval thematic issues, specifically:

Chronologies

Settlement

Land-use and enclosure

Identity; new or changing elites; the growth of a consumer economy:

Report outline

Because of the limited nature of this project, together with the considerable archaeological evidence in the wider area, this report is restricted solely to the results of the survey on the Boulston Manor old hall complex.

Abbreviations used in this report

Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW). Altitude is expressed to Ordnance Datum (OD).

NW – northwest; NE – northeast; SW – southwest; SE – southeast
 SSW – south-southwest; SSE – south-southeast; NNW – north-northwest;
 NNE – north-northeast; ESE – east-southeast; WSW – west-southwest;
 ENE – east-northeast; ESE – east-southeast

Illustrations

Photographic images and printed map extracts are to be found at the back of the report. Note that the printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale and are illustrative only.

Timeline

The following timeline is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text (Table 1).

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 1066	
Medieval Period –	1066 – 1536	
Post-Medieval Period ¹ –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales

¹ The post-medieval and industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional Historic Environment Record as held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust

SITE LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

Boulston Manor Old Hall is located on the banks of the Western Cleddau, some 3km to the southeast of Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire (NGR SM 9807 1238; Figures 1 and 2; Photos 1 & 2). The site is located on a small inlet of the Cleddau, enclosed in woodland.

The site consists of the tumbled remnants of the main hall (PRN 3363), flanked by two three to four storey towers with the remains of an undercroft below. Partially walled enclosures lie to the northeast and northwest of the hall, with a long rectangular walled enclosure, divided into two compartments (PRN 47582), immediately to the south of the hall on the edge of the small inlet. A stream enters the site from the northwest and further up the stream lie two large ancient ponds (PRN 40633), now partially silted up, and a series of adjoining earthworks within the woods. The current Boulston Manor (PRN 17786), a late 18th century house, lies 600m to the northwest at the head of open ground to the river, fringed by mixed coniferous and deciduous shelter belt plantations. Boulston farm lies close-by, a trackway runs from the farm to the site.

The surrounding landscape forms part of the Milford Haven Waterway Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (Cadw 1998). This is a non-statutory, advisory designation which aims to provide information and raise awareness of areas with significant landscape value, to aid their protection and conservation. This area has been further assessed as part of the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project and falls within Area 327: Uzmaston and Boulston. This landscape encompasses the upper tidal stretches of the Western Cleddau and surrounding hills.

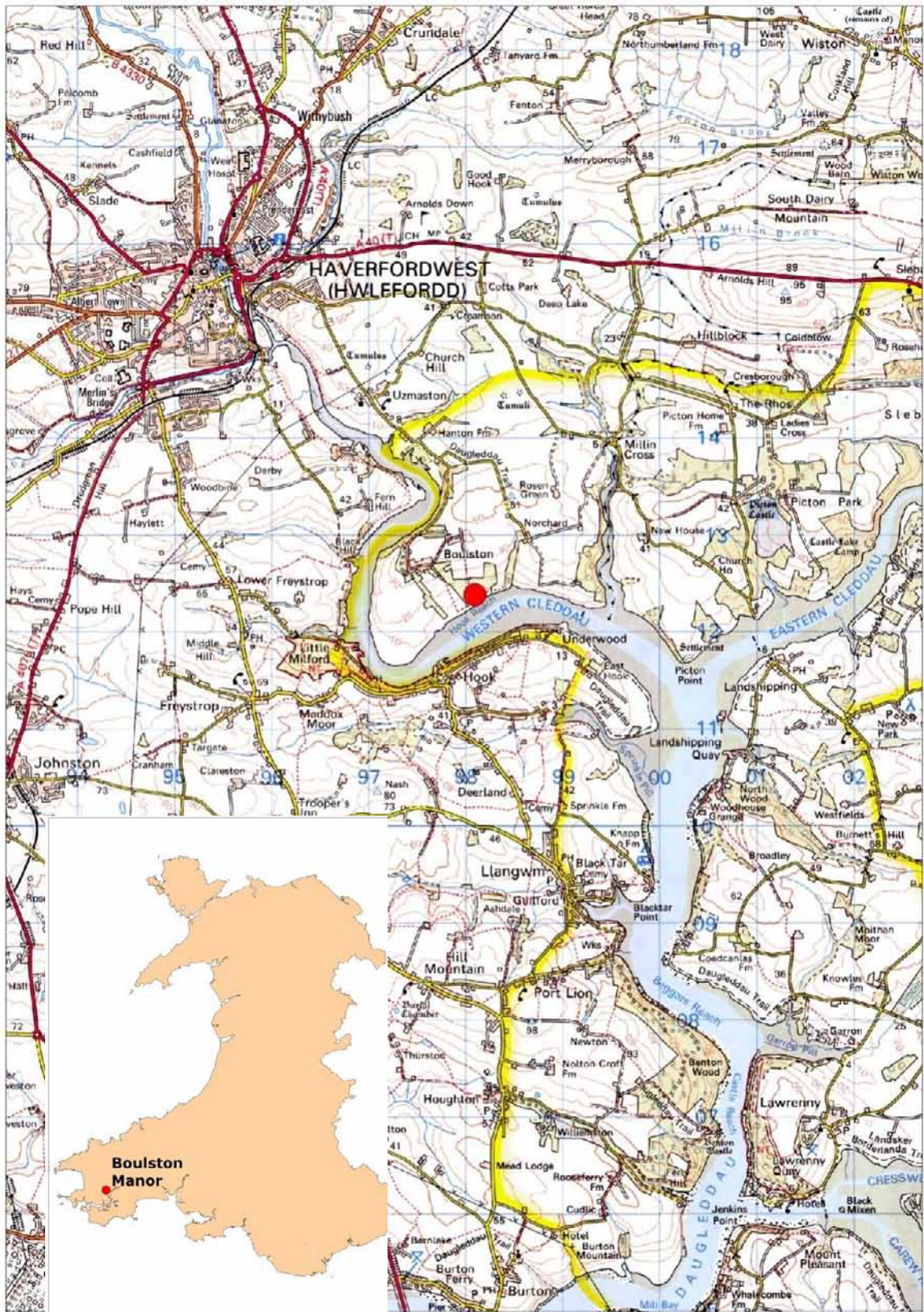


Figure 1: Location map, based on the Ordnance Survey.

Reproduced from the 1995 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

General History

Boulston Hall (PRN 3363) was the home to an important and wealthy branch of the Wogan family of Wiston, although it is possible that the name originates from Adam le Bull, a Norman who gave Clarbeston to the Commandery of Slebech. The earliest known occupant of Boulston was Henry Wogan in the early 15th century (Jones 1987, 11). However, Henry may not have spent much time at Boulston, preferring instead another family home at Milton. The first recorded Wogan to live at Boulston was Henry's grandson, Richard Wogan, who succeeded to the property in 1499, it is therefore likely that the first major phase of building at Boulston dates to the early years of Richard Wogan's occupation. Richard was a wealthy man, and the possessions left in his will showed various maritime interests (PGW 1990) including a ship called 'Elbewe' and 'two great gunnes', which were to be retained at the house, possibly for its defence. Piracy appears to have been commonplace in South Pembrokeshire in the 16th century and many of the landed gentry, including the Wogans, were embroiled in it. Richard's son John, who died in 1610, succeeded him and is recorded as a man of substance and importance in the county. He became the County Sheriff several times, and was knighted. His second wife, Elizabeth of Llwyndiris in Ceredigion was a wealthy heiress and it seems likely it was John who further embellished the house in the late 16th century and created the garden terrace and the various enclosures around it. His son John was also County Sheriff on two occasions and owned extensive property throughout the county.

In 1670 Boulston was assessed at 13 hearths, making it a very large house for its day. It is illustrated on a map of Milford Haven dated to 1689 showing a large house with gables at both ends and chimneys on the roof. It has been suggested that the hall may have been similar to the north range of nearby Carew Castle (Davies 1990). In 1684 the duke of Beaufort passed by 'having been well collationed on the way by (Lewis) Wogan, Esquire, att the seat of Bolston'. Lewis Wogan died in 1702 leaving behind one surviving daughter, Anne, who married John Laugharne of St Brides. It is probable that Lewis Wogan was the last occupant of Boulston Hall, Anne left to live with her new husband. On Anne's death in 1715 the estate passed to a relative, John Wogan of Gawdy Hall, Norfolk, who never came to stay at Boulston. He instigated the sale of the estate in 1773, although it was not bought until some years later by the Acklands. Dudley Ackland, a native of Philadelphia, built the current colonial style manor house (PRN 17786) in 1798.

Building History

The main hall and the layout of the walled enclosures around it probably date from the late 16th century, during the Tudor period. It is possible that the ponds to the northwest may be older in origin. There is a record of a medieval water mill (PRN 12500) in the area (Rees 1932), although the layout of the ponds and channels connected to them appear to be closely connected to the layout of the hall and its enclosures. The undercroft would appear to be the only visible older part of the complex, and may therefore be late medieval in origin.

The function of the various walled enclosures surrounding the main hall is unclear, although given the grandeur of the hall and the wealth of the Wogans it is thought probable that they form a complex of entrance courts, some probably more for utilitarian use, with the long rectangular enclosure being a walled garden compartment.

The similarity of the masonry of most of the garden walling indicates the whole layout is probably of one date. On stylistic grounds it is likely to have been

the second half of the 16th century, when long walled gardens of a similar type were being made throughout the country (PGW 2002). Therefore the most probable builder of the garden is Sir John Wogan, owner from 1541 to 1601. It is likely various relatively minor alterations were made throughout the 17th century.

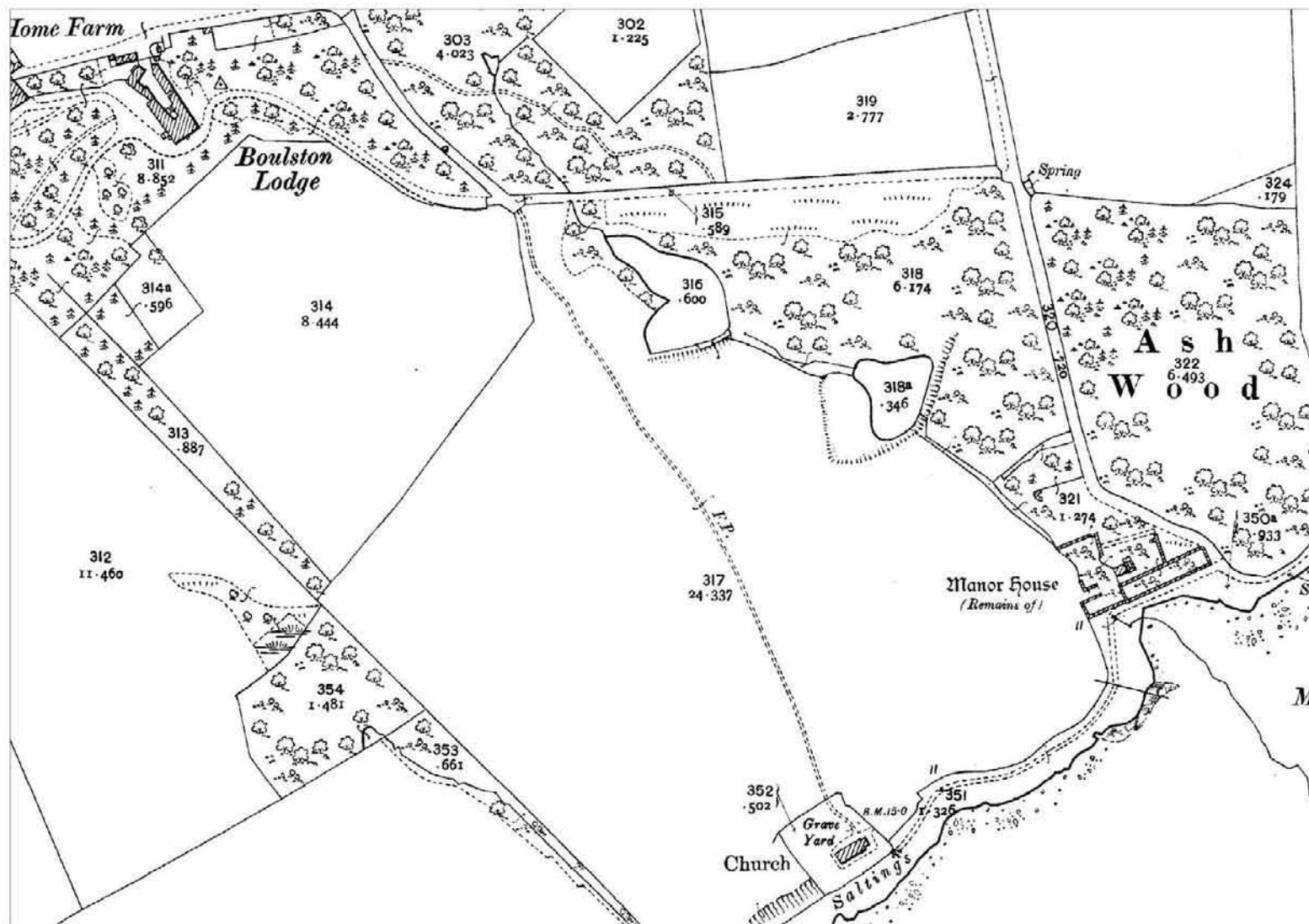


Figure 2: Extract from the second edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1907, showing the position of the Boulston Manor Old Hall (Manor House) and the new hall (Boulston Lodge).

SURVEY RESULTS (Figure 3 & 4)

The Main Hall

The main building appears to be a rectangular structure aligned east – west, parallel to the shore. Although now mostly reduced to a mound of rubble (photo 3) two upstanding towers survive at either end, and an undercroft survives at ground level under the eastern half of the hall. Including the two towers the building would enclose an area 30.85m long and 8.7m wide. The southern walls of the towers align well, the north wall of the East tower however projects 1m further to the north than the north wall of the West tower.

East Tower (photos 5 – 13)

The eastern tower was a stair tower, impressions and some footings for the stairs remain (photo 11). The tower is 8.7m by 3.2m in area and four storeys high. The north and south tower walls have been built around and over (incorporating) the earlier undercroft walls (photo 10), the southern of these earlier wall segments being thicker and higher, almost to second floor level. The internal (west) tower wall has been built directly on top of the east wall of the undercroft. The stonework of the earlier walls generally consisted of smaller lime mortared rubble. The remainder of the tower is built of mortared random rubble and is still largely rendered.

There is a ground floor arch, presumably for an entranceway, in the centre of the east gable tower wall, just visible above the build-up of rubble and soil (photo 9). The top of the arch has collapsed, which has caused stonework immediately above to fall in, and a large crack has opened the full height of the tower. This entrance opens into a narrow space 0.8m wide, and opposite a blocked narrow splayed opening in the undercroft wall.

The staircase is built into both side walls from the first floor to second floor, 1.7m wide. This is accessed from the first floor interior (i.e. from the west), with a window in the gable wall providing light. The window is splayed internally, low-arched, but squared on the outer wall. A similar window on the second floor provides light at the top of the stairs, with another second floor window slightly higher and offset to the south. Remains of two further second floor windows are visible where the tower would have met the side walls for the main hall. The stairs enter the second floor at the southern end of the western wall. Another set of stairs leads from the second to the third floor directly above the first floor stairway entrance. These stairs may not extend the full width of the tower and they end in the middle to come out of a centrally placed door in the west wall. Corbels for the stair beam are visible at this point. There is a window at the top of the stairs in the east wall. Davis (1989) records a partition at the top of the stairs, separating the southernmost c.2.7m. There are the remains of a fireplace in the south wall at this level (photo 12).

The interior of the staircase tower is rendered in smooth white plaster on all but the western side (photos 11 & 12). At second floor level this appears to have been painted pink/red (photo 13). The internal northeast corner is rounded the full height of the tower.

West Tower (photos 14 – 25)

At the west end of the main hall the corners and most of the gable wall of a tower survives, with a large opening in the gable wall running the full height of the tower (photos 14 & 15). It is built in a similar style of lime-mortared random rubble and partially rendered externally, plastered internally. This tower survives to a similar 4-storey height, 7.3m north - south and c.6.2m east - west.

There was a central entrance at ground floor in the west gable end, 1.35m wide, with a series of large windows directly above on each of the three higher

floors (photos 15 & 16). The collapse of the lintels and sills has caused the wide gap the full height of the west gable wall.

The north wall ends abruptly after 3.4m, presumably at a ground floor doorway (photo 20). There is evidence of further windows above this doorway in the floors above. A very thick growth of ivy now covers the northern face of this wall. A stream is culverted under this wall (photo 21), exiting under the southern wall (photo 22), presumably to flush internal garderobes. This has clearly become partially blocked and pools around the base of the tower (photos 21 & 23). There is evidence of a former lean-to on the external face of the tower above the point where the culvert exits (photo 24).

Opposite the northern doorway, but at first floor level, is a fireplace in the southern wall (photo 19). The chimney stack extends 0.5m out and 2.5m wide (photo 24), with partial remains of diagonal chimney stacks above fourth floor level. There are remains of a first floor window to the east of the fireplace, with partial remains of a wooden lintel (photo 25). This southern wall extends for 6.3m, with a suggestion of a southern return at this point. This return appears to have extended southwards to meet the wall of the southwest enclosure, but a large tree has fallen across this line obscuring details.

Undercroft (photos 26 – 33)

Under the eastern half of the main hall is a vaulted undercroft at lower ground floor level. This is thought to be the earliest part of the structure, and may be medieval in date. Clearly the eastern tower has been built onto and above this earlier structure (photo 26). The structure is 11m long by 7.3m, enclosing an area 8.3m by 4.9m. The walls are of semi-coursed lime-mortared random rubble with a vaulted ceiling showing signs of partial subsidence to the west (photo 32). Stones have also come away from the top of the west gable wall, now open to the exterior.

There is an entrance midway along the north wall, 1.15m wide with an arched lintel and slightly splayed edges (photos 26 & 27). There is a narrow funnel-shaped entrance in the south wall, offset to the west (photo 31). This is also 1.15m wide internally with an arched lintel, narrowing to a short passage 0.6m wide externally. It is unclear from current remains if the northern entrance had a similar arrangement.

In the southeast corner, within the southern wall, is a mostly blocked opening 0.8m wide (photo 30). Davis (1989) suggests this is the entrance to an intra-mural passage. This opening has been blocked with lime-mortared masonry to $\frac{3}{4}$ of its height, the top opening onto an upward sloping surface. Midway along the eastern wall is a blocked splayed possible former window opening, 1.2m wide internal, 0.4m wide externally and 1.15m deep (photos 28 & 29). There is a straight joint in the vaulted ceiling 1.4m from the western end, suggesting the room may have been extended at some point (photo 33).

The Walled Garden Enclosure (photos 34 – 43)

A long rectangular walled compartment, enclosing an area 48.8m by 7.6m, is built along the shoreline to the southeast of the main hall. The southwest enclosure continues the rectangular walled area westwards for a further c.24m.

High mortared rubble-stone walls (c.3 – 4m) enclose the north, east and most of the west sides (photos 39 & 40). The southeast and southwest corners are also high but these drop to a parapet wall along the south side, 1m high internally although externally this still drops at least 2m (photos 34 & 35). The lower courses of the southern face are clearly washed by spring and storm tides, facing stones have been lost along its length exposing the core work (photo 35).

Internally a straight joint is visible between the lower parapet wall and the high wall at the southeast corner (photo 42). This straight joint only extends c.1m down from the top of the parapet wall, possibly indicating a later heightening of the parapet wall, although this is not as apparent externally.

The northern wall is c.4.5m tall on its northern side, c.3.5m on its southern side (photos 39 & 40). The top of the wall tapers, as does the western wall, although this may be a later addition. The western wall, which divides the garden terrace from the Southwest Enclosure, butts against the northern wall (photo 46), and therefore may be a later division. The northeast corner includes some large quoin stones, but has also fallen northwards slightly, leaving a large crack at the join with the eastern wall (photo 43). A lean in this northeastern corner is clearly a longstanding problem, as 4m from the corner a stone buttress has been built against the northern face of the wall (photo 40). The crack has also been partially infilled internally.

There is a straight joint at least 2m high within the eastern wall that may represent a blocked entrance (photo 41). Collapsing masonry c.1.3m to the north may indicate the other side of the former entrance although this would offset the entrance to the north.

To the west, c.15.5m from the western end, the southern wall rises again to accommodate a large stone gateway (photos 37 & 38). The opening is 2.4m wide, and sits on top of a revetment wall so there is currently a drop of c.1.4m on to the exterior ground level. The top of the opening is framed by a gently curving arch built of narrow vertical slabs with a central keystone, above which is a very large tapering stonework lintel. Internally the sides of the gateway project inwards slightly, currently up to 0.6m, but the exposed masonry suggests it may have extended slightly further inwards. Projecting stonework from the lintel also suggests a partial covering. The Parks and Gardens Listing description (PGW 2002) records a straight joint between the gateway and the wall, and differing stonework indicating a later insertion, although this was not recorded during the current survey. This gateway is mirrored in the northern wall, but without an inwards projection (photo 36).

On the north side of the northern wall, to the west of the main gateway there is small recess 0.5m wide, partially buried (photo 39). This is described by Davis (1989) as an 'aumbry'. There is a second recess to the east of this and higher in the wall, although this may have been caused by tumbled facing stones.

The Southwest Enclosure (photos 44 – 46)

This walled enclosure follows the line of the Garden Enclosure. It measures 24m by 9m, the walls are built in a similar style, up to 3.5m high in places with tapering tops or later heightening. There is a gap midway along the western wall, 2.2m wide, the full height of the wall with squared sides (photo 45).

The southern wall is lower, to give an open aspect to the waterfront as with the garden enclosure. The southeast corner has partially collapsed and presumably been washed away.

The eastern half of the northern wall has also collapsed. Roughly halfway along this wall Davis (1989) suggests a cross wall linking with the western tower. A short return is visible on the western tower at this point, but much of this area is currently obscured by rubble and tree fall. The Parks and Garden Listing description (PGW 2002) also suggests a possible second entranceway within this northern wall. The northern wall of the garden enclosure does stop with a squared end at this point and a lack of tumbled rubble in this area does appear to suggest an entranceway (photo 46).

The culverted stream underneath the western tower is also culverted underneath this enclosure, emerging under a stone-capped culvert to run into the river (photos 53 & 54).

It is thought this enclosure may represent the original entrance court for the hall (PGW 2002).

The Northeast Enclosure (photos 47 & 48)

This area is enclosed to the south by the garden enclosure, to the west by a dividing wall with the northwest enclosure and the main hall building, and to the east by a further stone wall. There are no obvious remains of a northern side to this enclosure. This encloses an area roughly 31m square.

The eastern wall is 19.8m long, but is a continuation of the northwest segment of the northern garden enclosure wall. It runs at a slightly offset angle, c.3m high in places. The top is also tapered/heightened in places. There is a gap of collapsed masonry c.1.6m high and c.0.8m wide through the wall at its southern end, the reason for the collapse is unclear (photo 47).

There are two blocked loopholes along its length, set fairly low in the wall and looking out to the east (photo 48). Davis (1989) suggests the area of collapse may have represented a third loophole.

The wall rises to its northern end, the exposed masonry indicating it did continue further (photo 48). The Parks and Gardens Listing description (PGW 2002) records this end as rising to a gable end, with a short stretch of collapsed walling running towards the main hall. Davis also suggests the remains of a building built against the northern end of the wall, on its west side, with traces of a cross wall running west from that building. These features were not so apparent during the current survey. A large pile of collapsed masonry does lie against the west side of the wall close to its northern end, but there was no clear indication of any structural remains in this area.

There was no indication of a northern side to the enclosure although the current trackway runs close to the northeast corner and may have removed some remains. The area is also densely covered in trees and scrub, and two relatively-recently collected mounds of earth and vegetation lie in this area that may all obscure any structural remains.

The Northwest Enclosure (photos 49 – 52)

This area is enclosed by high walls to its east and north, with the main hall to the south, and currently open to the west. This covers an area roughly 20m square.

The eastern wall is c.3.5m high, built in the typical style with a tapered/heightened top. It is currently 14m long (photo 49). The northern end is obscured by trees and vegetation so it is unclear if it is squared off or originally returned to the west. The southern end has collapsed with a large pile of fallen masonry between it and the main hall. Davis (1989) suggests this fallen masonry may hide a right-angled wall, presumably a former building. Midway along the wall is a large seemingly arched opening, set c.1.3m above the ground level. This may represent the remains of a window. Davis (1989) marks this as a blocked arch, suggesting the interior has collapsed out in recent years.

The northern wall is a similar height and build, currently running for 18m. The western end appears squared off, although this may be a result of later landscaping associated with the estate management of the 18th century house that created a large open aspect to the river flanked by trees in front of the new

house. The eastern end of the wall appears to be partially collapsed, leaving a gap of 2.5m to the eastern wall. It is possible there may have been an original entranceway here, but at a later point this gap has been enclosed by a field gate with the enclosure presumably used to contain livestock.

The stream runs through the western part of this enclosure before it becomes culverted under the western tower. This was presumably also culverted under the northern wall of the enclosure, however currently it pools against the northern side and finds a way through gaps in the masonry of the wall itself (photo 51).

A secondary stream emerges through the gap at the eastern end of the wall, cutting across the enclosure to join the main stream line. In places this stream has washed away topsoil deposits revealing a cobbled surface below (photo 52).

Additional Features

To the northwest of the old hall complex are two large ponds on the stream line that eventually passes under the hall. These were not examined during the course of this survey but they are described as 'probably of ancient origin' (PGW 2002). They are, at least partially, associated with the water management of the old manor house complex. Closer to the manor house this stream is joined by a second stream running along a cut straight-sided channel, running roughly northeast-southwest from the current trackway to the site. A short distance to the south of this a further channel was partially surveyed during the course of these works. This channel was also straight sided, 1.8m wide, but with the edges formed by lime-mortared walls, now largely covered in earth and vegetation. Further partial structural remains ran off to the south of this, but were collapsed and obscured by vegetation. The full arrangement and function of these features are not fully understood at present, the second edition Ordnance Survey map of 1907 (figure 2) shows this channel continuing westwards as a walled structure ending in a curved terminus close to the main northwest – southeast stream line.

The current trackway to the site, a stony track flanked by low stone walls, runs from Boulston farm to the north straight towards the old hall before veering off to run to the east of the garden enclosure. This may run along the line of an original track to the hall, but the southern end that veers to the east is presumably therefore a later alteration. If the southwest enclosure was the main entrance court to the site than the main track to this point has been lost, or may be obscured by 18th century landscaping associated with laying out the parkland in front of the new hall (photo 55).

To the southeast of the old hall complex a row of 10 wooden posts runs for 28.5m out into the river (photo 54). The age of these post is unclear, they are formed of natural tree trunks that show few obvious signs of working. They are presumably associated with maritime activity within the small inlet on which the old manor house is located and may therefore also be 16th century and associated with the manor house itself.

THREATS AND MITIGATION

There appear to be three main immediate threats to the stability of the standing buildings and the integrity of the complex as a whole: tidal and storm damage along the south of the site from the river; tree and vegetation growth; and undermining and structural damage caused by the stream running through the west of the site.

River damage

The remains all lie at the edge of the Western Cleddau, which is already undermining the long southern wall of the garden enclosure. The mortar has been washed out of much of the lower courses, and many of the facing stones have been removed exposing the rubble core behind. Erosion from tidal action will increase with rising sea levels. Climate change is recognised by the Welsh Assembly Government as one of the biggest threats facing the planet. Loss of landscape and heritage caused by it will have a negative impact on the quality of life in Wales and that 'without intervention our distinctive historic environment will degrade' (Environment Strategy for Wales, Welsh Assembly Government 2006). It is estimated that during this century temperatures will rise by 1 – 2 degrees centigrade, that there will be a 2% - 9% rise in precipitation and that sea level will rise by 180mm – 790mm (Wales: Changing Climate Challenging Choices, National Assembly for Wales 2007). Climate change and rising sea levels will: increase coastal erosion; inundate currently dry sites; create more extreme weather conditions promoting erosion of upstanding remains, particularly on areas such as sand dunes. Human responses to climate change will also impact on the historic environment, as new sea defences will be required whilst others will be abandoned under 'managed change'.

Further erosion could put pressure on substantial parts of the wall such as the large ornate gateway entrance.

Repair work to the face of the southern wall of the garden enclosure could help to protect any exposed core work, prevent undermining and slow down the rate of erosion. Regular monitoring would be required to assess the full effect of river erosion and sea level change.

Tree and vegetation growth

The site is situated in mixed woodland which has encroached over much of the ruins. During the course of the survey the positions of numerous trees that grow close to standing structures were also plotted. Ivy has also taken root over areas of the main surviving masonry blocks.

Tree root damage is apparent in several areas and at various points trees have become established within the fabric of the walls themselves, putting pressure on the walls and forcing masonry apart through their gradual growth. Where trees stand close to the walls the movement of the branches or tree collapse could damage structural remains. This can be seen at the northern end of the eastern side of the Northeast enclosure, and also between the western tower and the Southwest enclosure where a large fallen tree has narrowly avoided substantial damage to the tower.

Ivy growth also appears to be forcing apart the stonework in various places, and substantial growth on the northern side of the western tower appears to be contributing to a gradual northwards lean in part of the wall.

The removal of trees or overhanging branches that are putting active pressure on standing structure should be a priority. Other trees standing close to the walls should also be considered for attention. The remarkable survival of the standing structures may be in some part due to the protection from adverse

weather that is offered by the tree cover, therefore wholesale removal of the tree cover should probably be avoided at least until the standing structures have been consolidated through structural repairs.

Care should be taken in the removal of vegetation such as ivy on the walls to avoid pulling out loose masonry and mortar.

Stream

This stream runs through the western part of the complex, under the western tower and Southwest enclosure, eventually exiting into the river via a partially culverted stream on the riverbank. Originally it was feared that this stream was undermining the structure of the western tower, which was causing an outward lean in its north-western corner. The stream has been shown to run through a culvert underneath this tower, and continues to do so in part, although it has clearly become silted up and pools against the northern side of, and occasionally around the whole base of the tower, clearly expanding beyond the bounds of its culvert.

To ensure the prolonged stability of the tower the culvert should be examined structurally and cleaned out to allow the stream to pass freely through it, hopefully removing any active undermining. This will probably also necessitate the removal of the thick growth of ivy on the northern side of the tower, as this is clearly gaining nutrients from the stream at this point and its root action is likely to be adding to the blockage of the culvert. The stability of the tower at this point is uncertain, and structural advice should be sought before undertaking any work around its base.

Similarly the culvert should be examined and cleared as it enters the northwest enclosure from the north. It has clearly become blocked at this point, pooling against the northern side of the wall and then forcing its way through the structure of the wall itself. This is likely to be removing mortar and creating a weak point within the wall which, if allowed to continue, could cause a substantial part of this wall to eventually collapse.

General structural damage

Collapsed walling has exposed rubble core work and structural weaknesses in several areas across the complex. Without facing stones or mortar capping these areas are more susceptible to allow water into the structure, causing further structural damage, especially in cold weather when the water within the walls could freeze and expand.

Within the eastern tower of the main hall a large crack has formed running the full height of the eastern wall where the lower arched entranceway has collapsed. Within the undercroft the ceiling shows clear signs of subsidence on its western side, although there are no obvious signs of recent movement. However, should the undercroft be allowed to collapse it is possible that this will also weaken the remains of the eastern tower, as they are directly connected.

There is clearly a structural problem at the northeast corner of the garden enclosure where the north wall has become partially detached from its southern return. The hole in the east wall of the Northeast enclosure is another clear weak point, as is the arched opening midway along the eastern wall of the Northwest enclosure.

All these structural issues should be monitored regularly to ascertain if they are causing further deterioration, and to establish the best way of repairing or preventing further structural deterioration.

CONCLUSION

Boulston Old Hall is the site of impressive and unusual remains of a 15th and 16th century manor house complex on the banks of the Western Cleddau, occupied by the Wogan family until the early 18th century. The remains consist of the partial standing remains of two towers that would have flanked the main hall, with a well-preserved earlier undercroft below. The hall is surrounded by a series of high-walled enclosures, including a long walled garden terrace fronting the small inlet of the Cleddau on which the complex was established. It is believed that the majority of these structures date to the second half of the 16th century, although the undercroft may be late medieval in date.

Partial recording of the site has been undertaken in the past (Davis 1989), and the history of the site researched for the purposes of its inclusion in the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest (PGW 2002). This project has produced a detailed topographical survey and photographic survey of the site and its structural remains that will hopefully also be supplemented by elevation recordings undertaken by the RCAHMW in the future.

Due to its riverside location the site is susceptible to further coastal erosion, and the impressive standing remains are also under active threat from tree and vegetation cover, as well as stream action within the complex and general structural erosion.

The special interest of the complex is recognised in its Grade II listing in the Cadw/ ICOMOS Register of Parks and Garden of Special Historic Interest in Wales. However, it is hoped that this project has highlighted the site as being considered of high archaeological importance (national). Without intervention, elements of the site will soon collapse. The height of the surviving remains, the presence of a well preserved undercroft and the extent of associated walls and structures demonstrate the importance of the site.

The site also lies on public footpaths, but is probably little visited due to its overgrown state and lack of clear access routes. This has no doubt helped in the preservation of the site, but in its current condition the stability of the structures poses a clear concern for public access.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The survey was undertaken by Hubert Wilson and Phil Poucher of Dyfed Archaeological Trust. I am indebted to the Thomas's and Llewellyn's for allowing access to and across their land.

ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive will initially be held by DAT, before being passed to the National Monument Record, Aberystwyth.

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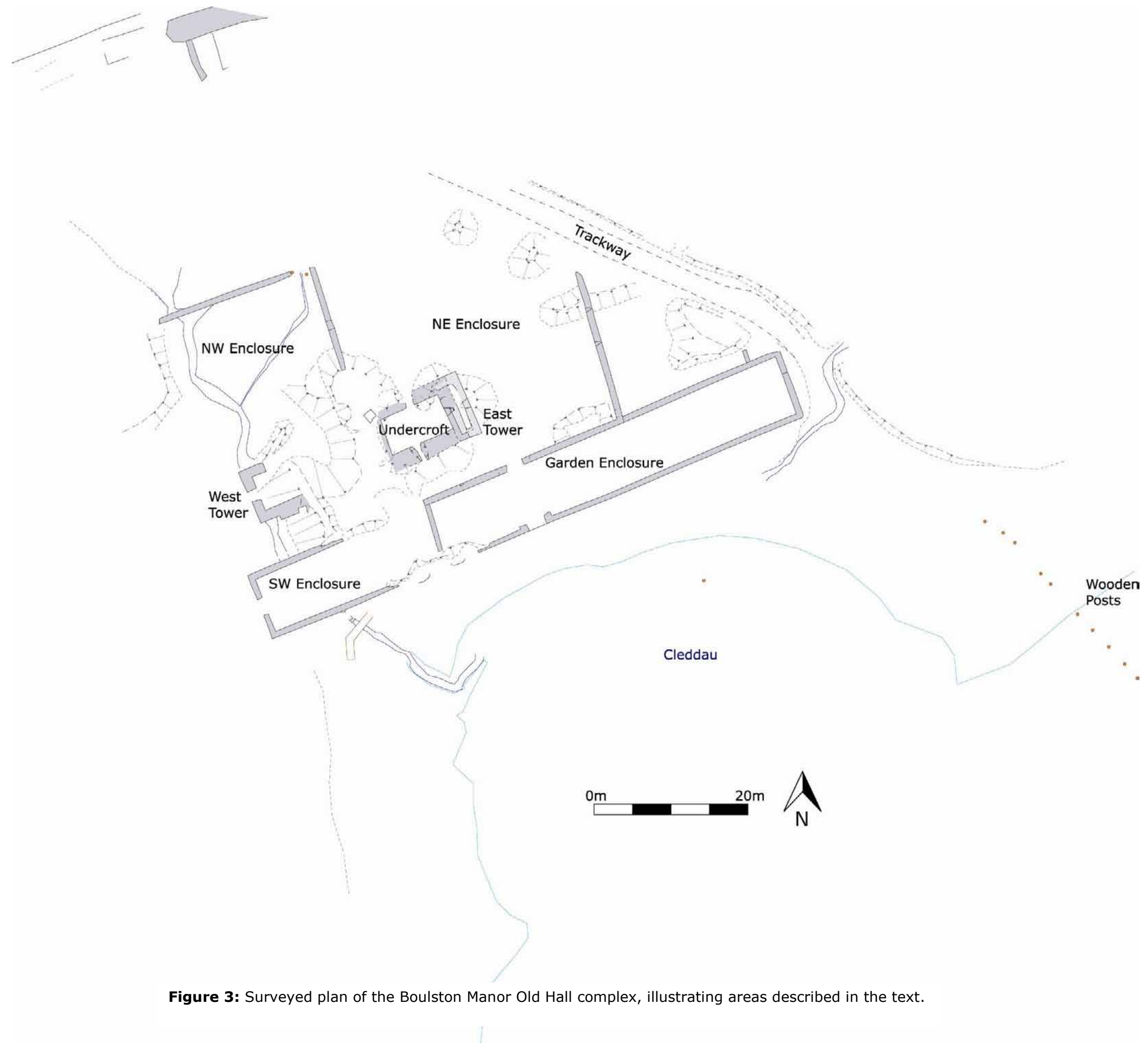


Figure 3: Surveyed plan of the Boulston Manor Old Hall complex, illustrating areas described in the text.

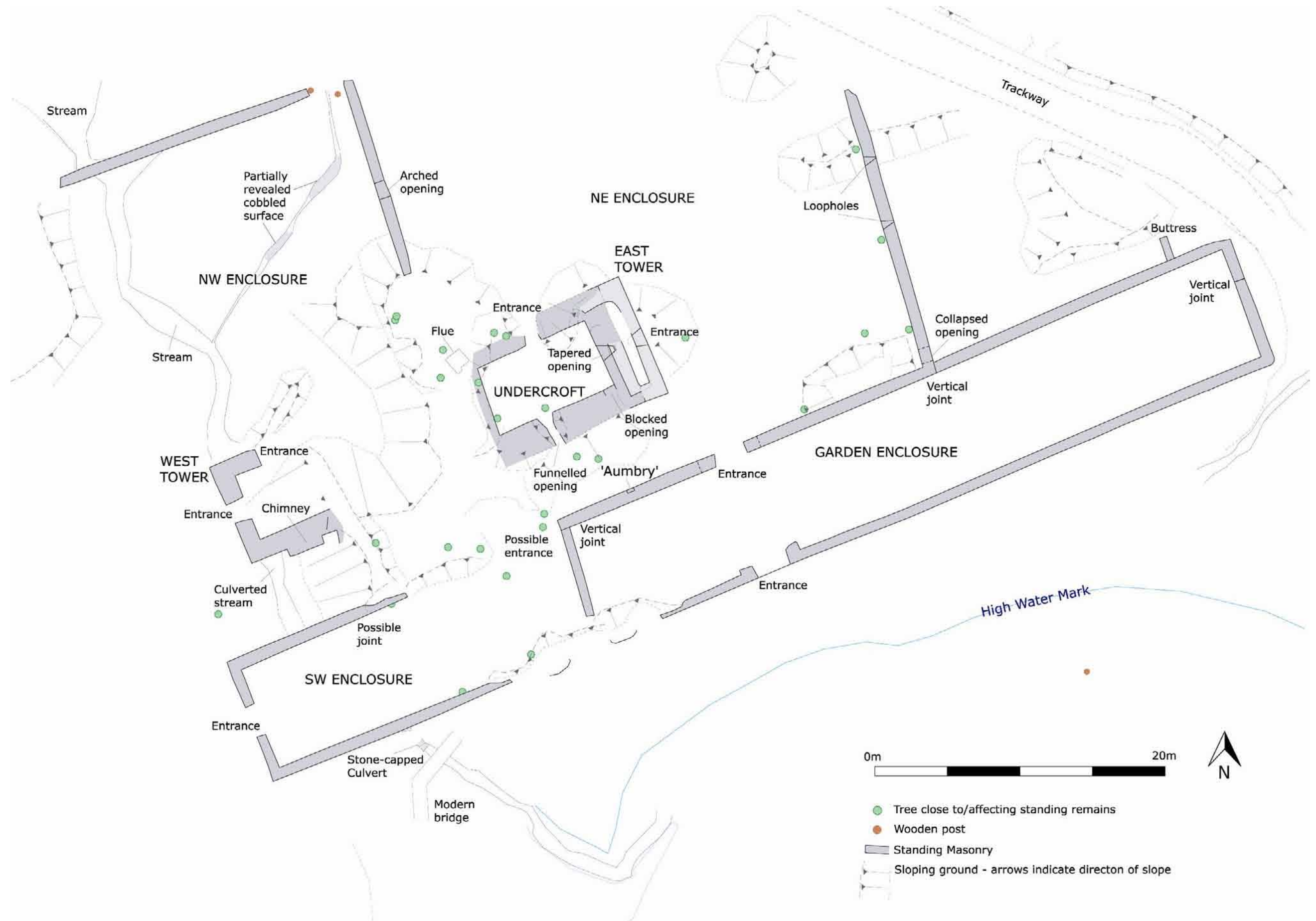


Figure 4: Detailed survey of the main structures and features described in the text. The locations of trees close to or affecting the standing remains are also marked.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: View down the Cleddau from the small inlet in front of Boulston old hall.



Photo 2: View east across the small inlet in front of Boulston old hall.



Photo 3: General view of the main hall area.
The east tower is visible on the right.



Photo 4: General view, looking north from the riverside across the remains of the SW Enclosure with the Western Tower behind.



Photo 5: General view of Eastern Tower looking southwest.



Photo 6: The western face of the Eastern Tower. 1m scale.



Photo 7: Close up of join in the western face. 1m scale.



Photo 8: The eastern face of the Eastern Tower. 1m scale.



Photo 9: Closer view of the collapsed archway and vertical crack above. 1m scale.



Photo 10: Northern face of Eastern Tower, clearly showing earlier segment of walling. 1m scale.



Photo 11: Interior of Eastern Tower showing staircase remains and internal render. 1m scale



Photo 12: Interior of Eastern Tower showing different floor levels and 3rd floor fireplace. 1m scale.



Photo 13: Interior of Eastern Tower showing pinker internal render on 2nd floor. 1m scale.



Photo 14: General view of Western Tower, looking northeast. 1m scale.



Photo 15: Western face of Western Tower. 1m scale.



Photo 16: Section of the wall exposed in the main entrance through the western wall of the Western Tower. 1m scale.



Photo 17: Looking north along the western wall of the Western Tower, showing the outward lean. 1m scale.



Photo 18: Interior of the southern section of the Western Tower. 1st floor fireplace visible, with remnants of chimney stacks at the top.



Photo 19: Closer view of the interior of the Western Tower. 1m scale.



Photo 20: Interior of the northern part of the Western Tower, also showing the rendered side of a window in the western wall at 1st floor level. 1m scale.



Photo 21: Stream pooling around the northern side of the Western Tower, also showing thick growth of ivy. 1m scale.



Photo 22: Stream emerging from the culvert on the south side of the Western Tower. 1m scale.



Photo 23: Water collecting around the base of the Western Tower during period of wet weather.



Photo 24: Southern face of the Western Tower, showing the top of the stream culvert, evidence of the former lean-to structure and protruding chimney stack. 1m scale.



Photo 25: 1st floor window remains in the southern wall of the Western Tower, also showing surviving timber lintel. 1m scale.



Photo 26: View south towards the Eastern Tower and main entrance into the undercroft. 1m scale.



Photo 27: Main entrance to the undercroft from the north. 1m scale.



Photo 28: Interior of the undercroft, looking east. 1m scale.



Photo 29: Tapered opening in the eastern wall of the undercroft. 1m scale.



Photo 30: Blocked opening in the southeast corner of the undercroft.



Photo 31: Opening/entrance in southern wall of the undercroft



Photo 32: The interior of the undercroft looking west, showing the collapse in the ceiling and upper courses of the western wall. 1m scale.



Photo 33: Join in the ceiling of the undercroft. View looking north. 1m scale.



Photo 34: Looking northeast at the southern wall of the Garden Enclosure.



Photo 35: Closer view of the southern wall of the garden enclosure, viewed from the south. 1m scale.



Photo 36: Main entrance through the north wall of the Garden Enclosure, viewed from the north.



Photo 37: Main entrance through the southern wall of the Garden Enclosure, viewed from the north. 1m scale.



Photo 38: Main entrance into the Garden Enclosure viewed from the rivers edge. 1m scale.



Photo 39: Northern wall of the Garden Enclosure, viewed from the north. 1m scale laid in front of the 'aumbry'.



Photo 40: Northern wall of the Garden Enclosure looking southeast. Buttress visible to the left. 1m scale.



Photo 41: Interior of the eastern wall of the Garden Enclosure, showing the vertical joint of a possible entranceway. 1m scale.



Photo 42: Interior of the southern wall at the southeast corner of the Garden Enclosure. Straight vertical joint visible to the left of the 1m scale.



Photo 43: Damage at the north-eastern corner of the Garden Enclosure. 1m scale.



Photo 44: Interior of the Southwest Enclosure, looking southwest. 1m scale.



Photo 45: Entranceway through the western wall of the Southwest Enclosure. 1m scale.



Photo 46: View looking east at the eastern wall of the Southwest Enclosure. 1m scale.



Photo 47: Looking west at the eastern wall of the Northeast Enclosure. 1m scale.



Photo 48: Northern end of the eastern wall of the Northeast Enclosure. Blocked loophole visible to the left of the 1m scale.



Photo 49: Eastern wall of the Northwest Enclosure, looking northeast. 1m scale.



Photo 50: Northern wall of the Northwest Enclosure, looking northwest. 1m scale.



Photo 51: Water seeping through the northern wall of the Northwest Enclosure. 1m scale.



Photo 52: Cobbled surface uncovered in the Northwest Enclosure.



Photo 53: Culverted stream running out from underneath the Southwest Enclosure, looking north. 1m scale.



Photo 54: Stream running out into the river. 1m scale.



Photo 54: The line of wooden posts alongside the small inlet in front of the old hall, looking east.



Photo 55: The 'new' Boulston Hall viewed from the southeast.

BOULSTON MANOR, PEMBROKESHIRE: BUILDING RECORDING

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2012/27

**Mawrth 2012
March 2012**

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Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau
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RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2012/27
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 102767

Mawrth 2012
March 2012

BOULSTON MANOR, PEMBROKESHIRE: BUILDING RECORDING

Gan / By

P Poucher & H Wilson

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**BOULSTON MANOR, PEMBROKESHIRE:
BUILDING RECORDING**

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BOULSTON MANOR, PEMBROKESHIRE: BUILDING RECORDING

SUMMARY

Boulston Manor Old Hall (PRN 3363) is the site of an unusual survival of the impressive remains of a 15th and 16th century manor house complex on the banks of the Western Cleddau, to the southeast of Haverfordwest (NGR SM 9807 1238). The manor house was occupied by the Wogan family until the early 18th century. The remains consist of the partial standing remains of two towers that would have flanked the main hall, with a well-preserved earlier undercroft below. The hall is surrounded by a series of high-walled enclosures, including a long walled garden terrace fronting the small inlet of the Cleddau on which the complex was established. It is believed that the majority of these structures date to the second half of the 16th century, although the undercroft may be late medieval in date.

The special interest of the garden and grounds is recognised in its Grade II listing in the Cadw/ ICOMOS Register of Parks and Garden of Special Historic Interest in Wales, however the buildings are not afforded any protection from Scheduled Monument or Listed Building status.

The site was identified during the pilot year of the Arfordir project of being a coastal site under direct threat from tidal and other erosion. The ruined structures are in differing states of preservation. A more detailed record of the site was considered necessary to determine the extent of the standing structures, identify specific elements and the significance of the site.

Cadw commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust to undertake a detailed topographical survey and photographic survey of the site and its structural remains in February 2012.

Due to its tidal riverside location the site is susceptible to further coastal erosion, and the impressive standing remains are also under active threat from tree and vegetation cover, as well as stream action within the complex and general structural erosion. It is hoped that this project has highlighted the site as being considered of high archaeological importance (national). Without intervention, elements of the site will soon collapse. The height of the surviving remains, the presence of a well preserved undercroft and the extent of associated walls and structures demonstrate the importance of the site.

INTRODUCTION

Project commission

Boulston Manor Old Hall consists of a complex of medieval and 16th century ruined structures on the banks of the Western Cleddau (PRN 3363, NGR SM 9807 1238). The ruined structures are in differing states of preservation, suffering mainly from coastal erosion, undermining from a stream and damage caused by vegetation and tree growth that has established itself over the area. The special interest of the garden and grounds is recognised in its Grade II listing in the Cadw/ ICOMOS Register of Parks and Garden of Special Historic Interest in Wales, however the buildings are not afforded any protection from Scheduled Monument or Listed Building status, yet would seem to be a site of high archaeological and historical importance.

The site was identified during the pilot year of the Arfordir project of being a coastal site under direct threat from tidal and other erosion. Although the Arfordir project encourages volunteers to become involved in recording our coastal heritage, the Boulston manor site has a large number of constraints that precluded direct volunteer involvement on-site. However, a more detailed record of the site was considered necessary to determine the extent of the standing structures and identify specific elements and the significance of the site.

It was proposed that a scheme of building recording work and photographic survey be undertaken of the surviving structures to create a record of the structures safely and accurately. Cadw commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust to undertake the survey work.

The fieldwork was undertaken in February 2012.

Scope of the project

The project aim was to create an accurate record of the surviving structures safely and accurately. It is hoped that the results of this information can be used to determine whether a management plan for the structures is necessary, as well as determining roles and responsibilities of landowners, local authorities and Cadw.

In addition it is also hoped that the information can confirm its significance as being worthy of scheduling.

This project also touches upon many of the period research issues identified in the Introducing a Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales, as well as Post-medieval thematic issues, specifically:

Chronologies

Settlement

Land-use and enclosure

Identity; new or changing elites; the growth of a consumer economy:

Report outline

Because of the limited nature of this project, together with the considerable archaeological evidence in the wider area, this report is restricted solely to the results of the survey on the Boulston Manor old hall complex.

Abbreviations used in this report

Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW). Altitude is expressed to Ordnance Datum (OD).

NW – northwest; NE – northeast; SW – southwest; SE – southeast
 SSW – south-southwest; SSE – south-southeast; NNW – north-northwest;
 NNE – north-northeast; ESE – east-southeast; WSW – west-southwest;
 ENE – east-northeast; ESE – east-southeast

Illustrations

Photographic images and printed map extracts are to be found at the back of the report. Note that the printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale and are illustrative only.

Timeline

The following timeline is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text (Table 1).

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 1066	
Medieval Period –	1066 – 1536	
Post-Medieval Period ¹ –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales

¹ The post-medieval and industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional Historic Environment Record as held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust

SITE LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

Boulston Manor Old Hall is located on the banks of the Western Cleddau, some 3km to the southeast of Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire (NGR SM 9807 1238; Figures 1 and 2; Photos 1 & 2). The site is located on a small inlet of the Cleddau, enclosed in woodland.

The site consists of the tumbled remnants of the main hall (PRN 3363), flanked by two three to four storey towers with the remains of an undercroft below. Partially walled enclosures lie to the northeast and northwest of the hall, with a long rectangular walled enclosure, divided into two compartments (PRN 47582), immediately to the south of the hall on the edge of the small inlet. A stream enters the site from the northwest and further up the stream lie two large ancient ponds (PRN 40633), now partially silted up, and a series of adjoining earthworks within the woods. The current Boulston Manor (PRN 17786), a late 18th century house, lies 600m to the northwest at the head of open ground to the river, fringed by mixed coniferous and deciduous shelter belt plantations. Boulston farm lies close-by, a trackway runs from the farm to the site.

The surrounding landscape forms part of the Milford Haven Waterway Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (Cadw 1998). This is a non-statutory, advisory designation which aims to provide information and raise awareness of areas with significant landscape value, to aid their protection and conservation. This area has been further assessed as part of the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project and falls within Area 327: Uzmaston and Boulston. This landscape encompasses the upper tidal stretches of the Western Cleddau and surrounding hills.

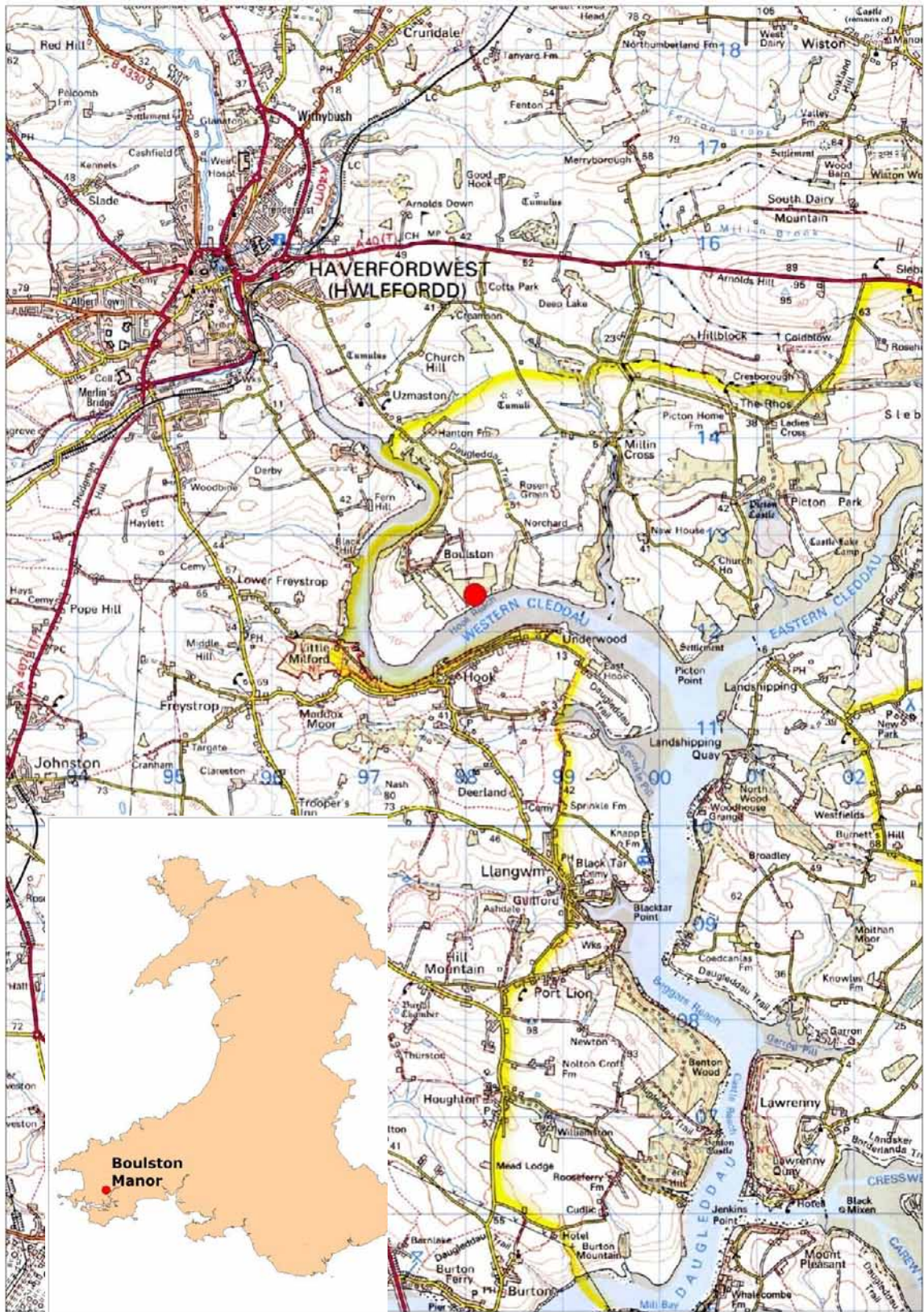


Figure 1: Location map, based on the Ordnance Survey.

Reproduced from the 1995 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

General History

Boulston Hall (PRN 3363) was the home to an important and wealthy branch of the Wogan family of Wiston, although it is possible that the name originates from Adam le Bull, a Norman who gave Clarbeston to the Commandery of Slebech. The earliest known occupant of Boulston was Henry Wogan in the early 15th century (Jones 1987, 11). However, Henry may not have spent much time at Boulston, preferring instead another family home at Milton. The first recorded Wogan to live at Boulston was Henry's grandson, Richard Wogan, who succeeded to the property in 1499, it is therefore likely that the first major phase of building at Boulston dates to the early years of Richard Wogan's occupation. Richard was a wealthy man, and the possessions left in his will showed various maritime interests (PGW 1990) including a ship called 'Elbewe' and 'two great gunnes', which were to be retained at the house, possibly for its defence. Piracy appears to have been commonplace in South Pembrokeshire in the 16th century and many of the landed gentry, including the Wogans, were embroiled in it. Richard's son John, who died in 1610, succeeded him and is recorded as a man of substance and importance in the county. He became the County Sheriff several times, and was knighted. His second wife, Elizabeth of Llwyndiris in Ceredigion was a wealthy heiress and it seems likely it was John who further embellished the house in the late 16th century and created the garden terrace and the various enclosures around it. His son John was also County Sheriff on two occasions and owned extensive property throughout the county.

In 1670 Boulston was assessed at 13 hearths, making it a very large house for its day. It is illustrated on a map of Milford Haven dated to 1689 showing a large house with gables at both ends and chimneys on the roof. It has been suggested that the hall may have been similar to the north range of nearby Carew Castle (Davies 1990). In 1684 the duke of Beaufort passed by 'having been well collationed on the way by (Lewis) Wogan, Esquire, att the seat of Bolston'. Lewis Wogan died in 1702 leaving behind one surviving daughter, Anne, who married John Laugharne of St Brides. It is probable that Lewis Wogan was the last occupant of Boulston Hall, Anne left to live with her new husband. On Anne's death in 1715 the estate passed to a relative, John Wogan of Gawdy Hall, Norfolk, who never came to stay at Boulston. He instigated the sale of the estate in 1773, although it was not bought until some years later by the Acklands. Dudley Ackland, a native of Philadelphia, built the current colonial style manor house (PRN 17786) in 1798.

Building History

The main hall and the layout of the walled enclosures around it probably date from the late 16th century, during the Tudor period. It is possible that the ponds to the northwest may be older in origin. There is a record of a medieval water mill (PRN 12500) in the area (Rees 1932), although the layout of the ponds and channels connected to them appear to be closely connected to the layout of the hall and its enclosures. The undercroft would appear to be the only visible older part of the complex, and may therefore be late medieval in origin.

The function of the various walled enclosures surrounding the main hall is unclear, although given the grandeur of the hall and the wealth of the Wogans it is thought probable that they form a complex of entrance courts, some probably more for utilitarian use, with the long rectangular enclosure being a walled garden compartment.

The similarity of the masonry of most of the garden walling indicates the whole layout is probably of one date. On stylistic grounds it is likely to have been

the second half of the 16th century, when long walled gardens of a similar type were being made throughout the country (PGW 2002). Therefore the most probable builder of the garden is Sir John Wogan, owner from 1541 to 1601. It is likely various relatively minor alterations were made throughout the 17th century.

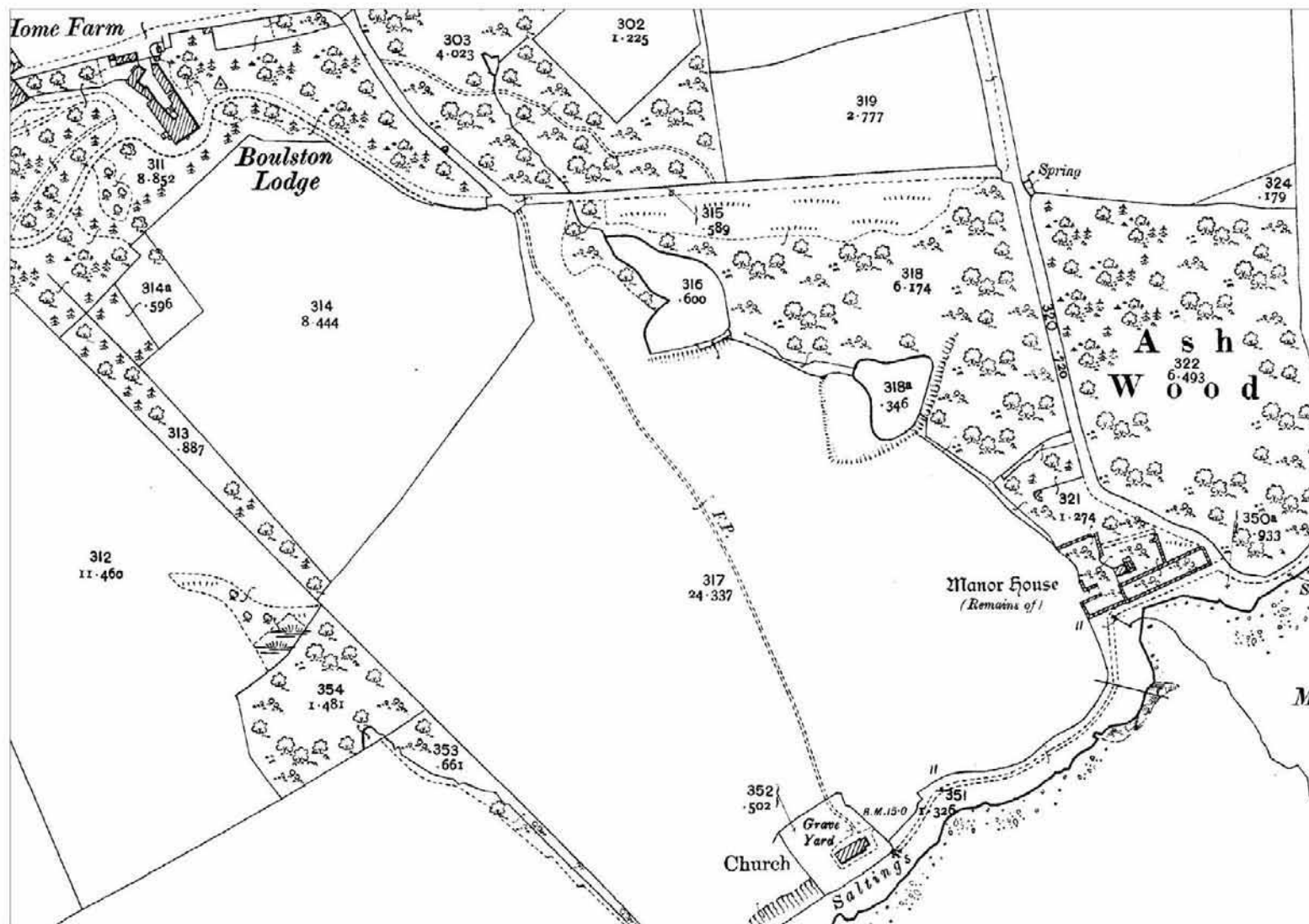


Figure 2: Extract from the second edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1907, showing the position of the Boulston Manor Old Hall (Manor House) and the new hall (Boulston Lodge).

SURVEY RESULTS (Figure 3 & 4)

The Main Hall

The main building appears to be a rectangular structure aligned east – west, parallel to the shore. Although now mostly reduced to a mound of rubble (photo 3) two upstanding towers survive at either end, and an undercroft survives at ground level under the eastern half of the hall. Including the two towers the building would enclose an area 30.85m long and 8.7m wide. The southern walls of the towers align well, the north wall of the East tower however projects 1m further to the north than the north wall of the West tower.

East Tower (photos 5 – 13)

The eastern tower was a stair tower, impressions and some footings for the stairs remain (photo 11). The tower is 8.7m by 3.2m in area and four storeys high. The north and south tower walls have been built around and over (incorporating) the earlier undercroft walls (photo 10), the southern of these earlier wall segments being thicker and higher, almost to second floor level. The internal (west) tower wall has been built directly on top of the east wall of the undercroft. The stonework of the earlier walls generally consisted of smaller lime mortared rubble. The remainder of the tower is built of mortared random rubble and is still largely rendered.

There is a ground floor arch, presumably for an entranceway, in the centre of the east gable tower wall, just visible above the build-up of rubble and soil (photo 9). The top of the arch has collapsed, which has caused stonework immediately above to fall in, and a large crack has opened the full height of the tower. This entrance opens into a narrow space 0.8m wide, and opposite a blocked narrow splayed opening in the undercroft wall.

The staircase is built into both side walls from the first floor to second floor, 1.7m wide. This is accessed from the first floor interior (i.e. from the west), with a window in the gable wall providing light. The window is splayed internally, low-arched, but squared on the outer wall. A similar window on the second floor provides light at the top of the stairs, with another second floor window slightly higher and offset to the south. Remains of two further second floor windows are visible where the tower would have met the side walls for the main hall. The stairs enter the second floor at the southern end of the western wall. Another set of stairs leads from the second to the third floor directly above the first floor stairway entrance. These stairs may not extend the full width of the tower and they end in the middle to come out of a centrally placed door in the west wall. Corbels for the stair beam are visible at this point. There is a window at the top of the stairs in the east wall. Davis (1989) records a partition at the top of the stairs, separating the southernmost c.2.7m. There are the remains of a fireplace in the south wall at this level (photo 12).

The interior of the staircase tower is rendered in smooth white plaster on all but the western side (photos 11 & 12). At second floor level this appears to have been painted pink/red (photo 13). The internal northeast corner is rounded the full height of the tower.

West Tower (photos 14 – 25)

At the west end of the main hall the corners and most of the gable wall of a tower survives, with a large opening in the gable wall running the full height of the tower (photos 14 & 15). It is built in a similar style of lime-mortared random rubble and partially rendered externally, plastered internally. This tower survives to a similar 4-storey height, 7.3m north - south and c.6.2m east - west.

There was a central entrance at ground floor in the west gable end, 1.35m wide, with a series of large windows directly above on each of the three higher

floors (photos 15 & 16). The collapse of the lintels and sills has caused the wide gap the full height of the west gable wall.

The north wall ends abruptly after 3.4m, presumably at a ground floor doorway (photo 20). There is evidence of further windows above this doorway in the floors above. A very thick growth of ivy now covers the northern face of this wall. A stream is culverted under this wall (photo 21), exiting under the southern wall (photo 22), presumably to flush internal garderobes. This has clearly become partially blocked and pools around the base of the tower (photos 21 & 23). There is evidence of a former lean-to on the external face of the tower above the point where the culvert exits (photo 24).

Opposite the northern doorway, but at first floor level, is a fireplace in the southern wall (photo 19). The chimney stack extends 0.5m out and 2.5m wide (photo 24), with partial remains of diagonal chimney stacks above fourth floor level. There are remains of a first floor window to the east of the fireplace, with partial remains of a wooden lintel (photo 25). This southern wall extends for 6.3m, with a suggestion of a southern return at this point. This return appears to have extended southwards to meet the wall of the southwest enclosure, but a large tree has fallen across this line obscuring details.

Undercroft (photos 26 – 33)

Under the eastern half of the main hall is a vaulted undercroft at lower ground floor level. This is thought to be the earliest part of the structure, and may be medieval in date. Clearly the eastern tower has been built onto and above this earlier structure (photo 26). The structure is 11m long by 7.3m, enclosing an area 8.3m by 4.9m. The walls are of semi-coursed lime-mortared random rubble with a vaulted ceiling showing signs of partial subsidence to the west (photo 32). Stones have also come away from the top of the west gable wall, now open to the exterior.

There is an entrance midway along the north wall, 1.15m wide with an arched lintel and slightly splayed edges (photos 26 & 27). There is a narrow funnel-shaped entrance in the south wall, offset to the west (photo 31). This is also 1.15m wide internally with an arched lintel, narrowing to a short passage 0.6m wide externally. It is unclear from current remains if the northern entrance had a similar arrangement.

In the southeast corner, within the southern wall, is a mostly blocked opening 0.8m wide (photo 30). Davis (1989) suggests this is the entrance to an intra-mural passage. This opening has been blocked with lime-mortared masonry to $\frac{3}{4}$ of its height, the top opening onto an upward sloping surface. Midway along the eastern wall is a blocked splayed possible former window opening, 1.2m wide internal, 0.4m wide externally and 1.15m deep (photos 28 & 29). There is a straight joint in the vaulted ceiling 1.4m from the western end, suggesting the room may have been extended at some point (photo 33).

The Walled Garden Enclosure (photos 34 – 43)

A long rectangular walled compartment, enclosing an area 48.8m by 7.6m, is built along the shoreline to the southeast of the main hall. The southwest enclosure continues the rectangular walled area westwards for a further c.24m.

High mortared rubble-stone walls (c.3 – 4m) enclose the north, east and most of the west sides (photos 39 & 40). The southeast and southwest corners are also high but these drop to a parapet wall along the south side, 1m high internally although externally this still drops at least 2m (photos 34 & 35). The lower courses of the southern face are clearly washed by spring and storm tides, facing stones have been lost along its length exposing the core work (photo 35).

Internally a straight joint is visible between the lower parapet wall and the high wall at the southeast corner (photo 42). This straight joint only extends c.1m down from the top of the parapet wall, possibly indicating a later heightening of the parapet wall, although this is not as apparent externally.

The northern wall is c.4.5m tall on its northern side, c.3.5m on its southern side (photos 39 & 40). The top of the wall tapers, as does the western wall, although this may be a later addition. The western wall, which divides the garden terrace from the Southwest Enclosure, butts against the northern wall (photo 46), and therefore may be a later division. The northeast corner includes some large quoin stones, but has also fallen northwards slightly, leaving a large crack at the join with the eastern wall (photo 43). A lean in this northeastern corner is clearly a longstanding problem, as 4m from the corner a stone buttress has been built against the northern face of the wall (photo 40). The crack has also been partially infilled internally.

There is a straight joint at least 2m high within the eastern wall that may represent a blocked entrance (photo 41). Collapsing masonry c.1.3m to the north may indicate the other side of the former entrance although this would offset the entrance to the north.

To the west, c.15.5m from the western end, the southern wall rises again to accommodate a large stone gateway (photos 37 & 38). The opening is 2.4m wide, and sits on top of a revetment wall so there is currently a drop of c.1.4m on to the exterior ground level. The top of the opening is framed by a gently curving arch built of narrow vertical slabs with a central keystone, above which is a very large tapering stonework lintel. Internally the sides of the gateway project inwards slightly, currently up to 0.6m, but the exposed masonry suggests it may have extended slightly further inwards. Projecting stonework from the lintel also suggests a partial covering. The Parks and Gardens Listing description (PGW 2002) records a straight joint between the gateway and the wall, and differing stonework indicating a later insertion, although this was not recorded during the current survey. This gateway is mirrored in the northern wall, but without an inwards projection (photo 36).

On the north side of the northern wall, to the west of the main gateway there is small recess 0.5m wide, partially buried (photo 39). This is described by Davis (1989) as an 'aumbry'. There is a second recess to the east of this and higher in the wall, although this may have been caused by tumbled facing stones.

The Southwest Enclosure (photos 44 – 46)

This walled enclosure follows the line of the Garden Enclosure. It measures 24m by 9m, the walls are built in a similar style, up to 3.5m high in places with tapering tops or later heightening. There is a gap midway along the western wall, 2.2m wide, the full height of the wall with squared sides (photo 45).

The southern wall is lower, to give an open aspect to the waterfront as with the garden enclosure. The southeast corner has partially collapsed and presumably been washed away.

The eastern half of the northern wall has also collapsed. Roughly halfway along this wall Davis (1989) suggests a cross wall linking with the western tower. A short return is visible on the western tower at this point, but much of this area is currently obscured by rubble and tree fall. The Parks and Garden Listing description (PGW 2002) also suggests a possible second entranceway within this northern wall. The northern wall of the garden enclosure does stop with a squared end at this point and a lack of tumbled rubble in this area does appear to suggest an entranceway (photo 46).

The culverted stream underneath the western tower is also culverted underneath this enclosure, emerging under a stone-capped culvert to run into the river (photos 53 & 54).

It is thought this enclosure may represent the original entrance court for the hall (PGW 2002).

The Northeast Enclosure (photos 47 & 48)

This area is enclosed to the south by the garden enclosure, to the west by a dividing wall with the northwest enclosure and the main hall building, and to the east by a further stone wall. There are no obvious remains of a northern side to this enclosure. This encloses an area roughly 31m square.

The eastern wall is 19.8m long, but is a continuation of the northwest segment of the northern garden enclosure wall. It runs at a slightly offset angle, c.3m high in places. The top is also tapered/heightened in places. There is a gap of collapsed masonry c.1.6m high and c.0.8m wide through the wall at its southern end, the reason for the collapse is unclear (photo 47).

There are two blocked loopholes along its length, set fairly low in the wall and looking out to the east (photo 48). Davis (1989) suggests the area of collapse may have represented a third loophole.

The wall rises to its northern end, the exposed masonry indicating it did continue further (photo 48). The Parks and Gardens Listing description (PGW 2002) records this end as rising to a gable end, with a short stretch of collapsed walling running towards the main hall. Davis also suggests the remains of a building built against the northern end of the wall, on its west side, with traces of a cross wall running west from that building. These features were not so apparent during the current survey. A large pile of collapsed masonry does lie against the west side of the wall close to its northern end, but there was no clear indication of any structural remains in this area.

There was no indication of a northern side to the enclosure although the current trackway runs close to the northeast corner and may have removed some remains. The area is also densely covered in trees and scrub, and two relatively-recently collected mounds of earth and vegetation lie in this area that may all obscure any structural remains.

The Northwest Enclosure (photos 49 – 52)

This area is enclosed by high walls to its east and north, with the main hall to the south, and currently open to the west. This covers an area roughly 20m square.

The eastern wall is c.3.5m high, built in the typical style with a tapered/heightened top. It is currently 14m long (photo 49). The northern end is obscured by trees and vegetation so it is unclear if it is squared off or originally returned to the west. The southern end has collapsed with a large pile of fallen masonry between it and the main hall. Davis (1989) suggests this fallen masonry may hide a right-angled wall, presumably a former building. Midway along the wall is a large seemingly arched opening, set c.1.3m above the ground level. This may represent the remains of a window. Davis (1989) marks this as a blocked arch, suggesting the interior has collapsed out in recent years.

The northern wall is a similar height and build, currently running for 18m. The western end appears squared off, although this may be a result of later landscaping associated with the estate management of the 18th century house that created a large open aspect to the river flanked by trees in front of the new

house. The eastern end of the wall appears to be partially collapsed, leaving a gap of 2.5m to the eastern wall. It is possible there may have been an original entranceway here, but at a later point this gap has been enclosed by a field gate with the enclosure presumably used to contain livestock.

The stream runs through the western part of this enclosure before it becomes culverted under the western tower. This was presumably also culverted under the northern wall of the enclosure, however currently it pools against the northern side and finds a way through gaps in the masonry of the wall itself (photo 51).

A secondary stream emerges through the gap at the eastern end of the wall, cutting across the enclosure to join the main stream line. In places this stream has washed away topsoil deposits revealing a cobbled surface below (photo 52).

Additional Features

To the northwest of the old hall complex are two large ponds on the stream line that eventually passes under the hall. These were not examined during the course of this survey but they are described as 'probably of ancient origin' (PGW 2002). They are, at least partially, associated with the water management of the old manor house complex. Closer to the manor house this stream is joined by a second stream running along a cut straight-sided channel, running roughly northeast-southwest from the current trackway to the site. A short distance to the south of this a further channel was partially surveyed during the course of these works. This channel was also straight sided, 1.8m wide, but with the edges formed by lime-mortared walls, now largely covered in earth and vegetation. Further partial structural remains ran off to the south of this, but were collapsed and obscured by vegetation. The full arrangement and function of these features are not fully understood at present, the second edition Ordnance Survey map of 1907 (figure 2) shows this channel continuing westwards as a walled structure ending in a curved terminus close to the main northwest – southeast stream line.

The current trackway to the site, a stony track flanked by low stone walls, runs from Boulston farm to the north straight towards the old hall before veering off to run to the east of the garden enclosure. This may run along the line of an original track to the hall, but the southern end that veers to the east is presumably therefore a later alteration. If the southwest enclosure was the main entrance court to the site than the main track to this point has been lost, or may be obscured by 18th century landscaping associated with laying out the parkland in front of the new hall (photo 55).

To the southeast of the old hall complex a row of 10 wooden posts runs for 28.5m out into the river (photo 54). The age of these post is unclear, they are formed of natural tree trunks that show few obvious signs of working. They are presumably associated with maritime activity within the small inlet on which the old manor house is located and may therefore also be 16th century and associated with the manor house itself.

THREATS AND MITIGATION

There appear to be three main immediate threats to the stability of the standing buildings and the integrity of the complex as a whole: tidal and storm damage along the south of the site from the river; tree and vegetation growth; and undermining and structural damage caused by the stream running through the west of the site.

River damage

The remains all lie at the edge of the Western Cleddau, which is already undermining the long southern wall of the garden enclosure. The mortar has been washed out of much of the lower courses, and many of the facing stones have been removed exposing the rubble core behind. Erosion from tidal action will increase with rising sea levels. Climate change is recognised by the Welsh Assembly Government as one of the biggest threats facing the planet. Loss of landscape and heritage caused by it will have a negative impact on the quality of life in Wales and that 'without intervention our distinctive historic environment will degrade' (Environment Strategy for Wales, Welsh Assembly Government 2006). It is estimated that during this century temperatures will rise by 1 – 2 degrees centigrade, that there will be a 2% - 9% rise in precipitation and that sea level will rise by 180mm – 790mm (Wales: Changing Climate Challenging Choices, National Assembly for Wales 2007). Climate change and rising sea levels will: increase coastal erosion; inundate currently dry sites; create more extreme weather conditions promoting erosion of upstanding remains, particularly on areas such as sand dunes. Human responses to climate change will also impact on the historic environment, as new sea defences will be required whilst others will be abandoned under 'managed change'.

Further erosion could put pressure on substantial parts of the wall such as the large ornate gateway entrance.

Repair work to the face of the southern wall of the garden enclosure could help to protect any exposed core work, prevent undermining and slow down the rate of erosion. Regular monitoring would be required to assess the full effect of river erosion and sea level change.

Tree and vegetation growth

The site is situated in mixed woodland which has encroached over much of the ruins. During the course of the survey the positions of numerous trees that grow close to standing structures were also plotted. Ivy has also taken root over areas of the main surviving masonry blocks.

Tree root damage is apparent in several areas and at various points trees have become established within the fabric of the walls themselves, putting pressure on the walls and forcing masonry apart through their gradual growth. Where trees stand close to the walls the movement of the branches or tree collapse could damage structural remains. This can be seen at the northern end of the eastern side of the Northeast enclosure, and also between the western tower and the Southwest enclosure where a large fallen tree has narrowly avoided substantial damage to the tower.

Ivy growth also appears to be forcing apart the stonework in various places, and substantial growth on the northern side of the western tower appears to be contributing to a gradual northwards lean in part of the wall.

The removal of trees or overhanging branches that are putting active pressure on standing structure should be a priority. Other trees standing close to the walls should also be considered for attention. The remarkable survival of the standing structures may be in some part due to the protection from adverse

weather that is offered by the tree cover, therefore wholesale removal of the tree cover should probably be avoided at least until the standing structures have been consolidated through structural repairs.

Care should be taken in the removal of vegetation such as ivy on the walls to avoid pulling out loose masonry and mortar.

Stream

This stream runs through the western part of the complex, under the western tower and Southwest enclosure, eventually exiting into the river via a partially culverted stream on the riverbank. Originally it was feared that this stream was undermining the structure of the western tower, which was causing an outward lean in its north-western corner. The stream has been shown to run through a culvert underneath this tower, and continues to do so in part, although it has clearly become silted up and pools against the northern side of, and occasionally around the whole base of the tower, clearly expanding beyond the bounds of its culvert.

To ensure the prolonged stability of the tower the culvert should be examined structurally and cleaned out to allow the stream to pass freely through it, hopefully removing any active undermining. This will probably also necessitate the removal of the thick growth of ivy on the northern side of the tower, as this is clearly gaining nutrients from the stream at this point and its root action is likely to be adding to the blockage of the culvert. The stability of the tower at this point is uncertain, and structural advice should be sought before undertaking any work around its base.

Similarly the culvert should be examined and cleared as it enters the northwest enclosure from the north. It has clearly become blocked at this point, pooling against the northern side of the wall and then forcing its way through the structure of the wall itself. This is likely to be removing mortar and creating a weak point within the wall which, if allowed to continue, could cause a substantial part of this wall to eventually collapse.

General structural damage

Collapsed walling has exposed rubble core work and structural weaknesses in several areas across the complex. Without facing stones or mortar capping these areas are more susceptible to allow water into the structure, causing further structural damage, especially in cold weather when the water within the walls could freeze and expand.

Within the eastern tower of the main hall a large crack has formed running the full height of the eastern wall where the lower arched entranceway has collapsed. Within the undercroft the ceiling shows clear signs of subsidence on its western side, although there are no obvious signs of recent movement. However, should the undercroft be allowed to collapse it is possible that this will also weaken the remains of the eastern tower, as they are directly connected.

There is clearly a structural problem at the northeast corner of the garden enclosure where the north wall has become partially detached from its southern return. The hole in the east wall of the Northeast enclosure is another clear weak point, as is the arched opening midway along the eastern wall of the Northwest enclosure.

All these structural issues should be monitored regularly to ascertain if they are causing further deterioration, and to establish the best way of repairing or preventing further structural deterioration.

CONCLUSION

Boulston Old Hall is the site of impressive and unusual remains of a 15th and 16th century manor house complex on the banks of the Western Cleddau, occupied by the Wogan family until the early 18th century. The remains consist of the partial standing remains of two towers that would have flanked the main hall, with a well-preserved earlier undercroft below. The hall is surrounded by a series of high-walled enclosures, including a long walled garden terrace fronting the small inlet of the Cleddau on which the complex was established. It is believed that the majority of these structures date to the second half of the 16th century, although the undercroft may be late medieval in date.

Partial recording of the site has been undertaken in the past (Davis 1989), and the history of the site researched for the purposes of its inclusion in the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest (PGW 2002). This project has produced a detailed topographical survey and photographic survey of the site and its structural remains that will hopefully also be supplemented by elevation recordings undertaken by the RCAHMW in the future.

Due to its riverside location the site is susceptible to further coastal erosion, and the impressive standing remains are also under active threat from tree and vegetation cover, as well as stream action within the complex and general structural erosion.

The special interest of the complex is recognised in its Grade II listing in the Cadw/ ICOMOS Register of Parks and Garden of Special Historic Interest in Wales. However, it is hoped that this project has highlighted the site as being considered of high archaeological importance (national). Without intervention, elements of the site will soon collapse. The height of the surviving remains, the presence of a well preserved undercroft and the extent of associated walls and structures demonstrate the importance of the site.

The site also lies on public footpaths, but is probably little visited due to its overgrown state and lack of clear access routes. This has no doubt helped in the preservation of the site, but in its current condition the stability of the structures poses a clear concern for public access.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The survey was undertaken by Hubert Wilson and Phil Poucher of Dyfed Archaeological Trust. I am indebted to the Thomas's and Llewellyn's for allowing access to and across their land.

ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive will initially be held by DAT, before being passed to the National Monument Record, Aberystwyth.

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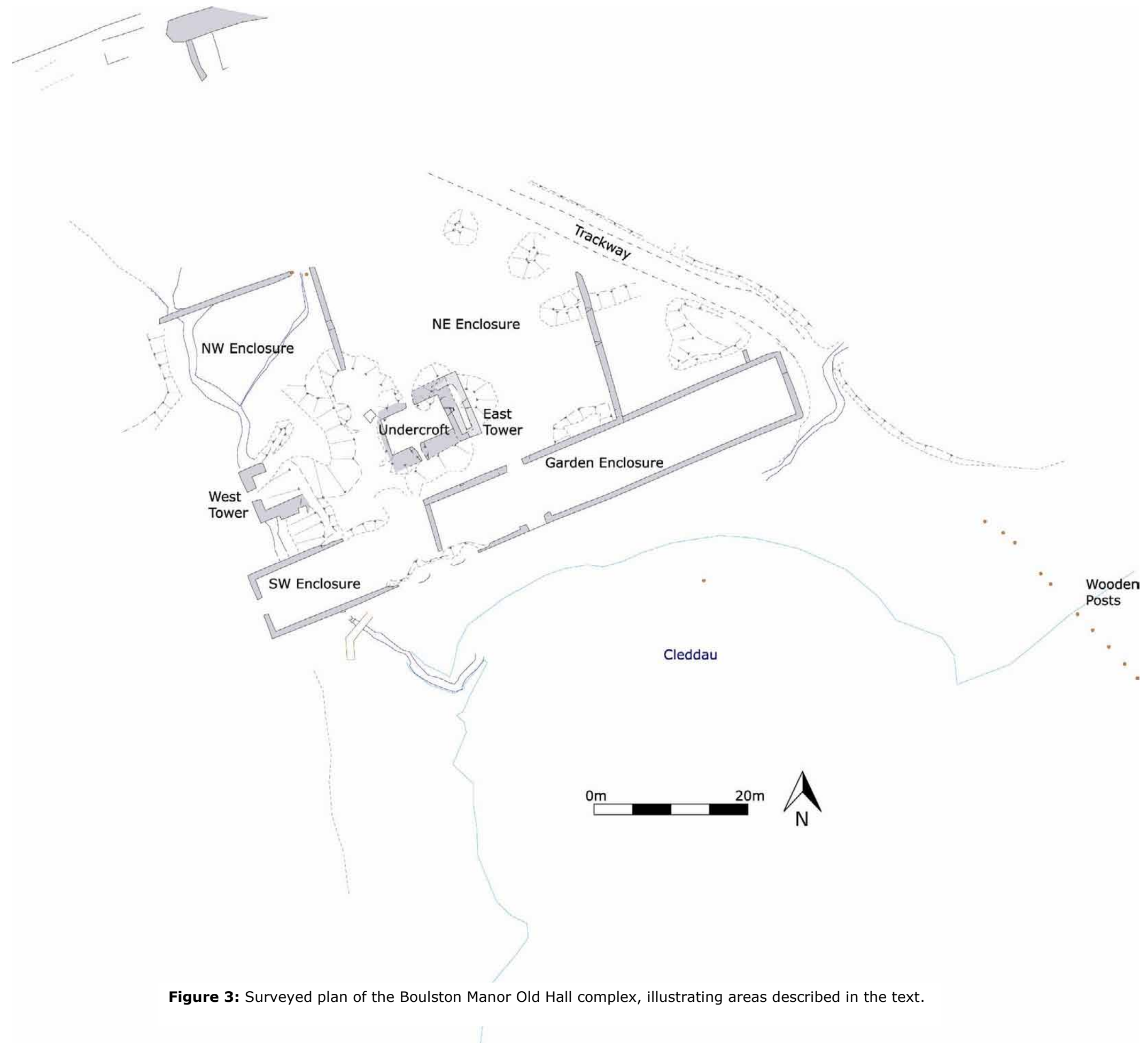


Figure 3: Surveyed plan of the Boulston Manor Old Hall complex, illustrating areas described in the text.

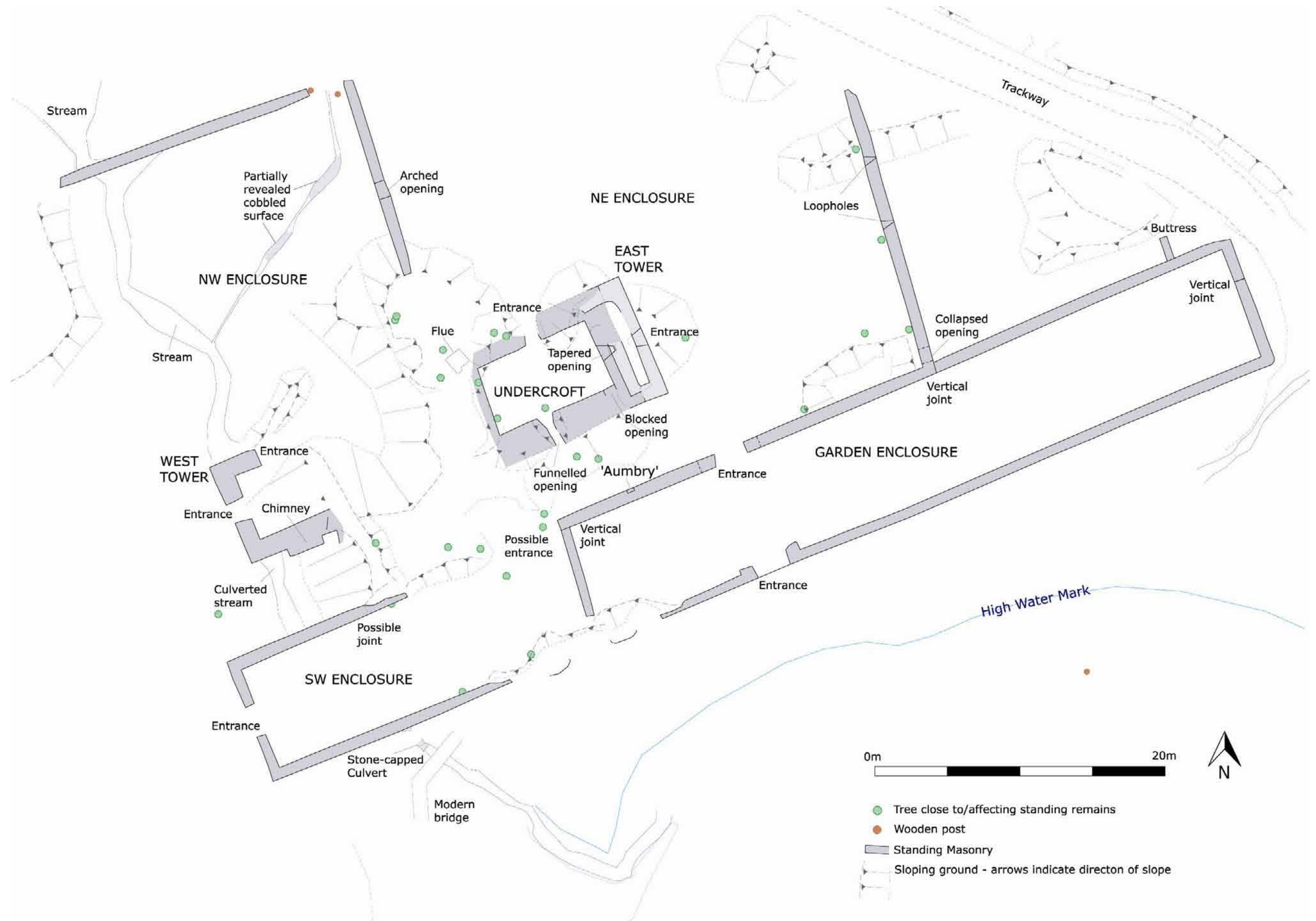


Figure 4: Detailed survey of the main structures and features described in the text. The locations of trees close to or affecting the standing remains are also marked.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: View down the Cleddau from the small inlet in front of Boulston old hall.



Photo 2: View east across the small inlet in front of Boulston old hall.



Photo 3: General view of the main hall area.
The east tower is visible on the right.



Photo 4: General view, looking north from the riverside across the remains of the SW Enclosure with the Western Tower behind.



Photo 5: General view of Eastern Tower looking southwest.



Photo 6: The western face of the Eastern Tower. 1m scale.



Photo 7: Close up of join in the western face. 1m scale.



Photo 8: The eastern face of the Eastern Tower. 1m scale.



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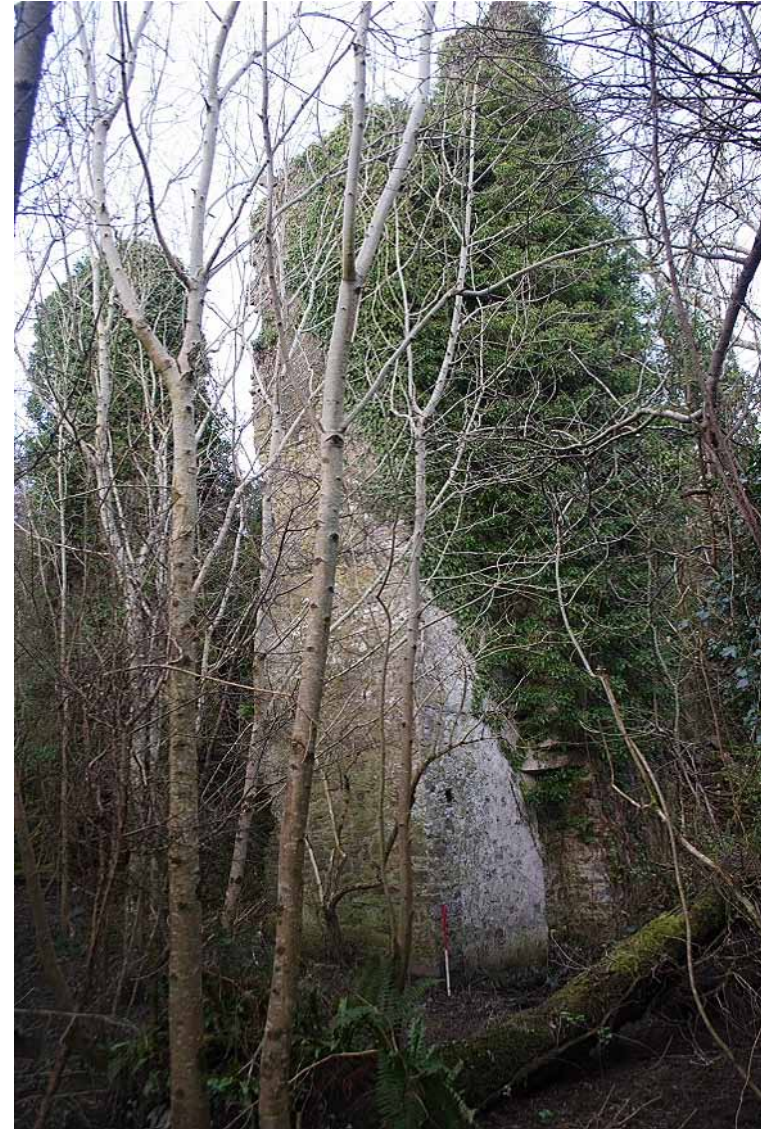


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BOULSTON MANOR, PEMBROKESHIRE: BUILDING RECORDING

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2012/27

**Mawrth 2012
March 2012**

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Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
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RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2012/27
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 102767

Mawrth 2012
March 2012

BOULSTON MANOR, PEMBROKESHIRE: BUILDING RECORDING

Gan / By

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**BOULSTON MANOR, PEMBROKESHIRE:
BUILDING RECORDING**

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BOULSTON MANOR, PEMBROKESHIRE: BUILDING RECORDING

SUMMARY

Boulston Manor Old Hall (PRN 3363) is the site of an unusual survival of the impressive remains of a 15th and 16th century manor house complex on the banks of the Western Cleddau, to the southeast of Haverfordwest (NGR SM 9807 1238). The manor house was occupied by the Wogan family until the early 18th century. The remains consist of the partial standing remains of two towers that would have flanked the main hall, with a well-preserved earlier undercroft below. The hall is surrounded by a series of high-walled enclosures, including a long walled garden terrace fronting the small inlet of the Cleddau on which the complex was established. It is believed that the majority of these structures date to the second half of the 16th century, although the undercroft may be late medieval in date.

The special interest of the garden and grounds is recognised in its Grade II listing in the Cadw/ ICOMOS Register of Parks and Garden of Special Historic Interest in Wales, however the buildings are not afforded any protection from Scheduled Monument or Listed Building status.

The site was identified during the pilot year of the Arfordir project of being a coastal site under direct threat from tidal and other erosion. The ruined structures are in differing states of preservation. A more detailed record of the site was considered necessary to determine the extent of the standing structures, identify specific elements and the significance of the site.

Cadw commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust to undertake a detailed topographical survey and photographic survey of the site and its structural remains in February 2012.

Due to its tidal riverside location the site is susceptible to further coastal erosion, and the impressive standing remains are also under active threat from tree and vegetation cover, as well as stream action within the complex and general structural erosion. It is hoped that this project has highlighted the site as being considered of high archaeological importance (national). Without intervention, elements of the site will soon collapse. The height of the surviving remains, the presence of a well preserved undercroft and the extent of associated walls and structures demonstrate the importance of the site.

INTRODUCTION

Project commission

Boulston Manor Old Hall consists of a complex of medieval and 16th century ruined structures on the banks of the Western Cleddau (PRN 3363, NGR SM 9807 1238). The ruined structures are in differing states of preservation, suffering mainly from coastal erosion, undermining from a stream and damage caused by vegetation and tree growth that has established itself over the area. The special interest of the garden and grounds is recognised in its Grade II listing in the Cadw/ ICOMOS Register of Parks and Garden of Special Historic Interest in Wales, however the buildings are not afforded any protection from Scheduled Monument or Listed Building status, yet would seem to be a site of high archaeological and historical importance.

The site was identified during the pilot year of the Arfordir project of being a coastal site under direct threat from tidal and other erosion. Although the Arfordir project encourages volunteers to become involved in recording our coastal heritage, the Boulston manor site has a large number of constraints that precluded direct volunteer involvement on-site. However, a more detailed record of the site was considered necessary to determine the extent of the standing structures and identify specific elements and the significance of the site.

It was proposed that a scheme of building recording work and photographic survey be undertaken of the surviving structures to create a record of the structures safely and accurately. Cadw commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust to undertake the survey work.

The fieldwork was undertaken in February 2012.

Scope of the project

The project aim was to create an accurate record of the surviving structures safely and accurately. It is hoped that the results of this information can be used to determine whether a management plan for the structures is necessary, as well as determining roles and responsibilities of landowners, local authorities and Cadw.

In addition it is also hoped that the information can confirm its significance as being worthy of scheduling.

This project also touches upon many of the period research issues identified in the Introducing a Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales, as well as Post-medieval thematic issues, specifically:

Chronologies

Settlement

Land-use and enclosure

Identity; new or changing elites; the growth of a consumer economy:

Report outline

Because of the limited nature of this project, together with the considerable archaeological evidence in the wider area, this report is restricted solely to the results of the survey on the Boulston Manor old hall complex.

Abbreviations used in this report

Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW). Altitude is expressed to Ordnance Datum (OD).

NW – northwest; NE – northeast; SW – southwest; SE – southeast
 SSW – south-southwest; SSE – south-southeast; NNW – north-northwest;
 NNE – north-northeast; ESE – east-southeast; WSW – west-southwest;
 ENE – east-northeast; ESE – east-southeast

Illustrations

Photographic images and printed map extracts are to be found at the back of the report. Note that the printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale and are illustrative only.

Timeline

The following timeline is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text (Table 1).

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 1066	
Medieval Period –	1066 – 1536	
Post-Medieval Period ¹ –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales

¹ The post-medieval and industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional Historic Environment Record as held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust

SITE LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

Boulston Manor Old Hall is located on the banks of the Western Cleddau, some 3km to the southeast of Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire (NGR SM 9807 1238; Figures 1 and 2; Photos 1 & 2). The site is located on a small inlet of the Cleddau, enclosed in woodland.

The site consists of the tumbled remnants of the main hall (PRN 3363), flanked by two three to four storey towers with the remains of an undercroft below. Partially walled enclosures lie to the northeast and northwest of the hall, with a long rectangular walled enclosure, divided into two compartments (PRN 47582), immediately to the south of the hall on the edge of the small inlet. A stream enters the site from the northwest and further up the stream lie two large ancient ponds (PRN 40633), now partially silted up, and a series of adjoining earthworks within the woods. The current Boulston Manor (PRN 17786), a late 18th century house, lies 600m to the northwest at the head of open ground to the river, fringed by mixed coniferous and deciduous shelter belt plantations. Boulston farm lies close-by, a trackway runs from the farm to the site.

The surrounding landscape forms part of the Milford Haven Waterway Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (Cadw 1998). This is a non-statutory, advisory designation which aims to provide information and raise awareness of areas with significant landscape value, to aid their protection and conservation. This area has been further assessed as part of the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project and falls within Area 327: Uzmaston and Boulston. This landscape encompasses the upper tidal stretches of the Western Cleddau and surrounding hills.



Figure 1: Location map, based on the Ordnance Survey.

Reproduced from the 1995 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

General History

Boulston Hall (PRN 3363) was the home to an important and wealthy branch of the Wogan family of Wiston, although it is possible that the name originates from Adam le Bull, a Norman who gave Clarbeston to the Commandery of Slebech. The earliest known occupant of Boulston was Henry Wogan in the early 15th century (Jones 1987, 11). However, Henry may not have spent much time at Boulston, preferring instead another family home at Milton. The first recorded Wogan to live at Boulston was Henry's grandson, Richard Wogan, who succeeded to the property in 1499, it is therefore likely that the first major phase of building at Boulston dates to the early years of Richard Wogan's occupation. Richard was a wealthy man, and the possessions left in his will showed various maritime interests (PGW 1990) including a ship called 'Elbewe' and 'two great gunnes', which were to be retained at the house, possibly for its defence. Piracy appears to have been commonplace in South Pembrokeshire in the 16th century and many of the landed gentry, including the Wogans, were embroiled in it. Richard's son John, who died in 1610, succeeded him and is recorded as a man of substance and importance in the county. He became the County Sheriff several times, and was knighted. His second wife, Elizabeth of Llwyndiris in Ceredigion was a wealthy heiress and it seems likely it was John who further embellished the house in the late 16th century and created the garden terrace and the various enclosures around it. His son John was also County Sheriff on two occasions and owned extensive property throughout the county.

In 1670 Boulston was assessed at 13 hearths, making it a very large house for its day. It is illustrated on a map of Milford Haven dated to 1689 showing a large house with gables at both ends and chimneys on the roof. It has been suggested that the hall may have been similar to the north range of nearby Carew Castle (Davies 1990). In 1684 the duke of Beaufort passed by 'having been well collationed on the way by (Lewis) Wogan, Esquire, att the seat of Bolston'. Lewis Wogan died in 1702 leaving behind one surviving daughter, Anne, who married John Laugharne of St Brides. It is probable that Lewis Wogan was the last occupant of Boulston Hall, Anne left to live with her new husband. On Anne's death in 1715 the estate passed to a relative, John Wogan of Gawdy Hall, Norfolk, who never came to stay at Boulston. He instigated the sale of the estate in 1773, although it was not bought until some years later by the Acklands. Dudley Ackland, a native of Philadelphia, built the current colonial style manor house (PRN 17786) in 1798.

Building History

The main hall and the layout of the walled enclosures around it probably date from the late 16th century, during the Tudor period. It is possible that the ponds to the northwest may be older in origin. There is a record of a medieval water mill (PRN 12500) in the area (Rees 1932), although the layout of the ponds and channels connected to them appear to be closely connected to the layout of the hall and its enclosures. The undercroft would appear to be the only visible older part of the complex, and may therefore be late medieval in origin.

The function of the various walled enclosures surrounding the main hall is unclear, although given the grandeur of the hall and the wealth of the Wogans it is thought probable that they form a complex of entrance courts, some probably more for utilitarian use, with the long rectangular enclosure being a walled garden compartment.

The similarity of the masonry of most of the garden walling indicates the whole layout is probably of one date. On stylistic grounds it is likely to have been

the second half of the 16th century, when long walled gardens of a similar type were being made throughout the country (PGW 2002). Therefore the most probable builder of the garden is Sir John Wogan, owner from 1541 to 1601. It is likely various relatively minor alterations were made throughout the 17th century.

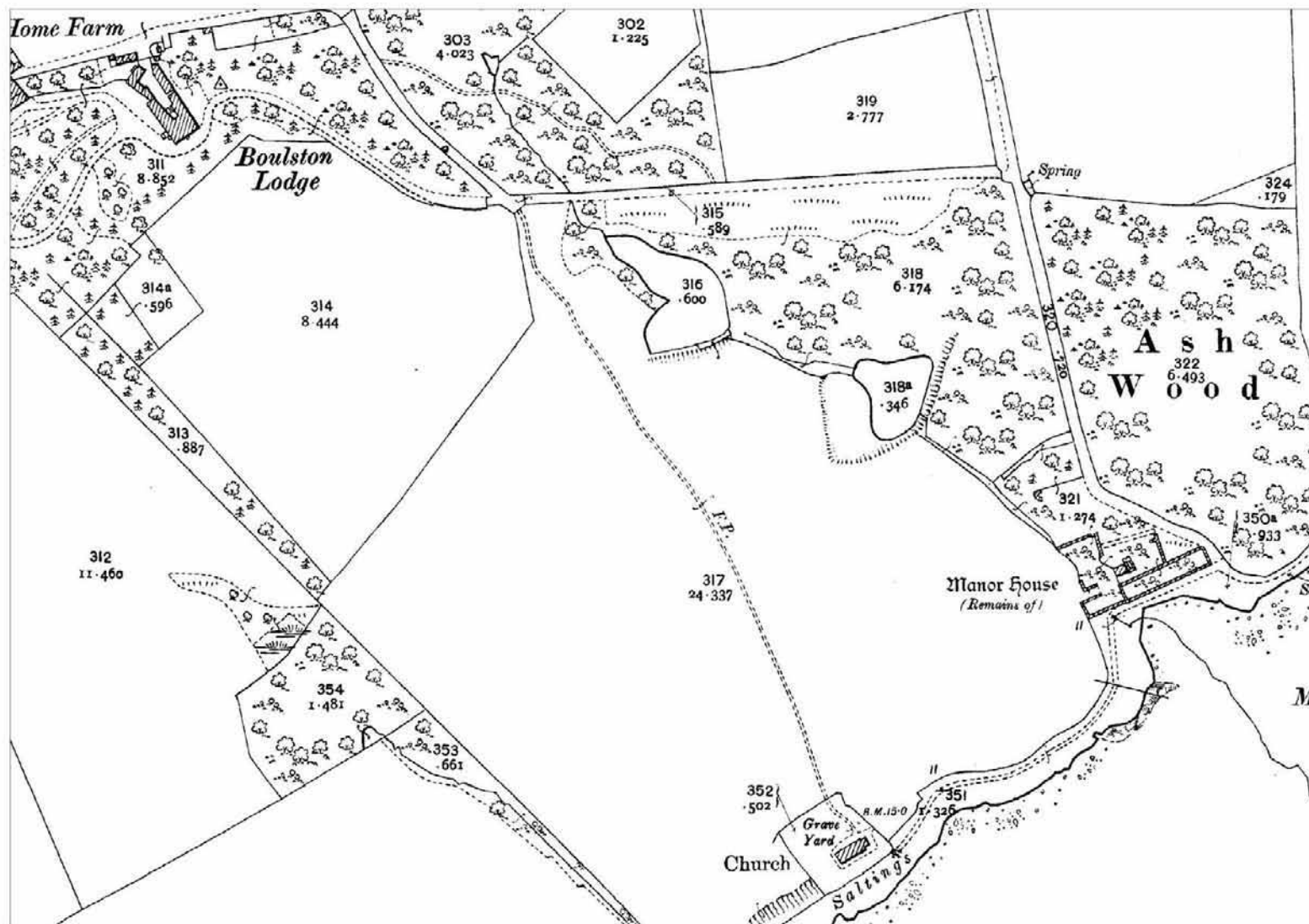


Figure 2: Extract from the second edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1907, showing the position of the Boulston Manor Old Hall (Manor House) and the new hall (Boulston Lodge).

SURVEY RESULTS (Figure 3 & 4)

The Main Hall

The main building appears to be a rectangular structure aligned east – west, parallel to the shore. Although now mostly reduced to a mound of rubble (photo 3) two upstanding towers survive at either end, and an undercroft survives at ground level under the eastern half of the hall. Including the two towers the building would enclose an area 30.85m long and 8.7m wide. The southern walls of the towers align well, the north wall of the East tower however projects 1m further to the north than the north wall of the West tower.

East Tower (photos 5 – 13)

The eastern tower was a stair tower, impressions and some footings for the stairs remain (photo 11). The tower is 8.7m by 3.2m in area and four storeys high. The north and south tower walls have been built around and over (incorporating) the earlier undercroft walls (photo 10), the southern of these earlier wall segments being thicker and higher, almost to second floor level. The internal (west) tower wall has been built directly on top of the east wall of the undercroft. The stonework of the earlier walls generally consisted of smaller lime mortared rubble. The remainder of the tower is built of mortared random rubble and is still largely rendered.

There is a ground floor arch, presumably for an entranceway, in the centre of the east gable tower wall, just visible above the build-up of rubble and soil (photo 9). The top of the arch has collapsed, which has caused stonework immediately above to fall in, and a large crack has opened the full height of the tower. This entrance opens into a narrow space 0.8m wide, and opposite a blocked narrow splayed opening in the undercroft wall.

The staircase is built into both side walls from the first floor to second floor, 1.7m wide. This is accessed from the first floor interior (i.e. from the west), with a window in the gable wall providing light. The window is splayed internally, low-arched, but squared on the outer wall. A similar window on the second floor provides light at the top of the stairs, with another second floor window slightly higher and offset to the south. Remains of two further second floor windows are visible where the tower would have met the side walls for the main hall. The stairs enter the second floor at the southern end of the western wall. Another set of stairs leads from the second to the third floor directly above the first floor stairway entrance. These stairs may not extend the full width of the tower and they end in the middle to come out of a centrally placed door in the west wall. Corbels for the stair beam are visible at this point. There is a window at the top of the stairs in the east wall. Davis (1989) records a partition at the top of the stairs, separating the southernmost c.2.7m. There are the remains of a fireplace in the south wall at this level (photo 12).

The interior of the staircase tower is rendered in smooth white plaster on all but the western side (photos 11 & 12). At second floor level this appears to have been painted pink/red (photo 13). The internal northeast corner is rounded the full height of the tower.

West Tower (photos 14 – 25)

At the west end of the main hall the corners and most of the gable wall of a tower survives, with a large opening in the gable wall running the full height of the tower (photos 14 & 15). It is built in a similar style of lime-mortared random rubble and partially rendered externally, plastered internally. This tower survives to a similar 4-storey height, 7.3m north - south and c.6.2m east - west.

There was a central entrance at ground floor in the west gable end, 1.35m wide, with a series of large windows directly above on each of the three higher

floors (photos 15 & 16). The collapse of the lintels and sills has caused the wide gap the full height of the west gable wall.

The north wall ends abruptly after 3.4m, presumably at a ground floor doorway (photo 20). There is evidence of further windows above this doorway in the floors above. A very thick growth of ivy now covers the northern face of this wall. A stream is culverted under this wall (photo 21), exiting under the southern wall (photo 22), presumably to flush internal garderobes. This has clearly become partially blocked and pools around the base of the tower (photos 21 & 23). There is evidence of a former lean-to on the external face of the tower above the point where the culvert exits (photo 24).

Opposite the northern doorway, but at first floor level, is a fireplace in the southern wall (photo 19). The chimney stack extends 0.5m out and 2.5m wide (photo 24), with partial remains of diagonal chimney stacks above fourth floor level. There are remains of a first floor window to the east of the fireplace, with partial remains of a wooden lintel (photo 25). This southern wall extends for 6.3m, with a suggestion of a southern return at this point. This return appears to have extended southwards to meet the wall of the southwest enclosure, but a large tree has fallen across this line obscuring details.

Undercroft (photos 26 – 33)

Under the eastern half of the main hall is a vaulted undercroft at lower ground floor level. This is thought to be the earliest part of the structure, and may be medieval in date. Clearly the eastern tower has been built onto and above this earlier structure (photo 26). The structure is 11m long by 7.3m, enclosing an area 8.3m by 4.9m. The walls are of semi-coursed lime-mortared random rubble with a vaulted ceiling showing signs of partial subsidence to the west (photo 32). Stones have also come away from the top of the west gable wall, now open to the exterior.

There is an entrance midway along the north wall, 1.15m wide with an arched lintel and slightly splayed edges (photos 26 & 27). There is a narrow funnel-shaped entrance in the south wall, offset to the west (photo 31). This is also 1.15m wide internally with an arched lintel, narrowing to a short passage 0.6m wide externally. It is unclear from current remains if the northern entrance had a similar arrangement.

In the southeast corner, within the southern wall, is a mostly blocked opening 0.8m wide (photo 30). Davis (1989) suggests this is the entrance to an intra-mural passage. This opening has been blocked with lime-mortared masonry to $\frac{3}{4}$ of its height, the top opening onto an upward sloping surface. Midway along the eastern wall is a blocked splayed possible former window opening, 1.2m wide internal, 0.4m wide externally and 1.15m deep (photos 28 & 29). There is a straight joint in the vaulted ceiling 1.4m from the western end, suggesting the room may have been extended at some point (photo 33).

The Walled Garden Enclosure (photos 34 – 43)

A long rectangular walled compartment, enclosing an area 48.8m by 7.6m, is built along the shoreline to the southeast of the main hall. The southwest enclosure continues the rectangular walled area westwards for a further c.24m.

High mortared rubble-stone walls (c.3 – 4m) enclose the north, east and most of the west sides (photos 39 & 40). The southeast and southwest corners are also high but these drop to a parapet wall along the south side, 1m high internally although externally this still drops at least 2m (photos 34 & 35). The lower courses of the southern face are clearly washed by spring and storm tides, facing stones have been lost along its length exposing the core work (photo 35).

Internally a straight joint is visible between the lower parapet wall and the high wall at the southeast corner (photo 42). This straight joint only extends c.1m down from the top of the parapet wall, possibly indicating a later heightening of the parapet wall, although this is not as apparent externally.

The northern wall is c.4.5m tall on its northern side, c.3.5m on its southern side (photos 39 & 40). The top of the wall tapers, as does the western wall, although this may be a later addition. The western wall, which divides the garden terrace from the Southwest Enclosure, butts against the northern wall (photo 46), and therefore may be a later division. The northeast corner includes some large quoin stones, but has also fallen northwards slightly, leaving a large crack at the join with the eastern wall (photo 43). A lean in this northeastern corner is clearly a longstanding problem, as 4m from the corner a stone buttress has been built against the northern face of the wall (photo 40). The crack has also been partially infilled internally.

There is a straight joint at least 2m high within the eastern wall that may represent a blocked entrance (photo 41). Collapsing masonry c.1.3m to the north may indicate the other side of the former entrance although this would offset the entrance to the north.

To the west, c.15.5m from the western end, the southern wall rises again to accommodate a large stone gateway (photos 37 & 38). The opening is 2.4m wide, and sits on top of a revetment wall so there is currently a drop of c.1.4m on to the exterior ground level. The top of the opening is framed by a gently curving arch built of narrow vertical slabs with a central keystone, above which is a very large tapering stonework lintel. Internally the sides of the gateway project inwards slightly, currently up to 0.6m, but the exposed masonry suggests it may have extended slightly further inwards. Projecting stonework from the lintel also suggests a partial covering. The Parks and Gardens Listing description (PGW 2002) records a straight joint between the gateway and the wall, and differing stonework indicating a later insertion, although this was not recorded during the current survey. This gateway is mirrored in the northern wall, but without an inwards projection (photo 36).

On the north side of the northern wall, to the west of the main gateway there is small recess 0.5m wide, partially buried (photo 39). This is described by Davis (1989) as an 'aumbry'. There is a second recess to the east of this and higher in the wall, although this may have been caused by tumbled facing stones.

The Southwest Enclosure (photos 44 – 46)

This walled enclosure follows the line of the Garden Enclosure. It measures 24m by 9m, the walls are built in a similar style, up to 3.5m high in places with tapering tops or later heightening. There is a gap midway along the western wall, 2.2m wide, the full height of the wall with squared sides (photo 45).

The southern wall is lower, to give an open aspect to the waterfront as with the garden enclosure. The southeast corner has partially collapsed and presumably been washed away.

The eastern half of the northern wall has also collapsed. Roughly halfway along this wall Davis (1989) suggests a cross wall linking with the western tower. A short return is visible on the western tower at this point, but much of this area is currently obscured by rubble and tree fall. The Parks and Garden Listing description (PGW 2002) also suggests a possible second entranceway within this northern wall. The northern wall of the garden enclosure does stop with a squared end at this point and a lack of tumbled rubble in this area does appear to suggest an entranceway (photo 46).

The culverted stream underneath the western tower is also culverted underneath this enclosure, emerging under a stone-capped culvert to run into the river (photos 53 & 54).

It is thought this enclosure may represent the original entrance court for the hall (PGW 2002).

The Northeast Enclosure (photos 47 & 48)

This area is enclosed to the south by the garden enclosure, to the west by a dividing wall with the northwest enclosure and the main hall building, and to the east by a further stone wall. There are no obvious remains of a northern side to this enclosure. This encloses an area roughly 31m square.

The eastern wall is 19.8m long, but is a continuation of the northwest segment of the northern garden enclosure wall. It runs at a slightly offset angle, c.3m high in places. The top is also tapered/heightened in places. There is a gap of collapsed masonry c.1.6m high and c.0.8m wide through the wall at its southern end, the reason for the collapse is unclear (photo 47).

There are two blocked loopholes along its length, set fairly low in the wall and looking out to the east (photo 48). Davis (1989) suggests the area of collapse may have represented a third loophole.

The wall rises to its northern end, the exposed masonry indicating it did continue further (photo 48). The Parks and Gardens Listing description (PGW 2002) records this end as rising to a gable end, with a short stretch of collapsed walling running towards the main hall. Davis also suggests the remains of a building built against the northern end of the wall, on its west side, with traces of a cross wall running west from that building. These features were not so apparent during the current survey. A large pile of collapsed masonry does lie against the west side of the wall close to its northern end, but there was no clear indication of any structural remains in this area.

There was no indication of a northern side to the enclosure although the current trackway runs close to the northeast corner and may have removed some remains. The area is also densely covered in trees and scrub, and two relatively-recently collected mounds of earth and vegetation lie in this area that may all obscure any structural remains.

The Northwest Enclosure (photos 49 – 52)

This area is enclosed by high walls to its east and north, with the main hall to the south, and currently open to the west. This covers an area roughly 20m square.

The eastern wall is c.3.5m high, built in the typical style with a tapered/heightened top. It is currently 14m long (photo 49). The northern end is obscured by trees and vegetation so it is unclear if it is squared off or originally returned to the west. The southern end has collapsed with a large pile of fallen masonry between it and the main hall. Davis (1989) suggests this fallen masonry may hide a right-angled wall, presumably a former building. Midway along the wall is a large seemingly arched opening, set c.1.3m above the ground level. This may represent the remains of a window. Davis (1989) marks this as a blocked arch, suggesting the interior has collapsed out in recent years.

The northern wall is a similar height and build, currently running for 18m. The western end appears squared off, although this may be a result of later landscaping associated with the estate management of the 18th century house that created a large open aspect to the river flanked by trees in front of the new

house. The eastern end of the wall appears to be partially collapsed, leaving a gap of 2.5m to the eastern wall. It is possible there may have been an original entranceway here, but at a later point this gap has been enclosed by a field gate with the enclosure presumably used to contain livestock.

The stream runs through the western part of this enclosure before it becomes culverted under the western tower. This was presumably also culverted under the northern wall of the enclosure, however currently it pools against the northern side and finds a way through gaps in the masonry of the wall itself (photo 51).

A secondary stream emerges through the gap at the eastern end of the wall, cutting across the enclosure to join the main stream line. In places this stream has washed away topsoil deposits revealing a cobbled surface below (photo 52).

Additional Features

To the northwest of the old hall complex are two large ponds on the stream line that eventually passes under the hall. These were not examined during the course of this survey but they are described as 'probably of ancient origin' (PGW 2002). They are, at least partially, associated with the water management of the old manor house complex. Closer to the manor house this stream is joined by a second stream running along a cut straight-sided channel, running roughly northeast-southwest from the current trackway to the site. A short distance to the south of this a further channel was partially surveyed during the course of these works. This channel was also straight sided, 1.8m wide, but with the edges formed by lime-mortared walls, now largely covered in earth and vegetation. Further partial structural remains ran off to the south of this, but were collapsed and obscured by vegetation. The full arrangement and function of these features are not fully understood at present, the second edition Ordnance Survey map of 1907 (figure 2) shows this channel continuing westwards as a walled structure ending in a curved terminus close to the main northwest – southeast stream line.

The current trackway to the site, a stony track flanked by low stone walls, runs from Boulston farm to the north straight towards the old hall before veering off to run to the east of the garden enclosure. This may run along the line of an original track to the hall, but the southern end that veers to the east is presumably therefore a later alteration. If the southwest enclosure was the main entrance court to the site than the main track to this point has been lost, or may be obscured by 18th century landscaping associated with laying out the parkland in front of the new hall (photo 55).

To the southeast of the old hall complex a row of 10 wooden posts runs for 28.5m out into the river (photo 54). The age of these post is unclear, they are formed of natural tree trunks that show few obvious signs of working. They are presumably associated with maritime activity within the small inlet on which the old manor house is located and may therefore also be 16th century and associated with the manor house itself.

THREATS AND MITIGATION

There appear to be three main immediate threats to the stability of the standing buildings and the integrity of the complex as a whole: tidal and storm damage along the south of the site from the river; tree and vegetation growth; and undermining and structural damage caused by the stream running through the west of the site.

River damage

The remains all lie at the edge of the Western Cleddau, which is already undermining the long southern wall of the garden enclosure. The mortar has been washed out of much of the lower courses, and many of the facing stones have been removed exposing the rubble core behind. Erosion from tidal action will increase with rising sea levels. Climate change is recognised by the Welsh Assembly Government as one of the biggest threats facing the planet. Loss of landscape and heritage caused by it will have a negative impact on the quality of life in Wales and that 'without intervention our distinctive historic environment will degrade' (Environment Strategy for Wales, Welsh Assembly Government 2006). It is estimated that during this century temperatures will rise by 1 – 2 degrees centigrade, that there will be a 2% - 9% rise in precipitation and that sea level will rise by 180mm – 790mm (Wales: Changing Climate Challenging Choices, National Assembly for Wales 2007). Climate change and rising sea levels will: increase coastal erosion; inundate currently dry sites; create more extreme weather conditions promoting erosion of upstanding remains, particularly on areas such as sand dunes. Human responses to climate change will also impact on the historic environment, as new sea defences will be required whilst others will be abandoned under 'managed change'.

Further erosion could put pressure on substantial parts of the wall such as the large ornate gateway entrance.

Repair work to the face of the southern wall of the garden enclosure could help to protect any exposed core work, prevent undermining and slow down the rate of erosion. Regular monitoring would be required to assess the full effect of river erosion and sea level change.

Tree and vegetation growth

The site is situated in mixed woodland which has encroached over much of the ruins. During the course of the survey the positions of numerous trees that grow close to standing structures were also plotted. Ivy has also taken root over areas of the main surviving masonry blocks.

Tree root damage is apparent in several areas and at various points trees have become established within the fabric of the walls themselves, putting pressure on the walls and forcing masonry apart through their gradual growth. Where trees stand close to the walls the movement of the branches or tree collapse could damage structural remains. This can be seen at the northern end of the eastern side of the Northeast enclosure, and also between the western tower and the Southwest enclosure where a large fallen tree has narrowly avoided substantial damage to the tower.

Ivy growth also appears to be forcing apart the stonework in various places, and substantial growth on the northern side of the western tower appears to be contributing to a gradual northwards lean in part of the wall.

The removal of trees or overhanging branches that are putting active pressure on standing structure should be a priority. Other trees standing close to the walls should also be considered for attention. The remarkable survival of the standing structures may be in some part due to the protection from adverse

weather that is offered by the tree cover, therefore wholesale removal of the tree cover should probably be avoided at least until the standing structures have been consolidated through structural repairs.

Care should be taken in the removal of vegetation such as ivy on the walls to avoid pulling out loose masonry and mortar.

Stream

This stream runs through the western part of the complex, under the western tower and Southwest enclosure, eventually exiting into the river via a partially culverted stream on the riverbank. Originally it was feared that this stream was undermining the structure of the western tower, which was causing an outward lean in its north-western corner. The stream has been shown to run through a culvert underneath this tower, and continues to do so in part, although it has clearly become silted up and pools against the northern side of, and occasionally around the whole base of the tower, clearly expanding beyond the bounds of its culvert.

To ensure the prolonged stability of the tower the culvert should be examined structurally and cleaned out to allow the stream to pass freely through it, hopefully removing any active undermining. This will probably also necessitate the removal of the thick growth of ivy on the northern side of the tower, as this is clearly gaining nutrients from the stream at this point and its root action is likely to be adding to the blockage of the culvert. The stability of the tower at this point is uncertain, and structural advice should be sought before undertaking any work around its base.

Similarly the culvert should be examined and cleared as it enters the northwest enclosure from the north. It has clearly become blocked at this point, pooling against the northern side of the wall and then forcing its way through the structure of the wall itself. This is likely to be removing mortar and creating a weak point within the wall which, if allowed to continue, could cause a substantial part of this wall to eventually collapse.

General structural damage

Collapsed walling has exposed rubble core work and structural weaknesses in several areas across the complex. Without facing stones or mortar capping these areas are more susceptible to allow water into the structure, causing further structural damage, especially in cold weather when the water within the walls could freeze and expand.

Within the eastern tower of the main hall a large crack has formed running the full height of the eastern wall where the lower arched entranceway has collapsed. Within the undercroft the ceiling shows clear signs of subsidence on its western side, although there are no obvious signs of recent movement. However, should the undercroft be allowed to collapse it is possible that this will also weaken the remains of the eastern tower, as they are directly connected.

There is clearly a structural problem at the northeast corner of the garden enclosure where the north wall has become partially detached from its southern return. The hole in the east wall of the Northeast enclosure is another clear weak point, as is the arched opening midway along the eastern wall of the Northwest enclosure.

All these structural issues should be monitored regularly to ascertain if they are causing further deterioration, and to establish the best way of repairing or preventing further structural deterioration.

CONCLUSION

Boulston Old Hall is the site of impressive and unusual remains of a 15th and 16th century manor house complex on the banks of the Western Cleddau, occupied by the Wogan family until the early 18th century. The remains consist of the partial standing remains of two towers that would have flanked the main hall, with a well-preserved earlier undercroft below. The hall is surrounded by a series of high-walled enclosures, including a long walled garden terrace fronting the small inlet of the Cleddau on which the complex was established. It is believed that the majority of these structures date to the second half of the 16th century, although the undercroft may be late medieval in date.

Partial recording of the site has been undertaken in the past (Davis 1989), and the history of the site researched for the purposes of its inclusion in the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest (PGW 2002). This project has produced a detailed topographical survey and photographic survey of the site and its structural remains that will hopefully also be supplemented by elevation recordings undertaken by the RCAHMW in the future.

Due to its riverside location the site is susceptible to further coastal erosion, and the impressive standing remains are also under active threat from tree and vegetation cover, as well as stream action within the complex and general structural erosion.

The special interest of the complex is recognised in its Grade II listing in the Cadw/ ICOMOS Register of Parks and Garden of Special Historic Interest in Wales. However, it is hoped that this project has highlighted the site as being considered of high archaeological importance (national). Without intervention, elements of the site will soon collapse. The height of the surviving remains, the presence of a well preserved undercroft and the extent of associated walls and structures demonstrate the importance of the site.

The site also lies on public footpaths, but is probably little visited due to its overgrown state and lack of clear access routes. This has no doubt helped in the preservation of the site, but in its current condition the stability of the structures poses a clear concern for public access.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive will initially be held by DAT, before being passed to the National Monument Record, Aberystwyth.

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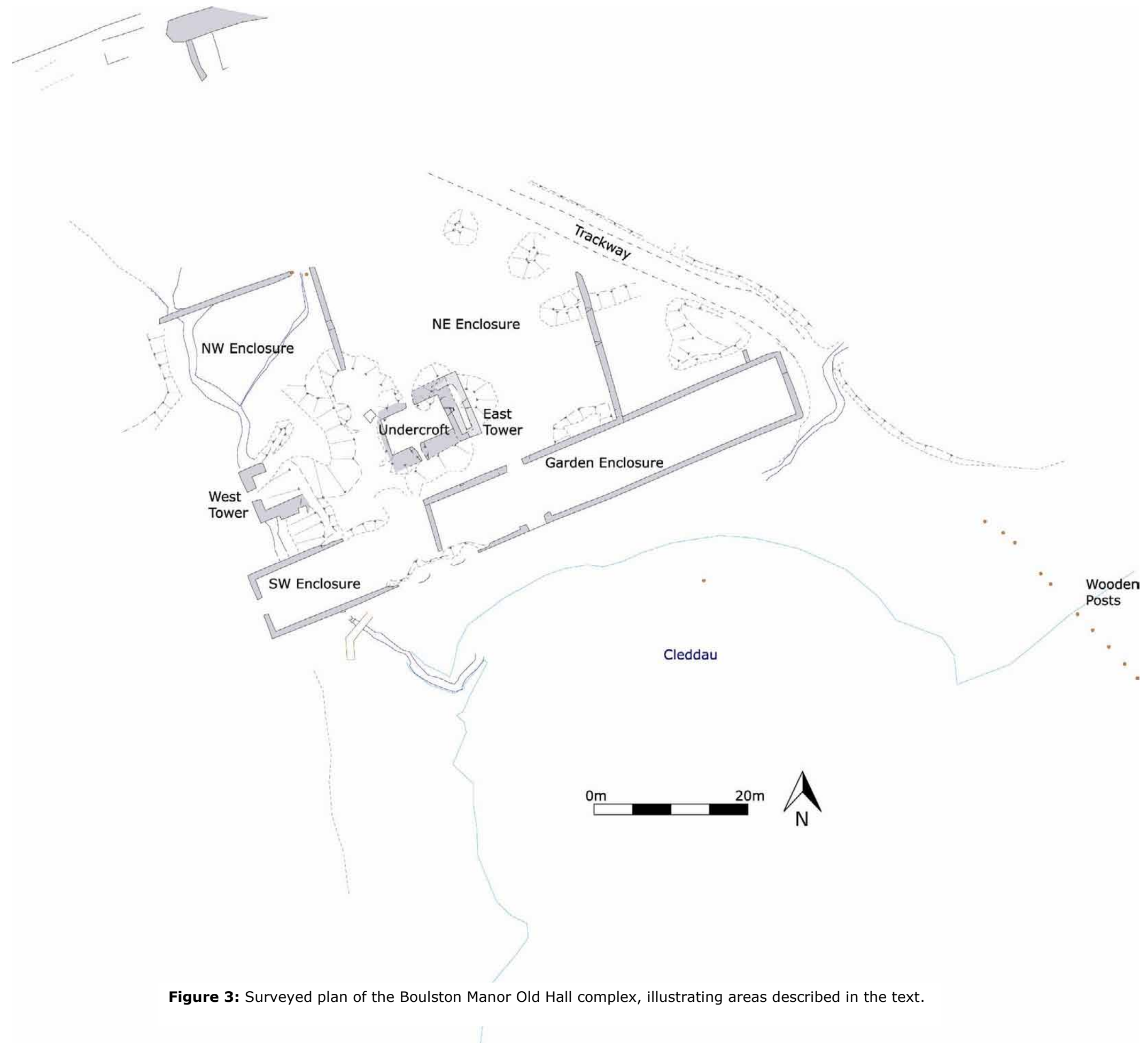


Figure 3: Surveyed plan of the Boulston Manor Old Hall complex, illustrating areas described in the text.

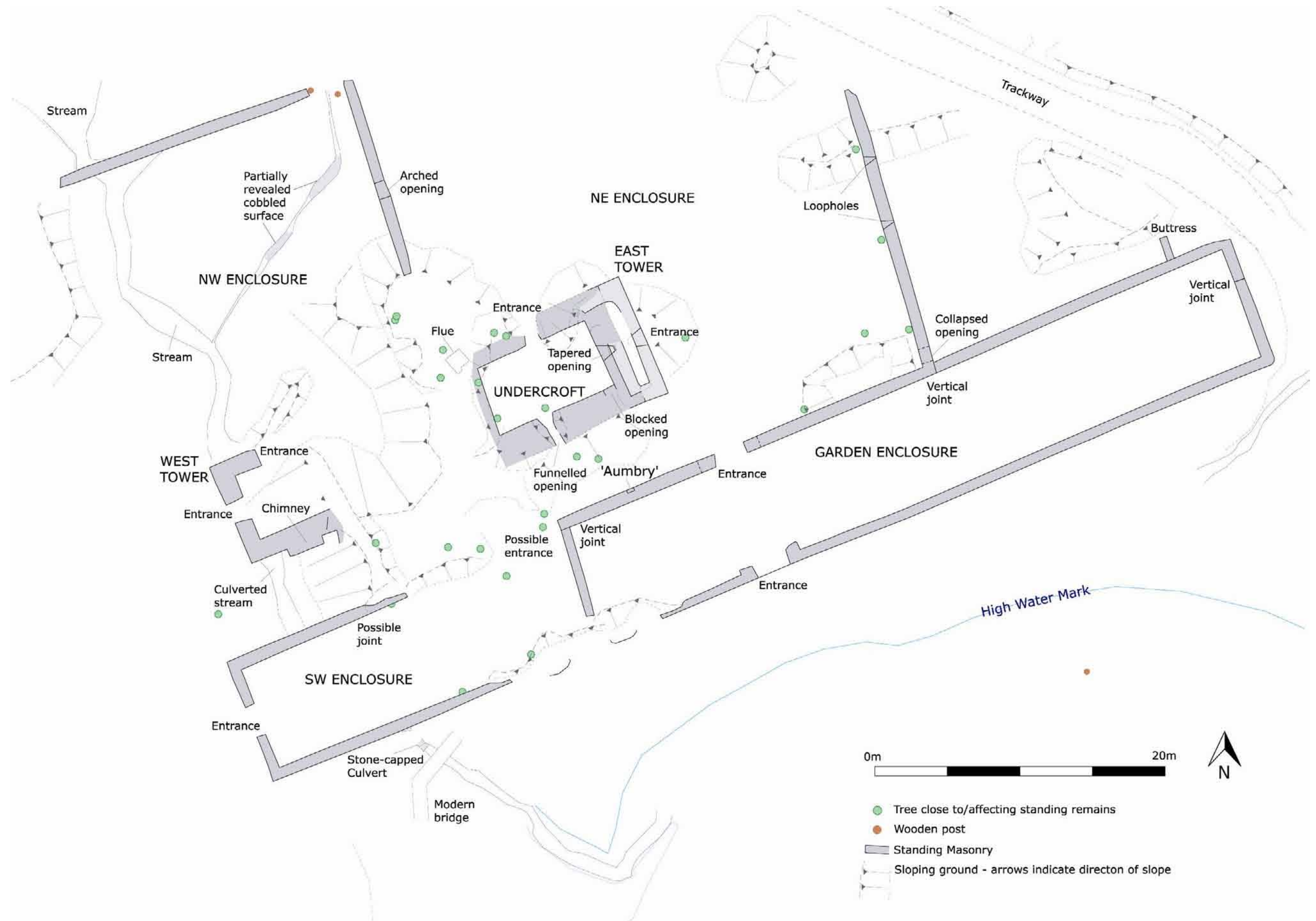


Figure 4: Detailed survey of the main structures and features described in the text. The locations of trees close to or affecting the standing remains are also marked.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: View down the Cleddau from the small inlet in front of Boulston old hall.



Photo 2: View east across the small inlet in front of Boulston old hall.



Photo 3: General view of the main hall area.
The east tower is visible on the right.



Photo 4: General view, looking north from the riverside across the remains of the SW Enclosure with the Western Tower behind.



Photo 5: General view of Eastern Tower looking southwest.



Photo 6: The western face of the Eastern Tower. 1m scale.



Photo 7: Close up of join in the western face. 1m scale.



Photo 8: The eastern face of the Eastern Tower. 1m scale.



Photo 9: Closer view of the collapsed archway and vertical crack above. 1m scale.



Photo 10: Northern face of Eastern Tower, clearly showing earlier segment of walling. 1m scale.



Photo 11: Interior of Eastern Tower showing staircase remains and internal render. 1m scale



Photo 12: Interior of Eastern Tower showing different floor levels and 3rd floor fireplace. 1m scale.



Photo 13: Interior of Eastern Tower showing pinker internal render on 2nd floor. 1m scale.



Photo 14: General view of Western Tower, looking northeast. 1m scale.



Photo 15: Western face of Western Tower. 1m scale.



Photo 16: Section of the wall exposed in the main entrance through the western wall of the Western Tower. 1m scale.



Photo 17: Looking north along the western wall of the Western Tower, showing the outward lean. 1m scale.



Photo 18: Interior of the southern section of the Western Tower. 1st floor fireplace visible, with remnants of chimney stacks at the top.

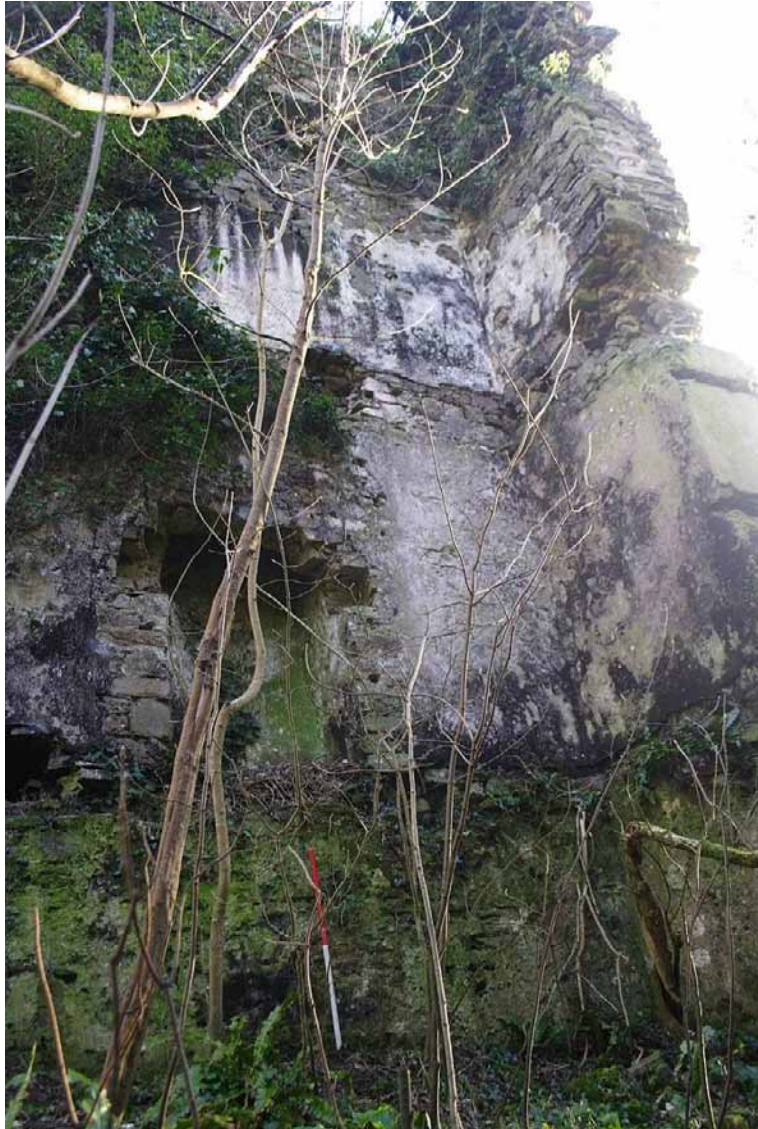


Photo 19: Closer view of the interior of the Western Tower. 1m scale.



Photo 20: Interior of the northern part of the Western Tower, also showing the rendered side of a window in the western wall at 1st floor level. 1m scale.



Photo 21: Stream pooling around the northern side of the Western Tower, also showing thick growth of ivy. 1m scale.



Photo 22: Stream emerging from the culvert on the south side of the Western Tower. 1m scale.



Photo 23: Water collecting around the base of the Western Tower during period of wet weather.



Photo 24: Southern face of the Western Tower, showing the top of the stream culvert, evidence of the former lean-to structure and protruding chimney stack. 1m scale.



Photo 25: 1st floor window remains in the southern wall of the Western Tower, also showing surviving timber lintel. 1m scale.



Photo 26: View south towards the Eastern Tower and main entrance into the undercroft. 1m scale.



Photo 27: Main entrance to the undercroft from the north. 1m scale.



Photo 28: Interior of the undercroft, looking east. 1m scale.



Photo 29: Tapered opening in the eastern wall of the undercroft. 1m scale.



Photo 30: Blocked opening in the southeast corner of the undercroft.



Photo 31: Opening/entrance in southern wall of the undercroft



Photo 32: The interior of the undercroft looking west, showing the collapse in the ceiling and upper courses of the western wall. 1m scale.



Photo 33: Join in the ceiling of the undercroft. View looking north. 1m scale.



Photo 34: Looking northeast at the southern wall of the Garden Enclosure.



Photo 35: Closer view of the southern wall of the garden enclosure, viewed from the south. 1m scale.



Photo 36: Main entrance through the north wall of the Garden Enclosure, viewed from the north.



Photo 37: Main entrance through the southern wall of the Garden Enclosure, viewed from the north. 1m scale.



Photo 38: Main entrance into the Garden Enclosure viewed from the rivers edge. 1m scale.



Photo 39: Northern wall of the Garden Enclosure, viewed from the north. 1m scale laid in front of the 'aumbry'.



Photo 40: Northern wall of the Garden Enclosure looking southeast. Buttress visible to the left. 1m scale.



Photo 41: Interior of the eastern wall of the Garden Enclosure, showing the vertical joint of a possible entranceway. 1m scale.



Photo 42: Interior of the southern wall at the southeast corner of the Garden Enclosure. Straight vertical joint visible to the left of the 1m scale.



Photo 43: Damage at the north-eastern corner of the Garden Enclosure. 1m scale.



Photo 44: Interior of the Southwest Enclosure, looking southwest. 1m scale.



Photo 45: Entranceway through the western wall of the Southwest Enclosure. 1m scale.



Photo 46: View looking east at the eastern wall of the Southwest Enclosure. 1m scale.



Photo 47: Looking west at the eastern wall of the Northeast Enclosure. 1m scale.



Photo 48: Northern end of the eastern wall of the Northeast Enclosure. Blocked loophole visible to the left of the 1m scale.



Photo 49: Eastern wall of the Northwest Enclosure, looking northeast. 1m scale.



Photo 50: Northern wall of the Northwest Enclosure, looking northwest. 1m scale.



Photo 51: Water seeping through the northern wall of the Northwest Enclosure. 1m scale.



Photo 52: Cobbled surface uncovered in the Northwest Enclosure.



Photo 53: Culverted stream running out from underneath the Southwest Enclosure, looking north. 1m scale.



Photo 54: Stream running out into the river. 1m scale.



Photo 54: The line of wooden posts alongside the small inlet in front of the old hall, looking east.



Photo 55: The 'new' Boulston Hall viewed from the southeast.

BOULSTON MANOR, PEMBROKESHIRE: BUILDING RECORDING

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2012/27

**Mawrth 2012
March 2012**

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by Philip Poucher

Swydd / Position: Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
This report has been checked and approved by

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position:

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau
sydd gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any
comments you may have on the content or presentation of this report



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