

**The Garden Walls
Harrowden Hall
Great Harrowden
Northamptonshire
NN9 5AD
NGR: SP 88497 71137**

Event UID: Applied for NCC 20/12/21
Planning Ref: NW/21/00042/LBC

**A
Written Scheme of Investigation**

Prepared by

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1. Introduction

Planning consent has been granted by North Northamptonshire Council (Wellingborough Area) NW/21/00042/LBC for the repairs to garden walls and their copings at Harrowden Hall, near Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. Conditions 5 and 6 specify that:

5 . Prior to the commencement of any works, and of building recording, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) shall be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority. The recording should focus on the phasing of the wall, the features to be obscured and materials potentially lost through removal of failed materials, and the wall's context.

6. A programme of historic building recording commensurate with Historic England "Level 2 Record" as set out in *Understanding Historic Buildings*, Historic England (2016), has been secured and undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the local planning authority. A bound hard copy and digital copy of the recording report will be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record prior to the completion of the works, or within three months of the recording survey being completed, whichever is the sooner. Project details and a digital copy of the report will be uploaded to the Archaeology Data Service OASIS website by the contractor.

Circumstances at Harrowden Hall are such that work has begun with the removal of coping stones, chasing out of weathered brickwork and removal of decayed mortar. The wall is partially supported by gabions and has been scaffolded to allow the work to begin. Work has presently been stopped, subject to approval of this Written Scheme.

This Written Scheme proposes the preparation of a report based on pre-start video and still photography by the site contractor, supplemented by photography after the start of works.

The Hall is a Grade I listed building of *circa* 1720 attributed to Smith of Warwick and built for the Wentworth-Watson family with formal Dutch inspired gardens with walled and railed enclosures built at the same time; the walls and several other elements of the gardens are listed and the park and garden as a whole is listed Grade II*. Because the house ceased to be the family's principal home by the mid-18th century, little was done to upgrade the gardens subsequently and they represent a rare example of a formal garden of the period.

The walls are mainly of brick with some rubblestone where it was less visible, and appear to have originally had ironstone copings – most of which have been weathered to such an extent that they have crumbled away and also suffer from plant colonisation.

Because of the requisite works and the high heritage value of the walls, the gardens and the Hall, the local authority consulted Place Services for heritage advice, and they considered that a Level 2 survey of the walls be undertaken to provide a degree of ‘preservation by record’ of the walls in their present condition as far as is practicable.

2. Recording Levels

The standard recording levels recommended by Historic England are based on those first formulated by the former Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) in the 1980's. A Level 2 Survey is described as:

a descriptive record, made in similar circumstances to Level 1 but when more information is needed. It may be made of a building which is judged not to require a more detailed record, or it may serve to gather data for a wider project. Both the exterior and interior of the building will be seen, described and photographed. The examination of the building will produce an analysis of its development and use and the record will include the conclusions reached, but it will not discuss in detail the evidence on which this analysis is based. A plan and sometimes other drawings may be made but the drawn record will normally not be comprehensive and may be tailored to the scope of a wider project.¹

A Level 3 record introduces a greater degree of analysis and discussion, it is:

'an analytical record, and will comprise an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the building's origins, development and use. The record will include an account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail. It will also include all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the building's appearance and structure and to support an historical analysis'.

3. Aims & Objectives

The primary aim of the study is to meet the requirements of the planning conditions outlined above. It is to provide an appropriately detailed record and understanding of the building prior to the proposed changes, thus providing an appropriate degree of 'preservation by record'.

The latest guidelines for such recording and analysis are set out in the Historic England publication *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* of 2016 – the latest iteration of guidelines dating back to the RCHM(E) publication of 1990. These outline the most appropriate recording techniques and the detail and depth required, based on the significance of the building, its structural complexity, and the proposals for change.

Based on that advice, the basic level of the archaeological analysis and recording will be equal to that of an Historic England Level 2/3 survey, suitably enhanced and adapted to the requirements of the site with a greater degree of description, photography and use of annotated existing survey drawings.

¹ Historic England, 2016, *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*, 5.2.1

4. The Main Works

4.1 The Recording

The main element of the work is an appropriate photographic record of the garden walls to allow for a degree of preservation by record of the fabric and a record of the necessary repairs made to them as part of these necessary works.

4.2 Assessment & Context

The work will also include an appropriate level of documentary research and a detailed architectural and archaeological assessment of the walls – to understand its original design, layout, and function and any significant changes to them and thus to place the photographic record in context.

Due to the on-going issues regarding the Covid-19 pandemic and the consequent limited access to primary archival sources means that the documentary background element will necessarily be more limited than usual, but a considerable amount of research has been undertaken on the site – and certain enough for an appropriately detailed background to the survey.

4.3 Specifications

The basic level of the survey work will be roughly equal to that of an English Heritage Level 2/3 survey, suitably enhanced and adapted to the requirements of the site with a greater degree of description, photography and use of annotated existing survey drawings if necessary.

4.3.1 Documentary Research

An appropriate degree of documentary research will be undertaken to place the site into its national and regional context. This will include a brief introduction to the area and the history of the development of the site. Map regression and any readily available documentary sources related to the buildings will be studied and used in the production of the report to place them in their historical context.

4.3.2 Structural Analysis & Heritage Assessment

As far as practicable the walls will be described and discussed in outline prior to an overall assessment of its development and its significance in local, regional and national contexts as well as its heritage value. The degree of detail will only be proportionate to the needs of the project.

4.3.3 Survey Plans

The photographic survey will be based on existing plans of the garden area associated with the walls, annotated as necessary and checked for detail. Copies of the plans will be used, as appropriate, to illustrate the survey if needed.

4.3.4 Photography

The main element of the survey work is a full photographic survey. This will include general views to place the gardens and their walls into context, and full detailed views of both sides of the walls with suitable scales; because of the necessary scaffolding in place some of this work will need to be undertaken once the scaffolding has been removed. Most of the photography will undertaken on 12mp professional grade Nikon DSLRs using appropriate lenses.

4.3.5 The Report

The main report will be produced within the consultancy's in-house *Mercian Heritage Series* (latest report, No.1834). It can be produced as a wire-bound A4 copy and digitally as a pdf, provided on a DVD or online in a digital format. The initial report will incorporate an appropriate amount of background information to place the walls into their historical context and the catalogue of the photographs taken – with their locations outlined on a suitable plan.

4.3.6 Archive

The nature of the proposed works mean that the archive produced will be essentially digital, consisting of the report and embedded photographs in .pdf format – though backed up by hard copies of the report and an archival DVD of the whole photographic survey (if requested). Due to the nature of the work it will be deposited with ADSEasy. The report will be presented to the Northamptonshire Archaeological Advisory Service for approval prior to deposition. The relevant OASIS form will also be completed.

4.3.7 Staffing & Experience

Most of the work will be undertaken by Richard K Morriss *MA(Hons) MSocSc* who founded his Consultancy in 1995. He had previously spent eight years as Assistant Director of the Hereford Archaeology Unit, developing its buildings archaeology team, and has also worked for English Heritage and the Ironbridge Gorge Museum. He is a former Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, archaeological consultant to four cathedrals, an occasional Lecturer with Birmingham and Bristol universities, and the author or co-author of many academic papers and of over 20 books. The consultancy works throughout the UK on historic buildings analysis and recording as well as planning assessments and conservation management plans.

4.4 Timetable

The site work and reporting will be completed in four weeks following the initial site visit. Full archive to be deposited within 6 months of the completion of field work.

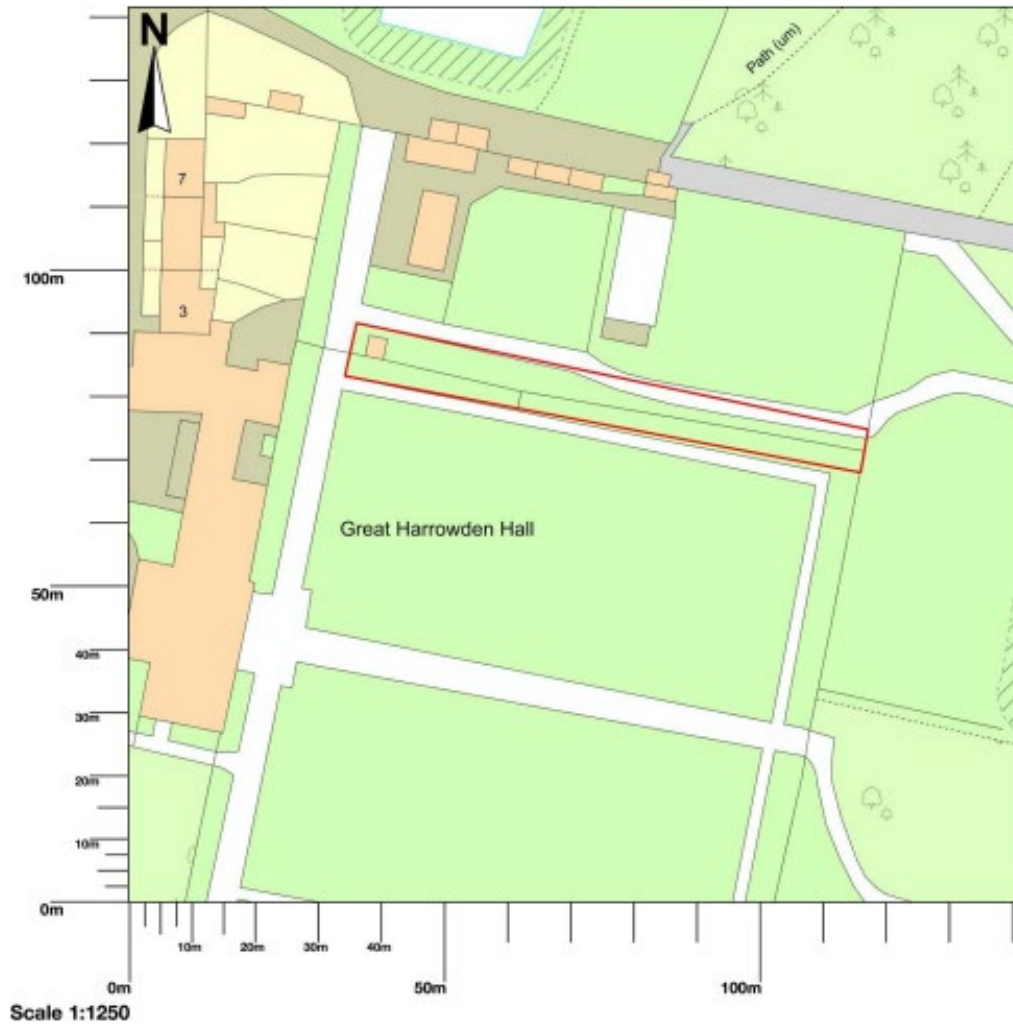
4.5 Copyright

Copyright of the reports and information gathered will be transferred to the client and is transferable to any new owners or developers of the site as the client sees fit; intellectual copyright remains with the consultancy.

4.6 Health & Safety

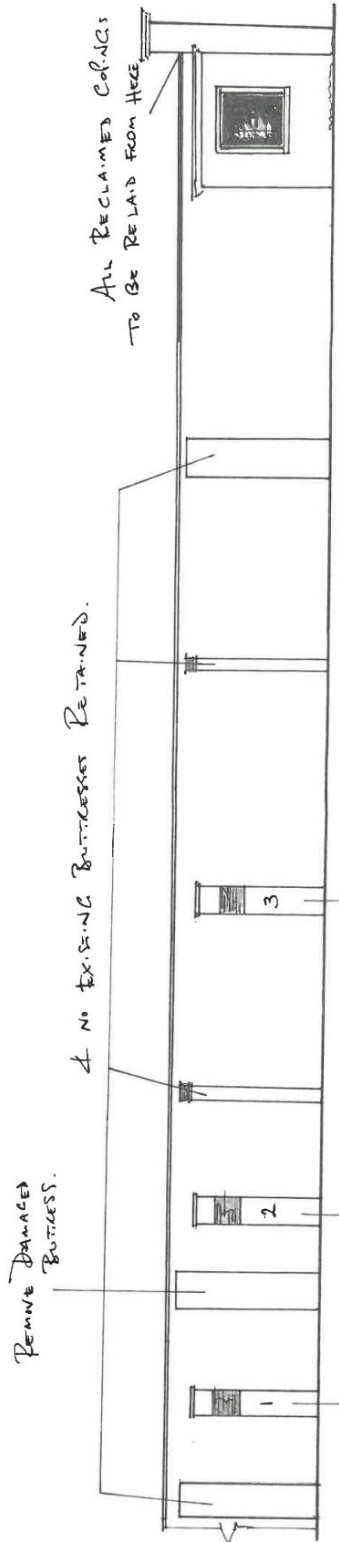
The Consultancy is cognisant of its responsibilities regarding health and safety issues and carries public and professional liability insurance. All PPE will be available and used as necessary.

WGC Garden Wall Project



Site Location Plan (©WGC)

SCALE 1:100.



KITCHEN GARDEN WALL PLAN
REMEDICATION WORKS.
WEMINGBOLOUGH GOLF CLUB
SCALE 1:100. JUNE 2021.

Garden Wall Proposals Plan – north elevation (©WGC)



The Consultancy

Richard K Morriss founded this Consultancy in 1995 after previously working for English Heritage and the Ironbridge Institute of the University of Birmingham and spending eight years as Assistant Director of the Hereford Archaeology Unit. Although Shropshire-based the Consultancy works throughout the UK on a wide variety of historic buildings for clients that include the National Trust, the Landmark Trust, English Heritage, the Crown Estates, owners, architects, planning consultants and developers. It specialises in the archaeological and architectural analysis of historic buildings of all periods and planning advice related to them. It also undertakes broader area appraisals and Conservation Management Plans.

*Richard Morriss is a former Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and of the Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists, archaeological advisor to four cathedrals, occasional lecturer at Bristol and Birmingham universities, and author of many academic papers and of 20 books, mainly on architecture and archaeology, including *The Archaeology of Buildings* (Tempus 2000), *The Archaeology of Railways* (Tempus 1999); *Roads: Archaeology & Architecture* (Tempus 2006) and ten in the *Buildings of series: Bath, Chester, Ludlow, Salisbury, Shrewsbury, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick, Winchester, Windsor, Worcester* (Sutton 1993-1994). The latest work is an Historic England funded monograph on the *Houses of Hereford* (Oxbow 2018). He was a member of the project team responsible for the restoration of Astley Castle, Warwickshire, winner of the 2013 RIBA Stirling Prize.*



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