

Proposed taking down of dangerous gable wall and subsequent restoration of Listed Stone Barn at Turnastone Court Farm, Turnastone, Vowchurch, Herefordshire

Design and Access Statement

This proposal is intended to address the immediate and dangerous structural collapse of the west end gable of the listed stone barn. No change in either the design or the materials used in this building is proposed when the wall is rebuilt.

Various schemes have been considered, in consultation with the Structural Engineer, including providing temporary or permanent raking shores to prevent the imminent collapse of the gable wall. The conclusion has been that the only safe way to proceed is to carefully take down the existing fragile and leaning stonework to foundation level. Excavate for and construct new foundations and rebuild the stone wall reusing the saved stone and rebuilding to the existing design. (See letter from engineer that includes his structural assessment, which is attached.)

To prevent the collapse of the barn roof it is proposed to erect a temporary support scaffold inside the barn which will also provide access to the inside face of the wall at all levels. It is proposed that the wall should be dismantled working from the inside (as the wall leans outwards this is the safest procedure) and the stone taken from the wall identified and placed on pallets to be stored inside the barn until rebuilding begins. The intention is to rebuild the wall as far as possible placing the stones back in their original positions.

It is proposed that temporary sheeting will be put in place across the end of the barn to stop weather ingress.

Many of the existing stones, especially in the external base of the wall have fractured and fragmented under weathering and perhaps increased load as the wall has tipped and because of their small size may not be reusable in the rebuilding of the wall. Please see attached photographs taken 1 May 2007. Evaluation of the amount of original material not reusable in rebuilding will only be possible following the complete dismantling of the wall. At that time, in consultation with the Trust's Archaeologist and Structural Engineer a design for rebuilding incorporating all the reusable stone will be put forward to Hereford Council Officers for consideration and comment. It is the intention of the client, The Countryside Restoration Trust, to rebuild using the original techniques and materials as far as is possible. The walls will be rebuilt using the stone from the existing wall in coursed random rubble set in lime mortar with recessed joints, rebuilding the original narrow ventilation slots in there existing positions and reusing the oak lintels.

The high level loading opening that is at present blocked with modern concrete blocks, will be reformed with oak lintol over and a timber faced door and hard wood frame fitted.

Peter Crump 5 May 2007