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Report Upon Visual Inspection

Address: The Barford Inn, Barford St Martin, Nr Salisbury

Carried out by: F Baverstock

Date of Inspection: 1 October 2025

Purpose of Inspection: To carry out an inspection of a boundary wall and make remedial recommendations.

Limitations: This inspection was limited to the wall along the western side of the site and no other structures were inspected so I cannot report that they are free from defect.

Observations: This inspection was carried out from the eastern side of the wall.

At the southern end of the wall it is about 2.0 metres high by 10.0 metres long. Along the top there are four or five courses of brick and below that it is chalk cob. The top of the wall is covered with polythene but I suspect the wall was originally thatched but more recently it was covered with slates. The brickwork was in good condition but there has been some erosion of the chalk cob particularly at low level. A concern with this length of wall is that towards the southern end there is a large tree the branches of which overhang the wall and it is likely that the branches are in contact with the top of the wall during high winds.

The middle 10.0 metres of wall is completely missing.

At the northern end of the wall it is again about 2.0 metres high and about 9.0 metres long. There is a large brick column at the northern end of the wall and brickwork along part of the bottom. There is some localized brick and stone repairs to the wall and there has been some significant erosion of the wall at the northern end. There is a very large tree stump at the southern end of this section of wall.

Attached to this report there are six photographs which show the condition of the wall.

Conclusions:

I consider that it may be possible to repair the southern end of the wall. My concern with this section of wall is the large tree. I consider that its size needs to be reduced in order to protect the wall.

Obviously the middle 10.0 metres has to be rebuilt.

The wall at the northern end has already been repaired locally and there is quite a large area where the cob has eroded. I think that although it may be possible to repair this wall I consider that the most sensible solution is to take down this section of wall and rebuild it.

I think that it would be useful to discuss how the wall is to be rebuilt. As an engineer I consider that if the wall was rebuilt using concrete block which are rendered this would greatly increase the longevity of the wall.

If the wall was rebuilt in cob and rendered and properly maintained it would be satisfactory for a long time but I think that we all know that a cob wall in this situation does not get well maintained. This is why it is in its present condition.

Remedial Action: This is my recommendation.

I would like to see the large tree reduced in size so that it cannot make contact with the wall.

Repair the 10.0 metres of the cob wall at the southern end and re-render with a lime render. Provide a good capping with a large overhang – subject to approval I suggest that this capping is slate.

Obviously the centre section of wall has to be rebuilt. My recommendation is to rebuild the wall with concrete blocks which can be rendered. This wall must also have a good capping.

Finally my recommendation for the wall at the northern end of the wall is to be rebuilt the same at the centre section.

Provide movement joints between the middle section and the two end sections.

Signed:



Date: 31 October 2025

BOUNDARY WALL, THE BRADFORD INN, BRADFORD ST. MARTIN



BOUNDARY WALL, THE BARFORD INN, BARFORD ST. MARTIN



