

16th March 2008 The Flood in the Heygate Field. Great Bowden

G. B. Cemetery. The Long Wall.

Post- Removal of the excessive ivy growth.

Photographic disclosures of evidence after heavy rainfall 15th/16th March 08.

The Heygate Field. Water is retained in two areas against the wall which drains off below ground finding the line along the footings not directly to the Gunnsbrook. totally as surface drain off.

The wet ground has an adverse effect especially at the middle section resulting it appears in the bottom part sagging away from the upper structure effecting a bridging ie. The foundation is not supporting as intended. Result is that a state of flexing is subsequently occurring with three quarters of the wall length leans into the burial area a good 3".or so.

11 am. 16th. March 08. Took a measurement from the datum set in place earlier that week down to the water surface both sides of wall, 10" higher field side than cemetery side water squirting through along a number of places for quite away along this horizontal fracture.

Permanent relief from this ponding would enable this fracture to be filled in wedged up reinstating the support hopefully stop the stress flexing of the wall.

Quantities Note,

The straight wall above ground level 75 yards long 14" thickness, ie, 3 bricks wide. 26,000. bricks. 160 ton constructed weight factor.

All sizes are not final, for guidance only taken as net, subject to confirmation.

The wall foundation construction is unknown here.

The waste ground wall, a concrete footing was exposed earlier.

Historic Note.

An archaeological survey made some time ago within the Heygate field the large rectangular shaped dike like cutting adjacent to the waste ground near the Dingley road part of the field, revealed that raised areas like this was probably a preparatory practice for housing in earlier times. The wall appears to have crossed this cut out. Cemetery side reveals little evidence to the untrained eye as to its continuation probably infilled when the wall was under construction.

1850/1880. many Church Yard burials were stopped and closed for good.

26.01.1880. The first interment at Great Bowden Cemetery 15 per year the average until 1920. Around 1,600. to date since the beginning.

