

In March 2017, it was recognised that with many tons of spoil to move it would take the Friends a few years to make further serious inroads. The contractors came on site for another short period of intense and skilled activity. Some massive discoveries were made: we 'found' the basin at the foot of the Dropping Well, and we uncovered the gorge which the 'rustic bridge' would originally have spanned, and we found the remains of a very large Pulhamite vase or urn, with a diameter of at least 1 metre.



In early May 2017, guided by a 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map showing the Fernery and its paths, we uncovered a 'lost' path above the grotto, still with its original gravel surface. It ends with a sudden stop before the 'gorge' which might have been the point where the Victorians crossed to the other side over a 'rustic bridge'.



To our amazement, a water pipe was uncovered in mid-May 2017 adjacent to the Dropping Well, with a built in key/tap to control the water flow, and the Council has agreed to replace a couple of large Pulhamite stones that fell many years ago from the top of the grotto.

