

Note

POND ISSUES

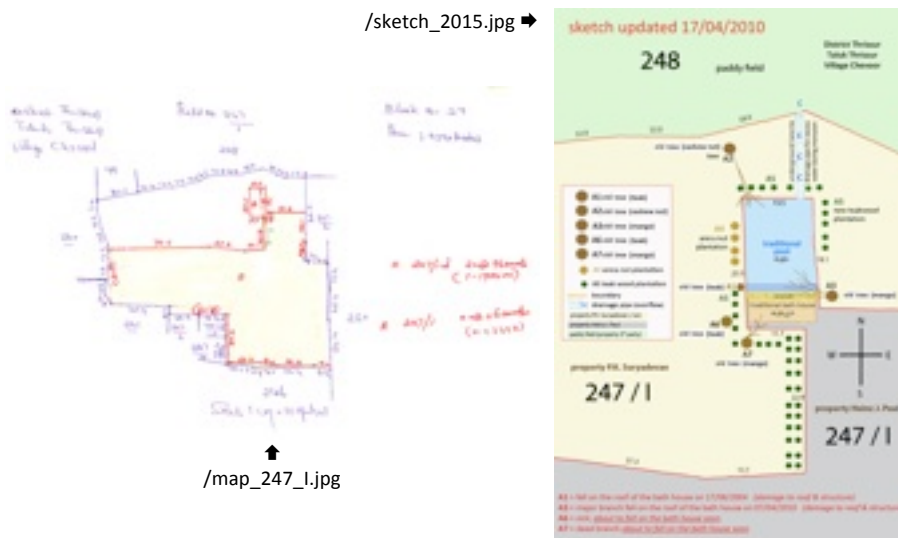
Here: Overflow Drainage Chal

1. The Overflow Drainage Chal:

The about 200 years old traditional pond (tank, [kollam]), located at the northern end of my property, survey No. 247/I, has an overflow provision built into the northern laterite foundation wall.

During monsoon, when the water in the pond has reached to a level of about 1 meter beyond the property ground level, a chal, built out of solid laterite stones, drains the excess water to the next paddy field which comes under survey no. 248 as per the sketch of District Thrissur, Taluk Thrissur, Village Chevoor.

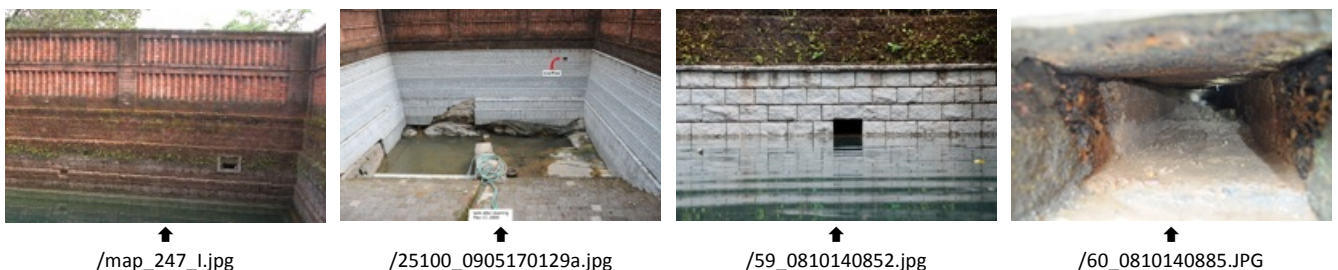
TABLE 1: Location Of The Pond And The Drainage Chal¹



2. Measurements of the Drainage Chal:

The inner measurements of the drainage chal:	30 cm x 20 cm (length x height)	- approximately
The outer measurement of the drainage chal:	45 cm x 50 cm (length x height)	- approximately
The length of the drainage chal ² :	13.50 cm -	- approximately

TABLE 2: Entry Of The Overflow Drainage Chal | View Into The Inside Of The Drainage Chal



3. The Issue: Blocking The Outlet Of The Drainage Pipe Into The Paddy Field

In September 2010 I observed that the Overflow Drainage Chal has been blocked by the respondent. Consequently during monsoon the water since this time has no way to go anymore and submerses the veranda of the bath house (kollappura) every year; the bath house is also an about 200 years old monument attached to the traditional pond.

TABLE 3: Submersion Of The Monument After The Blocking Of The Drainage Chal



¹ photolocation: <http://pool.mykeral.net/assets/images/>
² from the inner side of the foundation to the outlet into the paddyfield.

4. The Temporary Solution: Un-Blocking The Outlet Of The Drainage Pipe Into The Paddy Field

- a) In a first effort to remove the blockage, a plastic pipe of \varnothing 13 cm diameter was pushed through the laterite drainage chal. While 12 meter plastic pipe could this way be pushed through the drainage pipe, an unknown obstacle prevented top push the plastic pive further towards the outlet.
- b) In a second effort a 20mm galvd. pipe of 15 meter length was pushed through the plastic pipe. With some effort the metal pipe could be pushed through the blockage and reached the paddy field. Subsequently water was pumped into the metal pipe into the unblocked outlet of the drainage chal.
- c) The drainage pipe had been filled at the outlet into the paddy field with rubbles, stones and mud; the outlet was also buried under a heap of rubbles, stones and mud. By removing these blockages the free flow of the water was restored.

TABLE 4: Entry Of The Overflow Drainage Chal | View Into The Inside Of The Drainage Chal



5. Incidents During The Process Of Un-Blocking The Flow Of Water Into The Paddy Field.

On Sunday, October 25th, while pushing the aforesaid metal pipe from the pond side through the drainage chal, the son of the respondent appeared at about 10:30 and asked what we were doing. Answering that we try to push the metal pipe through the blocking towards the end of the drainage chal, he insisted that the blockage was done by him without giving further explanation.

On Sunday, November 1st, when we had successfully unblocked the drainage chal from the side of the paddy field, the respondent appeared at about 10 am with another person to object, argued that we did not have the authority to unblock the outlet from the paddy field side and threatened to complain to the police.

TABLE 5: The Respondent Objecting The Unblocking Of The Overflow Chal



Our argument that his interest of enjoying his property is in no way effected while removing the blockage, fell on deaf ears.

6. Afterthought

Though the blockage, preventing for a few years during monsoon that the excess water is drained into the next paddy field and caused considerable damage to the traditional bath house, a monument, has been removed for the time being, the following issues remain.

- a) The attitude of the respondents indicates that he may again interfere and block the flow of water through the laterite drainage chal, running 1 meter under ground level at a length of 13.5 meter through the property owned by him/his son.
- b) From the paddy field side also there is the possibility of alienating it. The paddy field is not used for cultivation anymore and permission for constructions may be obtained in the long run after legal hassles of ownership have once been settled.

As there is no other natural way for excess water to be drained than the way it was originally planned and executed, the question arises if the protection of the heritage site can be secured by preventive legal action.

Cherpu, November 11, 2015