

NATIONAL PARK CARAVAN SITE, SAGESTON, PEMBROKESHIRE HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING (NGR SN 0532 0317)



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
For: Ateb Group Limited



DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

REPORT NO. 2020-06
EVENT RECORD No.120803

March 2020

**NATIONAL PARK CARAVAN SITE,
SAGESTON, PEMBROKESHIRE:
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING
(NGR SN 0532 0317)**

By

Hubert Wilson



Paratowyd yr adroddiad yma at ddefnydd y cwsmer yn unig. Ni dderbynnir cyfrifoldeb gan Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf am ei ddefnyddio gan unrhyw berson na phersonau eraill a fydd yn ei ddarllen neu ddibynnu ar y gwybodaeth y mae'n ei gynnwys

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Client

Ateb Group Ltd

Event Record No

120803

Report No

2020-06

Project Code

FS18-047

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Rev Number	Description	Undertaken	Approved	Date
	Final	HW	PP	30/03/20

NATIONAL PARK CARAVAN SITE, SAGESTON, PEMBROKESHIRE: HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

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**NATIONAL PARK CARAVAN SITE,
SAGESTON, PEMBROKESHIRE:
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2019 a Level 2 Building Recording was carried out on the site of the former RAF Cheriton, near Sageston, Pembrokeshire prior to proposed development. The survey recorded the remains of one standing building, and the surface remains of a number of domestic and ancillary buildings, dating to the Second World War.

CRYNODEB GWEITHREDOL

Yn 2019 cynhaliwyd Cofnod Adeilad Lefel 2 ar safle hen RAF Cheriton, ger Sageston, Sir Benfro, cyn y datblygiad arfaethedig. Cofnododd yr arolwg weddillion un adeilad sefydlog, ac olion wyneb nifer o adeiladau domestig ac ategol, sy'n dyddio o'r Ail Ryfel Byd.

SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services, in response to a request from Ateb Group Limited, were commissioned to undertake an archaeological scheme of historic building recording at Sageston, Pembrokeshire centred on NGR SN 05320317. The proposed development area lies within part of the Second World War airfield of RAF Cheriton (PRN 26123). The remains of structures survive within the proposed development area but only one structure survives relatively intact, the former YMCA building. Outline planning permission for development has been granted (planning reference 11/0485/PA). The requirement for a scheme to record these structures prior to their demolition had been placed upon the development by Pembrokeshire County Council (Local Planning Authority) following advice from their archaeological advisors, Dyfed Archaeological Trust - Development Management.

The archaeological advisors stated a Level 2 record was required, as defined in Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to best recording practice (Historic England 2016). Level 2 is a descriptive record, made in circumstances similar to those of Level 1 (basic photographic survey) but when more information is needed. Therefore in order to augment the photographic survey a topographic survey using a Trimble 5600 Total Station Theodolite (TST) was also carried out.

The area is not a scheduled monument nor does it contain any listed buildings, but is recorded on the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record (HER) under record number (PRN 26123). It is not recorded on the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales National Monuments Record.

The photographic and TST surveys were carried out between the April 30th and May 3rd 2019.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services, in response to a request from Ateb Group Limited, were commissioned to undertake an archaeological scheme of historic building recording works within part of Cheriton Airfield, Sageston, Pembrokeshire (SN 05320317) prior to residential development on the site. The requirement for a scheme to record the building prior to its renovation has been placed upon the development by Pembrokeshire County Council (Local Planning Authority) following advice from their archaeological advisors, Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management (DAT-DM).
- 1.1.2 Outline planning permission has been granted for the development by Pembrokeshire County Council (Planning reference 11/0485/PA), which includes a number of conditions, one of which relates to archaeology. Condition number 5 states: *No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. This shall be in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Reason: To ensure the recording of any items of archaeological interest to accord with Policy 84 (Archaeological Remains) of the Joint Unitary Development Plan for Pembrokeshire (adopted 13 July 2006).*
- 1.1.3 The historic building recording scheme will be undertaken to a Level 2 standard as defined in the Historic England 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice' (2016). Due to the nature of the buildings and the fact that all remains will be removed, plans will be made of the remains of the structures (a slightly more detailed survey than typically required for Level 2, which is described thus:
- Level 2 is a descriptive record, made in circumstances similar to those of Level 1 (basic photographic survey) but when more information is needed. ... The record will present conclusions regarding the building's development and use, but will not discuss in detail the evidence on which these conclusions are based. A plan and sometimes other drawings may be made* In this case it is proposed that full footprint plans of the buildings will be recorded.
- 1.1.4 A written scheme of investigation was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services, which outlined the methodology by which the historic building works would be undertaken. This was approved by DAT-DM prior to works commencing.
- 1.1.5 The historic building recording has been undertaken in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological investigation and recording of Standing Buildings and Structures* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 1996, revised 2001 & 2008).

1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The village of Sageston is a straggling, largely modern, settlement that lies either side of the old A477(T) road centred on NGR SN 0550 0325, some 7km due east of Pembroke Dock in south Pembrokeshire (Figure 1). The landscape is characterised by undulating ground on a gentle north facing slope down to an east-west running tributary of the Carew River, which is itself a tributary of the Milford Haven waterway. The development area (centered on NGR SN 0529 0317, at 15m OD) comprises a c.3.47 hectare

enclosed plot of land sandwiched between the old A477 (T) road and the new A477 (T) bypass at the southwest edge of the village (Figure 2). The site is currently partly used as a storage area by PCNPA but is mostly disused. Vegetation and grass covers the majority of the hardstanding derelict foundations of demolished domestic and ancillary buildings.

- 1.2.2 The underlying solid geology of the area is represented by Carboniferous Limestone of the undivided Dinantian series (British Geological Survey 1994), and beyond the project area to the east this gives way first to Millstone Grit and then the Coal Measures of the Pembrokeshire anthracite coalfield. To the west of the project area the underlying geology is represented by the Devonian Lower Old Red Sandstone (ORS) which also forms the higher land of The Ridgeway some 2.5 km to the south. The soil in both the limestone and ORS areas affords good, fertile, well drained farmland, which contrasts starkly with the less fertile soils of the Millstone Grit and Coal Measure areas to the east.

1.3 Scope of the Project

- 1.3.1 The building recording was designed to record the existing fabric of the structures (at the time of the survey) through a combination of a photographic survey, along with site notes, drawings and historic research.

1.4 Report Outline

- 1.4.1 This report describes the location of the site, its known archaeological and historical background and photographs of the site. Sources are referenced within the text or as footnotes.

1.5 Abbreviations

- 1.5.1 Regional Historic Environment Record – HER; Primary Record Number – PRN; National Grid Reference – NGR; Written Scheme of Investigation – WSI.

1.6 Illustrations

- 1.6.1 Record photographs are included throughout the text. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale and are illustrative only.



Figure 1: Site location of Sageston development area, Pembrokeshire (red block)

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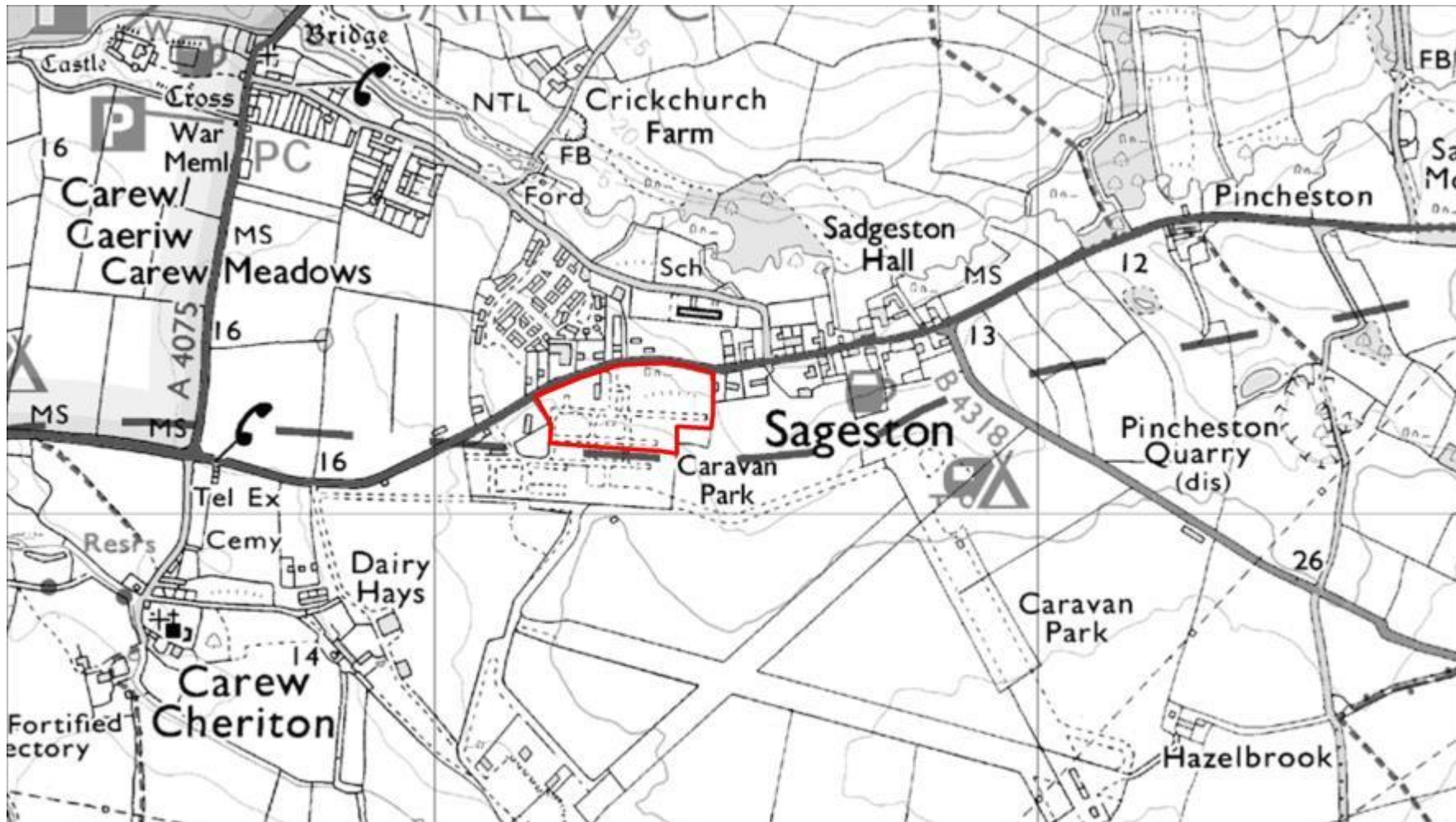


Figure 2: Detailed site location plan of Sageston development area, Pembrokeshire (red back)

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Figure 3: Outline development proposals layout (plan supplied by client)

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The historic building recording scheme has been undertaken to a Level 2 standard as defined in the Historic England '*Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*' (2016). This level of recording is described thus:

Level 2 is a descriptive record, made in circumstances similar to those of Level 1 [basic photographic survey] but when more information is needed. ... The examination of the building will produce an analysis of its development and use and the record will include the conclusions reached, but it will not discuss in detail the evidence on which this analysis is based. A plan and sometimes other drawings may be made In this case it is proposed that full footprint plans of the buildings will be recorded.

- 2.2 To supplement the on-site survey a review of information held at the DAT HER and local studies library will be undertaken. The on-site survey will then complete the relevant tasks outlined below, where possible, to ensure that the record is completed to the Level 2 guidelines, building on the known information. Only photos taken during this survey will be included within the site archive and report.
- 2.3 Based on the Level 2 record as defined in the Historic England guidelines (2016) the following will be undertaken:

Written Record

- The building's precise location, as a National Grid reference and in address form.
- A note of any statutory designation (listing, scheduling or conservation area). Non-statutory designations (historic parks and gardens registers, local lists etc) may be added.
- The date of the record, the name(s) of the recorder(s) and, if an archive has been created, its location.
- A summary of the building's form, function, date and sequence of development. The names of architects, builders, patrons and owners should be given if known.
- An introduction briefly setting out the circumstances in which the record was made, its objectives, methods, scope and limitations, and any constraints. Where appropriate the brief for the work or the project design should be stated or appended.
- Any evidence for the former existence of demolished structures or removed plant associated with the building.
- Copies of historic maps, drawings, views or photographs illustrating the development of the building or its site (the permission of owners or copyright holders may be required).

Drawn Record

- Measured plans (to scale) as existing.
- A site plan, typically at 1:500 or 1:1250 relating the building to other structures and to related topographical feature and landscape features.
- A plan or plans identifying the location and direction of accompanying photographs.
- Copies of earlier drawings throwing light on the building's history.

Photographic Record

- A general view or views of the building (in its wider setting or landscape).
- The building's external appearance. Typically a series of oblique views will show all external elevations of the building, and give an overall impression of its size and shape.
- The overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas.

3 RESULTS

- 3.1 The remains of the footprints of RAF Carew Cheriton buildings and structures survive within the proposed development area. Only a single building still survives relatively intact, the former YMCA building, described below as Building 45 (Photos 54 – 72). All other structures survive only as footings and concrete bases, described together as domestic and ancillary structures (Photos 1 – 53). The site area is generally overgrown, which may obscure the full extent of the surviving remains of the World War II buildings
- 3.2 An Air Ministry plan from November 1946 (Figure 4) lists all of the former World War II buildings that were present within the airfield at the end of the war. Those within the proposed development area are transcribed in Table 1 below, and these numbers are used within this report. The buildings that formerly stood within the area indicate the diversity of building uses that would be expected in the main barracks area of an airfield, with barracks, latrines, stores, canteens and recreational buildings. The concrete bases of these buildings, some limited areas of superstructure, associated services and two possible air raids shelters lie within the site area

Building 45

- 3.3 The YMCA Building stands approximately 17m to the west of the main entrance to the site. It is the only standing building on the site and is a brick built structure with areas of cement render; the roof covering is asbestos; there are four small brick chimneys, one at each end of the building and two, roughly opposite each other on the east and west walls. The five boarded windows on the north wall are timber framed. The building measures (including the garage at its southern end) c. 29m long and is c. 11.8m wide at its northern end (this includes the small brick extension), the main hall is c. 8.7m wide (Photos 54 – 64).
- 3.4 On the 1946 Air Ministry Plan the building has a wing attached to it on the east side. This was subsequently demolished, and a blocked window and doorway associated with the wing is visible in the eastern wall of the building (Photo 56).
- 3.5 Access into the building is via one of two steel garage doors.
- 3.6 The interior consists of a main hall with a concrete floor, within which is a covered inspection pit. The hall contains two fireplaces (Photo 65); the fireplace associated with the chimney in the south wall cannot be seen from within the hall and is possibly situated in the garage at the south side of the building. At the north end of the hall a door opens into a small corridor. The wall and the floor of the room directly in front of this door has been removed (Photo 69), revealing a fireplace at the north end of the building.
- 3.7 In the south interior wall of the hall two blocked doors and a blocked window are evident; the doors would have led into the garage at the south side of the building.

Domestic and Ancillary Buildings

- 3.8 The buildings investigated in the eastern half of the site are mainly concrete raft floors (the walls having been removed). The rafts are generally low-lying but a few have elevations which are up to a metre high

- Building 2 (Photo 16), Building 37 (Photo 18), Building 47 (Photo 11) and Building 50 (Photo 23). Of the twenty structures identified, eight are in good condition; the rest have either been either partially demolished or obscured by vegetation. The best preserved structures in this half of the site are Buildings 29/47 (Photos 9, 10 and 11), Building 37 (Photos 17 and 18), Building 38 (Photo 34), Building 50 (Photos 22 and 23), Building 55 (Photo 32), Building 63 (Photo 28) and Building 181 (Photos 30 and 31). Buildings 21, 25, 29, 41, 62 might also be intact beneath the vegetation. Three of the buildings have of steps leading up to them: Building 12, Building 47 (Photo 10) and Building 69 (Photo 35).
- 3.9 At the southern end of the site only the northern parts of buildings 4, 10, 12 and 69 remain - the southern parts were removed during the construction of the A477 bypass. A remnant of graffiti, incised into the concrete, is visible in the NE corner of Building 12 (Photo 38).
- 3.10 The western half of the site, in comparison to the eastern half, contains denser vegetation and a higher percentage of broken masonry. Nevertheless edges and wall lines are visible in Building 5 (Photo 49), Building 10 (Photo 50), Building 39 (Photo 46) and Building 41 (Photo 43). Buildings 5 (Photo 49), Building 10 (Photo 51) and Building 41 (Photo 43) contain the remains of concrete rafts.
- 3.11 The western quadrant of the site seems to be the most damaged with no obvious visible edges of buildings appearing beneath the building rubble and vegetation (Photo 47). Buildings 42 and 43 have either been completely removed or have been grassed over (Photo 48). Possibly when the overburden is cleared the footprints of these buildings will become apparent.
- 3.12 The thoroughfares are concrete constructions with a bitumen skim on the surface. They are generally in good condition.

Building No	Description
1	Destructor House (Open Type)
2	Decontamination Annexe (now AMWD Workshops)
3	Sergeants Mess
4	Latrine
5	Bath Block and Drying Room
6	WAAF Latrines
7	SHQ Offices
10	Dining Room and Institute
12	Officers Mess
14	Armoury and WT Repairs (Old Main Store)
20	Car Park and Bus Shelter
29	Guards Sleeping Quarters
37	Medical Inspection Block
39	Aircrew Intelligence – Barber and Shoemaker
40	Accounts Office
41	NAAFI Quarters and Store
42	Sergeant's Quarters and Ablutions ("Y" Type)
43	Sergeant's Quarters and Ablutions ("Y" Type) and NAAFI kiosk
45	YMCA Building
47	Picket Post and Prophylactic Room
48	Transformer Plinth
49	Station Contractors Workshop and Yard
50	AMWD Office
51	AMWD Garage and Store
52	MT Sheds (14 Bays)
55	PBX
59	Battery Charging and "A" Flight EL Section
60	Sub-Station
61	Decontamination Centre (Type "G")
62	Gas Defence Centre
63	MT Office and WAAF Rest Room
69	Officers Barrack Hut
124	Reserve Storage Tank (10,000 Gallons)
125	Reserve Storage Tank (10,000 Gallons)
167	Switch Room
181	Post Office (86' x 16')
182	Squash Court
187	Anderson Shelter
188	Fire Pump Trailer Shelter
195	Gun Post
196	Fire Pump Trailer Centre
197	Bulk Oil Compound
198	Transformer Plinth
222	Stand-by Set House
225	AMWD Stores
226	AMWD Latrine

Table 1: Buildings listed on the Air Ministry Plan for RAF Carew Cheriton which lie within the proposed development area.

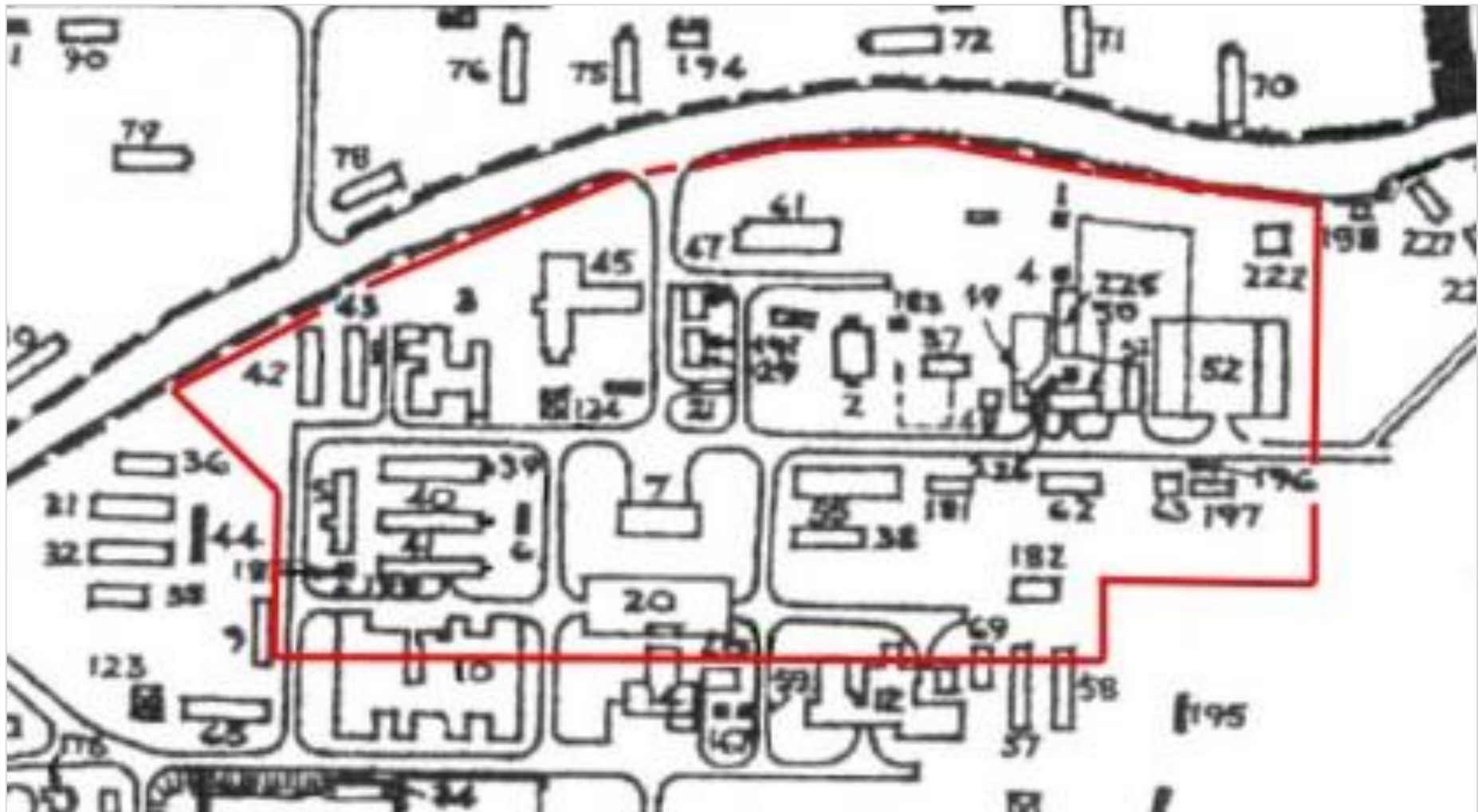


Figure 4: Detailed extract from Air Ministry Map of RAF Carew Cheriton Airfield 1946, showing domestic and ancillary buildings within the development area (approximate boundary marked in red).

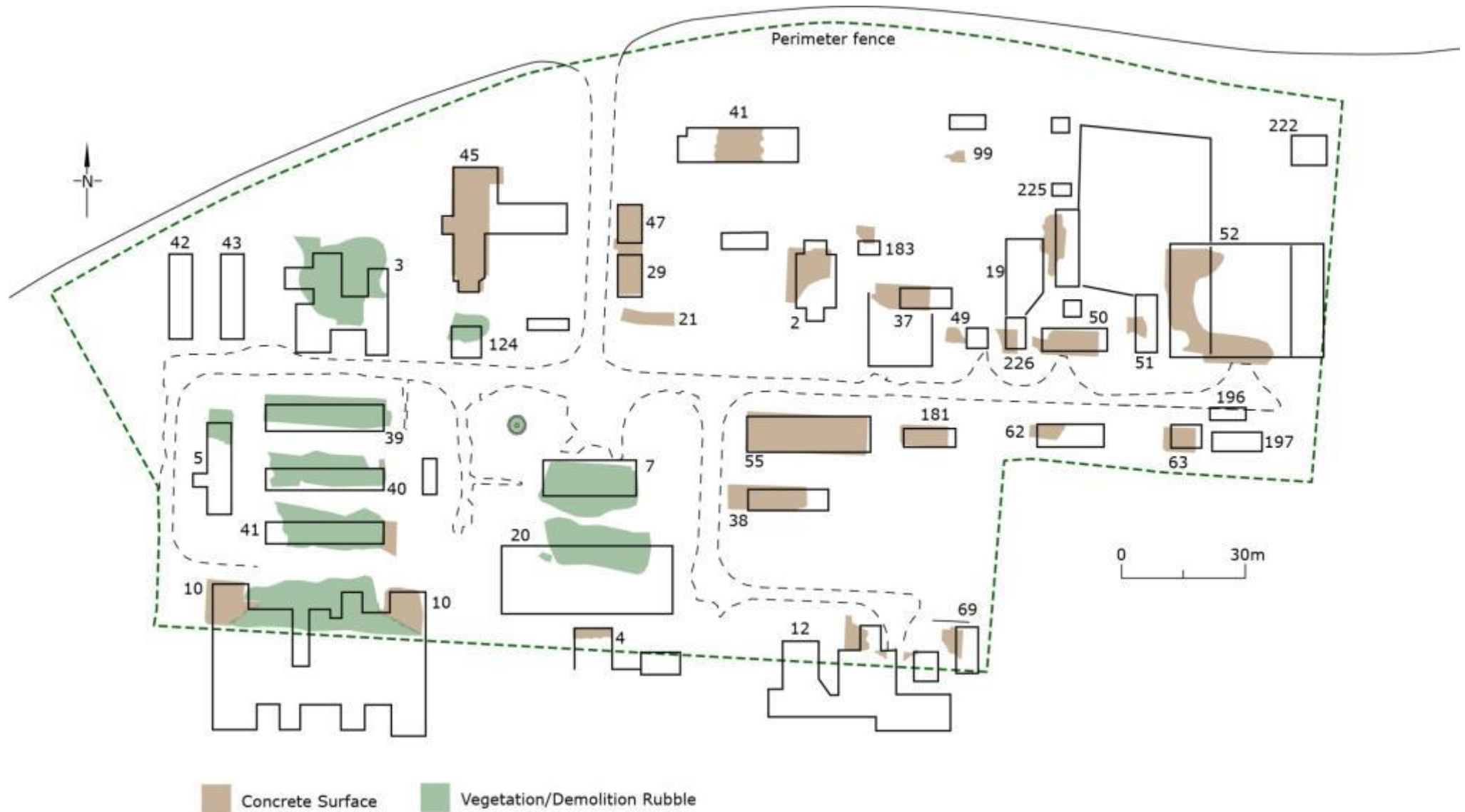


Figure 5: Extent of visible remains of buildings (green/brown) superimposed upon the 1946 Air Ministry Plan (redrawn).

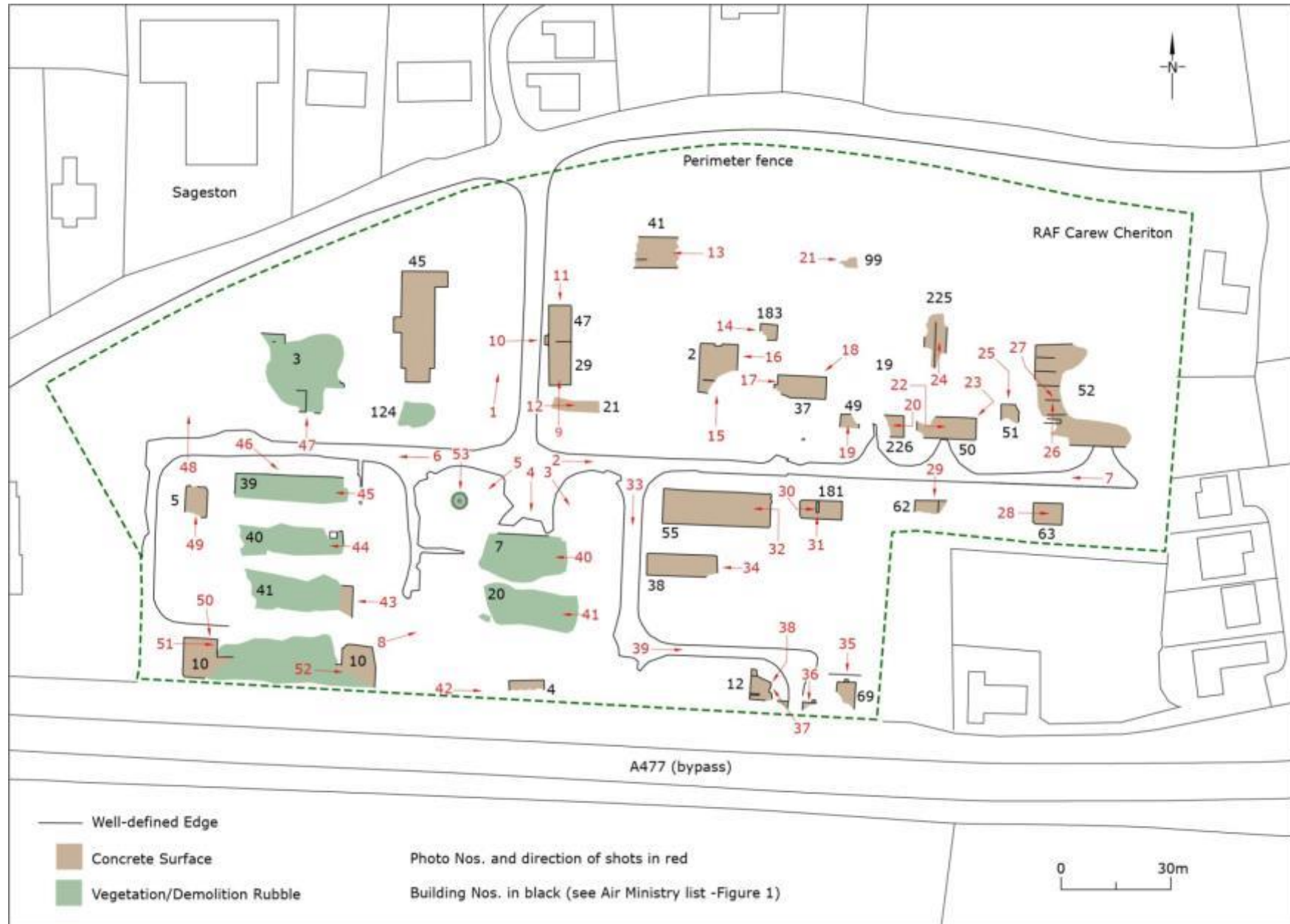


Figure 6: Extent of visible remains of buildings, and photo location plan.

4 PHOTO SURVEY

- 4.1 The photographic survey was undertaken by Hubert Wilson and Andy Shobbrook of DAT Archaeological Services on Thursday 10th January 2019. The direction of the photographs is shown in Figure 6. Only a 1m scale was used.



Photo 1: View north towards main gate (part of Building 45 can be seen on the left).



Photo 2: View east from main junction along thoroughfare.



Photo 3: View southeast from main junction.



Photo 4: View south from main junction.



Photo 5: View southwest from main junction.



Photo 6: View west from main junction; the demolished remains of Building 124 is to the right of the post, beneath the vegetation.



Photo 7: View west along main thoroughfare from east end of site.



Photo 8: View northeast from southwest corner of site



Photo 9: View north: Buildings 29 and 47 (Guards sleeping Quarters/Picket Post and Prophylactic Room) ;concrete raft is approximately 29m long and 5.8m wide; north end is c. 0.9m high from the ground. Brick pilasters/butresses are spaced around the outside of the plinth. A scar is visible halfway along the plinth, dividing 29 and 47; steps lead up from the west side.



Photo 10: View east towards steps leading to Buildings 29 and 47.



Photo 11: North face of Building 47, showing two of the pilasters/butresses.



Photo 12: View east: Building 21; concrete floor - edges of floor are grassed over. The visible area is approximately 11.8m long and 3m wide.



Photo 13: View west: Building 41 (NAAFI Quarters and Store); concrete floor; east and west ends under vegetation but a portion of the north and south sides well delineated. Area in photo measures approximately 11m long and 8m wide.



Photo 14: View east: Building 183; small concrete raft measuring approximately 4m by 4m; apart from southwest corner, edges of plinth are well delineated.



Photo 15: View west: Building 2 (Decontamination Annexe); concrete raft measuring 12.6m by 9.8m; east corner is roughly 1m high; two small extensions, at the north and south ends, shown in the 1946 plan are not visible.



Photo 16: East face of Building 2 - approximately 1m high.



Photo 17: View east: Building 37 (Medical Inspection Block); concrete raft measuring c. 13.6m by 5.8m; vegetation covered with well delineated edges; has survived fairly intact; north face is c. 1m high with pilasters/butresses.



Photo 18: Building 37; oblique shot of north wall showing pilasters/butresses.



Photo 19: View north; Building 49 (Station Contractors Workshop and Yard); concrete floor measuring c. 4.95m by 3.4m; northeast corner and south edge damaged.



Photo 20: View west: Building 226 (AMWD Latrine); west end of concrete raft under vegetation; surveyable area measures 5.2m long and 5.5m wide.



Photo 21: View east: Building 99 (not seen on 1946 plan and given arbitrary number); edges of concrete raft not clear; surveyable area measures c. 5m by 2.7m.



Photo 22: View east: Building 50 (AMWD Office); majority of this concrete raft survives apart from damaged northwest and southwest corners; measures 15.6m by 5.6m. Edge of north side of raft is c. 0.75m high.



Photo 23: Northeast corner of Building 50.



Photo 24: View north: Building 225 (AMWD Stores); concrete floor with seam running down the centre; north edge is damaged, south edge under vegetation; small section of well delineated east and west edges survive; observable area measures c. 14m by 5.6m.



Photo 25: View south: Building 51 (AMWD Garage and Store); concrete floor; observable area measures 4.3m long by 4.5m wide; northeast corner damaged; southern end under vegetation; east and west edges are well defined.



Photo 26: View north: Building 52 (MT Sheds – 14 Bays); northwest corner and section of southern edge is well defined - rest is under vegetation and a grassed spoil heap.



Photo 27: View southeast: Building 52.



Photo 28: View east Building 63 (MT Office and WAAF Rest Room); intact, well-preserved concrete raft with good edges; measures c. 7.5m by 5.5m.



Photo 29: View south: Building 62 (Gas Defence Centre); concrete raft; observable area measures 7.6m by 3.2m; south and east sides under vegetation



Photo 30: View east: Building 181 (Post Office); well preserved concrete raft measuring c. 10.9m by 4.7m; rectangular slot measuring 2.7m by 0.5 and 0.5m deep at roughly midway point.



Photo 31: View north: rectangular slot in floor of Building 181.



Photo 32: View west: Building 55 (PBX); intact, well-preserved concrete raft measuring c. 27.7m by 8.8m and 0.5m high on north side.



Photo 33: View south along thoroughfare beside Building 55.



Photo 34: View west: Building 38; well-preserved concrete raft; intact, apart from damaged southeast corner; measures c. 18.6m by 5.6m.



Photo 35: View south: Building 69 (Officers Barrack Hut); remains of concrete raft measuring c.7m by 4.8m; steps on the north side; southern half of raft truncated by A477 bypass.



Photo 36: View west: east section of Building 12 (Officers Mess); majority is grassed over; steps on north side; observable area measures c. 2m by 3.6m; southern half truncated by A477 bypass.



Photo 37: View northwest: Building 12 (Officers Mess); badly damaged, only good edge is on west side; graffiti visible in concrete floor; southern half truncated by A477 bypass.



Photo 38: Graffiti in concrete floor of Building 12: dated 1943.



Photo 39: View east along southern thoroughfare; Buildings 12 and 62 behind vegetation on left.



Photo 40: View west: Building 7 (SHQ Offices); badly damaged, rubble strewn, heavy vegetation cover; only section of north edge visible; area roughly measures 22m by 10m.



Photo 41: View west: Building 20 (Car Park and Bus Shelter); entirely covered by vegetation – no edges visible; area roughly measures 23m by 9m.



Photo 42: View east: Building 4 (Latrine); only northern tip of this structure is visible; rest truncated by A477 bypass.



Photo 43: View northwest: Building 41 (NAAFI Quarters and Store); east edge well-defined; vegetation covers rest of structure; area roughly measures 29m by 8m.



Photo 44: View west: Building 40 (Accounts Office); northeast corner intact, the rest is ill-defined (heavy vegetation cover); area roughly measures 26m by 8m.



Photo 45: View west: Building 39 (Aircrew Intelligence – Barber and Shoemaker); well-defined north and west edges, rest is rubble strewn and grassed over; area roughly measures 29m by 7m.



Photo 46: North wall of Building 39.



Photo 47: View north: Building 3 (Sergeants Mess); ill-defined area of demolition debris, some wall lines discernable in amongst the rubble; area roughly measures 20m by 19m.



Photo 48: View north: location of Buildings 42 and 43 (Sergeant's Quarters and Ablutions and NAAFI Kiosk); either completely removed or under grass.



Photo 49: View north: Building 5 (Bath Block and Drying Room); only the northern half of the concrete raft remains; visible area measures c. 7.7m by 5.7m.



Photo 50: North wall of Building 10 (Dining Room and Institute); wall is approximately 0.9m high.



Photo 51: View east: Building 10 (Dining Room and Institute); northeast corner of concrete raft (west end); the majority of this structure has been truncated by the A477 bypass.



Photo 52: View east: Building 10 (Dining Room and Institute); eastern end of concrete raft; majority of structure truncated by A477 bypass.



Photo 53: View south at partially uncovered flag plinth.

Building 45 (YMCA Building) Photographic survey (exterior)

The only standing structure in the complex. The east wing shown on the 1946 plan has been removed and a small brick extension at the northeast corner of the building added. The main axis of the structure (including the garage at the south end) measures 29m by 8.7m.

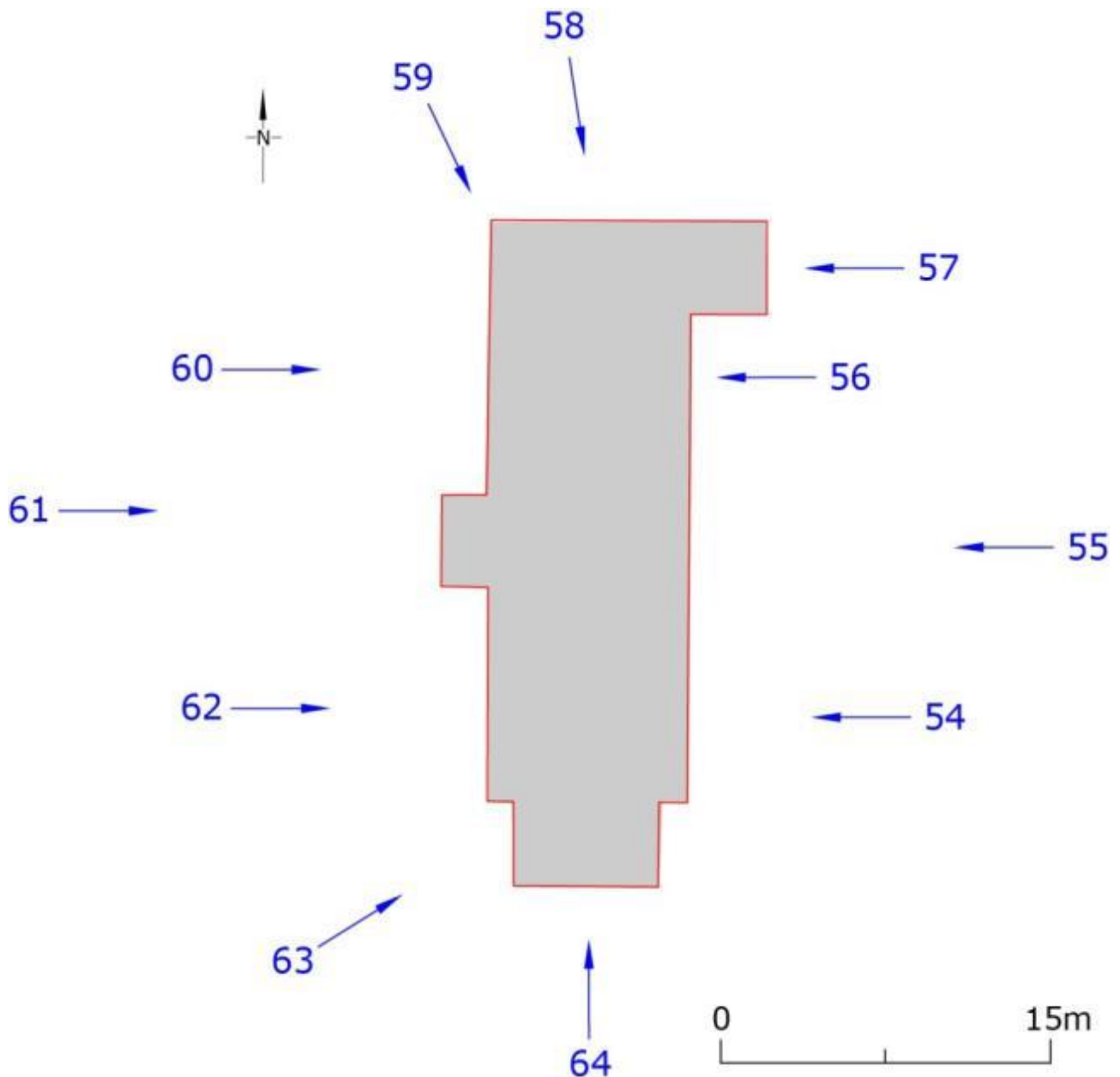


Figure 7: Location and direction of exterior shots of Building 45 (YMCA Building).



Photo 54: Southern end of east elevation.



Photo 55: Entire east elevation.



Photo 56: North end of east elevation showing various blocked openings associated with demolished wing (shown in the 1946 Air Ministry Plan).



Photo 57: Later brick extension on east elevation with blocked doorway.



Photo 58: Cement rendered north elevation.



Photo 59: Northwest corner of building.



Photo 60: Northern half of west elevation.



Photo 61: Entire west elevation.



Photo 62: Southern half of west elevation.



Photo 63: Southwest corner of building.



Photo 64: South end of building.

Building 45 (YMCA) Photographic survey (interior)

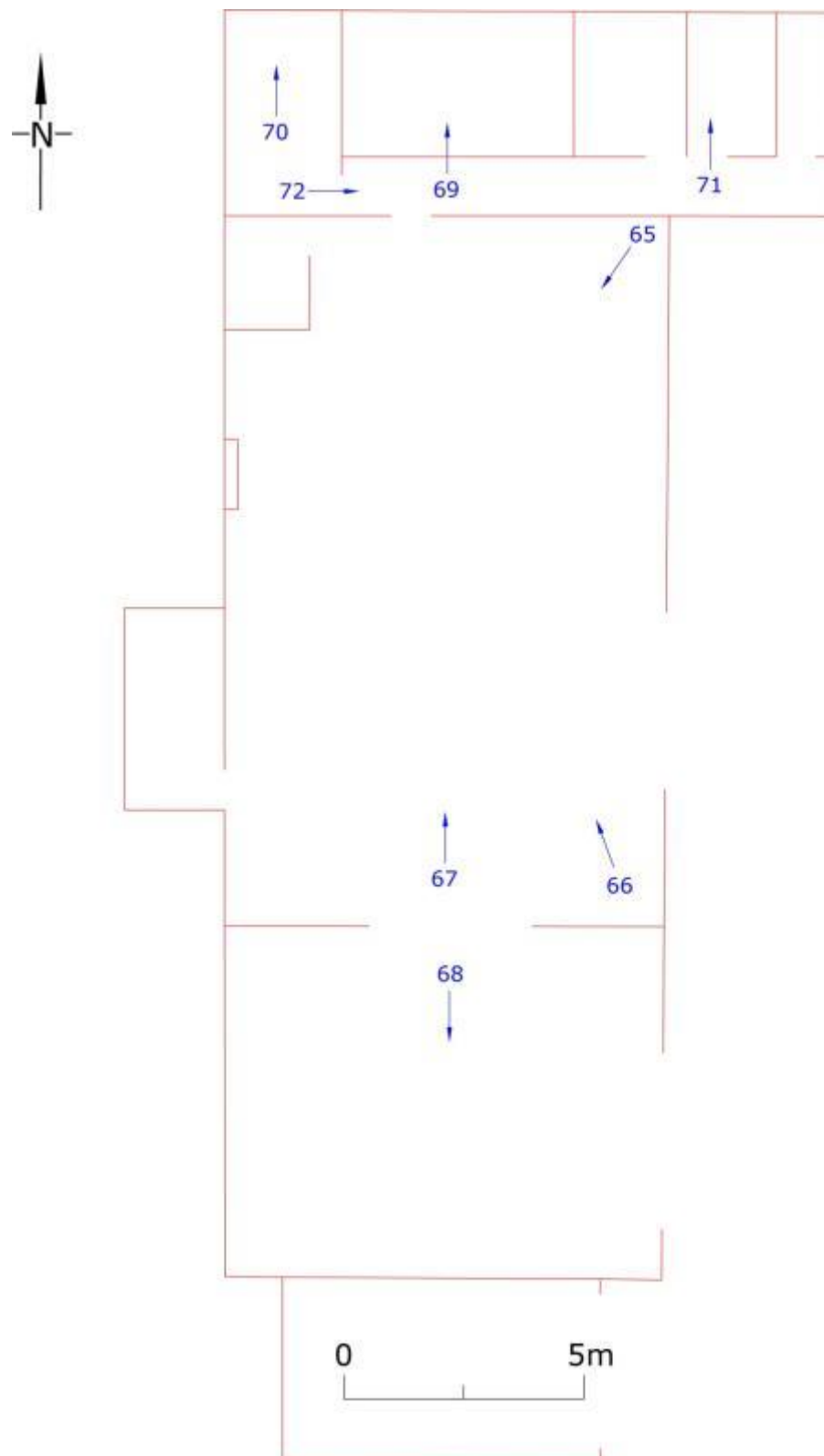


Figure 8: Location and direction of interior shots of Building 45.



Photo 65: View southwest; oblique shot of west wall.



Photo 66: View northwest; oblique shot of west wall.



Photo 67: North wall of main room (door leads to two small rooms and toilet block).



Photo 68: South wall of main room showing two blocked doors that opened onto garage on south side of building.



Photo 69: North wall of room located to the north of the main room.



Photo 70: North wall of small room located in northwest corner of the building.



Photo 71: Toilet cubicle located at north end of building.

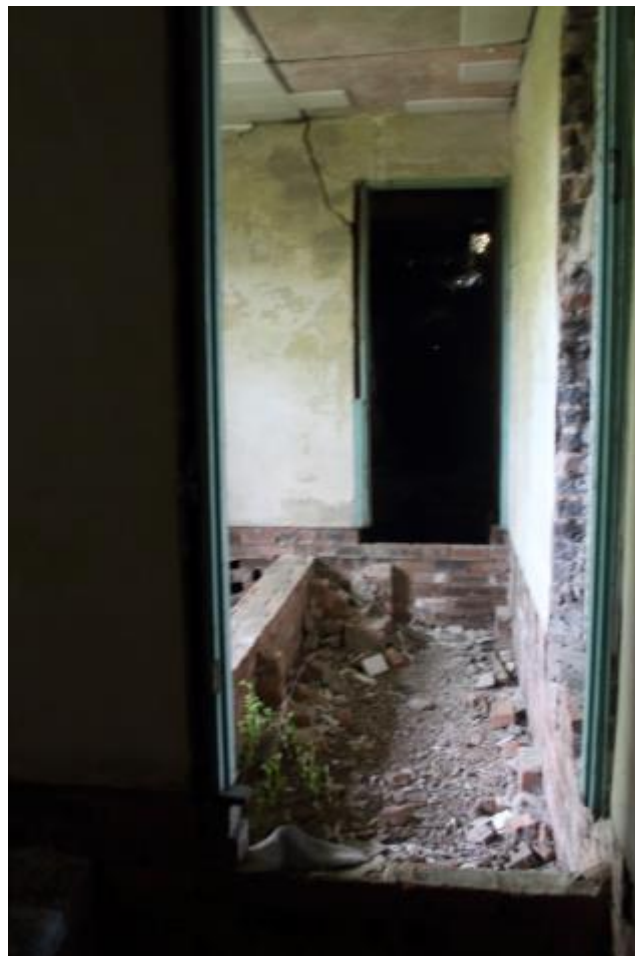


Photo 72: Corridor leading to toilet block from main room.

