

# **MAES-MYNACH, CILCENNIN, CEREDIGION: HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING**



Maes-mynach from the northwest



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services  
For: Mr Emyr Evans





**DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**

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**MAES-MYNACH, CILCENNIN, CEREDIGION:  
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING**

By

Hubert Wilson



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## **MAES-MYNACH, CILCENNIN, CEREDIGION: HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING**

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**MAES-MYNACH, CILCENNIN, CEREDIGION:  
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING**

**Client** Mr Emyr Evans

**Event Record No** 125649

**Report No** 2020-66

**Project Code** FS19-042

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**MAES-MYNACH, CILCENNIN, CEREDIGION:  
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned to undertake an archaeological building recording at Maes-mynach , Cilcennin, Ceredigion.*

*The building is not a scheduled monument or a listed building, and not recorded on the DAT HER.*

**CRYNODEB GWEITHREDOL**

*Comisiynwyd Gwasanaethau Archeolegol YAD i gynnal recordiad adeilad archeolegol yn Maes-mynach, Cilcennin, Ceredigion*

*Nid yw'r adeilad yn heneb gofrestredig nac yn adeilad rhestredig, ac ddim wedi'i gofnodi ar y CAH YAD).*

**MAES-MYNACH, CILCENNIN, CEREDIGION:  
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING**

**SUMMARY**

*DAT Archaeological Services, in response to a request from Mr Emyr Evans, were commissioned to undertake an archaeological scheme of historic building recording at Maes-mynach, Cilcennin, Ceredigion centred on NGR SN 5387 5943. The requirement for a scheme to record the building prior to its renovation/demolition had been placed upon the development by Ceredigion County Council (Local Planning Authority) following advice from their archaeological advisors, Dyfed Archaeological Trust - Development Management.*

*The archaeological advisor to the LPA 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. 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*

*The building is not listed, and was not recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record or National Monument Record. It will now been recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record.*

*The building recording was carried out on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services, in response to a request from Mr Emyr Evans, were commissioned to undertake an archaeological scheme of historic building recording works at the property known as Maes-mynach, Cilcennin, Ceredigion (SN 5387 5943). The requirement for a scheme to record the building prior to its renovation has been placed upon the development by Ceredigion County Council Planning Authority following advice from their archaeological advisors, Dyfed Archaeological Trust-Development Management (DAT-DM).
- 1.1.2 Condition 6 on the planning decision notice (Planning reference A180140) states:
- Development shall not begin until an appropriate photographic survey of the existing buildings(s) has been carried out in accordance with guidelines provided by the Local Planning Authority's archaeological advisors – Dyfed Archaeological Trust-Heritage Management. The resulting photographs shall be approved by the planning authority prior to the commencement of development and deposited with the regional Historic Environment Record, held and maintained by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust, the Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AF.*
- 1.1.3 A discussion with DAT-DM revealed that in this instance it was a Level 2 record that 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. 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
- 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, which was approved by DAT-DM.
- 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 Maes-mynach is a former farm situated near the 285m contour in undulating pastureland, 8.5km south east of Aberaeron and 1.8km south east of the village of Cilcennin. The land falls away to the south towards the River Aeron valley (Figure 1).
- 1.2.2 The farm buildings are now in a ruinous state but comprise a house and annex incorporating a catslide roof; a long three-bayed outbuilding to the east of the house and the ruins of two outbuildings to the north and south of the house. A small pond is situated northeast of the house and a possible small wheel-pit and tail race on the east side of the long outbuilding.
- 1.2.3 The surrounding landscape is one of small, irregular enclosures and scattered farms. Maes-mynach was one of a group of three small farms in this area shown on historic mapping; the others being Bryn-mynach and Castell-mynach both of which have all but disappeared. It has been

suggested that Maes-Mynach was a grange farm of the medieval monastery at Strata Florida, near Pontrhydfendigaid, Ceredigion.

### **1.3 Scope of the Project**

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

### **1.4 Report Outline**

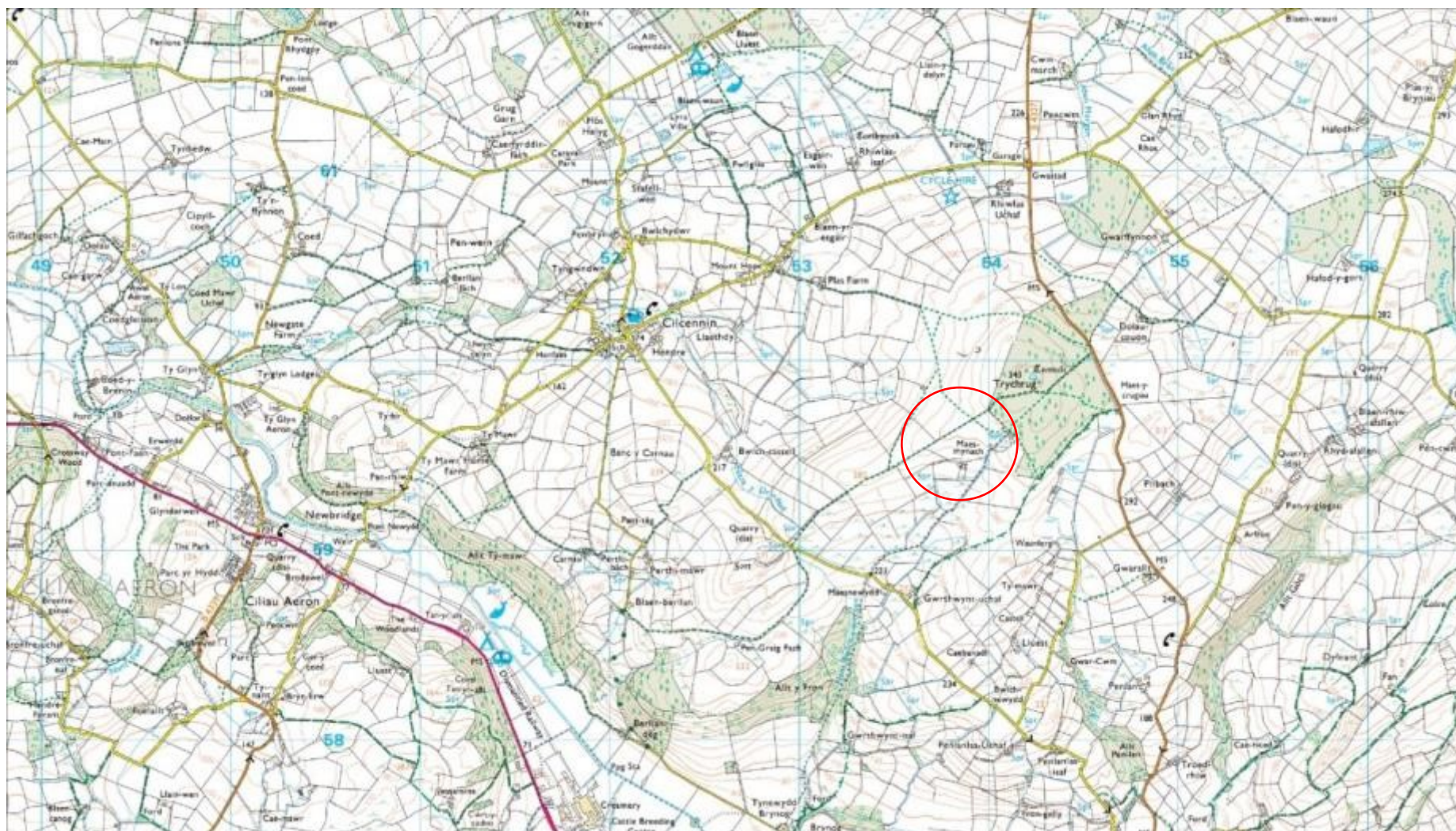
- 1.4.1 This report describes the location of the site, its known archaeological and historical background and photographs of the site. Sources are referenced within the text or as footnotes.

### **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:** Map extract showing the location of Maes-mynach (red circle).

Reproduced from the 2007 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office,  
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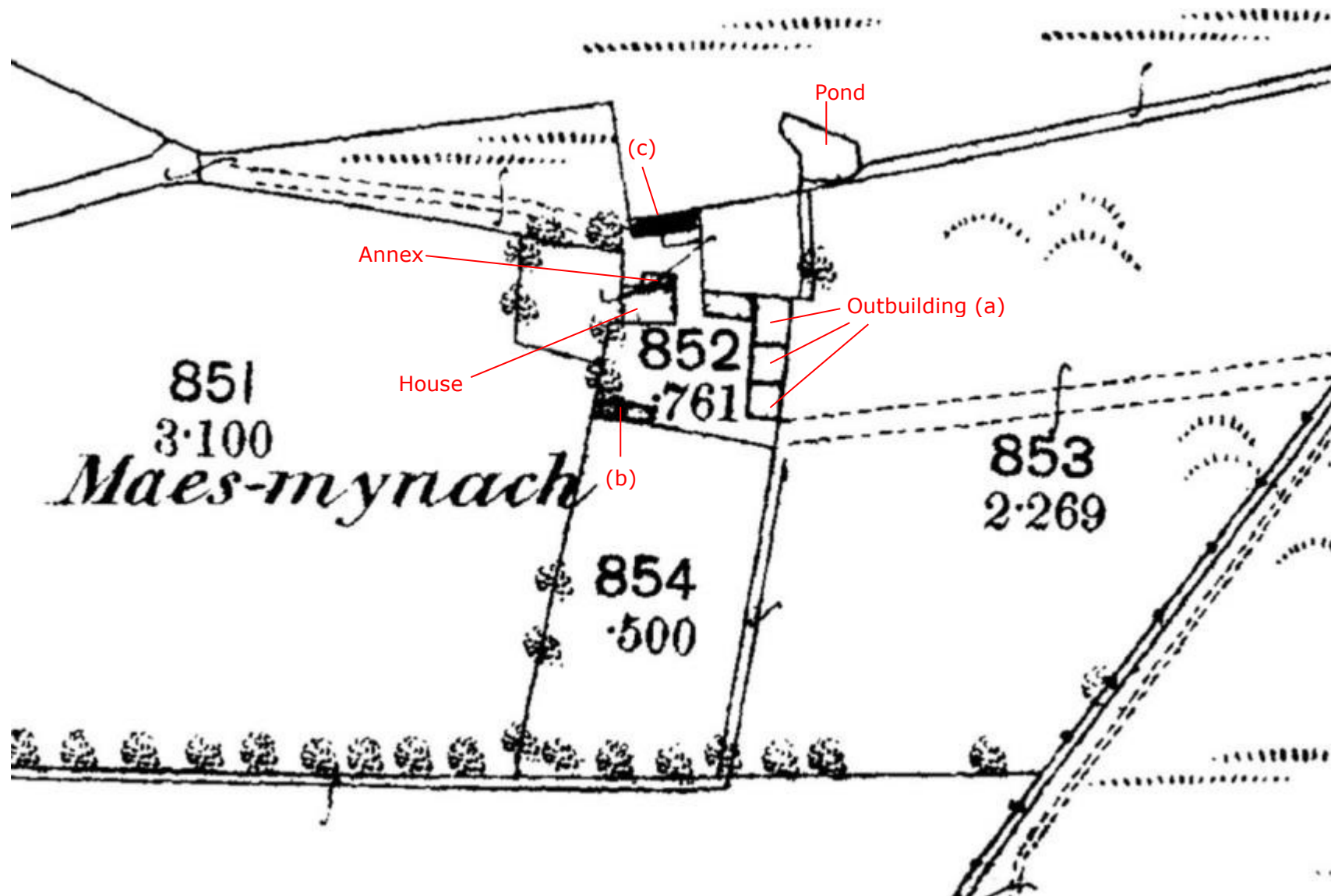




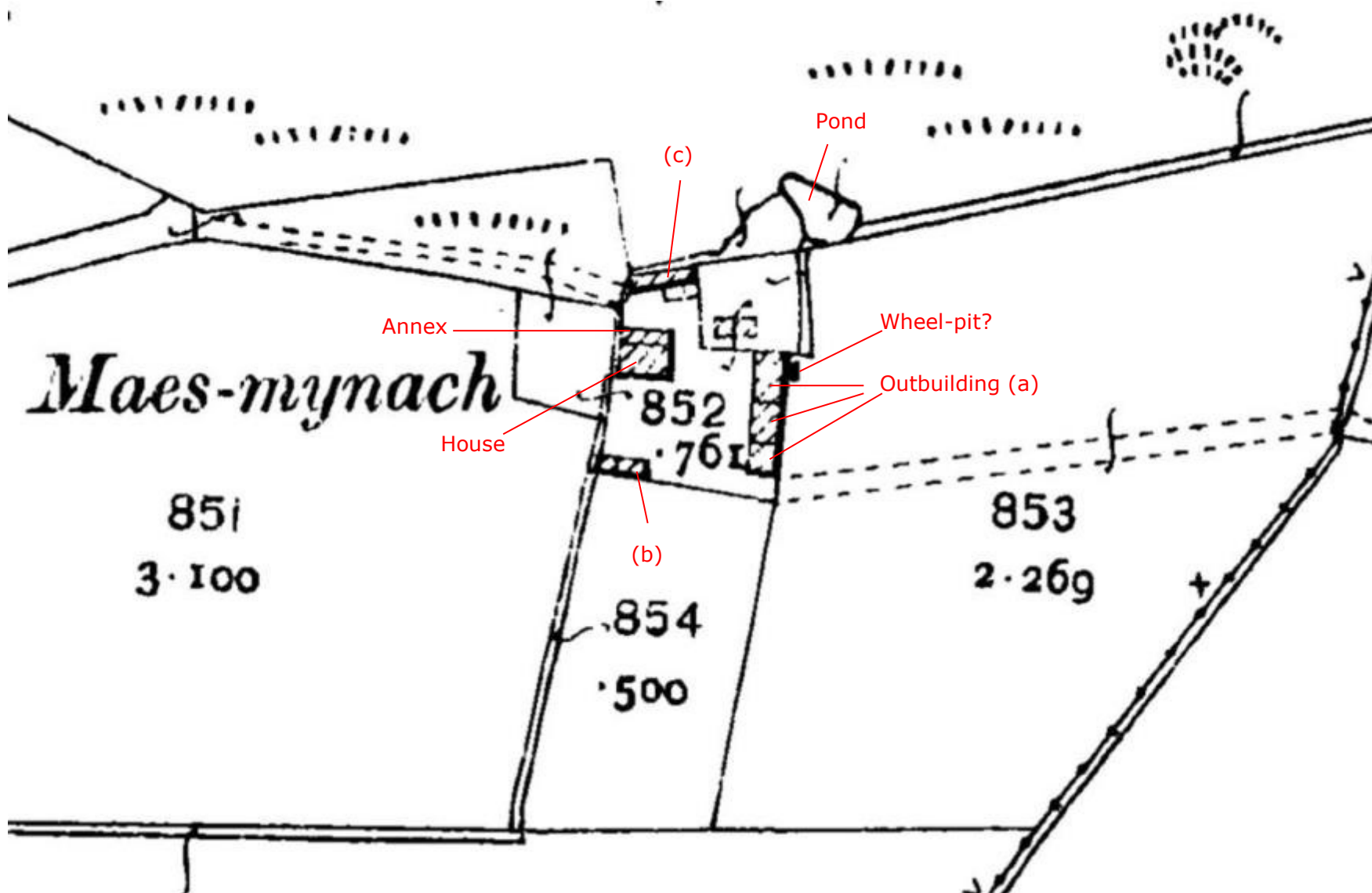
**Figure 2:** Extract from the 1840 tithe map of Cilcennin Parish showing Maes-mynach (arrowed).

|             |     |                        |    |   |    |
|-------------|-----|------------------------|----|---|----|
| Moses Jones | 407 | Maes of mynach         | 15 | 1 | 36 |
|             | 408 | do                     | 18 | 1 | 0  |
|             | 409 | do                     | 4  | 2 | 38 |
|             | 410 | do                     | 6  | 0 | 31 |
|             | 411 | do                     | 2  | 1 | 34 |
|             | 412 | do including houses &c | 0  | 1 | 16 |
|             | 413 | do                     | 3  | 1 | 9  |
|             | 414 | do                     | 11 | 1 | 22 |
|             | 415 | do                     | 4  | 2 | 35 |
|             | 416 | do                     | 0  | 0 | 10 |
|             |     |                        | 74 | 3 | 31 |

**Figure 3:** Relevant part of the apportionment that accompanied the 1840 tithe map.



**Figure 4:** Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map published in 1889.



**Figure 5:** Extract from the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map published in 1905.



## 2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The historic building recording scheme has been undertaken to a Level 2 standard as defined in the English Heritage '*Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*' (2006). 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 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 ....*

- 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 English Heritage guidelines (2006) 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 type or purpose, historically and at present, its materials and possible date(s). 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 removed structures or features 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 related topographical and landscape features.
- A site plan relating the building to other related structures.
- 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 of the building, where safe to do so.

## **3. RESULTS**

- 3.1 The farmhouse and the surrounding outbuildings, apart from outbuilding (b) are shown on the Cilcennin Parish 1840 tithe map (Figure 2). According to the accompanying apportionment (Figure 3) nine of the surrounding fields (field numbers 407 to 416) were owned by the farm; a total of approximately 31 hectares. At the time of the tithe census the occupier of the farm was a Mr Moses Jones and the land owner was Lord Carrington.
- 3.2 At the time of the tithe survey a small structure close to the northwest corner of outbuilding (a) was present but by the publication of the 1st edition 1889 Ordnance Survey map it had been removed. It is difficult to know, from the tithe map, whether or not the rear annex had been added to the farmhouse at that time.
- 3.3 Later Ordnance Survey maps depict the farmhouse, annex and outbuildings (Figures 4 and 5) in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 3.4 The farmhouse is aligned north-south and measures approximately 10.95m by 8.60m. Outbuilding (a) is aligned north-south and measures approximately 21.25m by 6.10m. The outbuilding is situated approximately 14m east of the farmhouse.
- 3.5 The ruins of outbuilding (b) lie some 13m south of the farmhouse and the ruins of outbuilding (c) 10m north of the farmhouse.
- 3.6 The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey published in 1889 (Figure 4) shows the farm complex as it stands today apart from the addition of a small building adjacent to the north end of the west elevation of outbuilding (a). The rear annex is visible but does not extend the full width of the house. The map also shows a small pond (visible today as a depression in the ground) with a water course (visible today as a shallow gully) running towards the northeast corner of outbuilding (a).
- 3.7 The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map published in 1905 (Figure 5) shows that a few alterations have occurred in the intervening years: the annex at the rear of the farmhouse now extends across the full length of the house (this might be the addition of the dairy); the small building adjacent to outbuilding (a) (seen in the 1<sup>st</sup> edition map) is no longer shown and a small building is now visible a few metres northwest of outbuilding (a), close to where one stood in the 1840 tithe map. The pond (seen in the 1<sup>st</sup> edition map) now has outlets leading not only to outbuilding (a) but also to the west side of the farmhouse. A wheel-pit is also shown a little to the east of the granary.

### **The Farmhouse**

- 3.8 The farmhouse consists of a kitchen, parlour and an annex (scullery and dairy) to the rear. The lower storey of the house is composed of clay-bonded, uneven coursed, roughly squared stone whilst the upper storey is random coursed, roughly hewn stone. A small ledge (which would have supported the upper floor) separates the lower and upper storeys. The annex to the rear is also composed of random coursed, roughly hewn stone with roughly-squared stone around the splayed windows. The front (south) and east elevations are very dilapidated, the west and north elevations are intact. The roof has completely collapsed and no ground floors are visible (Figure 10).
- 3.9 Beyond the front of the house is a small garden wall with a stone kerbed path leading to the front door (Photo 1). The frontage is very dilapidated with only a section of the east side and some upstanding masonry west of the front door remaining (Photo 2). A section through the wall at the front of the house shows a rubble infill (Photo 3). Part of a splayed window is visible on the east side of the front (Photo 6). Only the annex remains upstanding in the east elevation of the farmhouse (Photo 8). The east elevation of the annex, north of the doorway, is angled towards the west; presumably to retain a wide entrance into the farmyard (Photo 9). The west elevation of the farmhouse clearly shows a vertical butt-joint below the annex window, whilst above the window the roofline has been heightened in order to construct a catslide roof (Photos 14 and 15).
- 3.10 The interior elevation of the west wall contains a fireplace on the ground floor, a small splayed window in the upper floor and a ledge to support the upper floor. The rooflines on both sides of the chimney and the interior north wall have been raised in order to heighten the upper floor and accommodate a catslide roof – putlogs or floor-joist holes are visible along the ledge (Photos 17 and 18). A doorway in the north wall leads into the scullery; before the annex was constructed this would have been the back door of the house (Photo 19). The dilapidated east (kitchen) wall contains the remains of a brick oven and a blocked doorway (Photos 20 and 21).
- 3.11 The annex spans the width of the house and is approximately 2m wide (Photo 23) with similar stonework to that used to heighten the upper storey of the house. The west wall contains a splayed window - later modified (Photo 24), below which stands a slate bench - and another at right angles to it along the north wall of the annex (Photo 25). A little to the east of the slate bench a change in 'pointing' occurs in the north wall (Photo 26). The south wall of the annex - north wall of the house – contains a small blocked opening (Photo 27). This was probably a window that became redundant when the annex was built. The east (scullery) end of the annex contains a splayed window in the north wall and brick-arched oven with a possible truncated chimney. The east wall contains a doorway leading to the farmyard via a porch (Photo 27).

### **Outbuilding (a)**

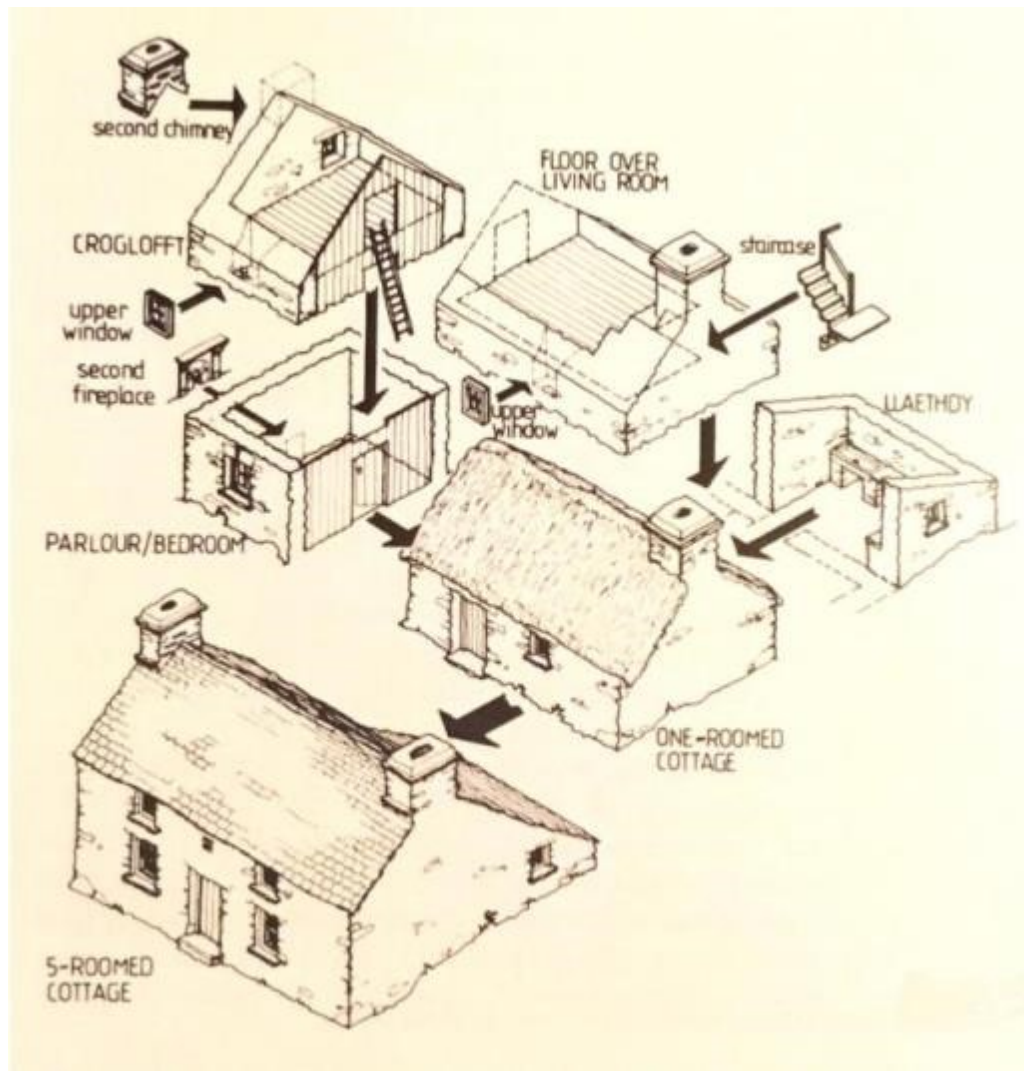
- 3.12 The outbuilding is a long, stone-built structure composed of three bays (granary, barn and cowshed) with a small, brick dairy attached to the cowshed. The roof is absent and thick vegetation covers the floors of the granary and barn. The west wall of the barn is in a dilapidated state but the rest of the building is upstanding.
- 3.13 The south elevation of the cowshed is constructed of roughly hewn, random coursed stone with roughly squared quoins. A brick dairy is attached to its east side (Photos 29 and 30).

- 3.14 On the east elevation a vertical joint separates the cowshed and the barn (Photo 31) and a window and doorway are also located in the barn and granary respectively (Photos 33 and 34).
- 3.15 The north elevation of the granary cuts a little into slightly higher ground. It contains a doorway and its roofline has been heightened (Photo 37).
- 3.16 The west elevation contains a wide entrance into the granary (Photo 39); a dilapidated entrance into the barn, obscured by undergrowth (Photo 40) and entrance into the cowshed with a window beside it (Photos 41 and 42).
- 3.17 The partition wall between the granary and the barn contains a window (Photo 44). The cowshed contains three stalls with cement rendered brick dividers (Photo 47). The floors were obscured by vegetation and fallen masonry.
- 3.18 The remains of outbuilding (b) - shown in the 1840 tithe and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps - were visible 13m south of the house (Photo 48)
- 3.19 The remains of outbuilding (c) - shown in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps - were visible 10m north of the house (Photo 49).
- 3.20 The pond, seen in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps, was visible on the as a depression 30m south east of the house (Photo 50) an outlet feeding a small shallow gulley was visible on the south side of the pond (Photo 51). The gulley ran towards a possible stone-lined, wheel-pit situated a few metres east of the granary (Photo 52). Thick vegetation made it difficult to investigate its interior. Leading away from this feature ran a straight water course, (photo 53) which emptied into a field drain.

#### **4. DISCUSSION**

##### **The Farmhouse**

- 4.1 The addition of the annex to the rear of the house is evident by the vertical joint and the raising of the roof-line to create a catslide; as seen in the west elevation (Photos 14 and 15). The fact that the roof-line on the south side of the chimney (Photo 15) has also been raised, as well as the north wall of the house (Photos 17, 18 and 19) suggests that an upper floor was created at the same time. It is reasonable to assume that it was during this time that the window in the north wall of the house was blocked (Photo 27) having become redundant after the addition of the annex. The doorway connecting the house to the annex (Photo 19) and to the farmyard via the side door (Photos 9 and 28) might also have been created during this phase; hence the original door leading to the farmyard having been blocked (Photo 21). A difference in pointing seen in the north wall of the annex beside the slate bench (Photo 26) might indicate where the later extension of the annex westwards began - compare annex in 1<sup>st</sup> edition and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps (Figures 4 and 5).
- 4.2 To illustrate a typical development sequence that a cottage might undergo I am indebted to Martin Davies for his plan of the evolution of the cottage (Figure 9) taken from his book 'Traditional Qualities of the West Wales Cottage'. This is not to imply that Maes-mynach had a similar sequence (or number) of phases but it is a useful guide.



**Figure 9:** Gradual evolution of the cottage (Martin Davies)

#### **Outbuilding (a)**

- 4.3 It would seem from the stonework that the granary and barn were constructed as one build; they share a similar coursing method and no vertical joint separates them. The roofline on the west elevation of the granary has been raised (Photo 37) although no obvious alterations are visible on the opposite gable (Photo 44). The initial structure was followed by the cowshed which has been built against the barn – testified by the vertical joint (Photo 31). All three compartments of the outbuilding are shown in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps. The cowshed might have existed during the period of the tithe but it is uncertain from the map. The brick-built dairy is the final phase of the outbuilding and does not appear on any historical maps (Photos 29 and 30).

#### **Outbuilding (b)**

- 4.4 The remains of this structure are situated approximately 13m south of the house (Photo 48) and can be seen in the 1840 tithe map (Figure 2).

#### **Outbuilding (c)**

- 4.5 The remains of this structure are situated 10m north of the farmhouse and first appears on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1889 OS map (Figure 4)

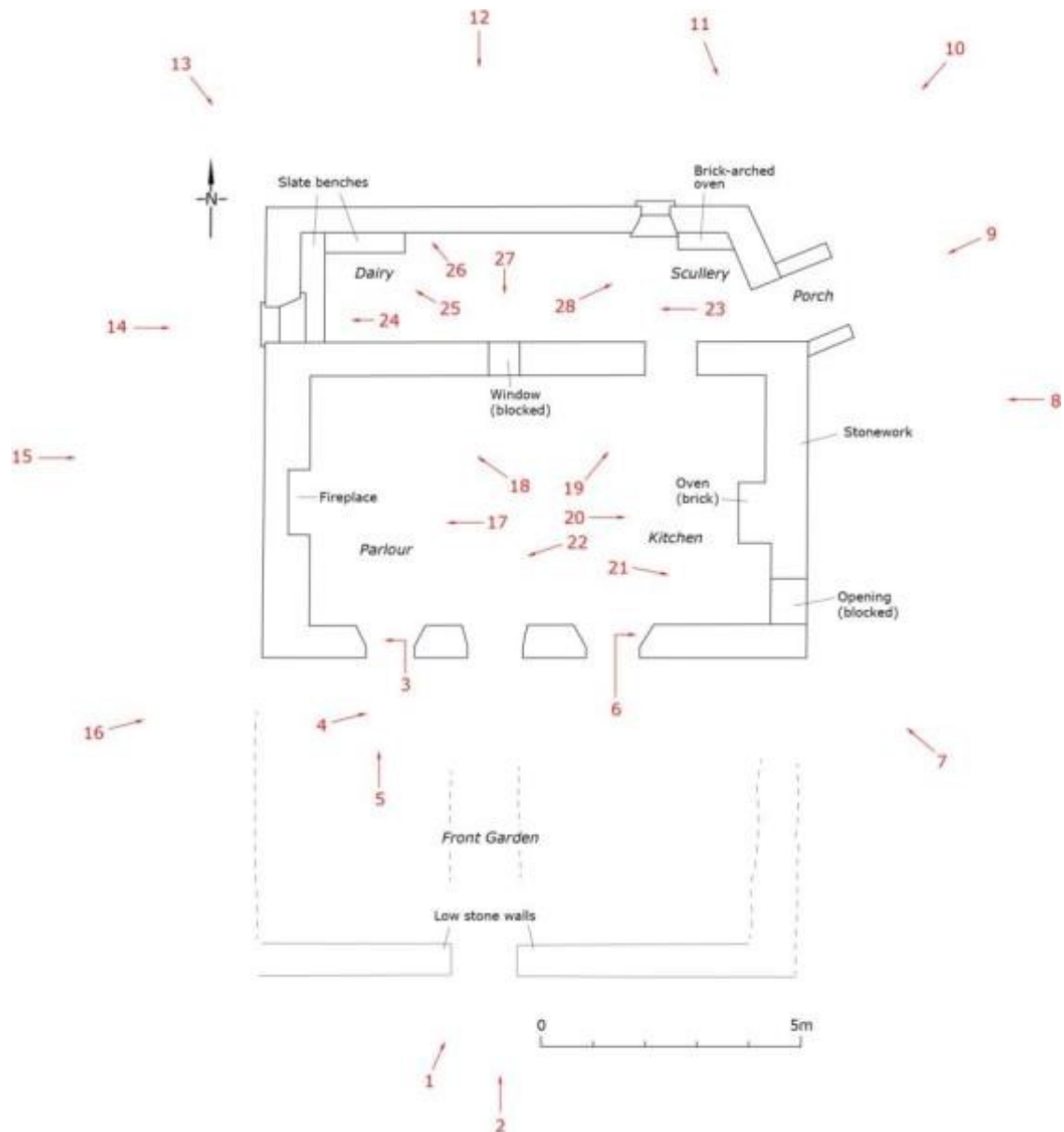
#### **Pond and associated features**

- 4.6 A man-made pond is situated approximately 30m northeast of the farmhouse, measuring c.15m by 9m (Photo 50). A small blocked opening was visible in its southern bank (Photo 51). A small, shallow gully led away from the opening to a possible stone-lined, wheel-pit situated a few metres east of the granary (Photo 52). A possible tail-race led away from this feature (Photo 53).

## 5. PHOTO SURVEY

### Farmhouse

- 5.1 The photographic survey was undertaken by Hubert Wilson and Luke Jenkins of DAT Archaeological Services on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020. The directions of the photographs are shown in Figures 10 and 11.



**Figure 10:** Floor plan of farmhouse showing directions of photographs.





**Photo 1:** View north: remains of front garden wall (house in background)- 1m scale



**Photo 2:** View north: remains of front elevation of house - 1 scale





**Photo 3:** Exposed corework at west side of frontage – 1m scale



**Photo 4:** View northeast: oblique view of frontage – 1m scale



**Photo 5:** Fallen masonry at west side of house front – 1m scale



**Photo 6:** Remains of splayed window in east side of frontage – 1m scale





**Photo 7:** Southeast corner of farmhouse - 1m scale



**Photo 8:** Remains of east elevation of house



**Photo 9:** East elevation of annex and outside porch leading into scullery - 1m scale



**Photo 10:** Northeast corner of rear annex - 1m scale





**Photo 11:** East end of rear annex and small stone porch - 1m scale



**Photo 12:** North elevation of rear annex – 1m scale

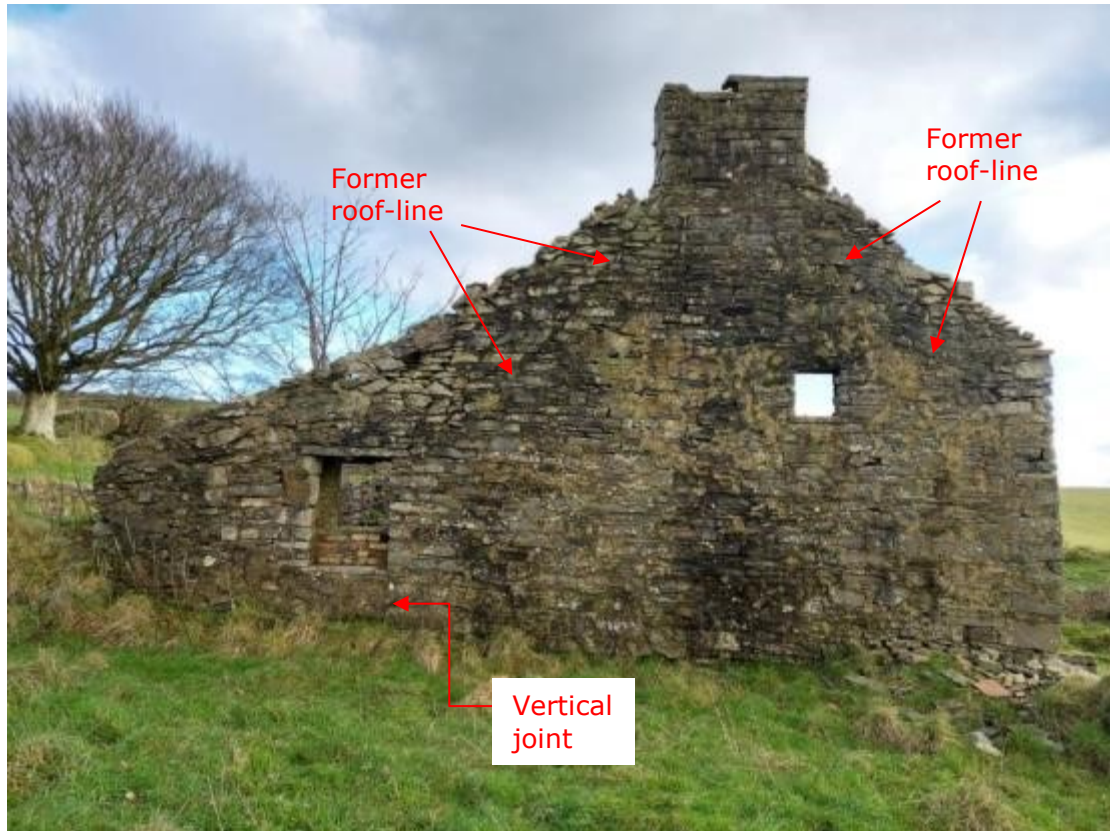


**Photo 13:** Northwest corner of rear annex - 1m scale



**Photo 14:** West elevation of annex



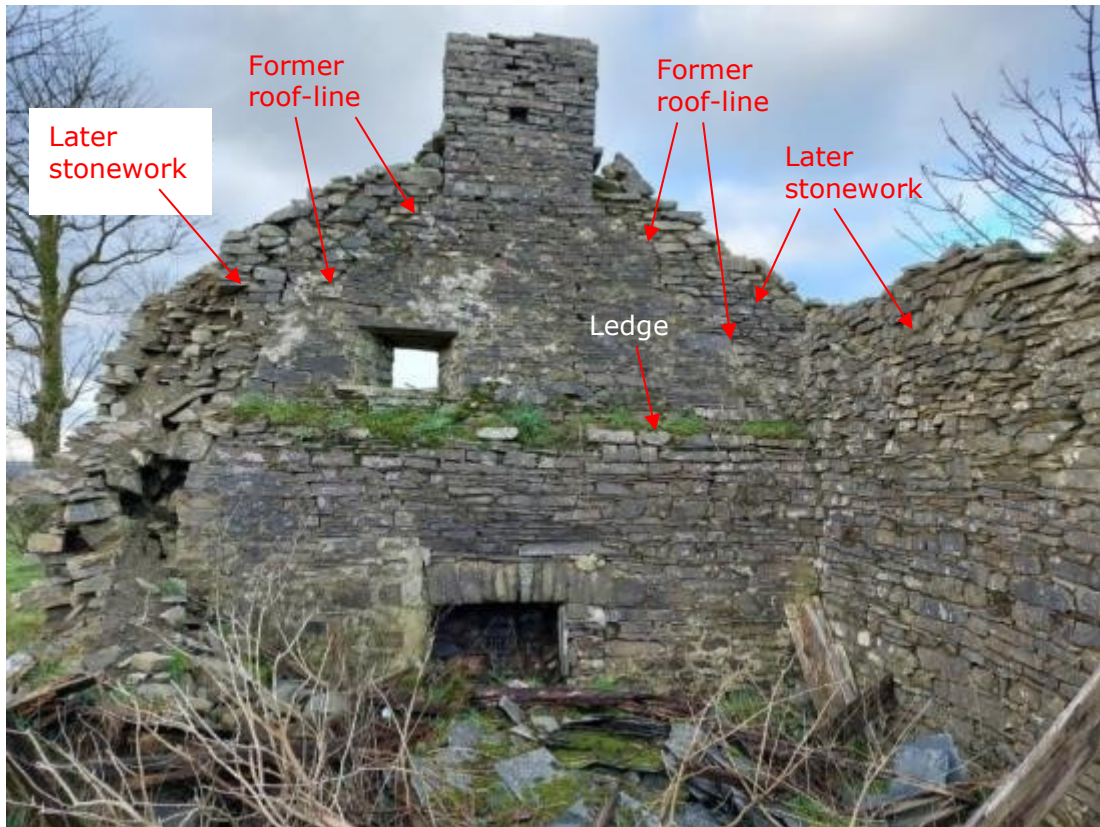


**Photo 15:** West elevation of house and annex

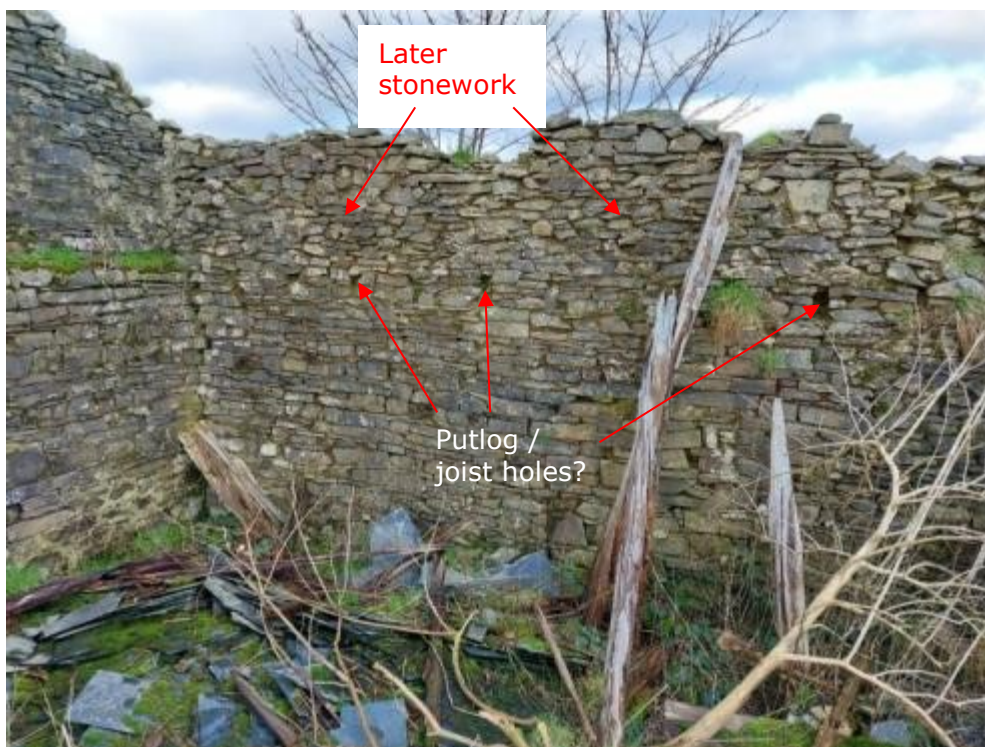


**Photo 16:** Southwest corner of house - 1m scale





**Photo 17:** Interior west elevation showing fireplace and ledge to support upper storey



**Photo 18:** Northwest interior corner of parlour; note change of stonework above ledge for upper floor - 1m scale





**Photo 19:** Northeast interior corner of kitchen with door leading to scullery with later stonework above doorway



**Photo 20:** Interior east wall of kitchen (brick oven can be partially seen -1m scale





**Photo 21:** Blocked doorway in southeast corner of house



**Photo 22:** Southwest corner of parlour and remains of front door



**Photo 23:** View west along annex - 1m scale



**Photo 24** Interior shot of modified window in west wall of annex





**Photo 25** Northwest corner of dairy with slate-slab benches



**Photo 26** Interior view of north wall of annex showing pointed and unpointed stonework



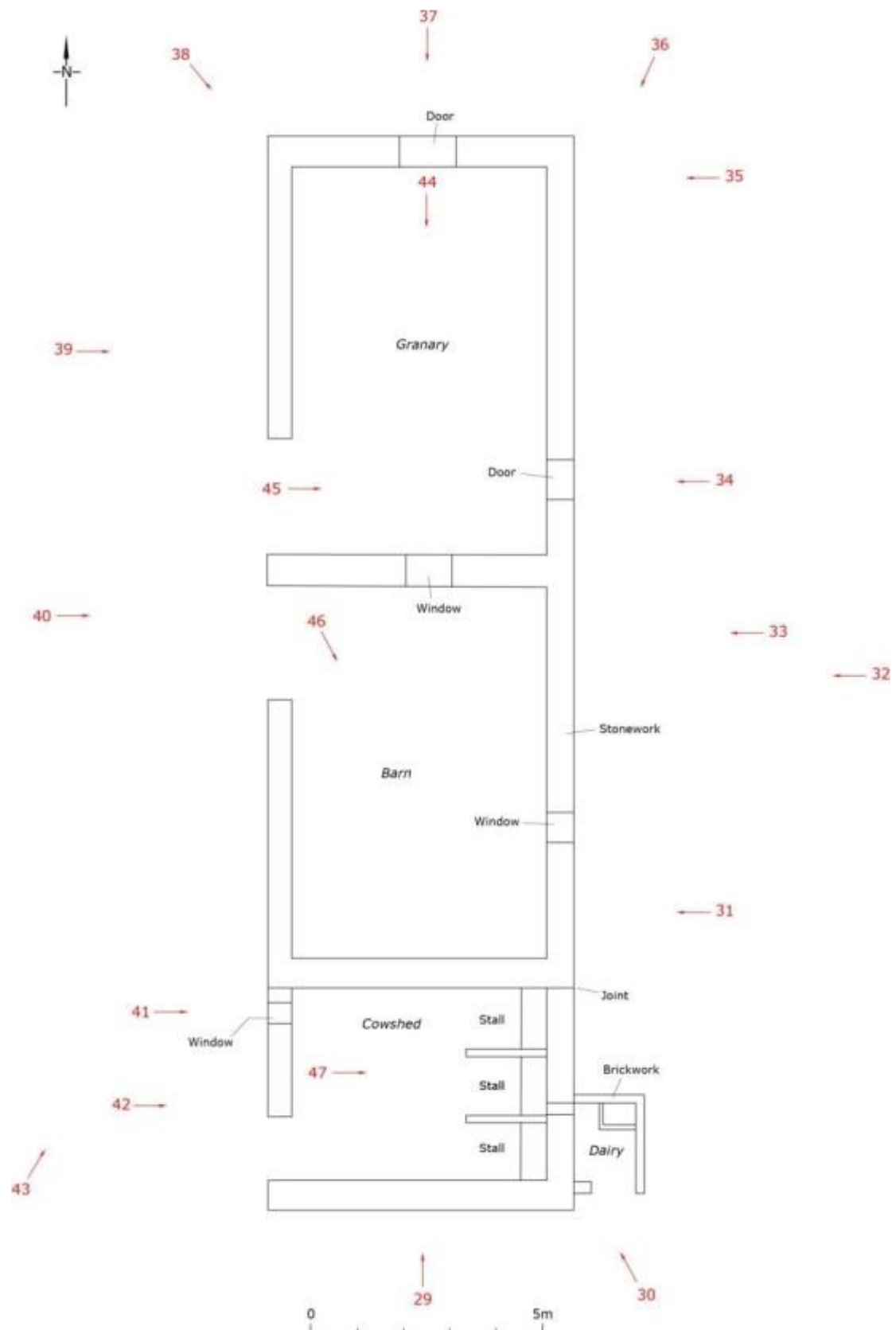
**Photo 27:** Blocked window in north wall of house



**Photo 28:** Looking at northeast corner of scullery with brick-arched fireplace and door leading to yard



### Outbuilding (a)



**Figure 11:** Floor plan of outbuilding (a) showing directions of photographs.



**Photo 29:** South elevation of cowshed with brick entrance to dairy.



**Photo 30:** Southeast corner of cowshed with brick dairy – 1m scale



**Photo 31:** Vertical joint between cowshed and barn in east elevation



**Photo 32:** East elevation of outbuilding (a)





**Photo 33:** View of east elevation showing window in barn and door into granary  
– 1m scale



**Photo 34:** Close-up of doorway into granary



**Photo 35:** East elevation of granary – 1m scale



**Photo 36:** View southwest: oblique view of outbuildings – 1m scale





**Photo 37:** North elevation of granary. Note roofline has been modified



**Photo 38:** Northwest corner of granary



**Photo 39:** Entrance in west elevation of granary – 1m scale



**Photo 40:** West elevation of outbuildings; undergrowth obscures remains of barn wall – 1m scale





**Photo 41:** Window in west elevation of cowshed – 1m scale



**Photo 42:** Entrance in west elevation of cowshed – 1m scale



**Photo 43:** View northeast of outbuilding (a) – 1m scale



**Photo 44:** Interior south elevation of garnary – 1m scale





**Photo 45:** Interior east elevation of granary



**Photo 46:** View of south elevation of barn





**Photo 47:** Stalls in east wall of cowshed



**Photo 48:** View south: remains of outbuilding (b) 13m south of the house - 1m scale





**Photo 49:** View northwest: remains of outbuilding (c) 10m north of the house.



**Photo 50:** View southeast towards pond





**Photo 51:** View north towards pond outlet



**Photo 52:** Possible wheel-pit situated a few metres east of the granary



**Photo 53:** Possible tailrace and wheel-pit east of outbuilding (a)

