

FORMER COUNTY GAOL, HAVERFORDWEST, PEMBROKESHIRE HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING



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For: Pembrokeshire County Council



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**FORMER COUNTY GAOL, HAVERFORDWEST,
PEMBROKESHIRE:
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING**

By

Philip Poucher MCIfA



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Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf
Corner House, 6 Stryd Caerfyrddin
Llandeilo, Sir Gaerfyrddin,
SA19 6AE
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121
Ffacs: 01558 823133
Epost: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Gwefan: www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited
Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street
Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire
SA19 6AE
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121
Fax: 01558 823133
Email: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Website: www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

*CADEIRYDD CHAIRMAN: Judith Wainwright MA MSc FIC FRSA, CYFARWYDDWR DIRECTOR: K MURPHY BA MIFA
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Report Prepared By

Philip Poucher

Fieldwork Undertaken By

Philip Poucher

Illustrated By

Philip Poucher

Report Approved By

Fran Murphy

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	1
1. INTRODUCTION	2
1.1 Project Background	2
1.2 Site Location	2
1.3 Scope of the Project	6
1.4 Report Outline	6
1.5 Abbreviations	6
1.6 Illustrations	6
2. METHODOLOGY	9
3. HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT	11
4. BUILDING DESCRIPTION	30
4.1 Exterior	30
4.2 Interior Ground Floor	47
4.3 Interior First and Second Floors	78
5. CONCLUSIONS	90
6. BIBLIOGRAPHY	94

FIGURES

Figure 1:	Site location map	7
Figure 2:	Detailed site location plan	8
Figure 3:	Plan of the new prison, pre 1865	15
Figure 4:	Ground floor plan, c.1861	17
Figure 5:	First floor plan, c.1861	18
Figure 6:	Second floor plan, c.1861	19
Figure 7:	Section of the gaol building, c.1861	20
Figure 8:	Ground floor plan, 1866	21
Figure 9:	First and second floor plans, 1866	22
Figure 10:	Extract from the 1:500 Ordnance Survey map of 1889	24
Figure 11:	Extract from a site plan of c.1946-64 map (Barrett)	27
Figure 12:	South elevation	43
Figure 13:	North elevation	44
Figure 14:	East and West elevations	45
Figure 15:	Photo location plan for exterior	46
Figure 16:	Ground floor plan	76
Figure 17:	Photo location plan for the ground floor	77

Figure 18:	First floor plan	86
Figure 19:	Photo location plan for the first floor	87
Figure 20:	Second floor plan	88
Figure 21:	Photo location plan for the second floor	89
Figure 22:	Phase plan of the former gaol building	93

PHOTO SURVEY

Photos 1 - 6:	The former gaol building and setting	3
Photos 7 - 8:	Comparative entrance structures	13
Photos 9 - 12:	Historic photos of the gaol	13
Photos 13 - 15:	Historic aerial photographs of the gaol	26
Photos 16 - 39:	External shots of the gaol building	30
Photos 40 - 94:	Internal shots of the ground floor	47
Photos 95 - 111:	Interior shots of first and second floors	78

FORMER COUNTY GAOL, HAVERFORDWEST, PEMBROKESHIRE: HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

SUMMARY

Dyfed Archaeological Trust - Archaeological Services was commissioned to undertake an archaeological scheme of historic building recording of the former gaol building within the grounds of Haverfordwest Castle, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire (SM 95297 15738). The building is Grade II listed (ref.12033) and recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record as PRN 8630 and National Monuments Record as NPRN 32071. The survey was carried out to Level 3 requirements.

The gaol was built in 1820 to designs by J.P.Pritchett, modified in the 1860s and closed in 1878. The building was then used by the Pembrokeshire Constabulary until 1963 when it was acquired by the Pembrokeshire County Council. The building was converted for use as the county museum to plans by Gilbert Ray, the county architect. Further modifications were carried out in the 1970s when it also became used as the county record office. The record office closed in 2012.

The original building survives externally as a substantial three-storey late Georgian prison building with a fine gatehouse front, built of sandstone rubble with limestone dressings, an entrance gatehouse to the south, trapezoidal cross-gable to the north and hipped slate roof. Modern additions lie around the gatehouse and have been added to the southwest and northwest of the main building. Internally some original walling survives at ground floor level, with blocked fireplaces and doorways evident, but otherwise it was extensively remodelled in the 1960s, removing many internal subdivisions and completely replacing the upper floors.

CRYNODEB

Comisiynwyd Gwasanaethau Archaeolegol YAD i ymgymryd â chynllun archeolegol o gofnodi adeilad hanesyddol o'r hen adeilad carchar ar dir Castell Hwlfordd, Hwlfordd, Sir Benfro (SM 95297 15738). Mae'r adeilad yn adeilad rhestredig Gradd II (cyf.12033) ac wedi'i gofnodi ar y Cofnod Amgylchedd Hanesyddol rhanbarthol fel PRN 8630 a'r Cofnod Henebion Cenedlaethol fel NPRN 32071. Cynhaliwyd yr arolwg i ofynion Lefel 3.

Adeiladwyd y carchar yn 1820 i ddyluniadau gan J.P.Pritchett, aC addaswyd yn y 1860au a'i gau ym 1878. Yna defnyddiwyd yr adeilad gan Heddlu Sir Benfro tan 1963 pan ddaeth i feddiant Cyngor Sir Penfro. Troswyd yr adeilad i'w ddefnyddio fel amgueddfa'r sir i gynlluniau gan Gilbert Ray, pensaer y Sir. Gwnaed addasiadau pellach yn y 1970au pan gafodd ei ddefnyddio hefyd fel archifdy sirol. Caeodd yr archifdy yn 2012.

Mae'r adeilad gwreiddiol wedi goroesi y tu allan fel adeilad carchar tri llawr sylweddol o ddiwedd y cyfnod Sioraidd gyda blaen porthdy cain, wedi'i adeiladu o rwbel tywodfaen gydag addurniadau calchfaen, porthdy mynediad i'r de, talcen croes trapesoidaidd i'r gogledd a tho llechi talcennog. Mae ychwanegiadau modern o amgylch y porthdy ac wedi'u hychwanegu i'r de-orllewin a'r gogledd-orllewin o'r prif adeilad. Y tu mewn mae rhai waliau gwreiddiol wedi goroesi ar lefel y llawr gwaelod, gyda lleoedd tân a drysau wedi'u blocio i'w gweld, ond fel arall fe'i hailfodelwyd yn helaeth yn y 1960au, gan ddileu llawer o israniadau mewnol ac ailosod y lloriau uwch yn gyfan gwbl.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Dyfed Archaeological Trust - Archaeological Services (DAT-AS) was commissioned by Pembrokeshire County Council to undertake an archaeological scheme of historic building recording works on the former county gaol building, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire (centred on SM 95297 15738).
- 1.1.2 The building was built in 1820 as the County Gaol. After its closure in 1878 it was used by the county police force until 1963 before being repurposed as the county museum and record office in the later 20th century. The museum and record office have since been relocated, and the building has lain unoccupied for several years. As a building of special historic interest it has been Grade II listed (ref. 12033). It is also recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record (HER), held and maintained by Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT), as PRN 8630, and on the National Monuments Record (held and maintained by RCAHMW) as NPRN 32071. The building is also located within Haverfordwest Castle which is itself a scheduled monument (PE 366), although the former gaol building has been excluded from the scheduled area.
- 1.1.3 Planning permission is being sought for the redevelopment of the former gaol building, as part of a wider programme of restoration and enhancement of the Haverfordwest Castle area. Development plans are currently under preparation and a current application has not yet been submitted, however Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management (DAT-DM), in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local authority, have recommended that historic building recording to a Level 3 standard, as outlined in Historic England’s guidance for Historic Building Recording, should be undertaken on the former county gaol prior to any works being undertaken on the structure.
- 1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation for the historic building recording and analysis was produced by DAT-AS. This has been approved by DAT-DM, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local authority.
- 1.1.5 The historic building recording scheme has been undertaken to a Level 3 standard as defined in the Historic England ‘Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice’ (2016), which is described thus:
- Level 3 is an analytical record, and will comprise an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the building’s origins, development and use. The record will include an account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail. It will also include all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the building’s appearance and structure and to support an historical analysis*
- 1.1.6 Several site visits have undertaken, with photographs taken on visits in June and October 2023.
- 1.1.7 The historic building recording has been undertaken in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2014, revised 2020).

1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The former gaol building stands within the outer ward of Haverfordwest Castle. The building faces south, fronted by a levelled turf-covered terrace traversed by an access path, before the ground then falls away to a masonry revetment wall forming the castle boundary and a house built into the castle grounds. Castle Back Lane then traverses the hillside before it drops sharply to the Castle Lake Car Park

below. To the north of the building lies another grass covered area, traversed by a tarmac path. This area is bounded by the masonry curtain wall of the outer ward of the castle, which stands a little above ground level on the south side, but several metres tall to the exterior, beyond which lies Haysguard Lane. To the west of the building lies a tarmacked car park area, also bounded by masonry curtain walling to the west, with the vehicle entrance to the site to the southwest. To the east lies the main upstanding remains of the castle, with a high masonry wall encircling three sides of the inner ward of the castle. An 18th century building, the former gaol Governor's House and now town museum, lies immediately to the southeast of the former gaol building and encloses part of the west side of the inner bailey of the castle.

- 1.2.2 The castle site itself lies at around 23m OD at the eastern end of a strong isolated east-west ridge, where it terminates as a steep rocky bluff overlooking the Western Cleddau to the east. The ground falls away on all sides except to the west. A steep slope to the south descends to a watercourse, 'Castle Lake', now culverted beneath the main car park, which separates the castle from the town's High Street. A much shallower slope on the north side descends to the early town. More level ground separates the castle from St Martin's Church to the west.
- 1.2.3 The site is flanked by the commercial areas of High Street to the south and Bridge Street to the east, with residential areas to the north and west. The town centre is further surrounded by light industry along the river and residential properties all around, set within a relatively rural landscape. Roads radiate out from the town which had traditionally functioned as the administrative and commercial centre of the county. The Western Cleddau is tidal up to Haverfordwest and flows southward where it joins the Eastern Cleddau, before turning westward into the deep and wide Milford Haven Estuary and out into the Bristol Channel. The underlying geology of the area comprises east – west bands of alternating mudstones and sandstones, with some interbedded conglomerates around the southern edge of the town, and limestone outcrops to the southwest and northeast (BGS 2021).



Photo 1: The former gaol building, looking northwest, showing the building frontage and surrounds.



Photo 2: *The former gaol building, looking southwest, showing the rear of the building.*



Photo 3: *View east showing the area in front of the building, with the former gaol Governor's House facing the shot to the rear.*



Photo 4: View northeast past the entrance to the former gaol building, with the end of the former Governor's House on the right, and standing remains of Haverfordwest Castle inner ward to the rear.



Photo 5: View west past the front of the former gaol building, looking out of the entrance with the buildings along Castle Street beyond.



Photo 6: View southeast into the inner ward of Haverfordwest Castle to the east of the former gaol building, and site of the pre-1820 gaol.

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 photographic survey, site notes, drawings and historical research.

1.4 Report Outline

- 1.4.1 This report describes the location of the site, its known archaeological and historical background and includes photographs of the site. A description of the structures is included, along with a discussion on their form, function and date. Sources are referenced within the text or as footnotes.

1.5 Abbreviations

- Regional Historic Environment Record – HER
- Primary Reference Number – PRN
- National Grid Reference – NGR
- Written Scheme of Investigation - WSI
- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales – RCAHMW

1.6 Illustrations

Record photographs are included throughout the text. Printed plan, elevation and map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale and are illustrative only. Fully scaled plans and elevations are included within the site archive.



Figure 1: Site location of Haverfordwest Castle in red.

Map data from OpenStreetMap (OSM) <https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright> 24/10/2023

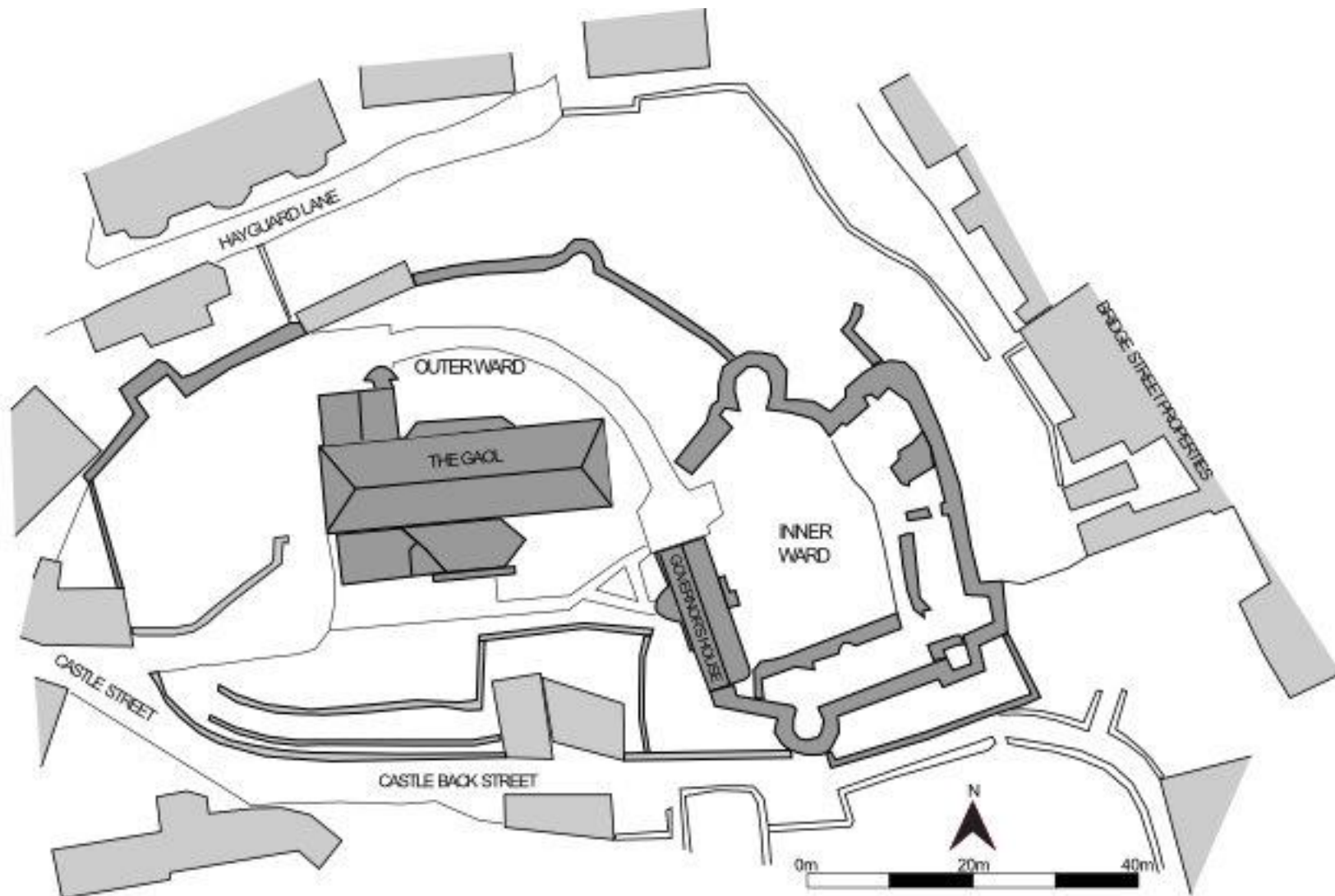


Figure 2: Detail location plan showing the former gaol building within the Haverfordwest Castle site.

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The historic building recording scheme has been undertaken to a Level 3 standard as defined in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (Historic England 2016). This level of recording is described thus:

*Level 3 is an **analytical record** and will comprise an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the building's origins, development and use. The record will include an account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail. It will also include all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the building's appearance and structure and to support an historical analysis.*

The information contained in the record will for the most part have been obtained through an examination of the building itself. The documentary sources used are likely to be those which are most readily accessible, such as historic Ordnance Survey maps, trade directories and other published sources. The record may contain some discussion the building's broader stylistic or historical context and importance. It may form part of a wider survey of a number of buildings which will aim at an overall synthesis, such as a thematic or regional publication, when the use of additional source material may be necessary as well as a broader historical and architectural discussion of the buildings as a group. A Level 3 record may also be appropriate when the fabric of a building is under threat, but time or resources are insufficient to allow for detailed documentary research, or where the scope for such research is limited.

- 2.2 Based on the Level 3 record as defined in the Historic England (2016) guidelines the following have been 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) and non-statutory designations (historic parks and gardens registers, local lists etc).
- 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 will 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
- An account of the building's overall form and its successive phases of development, together with the evidence supporting this analysis.
- An account of the past and present uses of the building and its parts, with the evidence for these interpretations. An account of any fixtures or fittings associated with the building, and their purposes.
- Any evidence for the former existence of demolished structures or removed features associated with the building.

- Copies of historic maps, drawings, views or photographs illustrating the development of the building or its site (if readily available and permissible).
- References to all sources consulted.

Drawn Record

- Measured plans (to scale) as existing of all floors, including significant structural detail and phasing elements. Plans will be georeferenced to the OS national grid.
- Measured external elevations, including significant structural detail and phasing elements.
- A site plan, typically at 1:500 or 1:1250 relating the building to other structures and to related topographical feature and landscape features.
- Copies of earlier drawings throwing light on the building's history, if available

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.
- Views reflecting any original design intentions where these can be established.
- The overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas of the building.
- Any external or internal detail, relevant to the building's design, development and use.
- Any dates or other inscriptions, any signage or graffiti.
- Any building contents or ephemera which have a significant bearing on the building's history.

3 HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

- 3.1 The site was first developed as a castle site, probably from the early 12th century by Tancard, a Flemish settler (Davis 2000, 78; James 2002, 432; King 1999, 34; Thorpe 1978, 141-4). The inner ward at Haverfordwest is relatively small in comparison to similar castle sites, which may suggest that the outer ward (within which the former county gaol sits) may have been a necessary requirement from the first. The castle was likely largely defended by timber works until a masonry keep was built in the inner ward towards the end of the 12th century. The castle was then largely fortified in stone around the middle of the 13th century, with late 13th/early 14th century additions. The surviving masonry is largely contained within the inner ward area to the east, although part of the outer ward curtain wall survives to the north of the former county gaol building, along with a reduced semi-circular tower and square tower. The main gatehouse structure would have lain on the west side but this has now gone, as has the southern curtain wall. Current archaeological investigations on site suggest the inner and outer wards would have been separated by a large open ditch, running under the eastern end of the former gaol building.
- 3.2 There may have been some decline in the fortunes of the castle due to absentee owners during the 14th century, but records indicate the castle buildings remained habitable and the castle was refortified during the Scots wars of the 1320s and again in the 1380s. The Glyndŵr uprising of the early 15th century also led to the castle being refortified, with a new tower built in the outer ward.
- 3.3 With the establishment of the new county of Pembrokeshire after the Acts of Union of 1536 and 1543, Haverfordwest Castle ceased to be the centre of an independent lordship (Charles 1967, 1; Owen 1911, 124 and n.1). It retained some administrative functions, such as being the main seat for the courts of the Great Sessions, but soon became unsuitable for this purpose and by 1560 the county Sessions were being held in the guildhall instead. A survey of 1577 described the castle as 'utterly decayed' (Owen 1903, 40), although probably referring to its financial and legal status rather than physical condition. It was still used as a gaol and courts for minor affairs (Owen 1903, 42), although the former was probably in the inner ward and the latter in the outer ward gatehouse. The survey describes the outer ward containing the curtain wall with at least four towers, a gatehouse and a stable. The court and gaol were formally removed to a new county gaol in the town in 1610. The castle was pressed into service during the Civil Wars of the 1640s but its defences were slighted after the war.
- 3.4 Following the Civil War the castle was under the control of the Crown authorities until 1779. There is little record as to what activities were taking place within the castle during this period. By 1748 a bowling green had been laid out within the outer ward (Hancock 2020, 27; Lloyd et al. 2004, 202), suggesting that some levelling of the ground had taken place, otherwise it may have remained a largely empty shell prior to the construction of the current building.
- 3.5 In 1779 the Pembrokeshire authorities purchased the castle site absolutely, buying out leasehold interests and establishing a new County Gaol in the inner ward to the east, the existing county gaol in the town having been deemed unsatisfactory by the prison reformer John Howard (Howard 1777, 465-6). Within the inner ward the medieval south range was partly rebuilt as a prison block, with a block also established against the northern curtain wall. The medieval east range was demolished, and a new Governor's House was built over the site of the west range, which may have been removed in the slighting after the Civil War. Conditions soon proved unsatisfactory (Neild 1808, 256-8)

and by 1818 preparations were under way to start work on an entirely new, and much larger, gaol building in the castle outer ward (Freeman 1999, 46; King 1999, 40; Lloyd et al. 2004, 204).

- 3.6 The new gaol, a substantial late-Georgian prison building, was designed by James Pigott Pritchett of York (Lloyd et al. 2004, 204) and built at a cost of between £2,663 and £2,875 (PRO HO/130/4). The new gaol was open by 1820, some accounts (Hancock 2020, 27) suggesting it contained eight wards, two work rooms and eight day rooms, as well as a court-house, gallows and chapel, although some of these element may take the pre-existing facilities in the inner ward into account. The original number of cells is unclear but was apparently increased to 110 in the early years of the gaol (Ray 1969, 1). This however appears too large number for the size of the building and may also have included the complex with the inner ward. The new gaol building was a three-storey rectangular gable-roofed structure, laid out roughly east – west, with a slightly protruding central trapezoidal gable to the rear (north) and an elevated central square castellated watch tower in the front (south) roof. An entrance gatehouse and passageway extended from the south face of the building. The whole site was surrounded by airing yards within a masonry enclosure wall.
- 3.7 The architect, J P Pritchett, was born in Pembrokeshire in 1789 (christened in St Petrox), the son of a Pembroke clergyman. As a young man he moved to London to work as an architect under Daniel Alexander. Whilst there it is likely he worked with Alexander on the designs for Maidstone Prison, which was built between 1811 and 1818 (White and Andrews 2022). Both Maidstone Prison and Haverfordwest Gaol share some similarities in standard design features of the main gaol building but the most striking similarity is the main entrance block to the gaol (Photos 7 and 8).
- 3.8 By the time Haverfordwest Gaol was being designed and built Pritchett had moved on, and since 1813 had been working in York alongside the architect Charles Watson. The two worked together until 1831, although Haverfordwest may have been a more personal venture for Pritchett as Watson is not mentioned in connection to the building. Wales also appears to be a rare foray for Pritchett, possibly drawn back to the area due to family connections. Pritchett and Watson designed many buildings throughout England and Scotland but largely focussed on the Yorkshire area, their designs included the York and Wakefield Lunatic Asylums, a variety of major municipal buildings, some private residences and a range of churches. Churches were to feature more prominently once Pritchett started working independently after 1831. These buildings displayed many typical grand late-Georgian architectural details but no close visual comparisons with Haverfordwest. Given the similarities in the entrance block, Pritchett's designs for Haverfordwest were presumably based on the work done previously with Alexander at Maidstone Prison in 1811. However, by the time Haverfordwest Gaol was built in 1820 Pritchett and Watson had only recently completed Wakefield Asylum (Watson and Pritchett 1819). Their designs were influenced by recent reforms in the treatment of asylum patients and a changing societal attitude to incarceration generally. The asylum was lauded for its use of lighting, heating and ventilation (White and Andrews 2022, Fennelly 2014). These designs included the use of vaulted ceilings on the corridors (more akin to grander houses), inspection plates on the doorways, and larger windows. The vaulted ceilings were replicated at Haverfordwest (Photo 9), but doors remained solid and windows small. A central heating system was introduced at Haverfordwest but this was a subsequent addition of 1866-7, the original building appears to have been only partially heated.



Photo 7: Entrance block to Maidstone Prison (top), c.1811-



Photo 8: Entrance block Haverfordwest Gaol (bottom), 1820.

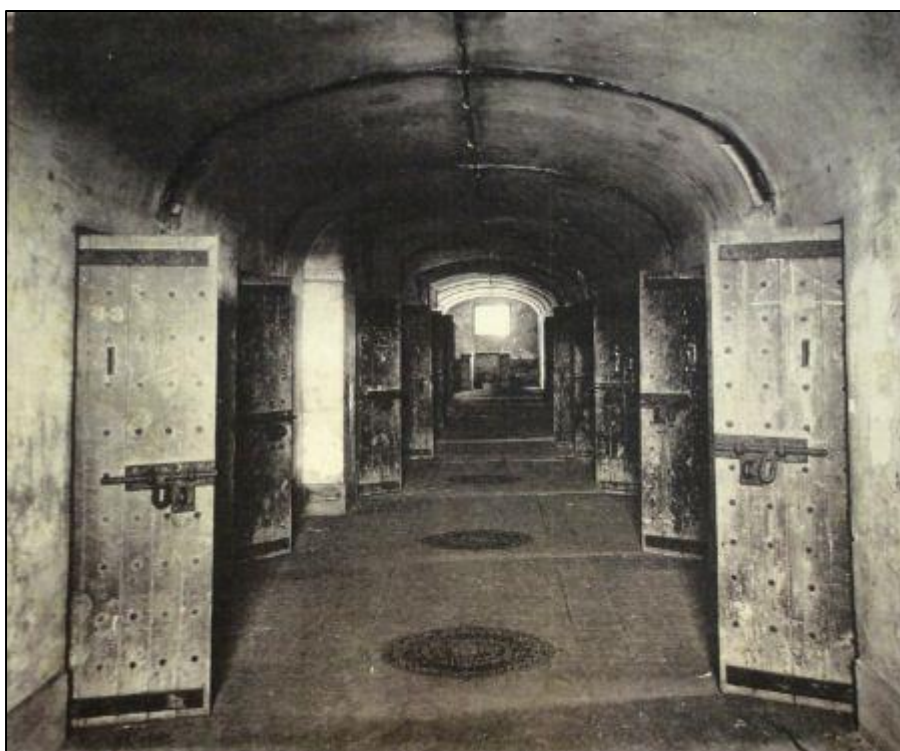


Photo 9: The first floor corridor in Haverfordwest Gaol showing the vaulted ceiling and cell doors (Haverfordwest Town Museum).

- 3.9 While its management by the Pembrokeshire County authorities continued, the gaol was also soon constituted as a Borough Gaol (Freeman 1999, 47; Lewis 1849), like many other County Gaols including Carmarthen (Ludlow 2014, 241). There is however no evidence that it was enlarged for its new purpose, while some penal use of the inner ward continued; a treadwheel was erected in the southeast corner in 1820-1 (Freeman 1999, 48) while the medieval North Tower is said to have been used for executions until 1821 (Phillips 1922, 453 and n. 1).
- 3.10 In 1833 the gaol was subject to a fairly lengthy description by Samuel Lewis, revised in 1849:

'the common gaol and House of Correction for Pembrokeshire . . . is appropriated for the reception of prisoners both for Pembrokeshire and Haverfordwest [i.e.. both a County and Borough Gaol since 1822]. The buildings are well calculated for the classification of prisoners, and comprise eight wards; two workrooms, one for males and one for females; eight dayrooms, and eight airing-yards, in one of which is a treadwheel' (Lewis 1849, 'Haverfordwest').

The number of airing yards in Lewis's description suggests that it encompassed both the inner and outer wards, while the treadwheel appears to have remained within the inner ward until at least c.1870. A Parliamentary committee looking into the state of gaols in 1835 suggests the Pembroke County gaol (i.e. Haverfordwest gaol) contained 45 cells and could hold up to 71 prisoners (Parliamentary Papers 1835). This would suggest the original 110 cells (Ray 1969, 1) may be an overestimation, or at the very least had been reduced in number. Surgeon's records for the first 15 years of the gaol (PRO PQ/AG/72) show a mix of men and women spread across the eight wards, initially largely comprising criminals and debtors, and some lunatics, with the crimes of bastardy and vagrancy becoming more common from the mid-1820s onward. There were normally between 20 and 40 prisoners at the gaol but the figure could rise to 70 or 80 (Freeman 1999, 50).

- 3.11 After the Gaol Acts of 1823 and 1865 stipulated the segregation of male and female prisoners (Ireland 2007, 113-14, 116), the Debtor's Block in the inner ward was used as a Female Wing and a Matron's House was built nearby in the late 1860s (Freeman 1999, 46, 50). An early ground plan shows the layout of the gaol and grounds (Fig.3), dated to 1867 but still showing the Debtors block and therefore likely to be earlier. The gaol building was segregating male and female prisoners, but they were still contained within the same building. The chapel is shown, as is a detached infirmary on the north side of the building.

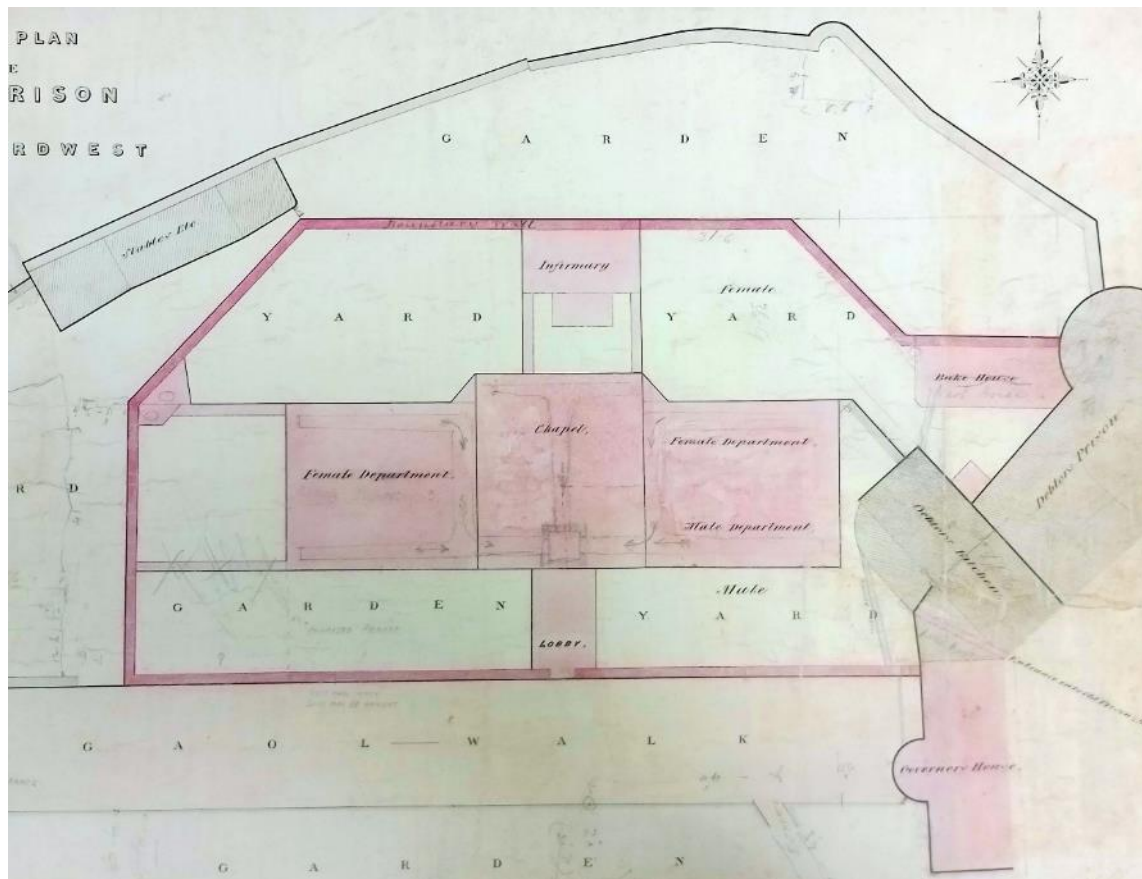


Figure 3: A plan of the 'new prison' at Haverfordwest, showing the gaol building and surrounding grounds. Provisionally dated in the archives to 1867, it is more likely to predate 1865/6 when the debtors block (labelled on the right) became the female wing. Used with permission of Pembrokeshire County Council, PRO PCC/PC/1/9.

- 3.12 A series of plans of the gaol survive from the 1860s, currently housed in the Pembrokeshire Archives, showing the internal layout of the gaol. Potentially the earliest plan is dated to 1861 (or possibly 1867, the date is unclear) and includes plans to install some iron-walled cells on the upper floor (Figs 4 to 7). These plans show the gaol comprising a main rectangular block with the central entrance on the south side and a trapezoidal protrusion on the north side, the plan it appears to have had from its original construction in 1820 and a ground plan it still retains with some later additions. At ground floor level (Fig 4 and 7) the building comprised a central block flanked by cells to the west and east. The central block was accessed from the south into a central passage that extended to the north wall of the gaol, with a cross passage which subdivided the space into four large rooms. On the south side two 'day rooms' were each lit by two windows in the south wall, with a single fireplace in the east and west walls. The west room was accessed from the central passage, the east room was accessed from an eastern corridor. On the north side the two rooms comprised a Matron's Parlour and a Matron's Kitchen. Each room had a trapezoidal north wall, a window in the outer angle, a fireplace on the inner angle and both were accessed from the central corridor. A series of cells lined the southern side of the building, four to each side of the day rooms with a corridor along the northern side of the cells connecting to their respective day rooms. To the west the easternmost cell had a corner fireplace, each lit by a single window in the south wall. To the east the easternmost room was given

over to the stairs to the first floor and an external door. Along the northern part of the building each side of the central block was flanked by a larger day room with a side fireplace and lit by two windows, a typical cell and a staircase block, all linked by a corridor along their southern edge which ran through the day rooms and connected to the central entrance passage.

- 3.13 The first floor (Fig 5 and 7) contained a row of twelve cells and a stairway along the southern side, connected by a corridor to the north. Each cell was lit by a single window, with fireplaces provided in four cells. Along the northern side a chapel occupied the northern half of the central block, flanked by three cells and a stairway block to either side, all with a connecting corridor to the south, separated from the corridor along the southern cells. The chapel was lit by four windows, the cells had a window each, with those adjoining the chapel also having a fireplace.
- 3.14 The second floor (Fig 6 and 7) had a row of thirteen cells along the southern side of the building, with eight cells along the northern side, four to each side of the central block. These cells shared a wide central corridor, with two stoves in the centre. The central block shows the area of proposed alterations, which obscures the original layout. The plans suggests however the central block originally contained fourteen smaller cells with a central corridor, later changed to three larger iron cells and storerooms.
- 3.15 In the mid-1860s a new heating system was installed within the gaol building, with the boiler placed in a central basement, heating vents running along the corridors and vertical iron pipework for heating and air flow installed in individual cells throughout the building. Further plans were produced in 1866 (Figs 8 and 9) and 1867 to illustrate this new heating system (PCC/PL/1/6-7). The internal layout of the building appears largely unchanged on the ground floor and first floor, although the Matrons Parlour is now labelled as an office. At second floor level the northern part of the central block is shown as four larger rooms, differing from both the original small cells and the proposed iron cells indicated on the previous plan. Two of these larger rooms were used by the prison wardens.
- 3.16 In addition to the internal renovations further works were also undertaken to the exterior and grounds, including new yard surfaces and the exhumation of the body of William Roblin, the last person to have been hanged at the gaol (and Pembrokeshire) in 1821. He appears to have been buried in the grounds of the gaol but his body was removed and sold (Roberts 1997; 69).

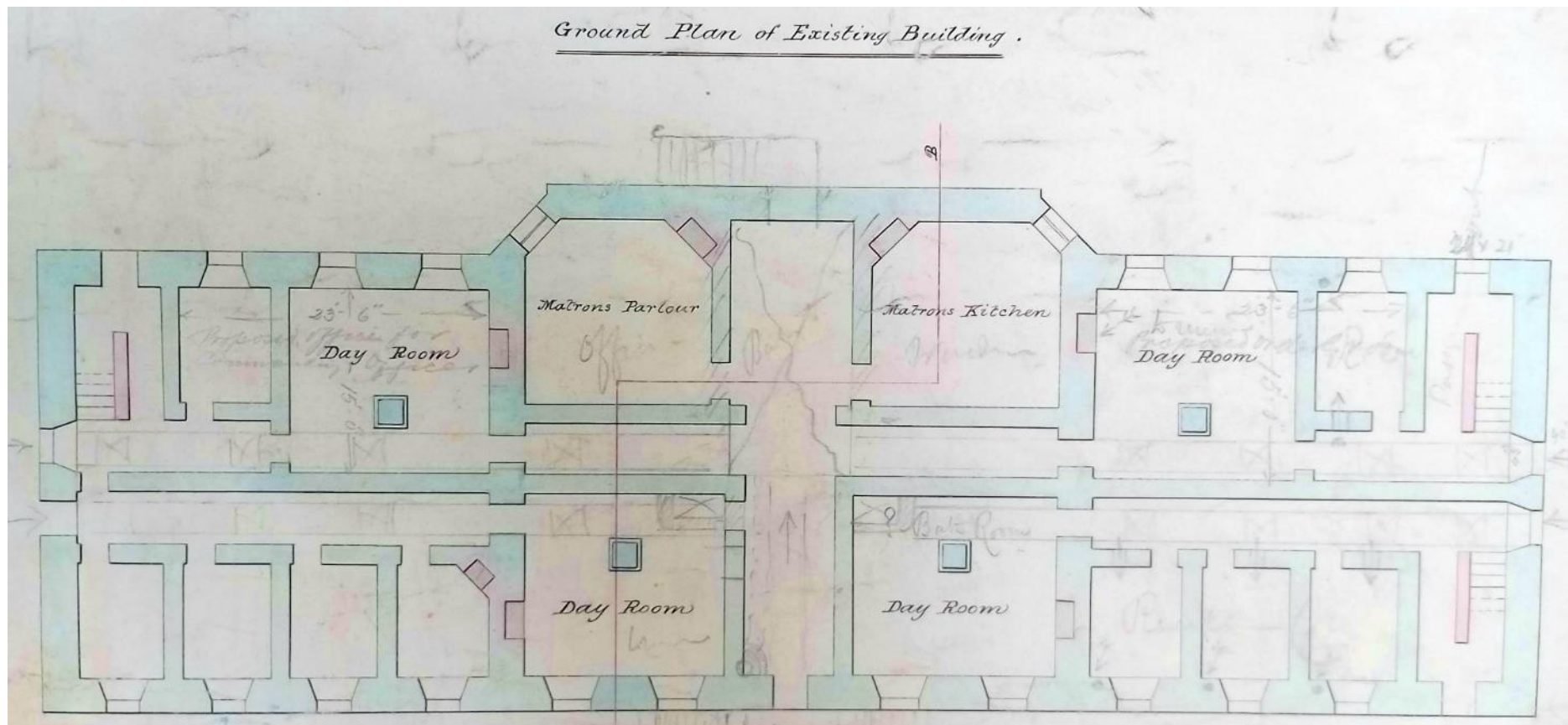


Figure 4: Plan of the ground floor of the gaol building in c.1861. Used with permission of Pembrokeshire County Council, PRO PCC/PC/1/8.

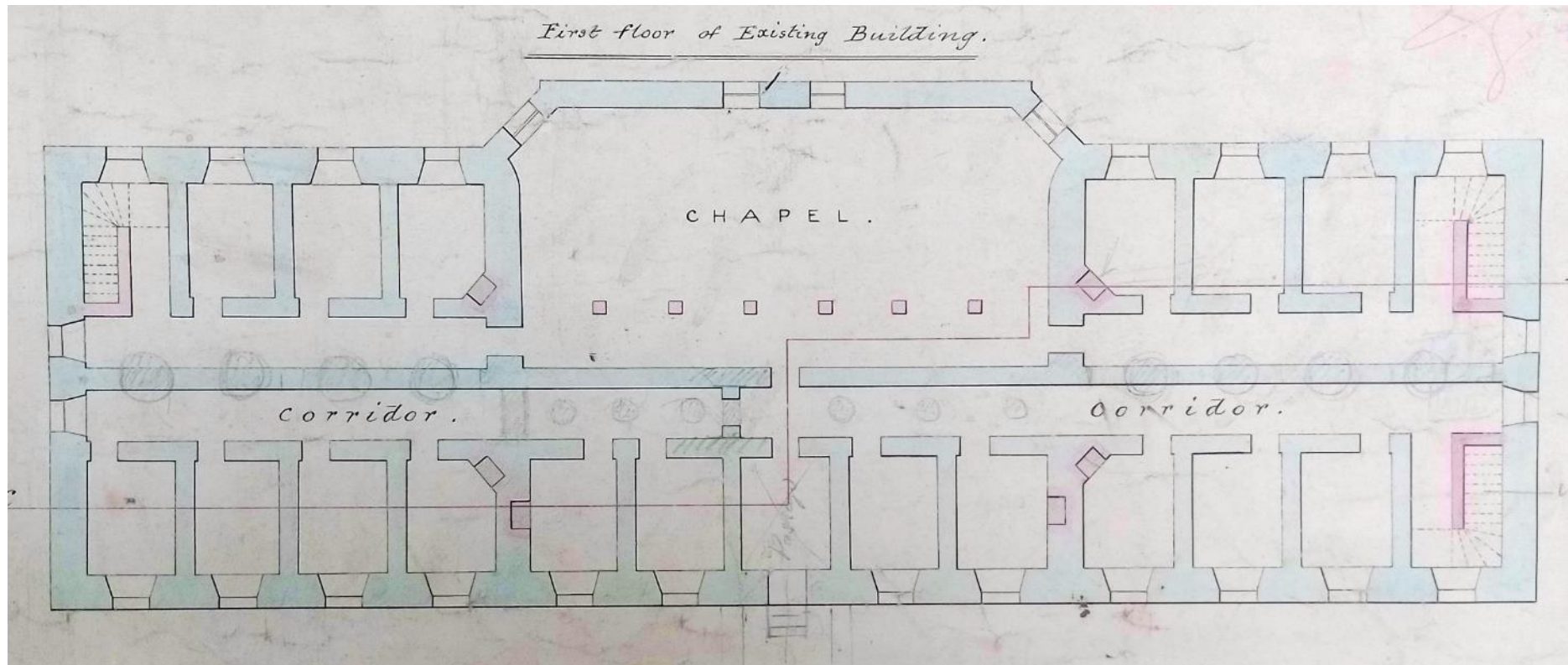


Figure 5: Plan of the first floor of the gaol building in c.1861. Used with permission of Pembrokeshire County Council, PRO PCC/PC/1/8.

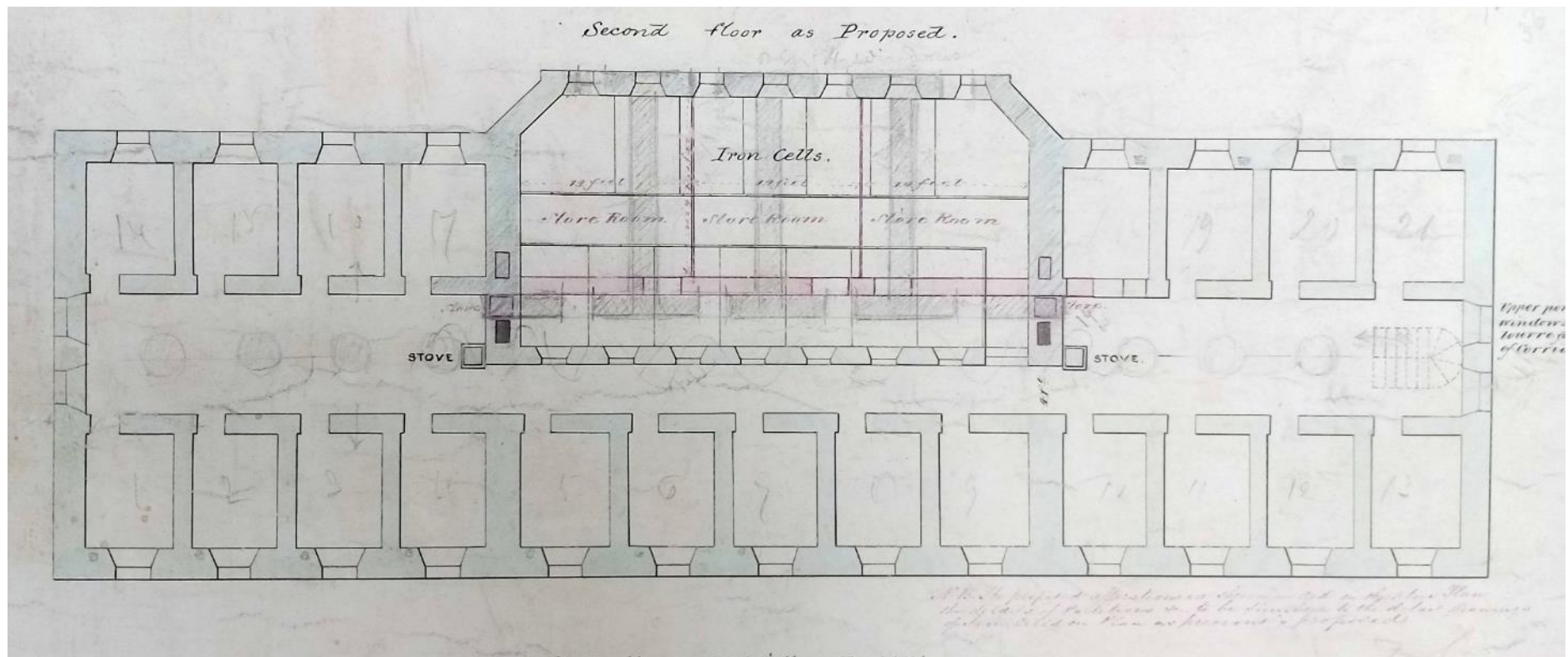


Figure 6: Plan of the second floor of the gaol building in c.1861, showing proposed alterations to the central block. Used with permission of Pembrokeshire County Council, PRO PCC/PC/1/8.

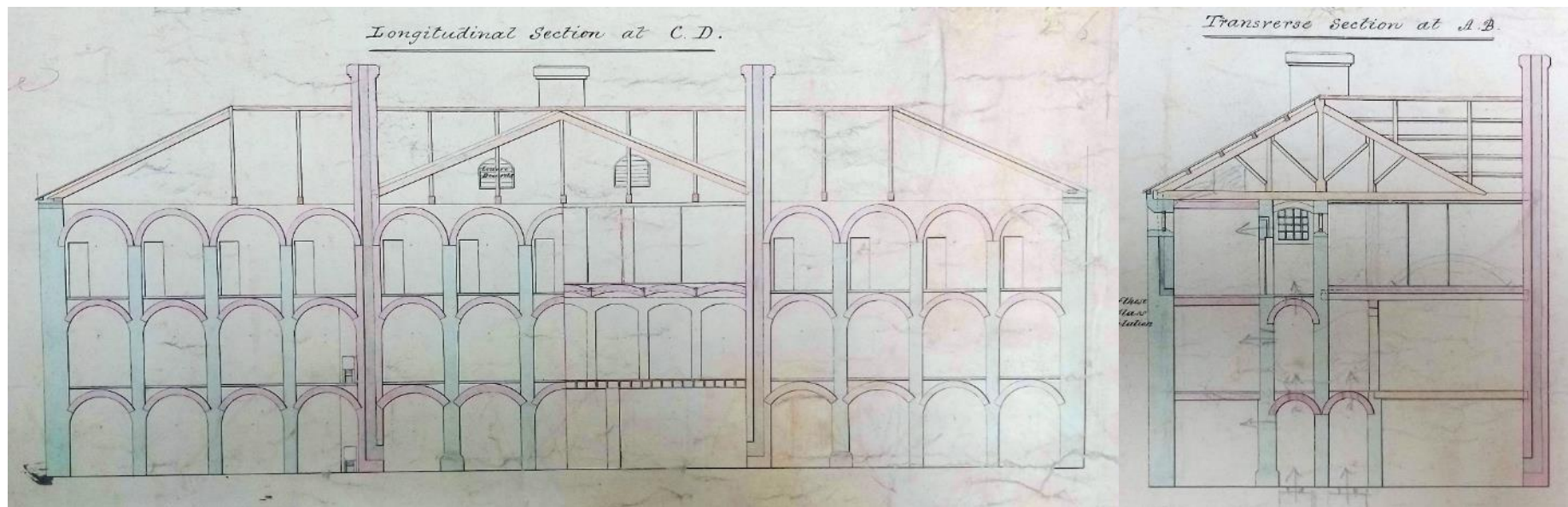


Figure 7: Longitudinal and transverse sections through the gaol building in c.1861. Used with permission of Pembrokeshire County Council, PRO PCC/PC/1/8.

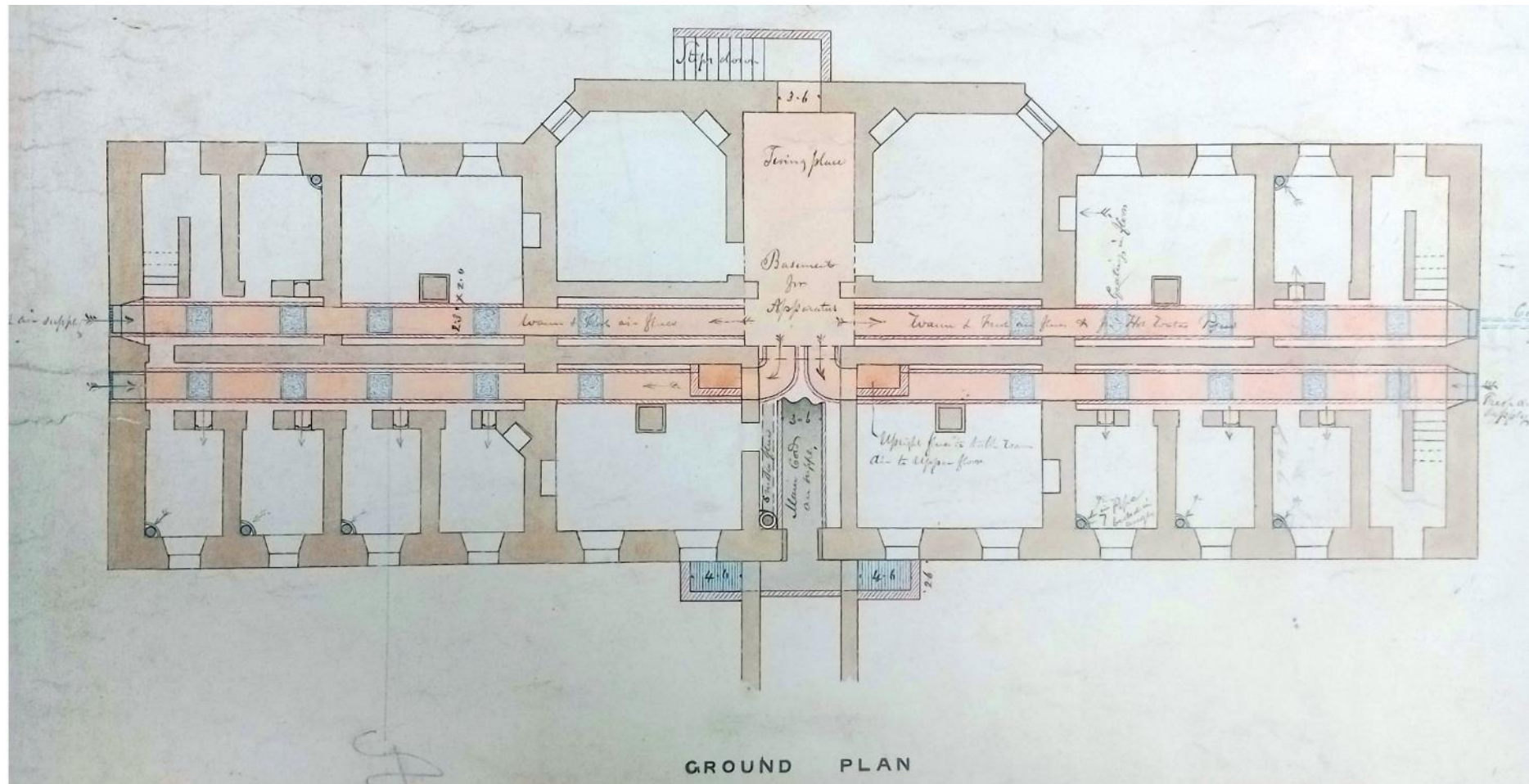


Figure 8: Ground floor of the gaol building in 1866, showing the layout of the new heating system within the gaol. Used with permission of Pembrokeshire County Council, PRO PCC/PC/1/6.

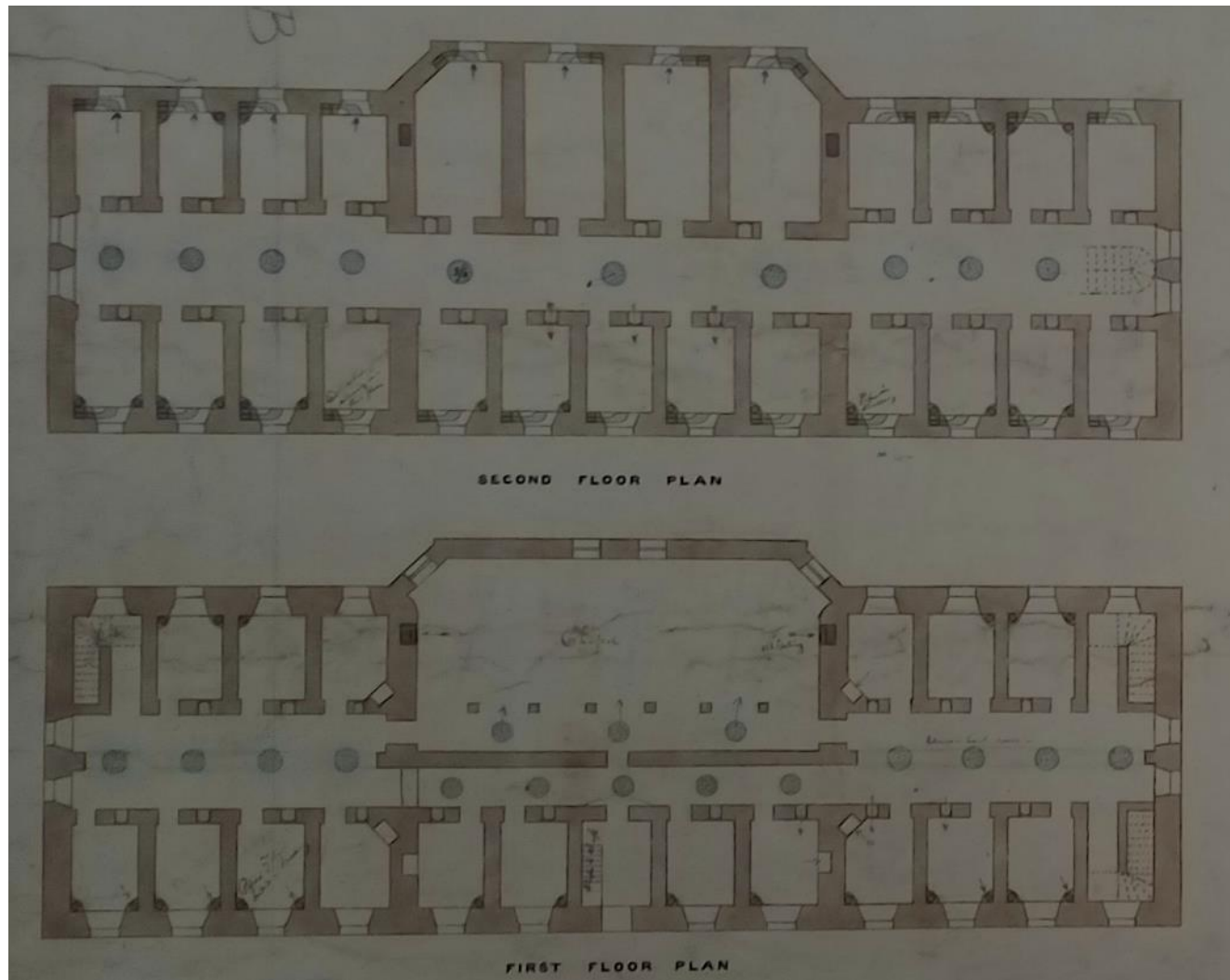


Figure 9: Plans of the first and second floors of the gaol building in 1866. Used with permission of Pembrokeshire County Council, PRO PCC/PC/1/6.

- 3.17 Britain's gaols were nationalised in 1877, their management being taken out of the hands of County authorities (Ireland 2007, 116). Many closures followed, including Cardigan and, in 1878, Haverfordwest, whose prisoners were moved to Carmarthen Gaol, causing serious overcrowding there (Freeman 1999, 51; Ludlow 2014, 261, 345). The inner ward buildings were subsequently occupied by Haverfordwest Borough Police, but the outer ward gaol supposedly remained disused (Lloyd et al. 2004, 204; Phillips 1922, 449). Proposals were put forward in 1880 to use the building for storing arms of the Royal Pembrokeshire Artillery Militia (PRO PQ/C/3/17), but this does not appear to have come to fruition. The police force stationed at the castle initially comprised only four officers, increasing to six in 1888. The following year, following the Local Government Act, the borough police forces were merged to form the Pembrokeshire Police in 1889.
- 3.18 The site was mapped in detail on the Ordnance Survey 1:500 map of 1889 (Fig 10), recording the wider layout of the former gaol building. The building itself is marked as disused, the County Police Station occupying the buildings of the Inner Ward to the east. The layout of the building and surrounding grounds appears essentially the same as it does on the initial plan of the site (Fig 3), with an enlargement of the southwest airing yard. The main entrance to the complex passed through a gateway to the west, still the main access to the castle site, with a wide avenue passing in front of the gaol building complex leading up to the former Governor's House at the east end. The supposed line of the outer ward castle wall lay to the north of the main gaol enclosure, enclosing an area of lawns, which appeared to occupy a lower terrace (Photo 10). On the west side several buildings occupied the space between the gaol enclosure and the former castle wall, an area now largely occupied by a car park.



Photo 10: Image from around 1900 with the old bridge in the foreground and Haverfordwest Castle to the rear. The gaol building stands to the right, with its projecting watchtower on the southern side, and walled terraces to the north of the gaol. Photograph courtesy of Haverfordwest Town Museum.

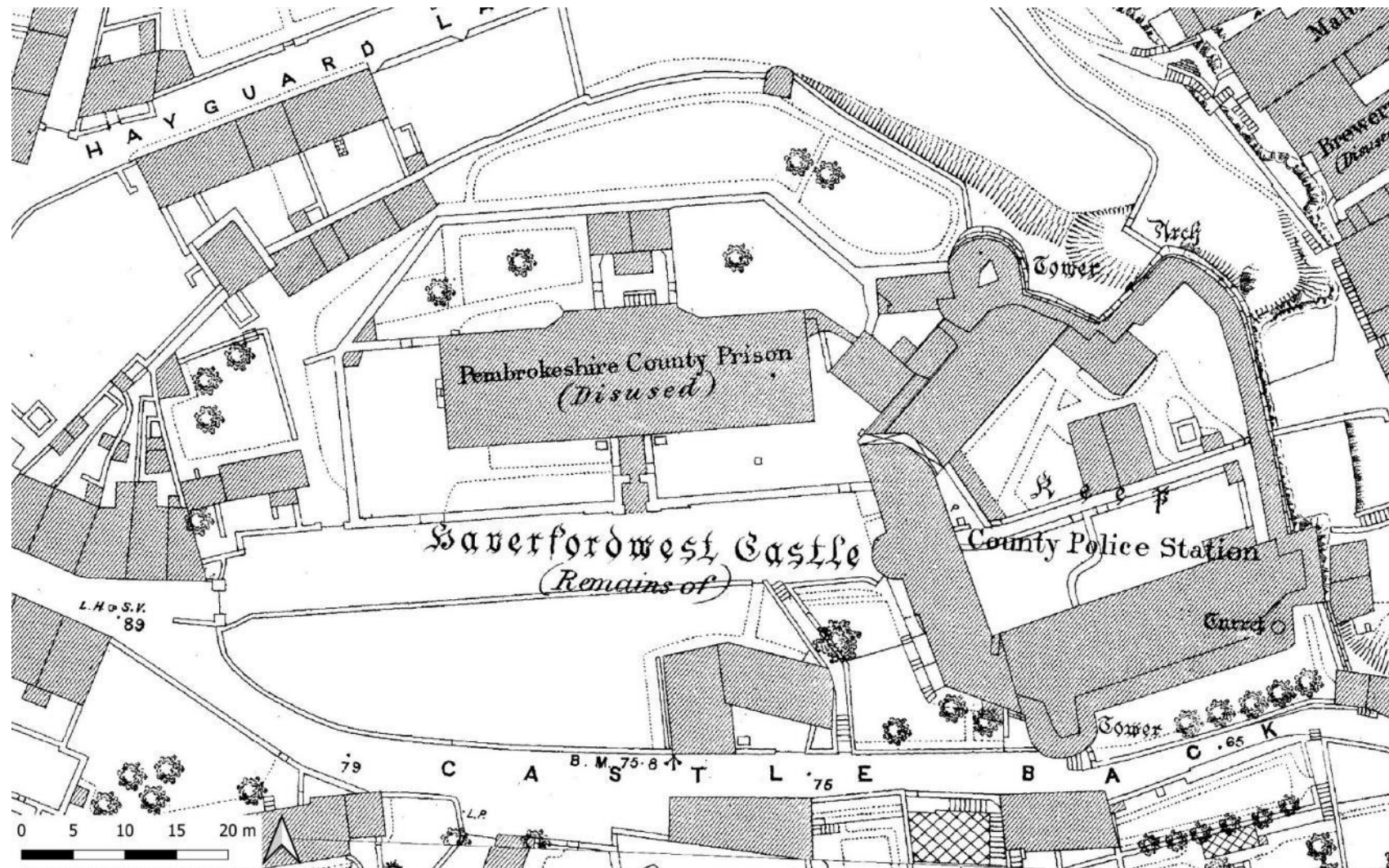


Figure 10: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1:500 Haverfordwest town map of 1889, showing the former gaol building and layout of surrounding grounds.

- 3.19 A later edition of the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map in 1907 still marks the gaol building as disused but it appears otherwise unchanged in layout, although buildings to the west (in the area of the car park) appear to have been partially cleared. By the 1920s however there is indication that the police were utilising the building. A photograph of 1923 (PRN HDX/785/1) shows a range of windows inserted into the gaol boundary wall to the east of the main entrance, and a subsequent Ordnance Survey map of 1937 shows a range of buildings built within the southeast airing yard, extending from the entrance gatehouse and passage to the buildings of the inner ward, corresponding to these windows. Current archaeological investigations suggest this range of buildings was also basemented. Police records also indicate that in the mid-1930s police officers stationed at the site cleared out some of the rooms of the gaol of 'tons and tons of ashes', replaced some floors and ceilings with new timber and installed a recreation room. Plans drawn up by the county architect, Walter Barrett (county architect between 1946 and 1964), show renewed use of the gaol building by the police (Fig 11). At ground floor level one of the central day rooms was used for stationary, with the matron's rooms to the north housing the chief constable and an ante room, and the corridor in between repurposed as a map room. To the west a headquarters office occupied one of the northern day rooms and the CID occupied the former day room to the east. Two of the ground floor cells were still in use with three more used as storerooms. On the first floor lay a recreation room, typist's room, cloak room and store. The additional block of rooms to the front of the gaol housed the transport wireless office, divisional office and superintendent's office.

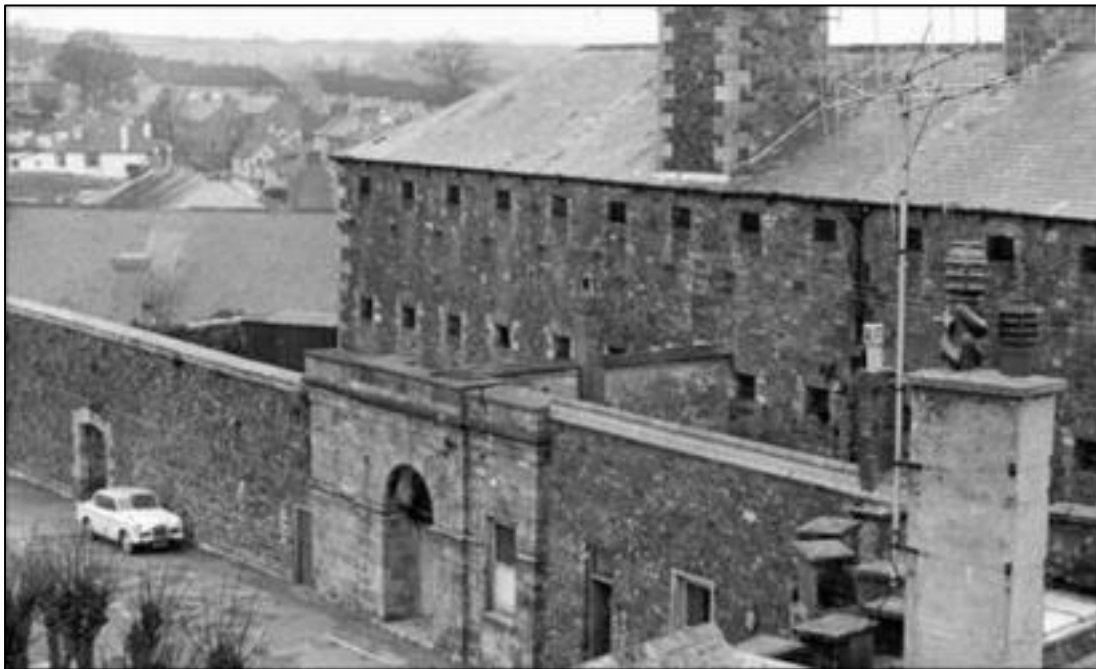


Photo 11: Undated photograph, but possibly from the 1960s given the style of car, showing the southern frontage of the gaol building.

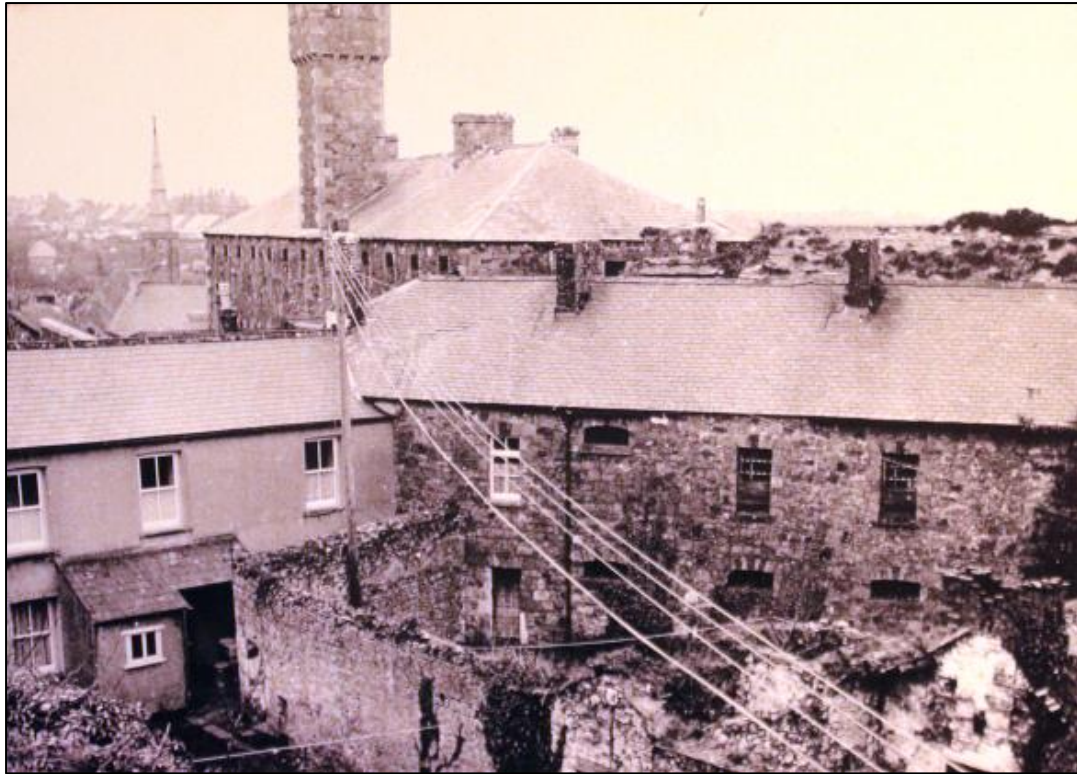


Photo 12: Photo taken from the inner ward, showing the rendered rear wall of the Governors House on the left and female wing to the right, with the gaol building to the rear. Photograph courtesy of Haverfordwest Town Museum.



Photo 13: Aerial photograph taken by the RAF in 1952 showing the former gaol building in the latter stages of its use by the police. The building appears much as it does in earlier photographs with surrounding boundary walls, and a new block of buildings built on the east side of the main entrance.

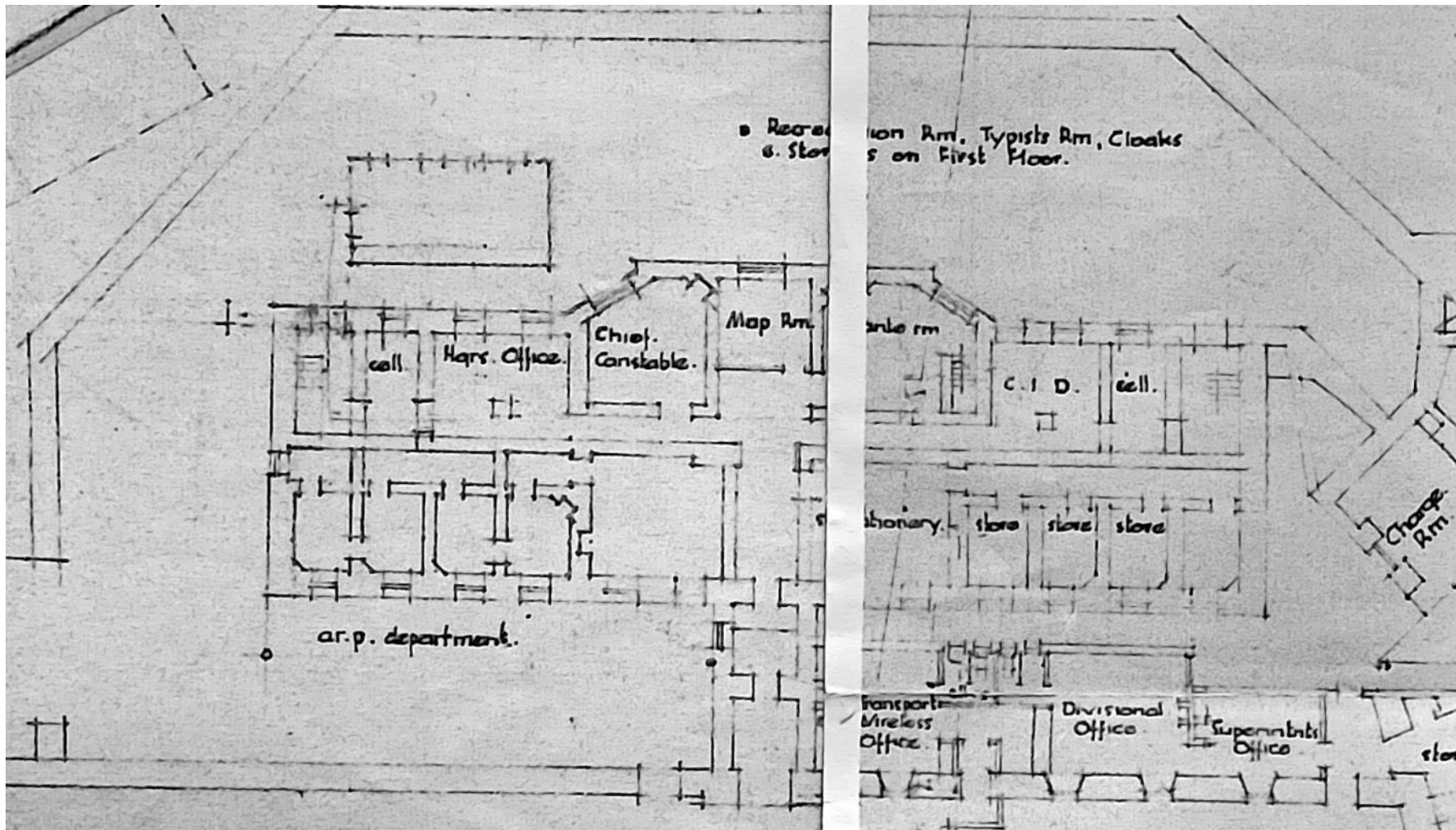


Figure 11: Extract from an undated plan of the police station produced by the county architect Walter Barrett (1946-64), showing the former gaol building at ground floor level, with additional building range to the southeast and surrounding boundary walls. Used with permission of Pembrokeshire County Council.

- 3.20 By the 1950s the buildings across the site were proving problematical for the police. In the early 1950s a large sum was spent on repair works to the former Governor's House so it could remain habitable for the police sergeant (PRO PCC-AR/4/841-848), and in the mid-1950s extensive dry rot was noted within some of the ground floor cells of the gaol building (ibid). The police remained at the site until 1963 (Ray 1969, 1) however, installing a rifle range along the corridor of the second floor in 1957 (PCC/AR/4/845), a new garage in the southwest yard in 1959 (PCC/AR/4/844) and carrying out repairs works to boundary walls in the late 1950s and early 1960s (PCC/AR/4/842). In 1963 however the police moved to new premises and the castle was acquired by Pembrokeshire County Council, in whose hands it remains. After the police left, the gaol buildings in the inner ward were demolished in 1964-7 (Freeman 1999, 51; Ray 1969, 1). The new county architect, Gilbert Ray, designed a number of alterations to the former gaol building in the outer ward to convert it into a museum. The enclosure wall surrounding the building was removed, along with the buildings within the southeast airing yard, the kitchen block on the east side and the infirmary to the north. On this northern side the grounds were landscaped down to the external line of walling. To the west, part of the boundary wall had already been removed in the 1950s to allow space for parking, the rest of the boundary and any external buildings to this side were removed to create the current car park area. On the former gaol building itself, a diamond-shaped entry block was added around the original entrance corridor, retaining the gatehouse frontage. The watchtower was pulled down, and extensive new roof lighting added to the south and both gable ends (Photo 14). The interior of the building was entirely refurbished, possibly in part due to the extensive dry rot issues discovered during the latter years of the police occupation.



Photo 14:
Photograph taken in 1967 showing the former gaol building shortly after its conversion to the county museum, with surrounding walls and buildings removed, a new entrance block, and roof lighting replacing the former watch tower. Meridian Airmaps.

- 3.21 In 1972 further refurbishment to the interior took place when it became the county record office. To the southwest, an extension was added next to the entrance block for accommodation, incorporating an unusual, millstone-like concrete roundel with incised radiating lines, installed in 1974. A large extension was built at the northwest corner. A number of architects drawings held in the Pembrokeshire Record Office (PCC-RO/120) dating to the early

1970s indicate an original intention to include a number of extensions across the northern side of the building, but only the northwest extension was ultimately added. Photographs held by the RCAHMW indicate that in the late 1980s a section of the outer curtain wall to the north of the former gaol building was rebuilt, presumably creating the stairway access that currently stands on this northern side. Aerial photographs from 1993 (Photo 15) show a new roof being installed on the gaol building, replacing the extensive roof lighting added in the 1960s.

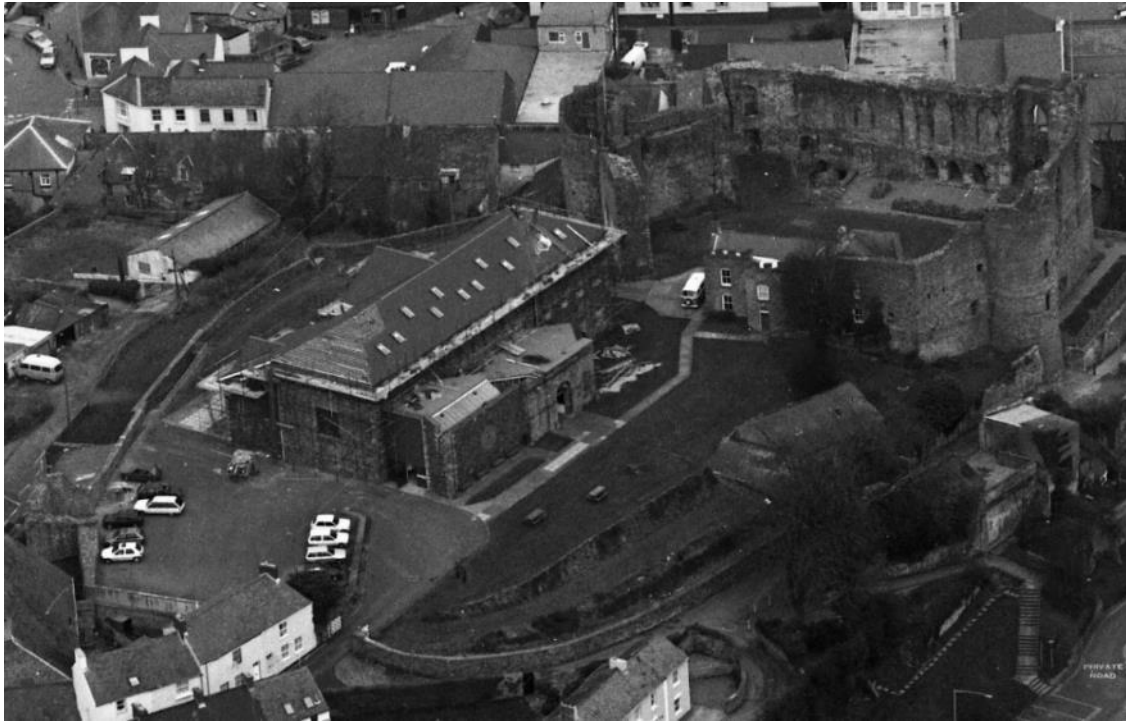


Photo 15: Aerial photograph taken in 1993, showing the replacement of the 1960s roof. © DAT

4 BUILDING DESCRIPTION

4.1 Exterior (Figs 12 – 15, Photos 15 – 38)

- 4.1.1 The main building comprises three storeys and thirteen bays facing north and south, beneath a hipped slate roof with a cross gable to the rear. The facework is in local brownish sandstone rubble with the quoins, voussoirs and dressings in contrasting Pembrokeshire grey limestone (Photos 16 and 17).



Photo 16: View northwest showing the front elevation of the building. 2m scale.



Photo 17: View northeast showing the front elevation of the building.

- 4.1.2 The building is entered from the south through a projecting, central tripartite 'gatehouse' front or porch; this is massive in form, in grey limestone ashlar, and surmounted by a heavy entablature, cornice and parapet (Photo 18). The large, round-headed entry has flush stone voussoirs. The entrance is currently enclosed by a semi-decorative steel grill panel with doorway opening to one side, topped by a heavy wood lintel and iron bars above (Photo 19). A heavy iron chain hangs from the archway above. To the west the line of the former gaol enclosure wall is replicated with a high wall of random sandstone rubble with a central millstone-like concrete roundel with incised radiating lines (Photo 20). This fronts a later addition of the 1970s. On the east side of the porch, behind the limestone frontage, lies the side wall of the diamond shaped entrance addition of the 1960s, built of random rubble with dressed quoins on the central point (Photo 21). A double timber door with an arched head opens in the southeast wall, with a panelled casement widow in a squared opening above. Two similar windows lie in the northeast wall, with concrete-tiled sills.



Photo 18: View north, showing the entrance block. 2m scale.



Photo 19: View north, showing detail of the outer gateway. 2m scales.

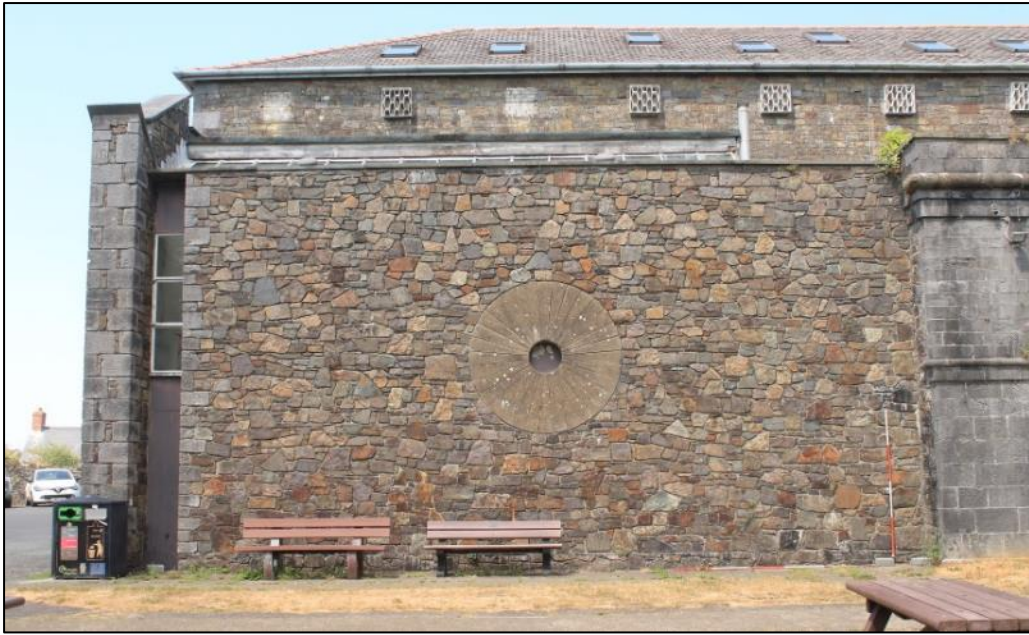


Photo 20: View north, showing the enclosure wall around the 1970s addition to the west of the original entrance block. 2m scale.



Photo 21: View west, showing the 1960s addition around the original entrance passage. 2m scale.

- 4.1.3 The original south face of the main block lies behind this, the lower two storeys obscured behind the modern extension to the west of the entranceway but visible to the east (Photos 22 and 23). The ground floor openings to the east comprise three rectangular windows and a narrow doorway at the east end, all framed in large limestone quoins and topped by stepped voussoirs and flared keystones. The lower part of the doorway is infilled with masonry. These openings are mirrored at first floor level with small square window openings

in the same style. Small square window openings also lie at second floor level, in plain openings beneath the roof eaves. All openings have been blocked with brickwork, with ornamental asbestos grilles installed in 1963.



Photo 22: View north, showing the original south face of the gaol building. 2m scale.



Photo 23: View north, showing detail of the ground floor windows. 2m scales.

- 4.1.4 The rear north wall has a slightly projecting trapezoidal central gable, currently heavily covered in ivy (Photos 24 and 25). The window openings on the main wall are similar to those on the south face but with plain voussoirs flat to the

wall face and stone lintels across the second floor tier. The ground floor windows in the projecting gable have been replaced with larger rectangular windows, comprising steel-frame casement and awning windows in plain squared surrounds with projecting concrete sills (Photos 26 and 27). Reinstated voussoirs are visible above the window in the western angled wall. First floor windows are obscured across the main face of the projecting gable, the angled walls retain windows in the same style as the original ground floor windows and therefore larger than the typical first floor window, but also blocked in brickwork with an ornamental grille. Second floor windows are repeated across the main face of the projecting gable only and not in the angled walls. A stairway of large slate blocks above brick descends against the wall face to a below-ground basement door, central to the projecting gable (Photos 28-30). The doorway itself, a modern panelled timber door, sits within a brickwork frame with a low arched head. A projecting angled brick hood covers the base of the stairs in front of the door, topped in brick and slate.



Photo 24: View south, showing the rear face of the building.



Photo 25: View north, showing detail of the ground floor window and blocked doorway. 2m scale.

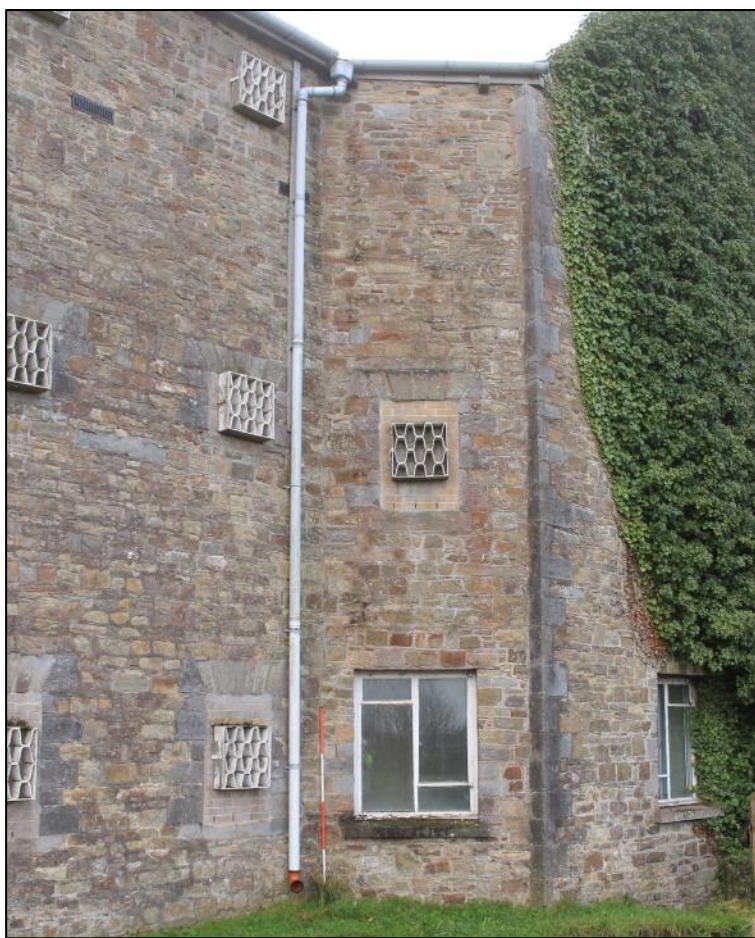


Photo 26: View southwest, showing the window arrangements in the projecting central gable. 2m scale.



Photo 27: View south, showing the modern windows replacement in the projecting gable at ground floor level. 2m scale.



Photo 28: View west, looking down the external steps into the basement. 2m scale.



Photo 29: View southwest, detail of the doorway to the basement.



Photo 30: View east, showing detail of the stairs to the basement.

- 4.1.5 The wall face to the west of the projecting gable is blocked by the modern extension (Photo 31). This extension forms a projecting block with a continued roofline down to a central cross gable flush with the rest of the face. The wall is built of random rubble with dressed limestone quoins. At ground floor is a wide rounded arch framed in dressed slate voussoirs, blocked in white-painted render. At first floor a narrow light with dressed stone surround sits centrally. A further one and a half storey block projects to the east to the arch, in similar stonework with rounded corners and an upper block of random dressed slate masonry under a pitched tiled roof.



Photo 31: View south, showing the face of the 1970s extension on the northwest corner of the building. 2m scale.

- 4.1.6 The east face of the building has a central pair of windows with dressed limestone surround and plain flat voussoirs at ground floor level (Photos 32 and 33). One window is blocked in brickwork, the other is blocked with recessed masonry. Small square openings, blocked with masonry lie at ground level below the windows, presumably part of the central heating system installed in the 1860s. An external metal stairway leads to an offset central first floor doorway, probably built into an original window opening as the lower part of the opening lacks the dressed stone surround to one side (Photo 34). The head has been replaced with a concrete lintel. The modern glazed fire escape door is recessed into the opening. Adjacent lies a blocked window opening. At second floor level lies a smaller window opening, with a possible replaced dressed stone surround and large squared stone lintel. The interior has largely been blocked with brickwork, with a central opening. The masonry is repointed below the roofline.



Photo 32: View west showing the gable end of the building. 2m scale.



Photo 33: View west showing detail of the blocked ground floor windows with blocked heating vents below. 2m scales.



Photo 34: View west showing detail of the first floor openings, with inserted doorway.

- 4.1.7 The west face of the building repeats the ground floor window arrangement (although one window is currently obscured by signage) with an additional blocked window opening to the south in a narrower frame of limestone (Photos 35–37). Whilst a blocked opening lies below the obscured window, it is not clear if this represents the lower part of a blocked doorway or a blocked vent

similar to that on the east face. At first floor level a large door opening has been inserted, containing concertina timber doors with replaced dressed stone quoins, concrete sill and lintel. This replaced a pair of windows seen on aerial photographs of the 1950s. Squared stonework indicates the upper storey has been entirely rebuilt, although dressed quoins have been retained or replaced. A central opening at second floor level mirrors that on the east face. To the south the modern extension brings the rubblestone wall around for approximately 2m, framed in limestone quoins (Photo 38). The remainder, up to the original gaol building, then comprises a timber fronted ground floor with vented double doors, topped by a large slate-tile panel. Similar materials are used in the west elevation of the northern extension which is recessed slightly from the rest of the west face (Photo 39). A rubble stone wall covers the ground floor level and angles up to first floor level at the north end, incorporating a narrow ventilation light in a dressed stone surround. The remainder of the first floor level is covered in a slate-tile panel topped by a pitched roof. This is repeated on the opposing elevation of the modern extension.



Photo 35: View east showing the west gable wall. 2m scale.



Photo 36: View east, showing the main gaol gable wall only. 2m scale.



Photo 37: View east, showing detail of the ground floor openings in the west gable wall. 2m scales.



Photo 38: View east, showing detail of the west wall of the 1970s extension on the front of the gaol building. 2m scales.



Photo 39: View east, showing detail of the west wall of the 1970s extension on the rear of the gaol building.

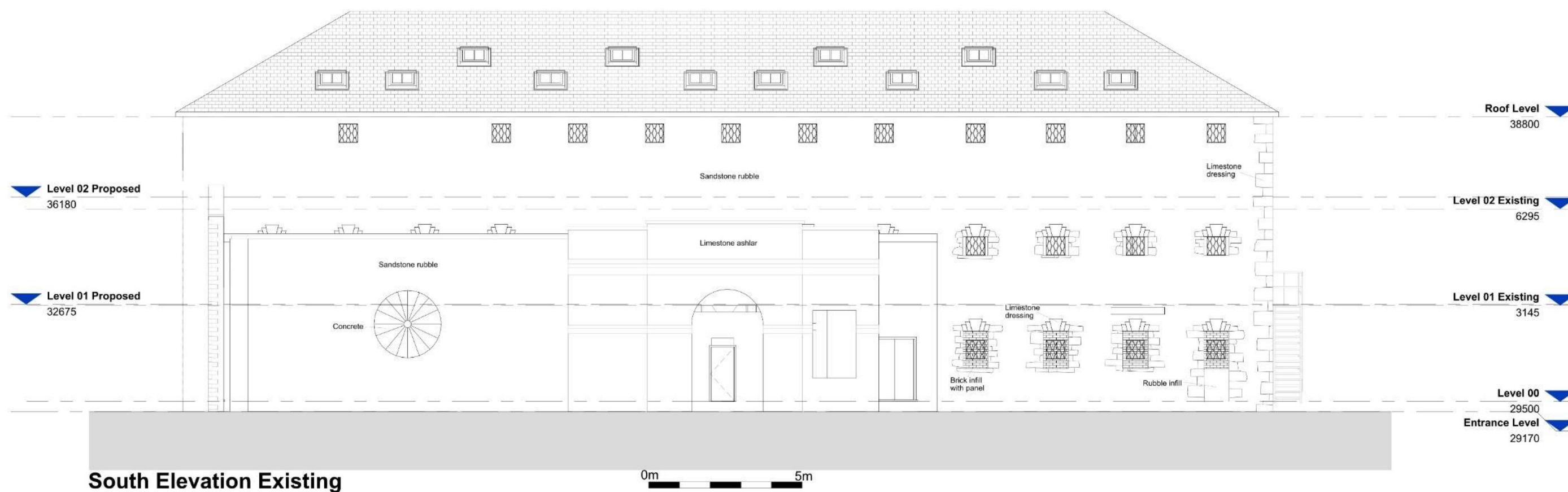


Figure 12: South (front) elevation of the former gaol building. Based on drawings produced by DB3 (07/07/22) for Pembrokeshire County Council, drawing 15389-DB3-B01-ZZ-DR-A-20023, with adjustments and annotations by DAT-AS. Not reproduced to the original scale.



Figure 13: North (rear) elevation of the former gaol building. Based on drawings produced by DB3 (07/07/22) for Pembrokeshire County Council, drawing 15389-DB3-B01-ZZ-DR-A-20022, with adjustments and annotations by DAT-AS. Not reproduced to the original scale.

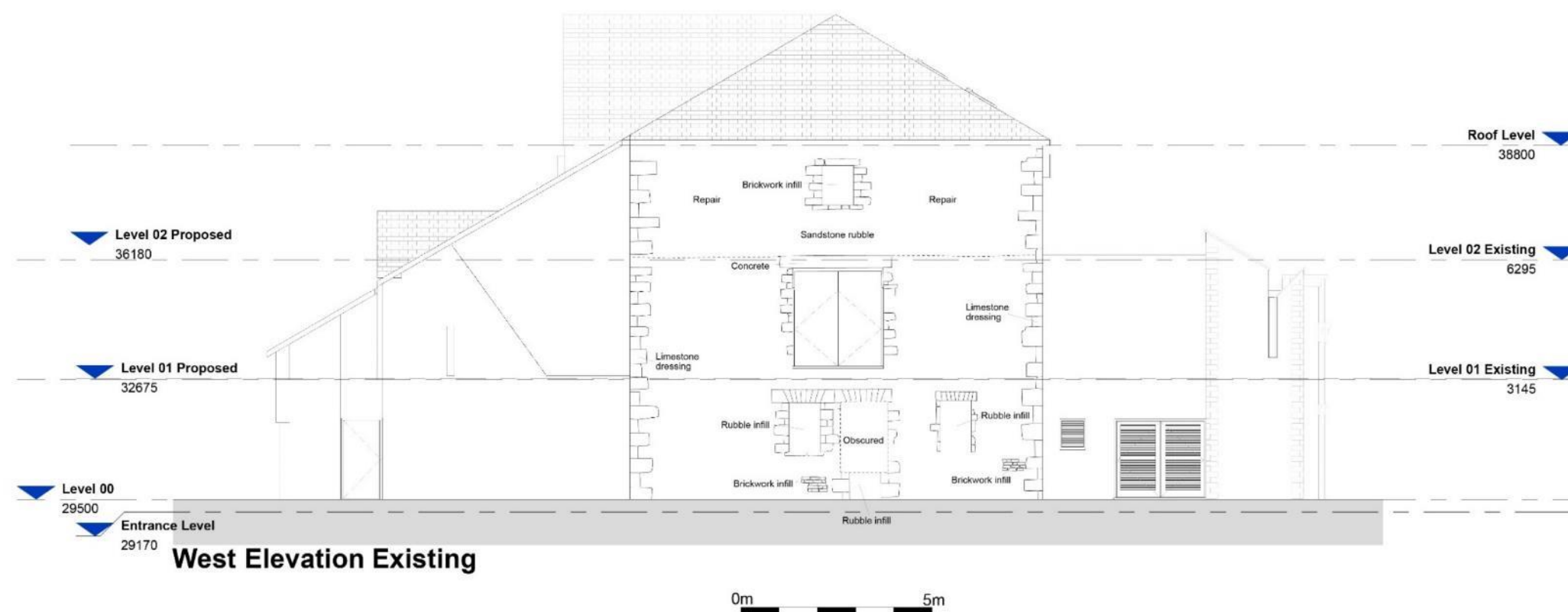
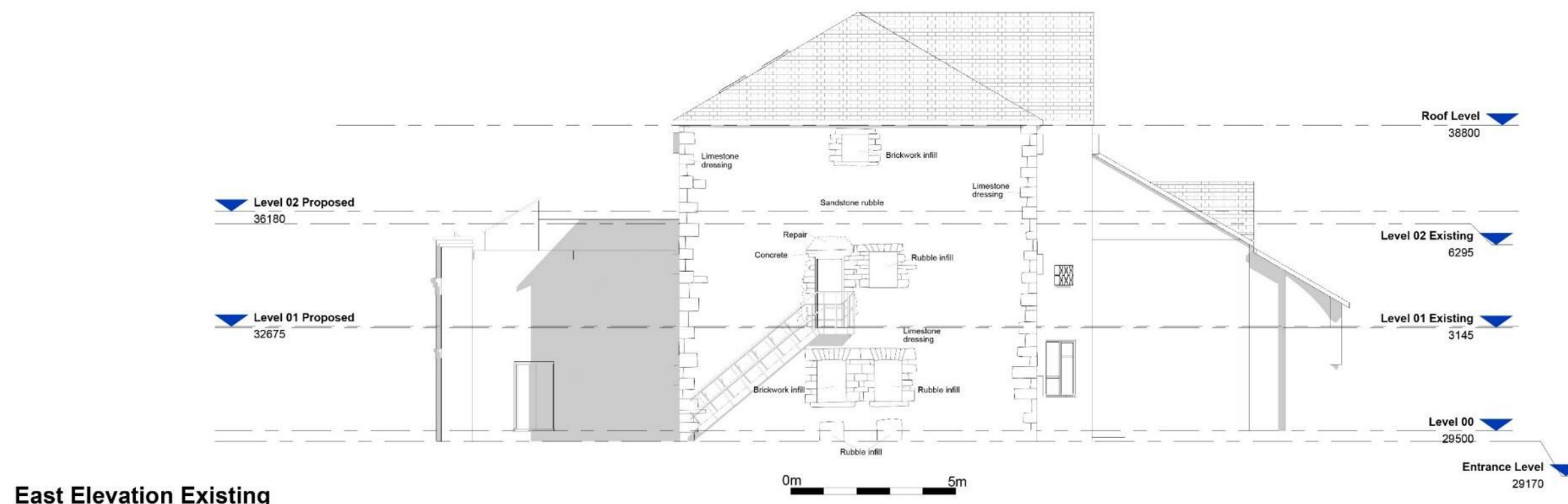


Figure 14: East and West elevations of the former gaol building. Based on drawings produced by DB3 (07/07/22) for Pembrokeshire County Council, drawing 15389-DB3-B01-ZZ-DR-A-20021 and 15389-DB3-B01-ZZ-DR-A-20024, with adjustments and annotations by DAT-AS. Not reproduced to the original scale.

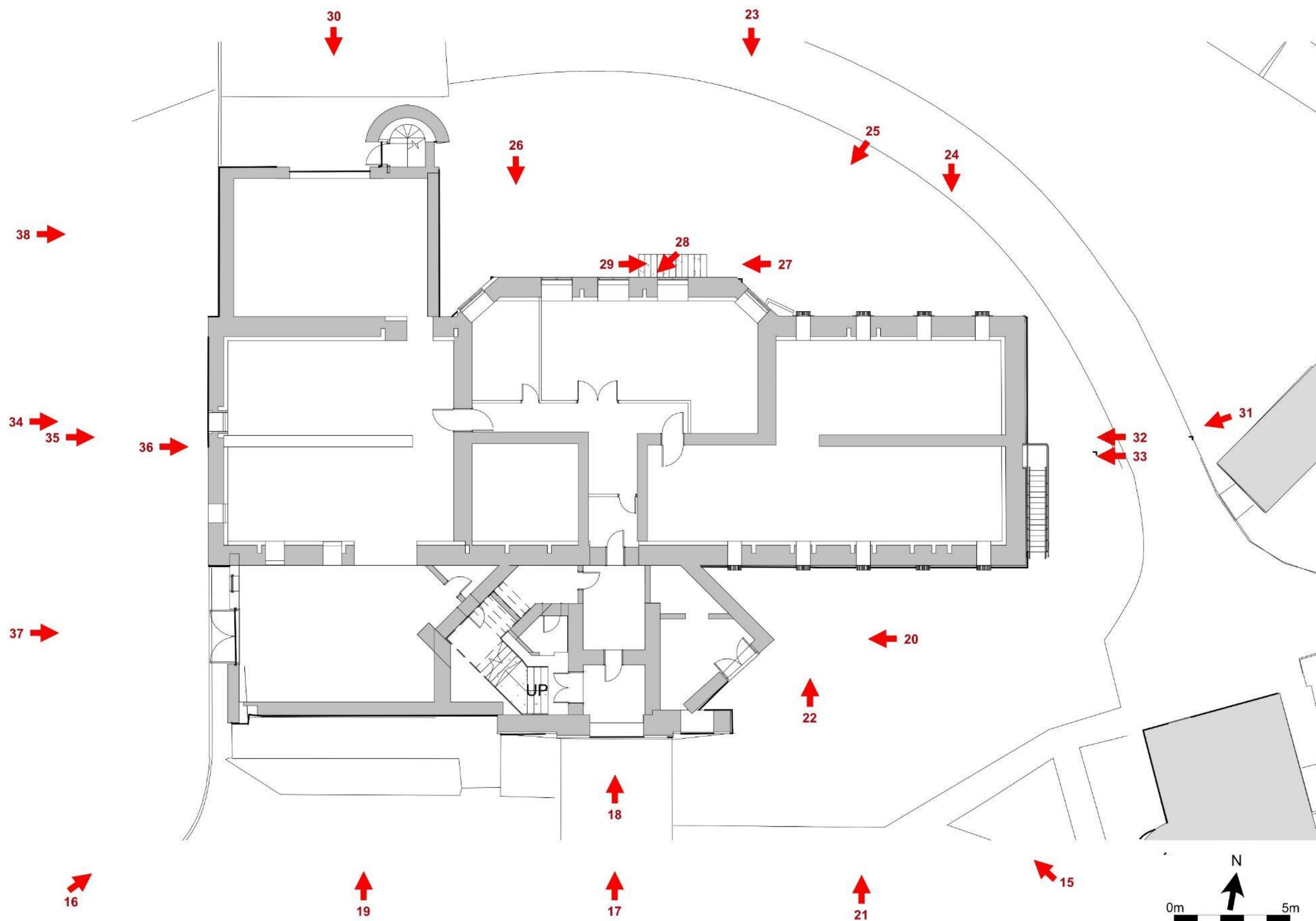


Figure 15: Location plan of photographs in section 4.1. Based on drawings produced by DB3 (07/07/22) for Pembrokeshire County Council, drawing 15389-DB3-B01-00-DR-A-20025, with annotations by DAT-AS. Not reproduced to the original scale.

4.2 Interior Ground Floor (Figs 16 and 17, Photos 40 - 95)

- 4.2.1 The modern steel front gate encloses an entrance area, 2.2m by 2.7m, in front of the main door to the ground floor to the north, with modern steps to the west giving access to the first floor. This entrance area is enclosed by whitewashed masonry walling with a brick arched ceiling above and stone flag flooring below (Photo 40). The initial arched opening retains the upper anchor/pivot point for an earlier gateway under the arch (Photo 41). An original door is retained in the northern opening with heavy wood panels laid horizontally to the exterior and vertically to the interior, bolted together with heavy iron bolts (Photo 42). The door has a mortise lock with an additional sliding bolt to the exterior, and two additional pull-handles also added to the exterior. It sits recessed within a squared whitewashed dressed stone surround with a slight brick arch above. Holes for the locks are cut into the stone surround, with an additional hole indicating a former internal sliding bolt and extra external sliding bolt. A curved notch around the lock in the door jamb suggests the current mortise lock is a replacement (Photo 43). A squared notch is also cut low on the internal west side of the door jamb. Above the doorway lies an arched open fanlight with stone voussoirs and iron bar infill (Photo 44). Between the light and door lies a timber-framed slate plaque (Photo 45) that reads:

This building was erected as the county prison in 1820.

*After structural alteration it was opened as the county museum
and record office by Sir Ben Bowen Thomas M.A. LL.D on 11th
April 1967.*



Photo 40: View north into the entrance area, showing the original doorway to the gaol. 2m and 0.5m scales.



Photo 41: View southwest, showing the pivot point for an earlier gated entrance.



Photo 42: View north, showing detail of the original doorway entrance to the gaol.
2m and 0.5m scales.



Photo 43: View northeast, showing the lock and bolt arrangements on the door frame. 0.5m scale.



Photo 44: View south, showing the barred light above the doorway, with brick-vaulted ceiling above.



Photo 45: View south, showing date plaque above the doorway.

- 4.2.2 A stone lies adjacent to the door, inscribed with the dates '1763 – 1880' (Photo 46). On the west side of the entrance area lies an inserted opening with a rounded head, in a mixed roughly dressed stone surround, which leads to a set of concrete tile steps to the first floor (Photos 47 and 48).

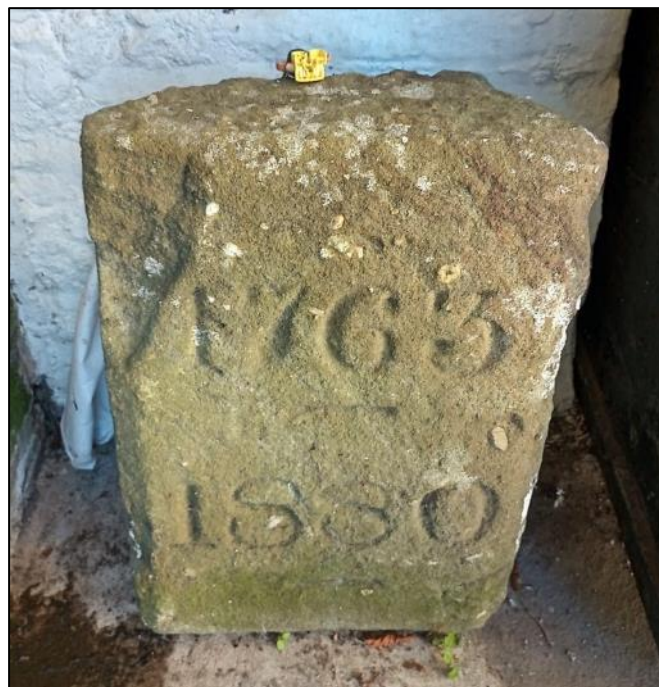


Photo 46: Datestone lying adjacent to the doorway. The dates do not correspond to the gaol, the origin of the stone is unclear.



Photo 47: View southwest, showing the main gateway opening on the left, and the inserted modern opening to the right. 2m scale.



Photo 48: View northwest, showing the inserted modern stairs on the west side of the entrance area.

- 4.2.3 Through the original doorway to the north lies a small lobby, 5.7m by 2.7m, and 2.7m high to an inserted ceiling with modern timbers visible (Photos 49 and 51). A step leads to an inserted raised floor. The walls are whitewashed masonry (0.6m thick). A door sits centrally in the north wall in a squared 0.85m wide opening the full height of the room (Photo 50). The door itself is 1.85m high, two layers of wood panels, vertical on the south side, angled on the north side, bolted together with a slide bolt lock on the south face (see also photos 58 and 59). An inserted fixed frame light sits above the door. In the west wall a modern door is inserted surrounded by rebuilt brick walling (Photo 52), which is repeated in the east wall (Photo 53).



Photo 49: View north, the internal door in the lobby. 2m and 0.5m scales.



Photo 50: View north, detail of the original door in the north wall of the lobby. 2m and 0.5m scales.



Photo 51: View south, showing the rear of the original door to the entrance area. 2m and 0.5m scales.



Photo 52: View west, showing the inserted opening and brick surround on the west side of the lobby. 2m scale.



Photo 53: View east, showing the inserted opening and brick surround on the east side of the lobby. 2m scale.

- 4.2.4 The west door from the lobby enters a W.C. in a trapezoidal room occupying a modern extension (Photo 54). The north wall is the original outer wall of the gaol, with a brick-blocked window opening and removed voussoirs. An angled masonry and concrete block wall with a small rectangular window lie on the west side, with a brick-built return.



Photo 54: View west, looking into the W.C. on the west side of the lobby.

- 4.2.5 The east door from the lobby enters a kitchen and storage area occupying a triangular room in the modern extension (Photo 55). The north wall is again the original outer wall of the gaol, with a brick-infilled window opening, seemingly larger than the remaining visible openings at around 1.5m high (Photo 56). An angled brick wall forms the east wall, with an internal subdivision. A window sits in the northern section, fronted by a sink unit (Photo 55) and a double-door under an arched opening sits in the southern section (Photo 57).



Photo 55: View east, looking into the kitchen area on the east side of the lobby.



Photo 56: View northwest, showing the infilled window in the north wall of the kitchen area to the east of the lobby. 0.5m scale.



Photo 57: View southeast, showing the arched opening in the modern extension on the east of the entrance block.

- 4.2.6 Beyond the northern door of the lobby lies a short (4.9m long) passageway to a central cross corridor. The southern wall is whitewashed masonry, the remaining walls and ceiling of the passageway are plastered (Photo 58). The original doorway lies in the southern wall, described in section 4.2.3 (Photo 58 and 59). The floor slopes gradually up to the north and is covered in linoleum sheeting with low plain skirting. Midway along, the corridor is subdivided by a glazed timber-framed door with (also glazed) panel surround. The cross corridor has carpet tile flooring over concrete, low plain skirting against the plain plastered south wall and square ceiling tiles above. The north wall is a timber frame insert with half-glazed panels and fixed glazed lights above (Photos 60 and 61). A double door lies slightly offset from the entrance passageway to access a large office room beyond. A further single door accesses a small office space to the west. On the south side of the corridor two doors access strong rooms to either side of the entrance passageway, with a final door at the west end of the corridor accessing two further strong rooms.



Photo 58: View south, showing the original doorway entry to the internal corridors. 2m and 0.5m scales.



Photo 59: View south, showing detail on the internal side of the original door.



Photo 60: View north, showing the part-glazed northern side of the cross corridor. 2m scales.



Photo 61: View west along the cross corridor. 2m and 0.5m scales.

4.2.7 On the north side of the corridor a large office occupies three-quarters of the trapezoidal north part of the building, almost L-shaped in plan, the room also

occupies the east end of the former cross corridor (Photos 62 and 63). The concrete floor is topped by carpet tiles with low beaded skirting, and plain plastered walls to a lowered plasterboard ceiling between steel beams. Three steel-framed windows lie in the north wall and one in the northeast angled wall, all in plain squared surrounds with tiled sills. A fixed rectangular window lies in a stud wall separating a further office to the west.



Photo 62: View east showing the northern office.



Photo 63: View west showing the northern office.

- 4.2.8 A smaller room occupies the west side of this trapezoidal end of the building, accessed from the corridor to the south. A sheet of tiles covers the concrete floor which is otherwise decorated in the same style as the adjacent office (Photo 64). A window lies in the angled northwest wall.



Photo 64: View northwest showing side office on the north side of the building.

- 4.2.9 The central cross corridor is shortened to the east where it has been occupied by the office described in 4.2.7. On the south side of the corridor at this eastern end it accesses a long rectangular strongroom extending across the southern side of the building to the east of the entrance passage (Photos 65–67). The northern wall of this room is built of random rubble masonry up to 2m in height, topped with 0.9m of concrete breezeblock. The room is entered from the corridor via a modern steel door in an inserted opening through this wall, with breezeblock surround (Photo 68). A large, inserted opening midway along the north wall gives access to a northern strongroom. Adjacent to this opening is a protruding masonry pillar of large, dressed stone to 1.7m, topped by rounded concrete (Photo 69). A central door stop groove runs up the southern side, with a draw bolt hole to the east. The west wall is also masonry with breezeblock above and a short line of bricks at ground floor level at the northern end of the wall, presumably heading part of the 1860s heating system (Photo 71). The east and south walls are both breezeblock, inserted in front of the original masonry walling, with ceramic air vents along the southern wall marking the locations of former windows. Behind the vents the iron gaol window bars are still evident (Photo 72). Breezeblock pillars also lie along the south wall, supporting steel beams above. Both floor and ceiling are concrete.

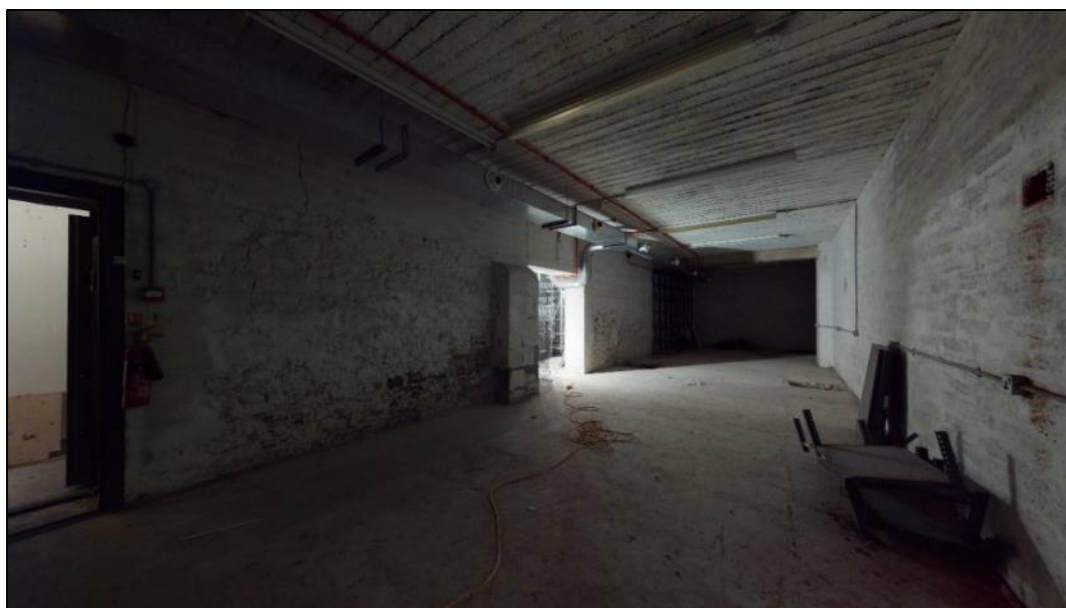


Photo 65: View east, general view of the large southeast strongroom.



Photo 66: View east, showing the east end of the large southeast strongroom. 2m scales.



Photo 67: View west, showing the western end of the large southeast strongroom. 2m scales.



Photo 68: View north, showing the inserted opening on the left and part of an original doorway protruding on the right. 2m scales.



Photo 69: View north, showing the protruding original door frame pillar on the north side of the room. 2m and 0.5m scales.



Photo 70: View northeast, showing the eastern end of the north wall of the large southeast strongroom, with original masonry visible. 2m scales.



Photo 71: View west, showing the west wall of the large southeast strongroom. The brick header to the heating system is visible at ground level on the right. 2m scales.



Photo 72: View south, showing the original window bars behind the breezeblock insert.

4.2.10 The opening to the north accesses a smaller strongroom occupying the northeast corner of the building (Photo 73). The room shares a masonry and breezeblock wall to the south (Photo 74), with inserted breezeblock walls to the east and north. The west wall is largely roughly coursed masonry with

breezeblock heightening (Photo 75). Towards the northern end of the wall lies a blocked fireplace opening, 1.5m square, with a large, squared stone lintel, infilled in brickwork. At the southern end lies a door opening, 0.8m wide, with dressed stone quoins to the south but otherwise infilled and topped with breezeblock.



Photo 73: View east, showing the northeast strongroom. 2m scales.



Photo 74: View southeast, showing the masonry wall dividing the eastern strongrooms. 2m scales.



Photo 75:
View west, showing the west wall of the northeast strongroom. The blocked fireplace opening is visible on the right and a blocked doorway on the left. 2m scales.

4.2.11 On the south side of the central cross corridor, to the west of the entrance passageway, lies a small strongroom (Photo 76). The room is entered via an inserted doorway with breezeblock surround, otherwise the northern wall is built of random rubble masonry to 1.85m and topped by 1m of breezeblock (Photo 77). The east and west walls are similarly masonry-built with breezeblock above. Towards the northern end of these walls are brick-infilled opposing doorways, 0.6m wide, 1.75m high (Photos 78-81). The doorway to the east has a large dressed-stone surround with a large, squared stone lintel. The doorway to the west has slightly smaller stone surrounds and brick voussoirs. At the southern end of the west wall part of a large stone lintel is visible midway up the wall with brick infill below, marking the location of a former fireplace (Photo 80). The rest of the wall is covered in render, obscuring original detail. The south wall is inserted breezeblock. Both floor and ceiling are concrete.



Photo 76: *View southwest, showing the small strongroom to the west of the entrance passage.*



Photo 77: View north, showing the north wall of the small strongroom, with inserted doorway on the right. 2m scales.



Photo 78: View east, showing the east wall of the small strongroom, with blocked doorway on the left. 2m and 0.5m scales.



Photo 79: View east, showing detail of the blocked doorway in the east wall of the small strongroom. 0.5m scale.

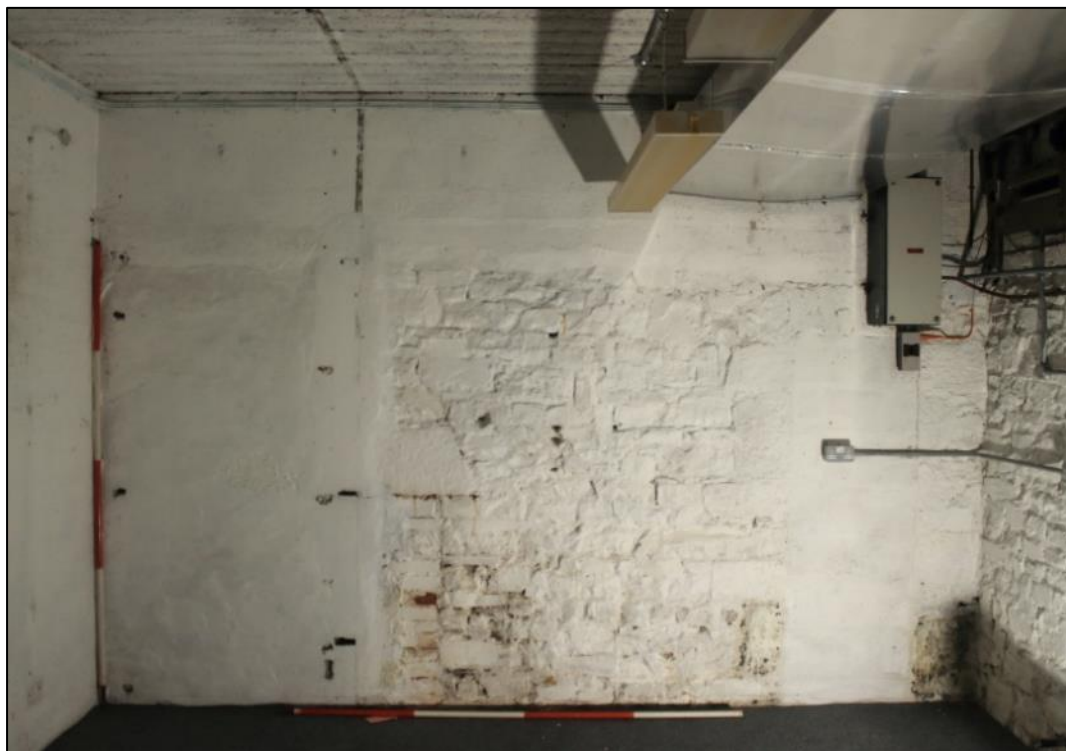


Photo 80: View west, showing the west wall of the small strongroom, with blocked doorway on the right and part of the blocked fireplace visible adjacent to the render on the left. 2m scales.



Photo 81: View west, showing detail of the blocked doorway in the west wall of the small strongroom. 2m and 0.5m scales.

4.2.12 The western end of the cross corridor opens into a pair of rooms occupying the west end of the building. These rooms are accessed via a solid metal chubb fire-resistant door in a breezeblock surround (Photos 82 and 83). The two rooms are separated by a random rubble masonry wall topped by breezeblock, with an inserted wide opening at the east end, also edged in breezeblock (Photo 86). The southern room (Photos 84 and 85) also has a masonry east wall topped with breezeblocks. At the northern end lies the narrow doorway seen in the adjacent room to the east, infilled in breezeblock on this side with voussoirs removed (Photo 87). The southern end of the wall is built in better-faced masonry, possibly marking the rear of the fireplace. The west and south walls are breezeblock inserts and the floor and ceiling are concrete with steel beam supports. Metal rails on the floor mark the former location of storage shelving and aluminium ventilation piping partly covers the ceiling and south wall.



Photo 82: Labelling on the steel door.



Photo 83: View west, showing the steel door at the west end of the cross corridor. 2m and 0.5m scales.



Photo 84: View east, showing the southernmost of the two western strongrooms. 2m scales.



Photo 85: View west, showing the southernmost of the two western strongrooms. 2m scales.

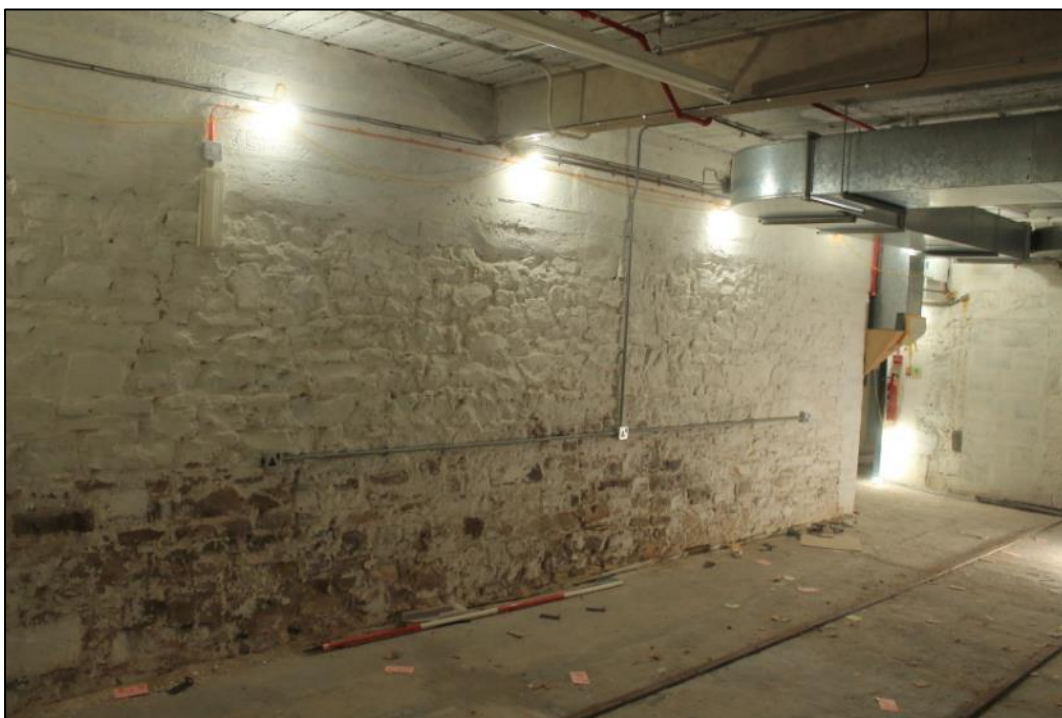


Photo 86: View northeast in the southernmost of the two strongrooms, showing the dividing wall between the two western strongrooms. 2m scale.



Photo 87: View east, showing the eastern wall of the western strongroom, with blocked doorway on the left. 2m scales.

4.2.13 The northernmost strongroom (Photo 88) has an area of repair in the centre of the south masonry wall, covered in plasterwork (Photo 89). The east wall is half masonry topped by shuttered concrete to the north and half breezeblock around the steel door entrance (Photo 90). An infilled fireplace, 0.8m wide, lies in the northern part of the wall with a large stone lintel (Photos 90 and 91). The opening appears to initially have been narrowed to 0.65m in brickwork and then completely infilled in similar brickwork. The north and west walls are breezeblock inserts with a doorway opening in brickwork to the north. The floor and ceiling are concrete with steel beam supports.



Photo 88: View west, showing the northernmost of the two western strongrooms.



Photo 89: View south from the northernmost of the two rooms, showing the dividing wall between the two western strongrooms with an area of repair covered in plasterwork to the left of the photo. 2m scales.



Photo 90: View east, showing the eastern wall of the strongroom, with blocked fireplace on the left and inserted steel door on the right. 2m scales.



Photo 91: View east, showing detail of the blocked fireplace. 2m and 0.5m scales.

4.2.14 The doorway to the north accesses the modern (1970s) extension on the northwest of the building (photos 92–94). This area currently retains its adjustable steel shelving units, incorporating stairs and floors subdividing the space, which is otherwise 7m high, into three floors. The south wall is the original external gaol wall, in masonry with brick-infilled window openings. The remaining walls are brick built, with tiled floor.



Photo 92: View west, showing the interior of the modern northwest extension.

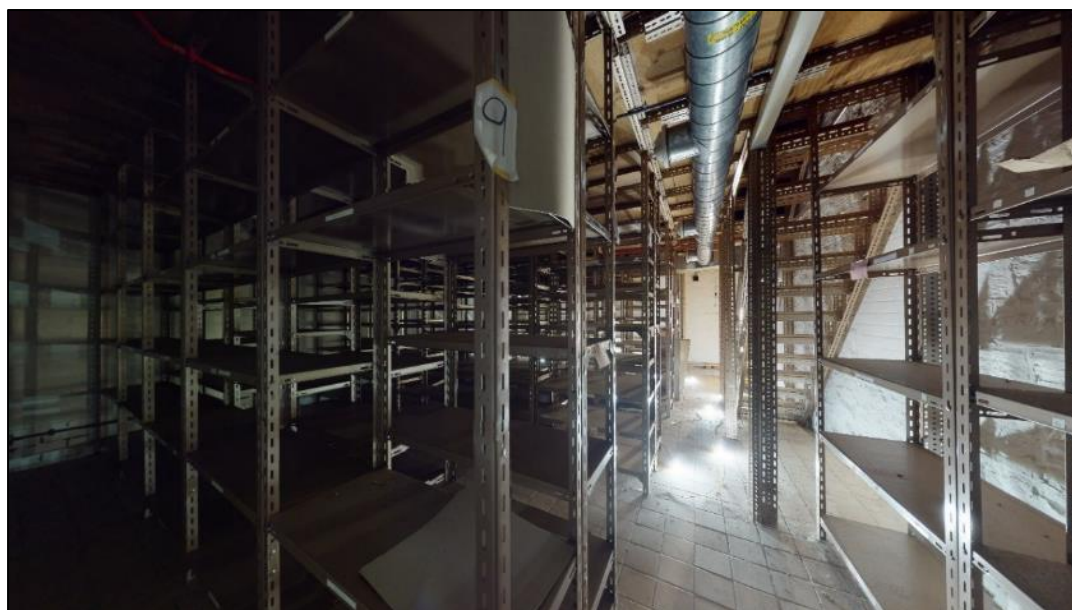


Photo 93: View east, showing the interior of the modern northwest extension.



Photo 94: View south, showing the interior of the modern northwest extension.

4.2.15 A boiler room occupies the ground floor of the modern extension to the southwest. This was not accessed during the survey.

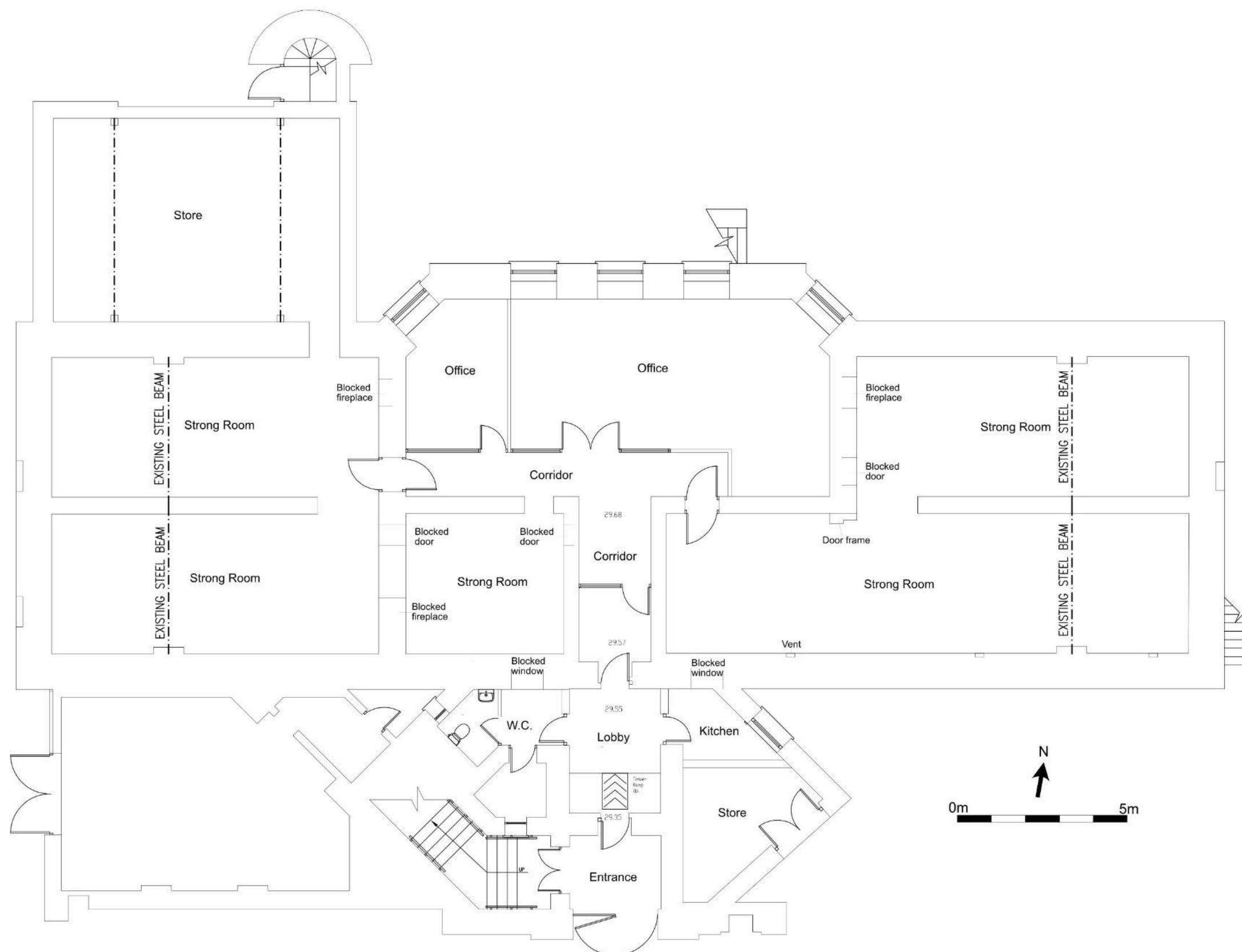


Figure 16: Ground floor plan of the former gaol building. Based on drawings produced by Roger Casey Associates (May 2022) for Pembrokeshire County Council, drawing 20730-RCA-WP4-XX-DR-S-0050-S0-P0, with adjustments and annotations by DAT-AS. Not reproduced to the original scale.



Figure 17: Photo location plan for the ground floor of the former gaol building.

4.3 Interior First and Second Floors (Figs 18 - 21, Photos 95 - 111)

- 4.3.1 The first floor is accessed via the stairway to the west of the original entry. The stairway is enclosed by 1960s walling to the north and the 1970s addition to the south and is open above (Photos 95 and 96). It rises to a small mid-level platform, with glazed double-doors to the northwest and further steps at a right angle to the northeast, passing through a rounded arch to access a lobby area to the main first floor. Beyond the glazed doors to the northwest the stairs continue to rise to access a subdivided storeroom in the modern southwest extension.



Photo 95: View southeast down the first floor stairway access, with 1960s masonry on the left, 1970s masonry on the right.



Photo 96: View northwest, looking up the stairway access to the small platform and doorway to the storeroom.

- 4.3.2 The storeroom at the top of the stairs occupies the first floor of the 1970s extension on the southwest corner of the building (Photos 97 and 98). The room was not entered during the survey but it lies behind a timber framed panel with full-height glazing and matching door. The room beyond was carpeted with painted walls and subdivided by a timber frame, with a half-glazed pitched roof above.



Photo 97: View southwest, looking into the storeroom in the 1970s extension.



Photo 98: View west, looking into the storeroom in the 1970s.

- 4.3.3 The lobby to the first floor is entered via a set of double heavy timber three-panelled doors with decorative circular brass handles, in a plain timber frame (Photo 99). A second set of doors, full height glazing in a thick timber frame, lie internally. These lead into the lobby which is directly above the ground floor lobby (Photo 100). Stud walling to the east and west separates W.C.s whilst to the north lie a set of swing doors with full height glazing in a thick wood frame, flanked by matching glazed panels. A skylight lights the lobby from above.



Photo 99: View northeast, looking at the access to the first floor lobby.



Photo 100: View northeast, the first floor lobby.

- 4.3.4 A short flight of steps lies beyond the swing door, rising into the main first floor area. This largely comprises an open space with brick and stud walling enclosing smaller rooms to the east and west (Photos 101 – 107). A set of wide brick pillars holds a galleried second floor level against the northern side of the room, further supported by exposed steel beams crossing the central width of the building. The short flight of steps is flanked by side panels in a concrete honeycomb design, mirroring that of the external window panels. Vinyl floor tiles cover the concrete floor with high wooden skirting above and walls of part exposed, part painted brickwork and sections of plasterboard. Internal plasterboard subdivisions have been removed but some remaining plasterboards and a set of metal filing cabinets to the west indicate areas that were formerly subdivided. The southern half of the room is open to the ceiling. A U-shaped modern staircase accesses the second floor level opposite the main entrance (Photo 105).

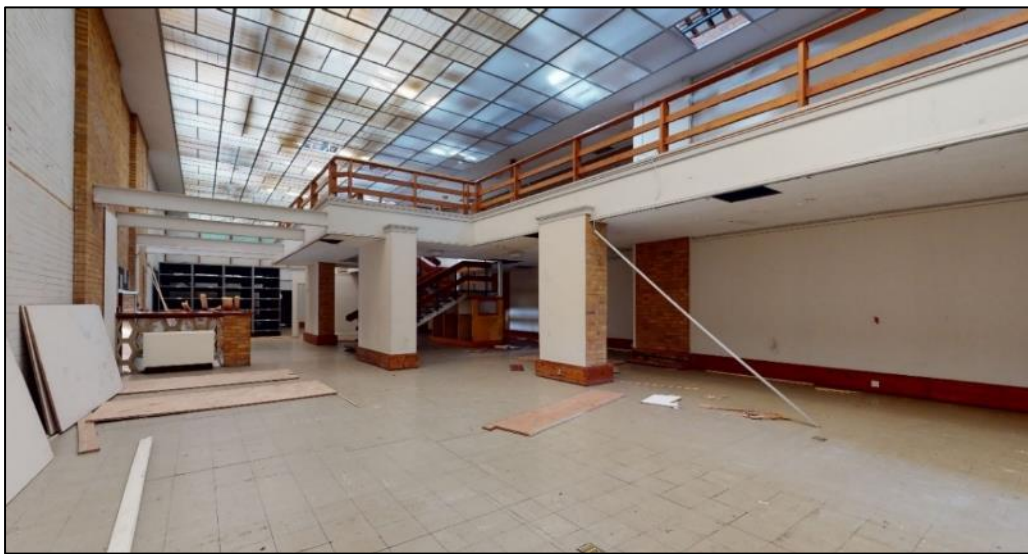


Photo 101: View west across the main first floor area.

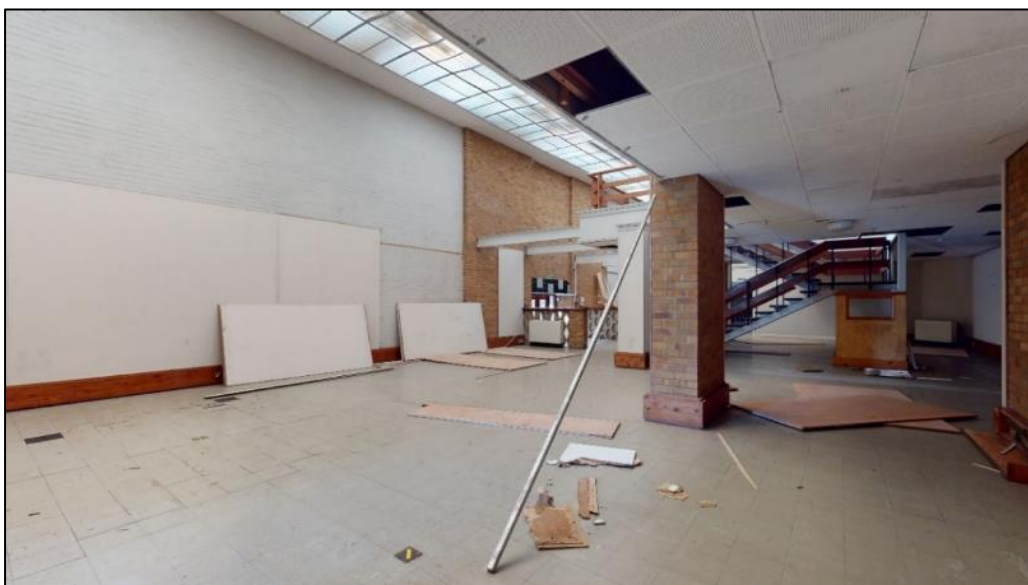


Photo 102: View southwest, showing the main first floor area from under the galleried northern side of the room.



Photo 103: View southwest, showing the main access with steel beams above, and partially removed plasterboard walling containing metal cabinets.

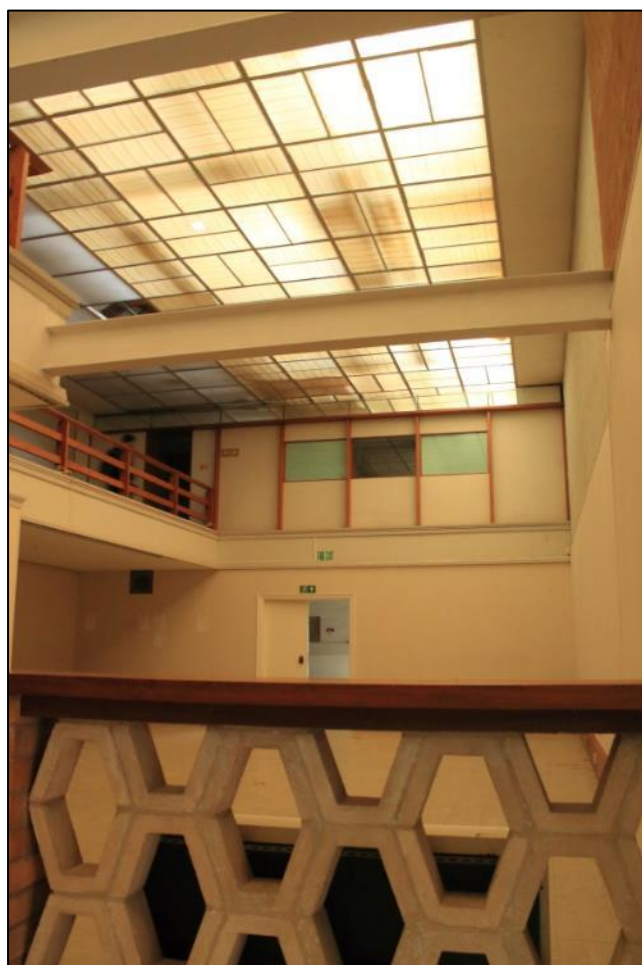


Photo 104: View east, from the main access point with the honeycomb panels with the access to the kitchens beyond, also showing the open access to the ceiling.



Photo 105:
*View north
from the main
entry,
showing
access to the
second floor.*

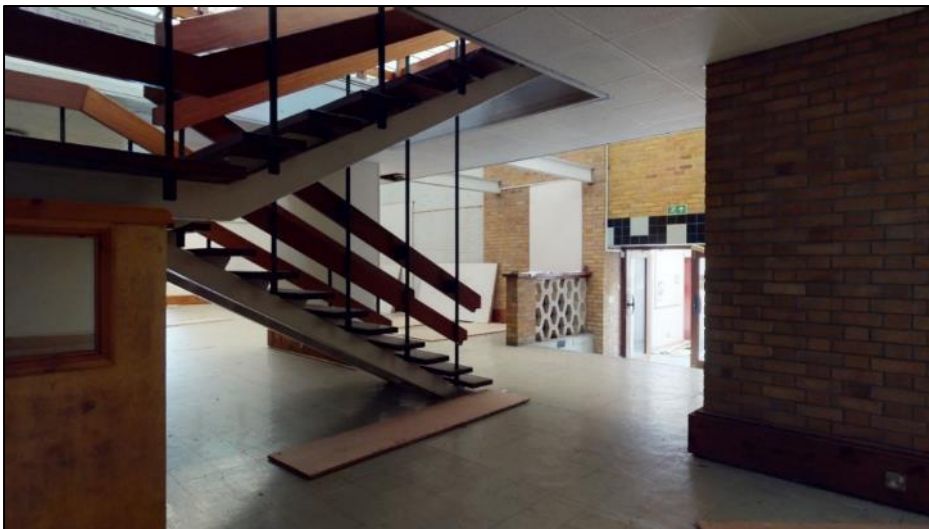


Photo 106:
*View
southeast,
from the
north wall
showing the
main access
point and
stairs to the
second floor.*



Photo 107:
*View
southeast,
showing the
metal
cabinets in a
formerly sub-
divided area
to the west
of the main
entry.*

- 4.3.5 At the western end of the first floor space a set of plain double doors through the brick and stud walling accesses a store room (Photo 108). Timber concertina doors to the west open to the exterior. A steel beam protrudes through the doorway, holding a movable beam and chain winch. The interior face of the walls at this level area are all brickwork.
- 4.3.6 At the eastern end of the first floor space a set of double doors accesses a kitchen and store room, with a doorway accessing an external fire escape stairway against the east wall. These rooms were not examined during the survey.



Photo 108:
View south, showing the western room with external doors on the right and winch system above.

- 4.3.7 The second floor is accessed via the central stairs. A gallery level with vinyl tiled floor occupies the main space along the northern half of the building and is enclosed by timber railings (Photos 109 and 110). At the west and east ends narrow rooms are subdivided by a thick timber frame with part-glazed panelling in between (Photo 111). A lowered ceiling lies above this floor, largely comprising translucent panelling, with solid panels against the north wall. Missing panels reveal a roof structure above of timber beams with iron bracing panels (photo 112).



Photo 109:
View east across the galleried second floor.



Photo 110:
*View west
across the
galleried
upper floor.*



Photo 111:
*View south,
showing the
enclosed
room at the
east end of
the second
floor.*



Photo 112:
*View east
through a
missing
ceiling tile at
part of the
roof
structure
beyond.*

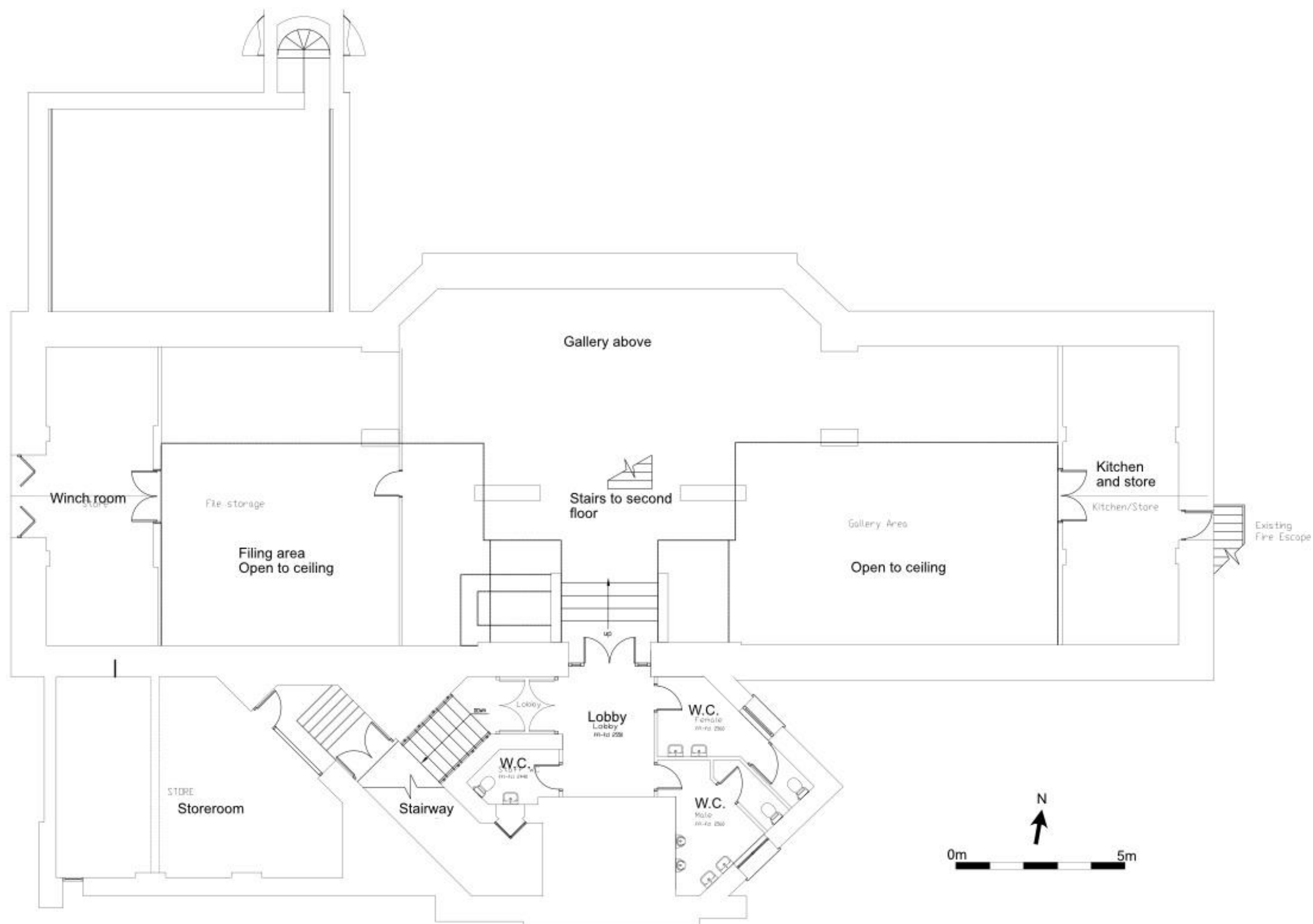


Figure 18: First floor plan of the former gaol building. Based on drawings produced by Roger Casey Associates (May 2022) for Pembrokeshire County Council, drawing 20730-RCA-WP4-00-DR-S-0051-S0, with adjustments and annotations by DAT-AS. Not reproduced to the original scale.

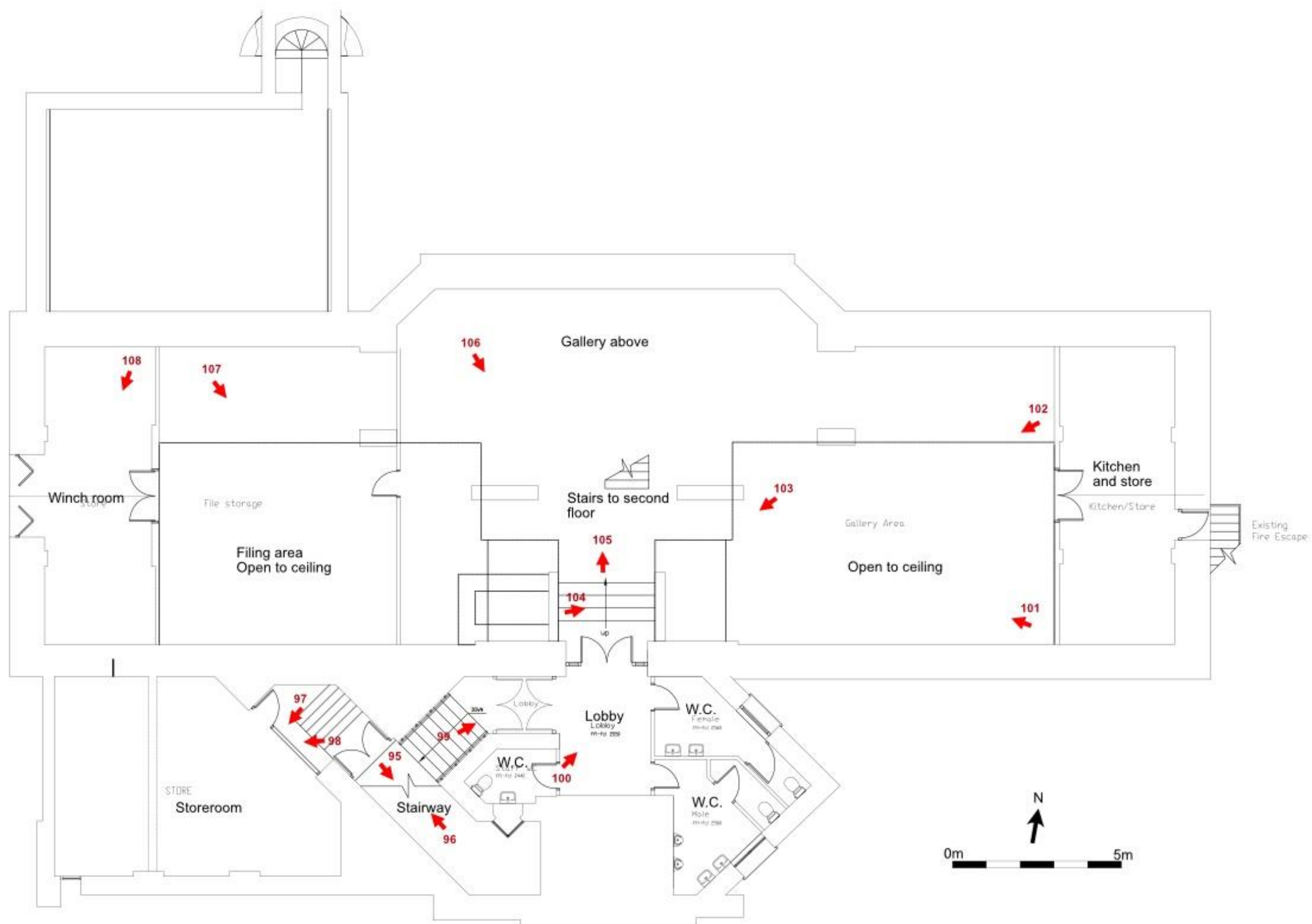


Figure 19: Photo location plan for the first floor of the former gaol building.

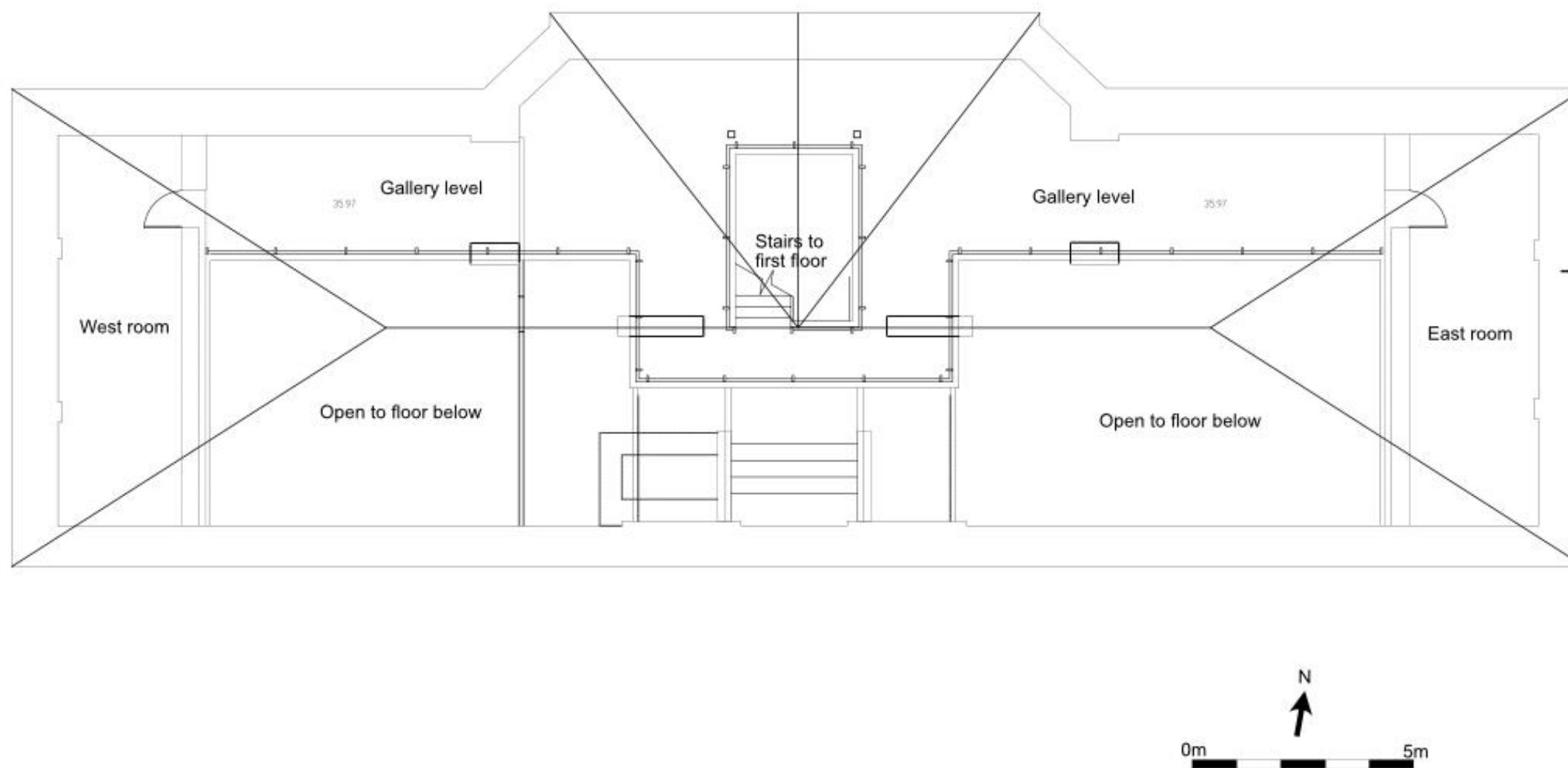


Figure 20: Second floor plan of the former gaol building, with roof structure. Based on drawings produced by Roger Casey Associates (May 2022) for Pembrokeshire County Council, drawing 20730-RCA-WP4-00-DR-S-0052-S0, with adjustments and annotations by DAT-AS. Not reproduced to the original scale.

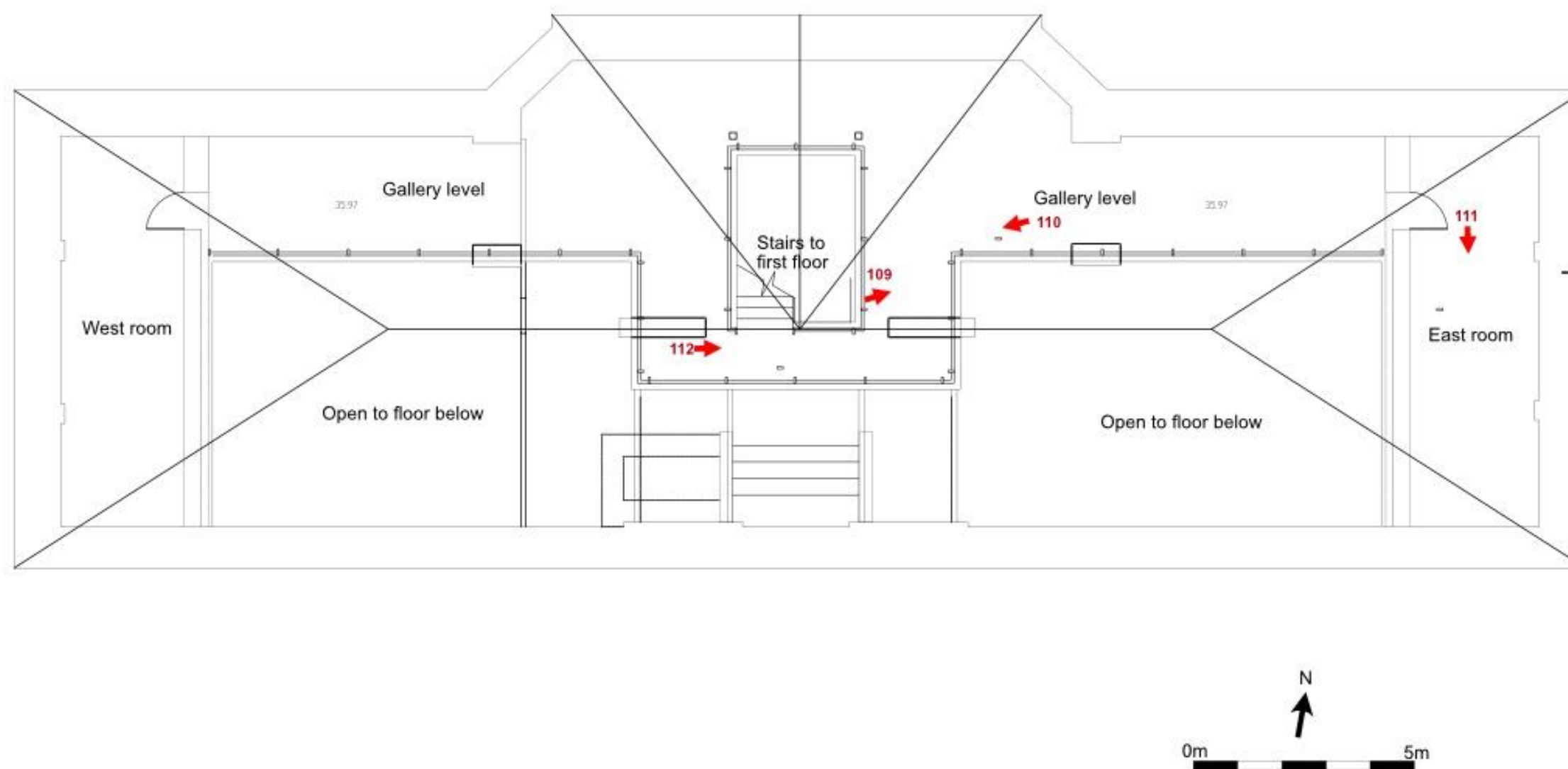


Figure 21: Photo location plan for the second floor of the former gaol building.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The former county gaol building is Grade II listed (Ref.12033) as a substantial late Georgian prison building with a fine gatehouse front. It lies within the outer ward of Haverfordwest Castle (SM 95297 15738) overlooking the town of Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire. The building is also recorded on the regional HER as PRN 8630, and on the National Monuments Record (held and maintained by RCAHMW) as NPRN 32071. A comprehensive Level 3 historic building survey has been carried out with the site visited in June and October 2023.
- 5.2 By the end of the 1770s a county gaol had been established within the ruins of the medieval Haverfordwest Castle. The initial gaol occupied the inner ward but conditions soon proved unsatisfactory and in 1820 a new gaol building was added in the outer ward of the castle. This new building contained work rooms, day rooms, offices, a chapel and cells spread across three storeys, with a castellated watchtower over the entranceway to the south and a projecting gatehouse. The building was surrounded by airing yards enclosed in a high boundary wall, all contained within the boundaries of the castle site with the earlier gaol buildings and prison Governor's House to the east. The new gaol building was designed by the architect James Pigott Pritchett, a local-born architect who was working from his practice in York at the time. Elements of the design appear to have been based partly on previous work he had done on Maidstone Prison in 1811, possibly also influenced by recent work on the Wakefield Asylum. The gaol soon became both county and borough gaol, although the basic design of the building does not appear to have altered. In the 1860s a new heating system was installed and internal plans of the building at this time survive.
- 5.3 After nationalisation Haverfordwest gaol was closed in 1878. The inner ward buildings were given to the Haverfordwest Borough Police but the large gaol building in the outer ward appears to have become largely unused at this time. By the 1920s however a new range of buildings had been built on the southeast side with the main building presumably utilised by the police in some form. Mid-20th century plans suggest it was used by the Chief Constable, the CID, and as storerooms and recreational rooms. In 1963 the police moved to new premises and the site was acquired by Pembrokeshire County Council. The county architect, Gilbert Ray, designed a number of alterations to the former gaol building to convert it into the county museum, including extensive internal remodelling, the removal of the watchtower and installation of extensive roof lighting, the addition of a diamond-shaped entranceway, and the demolition of surrounding structures and walling. In the 1970s further refurbishment took place when the building also became the county record office, which included extensions on the southwest side and northwest corner. Groundworks were undertaken in the 1980s to improve access from the north, and in the early 1990s the roof was extensively repaired.
- 5.4 The building currently comprises a main rectangular unit of three storeys and thirteen bays beneath a hipped slate roof with a trapezoidal cross gable to the rear. The facework is in local brownish sandstone rubble with the quoins, voussoirs and dressings in contrasting Pembrokeshire grey limestone. The building is entered from the south through a projecting, central tripartite 'gatehouse' front in grey limestone ashlar which is surmounted by a heavy entablature, cornice and parapet. These elements appear largely original, closely aligning with early plans of the site and architecturally of the right period.
- 5.5 Original windows and external door openings are clearly visible with dressed limestone surrounds, with later infill, throughout the main building. The

doorways are visible on the west gable and at the eastern end of both north and south faces, with plans suggesting a similar door would also have stood on the western end of the north face, now obscured by a later extension. The doors are partly blocked with masonry, the plans suggesting the visible door on the north wall and that in the west gable may have been blocked by the 1860s to convert the north door into a window and the west door into a window and heating vent. The door on the south wall is still marked as open on the 1860s plans but the masonry suggests it was converted into a window prior to the closure of the gaol in the late 1870s. The windows are subsequently blocked in brickwork of the 1960s and then ornamented with decorative asbestos grilles. On the east gable a 1960/70s fire door has been inserted through a former first floor window, and on the west gable a wide 1960/70s doorway has replaced first floor windows. Modern windows have also replaced original ground floor openings in the sides of the projecting north cross gable, with new window openings inserted on the north face. There is evidence of rebuilding in the upper course of the east gable and more extensive rebuilding in the upper half of the west gable, likely dating to the conversion work of the 1960s. The roof appears to follow the original form but roofing material has clearly been replaced, most recently in the 1990s. There is no indication on the external facework for the presence of former attached structures, although mapping evidence suggests enclosure walls on the north side connected a detached infirmary, and some form of enclosure wall is suggested on historic plans attached to the north end of the east gable. The footings of these walls have also appeared in archaeological excavations which would suggest careful cleaning and repointing on the wall faces during the refurbishment works of the 1960s. This is also suggested by the reuse of decorative limestone around some replaced upper window openings on the east gable, and quoins in the rebuilt sections of the west gable.

- 5.6 The modern additions include a 1960 entrance structure, built in random rubble sandstone and superficially similar in appearance to the original gaol walling. The 1970s extension to the southwest is built in a similar style but with greater inclusions of limestone, and obscures the west side of the 1960s entrance. This later extension also introduces concrete decorative features, timber walling and extensive slate facing in its materials. The south wall of this extension mirrors the line of the original boundary wall enclosing the site. The 1970s extension to the northwest uses a similar mix of random rubble walling similar in appearance to the original gaol walling, but also introduces slate facing, along with areas of dressed slate blocks, narrow window lighting and a large arched opening, or decorative feature, on the north face. The construction of this extension may also have required the partial rebuilding of the basement access. Historic plans suggest access to the basement from the west and east, the current access is from the east only.
- 5.7 Internally the building was extensively remodelled in the 1960s. Historic plans indicate the ground floor was entered via the southern gatehouse into a central block of four larger day rooms and offices, with small cells laid out along the length of the building to either side in two rows, separated by central connecting corridors. Stairs to the upper floors lay in the southeast, northwest and northwest corners. The first floor contained a chapel placed centrally on the northern side, with cells laid out to either side and along the south wall. The second floor contains cells to the north and south, with a large central corridor, and larger central rooms part used by the gaol wardens.
- 5.8 Currently, at ground floor level the original entrance has been retained, with two original heavy timber doors enclosing the entrance passage. Modern openings have been added to east and west to access an exterior staircase to the first floor with kitchen, W.C.s and stores added in the 1960s. Within the

central block the internal entrance passage has been retained, although side openings have been blocked and plastered over. The day room to the west survives as a strongroom with infilled original doorway and fireplace, and a new access cut through from the north. The offices and dividing corridors to the north have been amalgamated and then subdivided again with timber and glazed panels into a corridor and two offices. The windows in the angled walls have been enlarged, the central window was added in the earlier 20th century and the flanking windows are entirely modern. The day room to the southeast has been amalgamated with the row of cells along the southeast side of the building, with only part of a door jamb from the day room to the access corridor remaining as a visible subdivision. A day room, cell and stairway to the northeast have similarly been amalgamated into a single room, with infilled original door and fireplace on the west wall and a new entry broken in from the south. The same amalgamation has also occurred in the northwest corner of the original building to create a single room, and the cells and connecting corridor to the south have similarly been amalgamated to form a single southwest room, with new access broken into the dividing wall between the two. Blocked original fireplaces and a doorway are visible on the east walls of these rooms. All evidence of former walls and openings in external walls have been obscured with an inserted breezeblock wall and a new concrete floor and ceiling inserted throughout. The upper floors have been removed in their entirety with a large, open first floor level inserted with end rooms and a galleried second floor along the northern side. The main space is lit by translucent ceiling tiles, allowing light from roof lights above. A broad phasing plan at ground floor level is provided in Figure 22.

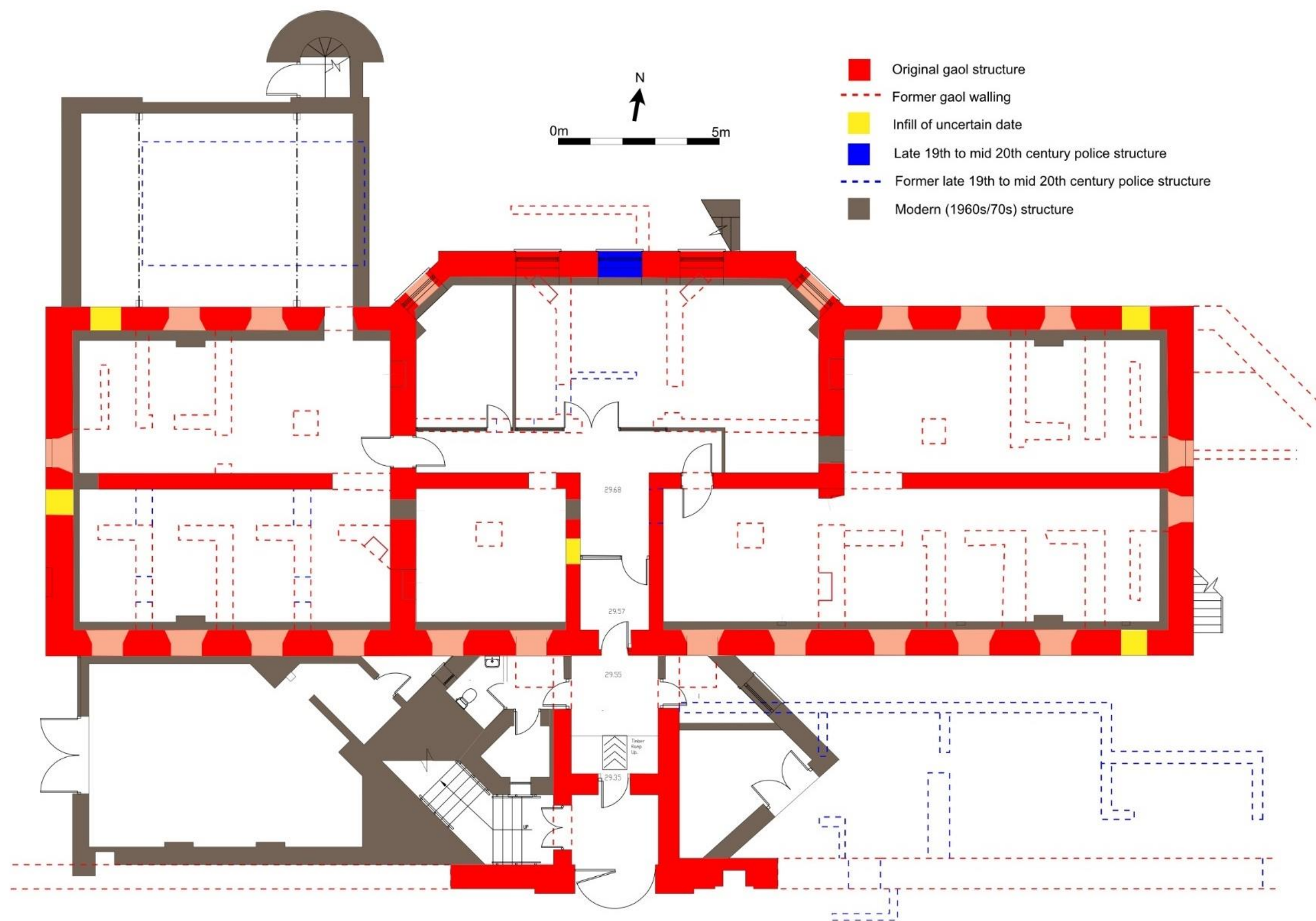


Figure 22: A broad phase plan showing the development of the former gaol building from its construction in 1820 to its current form (November 2023).

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