

PENTRE IFAN FARM. R. Murphy, May 1988

The farm is situated at c80m above OD on a low, east to west aligned tongue of land. To the north a shallow valley has been dammed in several places, while the land gently falls away to the south.

The 'barn' or gatehouse is the only extant building of any antiquity on the site; this has been described elsewhere. The present house is a 19th century stone built structure. Attached to it is an older two storey building, with massive ground floor hearth and large re-used roof trusses. South of the 'barn', the stone built mill is now just a shell.

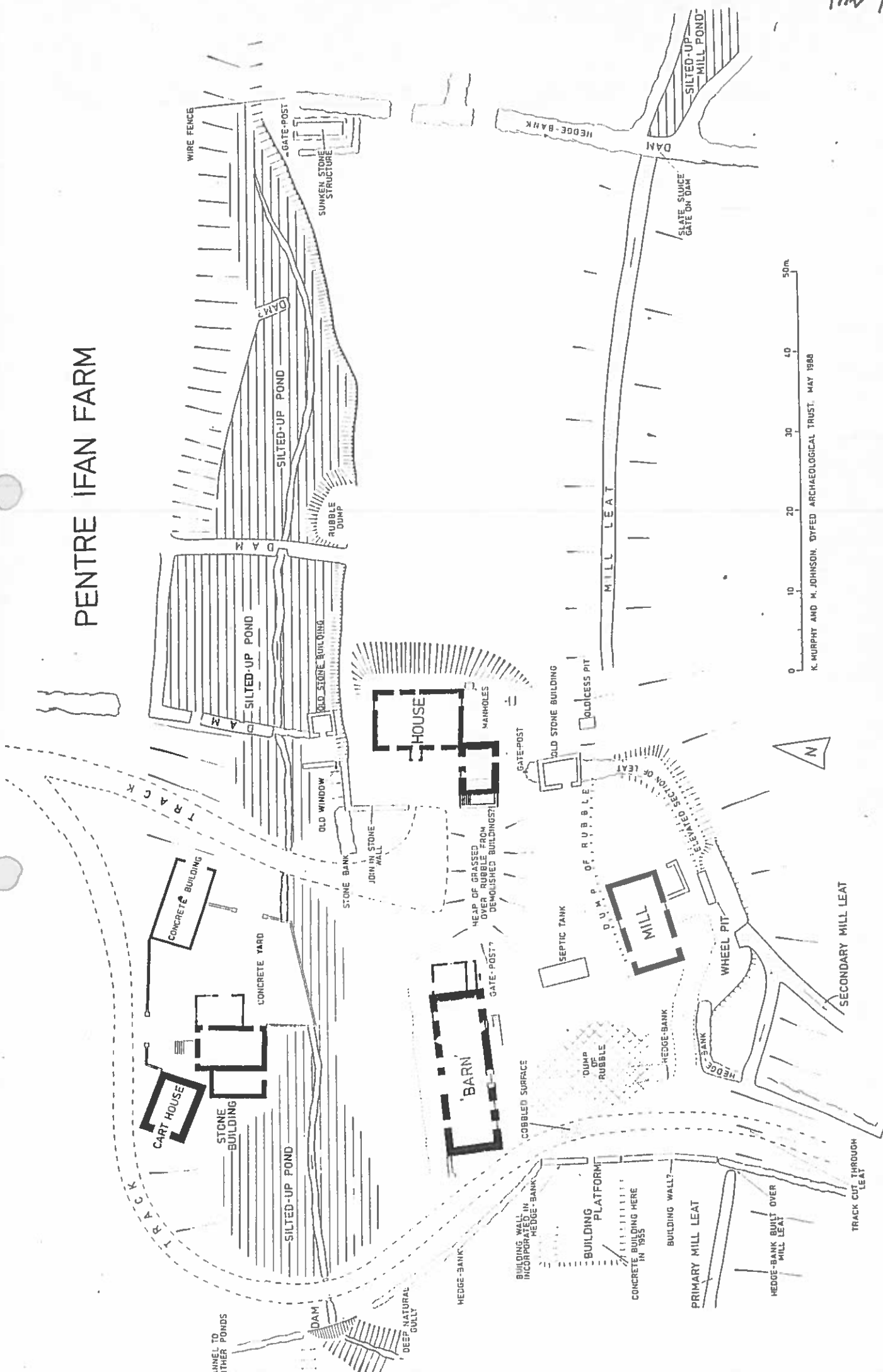
It seems likely that originally the 'barn' and mill formed the north and south sides of a courtyard. Walls incorporated in a hedgebank indicate the position of the western range of buildings. The situation of the buildings on the eastern side of the suggested courtyard is not known, although the earthwork between the 'barn' and house probably represents buried foundations. Unfortunately, the courtyard area has been badly disturbed in recent years by the insertion of a septic tank, the digging of drains and the dumping of rubble over a former hedgebank to the east and against the north wall of the mill. It is not certain from surface evidence how much this disturbance has destroyed the archaeological deposits.

Old ponds (fish ponds?) to the north of the farm buildings take advantage of a natural valley. Two, and possibly three dams lie to the north-east of the house, and a further dam can be seen 30m to the north-west of the 'barn'. From the side of this latter dam an old straight channel runs for a couple of hundred metres westward to feed further ponds. For water to have ran in this channel the the surface level of the pond would have had to have been considerably higher than the present stream level, indicating the area to the north of the 'barn' would have been a large pond, with possibly a further dam immediately to the north of the 'barn'. If these ponds were as large as is suggested above then the present track leading due south to the house cannot be of any great age. The original access to the building complex may have been roughly on the line of the track that curves to the west over the western dam - perhaps then swinging in through the north door of the barn/gatehouse?

A mill leat defines the southern limit of the building complex. This leat was fed by a small, artificially created pond. The southern bank of the pond has been destroyed by a conifer plantation, and the whole area is very over-grown. From the wheel pit the leat outlet formerly ran in a westerly direction, but this course was cut through and blocked by the construction of a track; thus a new out-flow channel was built flowing south.

To the north of the 'barn' are several modern concrete and older stone buildings. The stone buildings have been extensively modernised, but are probably of 19th century date; the cart house may be older.

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K. MURPHY AND M. JOHNSON, DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST, MAY 1988