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PEN-Y-BRYN FARM

BYNEA, LLANELLI

ANALYTICAL BUILDING RECORD

Project Record No. 29590

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Summary

A major upgrading scheme being undertaken by Dwr Cymru plc includes the establishment of a new sewage treatment works at Bynea, Llanelli. The work involves the demolition of Pen-y-bryn, an abandoned post-medieval farm complex (DAT PRN 29589) that was thought to possibly overlie a medieval manorial centre. Accordingly, a survey of the farm buildings was commissioned by Dwr Cymru.

The farm complex comprises a house and three, formerly four ranges of outbuildings around a rectangular yard. A further range lies behind and at right angles to the house. At least 10 building phases were identified, the earliest belonging to the 18th century when the core of the house and one range of outbuildings were probably constructed. The remainder, including two cowsheds/milking parlours and a complex of pigpens, are of 19th-20th century date.

There was no evidence that any of the buildings incorporated any structure from earlier periods, and neither landscape nor map evidence for medieval antecedents.

1.2 Purpose of the record

Details of the proposed construction of a sewage treatment works at Bynea, Llanelli, were forwarded by Tania Morris, Project Scientist for Wallace Evans, to Dyfed Archaeological Trust for comment on 31 July 1992.

Following an initial assessment of the scheme by the Heritage Management Section of Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Dwr Cymru were advised of the need for a detailed archaeological desk-top assessment of the project to be prepared in order for detailed mitigatory measures to be drafted. Subsequently, in a letter dated 8 June 1993, Ken Wade confirmed that Wallace Evans wished the Trust to undertake the detailed assessment of the scheme.

The report, prepared by H James of Dyfed Archaeological Trust's Heritage Management Section, was submitted to Wallace Evans in July 1993. It was intended to provide Wallace Evans with sufficient information to assess the likely impact of the proposed works upon the archaeological resource and to take this into account as a material consideration in the determination of appropriate mitigatory measures.

The report also recommended the further mitigatory response that might be deemed necessary. The central recommendation was that a drawn and photographic record be undertaken of the structures and buildings at Pen-y-bryn farm. Pen-y-bryn farm lay directly

within the proposed development area and was intended for demolition and clearance during the construction of the STW. The survey was therefore a rescue record prior to demolition. The site was deemed of importance due to its well-preserved complex of good-quality farm buildings, and its possible origins within the medieval period.

1.3 Site location (Fig. 1)

The location, known history, and possible origins, of Pen-y-bryn farm (DAT PRN 29589) have been discussed in the desk-top assessment that accompanies this scheme (James, 1993), and further set against the local landscape in James, 1992. The details are briefly summarised here.

Pen-y-bryn farmstead is situated at NGR SS 5415 9827, near Bynea in the parish of Llanelli. It lies 4km SE of the town of Llanelli on a gentle south facing slope, 7-10m above sea-level and 400m north of the present-day high water mark. The underlying solid geology comprises coal-bearing Upper Carboniferous strata overlain by glacial deposits; the low hillock on which the farm stands is one of the moraines deposited in this coastal region during the last glaciation, the bases of which represent the post-glacial shoreline (Symons, 1979, 7-10). The site of Pen-y-bryn farmstead has, then, been dry land since the last glaciation; however, much of the surrounding landscape has been created by reclamation from coastal marsh and mud-flat during historic times.

1.4 Site history

It has been proposed (James, 1993, 3) that Pen-y-bryn Farm possibly has its origins as a medieval manorial centre. The glacial hillock of Pen-y-bryn, along with the neighbouring Tychon Fawr, Tir Morfa, and Spitty Bank all form natural sites for potential early settlement. Pen-y-bryn occupies the largest along with Bryn Carnarfon and Dyffryn farms and any or all of these farmsteads may have origins as medieval (or earlier) settlements, that contracted into private farms in the late medieval or early post-medieval period.

It is likely that the core of the medieval manor of Berwick, which lay within the commote of Carnwallon, was situated within the immediate neighbourhood. Berwick was a subsidiary manor of the anglicised medieval borough of Llanelli but its origins lay as a Welsh 'maenor'. Although its boundaries and administration were formalised under Anglo-Norman rule, it is probable that native divisions were perpetuated (James, 1992, 13).

'Maenor Berwick' is depicted by Rees, 1932. He places the manorial centre on the site of the present-day Berwic farm, with a subsidiary settlement at Dyffryn. He is doubtless following the location of 'Barwig vill' as depicted by Emmanuel Bowen in his map of 1740; the

modern farm name is significant. James, however (James, 1992, 19; 1993, 3) suggests that the manorial centre, with its associated vill (small village or hamlet), lay on the site now occupied by either Dyffryn, Bryn Carn-arfon or Pen-y-bryn farmsteads. Unfortunately no recognisable place-name is given in an early 17th century survey of the commote of Carnwallon, which is rather terse when dealing with the manor of Berwick (Rees, 1953, 253-278).

Certainly field strips from the medieval period were still under multiple ownership at Bryn Carnarfon in the 18th century (NLW, Parish of Llanelli, Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1841). Earthworks north of Pen-y-bryn shown on a map of 1877 were regarded by James as possibly representing boundaries extending its fields towards Techon Fawr, which pre-date the establishment of the neighbouring farm of Penclacwydd before the 18th century (James, 1992, 22). James suggested that they are medieval in origin. A characteristic indicator of medieval settlement, ridge-and-furrow ploughing, has not been detected here.

An alternative model is that Pen-y-bryn may represent an extension of settlement and exploitation of marshland outwards from the area of the manorial centre, during the 16th-17th centuries (James, 1993, 3). By this means the Vaughan family, Lords of the Manor, may have both increased their rentals from farmland and extended their interests into the surrounding coalfields.

Whatever its origins, by the 18th century at least Pen-y-bryn was a private farm under single ownership. It was a holding of some status, though never large. During the 18th and the earlier 19th centuries the farm, in common with much of the former Manor of Berwick, formed part of the vast Stepney estate and through much of this period Pen-y-bryn, Dyffryn, Tir Baccas and Bryn Carn-arfon farms remained under common ownership (owner, Dyffryn Farm, *pers. comm.*). An early de-tailed plan of the farm, from 1760 (Carmarthen-shire Record Office, Stepney Collection SE 72), shows 14 fields occupying some 55 acres twice subtenanted from the estate. Unfortunately Pen-y-bryn is one of those holdings absent from the Tithe Map for Llanelli parish of 1841, an omission of a valuable source of information. By the time of the detailed Ordnance Survey of 1879, Pen-y-bryn farm has acquired much of the arrangement that we see today (see below, 2.2).

The farmhouse was abandoned in the early 1970s, but the land continued to be farmed a new hay barn was constructed (owner, Dyffryn Farm, *pers. comm.*).

1.5 Aims and objectives

The main aim of the project was the preservation by record of a site due for demolition. An additional objective was the provision of an analytical study. These

aims were achieved by:-

- furnishing a complete record of the standing structures present within the farmstead to a level corresponding to Level 3 as defined by RCHME (see below, 2.1)

- ascertaining whether the structures and layout of the farm incorporate or respect evidence for earlier settlement

- analysing the structures in relation to the documentary and map evidence in order to place the structures and their development within a dated constructional history, and assessing their development in relation to the surrounding landscape

2.0 METHODOLOGIES AND RESULTS

2.1 Methodologies of the record

The project incorporated two tasks:-

- a drawn field survey of the farmstead and accompanying photographic record

- the analysis of a range of documentary and map sources.

The standing building record was undertaken to a level corresponding to Level 3 as defined by RCHME (RCHME, *Recording Historic Buildings: a Descriptive Specification*, 1990):-

Level 3 is fully analytical, and will comprise an introductory written 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 is based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined. It will also include all visual data that may be required to illustrate the building's appearance and structure and to support an historical analysis. The record at Level 4 will draw on the full range of other sources of information about the building and discuss its significance in terms of architectural, social, regional or economic history.'

The drawing and photographic record is catalogued below, 5.0. It is deposited in Dyfed Sites and Monuments Record.

The archive drawings comprise a ground plan of the farm complex at 1:100 scale and plan and elevations of the farmhouse at 1:50 scale. The drawings are reproduced within this report as figs. 2-4.

2.2 Documentary and map evidence

A number of map sources were examined in attempt to place the development of the farm within an absolute chronological context, and to analyse the relationship of the farmstead structures with the landscape of the holding as a whole, its boundaries, and any changes that may have occurred within it through time.

The complete list of map sources consulted is reproduced in 7.1 and 7.3. Of these only a few depicted the layout of Pen-y-bryn; these are discussed below.

The farmstead will be discussed below in terms of its current arrangement of house, northern range, eastern range, western range and southern range (see below, 2.3).

2.2.1. 1760 PLAN (APPENDIX 8.1)

The map evidence displays few indicators of the early development of the holding. The earliest detailed dated plan of Pen-y-bryn - which is also its earliest named reference (Carmarthenshire Record Office, Stepney Collection SE 72) - dates from 1760; by this time the pattern of field boundaries that exists today had been established. The only differences occur in the area occupied by the farm buildings themselves.

Evidence for medieval strip fields is confined to one long narrow field at the northern edge of the farm. Moreover, the entire holding was under single ownership having been occupied by 'the late Francis William, under tenant to Mr Edward Dalton' (and held from the Stepney estate). This is in marked contrast to the neighbouring Bryn Carnarfon farm with its distinct group of field strips under mixed ownership. A 'quillet' of strips is also shown at the farm of Penclacwydd, immediately to the west, in a 19th century plan (Carmarthenshire Record Office, Stepney Collection D54).

The 1760 plan shows the high water mark in the same position as today. The sea defence along this stretch of the Loughor foreshore - 'The Bulwark' - is not named as such but it is apparent that it was already in existence. The marshland to the east of Pen-y-bryn, Morfa Bacas, was not reclaimed until after 1810, enclosed by Parliamentary Act (Carmarthenshire Record Office, AE1B).

No significant changes in the landscape and field pattern are apparent in later maps.

The farm buildings, in contrast, have undergone significant change and development. The present formalised plan around a large rectangular yard appears static and long-standing. This is a superficial appearance, however. The 1760 plan clearly

shows that this central open space had not been established. The core of the present farmhouse (see below, 2.3.1) was in existence and associated with a small paddock to the south, 'Grofft'. Intruding into the south-west corner of this paddock is a smaller enclosure, on the western side of which is depicted a long building that may be a badly located depiction of part of the present eastern range. On the other hand it may represent a building that has now completely gone, and indicate that the eastern range had not yet been constructed.

There is little in the 1760 plan in terms of the arrangement of buildings and boundaries to suggest the former presence of a larger settlement.

2.2.2 C.1813 MAP

The 2" to the mile Ordnance Survey 'Original Survey Drawings' of the early 19th century are rarely detailed enough to allow any firm analysis of individual farmstead layouts. In the case of Pen-y-bryn Farm, however, certain conclusions can be drawn from the map (National Library of Wales, Ordnance Survey, 'Original Survey Drawings', Sheet 188, 1813, revised 1827).

The map is rather vague and compromised as evidence by the omission of the farmhouse. However, it would appear to clearly show that in the years between 1760 and 1813 the large open space of the current farmyard had been established. A developed eastern range is clearly shown, and at least part of the present western range. In addition a building further to the west that was short lived and appears on no later maps. No building is shown to the north of the house. Field boundaries are shown only in rather vague form.

2.2.3. C.1825 MAP

The depiction on the Ordnance Survey of c.1825 (Ordnance Survey, c.1825-1828, *Index to Tithe Survey*, Old Series, Sheet 37) is again rather vague. The farmhouse is shown, but no northern range, and while the yard is depicted both eastern and western ranges appear in somewhat truncated form.

Field boundaries are not shown.

2.2.4 MID 19TH CENTURY PLAN (APPENDIX 8.2)

A 19th century plan (Carmarthenshire Record Office, Stepney Collection D54) is undated but appears to have been surveyed around the middle of the century.

A more detailed plan is depicted than in either of

the two plans cited above; however, the survey is curtailed to the south and the arrangement here is not clear. However, it is clear that by the time of the survey (which may indeed be a copy of an earlier survey), the western range had been established much as it exists today and that the northern three bays of the eastern range were standing.

Again (and curiously - see below, 3.3) the northern range is not shown.

2.2.5 1879 MAP (APPENDIX 8.3)

The Ordnance Survey 1:2500 First Edition of 1879 (Carmarthenshire, Sheet LVIII.12) depicts the arrangement of farmstead structures and field boundaries that is present more-or-less unchanged today.

This detailed map shows individual buildings and sometimes their internal partitions. Both western and eastern ranges more-or-less respect their present arrangement - all the main elements were already constructed. The farmhouse is shown as today, and the northern range. No structures are shown to the south of the yard but the high boundary wall that still remains is depicted.

2.2.6 1907 MAP (APPENDIX 8.4)

The situation depicted in 1907 is little changed from that shown in 1879 (Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Second Edition, Carmarthenshire, Sheet LVIII.12, 1907). The arrangement only differs in the addition of the two buildings of the southern range, and an extension at the southern end of the eastern range.

2.2.7 SUMMARY OF MAP EVIDENCE

The map evidence is either absent or rather inconclusive regarding the origins and early development of the farmstead and its relationship to, and changes within, the landscape in which it lies. By the time of the earliest survey, 1760, the farm was clearly a single ownership holding offering no evidence to suggest an earlier nucleation or field system. The earthworks depicted north of the farm in 1879, regarded by James as evidence of former communal settlement (James, 1992, 22) do not, and may never have belonged to Pen-y-bryn; they now lie within Penclacwydd Farm.

It is clear that the farmstead was substantially enlarged and remodelled in the late 18th-early 19th centuries with the introduction of the formalised plan that includes the extensive yard and two new ranges of buildings. This would appear to represent a rise in its fortunes, but there is no evidence for an accompanying increase in the farms acreage. There was little further enlargement.

2.3 The recorded evidence: description of the structures

Pen-y-bryn farmstead now comprises a house, northern range, eastern range, western range and part of the former southern range. They are arranged in a formal system around a large rectangular farmyard, defined by the buildings and by a substantial wall to the south. The large modern hay barn to the west of the enclosure lies beyond the scope of this report.

All farmstead buildings display fabric from successive rebuilds and extensions. The 10 phases that were recognised throughout the farmstead will be discussed below, 3.0. In this section the individual structures will be described in terms of construction, development and where possible, function.

Problems arose in assigning specific functions to some of the buildings. The farmstead is in a state of dereliction having been abandoned in the 1970s. Many structural features have been lost and much of the agricultural furniture. In addition, the site was heavily overgrown and whilst as much vegetation was removed as was feasible, many features were still obscured.

It is therefore to comparative study that this report turns. The formalised layout of post-18th century Pen-y-bryn allows functional comparison with a number of other Welsh farmsteads of similar date.

However, it should be pointed out that the structural evidence will normally only relate to the latest or last function to which an individual building was put. The structural history of each building may represent successive differing functions, each one obscuring the former evidence whilst influencing successive evidence.

2.3.1 THE FARMHOUSE (FIGS. 3 - 4)

The farmhouse is now a building of some pretension. At its core, however, lies a probable sub-medieval plan house.

The house, though in decay, survives more-or-less intact even to the roofing timbers. The internal partitions and floors also survive, or can at least be traced. The exceptions are the chimneys and the upper stage of the east (end) wall which, in the main body of the house, has gone. The roof was slated throughout.

Main block

In plan the house comprises a three-bay gabled main E-W block, with a narrow lean-to annexe to

the north. The main block more-or-less equates with the earliest building on the site, a fairly narrow 2-storey house constructed from well-coursed limestone rubble. In its original form it appears that the house was of sub-medieval plan typical of rural Wales. All internal partition walls are - and clearly always have been - of timber. They divide the interior space into three bays, from west to east a small parlour with a fireplace in the west (end) wall and room above, a stairwell, and in the eastern half a long room with a fireplace in the east (end) wall and also with a room above. The original level of the first floor in this half of the building may be represented by the row of joist holes visible in the north wall. The east wall is almost certainly a later insertion - it does not bond with the side walls and continues northwards, albeit in altered form, to form the end wall of the annexe. An offset in this wall lies at present first floor level, immediately below the earlier joist holes.

With the exception of a blocked window in the south wall, with a stepped rebate, none of the original openings survive in an unaltered form. However, the spatial arrangement represented by the main doorway in the south wall, and the position of the partition demarcating the western chamber may be original. It would convincingly represent a Type 'A' house, with the entry at the 'dais end', according to Smith's classification (Smith, 1988, 172) particularly if the present fireplace in the west end wall is a rebuild of an original feature. The plain fireplace on the first floor here certainly suggests an early date. The east end wall may be a rebuild of an earlier wall, but not necessarily on the same line. Nevertheless, there is no reason to suppose that the original east wall did not also possess a fireplace. The present position of the stair also appears to reflect the earlier arrangement.

Type 'A' end-chimney houses have a scattered distribution in SW Wales but Carmarthenshire examples are known (Smith, 1988, 436). The larger room (here east of the door) was, in early houses, a hall open to the roof, the smaller room being occupied by the parlour. There is no evidence to suggest that the large room ever acted as a byre or that the plan derives from the longhouse (Smith, 1988, 158). The arrangement first appears in Wales in the 16th century, but variants upon it continued to be built well into the 18th century and there is no reason to propose an early origin for that at Pen-y-bryn.

The roof trusses may well be original. The roof structure is a simple 'close-couple' arrangement consisting entirely of pairs of common rafters linked at their bases by the tie-beams (Brunskill,

1985, 171). The timbers are all pegged; no carpenter's marks were observed.

Major alterations occurred within the fabric, if not to the layout of the main block. The construction of the annexe against the north wall was accompanied by the insertion of a communicating door through from the eastern room, and from the stairwell bay at first floor level. Later still, the present east wall was constructed, again of limestone.

The insertion of the present door and window openings, all square-headed, in the south wall was accompanied by the rendering of this facade. The render continues around each opening as a raised surround marked out in imitation coursing. It is to this early 20th century period that the present layout of partitions, stairs and floors appear to belong judging by details of doorframe moulding. The positioning of floors and partitions has been noted above. The stairs rise to a dog-leg at the doorway into the annexe first floor and continue upwards to the first floor of the main block. The awkwardness of the insertion of the annexe doorway at a slightly higher level suggests that the stair follows an earlier arrangement.

The two ground floor fireplaces are rebuilds with decorative tiles of the 1930s.

All door and window frames are now lost.

Annexe

The lean-to annexe added against the north wall of the main block is of thin limestone slab construction, left unrendered. The lean-to appears to post date the N-S long walls of the northern range, which it apparently cuts off (see below, 2.3.2). It has undergone little alteration since its initial construction.

The lean-to is of two storeys, the first floor an attic under the lean-to roof. The ground floor is divided into two by a masonry wall, continued on the first floor as a lath-and-plaster partition. All openings appear to belong to the initial construction of the annexe; externally they comprise the three windows and central door on the ground floor and four first floor windows, two in the north wall and one in each end wall. Probably all were square-headed initially, and all windows are of equal size, but the western of the two first floor windows in the north wall was rebuilt with a segmental brick head. Both first floor windows lie just below eaves level. A variety of window frames are present, both sash and hinged.

The east wall was rebuilt, presumably at the same time as the east wall of the main block but here the wall was given a red-brick cladding externally. From at least this period onwards the eastern room of the annexe ground floor functioned as the kitchen while the western room appears to have been used as a laundry. A kitchen range including a bread oven is let into, and is coeval with, the eastern wall, but was later concealed behind an Aga. Structural laundry furniture comprises a series of sink stands and brackets, and the scars thereof where destroyed.

Both upper floor rooms were apparently low-ceilinged bedrooms and there is little structural material of note. The roof timbers are simple single rafters associated with a lean-to roof.

Garden

A rectangular garden plot to the front (south) of the house is defined by a low limestone wall. This is ruinous and overgrown, but rendered where it survives. The masonry gate-posts are typically 19th century; otherwise the wall is not closely dateable. It was standing by 1879 (Ordnance Survey 1:2500 First Edition, Carmarthenshire, Sheet LVIII.12).

2.3.2 THE NORTHERN RANGE (FIG. 2)

The northern range consists of a building, semi-roofed, running N-S from the north face of the farmhouse annexe, and a 20th century WC.

The southern portion of the building is now open, and the southern half of both eastern and western walls stand to a few courses at most. It appears that these limestone rubble walls pre-date the farmhouse annexe which seemingly cuts across them irrespective of the position of the annexe openings. The northern half of each wall, however, stands two storeys high and their northern ends are linked by an E-W wall of equal height, with a contemporary square-headed door. The northern half of this area than was evidently roofed and somewhere within it lay a further E-W wall forming the southern wall of this roofed area. There is now no trace of this - the whole area is massively overgrown and all standing masonry heavily ivied.

The arrangement thus described forms a two-storey rectangular building, of unknown function but probably aligned E-W, with a small yard to the south. The western wall of this yard incorporates a masonry well-head, circular in plan. The well is still open, and wet. The arrangement is approximately depicted on both Ordnance Survey 1:2500 First and Second Editions, Carmarthenshire, Sheet LVIII.12, 1879 and 1907.

The northern wall of the roofed area now forms the southern wall of a roughly square two storey gabled building of domestic use. Of slender brick cavity wall construction (both skins comprising just one row of stretchers), this building displays, in addition to the earlier door mentioned above which remained in use, two windows and a door on the ground floor and a window on the first floor. All openings are square-headed. All frames are now gone, and the eastern ground floor window has been blocked. The north wall displays a large range at ground floor level and a further fireplace on the first floor. The exteriors of the north, west and east walls have been rendered throughout. The roof and chimney have gone.

Just to the north and at an angle to the northern range stands a detached, brick-built WC. This was not fully surveyed and only its approximate position is marked in fig. 2.

It is apparent that in its later phases the northern range and WC formed a self-contained domestic unit, presumably for a family member of the owner or tenant farmer.

2.3.3. THE WESTERN RANGE (FIG. 2)

The western range represents an agglomeration of additions from successive periods, now comprising two parallel adjoining cowsheds/milking parlours aligned N-S, a series of at least three ruined pigsties and an annexe at the north end, and two pigsties, over which lies a loft, at the south end. The bulk of the western range stands more-or-less complete to the synthetic-tile roofs, and was evidently in use after the majority of the farm buildings, including the house, had been abandoned. Many of the fittings, including the stalls and the pipework for the milking apparatus, remain intact.

Cowshed 1

The eastern of the two cowsheds/milking parlours represents the earliest surviving building in the western range and appears to be a *de novo* structure of a single build. Originally it was a long, narrow gabled building with seven doorways onto the farmyard in the east wall, and two doorways in the west wall. The only window was a small square-headed opening in the north wall. Construction is of roughly coursed limestone rubble throughout and it is now whitewashed. The openings are all segmental-headed with limestone voussoirs. In its initial phase the building was possibly higher and featured a loft, but firm evidence for this is lacking.

The building was evidently a cowshed from the first but the original internal arrangements have been obscured by later developments. However, there is no reason for assuming that the cattle were not stalled at right angles to the axis of the building with a feed trough to the west as in the present arrangement. Up to ten head could be accommodated.

Four of the seven eastern doorways were later constricted to form windows, with frames now in poor condition, and later still the southern of the two western doorways was blocked. With the advent of modern machine milking, or when the synthetic-tile roof was installed, the possible former loft may have been lost. The roof timbers are of no great age. Floor and trough are now concrete, with steel bar stall rails. The vacuum pipe from the milking machine, housed in the annexe to the north, is still present.

Pigsties

A complex of pigsties was added to this initial building and their walls can be seen to butt against it. They are all aligned E-W and comprise a house and small pen. Construction is of limestone rubble while the low segmental arches into the houses are of brick. A series of at least three were constructed against the west wall of the cowshed and face west. The later construction of a second cowshed in the southern part of this area swept away part of the southernmost sty and perhaps further sties. The remainder were abandoned, and were ruinous by 1879; they are not shown on Ordnance Survey 1:2500 First Edition, Carmarthenshire, Sheet LVIII.12, 1879. No trace of a stairway to a loft is evident, but the sties are in a very ruinous condition and their upper levels lost.

A gabled loft was installed over the two pigsties built against the south wall of the initial cowshed, which face east. However the loft has been heightened in red-brick, and the doorway, reached by a stair in the south wall, given a red-brick surround. With the alteration of the original features it is impossible to be sure that the loft was present from the first.

Cowshed 2

The second cowshed, with room for a further 5 head of milkers, is probably contemporary with these loft alterations. It is a handsome gabled structure in a mixed limestone, sandstone and yellow-brick fabric. The quoins and opening surrounds are all in red brick; the latter all have segmental heads. The shed is divided into two unequal areas. Originally the northern and larger area housed the milking cows and heifers, while the southern half - over which lies a loft - con-

tained either yearlings or fatstock (Wiliam, 1986, 107). There are three doorways and two windows in the northern half, with a communicating doorway into the southern area which features three windows and a door. The loft is entered via two large openings in the southern gable end, one of them possibly facilitating the operation of machinery. Door and window frames still survive. The windows are divided by transoms, and were slatted above and glazed below.

The original arrangements have again been obscured by recent development but the concrete floor, eastern trough and steel stall rails aligned E-W may follow the original arrangement. The vacuum pipe from the milking machine is likewise still present in the northern half. The original roof timbers may still be present but roofed with synthetic tiles.

Milking machine house

The small annexe built onto the northern end of the initial cowshed was built to house the milking machine. It is constructed in brick, with walls one stretcher deep, and rendered.

2.3.4 THE EASTERN RANGE (FIG. 2)

The eastern range forms a single row of buildings aligned N-S along the eastern side of the farmyard. The range is situated some considerable distance away from the house but there is no evidence, either map or on the ground, to suggest the former presence of any intervening structure. The present arrangement is subdivided into five individual sections. The first floor timbers, where present, have survived; not so door and window frames. The roof, and roof timbers, are also gone. Debris from this collapse, and undergrowth, obscured much of the internal arrangements.

Barns and stable

The nucleus of the eastern range is the handsome barn and stable block at the north end. It is a gabled building of 1½-2 storeys and of well-coursed and roughly dressed limestone throughout. Three sections are divided by substantial limestone walls that ascend the full height of the building to the roof. They bond, and are clearly contemporary with, the external walls. The northern section is entered through a tall, wide entry in each of the side walls. That to the west has lost its head; the survivor, to the east, has a segmental head of limestone voussoirs. None of the doors or centre posts remain. The end bays are ventilated by four slit lights. The first floor is later, formerly being open to the roof. The opposed barn doors clearly indicate that the central bay was constructed as the threshing floor (Wiliam, 1986, 152-3). Any

evidence for internal subdivision within this section, ie. between the threshing floor itself and the bays either side, is now lost. The process may have become mechanised when the engine house (below) was introduced.

The adjoining section to the south is now of two floors but this may not have been the original arrangement and the communicating doorway from the section to the north, at first floor level, has a timber lintel in marked contrast to the segmental heads with limestone voussoirs that characterise the original openings. There is a large doorway to the west, partly destroyed along with a section of the wall above. The opening (door? window?) to the east was subject to later alteration with the construction of an engine house.

The engine house is a small lean-to building with walls of red brick, one stretcher deep, and a tin roof, constructed against the east side of the range. The machinery has gone but was probably powered by a small portable steam engine, or, more likely given the engine house's probable mid 20th century date, a stationary internal combustion engine (Edgington, 1980). A drive wheel lies adjacent to the modified opening in the eastern range wall. The opening was adapted for the passage of a belt drive which leads to a gear-and-flywheel, still *in situ* and mounted on the first floor timbers within the central bay of the eastern range. Further belt drives may have entered the northern section, but there is little evidence of this.

The machinery may have been used for barley crushing, or perhaps for winnowing the wheat, the two processes of winnowing and threshing then occurring in separate locations. Processing was doubtless accompanied by storage within this section and may represent its original function.

The southernmost of the three sections of this earliest building has been altered with the introduction of later openings. However, they may reflect the original arrangement. It has three bays. All openings are in the east wall and comprise a central door and two windows on the ground floor, and a central large opening on the first floor. All now have segmental red-brick heads (partly lost), and on the first floor a brick surround. Neither doors, windows nor their frames survive.

The section may always have been lofted, and it is clear that in its surviving form at least that it was the stable. All internal fittings, and flooring, have been lost, but the dimensions, three blank walls, the arrangement of doors and windows, and the loft entry are all diagnostic (William, 1986, 129-137). Space exists for the stalling of up to seven horses.

Southern building

A large extension was added onto the southern end of the initial eastern range to which it can be seen to butt. Although of equally substantial limestone construction this building survives only in a very poor condition; possibly some deliberate demolition has taken place, perhaps prior to the farm's abandonment. Only the southern gable, part of the eastern wall and a later brick-built partition survive. The interior is entirely overgrown. The evidence suggests that the building, though standing to the same height as the remainder of the eastern range, was of a single storey and open to the roof. Two altered openings exist in the east wall, and one jamb in the west wall suggests a doorway, but they are hardly diagnostic and the function of the building remains unknown.

In 1907 a small building is depicted at the south end of the above, in a position one might expect the presence of a chaff room (Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Second Edition, Carmarthenshire, Sheet LVIII.12). This has now gone and a cattle trough lies against the south end wall of the building above.

2.3.5. THE SOUTHERN RANGE (FIG. 2)

The map evidence indicates that the buildings formerly present in the south of the farmyard were the latest large scale additions to the farm (see below, 3.7).

It is from the south that the farm was formerly approached (rather from the west as today), entered via a wide gateway through a probable wall. Later, a building was constructed either side of the entry replacing the enclosure wall. Of these, only the western survives but in a ruinous condition. The eastern building, with the exception of its south wall, has gone, but the two iron gate posts survive.

Western building

The building to the west has undergone much alteration during its short life. It is now almost completely ruinous, only the eastern wall and external steps surviving to any height. The roof, and all other timberwork, are gone. The building was in ruins some time before the farm was abandoned.

It was initially a two storey structure in limestone rubble with a gabled roof. There were two rooms on the ground floor. The eastern room was entered via a square-headed doorway in the east wall and a former doorway in the north wall. There is a much-damaged window opening in the south wall. An entry leads into the eastern gable end at first floor level. This has a mixed brick surround.

The ground floor eastern doorway was later blocked with brick, and later still an incongruous red-brick external stairway constructed, leading up to the first floor entry. This is a massive structure, and ostentatious, with two full-centred semicircular arches, and is the only part of the western building that still survives intact. It appears however to provide no clues as to the function of the building.

The western room is almost completely gone and the arrangements are now impossible to discern. This had occurred some time prior to the abandonment of the farm and the north-west corner has been replaced by a concrete gatepost. A cattle trough now lies against the south wall.

The location of the building suggests its use as a carthouse, which may also explain its early disuse. Two possible entries face the yard. A loft above the carthouse might be expected (Wiliam, 1986, 134) and the two rooms may represent bays for individual carts. One problem with this interpretation is that the entry into the eastern room, while vaguely defined, appears too narrow from the standing evidence.

Eastern building

The eastern building replaced the former enclosure wall east of the gateway. It is only known from map evidence (Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Second Edition, Carmarthenshire, Sheet LVIII.12, 1907) but its south wall still survives to form a high south wall of the farmyard. However, no sign of a roof crease or rafter holes is present in this wall. It was evidently a large, long building aligned E-W which may, rather than the western building, represent the carthouse. It was clearly in ruins or demolished some time before the farm was abandoned.

3.0 DISCUSSION (FIG. 2)

Pen-y-bryn farmstead developed from a sub-medieval house and possible ancillary buildings through to a formally planned farmstead of some status, featuring a number of ranges around a large central yard. In addition, more than one dwelling was present.

The structural history has been broken down into 10 broad phases, most of which are represented throughout the farmstead and represent every stage of the farm's growth and decline. Many of them will be short-lived and represent short building campaigns. Others appear to represent periods of little growth.

The structural history is analysed here in comparison with the map evidence. The map sources can feature buildings for which there is no structural evidence. In addition, it must be borne in mind that at any stage there

may have been present an unknown number of buildings for which there is neither structural nor map evidence.

3.1 Pre-18th century

There is no structural evidence for any period prior to the 18th century at Pen-y-bryn farmstead. It has been seen above, 1.4, that the origins of the farm are open to debate. The deeds for the neighbouring Dyffryn farm, which probably originated under similar circumstances, apparently date to 1704 (owner, Dyffryn Farm, *pers. comm.*). However, establishment prior to the 18th century cannot be ruled out and undoubtedly the nucleation of three neighbouring farmsteads close to one another among fields of ancient enclosure may suggest early post-medieval origins (Brunskill, 1971, 137).

The main block of the farmhouse is an end chimney house of submedieval type. This type, Smith's Type 'A' (Smith, 1988, 172), was being built from the 16th century onwards and whilst there is no structural evidence for attributing a date prior to the 18th century for its construction, an earlier date cannot definitely be ruled out.

3.2 Phase I 18th century

Phase I includes the farmhouse main block, a Type 'A' end chimney house of submedieval type. They have a scattered distribution in SW Wales but Carmarthenshire examples are known (Smith, 1988, 436). The type, and related submedieval plan houses, were still being built in Wales well into the 18th century. The farmhouse roof may well be original.

The house is clearly that depicted as already in existence in the 1760 plan (Carmarthenshire Record Office, Stepney Collection SE72). The other building shown (above, 2.2.1) may or may not be the present eastern range barn and stable block.

The barn and stable block is not necessarily contemporary with the house and maybe somewhat later - they are here grouped together as phase I for convenience. However the barn block can, on stylistic grounds, be attributed to the late 18th century.

The arrangements and appearance of the barn block as built were probably much as today, with the exception of the possible later first floors, and the remodelling of the stable openings. However, any evidence for internal subdivision within the northern section, ie. between the threshing floor itself and the bays either side, is now lost but probably would have been present at least as low sill walls (Wiliam, 1986, 163). Threshing floor porches are absent from SW Wales (Wiliam, 1986, 152).

The overall arrangement of the barn block is somewhat unusual. There appear to be two sections, each possibly for a different crop, in a region where separate storage of crops is unusual (Wiliam, 1986, 156). If instead

two threshing floors are indicated then Pen-y-bryn offers a very early example, almost unknown in this part of Wales (Wiliam, 1986, 167).

The farmyard may have been laid out along with the construction of the barn block.

3.3 Phase II *early 19th century*

The map of c.1813 (National Library of Wales, Ordnance Survey, 'Original Survey Drawings', Sheet 188) clearly shows that the yard had been established. Also shown is a building in the position occupied by the cowshed that forms the core of the western range. This is entirely consistent with the structural evidence which suggests an early 19th century date. The possible former presence of a loft over the cowshed has been noted above. It appears from this map and the c.1825 map (Ordnance Survey, *Index to Tithe Survey*, Old Series, Sheet 37) that the cowshed stood alone.

It has been noted above, 2.3.2, that in its original form the northern range appears to be truncated by the farmhouse annexe. Its limestone construction is not unlike that of the cowshed above and it is here assigned to phase II. The fact that it is not depicted on either of the two early 19th century maps while the phase II cowshed is need not be of great concern. These maps were never intended to be detailed records.

The northern range has been altered to the extent that the original arrangement cannot now be known. Its earliest map depiction (Ordnance Survey 1:2500 First Edition, Carmarthenshire, Sheet LVIII.12, 1879) post-dates the construction of the annexe and by this time it comprised a building, probably aligned E-W, whose walls continued as a yard to the south. The well is shown. However, the plan suggests that in its original form the whole structure may have been roofed as a building. The cross wall that defined the northern area has been lost, but there is no scar to suggest that it bonded with the side walls and thus it may indeed have been later.

3.4 Phase III *mid 19th century 1*

Phases III, IV and V are assigned purely on stylistic grounds, there being no map evidence for the individual phases. All that can be said with certainty is that they predate the 1879 map, on which they are shown (Ordnance Survey 1:2500 First Edition, Carmarthenshire, Sheet LVIII.12).

The construction used in both the farmhouse annexe and the southern building of the eastern range is very similar being of flat limestone slabs laid in shallow courses. They are here regarded as contemporary.

3.5 Phase IV *mid 19th century 2*

The pigsties are possibly later. They are certainly of rather different construction employing considerable use of brick, in the segmental doorway heads, for example. They can be seen to butt against the cowshed.

The northern group of sties were clearly short-lived and are not shown on the 1879 map (Ordnance Survey 1:2500 First Edition, Carmarthenshire, Sheet LVIII.12).

The alterations to the openings in the east wall of the eastern range southern building have been tentatively assigned to this phase.

3.6 Phase V *mid 19th century 3*

The additional cowshed in the western range is built against both the original cowshed and the southern pigsties, whose walls it incorporates. It was in existence by 1879 (Ordnance Survey 1:2500 First Edition, Carmarthenshire, Sheet LVIII.12).

It has been remarked above that the internal layout that now exists in both cowsheds may just be the successor in concrete of the original layout.

Very similar brick window and doorway surrounds to those seen in the phase V cowshed were inserted into the stable in the eastern range, presumably at the time of the cowshed's construction. They may merely be replacements of existing openings.

The brick construction of the dividing wall in the southern building of the eastern range may indicate its introduction at around the same time.

3.7 Phase VI *later 19th century*

Both southern range buildings are depicted on the 1907 map (Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Second Edition, Carmarthenshire, Sheet LVIII.12). The western building, and the south wall of the eastern building still stand. The former displays later additions. Possible functions for this building are discussed above, 2.3.5.

3.8 Phase VII *1900-1910*

The present windows in the farmhouse facade - the south wall - are typical of those installed throughout the region in the years immediately prior 1910. The frames are gone but were clearly sashes. The doorway is contemporary. The rendering with its mock-stone surround reliefs was executed at the same time and is again a very common feature within the region.

The farmhouse internal partitions, and stair, were

replaced at this time. The frame mouldings are typical of the period.

The northern range achieved its present form. A dwelling, constructed with brick cavity walls, was constructed north of the former building whose north wall it utilises. It appears then that the earlier northern range building was in disrepair. Both buildings probably fulfilled the same function, the new dwelling replacing the old as extra accommodation for additional family members rather than labourers, being a fairly well-appointed dwelling.

An entirely unrelated piece of work may be broadly contemporary. The east doorway into the western building of the southern range was blocked with mixed brick entirely unlike those used in the external stair that was afterwards added. A similar material was used to rebuild the north east corner of the first floor.

3.9 Phase VIII 1910-1920

The east wall of the farmhouse and annexe may have been in some disrepair. It was rebuilt, with an external cladding of bricks where the wall survives. The first floor in the eastern half of the main block was lowered to its present level, and the former kitchen range in the annexe is integral with the wall.

The brick used for the external cladding is the same kind of highly fired deep-red brick used in the external steps built onto the east wall of the southern range western building. The latter building appears to have gone out of use fairly quickly after this event, certainly before the abandonment of the farm. The southern range eastern building was by this time probably derelict.

3.10 Phase IX 1920-1930

Three small buildings show identical construction of slender brick walls, one stretcher deep.

The milking machine is now gone from the annexe built against the north wall of the phase II cowshed. Likewise the engine, probably a stationary internal combustion engine, no longer occupies the engine house built against the east wall of the phase I barn block.

The small outside WC built to the north of the northern range is now roofless. It was not fully surveyed.

In their present form the two ground floor fireplaces in the farmhouse are roughly contemporary and have tile surrounds.

3.11 Phase X PYc. 1960

Phase X represents a definite period but there is little standing evidence for it. It corresponds with the later 20th century decline of the farm and includes the period after the early 1970s when the house was abandoned but the milking parlours were still in use, rented out with the land to neighbouring farmers. There is no bulk tank.

The breeze blocks in the gatepost built from the north-west corner of the western building of the southern range indicate some maintenance after the 1960s.

The large breeze-block hay barn to the west of the complex is contemporary but lies beyond the scope of this report.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Pen-y-bryn represents the gradual development and decline of a small SW Welsh mixed farm. The farmstead buildings, moreover, display structural evidence from every stage.

There is no structural or cartographic evidence for any occupation of the site prior to the establishment of the farm. The farm may be a product of the early post-medieval period but the earliest farmstead buildings are no earlier than the 18th century.

From a probably 18th century submedieval house, Pen-y-bryn expanded during the 18th and 19th centuries first with the construction of a barn and stable range in the late 18th century. A cowshed was added in the early 19th century and additional accommodation for the tenant's family. The buildings were extended throughout the century. Pigsties, and then a second cowshed were built. No definite carthouse has been identified but one of the two buildings of the southern range, built in the later 19th century, may have fulfilled this function.

Despite its relatively low acreage of 55 acres, 18th-19th century Pen-y-bryn was generating sufficient income to expand and permit the construction of good-quality farm buildings. The practice was mixed - structural evidence suggests that wheat and possibly barley were grown (or at least imported) and a dairy herd of at least 15 head were milked at the farm, at any one time, during the later 19th-early 20th centuries. There were additional facilities for fatstock.

What, then, were the causes of the farm's increasing fortunes during the course of the 19th century? Was the initial impetus at the beginning of the century a radical change in agricultural practice, perhaps initiated by the landlord? And was this linked in any way to profits from the establishment of the nearby collieries of Pen-y-bryn and Bryn Carnarfon? These are lines of enquiry.

The farm continued to expand. Tithe map evidence is unfortunately absent concerning the nature of the arable and its crops. The normal situation for SW Wales is a decline in arable during the 19th century, doubtless accounting for the increased dairy facilities at Pen-y-bryn.

The farm appears to have been a going concern until well into the 20th century, and decline may have been rapid before it was finally abandoned in the early 1970s. Some use of the buildings apparently continued for a period afterwards.

5.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive indexed according to the National Monuments Record (NMR) material categories is held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Llandeilo, and contains the following:

- A. 1. Copy of the final report
- C. 1. Catalogue of all drawings
3. Survey drawings (4)
4. Level III phased archive drawings, 1 at 1:100, 4 at 1:50
- D. 1. Catalogue of photographs
2. Colour slides (29 frames)
3. Mono negs and contact sheets (99 frames)
(also 8 colour prints)
- G. 1. Notes made during searches
2. Project correspondence
- I. 5. Final report - typescript
6. Final report - disc
- J. 1. Report drawings
- L. 1. Brief and specification for the report

There is no material for classes B, E, F, H, K, M and N.

6.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to :- Site assistants Hubert Wilson and Richard Phillips; Desktop Publishing by Phillip Wait; Heather James of DAT for the results of her researches; Tony John of Acer Wallace Evans for his cooperation.

7.0 LIST OF SOURCES CONSULTED

7.1 Unpublished maps

Carmarthenshire Record Office, AE1B 'Llanelli, Llangennech, Llanedy Enclosure Awards, Plan D: Loughor Estuary Marsh', 1843.

Carmarthenshire Record Office, Stepney Collection D54 'Draft lease of...parts of Penbryn and Techon', n.d. (19th century).

Carmarthenshire Record Office, Stepney Collection SE72 'A Map of Pen-y-brin Farm in the Parish of Llanelly', William Chambers Mapbook, 1760.

Carmarthenshire Record Office, 'The Parish of Llanelly', Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1841.

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National Library of Wales, Roller Maps A137 'A Plan of Lands in the Parish of Llanelly, Carmarthenshire', 1785.

National Library of Wales, 'The Parish of Llanelly', Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1841 (Church Commissioners' copy).

7.2 Unpublished documents

James, H., 1992 Past Land Use Survey of the Coastal Area South East of Llanelli (*copy in Dyfed Sites and Monuments Record*).

James, H., 1993 Llanelli Sewage Treatment Works: Archaeological Assessment (*copy in Dyfed Sites and Monuments Record*).

7.3 Published maps

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7.4 Books, periodicals etc.

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Figure 1: Location Map

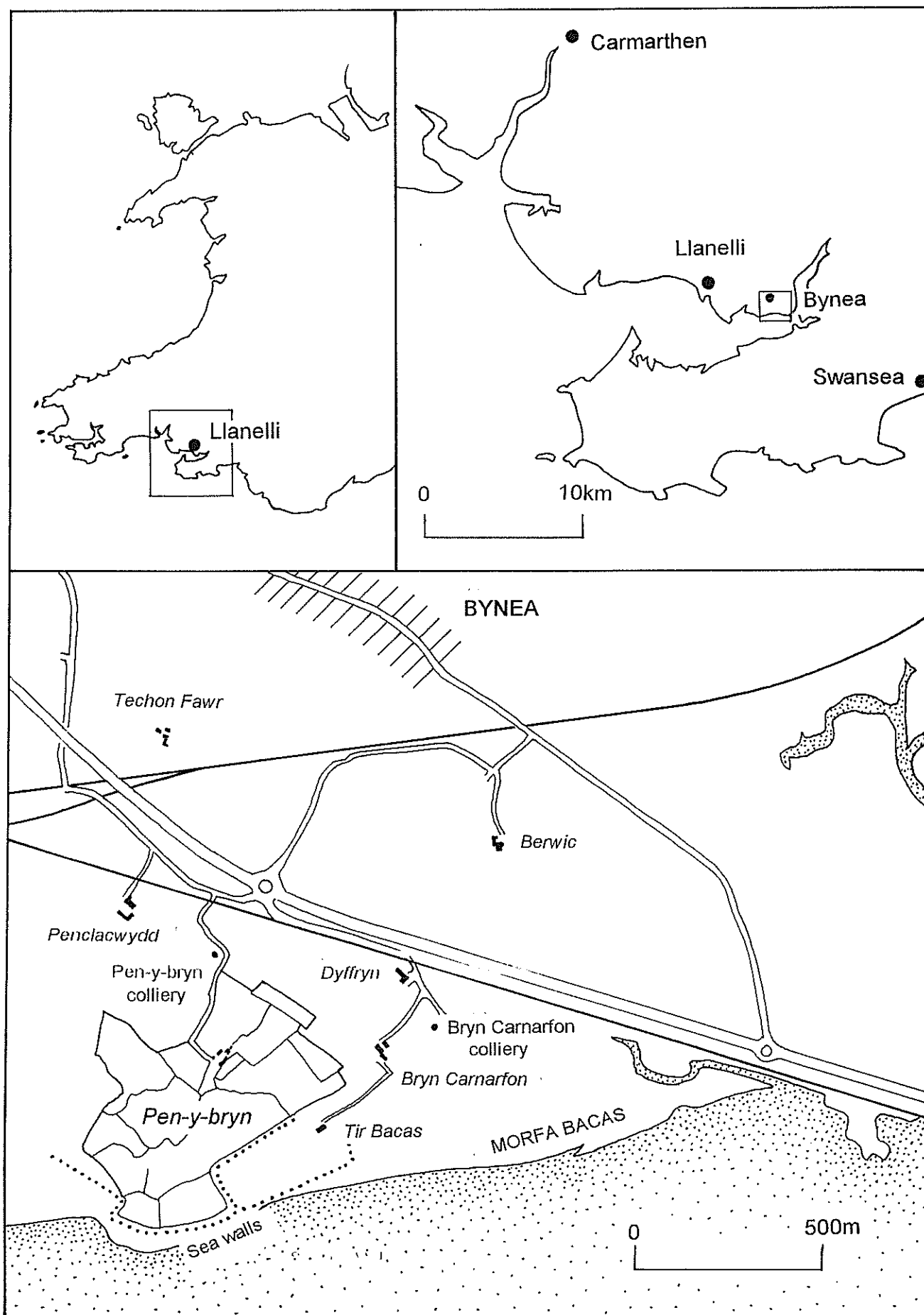


Figure 2: Overall plan of Pen-y-bryn Farm

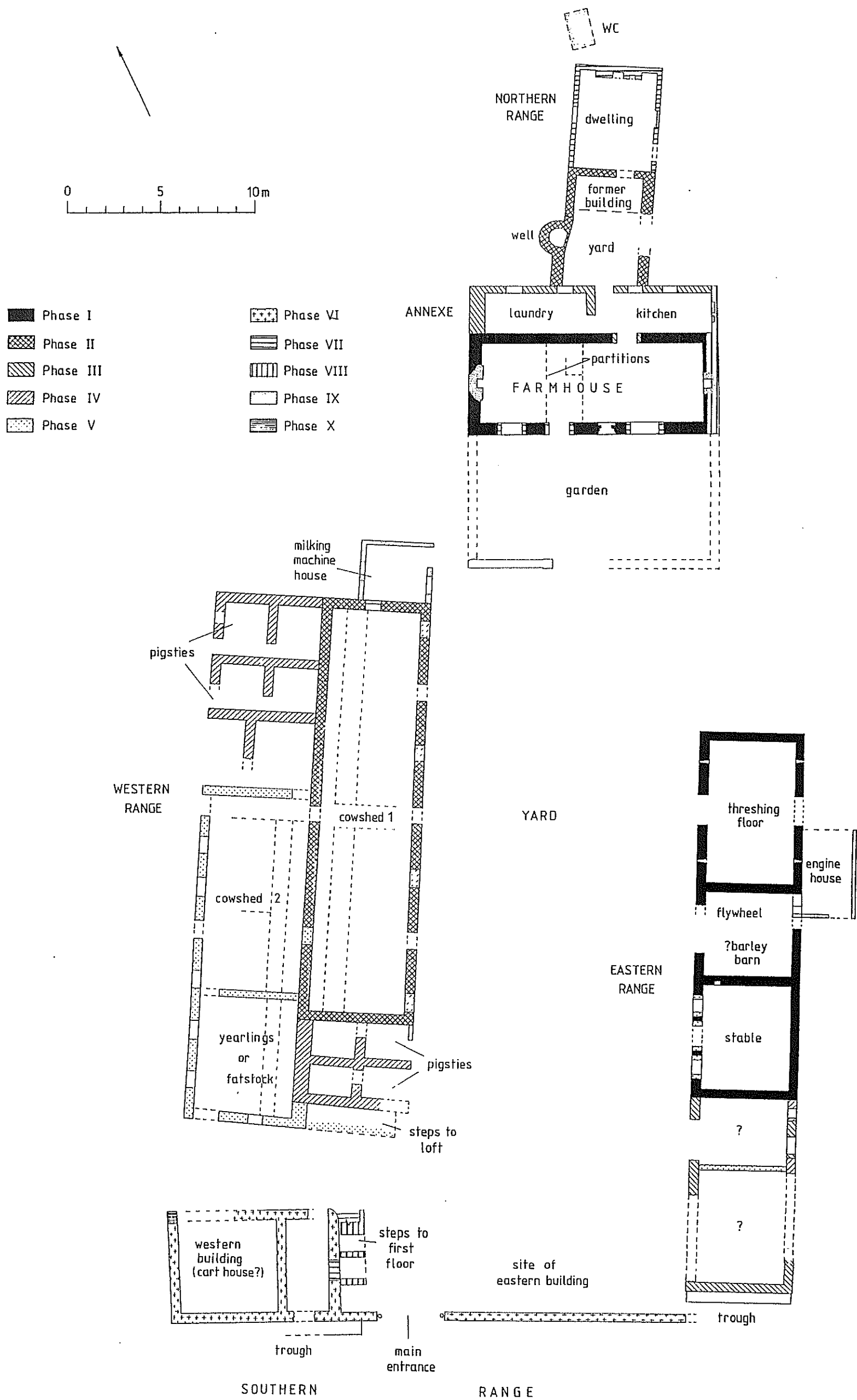
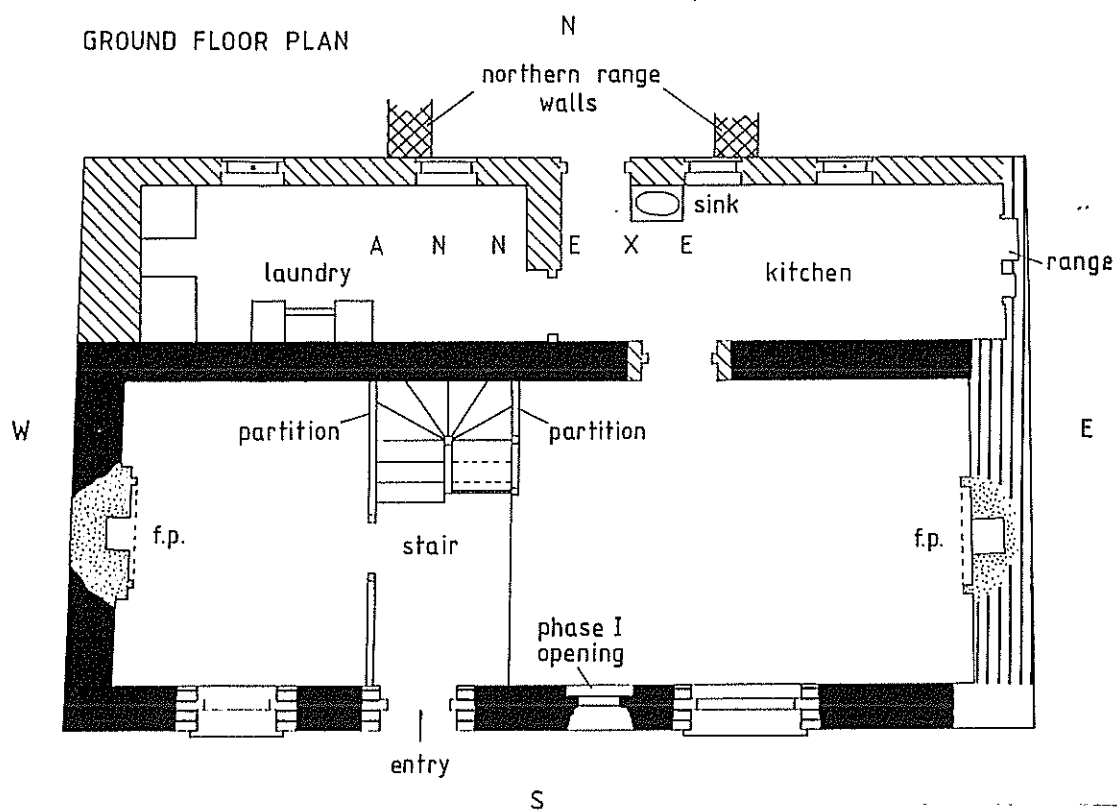
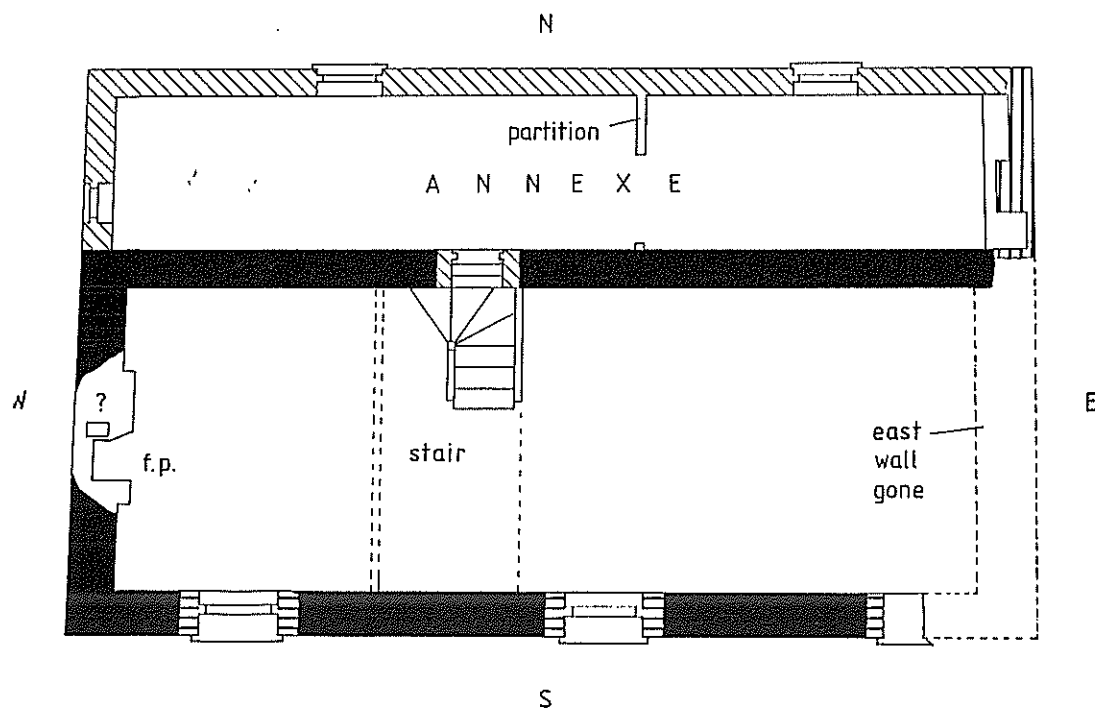


Figure 3: Plans of Farmhouse

GROUND FLOOR PLAN



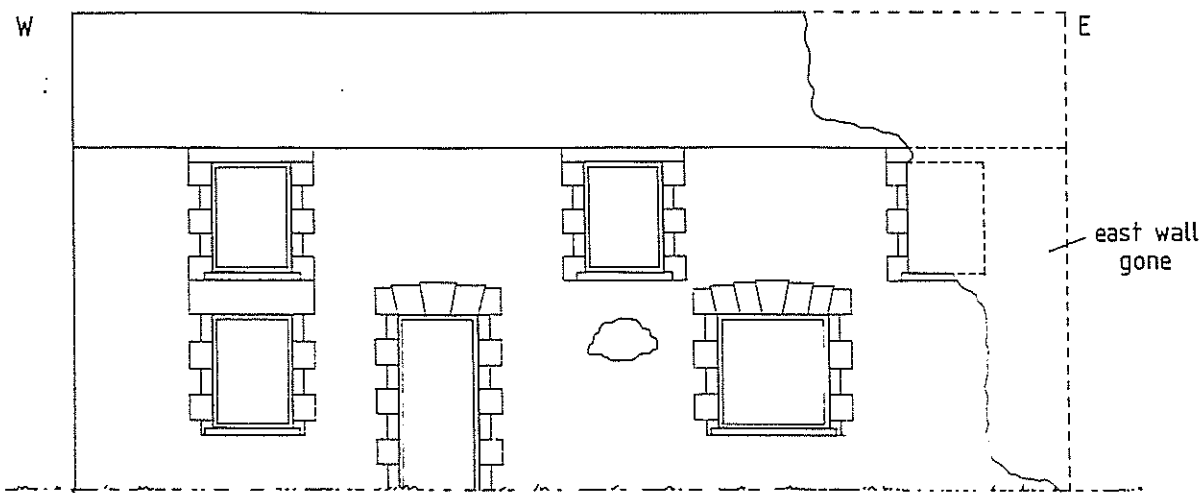
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



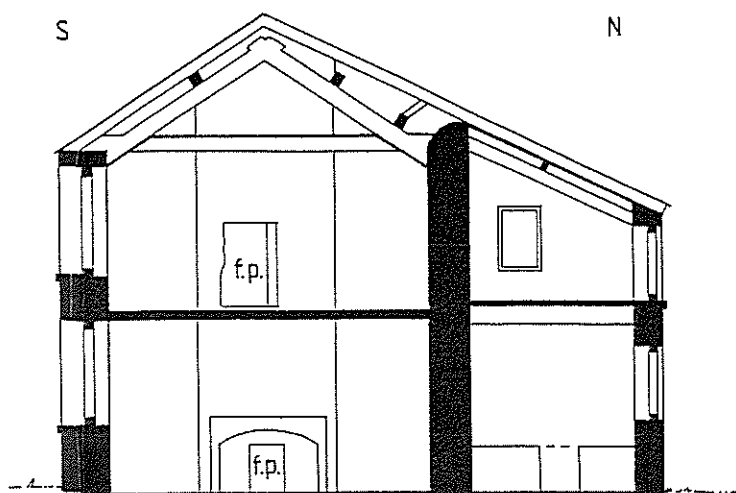
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Figure 4: Elevations and Sections of Farmhouse

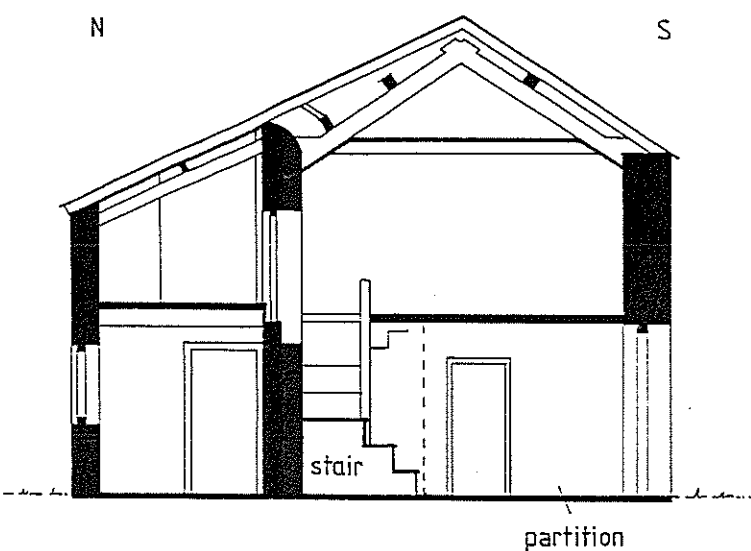
SOUTH EXTERIOR ELEVATION



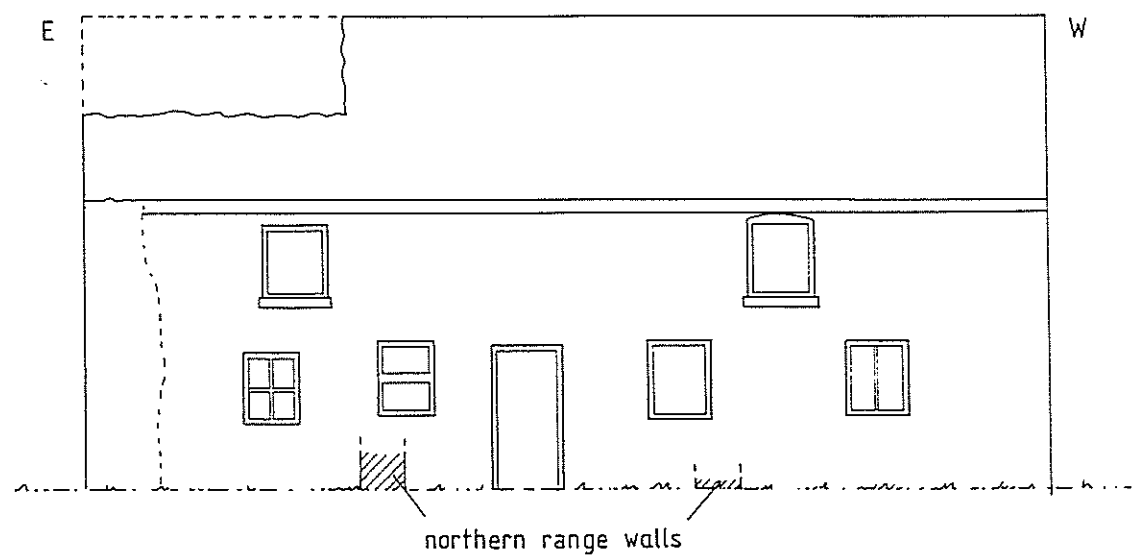
WEST INTERIOR ELEVATION



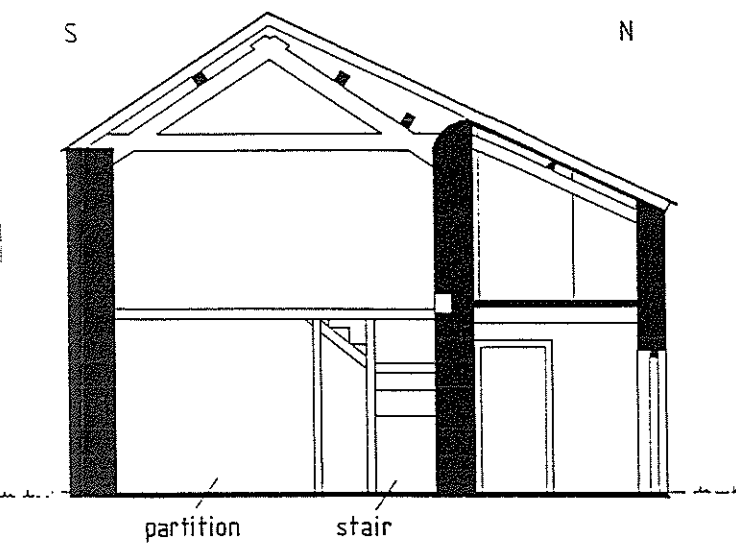
EAST FACING SECTION



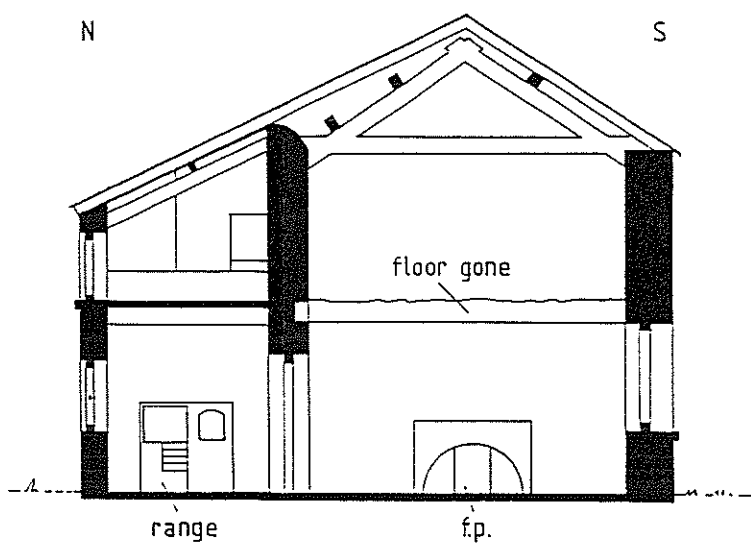
NORTH EXTERIOR ELEVATION



WEST FACING SECTION

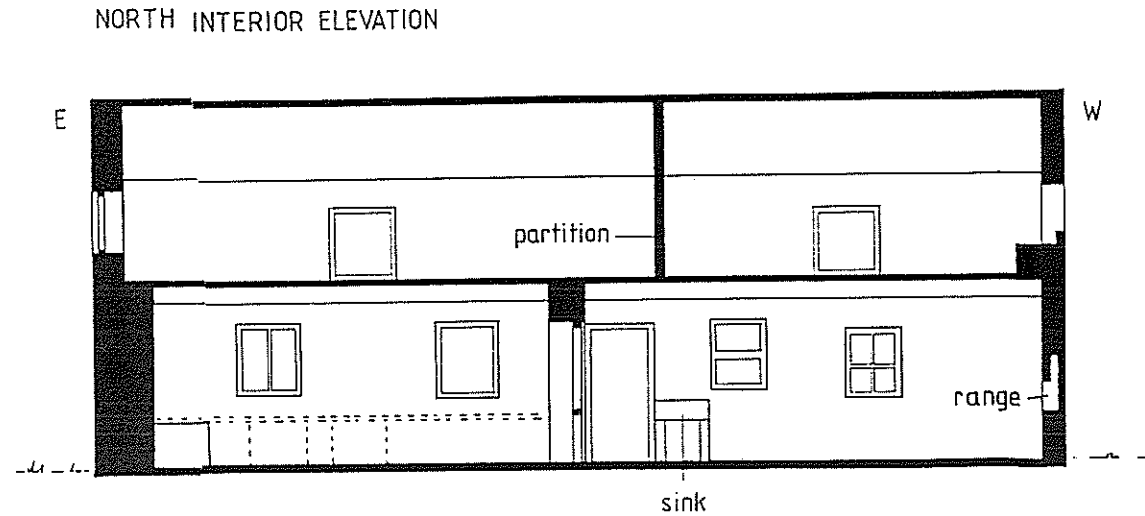
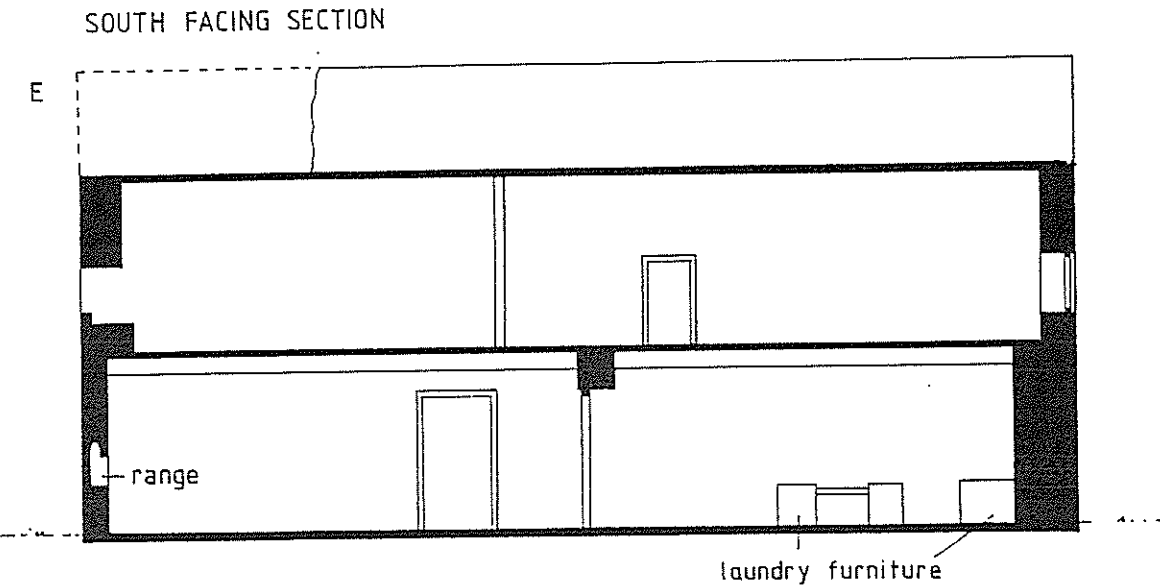
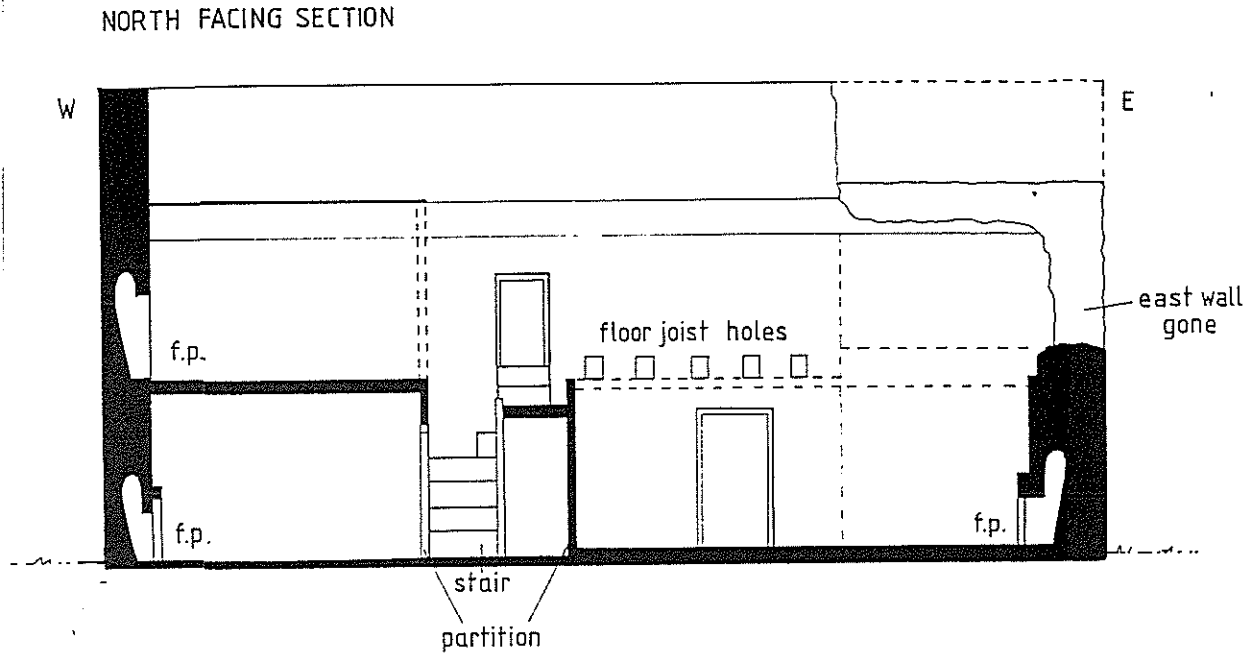
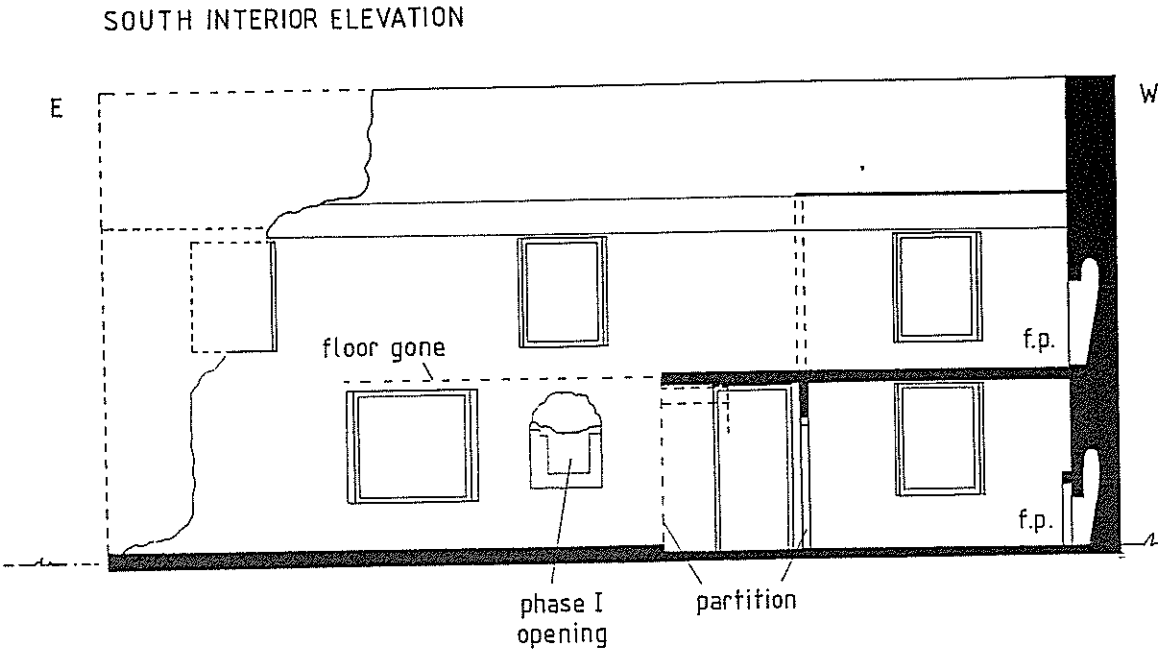


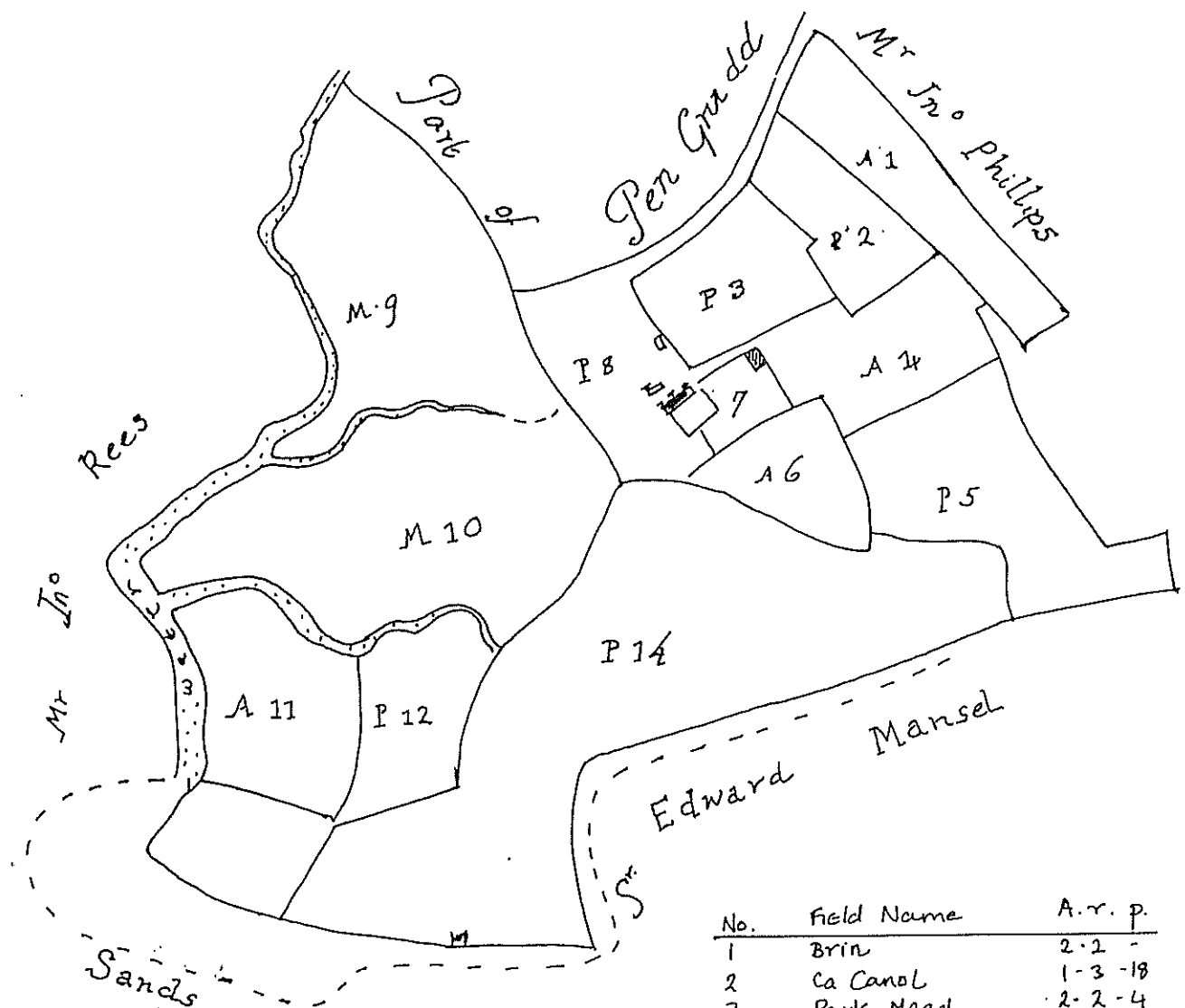
EAST INTERIOR ELEVATION



0 5 m

Figure 4: Elevations and Sections of Farmhouse

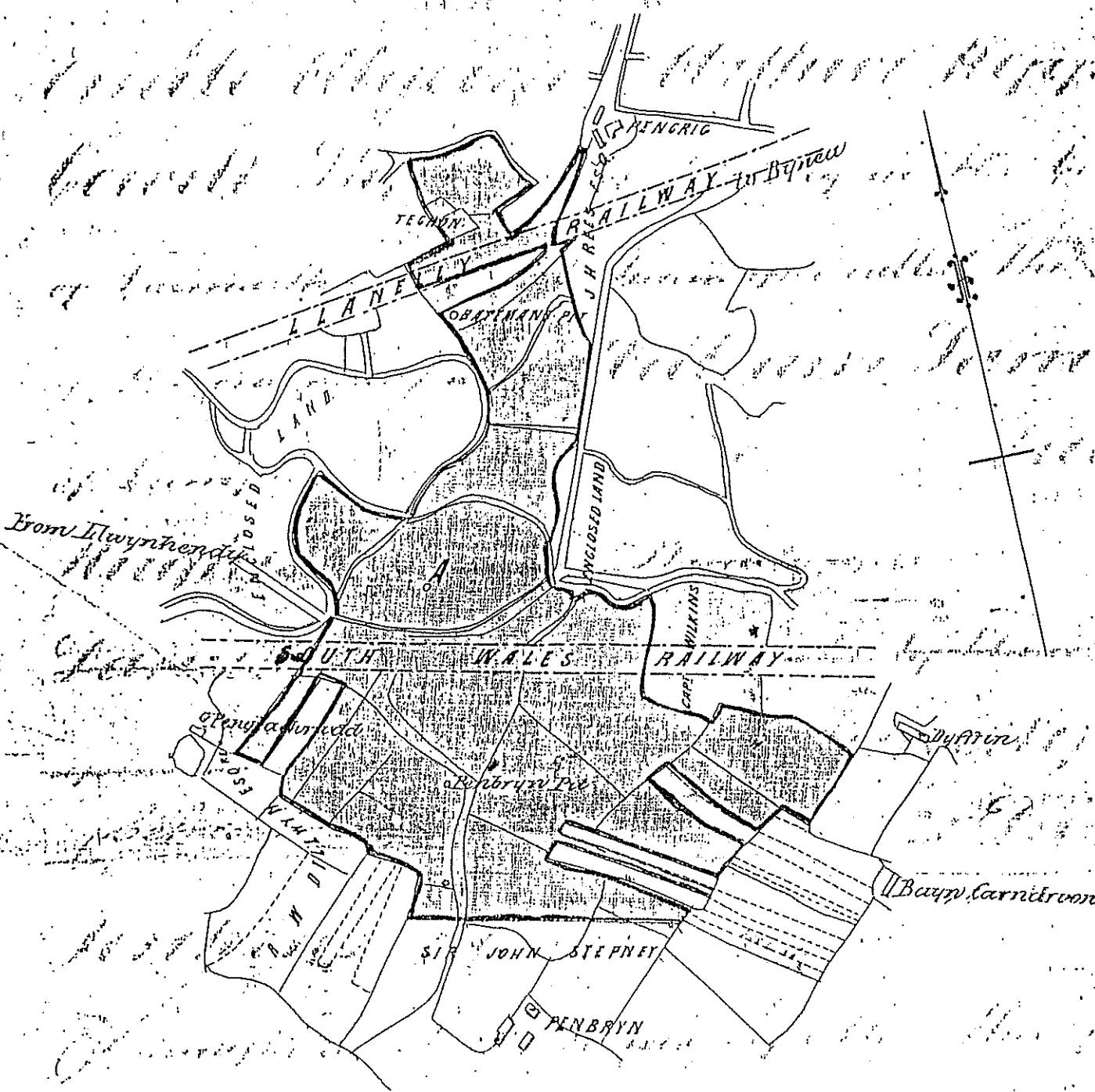




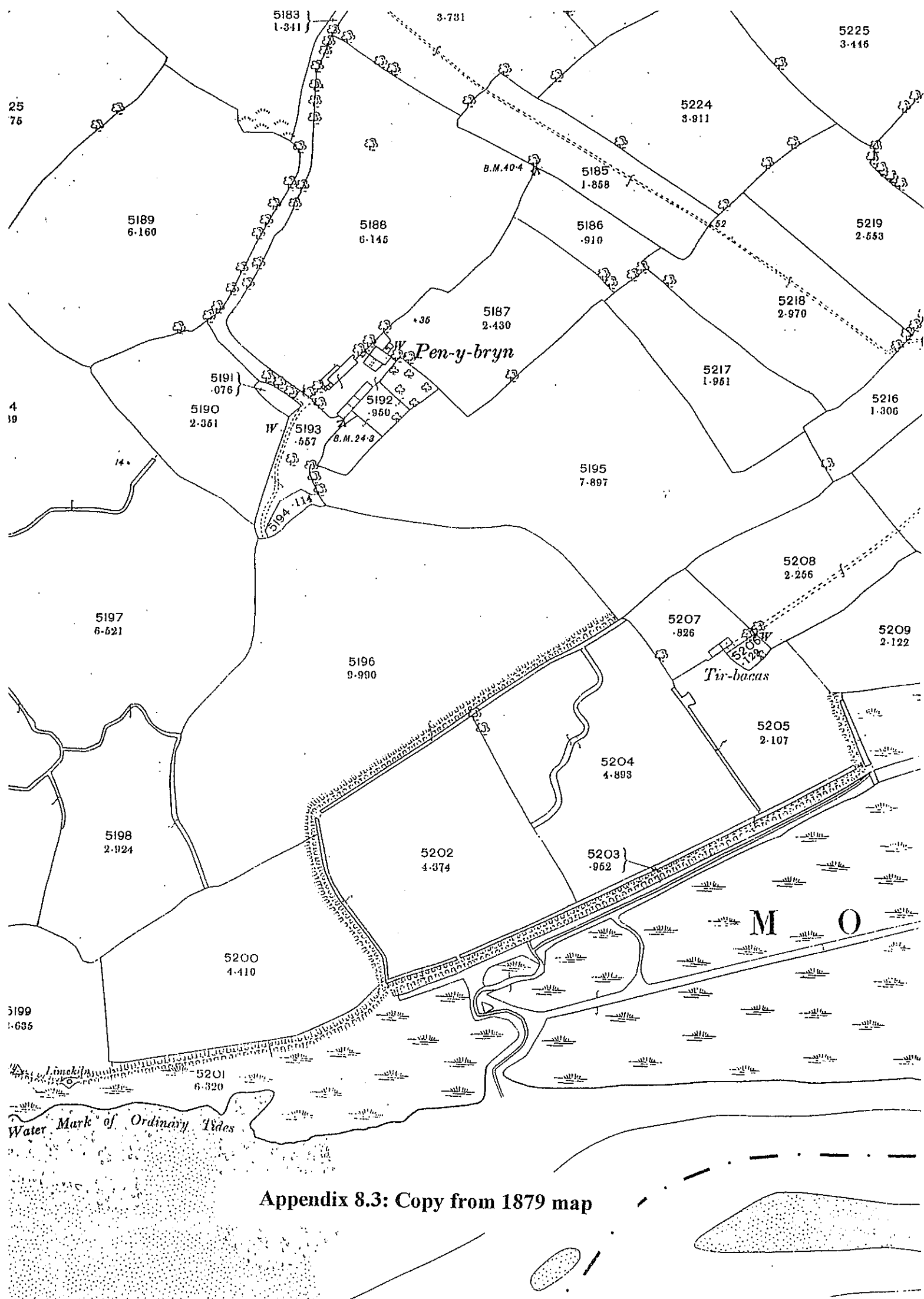
"A Map of Pen-y-Brin Farm
in p^h Llanelly oc. by late
Francis Wm, under tenant to
M^r Ed. Dalton."

No.	Field Name	A.r. p.
1	Brin	2-2-
2	Ca Canol	1-3-18
3	Park Meed	2-2-4
4	Ca Skybor	2-2-34
5	Erwch	4-2-16
6	Park fa	1-3-00
7	Grofft	1-3-24
8	Ca Lloi	2-3-04
9	Han y ryscall	7-0-14
10	Han y Bont & Hanys call	9-1-36
11	Han Fawr	3-3-31
12	Ca Trwgelly	2-1-24
13	Han lās	1-3-11
14	han Fwniog	15-2-02
15	Without the Bulwark	64-3-14

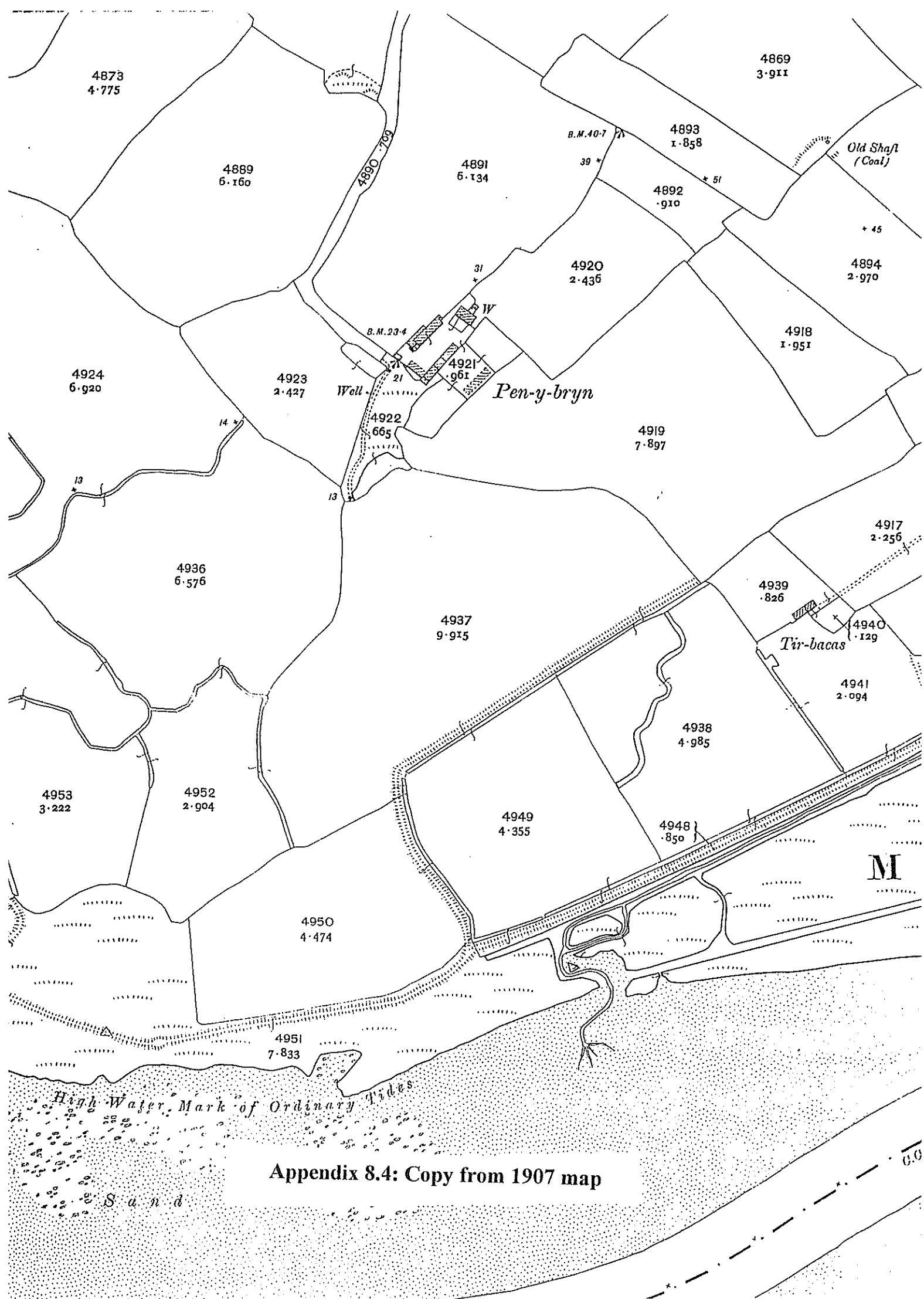
Appendix 8.1: Plan of Pen-y-bryn Farm in 1760



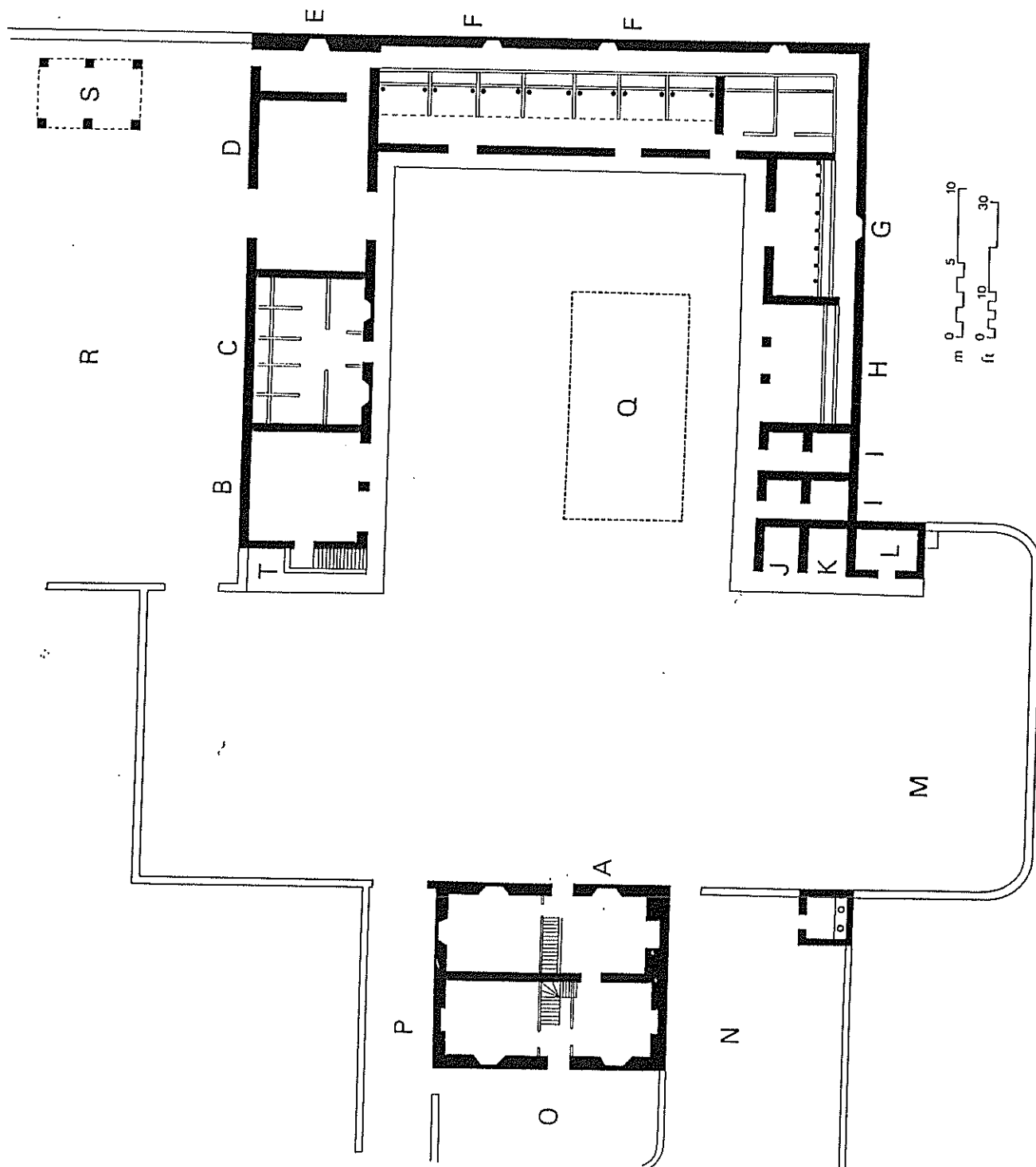
Appendix 8.2: Mid 19th century plan of Pen-y-bryn Farm



Appendix 8.3: Copy from 1879 map



Appendix 8.4: Copy from 1907 map



Appendix 8.5: Late 19th century farmstead design

Key

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| A | Dwelling House | J | Shed for Boilers [= Brewhouse] |
| B | Cart House, with Store-house above | K | Shed for Fowls &c |
| C | Stable [with loose box and harness room, and loft above] | L | Tank for Liquid Manure With Tool shed above |
| D | Barn | M | Pond |
| E | Chaff Room, Bed-room for Servant boys to be above | N | Garden |
| F | Cow House | O | Court in front of House |
| G | For two year old Beasts | P | Road |
| H | Shed for Yearlings | Q | Manure heap |
| I | Pig Styes | R | Stack Yard |
| | | S | Hay House |
| | | T | Coal Shed |