

# **A487 ROAD IMPROVEMENT AT CASTELL CADW FELINDRE FARCHOG PEMBROKESHIRE**

## **Standing Building Recording**

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2004/89  
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 51123

Hydref 2004  
October 2004



Paratowyd gan Archaeoleg Cambria  
Ar gyfer Gyngor Sir Penfro  
Prepared by Cambria Archaeology  
For Pembrokeshire County Council



A R C H A E O L E G  
**CAMBRIA**  
A R C H A E O L O G Y

# **ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY**

**RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2004/89**  
**RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 51123**

**Hydref 2004**  
**October 2004**

## **A487 ROAD IMPROVEMENT AT CASTELL CADW** **FELINDRE FARCHOG** **PEMBROKESHIRE** **Standing Building Recording**

**Gan / By**

**Pete Crane BA Hons MIFA**

*Archaeoleg Cambria yw enw marchnata Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyfyngedig.  
Cambria Archaeology is the marketing name of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited.*

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

*The report has been prepared for the specific use of the client. The Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd can accept no responsibility for its use by any other person or persons who may read it or rely on the information it contains.*

**ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA**  
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf  
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA19  
6AF  
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121  
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131  
Ffacs: 01558 823133  
Ebst: cambria@acadat.com Gwefan: www.acadat.com

**CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY**  
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited  
The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire  
SA19 6AF  
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121  
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131  
Fax: 01558 823133  
Email: cambria@acadat.com Website: www.acadat.com

**A487 ROAD IMPROVEMENT AT CASTELL CADW  
FELINDRE FARCHOG  
PEMBROKESHIRE**  
Standing Building Recording

**RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2004/89**

Hydref 2004  
October 2004

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by Pete Crane

Swydd / Position: Senior Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature ..... Dyddiad / Date 14/10/2004

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith  
This report has been checked and approved by

Ken Murphy

ar ran Archaeoleg Cambria, Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.  
on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Principal Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature ..... Dyddiad / Date 14/10/2004

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau sydd gennych ar  
gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may have  
on the content or presentation of this report

## **SUMMARY**

The ruins of two similar cottages, probably dating to the early 1800s were recorded in advance of proposed road improvements. Three mine adits with a grid reference adjacent to this scheme were visited and their correct location, some distance away, is now recorded

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This report was prepared by Pete Crane, Project Manager, Cambria Archaeology Field Operations. The fieldwork was carried out by Tom Jamieson and Pete Crane.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project commission**

Cambria Archaeology were commissioned by Pembrokeshire County Council in June 2004 to undertake this project in advance of road improvements.

### **1.2 Scope of project**

There were three archaeological sites indicated within or adjacent to this project: two cottages and adjacent mine adits were to be recorded. Subsequent to this an archaeological watching brief would be undertaken during groundworks. However, this road improvement has now been postponed and the watching brief will now form a separate report.

### **1.3 Report outline**

This report describes the physical environment of the site (Section 2) before summarising the building recording (Section 3) and the conclusions (Section 4), based on the results of Sections 2 and 3. Supporting data, including detailed records of the building recording, are given in the appendices.

### **1.4 Abbreviations**

Sites recorded on the regional county Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR).

## **2. THE SITE**

### **2.1 Location**

The location of the proposed road improvements are on the A487, approximately 3km east of Newport, Pembrokeshire and 5m west of Eglwysrwrw. The works entail alterations to a 0.5km stretch of road from NGR SN09053896 to SN09503874 (Figure 1). The road here is particularly narrow, with a blind bend around the abandoned cottage of Castell Cadw. The road is terraced into the hill, the south side being cut into the hillslope and built-up on the north side where the ground falls away quite steeply, especially in the eastern sector of this improvement.

The surrounding fields are all pasture with mature trees and scrub lining either side of the road. The cottage called Look-about, PRN 45310, on the north side of the road, is quite ruinous and overgrown with maturing trees (Photo 1). The cottage on the south side, known as Castell-cadw, PRN 45311, is quite intact and has been re-roofed with corrugated asbestos (Photo 2). This cottage was originally given a PRN because of its place name, *Castell-cadw*, PRN 5710 possibly indicating something much older. Three mine adits named as Gallt Coed-Cadw, PRN 25476, were recorded in the SMR as adjacent to the road scheme, but the grid reference was found to only be approximate and they are in fact at the bottom of the slope and adjacent to Afon Nevern and will not be affected by the road improvements.

### **2.2 Historical sources**

The earliest references for the buildings are in the Bishops' Transcripts of parish registers (Charles 1992), in 1815 for Look-about Cottage, and 1845 for Castell-cadw Cottage. The Nevern tithe schedule of 1840 indicates that Look-about was occupied

by David George and owned by Thomas and Charles Longcroft; Castell-cadw was occupied by a Roland Daniel and the owner was a Thomas Lloyd.

### **3. SUMMARY OF THE BUILDING RECORDING**

#### **3.1 Standing Building Recording**

A team of two were used to record the two cottages. The buildings were measured using conventional methods. At Castell-cadw cottage all external elevations were drawn together with an internal plan, but internal elevations were not drawn and no access was gained into the loft. For Look-about cottage a plan was made and all internal elevations recorded but only the external western side elevation was drawn due to the overgrown nature of the rest of the exterior. Both cottages were photographed in digital and in black and white print formats, but only in digital format for the interior of Castell Cadw. Photography was hampered to some extent by the surrounding vegetation and subsequent shadows, as there was little cloud coverage.

#### **3.2 Look-about PRN 45310 (Figures 2 and 3, Photos 1, 3-14)**

The roof had gone from this cottage. The front and rear walls were also reduced from their original level, but the gable ends stood to near their original height.

This cottage was 8.8m long by 5.6m wide and aligned approximately north-south and at right angles to the road, on the south side. The front and rear walls were 0.65m thick while the gable walls were thicker at 0.8m. The walls were constructed of local stone, roughly faced, sneck-coursed (small stones used to level up to keep the coursing) and dirt-bonded with lime render. There were the remains of a small lean-to, 2.1m wide by 4m long with walls 0.6m thick, on the rear (eastern) wall, accessed through a doorway 1.1m wide (Photos 3 and 4). On the northern gable wall there was the remains of a roofline, probably for another lean-to, which probably did not extend the full width of the house to the east.

Entrance to the house was on the west side, with a 1m wide doorway slightly offset to the north from the midway point. On either side of the doorway were the remains of two slightly splayed windows, measuring 1m wide on the inside. There was a blocked window (Photos 5 and 6) in the south gable wall and it is not impossible that there was also a loft light in this gable but parts of the wall are missing or covered with vegetation.

As far as could be ascertained the internal arrangements are likely to have been very similar to those of Castell-cadw cottage, which was intact (see below). In the south west corner of the building there was an inglenook fireplace with an adjacent slate lined alcove (Photos 7 and 8). The main beam for this fireplace partly survived and appeared to be an original feature, as did the central stub wall on the east side of the inglenook. There were the remains of a fireplace (Photo 9), slightly off centre in the north wall. This fireplace had a small wooden lintel immediately over, but further above this there was a much larger timber (see elevation); there were no indications, however, that this fireplace had ever been larger.

All of the interior was covered with deep deposits and neither the floor nor the remains of any other internal features could be ascertained.

There were a few slates left on the top of the north gable end and it would appear that this house was slate roofed however, from the detritus within the building, it may have also been repaired or had been completely covered with corrugated asbestos sheets at a later time.

Outside the house there were the remains of a pigsty (Photos 10 and 11), almost intact except for the roof. To the south of the house and running near-parallel to the south gable end, there was a retaining wall against the road (Photo 12), with steps leading down from the road to the level of the house.

### **3.3 Castell-cadw PRN 45311** (Figures 3 and 4, Photos 2, 15-25)

This cottage was very similar in size and layout to Look-about, except that the entrance and windows were on the east side and it was just under 1m shorter (1 yard) in length.

The garden around the cottage was very overgrown with nettles, scrub trees and also some rubbish, including an abandoned caravan: no attempt was made to record features around the cottage. It is clear that a modern extension was intended on the western side as breeze-block footings were present adjacent to the cottage (Figure 3). No attempt was made to record features other than the cottage. Other modern additions consisted of an asbestos roof and plastic guttering.

This cottage was again constructed of local stone and appeared to be of roughly snecked course work, dirt-bonded and pointed with lime mortar. The exterior of the front east wall appeared to be almost ribbon pointed in places and then covered in a pink limewash before being finally limewashed in white (Photos 2 and 15). However, the north gable end appears never to have been so pointed, neither was there any sign of pink lime wash, but just white lime washed. The north gable end appears to have been treated more simply, with no trace of ribbon pointing or pink colour, just a plain white limewash (Photo 16). The other two walls, the west wall and the south gable end, were not lime washed, although a lime wash brush had apparently been applied in two patches on the west wall (Photo 17). The southern gable end had been more recently re-pointed with apparent cement mortar using a “smear technique” (Photos 18-20).

The only entrance to the cottage was on the east side and just under 1m wide, but again slightly off centre towards the north. It had a worn slate step with a later concrete step in front of it. The door was constructed of tongue and groove planks, each 160mm wide, on two stretchers and opened inwards. The lower part of the door had been repaired. The windows on either side were both nine-pane casements, set in slight splays. The window to the north opened outwards and was slightly taller than that to the south, which had opened inwards. The sills for both windows were of sawn slate and the lintels were of timber.

The north gable end had a small window for its crog-loft, approximately 0.5m square, with the remains of a wooden frame (Photo 16). The southern gable end probably had

a blocked window towards the eastern side but only the western side of this could be seen (Figure 5). The lower part of this south gable end wall was slightly bulged with a massive stone above the bulge on the western side. This bulge also continued on the exterior of the western wall. This western wall also contained a small blocked window towards the north and the modern breeze-block footings. From the northwest corner of the cottage a low stone-faced bank extended westwards.

From the exterior, it is apparent that this cottage was originally constructed into the hillslope, with the bulged parts of the south and west walls below ground surface. At a later date the ground around these two sides was reduced to a level closer to that of the other sides.

The internal arrangements consisted of two rooms on the ground floor with a ladder well in the southwest corner. The ground floor rooms were divided by a timber framed partition with an off-centre doorway; the door was of tongue and groove construction and opened to the north (Photo 21 1654). The wood partition appeared to be an early or original feature of the cottage but had later been in-filled with asbestos.

The northern room, 2.5m long by 4.2m front to back, was floored with quarry tiles except for the area of the off-centre hearth, which was a painted slab, possibly slate. The hearth was quite small (Photo 22 1653), 0.6m wide by 0.28m deep, with a simple wooden surround - possibly this had contained a cast iron fireplace. The flue for this fire was contained within the width of the gable end wall. To the west of the fireplace there was a small alcove, 0.4m wide and between 1.15m and 1.5m above the floor. There were no conclusive internal signs of the blocked window in the west wall, as this was probably plastered at a later date.

The southern room was larger than the north room, again 4.2m front to back and just over 3m long, plus a further 1.5m into the inglenook fireplace and the wood-partitioned ladder well. This room was floored with large slate slabs, c. 0.75m by 1.36m, with quite a worn groove leading in from the door. The inglenook had a large wooden lintel and contained an almost complete cast iron range with a bread oven above the southeast corner of the stove (Photo 23 1657). The ladder well, to the east of the inglenook, was partitioned by a tongue and groove screen with a door of similar construction (Photo 24 1656). This partitioning would appear to be a later feature as the frame of the partition partly overlaps the splay of the adjacent window. There was no sign of there having been any stairs within the ladder well, neither was there conclusive evidence of the apparent blocked window in the south wall which had been seen on the exterior.

The ceiling beams were 140mm high and 60mm wide and roughly square, with about 540mm between each beam. The height of the ceiling from the ground floor was 2.3m at the south end of the building and 2.14m at the north end.

Given the apparent rot in the ceiling and no easy access, the crog-loft was only observed from the top of the ladder well (Photo 25). The roof frames appeared to be original and were a mixture of both sawn plank and some rounded timber. All of the purlins had been replaced and the top of the inglenook chimneystack had been reduced to below the level of the roof. The crog-loft traditionally would have been used for sleeping in but there was no evidence for this here.



### **3.4 Gallt Coed-Cadw PRN 25476**

Three probable mine adits were first recorded in 1990 (Claughton 1990 and 1991) and were thought to be Georgian or earlier. The grid reference then recorded was SN 096387, which would place them adjacent to the eastern end of the road scheme. However, inspection showed that they could not be at that position and reading through the location description placed them down by the river. As there was sufficient time at the end of the building recording, the opportunity was taken to inspect the adits.

The entrances to the eastern two adits were adjacent to each other at SN 0967038791 (Photo 26). The northern of these two adits (Photo 27) was c. 0.75m high at the entrance and 3.5m long. The adjacent adit (Photo 28) was 2m high at the entrance, 9m long and approximately 1.75m maximum width.

The other adit (1682) was approximately 75m further west at SN 0959738792. The entrance was 1.3m wide and 2m high, but blocked with soft silt and detritus, leaving a gap only 0.75m high. No access was attempted but the adit appeared to run in for some distance.

## **4. DISCUSSION**

The place Name Castell-cadw may indicate a site of Iron Age or later date, but no such site is known.

Unfortunately, the interior of Look-about cottage was ruinous and covered with debris but the similarity between the two cottages is obvious. Castell-cadw cottage had a small window for its crog-loft (typical Pembrokeshire early 1800s (Lowe 1985, 9 and William 1993, 31)) and it is likely that Look-about was similar. Look-about cottage was slightly longer and more developed with a rear, eastern, lean-to, plus evidence for an additional lean-to on the northern gable end and survival of an adjacent pigsty. Look-about cottage may be slightly older as it is first recorded in 1815 whereas Castell-cadw cottage first appears in the tithe schedule of 1840. However, the design and similarity of the cottages points to near-contemporary construction and are likely to be of late 1700s or very early 1800s date. If the same person did not build these cottages, one is likely to have been copied from the other. Castell-cadw cottage would appear originally to have been built into the hillside before the ground level was reduced around the southern and eastern sides of the building. The date for this levelling was not ascertained but may be later 1900s. There are springs about 40m north of Castell-cadw cottage; these may have been the supply for either cottage, but could also be a focus for earlier settlements or encampments back into pre-historic times.

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WATCHING BRIEF**

If any groundworks take place at Look-about cottage a watching brief to ascertain the interior layout and construction of its interior would be advantageous. No disturbance to Look-about is planned.

When the area is cleared and the groundworks take place at Castell-cadw cottage any adjacent features should be rapidly recorded as part of the watching brief.

The ground strip on the north side of the road [current] should be part of a watching brief, especially in respect the possibility of evidence of earlier settlement relating to the place name “Castell-cadw”.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

Both Look-about cottage and Castell-cadw cottage are very similar in plan and elevation and probably also in date. The standing remains of both of these cottages have now been recorded. As long as the intended route is not altered, no further archaeological work is required until groundworks commence, when a watching brief should be undertaken.

## **APPENDIX ONE: DETAILED RECORDS OF WATCHING BRIEF**

Drawing numbers used 301-311

Photograph record numbers used 100-1645 to 100-1681

## **APPENDIX TWO: CATALOGUE OF WATCHING BRIEF ARCHIVE**

The project archive has been indexed and catalogued according to National Monument Record (NMR) categories and contains the following:

- A. Copy of final report.
- B. Site records, including site notes.
- C. Drawing catalogue and site drawings.
- D. Site photographs - catalogue, digital and B/W.
- E. Finds catalogue, individual finds record and finds report.
- G. List of references, including primary and secondary sources.
- M. Miscellaneous correspondence.

There is no material in categories E, F, H, I, J K, L and N.

The archive is currently held by Cambria Archaeology Field Operations, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, as project number 51123.

## **SOURCES**

Charles T 1992 *The Place-names of Pembrokeshire*: Aberystwyth: The National Library of Wales

Claughton PF 1990 Metal Mining Sites in Pembrokeshire. Unpublished notes held SMR

Claughton PF 1991 Metal Mining Sites in Pembrokeshire. Unpublished notes held SMR

Lowe J 1985 *Welsh Country Workers Housing 1775-1875*, Cardiff: National Museum of Wales

Nevern Tithe 1840, map 1843

Ordnance Survey 1891 First edition 6 inch, Pembs VI SE

Ordnance Survey 1907 Second edition 6 inch, Pembs VI SE

Ordnance Survey 1964 6 inch SN 03 NE

William E 1993 *Home-made Homes, Dwelling of the rural poor in Wales*, Cardiff: National Museum of Wales

FIGURE 1: LOCATION

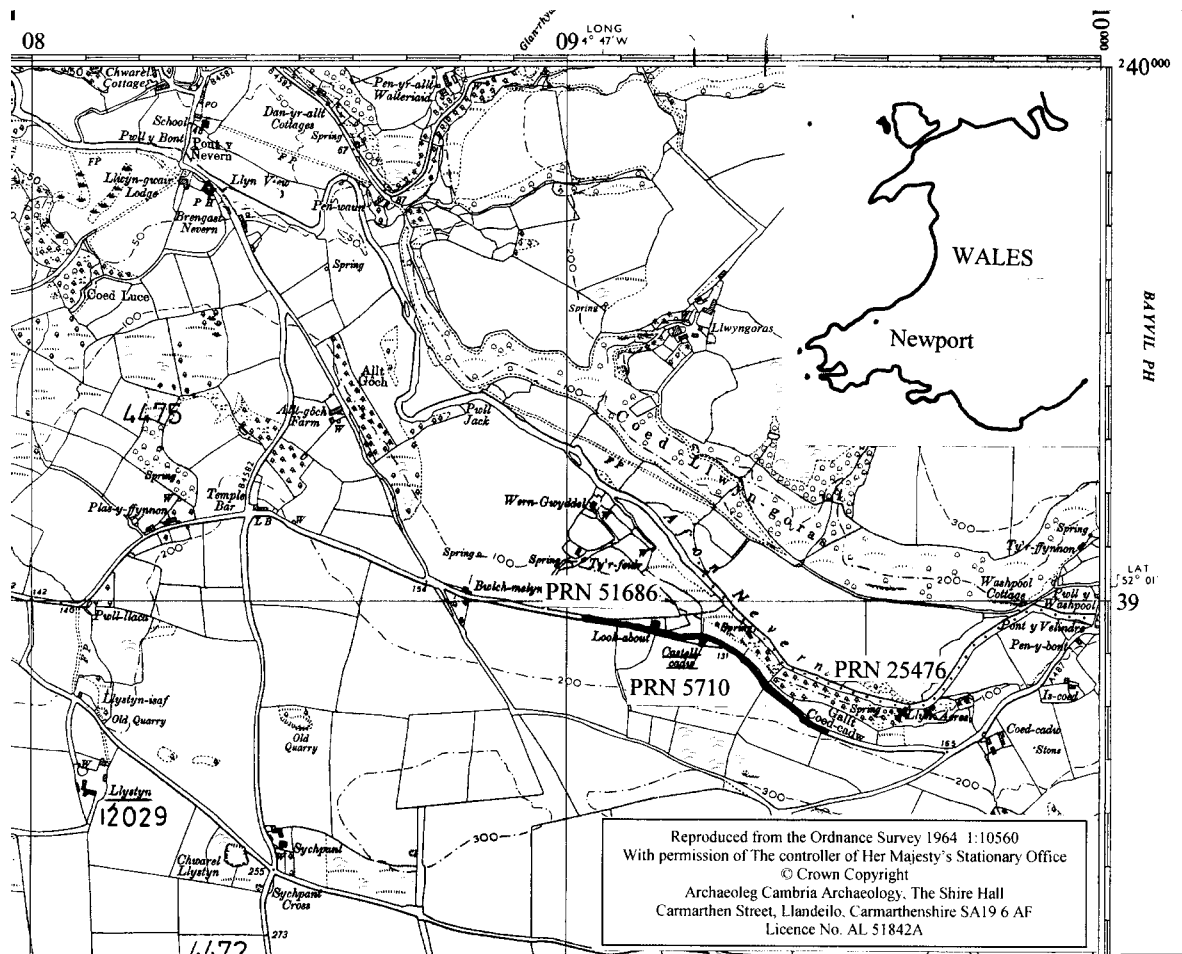


FIGURE 2: LOOK-ABOUT PLAN

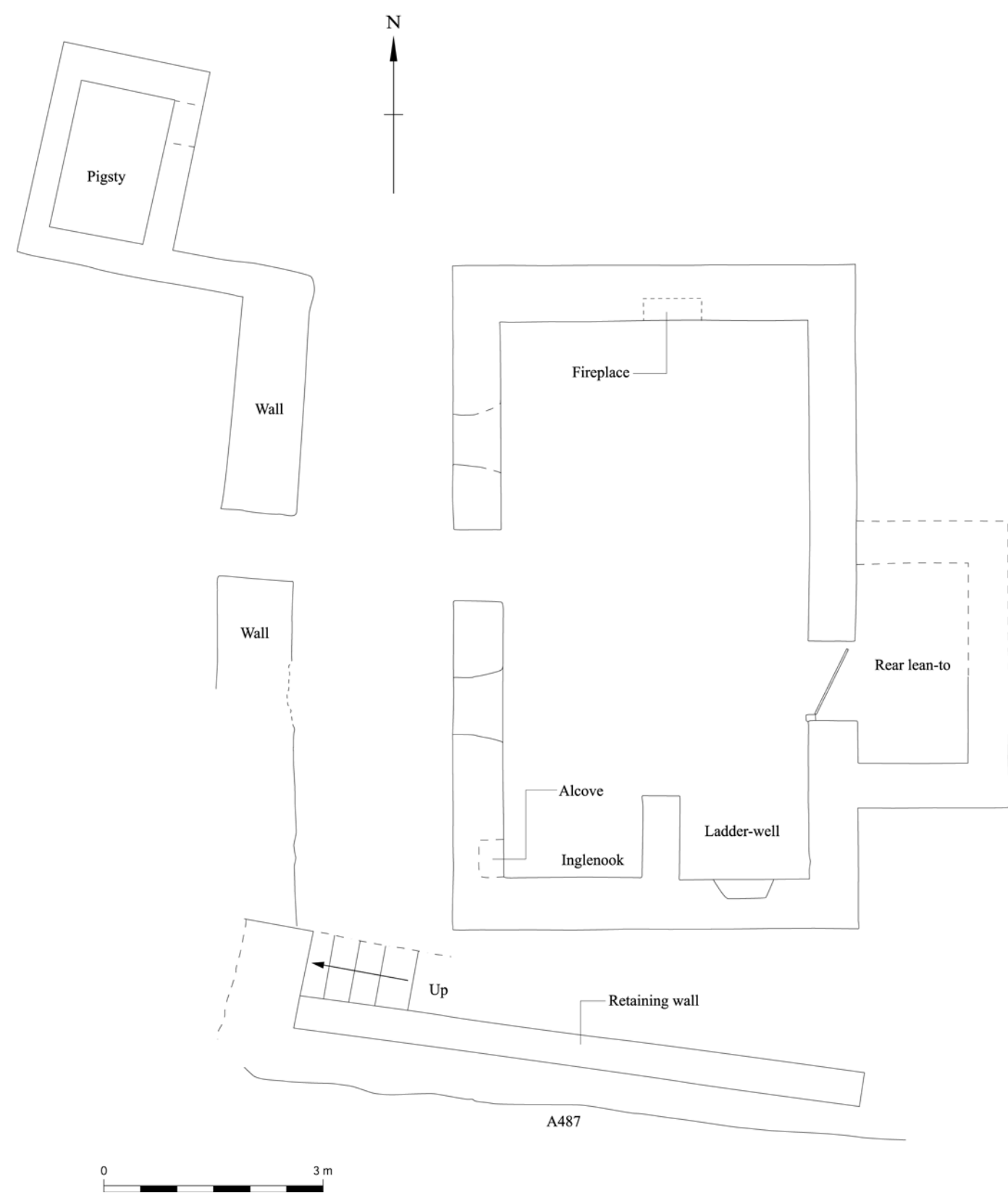


FIGURE 3: LOOK-ABOUT ELEVATIONS

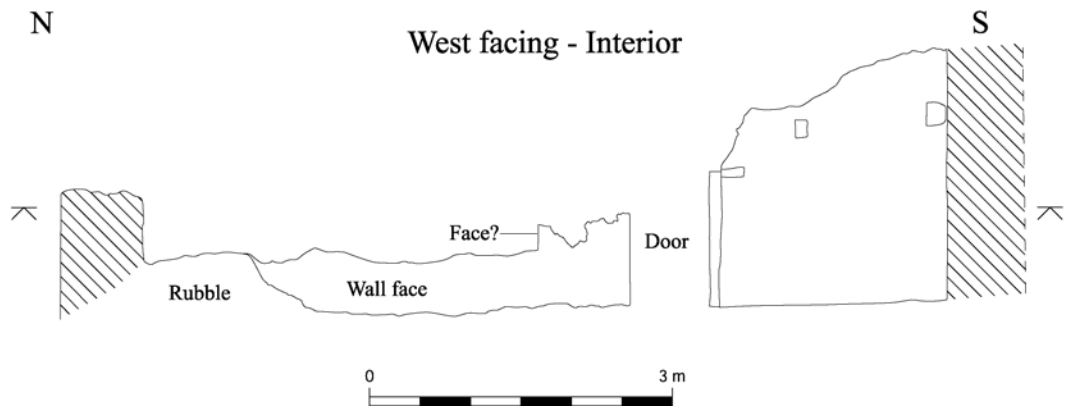
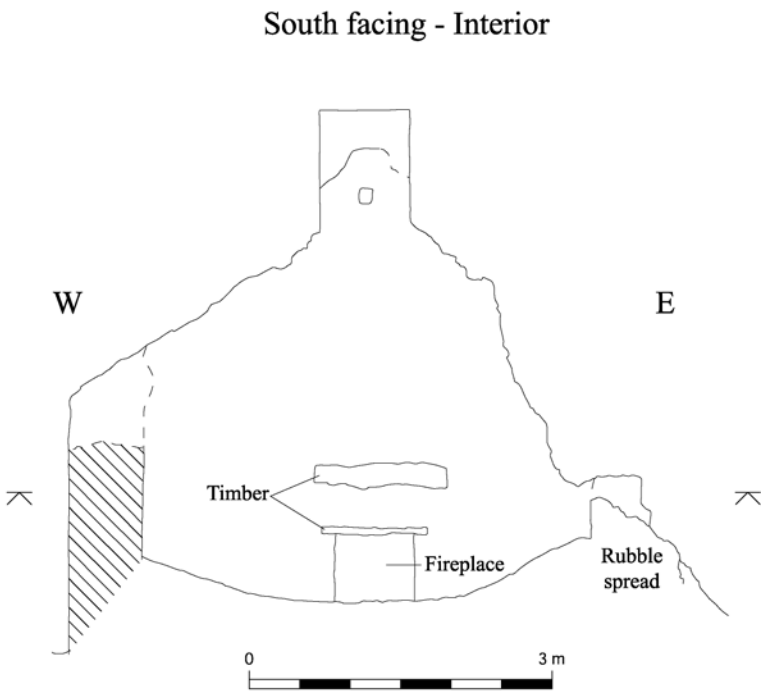
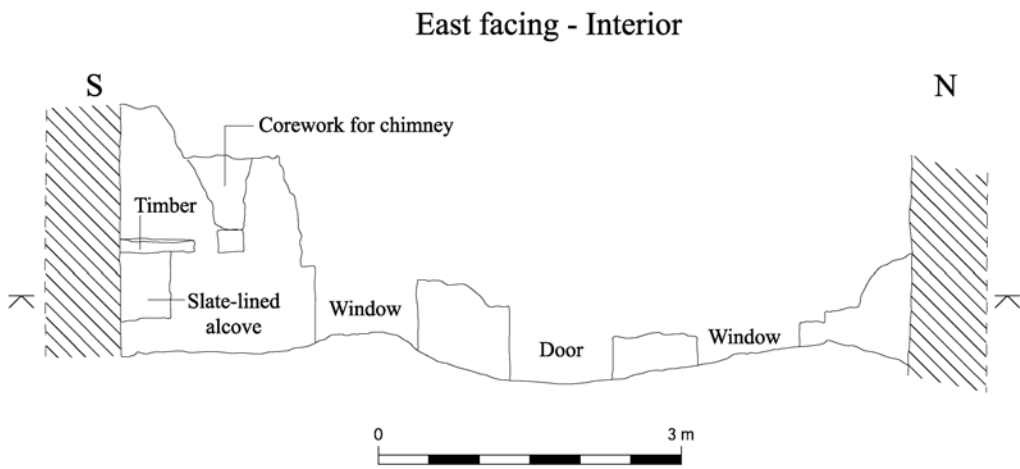
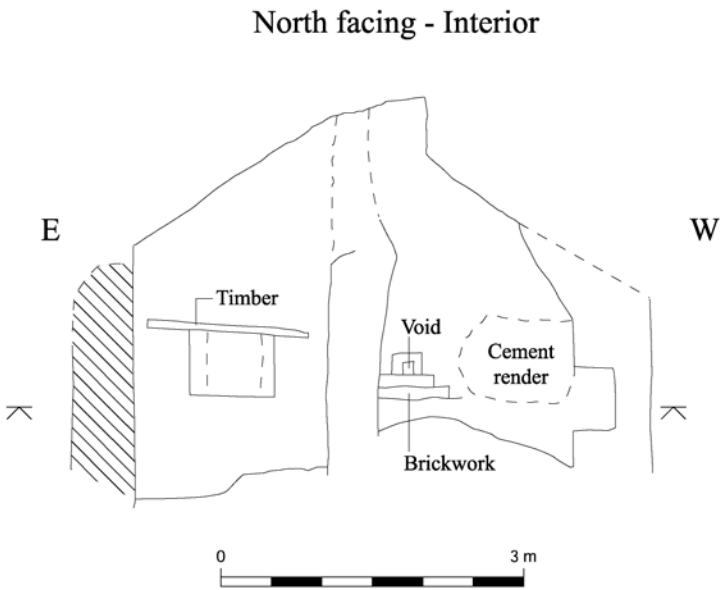
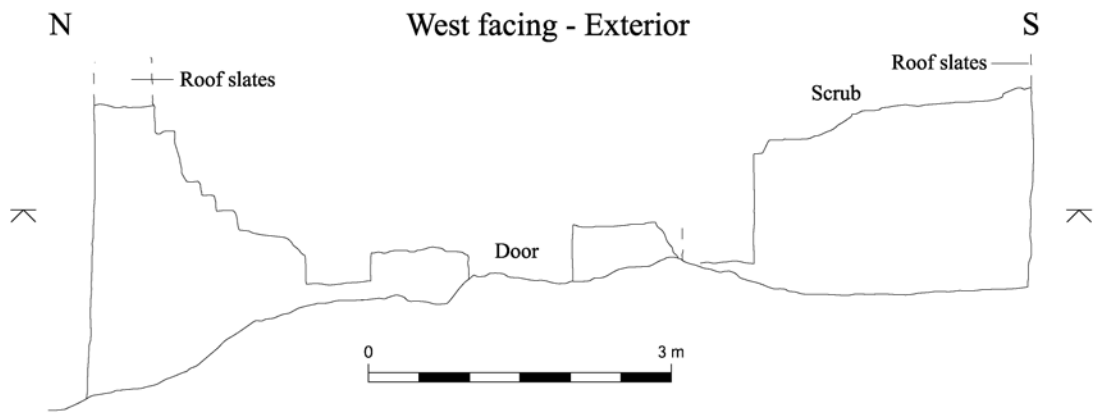
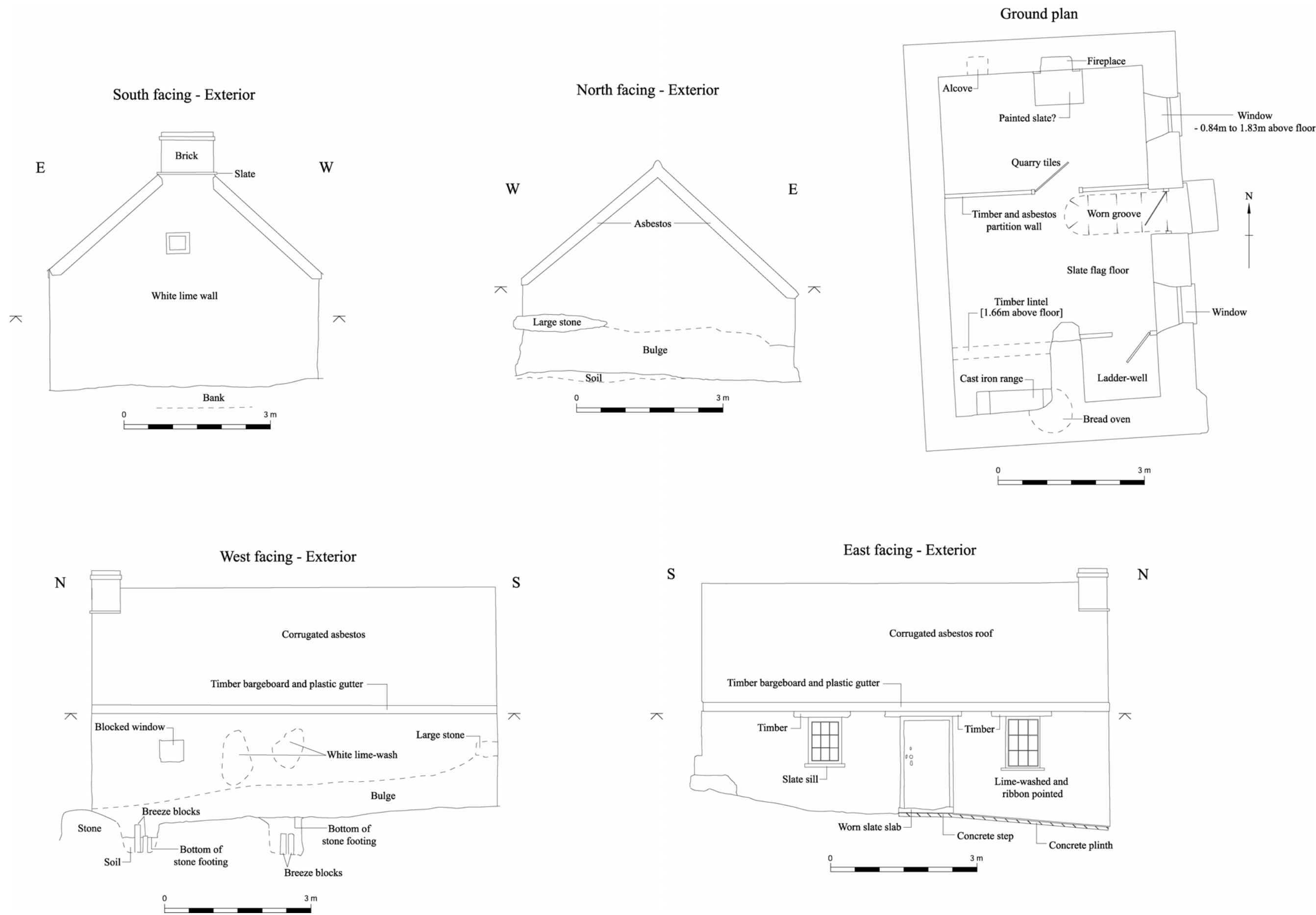


FIGURE 4: CASTELL-CADW PLAN AND ELEVATIONS





## PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Look-about, View S, Scale 2m



Photo 2: Castell-cadw, view SW





Photo 3: Look-about interior, view SW, scale 2m



Photo 4: Look-about, detail of rear lean-to, view SE, scale 1m





Photo 5: Look-about interior, view S, scale 2m



Photo 6: Look-about exterior, detail of south gable end, view NNE, scale 1m





Photo 7: Look-about interior, view SW, scale 1m



Photo 8: Look-about interior, detail of niche within inglenook, view SW, scale 1m





Photo 9: Look-about interior, view N, scale 2m



Photo 10: Look-about pigsty north gable end, view S, scale 2m





Photo 11 Look-about pigsty, view E, scale 2m



Photo 12 Look-about exterior, view NNE, scales 1m





Photo 13 Look-about, part of front elevation, view SSE, scale 2m



Photo 14: Look-about, part of front elevation, view NNE, scale 2m





Photo 15: Castell-cadw front elevation, view NNE, scale 1m



Photo 16: Look-about north gable end, view S, scale 2m





Photo 17: rear elevaion, view ENE, scale 2m1652



Photo 18: Castell-cadw south gable end, view NW, scale 2m





Photo 19: Castell-cadw south gable end, view NW, scale 2m



Photo 20: Castell-cadw south gable end, view NW, scale 2m top 1m





Photo 21: Castell-cadw interior partition door, view NW



Photo 22: Castell-cadw interior north room, view NE



Photo 23: Castell-cadw inglenook, view S, scale 1m



Photo 24: Castell-cadw panelled ladder well, view SE





Photo 25: Castell-cadw crogluft, view NNW



Photo 26: Gallt Coed-Cadw entrances to eastern two adits, view SE, scale 2m





Photo 27: Galt Coed-Cadw northern of eastern adits, view E



Photo 27: Galt Coed-Cadw southern of eastern adits, view S



Photo 28: Galt Coed-Cadw entrance to western adit, view SE, scale 2m

## CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	1
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	1
1. INTRODUCTION .....	2
2. THE SITE .....	2
3. SUMMARY OF THE BUILDING RECORDING .....	3
4. Discussion .....	6
5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WATCHING BRIEF .....	6
6. CONCLUSION .....	7
APPENDIX ONE: DETAILED RECORDS OF WATCHING BRIEF .....	8
APPENDIX TWO: CATALOGUE OF WATCHING BRIEF ARCHIVE .....	8
SOURCES .....	8
Figure 1: Location .....	9
Figure 2: Look-about Plan .....	10
Figure 3: Look-about Elevations .....	11
Figure 4: Castell-cadw Plan and Elevations .....	12
Photographs .....	13