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THE SISTERS' HOUSE
MINWEAR, PEMBS
PRN 3594

AN HISTORICAL SUMMARY AND STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION

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Report prepared for Pembrokeshire County Council
by
Neil Ludlow

Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology
Shire Hall
8 Carmarthen Street
LLANDEILO
Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF
Tel: 01558 823121
Fax: 01558 823133

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INTRODUCTION

Summary

The Sisters' House, Minwear (Dyfed PRN 3594; SAM Pe 302) is the collective name for a complex of domestic buildings that, structurally, appear to belong to the early post-medieval period. The buildings are associated with a number of enclosures and trackways, and a spring, in total occupying 2.1ha.

The Sisters' House has long been regarded as one of Pembrokeshire's most enigmatic building complexes. The name, and aspects of some of the buildings present, have led to much debate concerning its origins. There is no direct documentary evidence for medieval usage of the complex, but the site itself formed a part of the possessions of Slebech Commandery, and the presence of a medieval farm may have influenced the later development of the site. The Sister's House complex developed into a high-status site - a Tudor 'Gentry House' - in the 16th century under the Barlows of Slebech Mansion, and developed through the earlier 17th century. The nucleus of the complex is a residence, much altered but with features dateable to the 16th century and probably originating as large house, modified from an earlier building which has now gone, and which later split up into individual tenements. The Barlows abandoned the site in the 18th century, leasing it to a number of tenants, and it was given over to agricultural usage. The latest dateable building on the site belongs to the 18th or early 19th century, and it appears to have been abandoned by the mid 19th century.

There is no good published account, or structural description, of the Sisters' House. It recieves very little, even in terms of passing mentions, from 18th-19th century antiquarians and 'Tourers'. It recieves a short description in the RCAHM(W) *Inventory* for Pembrokeshire of 1925, in which its domestic context was recognised. The complex was subject to a measured survey by the Friends of Pembrokeshire Museum in 1988 and an account by the Tony Parkinson of RCAHMW. All recent authors are in agreement that the complex, as it exists today, is entirely post-medieval in character.

The complex is in very poor condition, and with the exception of a large 'show' barn, the buildings are ruinous and overgrown with deciduous trees and shrubs. It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, Pe 302. It lies within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and has a distinct flora - sensitivity must be shown towards the natural environment during any enhancement work.

Project methodologies and limitations

The brief, prepared by Pembrokeshire County Council, requested an archaeological survey of the site, comprising:

1. The undertaking of a physical measured survey including the presentation of plans and elevations of the structures and their immediate boundaries.

2. Accompanying documentary and historical research.

3. The production of a report based upon the information obtained in (1) and (2) above.

4. The production of 1 set of copy negatives of all drawings.

5. The production of 3 sets of dyeline prints of each drawing.

6. The production of a suite of photographs in colour print format

The project effectively represents the first stage of an on-going management strategy for the individual sites and buildings, to be supplemented by further investigative work.

The level of survey suggested by the client conformed broadly to Level 2, as defined by the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments (England), *Recording Historic Monuments: A Descriptive Specification*, 1990, as *'essentally a* visual *record, supplemented by the minimum information needed to identify the buildings location, age and type.'* The visual component is represented by a full photographic record of both interiors and exteriors of the individual buildings concerned, and plans and elevations drawn to 1:50 scale and output via AUTOCAD. Stone-by-stone recording was not requested. The record also includes a topographical survey and location plan of the structures, undertaken using an EDM theodolite and data recorder and reproduced at 1:250 scale. The above will be submitted as separate enclosures from this report.

Both the topographical survey and the structural survey were hampered by the vegetation, both soft and hard, that obscured much of the site. This factor must be borne in mind when drawing conclusions from the drawings.

Further, more detailed survey is anticipated. This will be a component of the future archaeological study, detailed specifications for which will be drawn up as a result of the present study.

PART 1: THE SISTERS' HOUSE - A HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The Sisters' House lies within the parish of Minwear. Minwear is a relatively large parish which is probably not coterminous with the medieval manor of Minwear. The history of the Sisters' House itself (also known as Minwear House) is entirely unknown before the mid 16th-century.

MEDIEVAL MINWEAR

The manorial history of Minwear during the medieval period is linked with the Earldom (and County Palatine) of Pembroke, of which Minwear was a 'castle-guard' fee, ie. it owed military service to the earls at Pembroke Castle. This form of tenure was, in the later medieval period, normally commuted to a rent. In the *Inquisition post mortem* of Joan de Valence, Countess of Pembroke, held in 1307, the Manor of Minwear owed rent assessed at 4 shillings, payable at Michaelmas (Owen, 1918, 82). 26 years later, according to a Minister's Account, the manor was liable for 4 shillings at both Michaelmas and Easter (Owen, 1918, 138). In a much later account, of 1480-81, Minwear was assessed at the same rate, but the levy was now regarded as a free rent of assize (Owen, 1918, 159).

It is apparent then that throughout the medieval period Minwear, as a manorial settlement, existed in purely secular terms. The size of the manor is not known; nowhere is it assessed in terms of knight's fees. However, the amount of rent payable is relatively small.

There has to be uncertainty about the precise relationship of the Manor of Minwear to the monastic land that undoubtedly lay within the parish. At some period prior to 1231, a Robert FitzLomer - pesumably the Lord of the Manor - had granted 'his whole land, with the church of Minwear', to the Commandery of the Knights Hospitaller of St John, at Slebech (Conway Davies, 1946, 363, D.499; another confirmation of this grant, by Walter Marshal *c.*1245, can be found in NLW, Slebech 247). Two further grants to the Hospitallers, of land in the immediate vicinity of Minwear, but neither closely located, were made to Slebech during the 12th/early 13th centuries. In the first Raymond FitzMartin, Lord of Cemaes in North Pembrokeshire, granted 100 acres of land in 'Benegardun', between Martletwy, Minwear, 'the lake of Poher' and 'Blakedon' (Conway Davies, 1946, 364, D.499; Fenton, 1903, 363). In the second William 'le Poher' granted seven bovates of land in 'Blakedon' (Conway Davies, 1946, 363, D.499). 'Blakedon' has not been firmly identified and neither has the 'Lake (stream) of Poher' (but nb. the Rees map, 1932, assumes them both to be in the south-west of the parish). A farm, 'Beggarland', in the north-east of Minwear parish may preserve the name 'Benegardun'; however, Rees, 1932, locates it in the west of the parish, while George Barlow, owner of the Sisters' House in the early 17th century, assumed that the name Beggarland was derived from the land's former monastic ownership (Green, 1913, 138).

The Knights Hospitaller Commandery at Slebech had been founded between 1148 and 1176 (Darlington, 1968 (ed.), Nos. 256-258) and was the beneficiary of a multitude of grants throughout the medieval period, eventually rendering it one of the major Pembrokeshire landowners. The Minwear grant is interesting given that the manor itself was a possession of the Earls of Pembroke. The grant of Minwear Church merely means that the advowson (right of presentation to the benefice) and tithes were appropriated by the Hospitallers; however, that a tract of land was also involved in the grant is clear. The benefactor Robert FitzLomer must, as the manor itself was a castle-guard fee, have been a tenant of the Lord of the Manor of Minwear.

Where was the Hospitaller land located? The church of Minwear may be viewed as being the initial focus for any manorial settlement (ie. the castle-guard fee), and indeed this area is depicted as a hamlet on early 19th century maps (NLW, OS original drawings, 1809-10; NLW, OS, index to Tithe, 1819); Kissock, 1992, suggests that it had been deliberately planted. This would imply that the Hospitaller land was located elsewhere. Minwear is a relatively large parish, and while the size of the castle-guard fee is not known, its value was similar to holdings within smaller administrative units (eg. Nash). The implication is that there was an extensive area of non-manorial land within the parish. In a statement of accounts of the Hospitallers made in 1338/9, their estates at Minwear comprised three carucates of land (about 250 acres of ploughable fields) and a watermill (Morris, 1949, 20-22). Until the present century a mill, 'Slebech Mill', stood on the inlet immediatley east of the Sisters' House (NLW, OS, index to Tithe, 1819, etc) which may have succeeded the medieval mill and indicate that part of this land was located in the Sisters' House area. However, the situation is obscured by the fact that at the Dissolution the entire parish, including both the Manor of Minwear and the Hospitaller land, was treated as a single land grant. It may be concluded that there is no evidence that the area occupied by the Sisters' House either was or was not part of the original Hospitaller grant.

Much of the parish was forested in the medieval period and indeed was noted as one of Pembrokeshire's chief wooded areas (Owen, 1897, 86). It still is today, including the environs of the Sisters' House, despite extensive tree-felling in the late 18th-early 19th centuries (Fenton, 1903, 163). Much of this woodland, but not the Sisters' House site, is now Forestry Commission land.

The earliest record of the name 'Sisters' House', in 1546 and thus after the medieval period, is rendered 'Systerne house' (National Library of Wales, Slebech 12462).. The etymology of the name has been the subject of much discussion. Most authorities have agreed that it must refer to a nunnery, or hostel for female pilgrims, attached to Slebech Commandery; the latest, and most authoritive, writer on the subject, B G Charles, in his study of Pembrokehire place-names, accepts this interpretation without comment (Charles, 1992, 528). RCAHM(W) point out that the former Minwear Mill, close to the Sisters' House site, may have been partly supplied by a cistern which might suggest an alternative derivation for the name (NMR, Parkinson, n.d.). For a possible explanation of the actual origin of the name (see below, 6).

In fact, contemporary source documentation is rather sparse for Minwear during the later medieval period; however, there are no further references to the holding (and no mention of any location that can be equated with the Sisters' House) in a comprehensive schedule of Slebech holdings drawn up *c.*1600 (NLW, Slebech 247; Charles, 1948, 193-195). However, it will be seen in Part 2 below that a possible farm was situated on the Sisters' House land during the medieval period.

THE BARLOWS ACQUIRE SLEBECH

The Hospitaller Commandery at Slebech was dissolved in 1540-41 and its estates descended to King Henry VIII. On 26 June, 1546, Roger Barlow - merchant, traveller, sponsor of voyagers and a man of influence - and his brother Thomas purchased from the crown, for £705 6s 3d, the commandery of Slebech together with other holdings including the 'lordship', manor and rectory of Minwear and lands called 'System house' (NLW, Slebech 12462) - a grant rendered as 'all those parcels of our land, with appurtenances, called Systerne House....' in RCAHM(W), 1925, 234, citing Patent Roll 38 Hen. VIII. These lands formed the nucleus of the Slebech estate, Slebech itself being converted into a private dwelling of some pretension and the main Barlow residence.

In 1553 Thomas Barlow released his interest in the Slebech estate, including the 'parcel of land called Sisterns House', for which his brother paid him an annuity of £40 and £20 to his daughter (Dyfed SMR, Turner, 1990). Roger died the following year; unfortunately the list of properties in his *Inquistion post mortem* is not specific regarding the Sisters' House site (*ibid.*).

Thus, the 'house' element occurs in the place-name from the first. Can this be taken as fim toponomic evidence that their was a building on the site prior to the Dissolution?

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SISTERS' HOUSE

Roger Barlow was succeeded by John Barlow, during whose tenure the Slebech estate was briefly returned to the Hospitallers under the regime of the Catholic Queen Mary (*ibid.*). It appears that it was under John Barlow that the Sisters' House was developed as a habitation, for his *Inquistion post mortem*, held in 1613, listed amongst many other items 'The Manor of Mynwere, containing 1 capital messuage, called Sistern House, 290 acres of land, 300 acres of wood, 10 acres of salt marsh, and 1 corn mill' (NLW, Slebech 470; Green, 1913, 132). Also included in the list are '2 messuages in

Mynweare, with 50 acres of land, 5 cottaged in Mynwear, (and) the rectory of Mynwear'. The latter may all have been located in the area around the church. A number of properties within the parish were held by knights' service to John Barlow, a survival from the medieval castle-guard and presumably these properties too occupied the former manorial land.

The Sisters' House lies on the south bank of the Eastern Cleddau directly opposite the main Barlow residence, Slebech House. Moreover, though it was extensively rebuilt in the late 18th century, Slebech closely resembles the Sisters' House in overall form and layout. There are two 16th century references to the site in the form 'Sister Howses', in 1553 (NLW, Slebech 332-334) and in 1587 (Charles, 1992, 528); the same form was adopted by John Speed in his map of Pembrokeshire *c.*1610 and John Blaeu's map of a similar date (Pritchard, 1907). Might the name have arisen merely because the site was literally a sister to Slebech across the river?

John Barlow was in turn succeeded by his son George, sheriff of Pembrokeshire in 1618, who extended the Barlow holdings through the purchase, from the crown, of the manors of Robeston Wathen, Canaston and Newhouse (Charles, 1948, 187). His son, another John Barlow, succeeded him *c.*1640. He appears to have resided chiefly at Martletwy, as he is described as of that place in an inventory of his effects made after his death in 1671 (Green, 1913, 143).

'MINWEAR HOUSE'

John Barlow was succeeded by his son, another John, later Sir John Barlow and sheriff of Pembrokeshire in 1681. He appears to have forsaken Slebech House, and instead resided at the Sisters' House; in his will of 1695 he is described as of Minwear (Green, 1913, 148). At that time the house was called 'Minweare' and described as 'the capital messuage and demesne lands' (NLW, Slebech 336). It seems highly likely that it was under the tenure of Sir John Barlow that much of the major building work was carried out including much (re)building of the house itself (Buildings G-L in Part 2 below), and the construction of the large 'show' barn (Building A in Part 2 below). A map of 1729 shows a building on the site, which is named 'Minner' (NLW, Emmanuel Bowen, 1729).

Sir John's son George inherited the estate; as Sir George Barlow he was briefly MP for Haverfordwest Boroughs in 1715. He appears to have been succeeded by his only son George who died without issue in France in 1741, and who was described in his will as residing at Kirmond le Mire, Lincs. (Green, 1913, 149). The will contains no reference to the ownership of the Slebech estate. It was assumed by Green that the elder George Barlow gifted Slebech to his brother John Barlow of Colby; his marriage deed mentions that certain manors and lands were conveyed to John but unfortunately does not name them (Green, 1913, 150). He died in 1739 and was succeeded by his son George, who, at the baptism of his daughter, was described as 'George Barlow of Slebetch' (Green, 1913, 151).

The Barlow property in Minwear parish was assessed as seven hearths in 1670 (Green, 1926, 129)

DECLINE

It appears that the Barlows had ceased to use Minwear (Sisters') House as a residence *c.*1700. A lease of 1732 to John Phelps, gent., of Martletwy, includes: 'Minwear Great Barn and cottages' (NLW Slebech 562). Although there is no mention of Minwear House in this lease, it is assumed that it was retained by the Barlows, but in 1755 'Minwear House' was leased by them for three lives to William Bevan, yeoman (NLW Slebech 555). It is clear from the documents reviewed above that the status of the dwelling was in decline; in 1681 it was a capital messuage and the dwelling of Sir John Barlow; in 1755 it became the home of a yeoman. This decline was also reflected in the condition of the buildings, for in 1764 the Slebech estate commissioned 'An Estimation of Minar House Tenament (Viz) The Repairs' (NLW Slebech 556) which included:

The Barn Wants to be Thatched should cost about	2.06.00
Also Part of the East House will cost about	0.07.06
Note A House Commonly Called Mrs Bowen's	

Room is Out of Repair
Note Also The Roof of the Dwelling and Cellar is in
Good Repair But Wants to be Pointed

George Barlow, Sheriff of Pembrokeshire in 1752, and MP for Haverfordwest Boroughs in 1743, died in 1757. George's daughter Anne married John Symmons of Llanstinan in 1773 (Pembs. R.O, Tyler-Jones, 1990; Jones, 1996, 118) who sold it, in 1786, to William Knox of Soho Square, W1, for £70,000 (NLW Slebech, 822-823). In 1792 Knox sold Slebech estate to Nathaniel Phillips of Gloucester Place (NLW, Slebech 565), High Sheriff of Pembrokeshire in 1796, but it appears that Knox retained Minwear until his death in 1810. In 1786 the house was occupied by a tenant, John Morris (Pembs. R. O., Land Tax returns, Minwear), but two years later the tenant, of 'Minwear Farm', was John Moy (Pembs. R. O., D/RTP/SLE/166-167). By 1796 Morris had returned (Pembs. R. O., Land Tax returns, Minwear); the several other properties listed as 'Minware' in the Land Tax returns are not precisely located but some may represent buildings within the Minwear House complex; the house itself was liable for £2 3s 0d in 1786 and 1796.

In 1805 Minwear House 'and Estate', too, were sold to Nathaniel Phillips (NLW, Slebech 848-850). The rapid turnover of tenancy continued. According to his rental of 1813-14 John Morris was still the tenant of the house (Pembs. R. O., D/RTP/SLE/22-5). By 1816 Minwear was in the hands of Phillips' executors (Pembs. R. O., Land Tax returns, Minwear), a John Harris was tenant and Land Tax for the house was assessed at £2 15s 0d, an assessment that remained unchanged until the last valuation in 1831 . The Minwear properties were in the hands of Edward Phillips, Esq., by 1826 and another John Lewis was tenant (*ibid.*). Nathaniel Phillips' daughter Mary Dorothea had married Charles Frederick, Baron de Rutzen, in 1822 (Pembs. R.O, Tyler-Jones, 1990), and Slebech, with Minwear, was in his hands by 1831 with John Lewis tenant of Minwear House (Pembs. R. O., Land Tax returns, Minwear).

'MINWEAR FARM'

In a subtle change of name Minwear (Sisters') House came to be referred to as Minwear Farm and is depicted as such on the OS original surveyors' drawing of 1809-10 and the OS Index to the Tithe Survey, published in 1819. The name change reflects the changing status of the property. The name Minwear Farm is now applied to the farm close to the church and rectory; this had been established prior to 1846 when it was known as 'Minwear Lodge', a de Rutzen holding tenanted by one Philip Protheroe (NLW, Tithe map, 1846), but probably after 1819; buildings shown around the church on the two aforementioned earlier maps appear not to represent this farm.. It was known by its present name by 1889 (OS, 1:2500 First Edition, 1889

An indication of the terminal decline of the holding lies in its ommission from the *Topographical Dictionary of Wales* by Samuel Lewis of 1833 (Lewis, 1833). A bundle of papers dated 1835 gives a picture of the condition of Minwear Farm (NLW Slebech 4985-5008; Pembs. R.O., D/RTP/SLE/168). The farm was leased from Baron de Rutzen by John Moy with John Lewis as a sub-tenant. The bundle contains a 'Valuation and Report of the Dilapidations and conditions of several tenements situate in the parish of Minwere comprising Cott, Nash and Minwear Farms occupied by Mr John Moy under 3 leases from the Slebech Estate:

Minear Farm 102 acres 3 roods 26 perches
The dwelling house, offices and cottage that were on this farm are all completely down and the foundations are concealed by thorns and briars. The tenant was allowed one half-years' rent according to his lease to repair them but I apprehend it was not laid out.

Rebuilding Farmhouse and premises with heave to and piggery	£85.12.08
Repairing fences	£28.15.11
Repairing gates, posts etc	£28.15.11
Rebuilding a cottage that is down to the ground	£28.15.00

Mr Moy's.....system of farming has been slovenly and bad, the lands are very much over run with furze, thorns and bushes....I think there is scarcely an estate in the Principality in so neglected a condition and yet so valuable.'

H. J. Goode, Land Agent, Haverfordwest

The 1841 Census Return for Minwear Parish (Pembs. R. O.) includes:

'Barn'	Thomas Eynon (35) agricultural labourer, wife Ann + 4 children
Minwere Lane	Thomas Williams (40) waterman
Minwere Bottom	Hannah Lewis (60) labourer
Fery House	Jasper Beynon (34) + wife and 5 children
Minere House	John Lewis (40) farmer + wife and 5 children and 4 servants
Minwere Mill	Sarah Harris (65) miller + 2 relatives and 4 servants

In the Tithe survey of 1846, a John Morgan was tenant of the entire Sisters' House complex. The map is not clear but appears to show just the 'show' barn (Building A in Part 2 below), a possible cowhouse (Building C in Part 2 below), part of the house (Building H) and the vaulted building to the west of the site (Building I); all buildings are blocked-in on the map ie. depicted as roofed, and may therefore represent the only roofed buildings at the time (NLW, Tithe map, Slebech, Minwear and Newton, 1846).

DISUSE

There were 27 houses and 149 inhabitants within the parish in 1841 (Pembs. R. O., Census Returns, Minwear Parish). By 1851 this figure had fallen to 17 houses and 94 inhabitants, with a 'record of several houses having recently been destroyed' (*ibid.*). This may refer to the abandonment, if not final, of Minwear Farm, the exact date of which is not known.

There were tenants during the last quarter of the 19th century, but whether the site was occupied or not, or the nature of the occupation, is not clear (NLW, Slebech 3743-3750). Possibly the land was rented but the buildings remained unnoccupied. On both the OS 1:2500 First Edition map of 1889 and the Second Edition of 1907 all buildings are depicted as roofless apart from part of the the house (Building H in Part 2 below) and no buildings not currently existing are shown.

The de Rutzens retained ownership of the site until 1944 when th last de Rutzen was killed in action (Jones, F., 1996, 196). His daughter married Sir Francis Dashwood, Bart., who is the current owner.

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PART 2 : THE SISTERS' HOUSE - A STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION

LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The Sisters' House centres at NGR SN 0326 1354, upon a broad north-west facing spur between two pills of the Eastern Cleddau river. The site slopes downhill gently from south-east to north-west to the river, the buildings lying between 15m and 25m OD and between 100m and 200m from the shoreline. The western of the two pills, Minwear Pill, forms a natural harbour at high water and has been used as such within the historic period; the eastern pill is much smaller. The solid geology comprises Devonian Old Red Sandstones which have weathered to a fine, rich workable and fertile soil.

The area occupied by the building complex follows the general trend, sloping gently downhill to the north-west. A spring rises at the north-western extremity of the compex flowing north-west for 70m to the Eastern Cleddau. The area, and indeed the shoreline of the entire spur, is now heavily wooded with native broadleaved colonisers, and overgrown.

THE COMPLEX - GENERAL

The complex occupies an approximately rectangular area, its long axis trending WSW-ENE, with overall dimensions of 209m E-W and 104m N-S and thus a total area of 21736m^2 (2.17ha). It is now in a poor and degraded condition, but its elements can still be readily discerned if not so readily interpreted. As it now survives, and thus as it existed during its final phase of occupation, the complex features a series of enclosures of varying size, usage, date and construction, linked by access ways of similar diversity. Both enclosures and trackways, which mainly trend east-west, are, in areas, defined by fairly substantial earthworks; these are, however, the only earthwork features now discernible with the exception of the remains of an earthen dam, now breached, which formerly retained a pond which survives in a contracted condition. There may be undelying features in a below-ground condition and the present picture of the complex is undoubtedly incomplete.

Within the enclosures, and normally integral with their boundaries, are the remains of thirteen discernible buildings; more may lie in a truncated condition beneath the denser undergrowth. The buildings, particularly those at the core of the complex, comprise elements from a number of phases and it is apparent that much alteration of plan and layout has occurred. This multi-period trend applies to the complex generally, and, moreover, many of the buildings and enclosures were substantially altered in plan and layout (and function) through their constructional history with former elements often having been demolished. This process, coupled with the very scant remains of some of the structures and the present condition of the monument as a whole, offers a considerable impediment to its correct interpretation.

Both buildings and enclosure walls are now in a poor condition. Condition varies from building to building and is noted under each; in summary, all are roofless and with the exception of Building A, the 'show' barn, all are ruinous to varying degrees. All are much overgrown with both ivy and saplings. Indeed, the entire site lies beneath dense vegetation, both hard and soft, rendering the identification of slighter archaeological features problematical.

All masonry is of the local Carboniferous Limestone rubble except where otherwise stated.

Refer to the overall ground plan of the compolex for the general disposition of features and buildings.

THE ROUTEWAYS

There are two main entrances to the site, at either end of an axial routeway that runs east-west through the complex. Entered from the east between the ruins of two former buildings (B and E), which may be late, the axial trackway leads westwards through the centre of the complex, between two surviving gateposts at its far west end to continue ultimately to Minwear Pill and former mill site. It averages 6m in width and where it is not lined by buildings and lies between low revetment walls/kerbing.

The present north-south footpath along the east side of the site follows the line of an earlier walled trackway, approaching the complex from the south and leading ultimately to the Eastern Cleddau, and the former ferry to Slebech, from the farm and church of Minwear. The east end of the main axial trackway forms a T-junction with this route, and a further holloway led eastwards off of this track, possibly once leading to Enclosure I, but is now blocked by the east wall of Enclosure IV (see Enclosure IV).

A slight holloway follows the scarp slope up to the centre of the site, between Enclosures II and V, leading from the pond to the north-west to join the main axial trackway.

An east-west linear depression in Enclosure I, revetted to the south, may represent a further routeway (see Enclosure I).

THE ENCLOSURES

The three main walled enclosures are:-

I - To the south, a large rectangular enclosure, the north-west corner of which is occupied by a complex of buildings (Buildings G-L); its eastern side is mainly occupied by a further large building (A) and within the enclosure are a number of further earthwork and masonry features.

II - To the north-east, a subrectangular enclosure, partly open to the south where not bounded by buildings C-E. The eastern wall line is marked by rubble debris.

III - To the north-west, a rectangular walled garden.

In addition, there is a smaller square enclosure (IV), to the east of Enclosure I, partly open to the south and with a collapsed east-west cross wall. East of the walled garden is a triangular area (Enclosure V) demarcated by a scarp slope to the north-east and a low wall to the south.

Enclosure I

Enclosure I forms a regular rectangle, its long axis east-west, lying to the south of the main axial trackway through the centre of the complex. It measures 75m E-W by 38m N-S. It was surrounded by a high wall of well-mortared limestone rubble, which survives to varying degrees. It still stands to 2m to the south, but the northern line is almost completely gone; the enclosure boundary is however, represented by a 1.6m high scarp here, formed partly by the east-west running trackway to the north, but also undoubtedly enhanced by build-up of material to the south. To the east, the eastern boundary is largely represented by Building A, against which the north and east boundary walls butt, while the north-western corner is occupied by Buildings G-L.

The latter buildings interrupt an east-west running depression, possibly a trackway, defined by a revetted scarp along its south side, which occupies the western half of the enclosure but appears to end abruptly to the east, some distance from the large doorway in the west wall of Building A. Indeed, the enclosure, in its latest form at least, appears to lack a 'main' entrance - the possible trackway is closed off at its west end by the western boundary wall which butts against Building I and now lacks evidence for any former openings. The enclosure is now only entered through Building A and via Buildings G-L.

A rubble spread and indications of what appears to be a north-south return wall, occupying the south-east corner, may mark the site of a further former building.

Enclosure II

Enclosure II forms a subtriangular area measuring 75m E-W and averaging 25m N-S, lying to the north of the main axial trackway through the complex. It is surrounded by mortared limestone rubble walls to the north, west and east, somewhat lower than Enclosure I walls. The eastern wall has largely gone and is represented by a line of rubble debris; the wall represented the western side of the main north-south trackway that forms the eastern edge of the complex. A (partly) revetted scarp slope forms the southern boundary, the eastern two-thirds which is occupied by Buildings C-E, the revetment wall butting against the buildings. The western third is open to the south and is now obscured by fallen trees and undergrowth; it appears, however, that the scarp runs out here and this area may always have been open as an entrance to the enclosure. A further entrance(s) may have been present in the east wall.

Enclosure III

The walled garden. Only the eastern end of the walled garden was surveyed, but is representative of the remainder of the enclosure.

It forms a regular rectangle, its long axis east-west, lying to the north of the main axial trackway through the complex. It measures 52m E-W by 33m N-S and is surrounded on all four sides by a mortared limestone rubble wall which survives to a height of up to 3m at the north-east corner but averages 2m elsewhere. An entry through the south-east corner of the enclosure is indicated by a gap featuring collapsed rubble debris, associated with the main axial trackway through the complex.

The inside face of the north wall is characterised by a series of bee boles, facing into the garden; a further one lies on the east wall and two on the west wall. They lie 1m above ground level, approximately 5m apart and measure 0.3m in height, 0.25m in width and 0.3m in depth. All have squared rubble sills and lintels.

The interior of the enclosure is now occupied (and obscured) by many rhododendron shrubs. No earthwork or garden features are now discernible.

Enclosure IV

A smaller enclosure, lying to the south of the main axial trackway through the complex and east of Building A. It forms an approximate square measuring 25m N-S and 28m E-W. To the north and south it is defined by low mortared limestone rubble walls which butt against Building A, the southern of which has almost entirely collapsed. To the east lie the more substantial remains of a north-south wall that represents the western side of the main north-south trackway that forms the eastern edge of the complex; the wall extends for a further 22m southwards.

A pronounced holloway runs east-west through the enclosure, in line with the wide doorway in the east wall of Building A. However, the east enclosure wall closes off the east end of the holloway and presumably post-dates it; the depression can be seen to continue to the east and is in line with a gap in the hedgebank on the eastern side of the north-south trackway.

There appear in addition to have been entries in both the north and the south walls, the northern indicated by a stop in the wall and the southern by a wide, north-south linear depression that joins the holloway at right angles.

Enclosure V

Enclosure V forms a subtriangular area measuring 50m E-W and averaging 24m N-S, lying to the north of the main axial trackway through the complex, and east of Enclosure III. It exhibits a low mortared limestone rubble wall to the south, butting against the east wall of Enclosure III. To the north and north-east, the scarp slope bank, enhanced in clay, appears to have always sufficed as the boundary. Through the latter are cut three entrance ways, one of them displaying collapsed limestone gateposts. There was a further entry, now represented by a surviving stop in the south wall, which gave onto the main axial trackway through the complex. No other features were discernible.

THE DAM AND POND

Towards the north-west of the complex, lying on the downhill slope between Enclosure V and the banks of the Eastern Cleddau, are the remains of an earthen dam, now breached, which formerly retained a pond which survives in a contracted condition.

A regular, roughly square area measuring 29.75m east-west and 22.11m north-south, with a total area of 700m², is defined by substantial banks of clay. Those to the east and west are northwards continuations of what are now hedgebanks, but the northern, retaining bank is 8m wide and survives to a height of 1.7m. It is now breached at its centre and this may indicate the location of a former sluice. Within the area defined is a spring, lined by masonry which survives to a height of 1m, which is still wet, and supplied a pond formerly occupying the entire area but which has contracted to 200m².

The function of the pond is unknown. It is too small to be either a fishpond or a millpond, and the location appears unlikely for an ornamental pond. Furthermore, there is no sign of the mill mentioned by RCAHMW (NLW, Parkinson, n.d., citing Pembs. Arch. Survey) and it is possible that the former Minwear Mill, away to the west, is being referred to. However it is just possible that there was such a building, now completely vanished, and that it was driven by water partly partly from a spring-fed pond and partly from an ancillary ?rain-fed pond or cistern higher up. This may supply an alternative derivation for the name as recorded in the grant of 1546.

THE BUILDINGS

The thirteen surviving buildings are all constructed from Carboniferous Limestone rubble, from a local source. With the exception of the large Building A, construction is rather crude and there is a marked lack of dressed stone. Apart from the vault over Building I, roofs were all of timber. With the exception of the residential core (Buildings G-L) the complex is overwhelmingly agricultural in character; this appears, however, to be mainly a reflection on the later phases of occupation. Buildings G and L have substantial vaulted undercrofts: along with Building H they display a long constructional history within their fabric. The remainder are of fewer phases. Lintels are all of masonry except for those within Building A, the gables of Building C, and some within G and H.

Building A *(Illus. 1 and 2)*

Building A lies north-south between Enclosures I and IV and is a long, rectangular gabled building with internal dimensions of 30m by 6.6m. Its limestone rubble masonry, of good quality with large squared quoins, has contributed to its survival as the best-preserved building within the complex. It survives to its full height, the northern half of the building being slightly taller; the side walls here stand to 5m and the gable end stands to 9.4m. The internal levels respect the natural slope, although the south end stands on a built-up and scarped platform. The east and west wall openings, and the wall-tops, slope downhill from south to north to follow the ground profile to a certain extent. The sockets for the timber wall-plates survive on both gable walls. There are no remains of any finishes, either externally or internally. Though at present well-preserved, the building is however much ivied.

There are wide opposing entries in the long east and west walls, which have lost their heads (and the walling above) but have retained their quoins. That in the east wall is 3.4m wide, that in the west wall 2.6m wide. In each side wall are two tiers of slit-lights/vents, at 2m intervals, in splayed embrasures averaging 1.1m in height and 0.6m in width. The plain, square external heads are of stone but the embrasures formerly exhibited timber lintels, now gone but which have left impressions in the surrounding mortar. Above the upper tier the internal facework has weathered out accordingly. In each gable end are similar slit lights, in four tiers, the lights in the upper two being 0.9m tall.

It has been suggested that the building formerly carried a first floor, on the basis of the internal sockets present above the lower slit lights on all four internal walls. A similar row occurs above the upper tier in each gable end wall, associated with a horizontal offset in the north wall and matching chase in the south wall, with a further row between the two highest tiers. It may be, then, that the sockets were not intended to receive floor joists; the arrangement of the sockets is repeated on the external wall faces and they all may represent putlog holes for scaffolding; the opposing doorways and implied threshing floor, moreover, suggest that the building functioned as a single-storey open barn (see below, 31-32).

The east wall, which for part of its history at least formed the east front of the entire complex, was at some secondary period embellished by the addition of a large porch-type structure that consciously imitates a twin-towered gatehouse. Two square chambers with internal dimensions of 2m north-south and 2.8m east-west, butt against the east wall either side of the central entry, and repeat its slit-light arrangement. The chambers are by no means of such good quality masonry as Building A proper, and indeed have weathered badly, the southern chamber having been reduced almost to footings. It appears, however, that the walls flanking the entry formerly stood to the same height as the side walls of Building A, while the opposite walls were lower; the entire porch structure was roofed as one with an east-west gabled roof, two sockets for the purlins of which can be seen broken into the east wall exterior. There is the remains of a doorway in each of the walls flanking the entry; the jambs have survived but the heads have gone.

The walls are fairly free from cracks, except within the porch, and the building consolidable. The areas of masonry above the two doorways have gone, as has masonry below the sill of one of the lower embrasures in the north wall.

Depicted, ie. roofed, on NLW, Tithe map, Slebech, Minwear and Newton, 1846. Depicted, as roofless, on NLW, OS 1:2500 First Edition, 1889. Depicted, as roofless, on NLW, OS 1:2500 Second Edition, 1907.

Building B *(Illus. 3)*

Building B lies north-south across the southern half of the main axial trackway at its junction with the north-south track that forms the eastern edge of the complex. It is a small, single-storey rectangular building with internal dimensions of 9.7m N-S by 4.5m E-W, of limestone rubble of rather crude construction, crudely quoined. There are no remains of any finishes, either externally or internally.

The building is now in very poor condition, the north wall and north-east corner having been completely truncated, and the south wall with the south-east corner in little better condition. Rubble derived from their collapse occupies much of the interior and obscures the lower parts of the external walls. However, the west wall survives to a height of 3.2m. The building was certainly formerly gabled. A footings stone is exposed on the north-west corner.

There are a number of surviving features. Each of the side walls displays an opposing splayed slit-light measuring 0.5m in width and 0.6m tall, that on the east wall retaining its external square limestone head; both internal lintels have gone. A 1m wide gap in the middle of the west wall may mark the site of an entry, but the head and both quoins have been lost. An area of poor masonry, measuring 0.8m by 1.5m, is visible internally to the south of the gap and appears to represent the blocking of a square window, although externally all that can be seen is an area of exposed corework. Any of the truncated walls may formerly have featured openings, with the possibility that an opposing entry lay in the east wall.

In the absence of diagnostic architectural features, the building is impossible to date but may have functioned as a cottage and/or byre (see below, 32-33)

Not depicted, ie. not roofed?, on NLW, Tithe map, Slebech, Minwear and Newton, 1846. Depicted, as roofless, on NLW, OS 1:2500 First Edition, 1889. Depicted, as roofless, on NLW, OS 1:2500 Second Edition, 1907.

Building C *(Illus. 4)*

Building C occupies an east-west position on the north side of the main axial trackway towards the east of the complex. It is a long, narrow, rectangular, single-storey gabled building with at least three internal cross walls, none of which are bonded into the side walls. Superficially it is of similar form to Building A but its limestone rubble is of cruder construction, crudely quoined, and its preservation accordingly worse, the building now being in poor condition. The north wall survives to an average of 3m which, in part at least, represents the wall top level, and the western gable wall is complete with the exception of its apex. The south wall, however, has been truncated, while the loss of the east end renders the internal dimensions difficult to ascertain. The eastern limit of the building is now represented by the easternmost internal cross-wall which, while the best preserved of the three, only stands to a height of 2.3m; the remainder average 1m and rubble derived from their collapse occupies much of the interior of the building. An overall E-W measurement of 27m is suggested by the limit of the rubble debris; the internal north-south dimension is 5.5m. There are no remains of any finishes, either externally or internally.

The side- and end walls all appear to be of one build, but exhibit rather dissimilar openings. In the surviving northern side wall is a single tier of slit-lights/vents, at irregular intervals, in splayed embrasures 0.5m square. Both the plain, square external heads, and the internal lintels (where they survive) are of stone. Much the internal facework has weathered above those lintels which are missing.

In the surviving western gable end, which survives to a height of 4.4m externally, are two surviving tiers of larger slit lights, at 1.8m intervals, in splayed embrasures averaging 0.8m in height and 0.6m in width. Like those throughout Building A, the square external heads are of stone but the embrasures formerly exhibited timber lintels which have gone, and the internal facework has weathered out above them. The apex of the wall may have featured a further slit light in an upper tier, but has been lost.

There is no evidence for any entries, which then must have been situated in the south wall. In fact, the compartmentalisation of the interior into four areas suggests that in its final phase, at least, the south wall would have been pierced by four entries. These internal arrangements may represent stalls consistent with a function as a cowhouse but as the cross walls are secondary, this may not have been the building's primary function. Nevertheless, the absence of wide, opposing entries, like those present in Building A, suggest that the building was never a barn.

Depicted, ie. roofed, on NLW, Tithe map, Slebech, Minwear and Newton, 1846. Depicted, as roofless, on NLW, OS 1:2500 First Edition, 1889. Depicted, as roofless, on NLW, OS 1:2500 Second Edition, 1907.

Building D *(Illus. 5)*

Building D is in a very ruinous condition. It was a rectangular building, undoubtedly single-storey and probably gabled to the north and south, extending into Enclosure II from its southern boundary, the wall of which appears to butt against Building D. The scarp upon which the boundary wall lies has been produced northwards as a platform beneath the building.

The internal dimensions of Building D are 7m N-S by 5m E-W, and it is of limestone rubble of rather crude construction and crudely quoined,. Only the west and north walls survive to any degree, standing to a maximum height of 3m to the north and 2m to the west (window head level), but badly weathered and with much missing masonry. There are no remains of any finishes, either externally or internally.

The only surviving feature is a slit-light towards the southern end of the west wall, with a splayed embrasure measuring 1m in height and 0.6m in width; both its head and rear lintel have gone. There are the probable remains of the reveal of a second, similar light further north in the same wall, and a possible internal socket at the foot of the north wall. Any entries would have to have been located in the lost south or east walls.

Building D was evidently not recognised as a part of the complex by RCAHM(W), and is not mentioned in the report (NMR, Parkinson, n.d.). It may have been a cottage.

Not depicted, ie. roofless?, on NLW, Tithe map, Slebech, Minwear and Newton, 1846. Depicted, as roofless, on NLW, OS 1:2500 First Edition, 1889. Depicted, as roofless, on NLW, OS 1:2500 Second Edition, 1907.

Building E *(Illus. 6)*

Only one gable end wall survives from Building E, a formerly rectangular structure lying on the same line as Building C, against the north face of Enclosure II's south wall. The north, west and south walls have been truncated almost to ground level but indicate internal dimensions of 9.2m N-S and 5.5m E-W.

The surviving, eastern gable wall is partly truncated, standing to a height of 4m but with most of its upper portion gone. The external limestone rubble facework, crudely quoined, is in two distinct forms, that in the upper half being markedly thinner than that in the lower half, with a regular horizontal joint; the lower half retains its lime pointing. The wall appears to have been deliberately rebuilt/refaced.

It displays no openings, and few features. An offset for the northern wall-plate can be seen, and a socket in the external face of unknown function. Splayed slit lights/vents were apparently seen by the RCAHMW (NMR, Parkinson, n.d.) but it is not known in which wall these were situated. The building may represent a further cottage.

Not depicted, ie. roofless?, on NLW, Tithe map, Slebech, Minwear and Newton, 1846. Depicted, as roofless, on NLW, OS 1:2500 First Edition, 1889. Depicted, as roofless, on NLW, OS 1:2500 Second Edition, 1907.

Building F *(Illus. 7)*

Building F is a ruined rectangular building lying east-west, to the south of the main axial trackway, extending into Enclosure V whose eastern apex it forms and the southern boundary wall of which butts against the building.

It is of limestone rubble of good-fair construction, with crude quoins and with internal dimensions of 4.5m N-S and 11m E-W. It lies on the eastern half of a platform built up from Enclosure V, bringing its floor level up to 1.3m above external ground level to the south. There are no remains of any finishes, either externally or internally.

Though ruinous and in poor condition, the building is reasonably intact with the exception of the south-east and north-west corners, which have gone, and all masonry above the openings. The walls stand to a uniform internal height of 2.3m, apparently representing wall-top level; it is possible, perhaps probable therefore that the building carried a hipped roof.

There are wide opposing entries in the north and south walls; that in the south wall has retained both its quoins and is 1.7m wide, while only the west quoins survive in the north wall entry which was probably 1.9m wide. Both heads have been lost, but it appears that the entries were open to wall-plate level. The southern sill is exposed. The northern entry was approached up a masonry ramp from the outside, 1.3m lower; the ramp is ruinous but appears not to have featured steps.

The building was only lit through the south wall, by a rectangular light either side of the entry. That to the west is 1.3m wide and of a single phase, while the light to the east is 1.2m wide and displays a vertical joint in the eastern reveal that descends to ground level, suggesting that it was converted from a former doorway (the western jamb is obscured by a tree-trunk). Both heads have gone but it may be that, like the entries, the lights were open to wall-plate level.

With the exception of a possible blocked socket low down on the external face of the north wall, there appear to be no further features; all other voids in the wall are due to weathering. There is a series of cracks in the east wall.

The opposing doorways, and ramp for wheeled traffic, suggest that the building may be a small corn barn of the later 18th-early 19th century.

Not depicted, ie. roofless?, on NLW, Tithe map, Slebech, Minwear and Newton, 1846. Depicted, as roofless, on NLW, OS 1:2500 First Edition, 1889. Depicted, as roofless, on NLW, OS 1:2500 Second Edition, 1907.

Buildings G, H, I, K and L - synopsis

The group of buildings G-L comptrise several different phases and are individually much altered. They occupy the north-west quarter of Enclosure I at the top of the embankment down to the main axial trackway.

The group represents the initial core of the Sisters' House complex, and contains the earliest surviving buildings on the site. These have, however, been subject to much alteration. The surviving buildings feature masonry from a variety of periods; they are, moreover, associated with truncated walls and rubble spreads indicating the sites of further former buildings and walls. The development of the group as a whole is discussed below, 30-31.

Building G *(Illus. 8)*

Building G is a two-storey gabled structure, almost square in plan, over a vaulted undercroft. The north and west walls have been truncated to footings level but the east and south walls have survived to their full heights, of 3m in the east (side) wall and 6m in the south (gable) wall, including the chimney (internal dimensions). The whole is of limestone rubble of fair-good construction, with good quoins, and is of residential character. As it survives the main structure appears to be of a single phase.

The undercroft measures 3.25m E-W and 3.4m N-S. It lies under a fairly depressed segmental barrel-vault, 2.2m high, with an east-west axis. Only the lower two-thirds are below ground level, which means that corework for the west and north walls survives above the vault. It is not clear how the undercroft was initially entered. The opening in the north wall exhibits the bases of door stops, but its splayed embrasure, 0.8m wide, with an internal head surviving in a ruinous condition in the corework, was clearly originally a light; the door stops are then a secondary feature. Meanwhile the 1.3m wide entry through the west wall, its head gone, is similarly lined by secondary inserted masonry (itself weathered), and was perhaps originally a second light. A U-shaped, low area of masonry, function unknown, has been inserted into the south-east quarter of the undercroft and may obscure the original entry.

Above undercroft level, Building G has internal dimensions of 4m N-S and 3.5m E-W. The first floor is occupied by a single chamber. There is a rough butt-joint between the south wall and the east and truncated west walls, but this is seen elsewhere and may be a constructional idiosyncrasy of the complex (see below, and 26-27) rather then indicating any secondary insertion. The east (side) wall displays a window opening to the north which is square, and 1.4m wide; its head has been lost, and the walling above it. South of the window is an entry 1m wide and 2m tall, formerly with a timber lintel which has gone, the wall having weathered above. The lower half of this was subsequently infilled and the opening converted into a window, while the window to the north was blocked completely. An RCHM(W) description is difficult to reconcile with the field evidence, describing the window as exhibiting 'a blocking pier of rubble masonry, in the mortar of which is the imprint of an ovolo-moulded central mullion' (NMR, Parkinson, n.d.).

The south wall exhibits a fireplace with a splayed flue and the slot for a timber lintel, now gone; it is 1m square. On the external face is a possible socket. An internal layer of plaster survives on both walls, of later 19th century date; the top of the plaster is level and indicates a ceiling height of 2.1m when the finish was applied.

The south and east walls of the first floor lie beneath a dense covering of ivy; they appear to lack any features except the chimney at the summit of the south wall. This is square, 1m square and 1.4m tall, and constructed from roughly squared and coursed limestone rubble. It lacks architectural features but appears in character to be rather later than the rest of the building, possibly as late as the 19th century.

A large earthwork platform immediately east of building G appears to represent debris; it is unlikely that this is all derived from the building and indeed, given its location, is likely to have been derived from elsewhere.
Building G has been described as a Tower-house (NMR, Parkinson, n.d., citing Laws and Owen, Pembs. Arch. Survey) but is atypical of the semi-defensible structures that characterise much of South Pembrokeshire (Smith, 1988, 18-35). It appears that, as built and like Building H below, it formed part of a larger structure (see Discussion).

Not depicted, ie. roofless, on NLW, Tithe map, Slebech, Minwear and Newton, 1846. Not differentiated on NLW, OS 1:2500 First Edition, 1889. Not differentiated on NLW, OS 1:2500 Second Edition, 1907.

Building H *(Illus. 9)*

Building H lies northwest of Building G but (now) detached from it, and located upon a section of the scarp bank along the north side of Enclosure I that has been projected out into the main axial trackway; this section too is revetted. The building is of similar construction to the latter, of two storeys and superficially its arrangements are similar though it lacks the vaulted undercroft and it displays a lateral chimney; the latter, however, is not a primary feature. It is is a two-storey gabled structure, almost square in plan, with a square projecting stair turret to the east. The west and north walls survive to full height, the stair turret has been somewhat truncated while the south wall only survives to sill level; the whole is in poor condition. The west gable wall is 6.5m tall while the east wall is only 4.2m tall, despite apparently retaining the profile of its its gable. The north wall is 2.8m tall at its highest point. The structure is of several phases and is of residential character.

The earliest portions of the fabric form a rectangle defined by the west and north walls, and the stair turret, all of which appear to be bonded with each other. The stair turret was entered from the south through a doorway, the western jamb of which survives but the head has gone. The steps have gone or been robbed-out but are represented by a weathered chase ascending the internal shaft. A small square light with a slight splay lit the stair; it is 0.7m wide but has lost its head, and part of its sill has been lost to a vertical breach to ground level. The interior of the stair shaft lies beneath a plaster finish that was applied during the lifetime of the stairs; it is broadly post-medieval in composition but may be as late as the 18th century. There is a crack in the east wall. Interestingly, the south wall of the stair turret features a draw-bar socket that does not relate to the stair door, closing off instead the gap between the turret and the north wall of Building G - this will be discussed below, 31. The west wall has been broken off and roughly pointed at the line of the present south wall, indicating that it initially continued further south (see below, 30-31) and that the gable itself is probably secondary. The wall features two openings, a blocked, central ground floor doorway, which may be primary, and a first floor window which is clearly an addition. The original nature of the doorway is unknown but the blocking is 1m wide and 2.5m tall. To the north of the blocking is a substantial breach through the wall, 2m tall and 1.2m wide, of unfinished masonry but possibly representing the location of a later doorway. The north wall has been much altered, and at this period was probably a gable end wall, but the sections of walling either side of the central fireplace appear to be primary; the vertical break between the western section and the west wall represents a crack rather than a joint. This western section displays an offset at first floor level, a floor level that was subsequently maintained. The central, ground floor fireplace in the north wall was subsequently inserted and displays vertical joints to both east and west. It is 1m wide with a masonry slab lintel 1m from present floor level, and lies within a square projection from the north wall; the fireplace was itself later (partly) blocked. It is possible that during this period the north wall was still a gable wall, influencing the classificational type of the fireplace, and its dating (see below, 30-31). Above the fireplace is a line of internal joist sockets.

The present south wall may or may not have been constructed at the same time, to butt against the west wall. Its dimensions suggest that it was always an exterior, side wall, indicating that this was the stage at which the west wall was truncated to its present southern terminal and given a gable. The south wall is ruinous, surviving to a maximum height of 2m at its east end. It displays a central doorway, 1.2m wide but with its head, and most of its quoins gone; the remains of later blocking can be seen. There appears to be an area of blocking between the doorway and the west wall, but its nature is not clear - was it the location of an opening? A window lies east of the doorway, with an internal splay of 1m; it too was subsequently blocked and has since lost its head. A window in a similar position in the opposite, north wall may be contemporary; it lies within an area of infill that post-dates the fireplace and exhibits a similar splay; its head has also gone. The new west wall gable features a window with a splayed embrasure 1m tall and 1.1m wide and a robbed-out (or weathered timber) lintel; a crack now runs below this. A possible internal socket lies above the window. West, north and south wall interiors lie beneath a plaster finish similar to that in the spiral stair shaft; in it is an impression marking first floor level.

The final episode in the development of Building H appears to have been the remodelling of its eastern side. Whatever east wall may have been present was removed, while the spiral stair was abandoned and its steps robbed-out. A new gable wall was constructed, butting against the north and south walls. The profile of the gable appears to be preserved, but its apex is substantially (1.4m) lower than that of the west wall, while the sockets for the side wall-plates are only 0.8m above first floor level. It may be then that during this phase the building was remodelled as a single-storey structure; there is, however, no impresssion of a lower gable profile in the west wall.

Building H appears initially to have been constructed in the Tower-house tradition, as represented by the spiral stair (Smith, 1988, 18-35). However, it is not known how far to the south it extended in this initial phase; along with Building G it appears to have formed part of a larger structure as built (see Discussion).

Depicted, ie. roofed, on NLW, Tithe map, Slebech, Minwear and Newton, 1846. Depicted, as roofed, on NLW, OS 1:2500 First Edition, 1889. Depicted, as roofed, on NLW, OS 1:2500 Second Edition, 1907.

Building I *(Illus. 10)*

Building I is a single-storey structure lying east-west at the west end of the group of buildings G-L and straddling the western boundary wall of Enclosure I, which butts against it. In its present form, its internal dimensions are 4.5m E-W and 3.4m N-S. The single chamber lies beneath a masonry barrel-vault slightly depressed semicircular arched profile, 2.9m high. The walls are of limestone rubble of fair-good construction, crudely quoined; the upper parts and vault are of very thin limestone flags.

The section of Building I that has survived is in fair condition; however, it appears that the surviving section represents only part of the original structure (see below). There is now no east wall. The north and south (side) walls stand to a height of 1.6m to the vault springers, are well pointed internally and both exhibit external sockets, possibly for putlogs. The eastern ends of both walls are represented by broken areas of corework; within this corework is preserved in the north wall the western shallow splay, 0.5m tall, of a light, demonstrating that the building formerly extended further east. The west (end) wall has collapsed and now stands to a height of 1.2m; a vertical line of larger, squarer stones to the south may represent the southern reveal of a further light.

The interior of the building is occupied by much building debris, most of it comprising the sort of thin limestone flags that constitute the vaulting material and which are probably derived from the lost eastern section of the building. However, a north-south line of stones set into floor midway along the building may represent deliberate kerbing.

Depicted, ie. roofed, on NLW, Tithe map, Slebech, Minwear and Newton, 1846. Depicted, as roofless, on NLW, OS 1:2500 First Edition, 1889. Depicted, as roofless, on NLW, OS 1:2500 Second Edition, 1907.

Building J *(Illus. 11)*

To the west of the missing east wall of Building I are two secondary walls, of crude limestone rubble, which butt against and continue the line of its north and south walls. The northern of these is represented by its footings only, while the southern wall survives to height of 1.6m but lacks any features. Both terminate at, and butt against, the west wall of Building K (see below). During a further phase, a north-south cross wall was inserted midway along their length to form the west gable wall of a small, square single-storey building, Building J, in the eastern half of the area so defined.

The gable stands to a height of 3.5m and is of fair limestone rubble. It exhibits a low square slit light, looking west, with a splayed embrasure 0.5m tall and 0.4m wide beneath a limestone slab lintel. The offsets for the side wall-plates can be seen, as can a line of three external sockets and one internal sockets. The opposite wall, represented by the east wall of Building K, has gone.

It is not possible to assign a function to Building J.

Not depicted, ie. roofless?, on NLW, Tithe map, Slebech, Minwear and Newton, 1846. Not digfferentiated on NLW, OS 1:2500 First Edition, 1889. Not differentiated on NLW, OS 1:2500 Second Edition, 1907.

Building K *(Illus. 12)*

Building K was a long, narrow east west building extending east from Building J and terminating just south of Building G, with internal dimensions of 16m E-W and 5.5m N-S. Only its southern side wall, and features of its east wall, have survived to any degree, and these are ruinous. They are constructed from fair-good limestone rubble, crudely quoined. The building is associated with rubble alignments to the north representing the north wall of the building itself, and one (or two) yards, one of which is probably the site of a former building.

The south wall has survived to 3.5m at the east end descending to 2.6m in the west half. It butts against the remains of both the east and west walls but in this case need not imply a multi-phase origin for the building as we see it, being possibly a constructional idiosyncrasy. The wall is in fair-poor condition and leans inwards; this, however, may be a constructional feature. It exhibits several features. At the west end is is a small light, 0.4m square and very ruinous, its timber lintel gone. Between 5m and 8.5m from the west end is a broken-out area of corework rising the full height of the wall which apparently represents a secondary, inserted fireplace. A through void on the west side may represent a broken-out socket for a hood support, while the fireplace back has an area of secondary repair. Immediately to the east is a narrow blocked doorway 0.85m wide which has lost its head and the walling above; just east of this is a line of possible facing stones representing the eastern reveal of a fiuther light which has weathered out. A similar feature lies at a slightly higher level 5.2m from the east end of the building. The quoins and displaced sill stones for a second entry occur between 2.5m and 3.6m from the east end, which too has lost its head and all surrounding walling.

The interior of the building is occupied by a substantial depth of building debris, which will obscure many internal features. However, the line of a cross-wall can be distinguished between 5m and 6m from the east end. This is apparently a secondary feature, there being no evidence for any bonding on the south wall. However, the internal face of the south wall lies beneath the remains of a plaster finish with a vertical slot in the lower half on the same line as the cross-wall. The plaster is of probable 18th century character.

The east (end) wall is very ruinous, and has been much altered from its original arrangements. Most of its internal face is obscured by rubble debris. Externally, it is characterised by the massive square 'buttress', not bonded to the wall, measuring 1.6m N-S and 4m E-W, which butts against the wall. The summit slopes back to the east wall at a height of 2.5m. The remains of an internal opening into the buttress, just visible above the debris, suggests that it may have housed a bread oven. However, it would appear to have been adapted from an earlier structure. A low curved retaining wall occupies the engle between its southern face and the east wall.

It is impossible to be certain how Building K was roofed but a gable appears the most likely option.

The lines of the west wall, the cross wall and possibly the east wall of the building appear to have continued northwards to meet an east-west wall, itself continuing the line of the south wall of Building H. These alignments are represented mainly by rubble spreads. They define two rectangular areas, the western 8m by 6m, the eastern 6m square, which apparently represented yards, at least during the final phase of occupation, but may - in part at least - be adapted from earlier structures. That to the west was entered from the north through a slightly hollowed path.

Not depicted, ie. roofless?, on NLW, Tithe map, Slebech, Minwear and Newton, 1846. Not differentiated on NLW, OS 1:2500 First Edition, 1889. Not differentiated on NLW, OS 1:2500 Second Edition, 1907.

Building L *(Illus. 13)*

Building L appears to have been a north-south rectangular structure lying - and butting - against the southern half of Building K. It is in very poor condition, very little of it surviving apart from the lateral chimney in the central section of the west wall. The internal dimensions of the building are 7m N-S and 4m E-W, and it is divided into two areas by a cross-wall which butts against the east wall at least. The southern chamber of the two appears to project somewhat further to the east than the northern, and is chiefly defined by its below-ground cellar/undercroft, whose (vaulted?) roof has gone and which is now occupied chiefly by rubble and its depth unknown. The northern chamber may too lie over a cellar - the present ground surface is highly unstable. Its north and east walls exhibit a wide offset or benching.

The surviving western, side wall spans the two chambers but has gone apart from the central chimney. The upper part of its stack has gone but it still survives to a height of 6m, though in poor condition. It is square, and well-constructed with good ashlar quoins and shoulders; the flue is now open to the building and the fireplace itself has gone. There may have been a light immediately to the south, suggested by the possible remains of the northern reveal.

Building L was described by RCAHM(W) as 'a completely ruinous first floor hall; the lower stage is divided into three by cross walls' (NMR, Parkinson, n.d.). There is no evidence for a third chamber, bit the description implies that the entry was on the first floor. The chimney, like that in Building G, may have been refinished in the later 19th century.

Not depicted, ie. roofless?, on NLW, Tithe map, Slebech, Minwear and Newton, 1846. Not differentiated on NLW, OS 1:2500 First Edition, 1889. Not differentiated on NLW, OS 1:2500 Second Edition, 1907.

Building M

Building M is a north-south rectangular building, lying against the north wall of Building I. It is represented only by foundations, the western line of which are set into a substantial earthen bank. Nothing further can be said about this building other than that its internal dimensions were 5m N-S and 2.6m E-W, and that its walls butt against Building I.

Not depicted, ie. roofless?, on NLW, Tithe map, Slebech, Minwear and Newton, 1846. Not depicted on NLW, OS 1:2500 First Edition, 1889. Not depicted on NLW, OS 1:2500 Second Edition, 1907.

The two ?building platforms

At the east end of the main axial trackway, south-east of Building C, is a low earthwork in an area of wet ground. The feature is rather amorphous but does exhibit a straight western edge. It may represent a building platform; however, it lies in an awkward position closing off the east end of the trackway.

A similar low earthwork lies to the east of Building B, in a location rather more suited to a building platform function.

Not depicted, ie.gone?, on NLW, Tithe map, Slebech, Minwear and Newton, 1846. Not depicted on NLW, OS 1:2500 First Edition, 1889. Not depicted on NLW, OS 1:2500 Second Edition, 1907.

DISCUSSION: FORM, FUNCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMPLEX

The function of the complex appears to have altered through time from a relatively high-status manorial role to that of a farm. It follows that the function of individual buildings changed accordingly. In this section, therefore, function and development are treated together, in a chrononlogical sequence. It has, however, to be stressed once again that in the absence of any close dating evidence, and due to the condition of the buildings, this section must remain purely a discussion.

While no building within the complex can be assigned a date any earlier than the mid 16th century, Buildings G-L appear to have developed around the 'footprint' of a pre-existing structure, now gone. However, there is nothing on the site to suggest a religious connotation; the site as it now exists represents a manor house of the Barlows of Slebech downgraded to the status of a home farm with additional barns. In the addenda of a comprehensive study of the Welsh house, Smith, 1988, describes the Sisters' House residence as a Tower-house, with a vaulted undercroft and a lateral chimney (Smith, 1988, 338 map 1; 372 map 7; 440 map 28). This is discussed below.

It is not possible to assign a date to the layout of the complex into its 3 main enclosures; the enclosure walls all appear to belong to the later stages of occupation but the basic divisions and underlying earthworks may be earlier. An attempt to fit the establishment of the trackways, and the walled garden, into the general developmental framework is attempted.

The 16th century

The initial core of the complex as it is represented today appears, as has been noted, to have been the domestic group of buildings G-L. Of this group, the components with the earliest dateable characteristics are Building G as it initially stood, and the north wall, west wall, and spiral stair turret of Building H, which have been demonstrated above, 24, to predate the remainder of the building.

It would appear that, during the earliest phase, Buildings G and H were both components of a larger building. It has been noted that the west wall of Building H extended further southwards during this initial phase, and that an entry existed between Building G and the stair turret of Building H. Furthermore, the west wall of Building G has gone and its nature is unknown; it may have originally been an internal wall.

The long range, building K, to the south predates all presently adjoining components. It may be contemporary with Buildings G and H and represent an ancillary wing; the fireplace in the south wall is a later insertion, as is the cross wall, while the surviving lights - which appear to be primary - are very small, and in its present state the building is more agricultural than residential in character. It cannot be closely dated. The large ?oven buttress in its east wall may be adapted from a structure dating to this early period.

The residential Building L with its lateral chimney (secondary?) and undercroft/cellar, is of overwhelmingly sub-medieval character (Smith's regional house-type A; Smith, 1988, 441, map 28). It appears to have been built against Building K but the sequence may be the other way around, K having been inserted.

The manner in which the above 16th century components are distributed suggests that they are the wings of a former, larger structure. Furthermore their disposition is rather random which may indicate that they were additions to a pre-existing building, or at least that a pre-existing structure influenced their plan. The chronology demands that such a pre-existing structure will have been pre-Dissolution, perhaps representing a farm; nothing, however, survives of this building beyond the 'footprint' suggested.

The form of the 16th century house, then, cannot now be reconstructed, nor can its orientation in terms of facade etc, but it would represent a recognised sub-medieval type with features typical of the 16th century in Pembrokeshire (Smith's regional house-type A; see Smith, 1988, 437 map 27) representing a Tudor 'Gentry House'. If the interpretation is correct, it also means that the house was not strictly in the Tower-house tradition as described by Pembs. Arch Survey (NMR, Parkinson, n.d.) which viewed G and H as independent structures. There is, moreover, no evidence for such features as a first floor entry or a crenellated parapet, typical of tower houses. It must be admitted that the house as proposed is possibly not sufficiently prestigious for a family of wealth and influence such as the Barlows. This is further evidence of the degree to which 16th century development was constrained by a pre-existing structure.

Building I is likely, in an extended form, to belong to this initial phase. It has, on the basis of its vault, been held to represent a chapel (NMR, Parkinson, n.d., citing Laws and Owen, Pembs. Arch. Survey), an interpretation at least partly influenced by former attributions of the complex to a medieval grange. The presence of a vault over a single storey is unusual in a secular context and there is no evidence for a floor above; in fact the roof profile strongly suggests otherwise. However, there is no further evidence for an ecclesiastical context for the building. Its eastern end is truncated and it may be that the building was the westernmost cell of a long range continuing westwards from Building K.

The above buildings, as discussed, are consistent with a construction date within the tenure of either Roger Barlow or early in that of his son John (?1538 onwards).

The later 16th century

The large Building A to the east of the complex would, on architectural grounds, seem to belong to a similar, or possibly slightly later date than the above and indeed was regarded as such by RCAHMW (NMR, Parkinson, n.d.). As has been noted above, 18, the building is likely to have been of a single storey open to the roof, and the opposing entries suggest that the building functioned as a corn barn . However, it is a very imposing building situated right at the eastern entrance to the complex, and it was given a very impressive porch, probably not long after its completion. Building A may then have doubled as a show front, in which case the opposing entries will have formed the main entrance passage into the complex. Similar arrangements occur elsewhere in Pembrokeshire, for example at Pentre Ifan where a substantial Elizabethan 'barn' forms the facade of a late medieval mansion house (Dyfed SMR, Nash, 1988). There are, however, no remains of any finishes, but the masonry may have been regarded as sufficient quality in itself, and certainly it is finer than elsewhere in the complex.

During this earlier period, then, the main entrance to the complex appears to have been from the east. It is possible that the holloway, leading to Building A from the main north-south trackway at the east edge of the site, represented the initial main access way to the house (Buildings G and H), the revetted area or trackway to the south of Building K representing its westwards continuation. The construction of Building A may have necessitated the establishment of the present main axial trackway to the north of it, at this or a later date.

The walled garden is typical of those dateable to the later 16th century (eg. Carew Castle); it cannot be more closely dated.

This phase would correspond to the tenure of Sir John Barlow (1554-1613).

?The early 17th century

The complex appears to have remained a relatively residential and high-status site into the succeeding phase. The bread oven on the east wall of Building K appears to have been modified from an earlier structure. It may be that during this period, Buildings K and G were connected by an east wall and a structure built against the former of similar character to Building G, rendering the group symmetrical in both plan and facade; later alterations have obscured the evidence. Such a date would also be consistent with the insertion of the fireplace in the north wall of the wing of the house represented by Building G.

This phase may too represent the tenure of Sir John Barlow, or that pof his son George (1613-*c.*1640). The establishment of Building A may have occurred at any point within this or the preceeding phase.

The 17th century

The complex appears to have been inhabited as a gentry house, at least occasionally by the Barlows themselves, throughout the 17th century. No new building at the house can be assigned to this period, but many of the estate/farm buildings are broadly consistent with such a date.

The stone- and timber linteled Building C is not possible to date closely but its design appears to have been influenced by an existing Building A. The small stone lintels in the side walls are, moreover, typical of several further buildings within the complex. Its internal compartmentalisation into four cells suggests that in its final phase, at least, the south wall would have been pierced by four entries; an entry in the absent eastern gable wall is stylistically unlikely. The internal arrangements may represent stalls, consistent with a function as a cowhouse (probably not, at this stage in the history of the complex, a stable), but as the cross walls are secondary, this may not have been the building's primary function. Nevertheless, the absence of wide, opposing entries, like those present in Building A, suggest that the building was never a barn.

The stylistically similar Buildings B, D and E may be broadly contemporary. They are all single-celled and of unknown function, but Buildings D and E may represent cottages while the larger Building B may have been a cottage and/or byre. They greatly constrict the eastern end of the main axial trackway through the complex suggestiong that the main entrance was switched to the western approach to the trackway, which features a pair of gateposts at the far end of the site.

A similar phase may be broadly consistent with the demolition or collapse of the east end of Building I and the construction of the small building J, which has a similar lintel to the above buildings and butts against Building K; it is of unknown function.

The 18th century

The remaining constructional history of the complex appears to represent its decline into a primarly agricultural holding.

The remodelling of the house into its present detached components can be assigned, on stylistic grounds, a pre-19th century date. The suggested south-western third of the house was truncated, and Building H given a new south wall to become an independent dwelling; a similar event occurred with Building G. This fragmentation of a large house into smaller habitable units is consistent with the break-up of a large manorial complex. The reduction of Building H into a single storey, and the remodelling of its east wall, may have followed not long afterwards. Building L presumably remained as a separate dwelling.

The truncated west wall of the house may have been retained as subdivision of the yard to the north of Building K, possibly now established. The cross wall and fireplace inserted within Building K may be contemporary, as may be the remodelling of the east end into a ?bread oven. This activity appears to suggest while the building was partly divided, at the same time it being given over (to farm labourers?) as a semi-communal dwelling(s).

This phase corresponds with the general period of absenteeism and decline beginning c.1695 under Sir George Barlow.

The later 18th - earlier 19th centuries

That the complex remained viable as an economic concern into the 19th century is evidenced by the latest activity. The latest *de novo* building appears to be Building F, the square, unslayed openings of which, with their heads formerly possibly open to eaves level, are typical of similar agricultural buildings from the later 18th/early 19th centuries. The opposing doorways, and ramp for wheeled traffic, suggest that the building may be a small corn barn.

The surviving south wall of Enclosure V appears to butt against Building F, but it may be that a very clean insertion of the building into a pre-existing boundary has occurred. However, the remaining enclosure walls all, similarly, butt against buildings, and thus taken as a whole, appear to be among the latest features on the site. Certainly the wall closing off the east side of Enclosure IV is built across a holloway that may have formerly been the main eastern entrance into the complex. A note of caution must be sounded, however, in that the construction of buildings as stretches of unbonded wall has been encountered elsewhere within the complex. Nonetheless, whilst it is unlikely that they are all contemporary, the subdivision of the complex into a series of walled enclosures does seem to represent a deliberate campaign; presumably paddocks and gardens/orchards are represented.

The latest internal plaster finishes within Buildings G and H, and the repoited/rebuilt chimneys of Buildings G and L, are of clear 19th century character and demonstrate that habitation of the house area continued, possibly uninterruptedly.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Sisters' House represents a complex of buildings, enclosures and trackways inhabited, possibly uninterruptedly, since the 16th century, and which formed part of the Slebech Estate from its establishment until the present century. There is neither physical nor documentary evidence for any earlier usage of the site. The complex was established as a manorial site, but by the 18th century was in decline and increasingly given over to purely agricultural usage.

The nucleus of the complex was possibly a pre-existing building, a medieval farmhouse or related structure, which was modified into a Tudor 'Gentry House' exhibiting sub-medieval features typical of the 16th century, but of a form which cannot now be reconstructed; it now represented by three, possibly four detached dwellings. It may have been approached from the east via a holloway. A vaulted building of unknown function, but probably not a chapel, was established west of the house. Any or none of the three main enclosures may belong to the initial layout; their surrounding walls appear to post-date all buildings. The Gentry House was the work of either Roger Barlow of Slebech or his son John (*c.*1540-1613).

The complex was embellished by the Barlows who resided, at least partially, at the Sisters' House through the 16th and earlier 17th centuries. A large barn-like building was built to the east of the site, over the holloway, which may represent a show frontage and gatehouse; an accompanying role as a corn barn is not denied. A large, ?agricultural building was added to the south of the house, and, at a slightly later date, one (or two?) adjoining dwellings, possibly giving the house a symmetrical facade. A second east-west axial trackway was established and, at the west end of the site, a rectangular walled garden.

The 18th century represents a period of decline. New buildings from this period are all overwhelmingly agricultural in character, comprising a cowhouse, two cottages and a possible byre. Some of the new buildings close off the east end of the main trackway, and the main entrance to the complex was switched to the west. The house was apparently remodelled as a series of independent dwellings while the vaulted building was disused.

The decline continued into the 19th century, when the only new building established was a small corn barn. The enclosures, however, were all given masonry boundary walls and at least some of the dwellings appear to have continued to be inhabited until the final abandonment of the site in the mid 19th century.

The complex is now in a very poor condition. Many of the buildings have collapsed, parts of them to footings level; the only building in a fair condition being the 'show' barn structure. The entire site is thickly overgrown and parts of it wooded, much of the tree cover growing from the walls themselves. Prior to any consolidation, the superficial vegetation will require clearance and a themed programme of archaeological work will need to be undertaken.

The sensitivity of the site must be stessed. It occupies a prominent place in the consciousness of many inhabitants of West Wales, and not just antiquarians. It is little understood, but may have medieval origins; only detailed ground survey and selective archaeological excavation, coupled with a record of the standing remains to RCHME Level 4 and possibly stone by stone, will resolve the questions posed. However, the sensitivity of the site must again be taken into consideration. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, Pe 302. It lies within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and whilst lying outside the Minwear Wood SSSI has a distinct flora - due regard must be shown towards the natural environment during any enhancement works. Information regarding environmental constraints, any Tree Preservation Orders etc, however, lies beyond the scope of this report.

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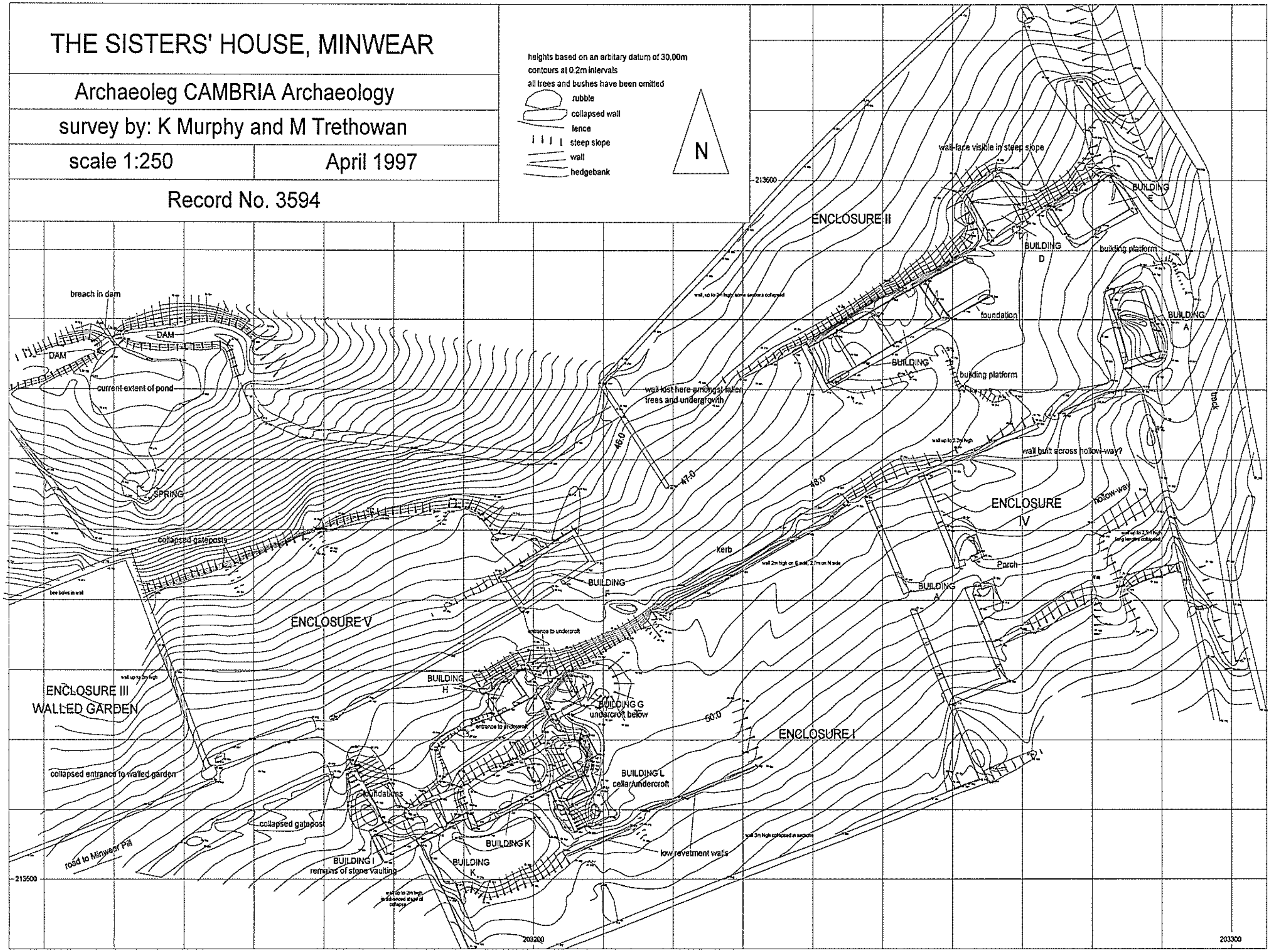
THE SISTERS' HOUSE, MINWEAR

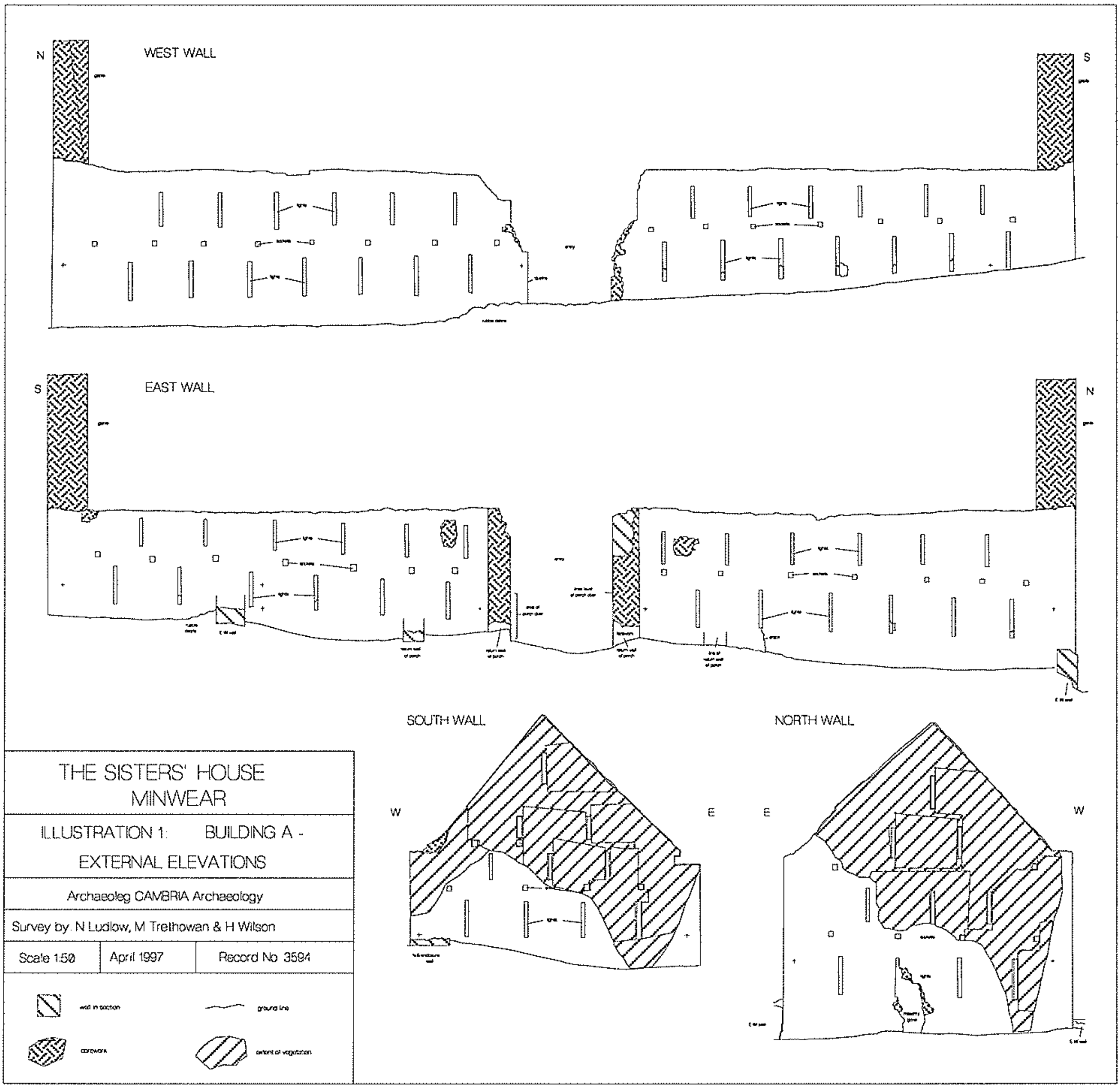
Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology

survey by: K Murphy and M Trethowan

scale 1:250 | April 1997

Record No. 3594

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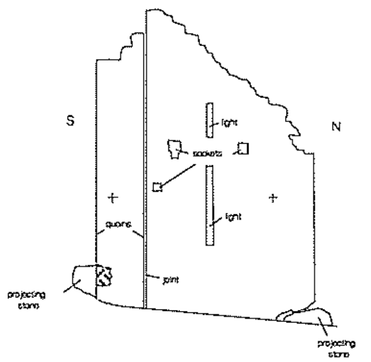
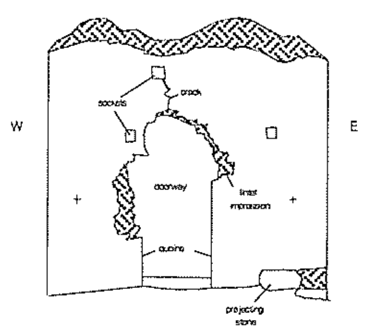
THE SISTERS' HOUSE
MINWEAR
ILLUSTRATION 1: BUILDING A -
EXTERNAL ELEVATIONS
Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology
Survey by: N Ludlow, M Trethowan & H Wilson
Scale 1:50
April 1997
Record No 3594

NORTH CHAMBER, EAST WALL
EXTERNAL ELEVATION



NORTH CHAMBER, SOUTH WALL
EXTERNAL ELEVATION



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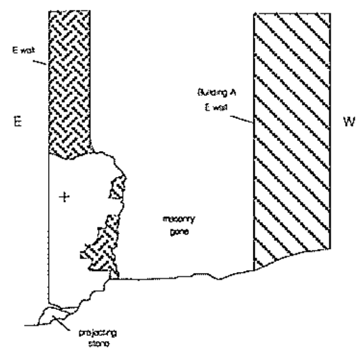
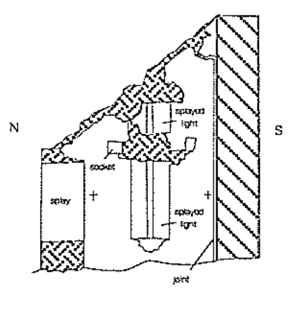
EXTERNAL ELEVATION



NORTH CHAMBER, EAST WALL
INTERNAL ELEVATION



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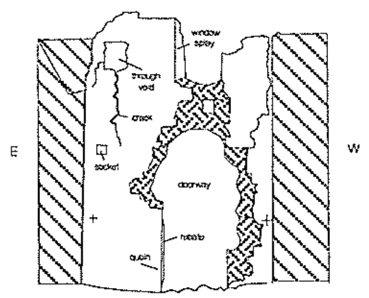
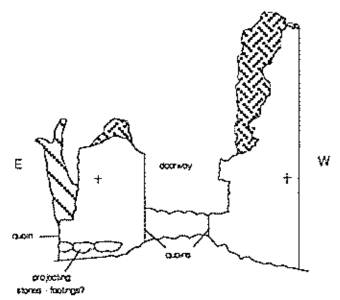
INTERNAL ELEVATION



SOUTH CHAMBER, NORTH WALL
EXTERNAL ELEVATION



THE SISTERS' HOUSE, MINWEAR

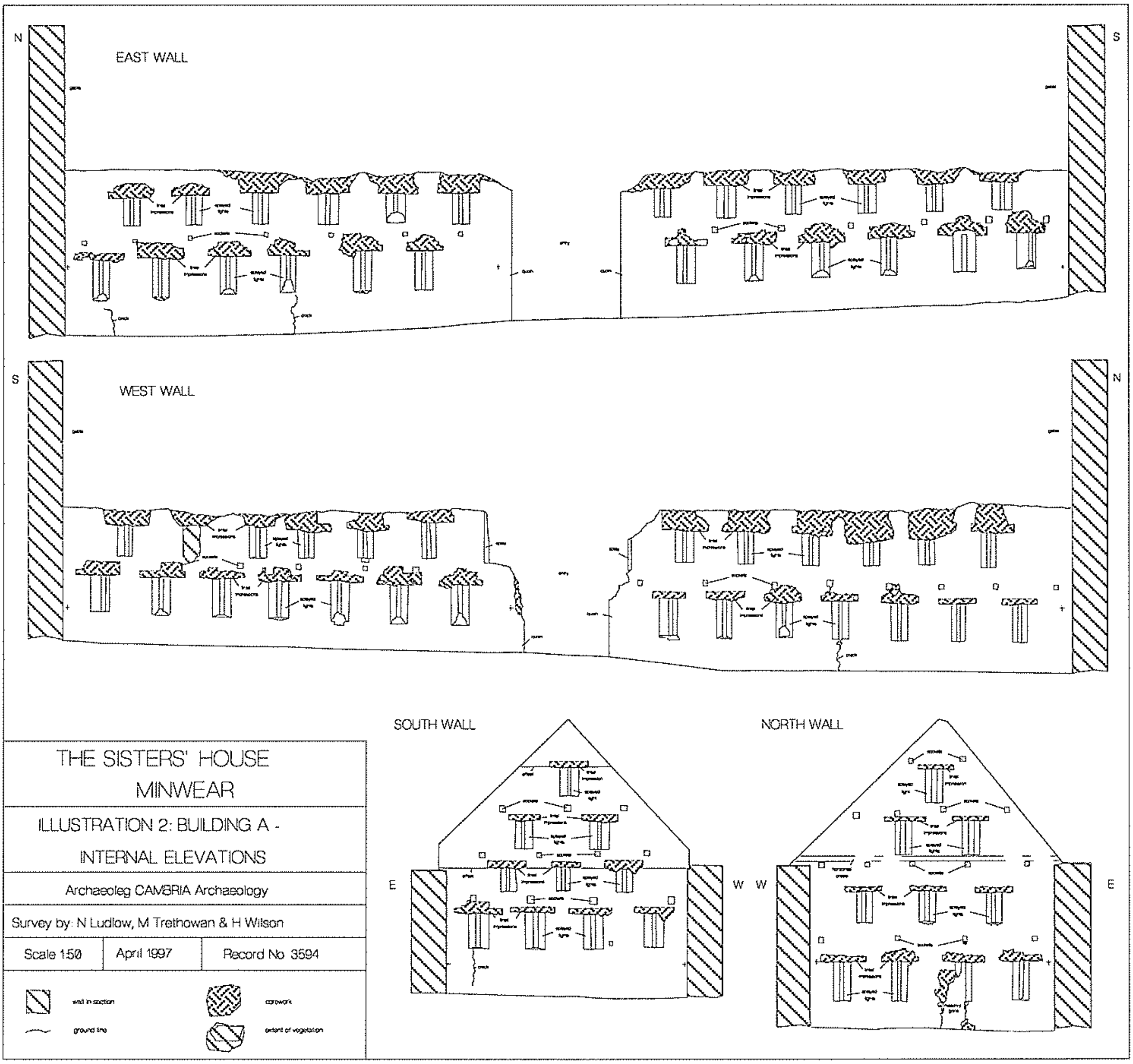
ILLUSTRATION 1b: BUILDING A PORCH - ELEVATIONS

Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology

Survey by: N Ludlow

Scale 1:50	April 1997	Record No. 3594

- wall in section
- stonework
- ground line
- extent of vegetation


EAST WALL
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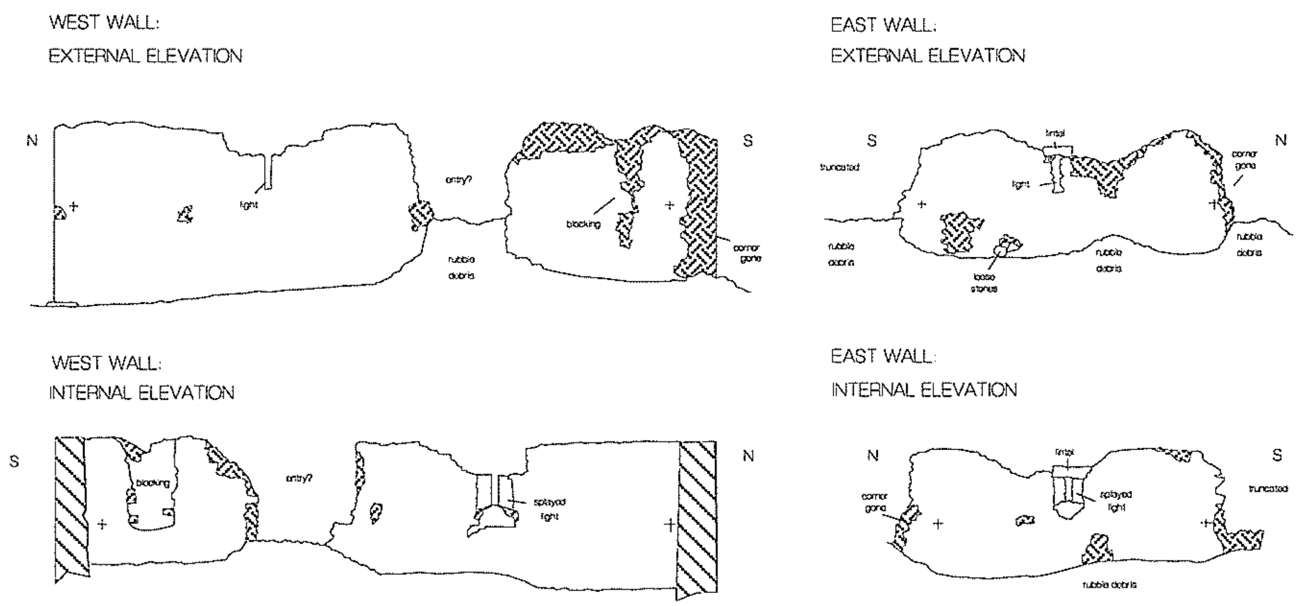
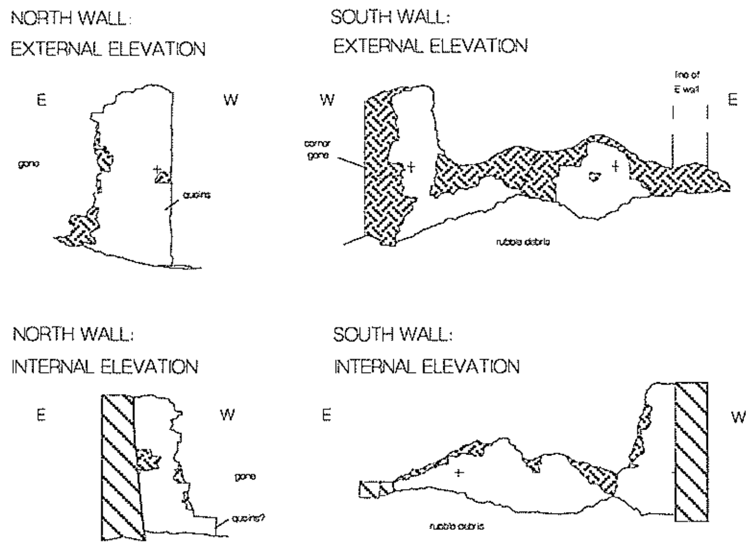
THE SISTERS' HOUSE
MINWEAR
ILLUSTRATION 2: BUILDING A - INTERNAL ELEVATIONS
Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology
Survey by: N Ludlow, M Trethowan & H Wilson
Scale 1:50
April 1997
Record No 3594





THE SISTERS' HOUSE MINWEAR

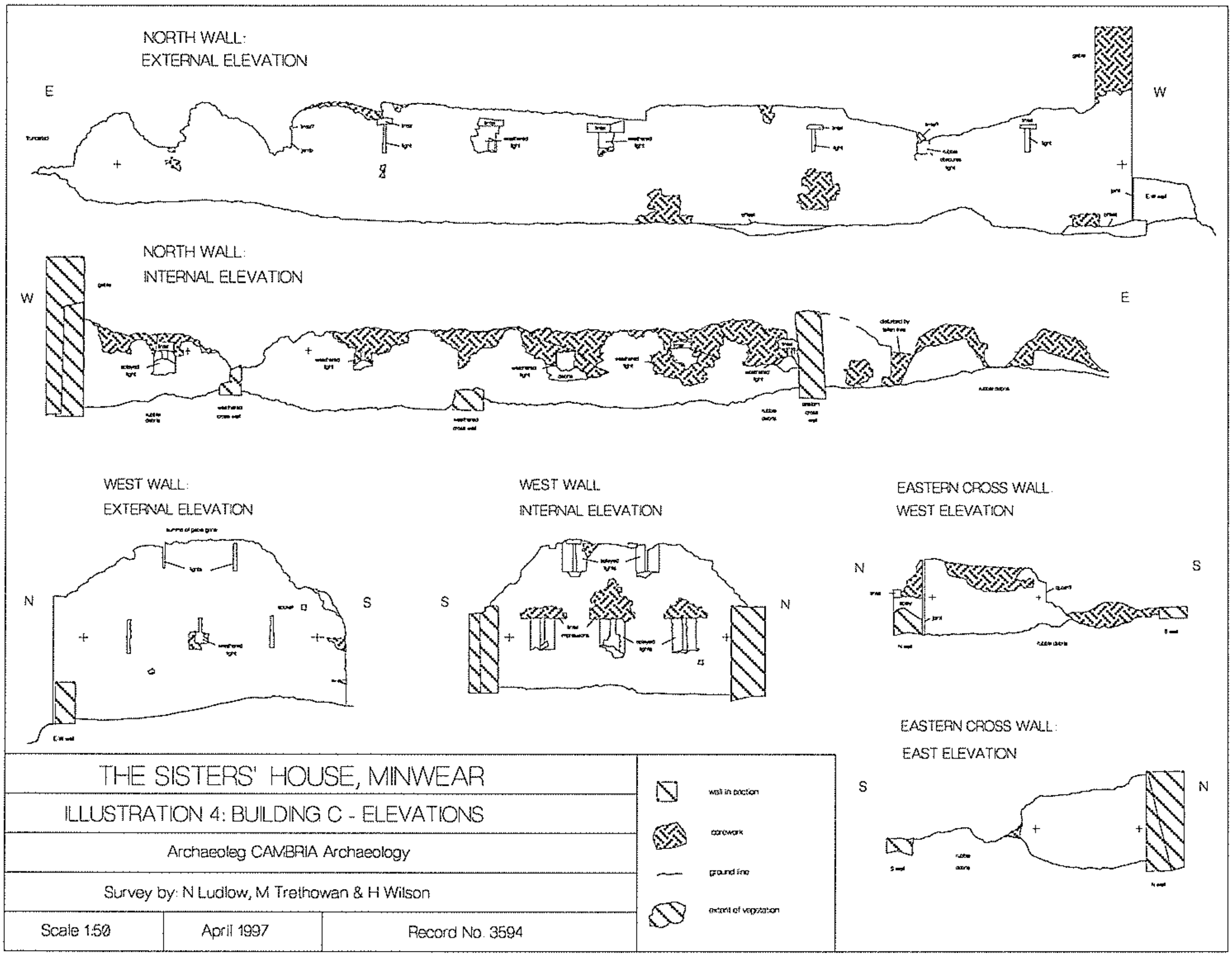
ILLUSTRATION 3: BUILDING B - ELEVATIONS

Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology

Survey by: N Ludlow & H Wilson

Scale 1:50	April 1997	Record No.3594

wall in section — corework — ground line



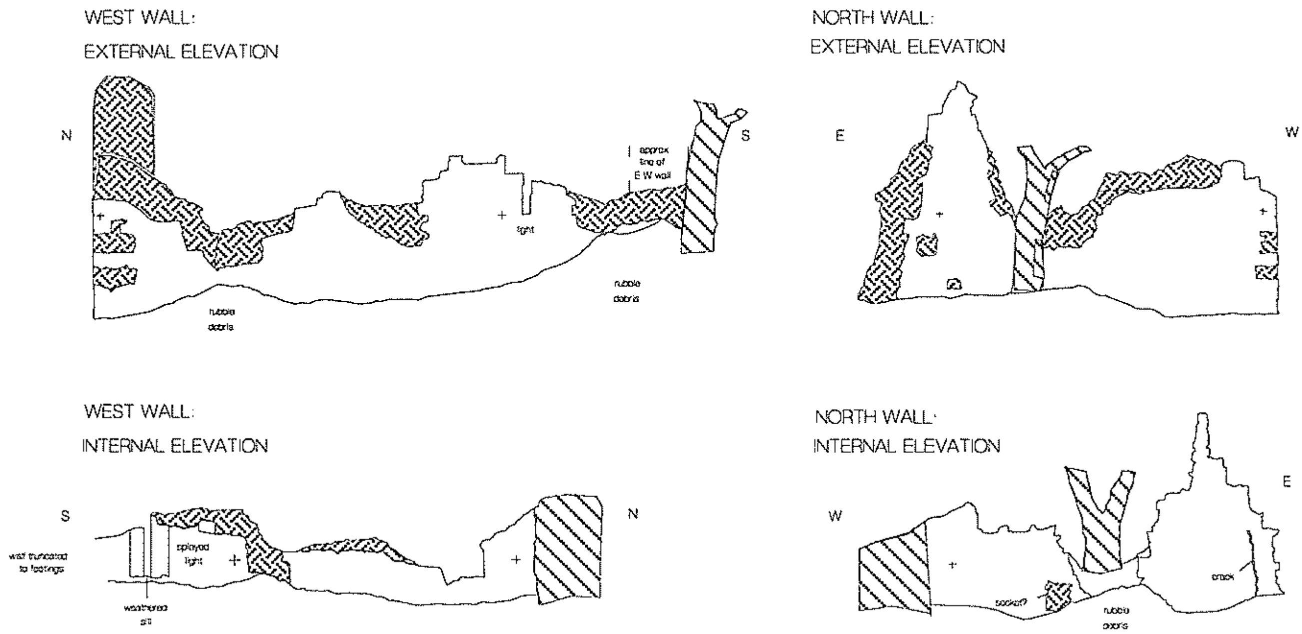
THE SISTERS' HOUSE, MINWEAR

ILLUSTRATION 4: BUILDING C - ELEVATIONS

Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology

Survey by: N Ludlow, M Trethowan & H Wilson

Scale 1:50 | April 1997 | Record No. 3594



THE SISTERS' HOUSE, MINWEAR

ILLUSTRATION 5: BUILDING D - ELEVATIONS

Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology

Survey by: N Ludlow, M Trethowan & H Wilson

Scale 1:50	April 1997	Record No. 3594

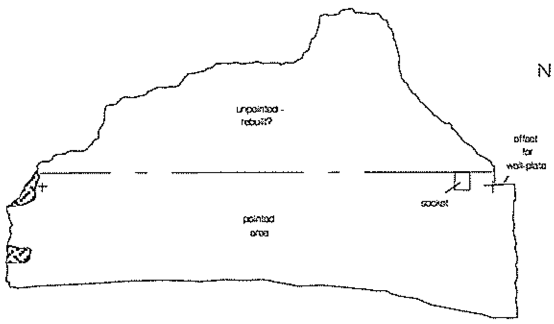
wall in section

corework

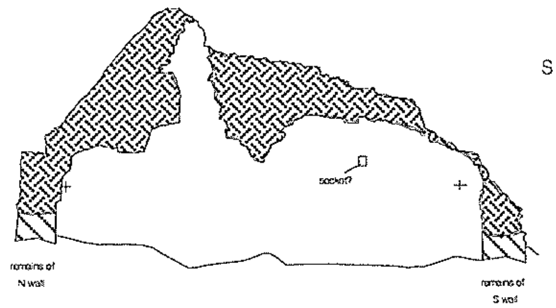
ground line

extent of vegetation

EXTERNAL ELEVATION



INTERNAL ELEVATION



THE SISTERS' HOUSE, MINWEAR

ILLUSTRATION 6: BUILDING E -
EAST WALL ELEVATIONS

Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology

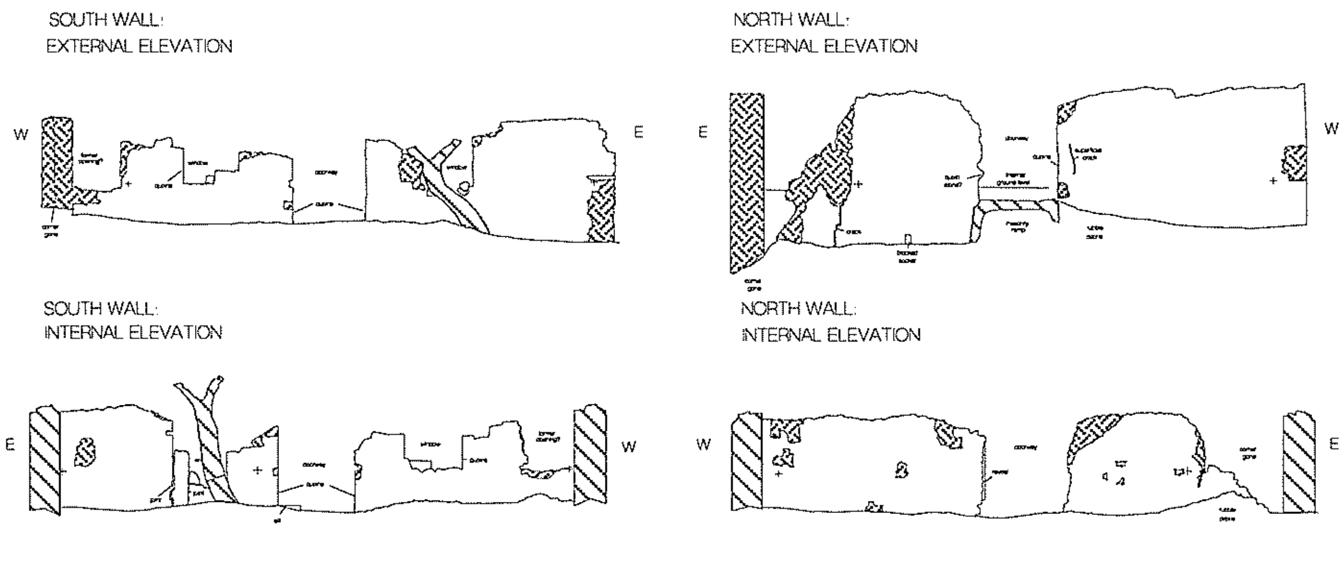
Survey by: N Ludlow & H Wilson

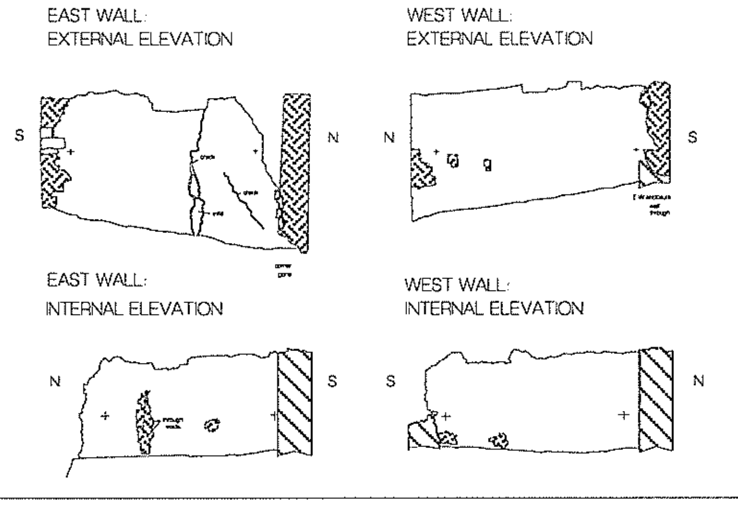
Scale 1:50	April 1997	Record No. 3594

wall in section

corework

ground line





THE SISTERS' HOUSE, MINWEAR		
ILLUSTRATION 7: BUILDING F - ELEVATIONS		
Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology		
Survey by: N Ludlow & H Wilson		
Scale 1:50	April 1997	Record No. 3594

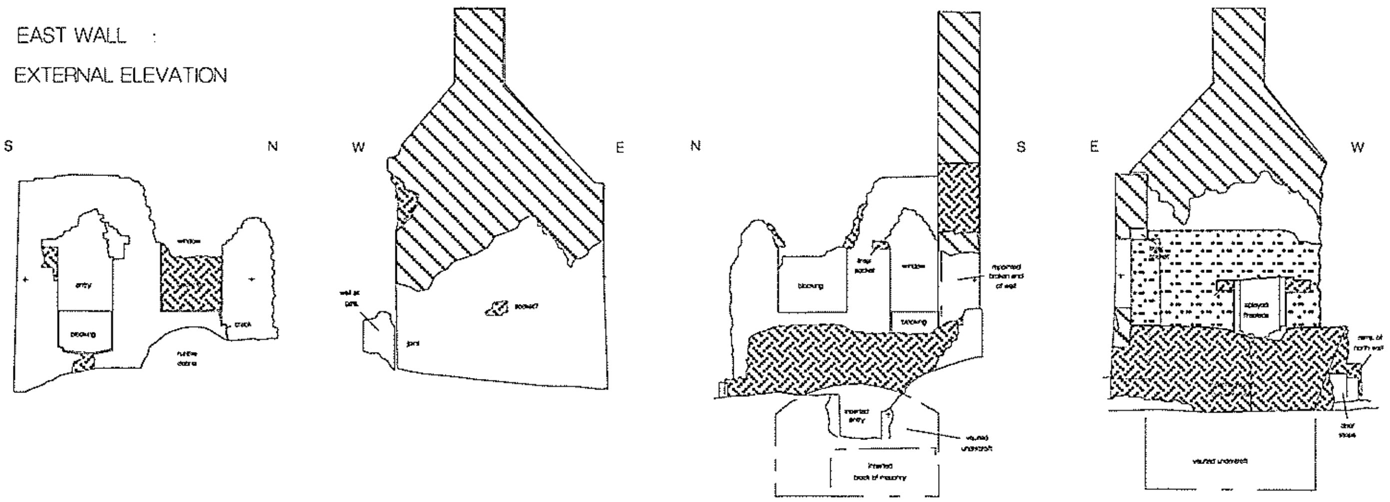
wall in section — ground line — corework — extent of vegetation

EAST WALL: EXTERNAL ELEVATION

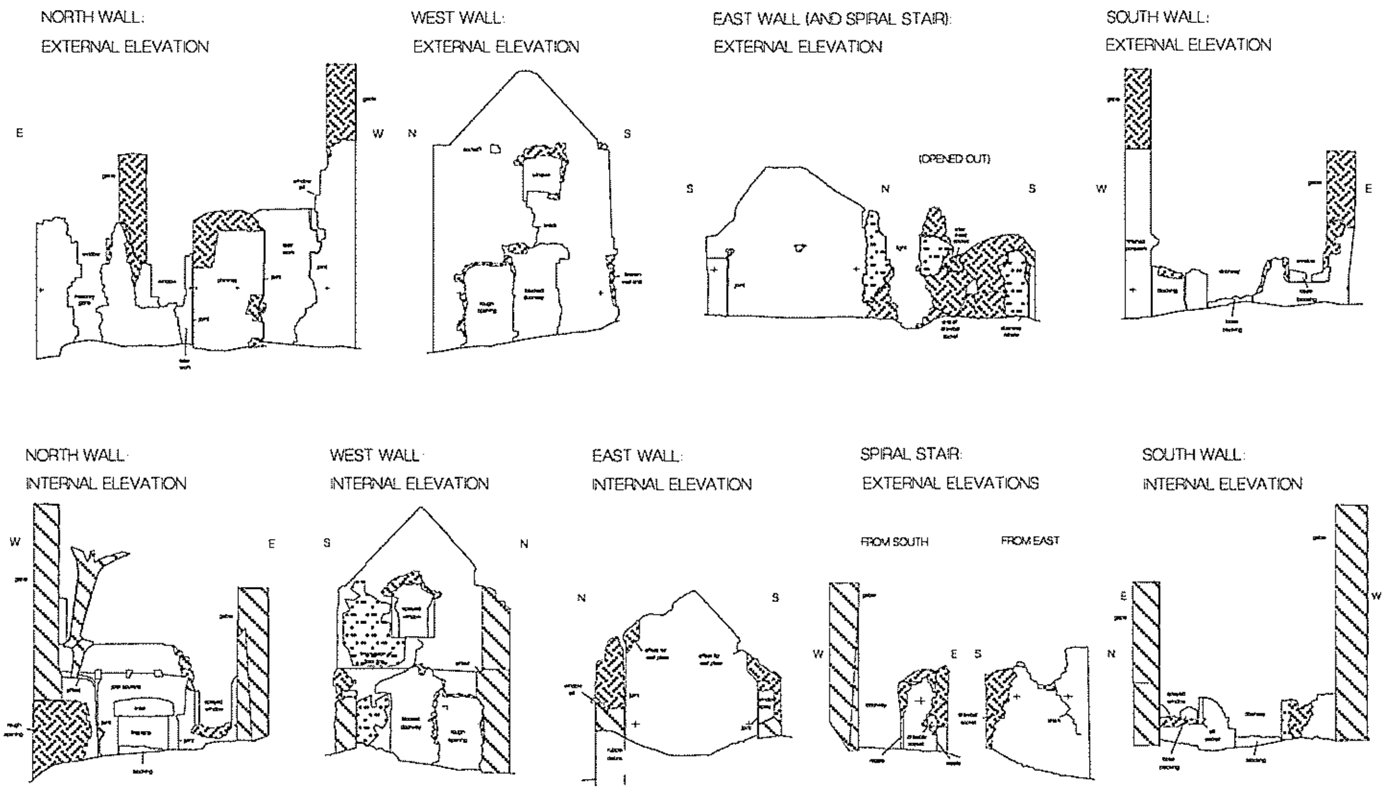
SOUTH WALL: EXTERNAL ELEVATION

EAST WALL: INTERNAL ELEVATION

SOUTH WALL: INTERNAL ELEVATION



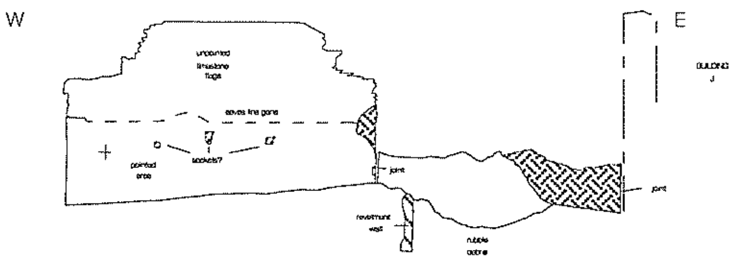
THE SISTERS' HOUSE, MINWEAR			wall in section
ILLUSTRATION 8: BUILDING G - ELEVATIONS			corework
Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology			plaster finish
Survey by: K Murphy & M Trethowan			ground line
Scale 1:50	April 1997	Record No. 3594	extent of vegetation



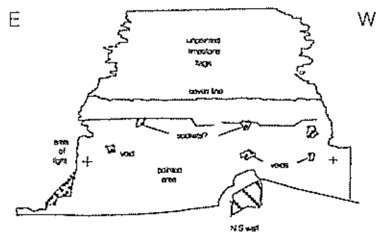
THE SISTERS' HOUSE, MINWEAR		
ILLUSTRATION 9: BUILDING H - ELEVATIONS		
Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology		
Survey by: N Ludlow, K Murphy, M Trethowan & H Wilson		
Scale 1:50	April 1997	Record No. 3594

wall in section
corework
plaster finish
ground line
extent of vegetation

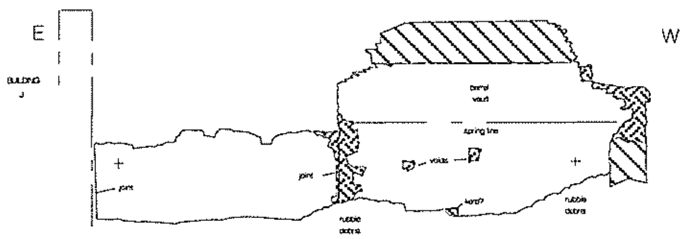
SOUTH WALL:
SOUTH ELEVATION



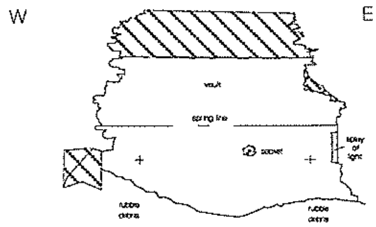
NORTH WALL:
NORTH ELEVATION



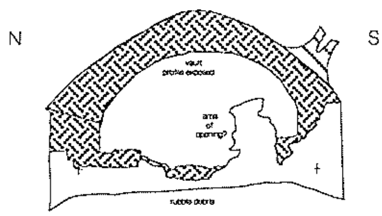
SOUTH WALL:
NORTH ELEVATION



NORTH WALL:
SOUTH ELEVATION



WEST WALL:
WEST ELEVATION



THE SISTERS' HOUSE, MINWEAR

ILLUSTRATION 10: BUILDING I - ELEVATIONS

Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology

Survey by: N Ludlow & H Wilson

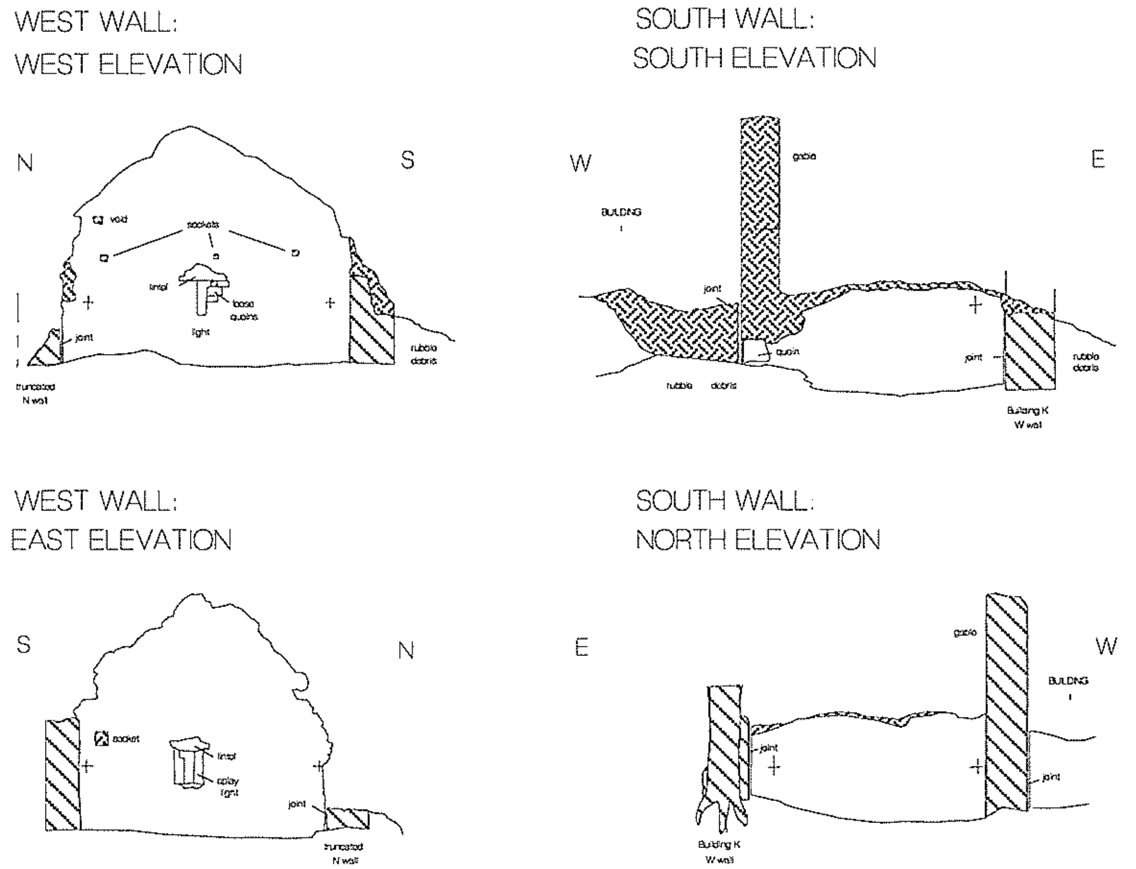
Scale 1:50	April 1997	Record No. 3594

wall in section

ground line

corework

extent of vegetation



THE SISTERS' HOUSE, MINWEAR

ILLUSTRATION 11: BUILDING J - ELEVATIONS

Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology

Survey by: N Ludlow & H Wilson

Scale 1:50	April 1997	Record No 3594

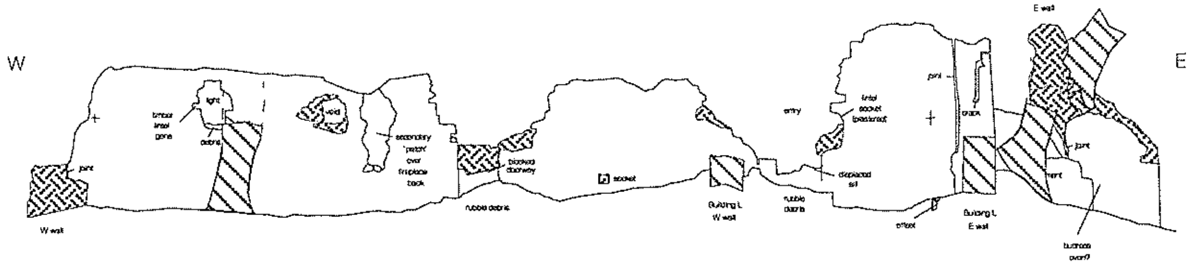
wall in section

corework

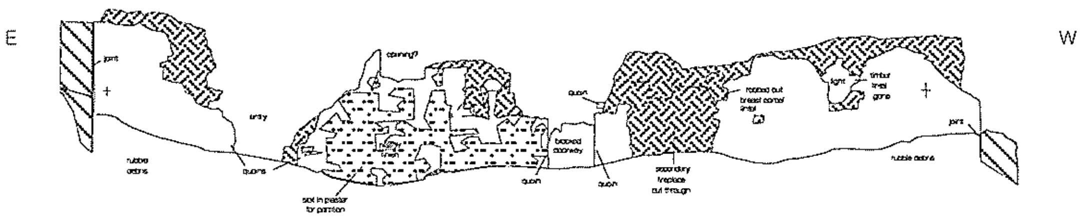
ground line

extent of vegetation

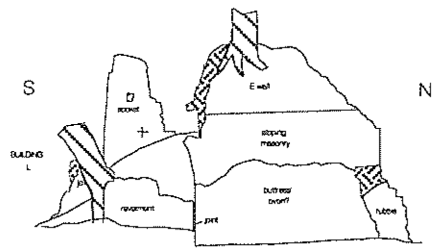
SOUTH WALL:
SOUTH ELEVATION



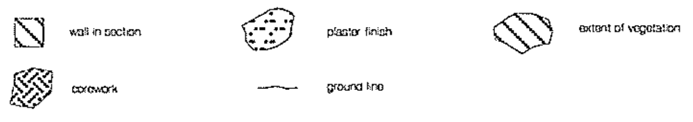
SOUTH WALL:
NORTH ELEVATION



EAST WALL:
EAST ELEVATION

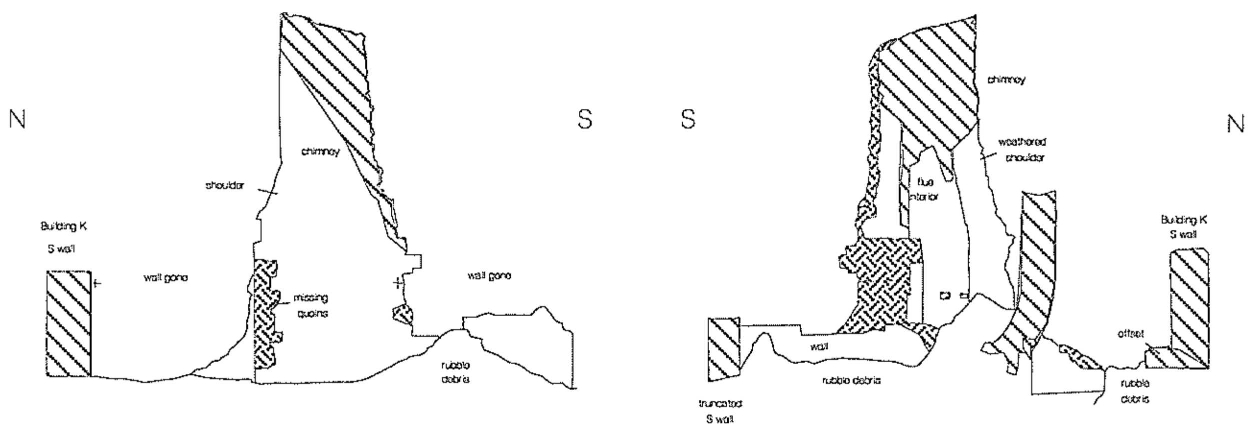


THE SISTERS' HOUSE, MINWEAR		
ILLUSTRATION 12: BUILDING K - ELEVATIONS		
Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology		
Survey by: N Ludlow & H Wilson		
Scale 1:50	April 1997	Record No. 3594



WEST ELEVATION

EAST ELEVATION



THE SISTERS' HOUSE, MINWEAR

ILLUSTRATION 13: BUILDING L -
WEST WALL ELEVATIONS

Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology

Survey by: N Ludlow & H Wilson

Scale 1:50	April 1997	Record No. 3594

wall in section

corework

ground line

extent of vegetation