

NEWTON HOUSE, DINEFWR BILLIARD ROOM RAPID BUILDING RECORDING



Prepared
by
Cambria Archaeology
for
THE NATIONAL TRUST



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

ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2006/24
PROJECT RECORD NO.56262

March 2006

**NEWTON HOUSE, DINEFWR
BILLIARD ROOM
RAPID BUILDING RECORDING**

By

Cambria Archaeology Field Services

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

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

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

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

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

Cwmni cyfyngedig (1198990) ynghyd ag elusen gofrestredig (504616) yw'r Ymddiriedolaeth. The Trust is both a Limited Company (No. 1198990) and a
Registered Charity (No. 504616)

CADEIRYDD CHAIRMAN: C R MUSSON MBE B Arch FSA MIFA. CYFARWYDDWR DIRECTOR: E G HUGHES BA FSA MIFA

NEWTON HOUSE, DINEFWR BILLIARD ROOM RAPID BUILDING RECORDING

Report No.2006/24

March 2006

This report has been prepared by Nigel Page

Position: Project Manager

Signature Date

This report has been checked and approved by Ken Murphy

Position: Principal Archaeological Officer Field Services

Signature Date

on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

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

NEWTON HOUSE, DINEFWR, BILLIARD ROOM RAPID BUILDING RECORDING

SUMMARY

Refurbishment of part of Dinefwr House, Llandeilo, resulted in the removal of the internal wall finishes in several rooms and corridors. This exposed the walls beneath and revealed a number of blocked openings and detail of the building's construction.

The owners of the house, The National Trust, requested that the walls be recorded before alterations and re-plastering covered the exposed details. Cambria Archaeology Field Services were commissioned to carry out the recording in October and November 2005.

The works revealed that the billiard room wing was of at least two phases and it appeared that former external spaces had been roofed over and utilised as extra rooms.

Original finishes and decorative fittings – such as wooden panelling and plaster cornices – survived in some areas, particularly in Rooms 1 and 2, the former billiard room (Room 2) and what may originally have been a study or sitting room (Room 1).

A comprehensive archive of measured drawings and photographs has been prepared and is presented in various formats.

INTRODUCTION

Newton House was constructed in c.1660, with extensive re-modelling in the 18th century and the mid 19th century that has resulted in its present form. The mid 17th century house largely survives and forms the core of the house. The focus of this rapid recording was an extension of the late 19th century, 1896, which contained the billiard room.

Methodology

The survey recorded 6 rooms (Rooms 1-6). Following the removal of the internal finishes the walls were recorded using a combination of measured sketch drawings and digital photography. The sketch drawings were later turned into measured drawing using Adobe Illustrator 9.0 software.

The digital photographs were taken to provide a visual record of the walls and to aid the recasting of the drawings and the following descriptions.

This approach was decided on as it allowed fairly rapid on-site recording and the retrieval of as much information as possible within the project resources.

Room numbers

The room numbering system used throughout the recording and this report is that supplied on a ground plan of the site by The National Trust. Descriptions of the internal elevations for all rooms are described in the same order of north, east, south and west.

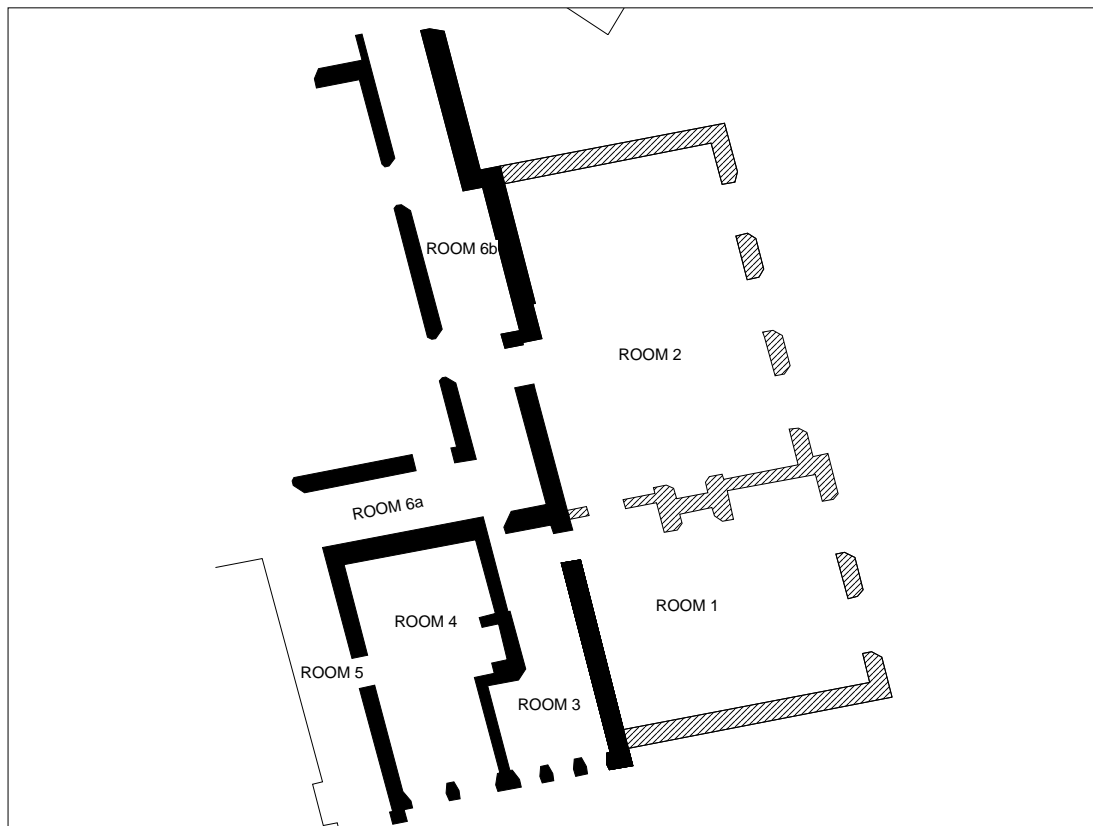


Figure 1: Ground plan of survey area showing the phases of construction (solid black = 18th – early 19th century; Hatched areas = 1896 extension) and room numbers.

THE SURVEY

The following descriptions are brief and intended only to support the drawings and photographs.

Room 1

North wall (Fig. 2; Plate 1)

A predominately red brick wall with a central fireplace and chimneybreast. The chimney breast is a combination of red brick and coursed stonework. The chimneybreast is flanked on either side by doorways, 2.23m high x 1.13m wide, that lead to Room 2. The western opening was original but the eastern opening new.

East wall (Fig. 3; Plate 2)

The east wall contained two large square headed windows, 2.35m high x 1.84m wide. Wooden panelling survived below the windows and a decorative plaster cornice survived at ceiling height. The wall was constructed from coursed rubble stonework with brick relieving arches over the windows. The timber window frames survived, but were covered for protection during this survey.

South wall (Fig. 4; Plate 3)

The south wall was constructed from red brick and contained no evidence of any former openings. Three small square ventilation holes were present below the original floor level.

West wall (Fig. 5; Plate 4)

The west wall was a mixture of coursed stonework and red brick. The northernmost 3m were constructed from coursed stone, whilst the southern half was red brick. There was a doorway to a neighbouring room (Room 3) at the northern end of the wall and a blocked doorway at the south end of the wall. Interestingly, this doorway had been bricked-up so that it blended almost perfectly with the brick courses in the surrounding wall.

Room 2

North wall (Fig. 6)

A plain coursed rubble stone wall with no openings or other features present. This wall was not photographed.

East wall (Fig. 7; Plate 5)

The east wall contained three large square headed windows, 2.35m high x 1.84m wide. Wooden panelling survived below the windows and a decorative plaster cornice survived at ceiling height. The wall was constructed from coursed rubble stonework with brick relieving arches over the windows. The timber window frames survived. This wall matched the east wall in Room 1.

South wall (Fig. 8; Plate 6)

This wall is the rear of the North wall of Room 1. It is, therefore, constructed from red brick and it has a central fireplace and chimneybreast. This chimneybreast is

also a combination of red brick and coursed stonework. The chimneybreast is flanked on either side by doorways, 2.23m high x 1.13m wide, that lead to Room 1.

West wall (Fig. 9; Plate 7)

A plain wall constructed using red brick. There is a central doorway and from the north side of the door opening the wall is stepped in by c.0.5m.

Room 3

North wall (Fig. 10; Plate 8)

A narrow rectangular wall measuring c.2m wide x 4.5m high. A former ceiling line shows the upper floor level. The lower section of the wall is rendered and painted a yellow/cream colour. A door in the west side of the wall led to a short flight of steps to the main corridor.

The upper levels of the wall (above the former ceiling level) also exhibited what appeared to be a scar from a timber floor, approximately 0.75m above the former ceiling line, and the line of a former sloping roof. The former roof line sloped from east to west and it was marked by a change from render (above the roof line) to brick (below the roof line). An area of stonework and a void were exposed in the space between the former ceiling line and possible floor level.

East wall (Fig. 11; Plate 9)

The east wall measured 6.7m x 4.5m. The lower half was rendered and painted yellow and white up to the former ceiling height. The upper half was a mix of stone and red brick and it exhibited a vertical wall scar from a removed partition. A horizontal timber and a single course of bricks let into the stonework corresponded to the possible former floor line in the north wall.

South wall (Fig. 12; Plate 10)

The south wall had a sloping roof that whilst sloping in the same direction did not match the former roofline on the north wall. The lower half of the wall, up to the base of the roof slope, was rendered and painted cream. The base of the roof slope also corresponded to the former ceiling height of the room. The lower half had three identical square-headed windows with internal splays and wooden frames. A blocked opening in the upper part of the wall was square-headed and had brick quoins.

West wall (Fig. 13; Plate 11)

A plain rendered wall with a new doorway in the north end. The southern half of the wall is set back by about 1m. The corner of the return wall is chamfered. Steps at the northern end lead to the main corridor.

Room 4

North wall (Fig. 14; Plate 12)

The north wall was constructed from rough coursed stonework, although the top right hand corner and some of the right hand side had been infilled with red brick. A former sloping roof scar was evident, which also marked the join between the stonework and the brick infilling at the top of the wall.

The former roofline and the areas of brick infilling suggest that part of this area was originally external and that it was converted by the raising of the roofline and blocking the gaps in the wall.

East wall (Fig. 15; Plate 13)

The east wall is staggered, stepping back twice by approximately 0.5m on each occasion. This divides the wall into three, with the only feature of note a blocked fireplace in the central section. The height of the southern two-thirds of the wall matches the bottom of the sloping roofline of the north and south (see below) walls. The roofline of the northern third of the wall rises to match the full height of the north wall.

South wall (Fig. 16; Plate 14)

This is a narrow stone-built wall with a sloping roofline. It contained three square-headed windows, all with brick surrounds. Two large windows occupied the full width of the central section of the wall and may have been later insertions. The openings for the two large windows were formed in red brick and were splayed on either side. The third window was smaller and occupied the space below the sloping roofline.

West wall (Fig. 17; Plate 15)

The west wall measures c.7m long x 5.6m high. The only feature in the lower half of the wall is a door to the main corridor (Room 5). The door opening has a timber lintel and stone relieving arch and is positioned just north of central in the wall. A former ceiling line – which matched the height of the lower portion of the east wall – was marked by redundant floor joist hangers for a timber floor of an upper room.

The lower part of a blocked window was recorded in the upper left hand corner of the wall and several wall scars from light partitions shows that the upper room was sub-divided at some point in its history.

Room 5

Room 5 is the southern end of a dog-leg corridor leading from the external south door through the billiard room wing to the main house. A door in the east wall leads to Room 4.

There is no north wall.

East wall (Fig. 18; Plate 16)

A plain coursed stone wall. This wall was recorded as a double height wall because the floor to the upstairs had been removed. A plain square-headed door with a timber lintel and stone relieving arch leading into Room 4 is the only feature in the lower half of the wall. The door jambs are chamfered.

The wall of the upper floor has part of a blocked window in the top right hand corner. This is the same window that was recorded in the west wall of Room 4. The only other feature visible in this part of the wall was a vertical wall scar from a former lightweight partition.

South wall (Fig. 19; Plate 17)

The south wall leads from an external door reached via a short flight of concrete steps. The door opening is square-headed with a stone relieving arch above and it has splayed jambs. There is a glass light above the door. A narrow square-headed window takes up most of the upper section of the wall.

West wall (Figs. 20; Plates 18, 19, 20 and 21)

The west wall is very complex and shows several phases of construction. As with the east wall this was recorded as double-height wall because of the removal of the floor to the upper level. The wall will be described in ground and upper floors and from south to north.

The lower floor

A blocked square-headed doorway occupied the southern most 1.76m. The door had a timber lintel and the opening was blocked with breeze blocks. A small square blocked opening was located 0.21m above the right hand jamb of the blocked door. The top of the opening only extended as far as the former ceiling line and it did not extend into the upper floor level.

Approximately 1.5m north of the opening was a larger blocked opening, 1m wide x 1.8m high, probably a former window. This had a timber lintel and two horizontal timbers that separated the blocking into three sections, suggesting that the window may have been blocked in stages. There was an identical opening, also blocked 1.3m to the north.

This blocked window had had a smaller, later opening, also blocked, inserted into it. The later opening was 0.6m wide x 1.2m high.

A large blocked doorway, 1.65m wide x 2.4m high extended south from the north end of the wall. The doorway had a large timber lintel and stone relieving arch above.

The upper floor

Just like on the ground floor, a blocked opening – possibly a doorway – occupied the southern end of the wall. The opening measured 1.22m wide x 2.50m high and it was headed by a squared timber lintel. Above the lintel were two small brick piers constructed to support a wall plate for the decorative roof timbers. Stone blocking filled the gap between the piers. The upper left hand corner of the blocked opening had apparently been knocked through some time after the possible door was blocked. This later opening was subsequently filled by breeze blocks.

A second large blocked opening, also probably a doorway, was located 0.88m to the north of the first door. This second door was 1.28m wide x 2.45m high making it almost identical in size to the first doorway. The right hand edge of the door had been cut through a former window. The window was one of a pair, the other being 1.3m to the north. Both windows were blocked with stone coursed to match the surrounding wall.

The north end of the wall contained a blocked opening, probably a doorway to match the one on the ground floor. Part of the wall had been damaged at the top left hand corner of the former door, possibly when the lintel was removed.

Room 6a

Room 6a is the central part of the main corridor that links the billiard room wing to the main house. It is a short stretch running east-west and linking Room 5 and Room 6b. It consists of a north wall and a south wall.

North wall (Fig. 21: Plate 22)

The north wall is stone-built and consists of an upper and lower floor.

The lower floor

The lower floor wall contains a window and a door, which opened onto the passage to the boiler room. The window, which was a partially blocked door, lies at the north end of the Room 5 opposite the external door. The door is located at the east end of the wall and consists of glazed French doors. Both the window and doors have a timber lintel and stone relieving arch above.

The upper floor

The upper portion of the wall, corresponding to the upper floor, contains two full height windows, which open onto the servants' hall. The windows were intact but covered during this survey. They were square headed and had flared internal reveals. The windows were of the same design but the opening for the eastern window was 0.6m wider than the westernmost window.

South wall (Fig. 22: Plates 23, 24 and 25)

A plain coursed stone wall with a short flight of concrete steps leading to the door leading to Room 3 at its east end.

Room 6b

This room consists of the northern end of the corridor with Rooms 5 and 6a.

East wall (Fig. 23: Plates 26 and 27)

This part of the corridor is split-level, with a short flight of concrete steps leading up from Room 6a at the south end. The door to Rooms 1 and 2 is situated at the top of these steps. This is the only feature in the lower section of the wall.

The wooden stairs to the upper level of the corridor are fixed against the east wall. A door, reached by a short flight of wooden steps leads to the attic space above Rooms 1 and 2.

The wall was constructed from coursed stonework and the upper level had a number of single courses of brick. These courses were of varying lengths and were inserted to replace squared timbers. There was no consistent pattern to the positions of the brick courses (or former timbers) on this wall, although there were three regular horizontal courses in the west wall. The function of the former timbers is uncertain, but it may have been to hang wooden panelling.

West wall (Fig. 24: Plates 28, 29 and 30)

The west wall is more complex than the east wall. The lower floor was split-level, with concrete steps down to Room 6a at the south end. There was a window that

looks out onto the servants' hall at the top of the steps. Another identical window was located c.3.4m to the north. Both the windows were full height with internal splays and wooden frames.

A partially bricked opening, possibly a fireplace, in the wall was placed centrally between the windows. The stainless steel flue from the boiler rises through the opening. The opening had a simple Bath Stone surround, which seemed out of character with the fireplaces in Rooms 1 and 2. It is possible that the opening was an earlier window converted to a fireplace before being utilised for the boiler flue. More detailed study of this feature may reveal more information about its construction and purpose.

The upper floor mirrored the lower floor with exactly the same arrangements of windows flanking a central opening, which like the opening on the lower floor was possibly a fireplace. The windows were covered, but were the same dimensions as those on the lower floor and were presumably the same design. The possible fireplace was a simple narrow rectangular opening with a flat brick arch, which may have been constructed to accommodate the insertion of the steel flue from the boiler. Again more detailed study in this area may reveal the construction sequence for the opening and its original function.

DISCUSSION

The survey, whilst rapid and specifically aimed at providing a visual record of the exposed walls, has revealed evidence of the phases of construction of the billiard room wing.

Phase 1 consisted of the corridor that is made up of Rooms 5, 6a and 6b and it linked the house to the range of farm and service buildings to the southwest. This range was shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1881, so it dates from the remodelling of the house in the 18th or early – mid 19th centuries.

Phase 2 saw the construction of the billiard room and the small sitting room or study (Rooms 1 and 2) in c.1896.

Rooms 3 and 4 appear to have been added sometime later, by roofing over the irregular external space between the east wall of Room 5 and the west wall of the billiard room extension. This process of infilling would explain the former roof lines visible in the interior walls of Rooms 3 and 4.

There are a few elements that cannot be easily explained, in particular the fireplaces in the west wall of the corridor (Room 6b), which seem out of place in a corridor, although it is possible that the downstairs fireplace may have been converted from an earlier opening in what was originally an external wall.

The Archive

The survey produced a comprehensive set of site drawings, report drawings and photographs. These have been collated into an archive consisting of 31 measured drawings and 97 photographs. It also contains a copy of the final report and the site drawings.

The archive is presented in various formats on CD, DVD and in hard copy. An index outlines the contents of each section of the archive.

**NEWTON HOUSE BILLIARD ROOM
BUILDING RECORDING**

ILLUSTRATIONS

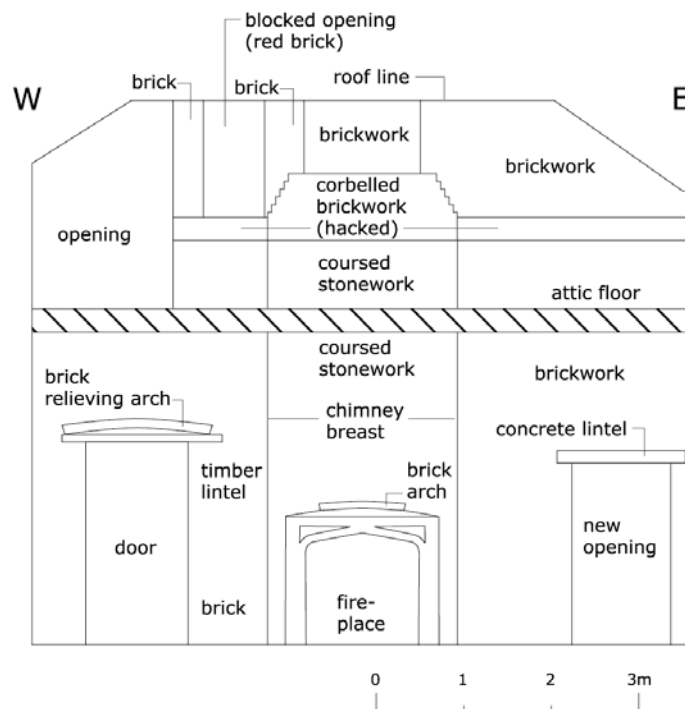


Figure 2: North wall of Room 1, including attic.



Plate 1: The central fireplace in the North wall of Room 1.

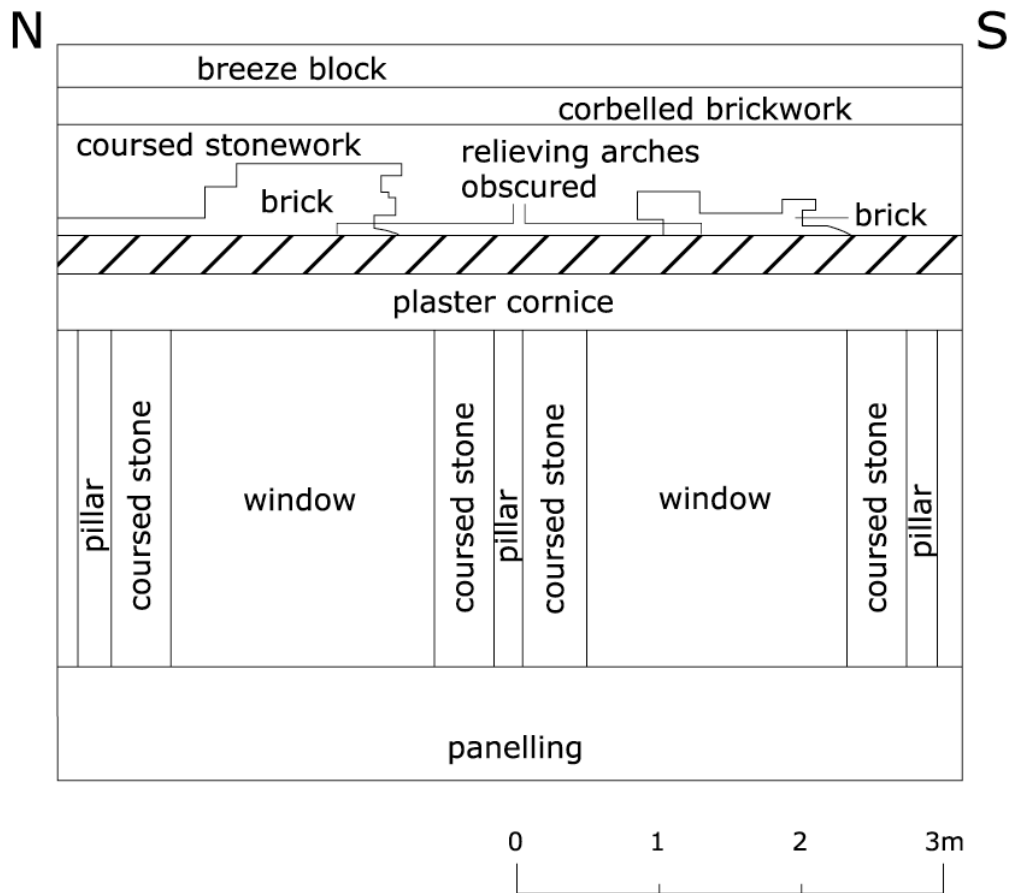


Figure 3: East wall of Room 1, including attic.



Plate 2: The large covered windows in the east wall of Room 1.

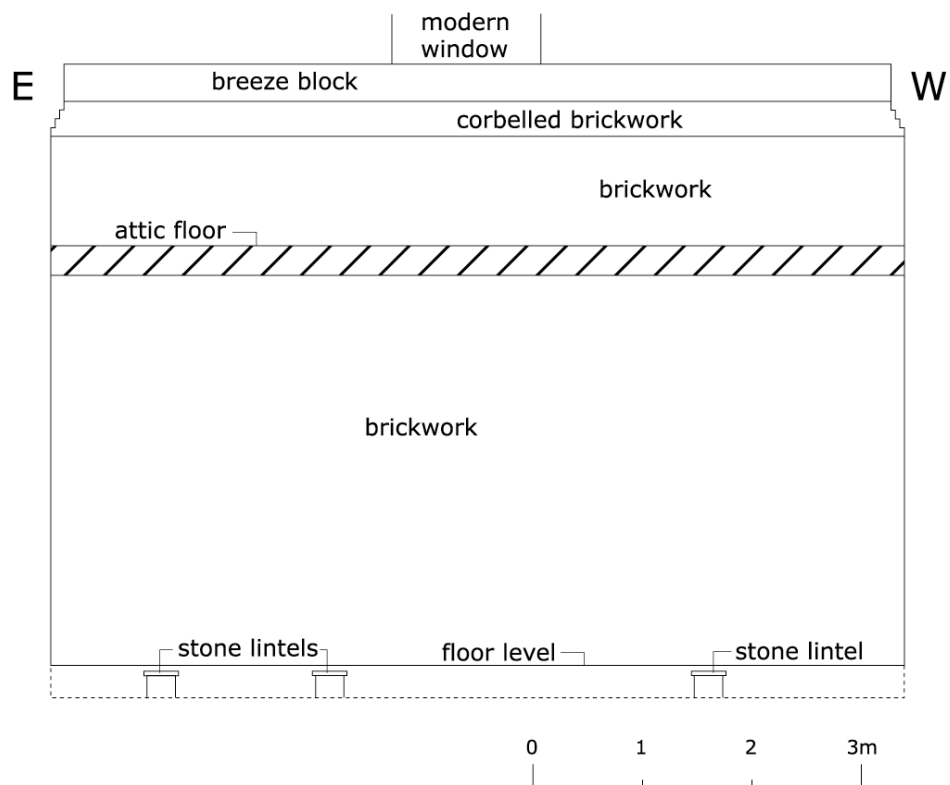


Figure 4: South wall of Room 1, including attic.



Plate 3: The east end of the south wall of Room 1.

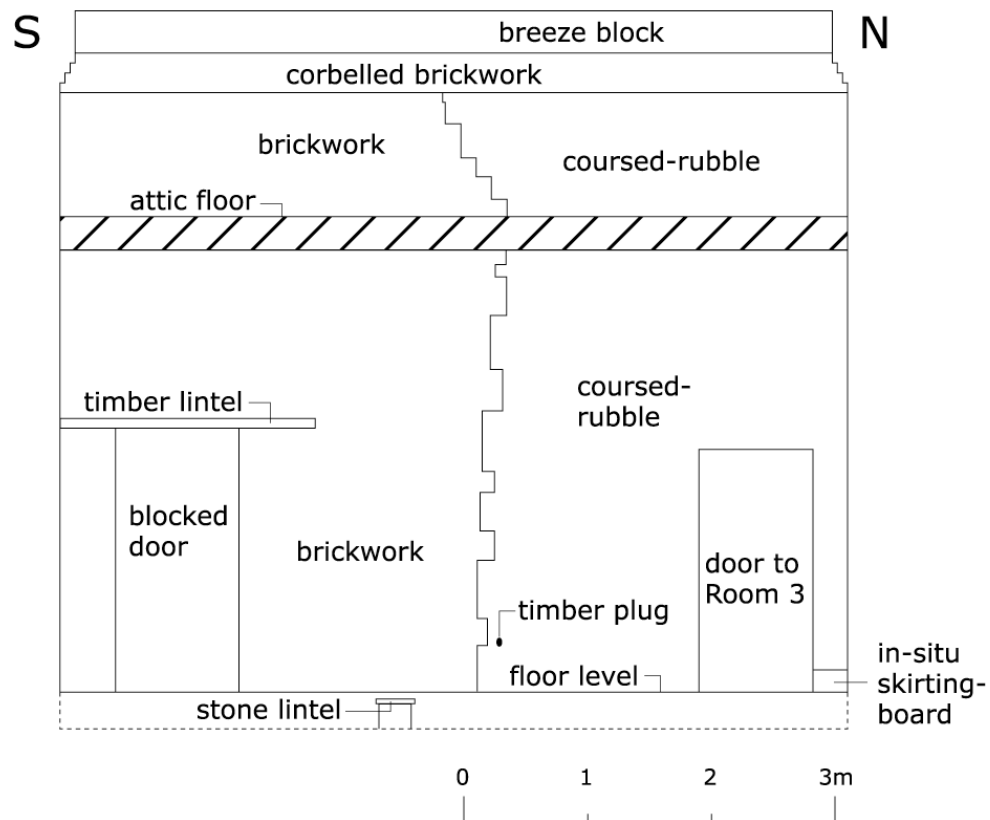


Figure 5: West wall of Room 1, including attic.



Plate 4: The west wall of Room 1.

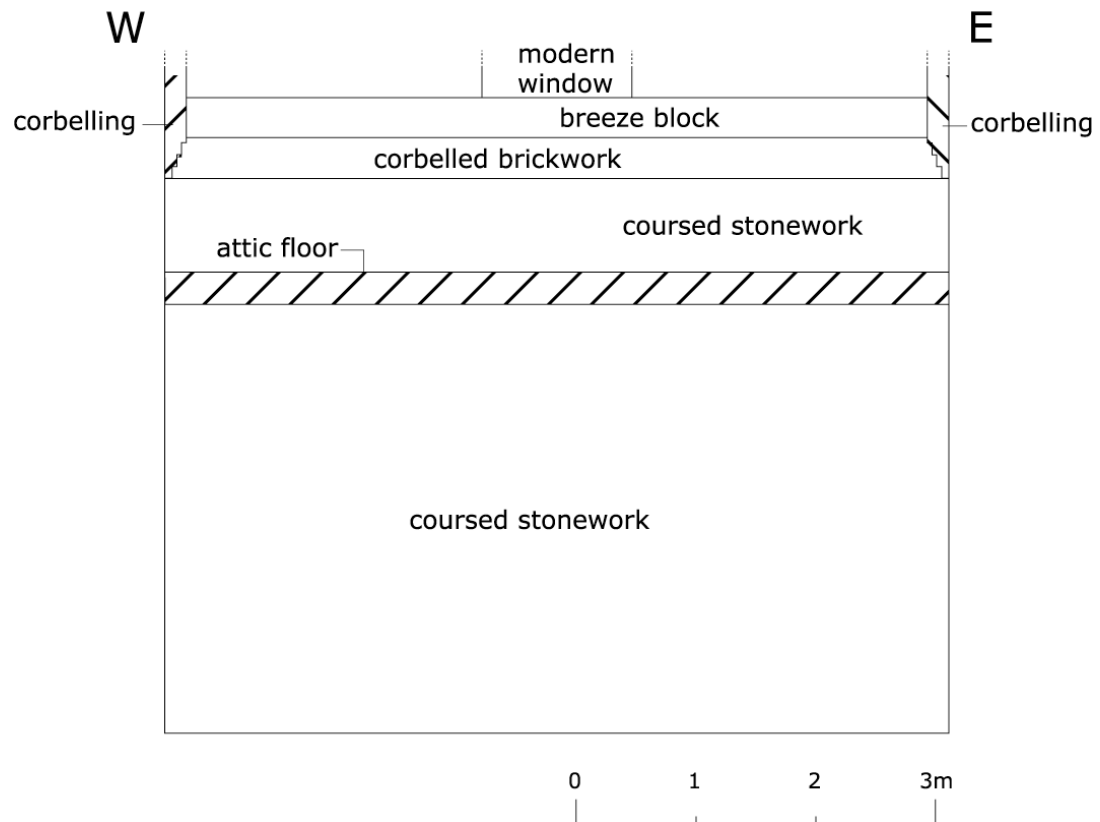


Figure 6: North wall of Room 2, including attic.

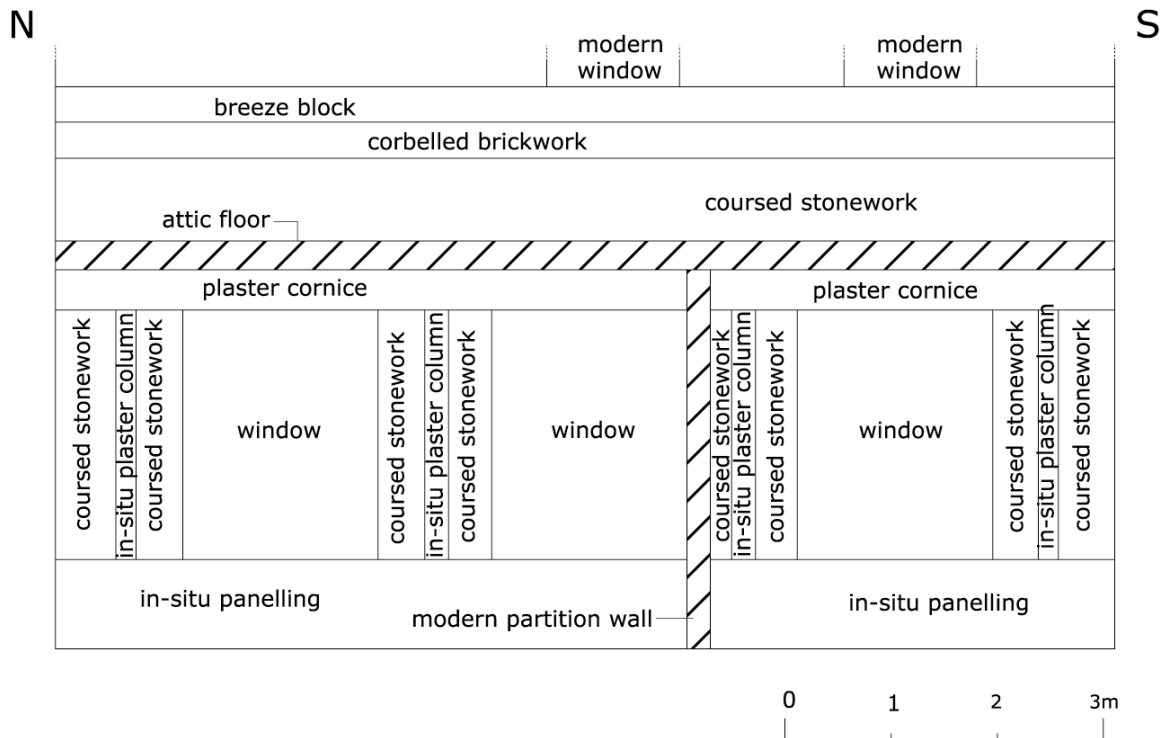


Figure 7: East wall of Room 2, including attic.



Plate 5: Blocked window in the south end of the east wall of Room 2.

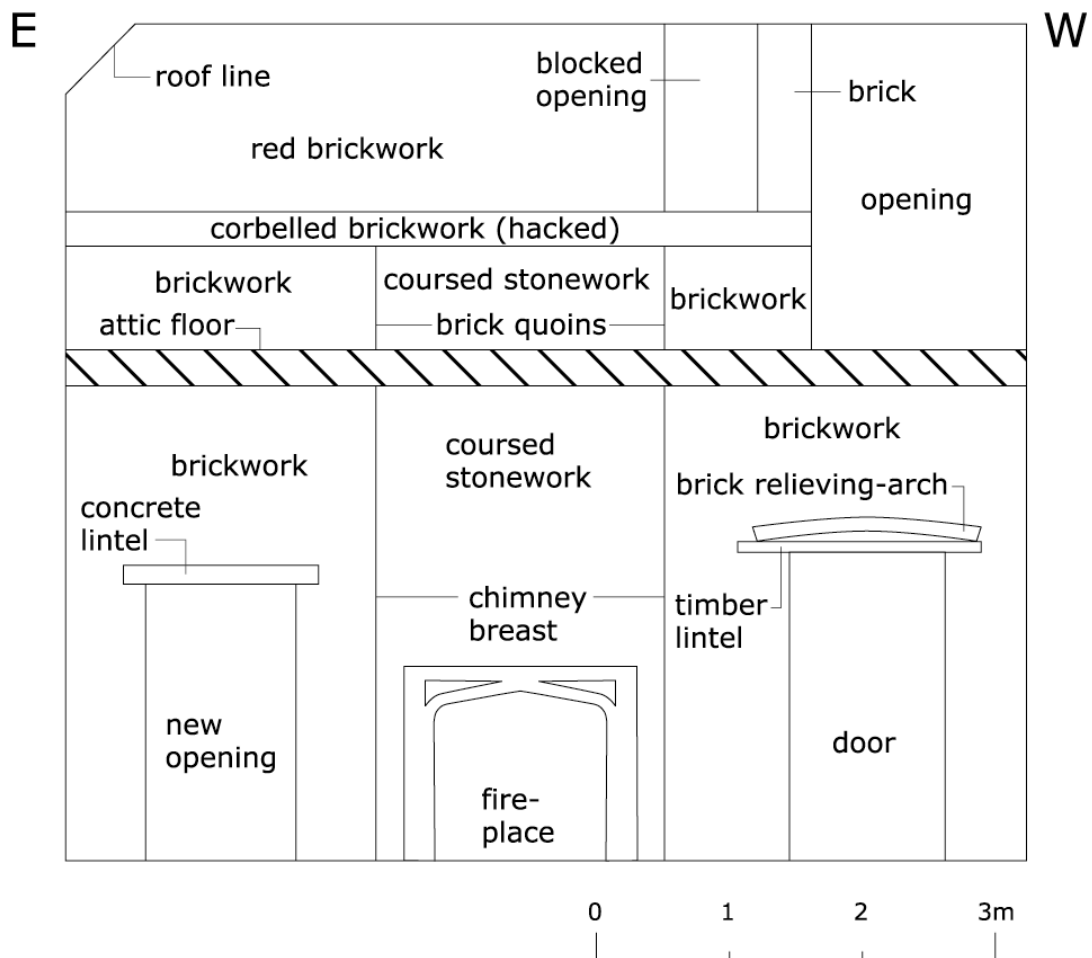


Figure 8: South wall of Room 2, including attic.



Plate 6: The central fireplace in the south wall of Room 2.

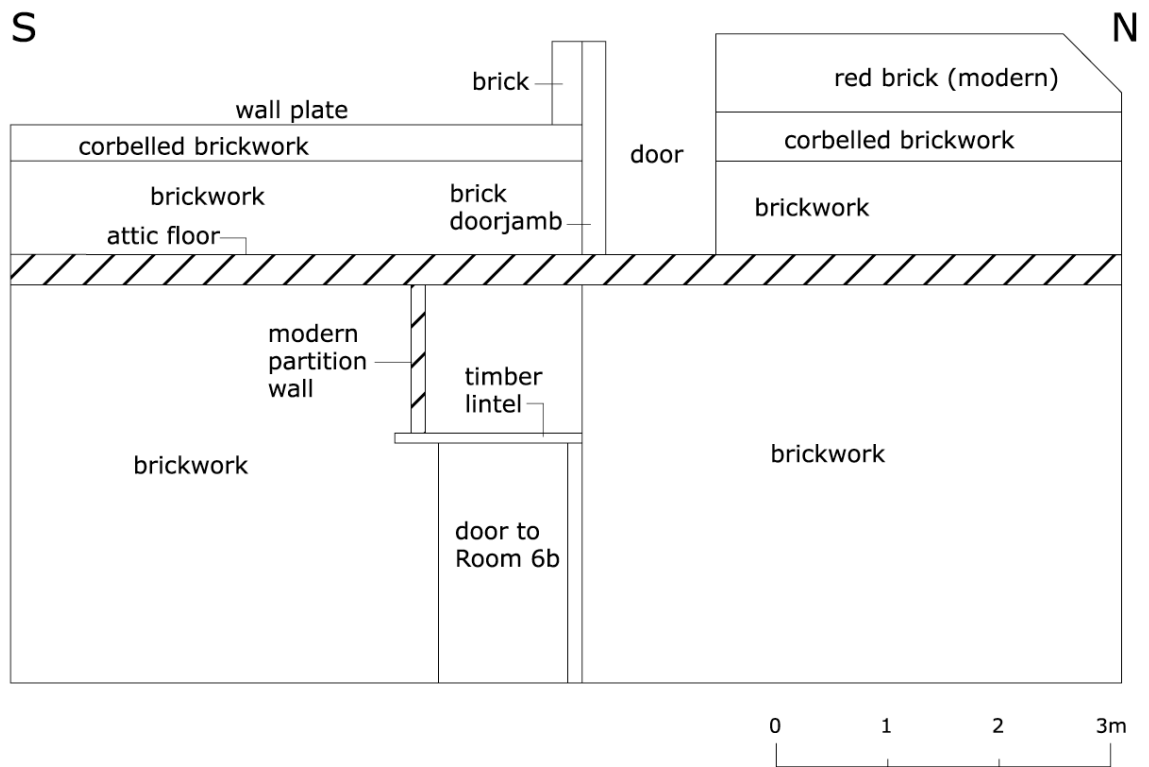


Figure 9: West wall of Room 2, including attic.



Plate 7: The west wall of Room 2.

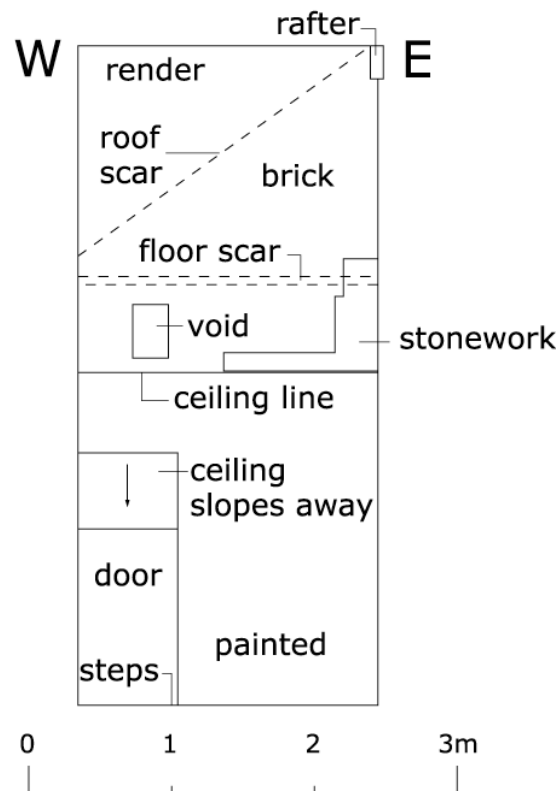


Figure 10: North wall of Room 3.



Plate 8: The north wall of Room 3, showing the old roof scar.

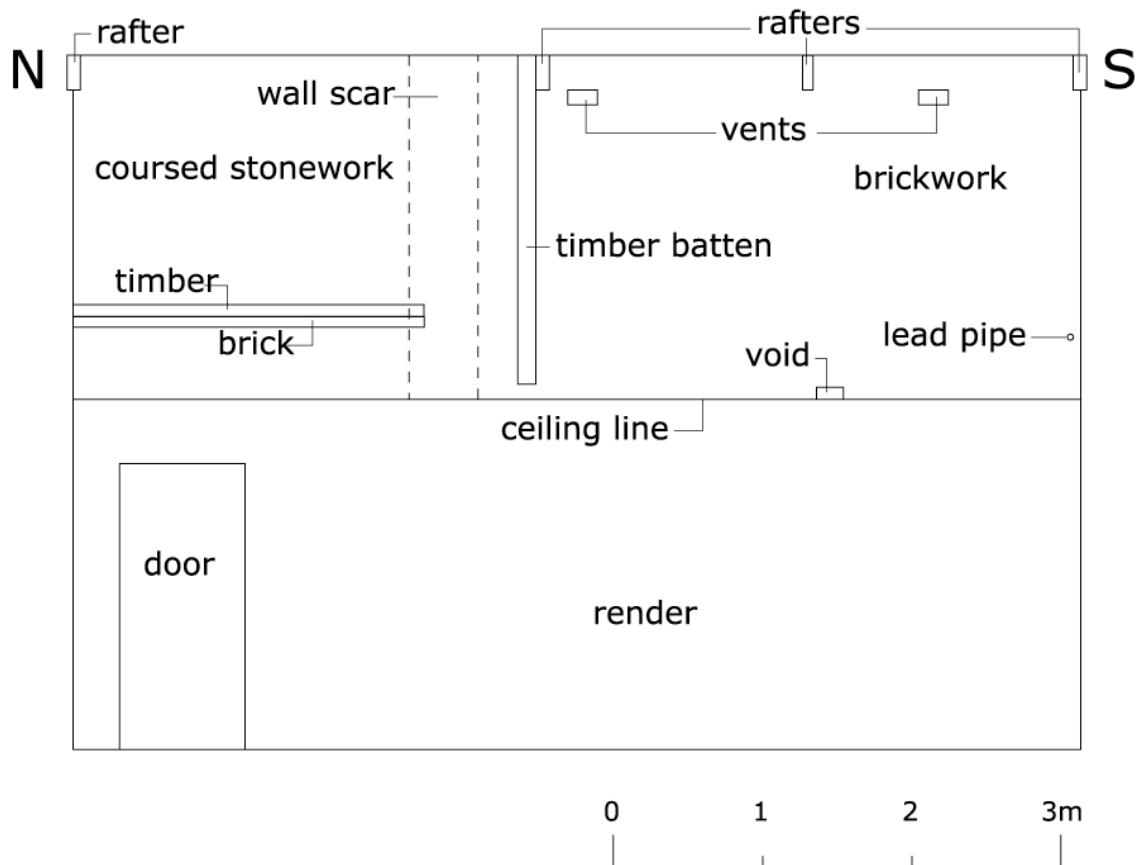


Figure 11: east wall of Room 3.



Plate 9: the upper portion of the east wall in Room 3.

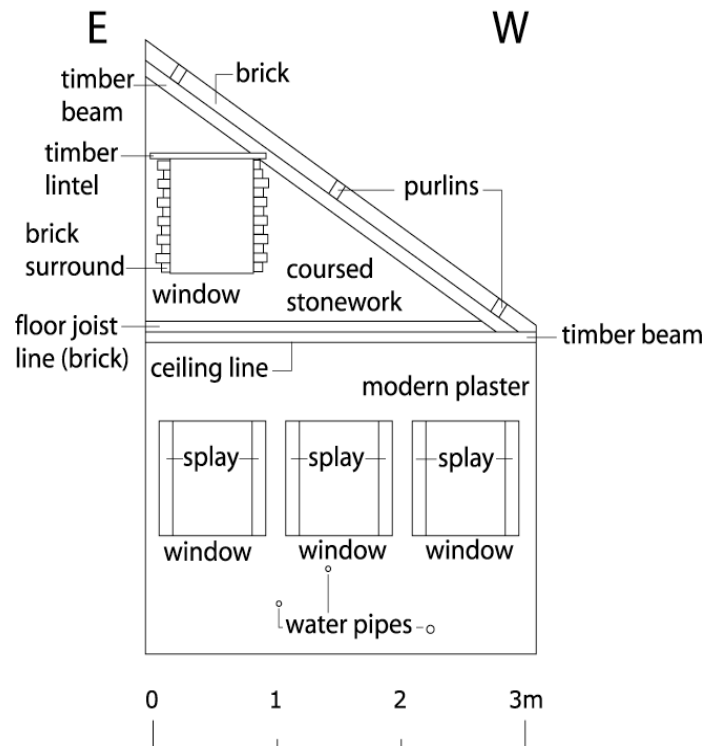


Figure 12: South wall of Room 3.



Plate 10: The south wall of Room 3.

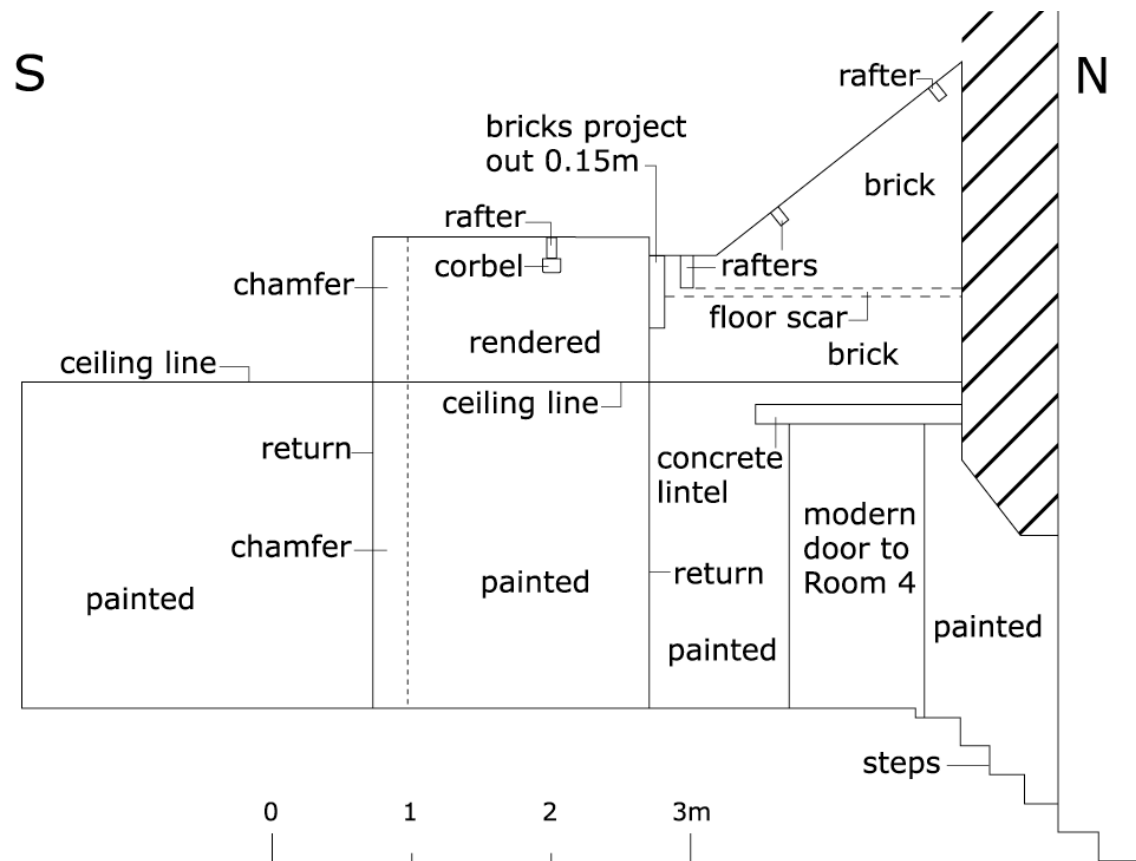


Figure 13: West wall of Room 3.



Plate 11: The south end of the west wall of Room 3.

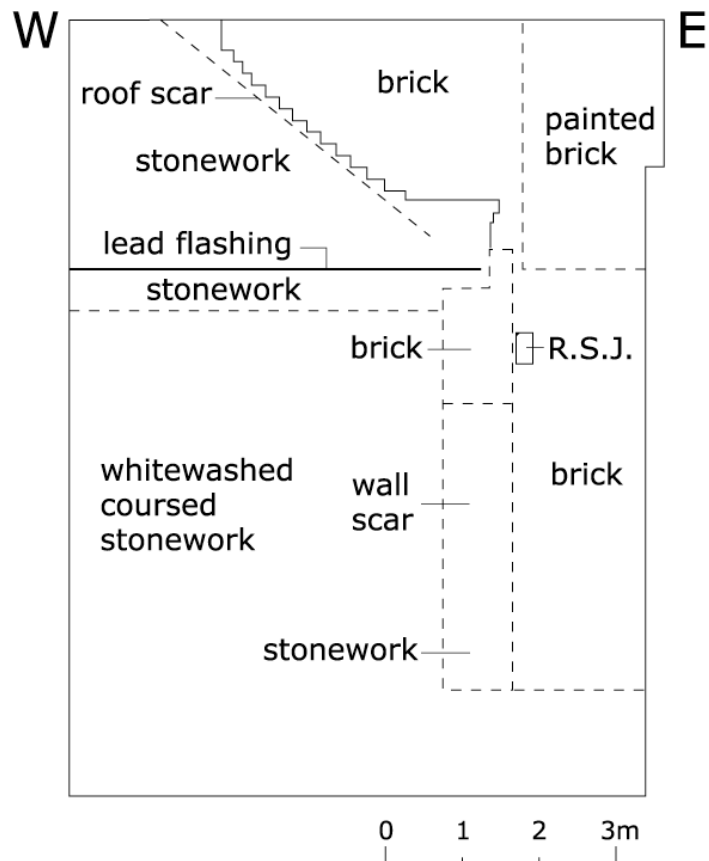


Figure 14: North wall of Room 4



Plate 12: The north wall of Room 4.

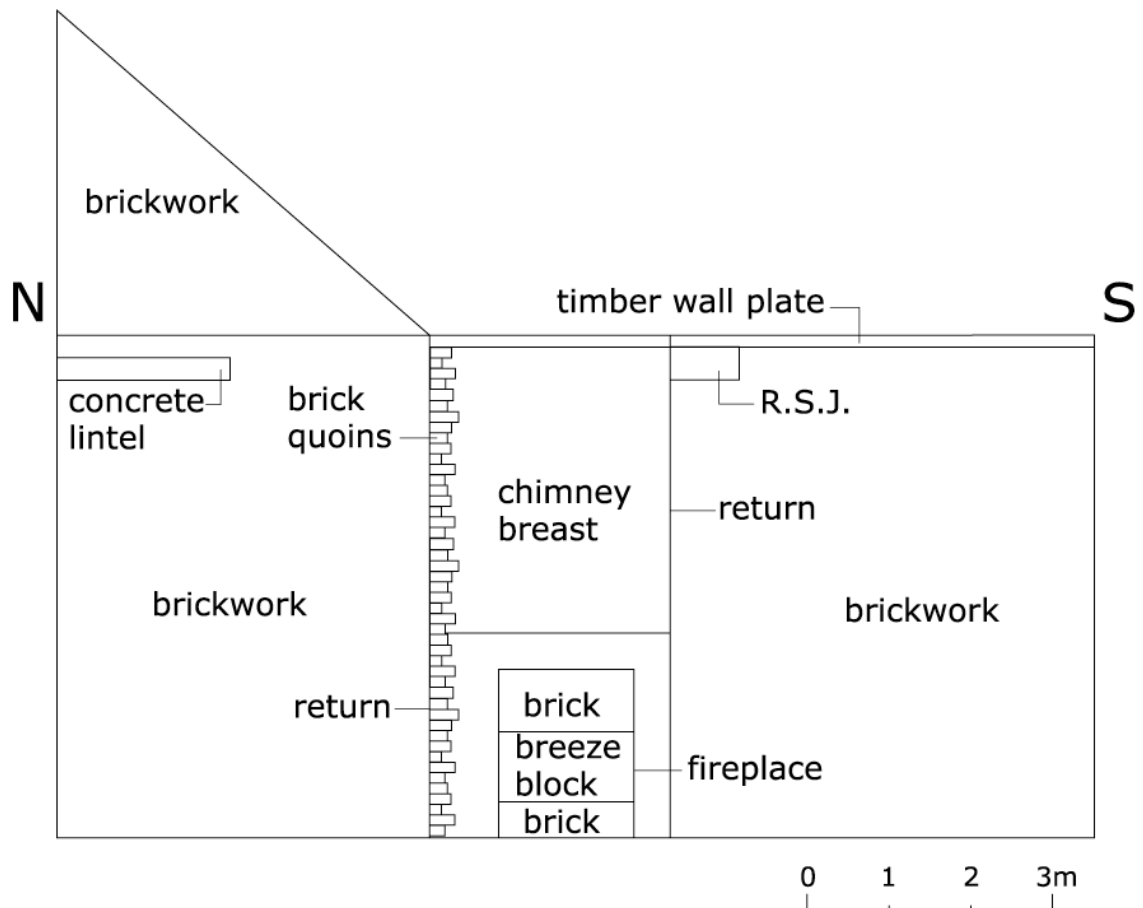


Figure 15: East wall of Room 4.



Plate 13: The blocked fireplace in the east wall of Room 4.

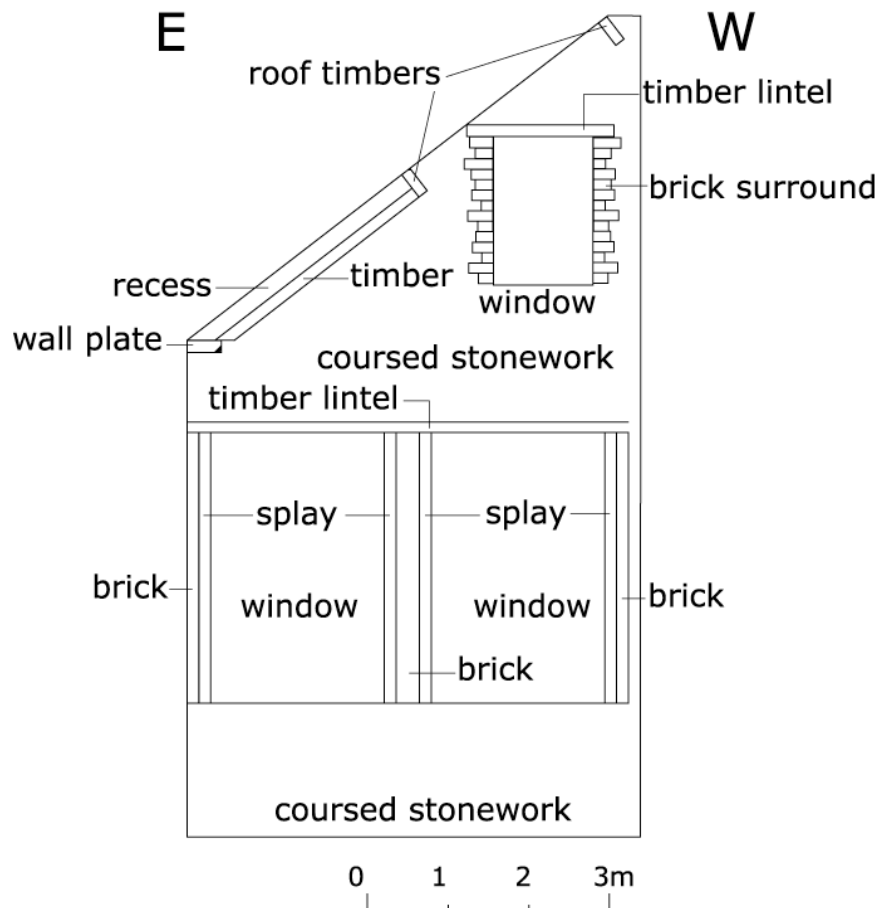


Figure 16: South wall of Room 4.



Plate 14: the upper window in the south wall of Room 4.

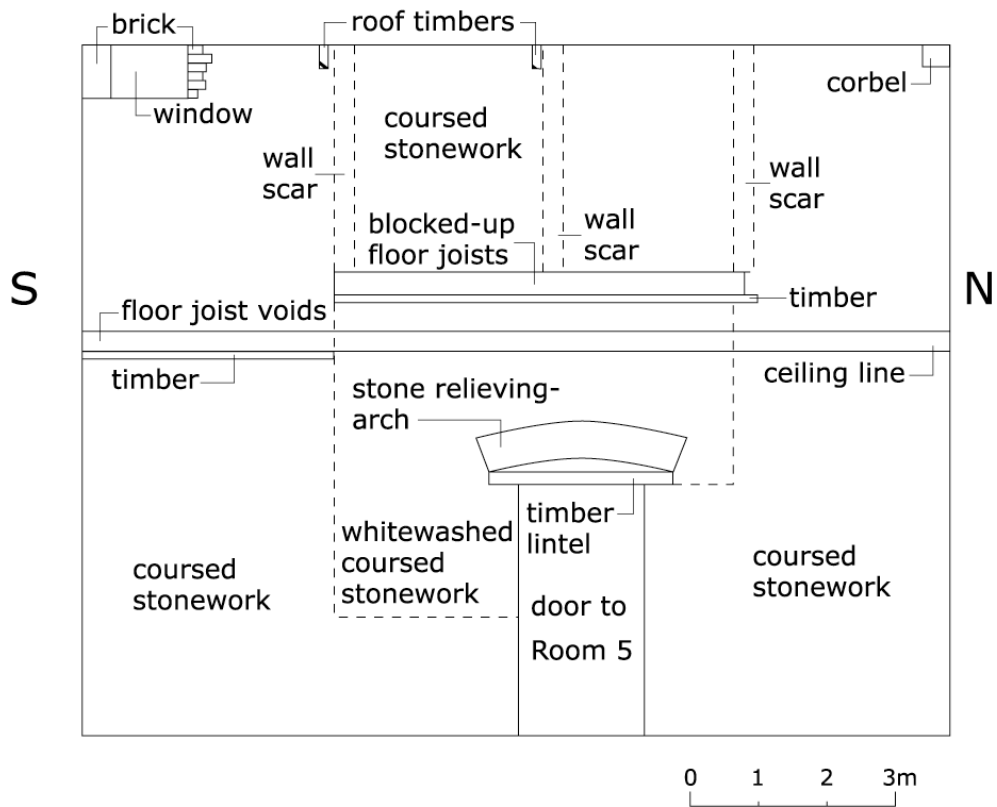


Figure 17: West wall of Room 4.



Plate 15: A section of the west wall of Room 4.

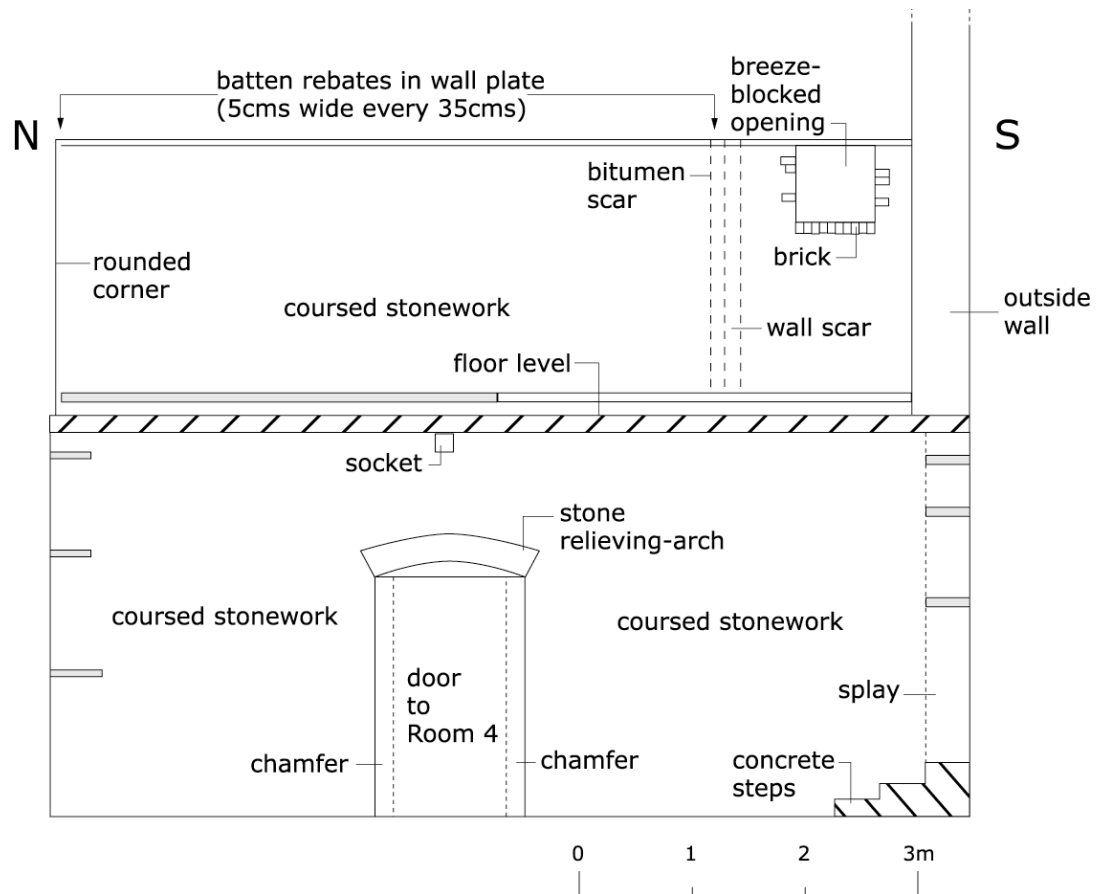


Figure 18: east wall of Room 5.



Plate 16: The stone relieving arch above the doorway to Room 4 in the east wall of Room 5.

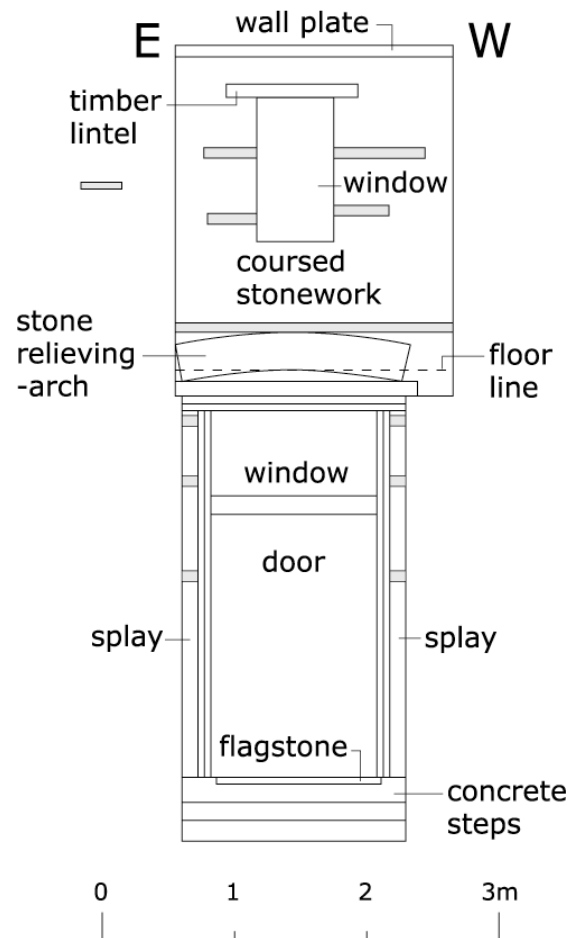


Figure 19: South wall of Room 5.



Plate 17: the external door in the south wall of Room 5.

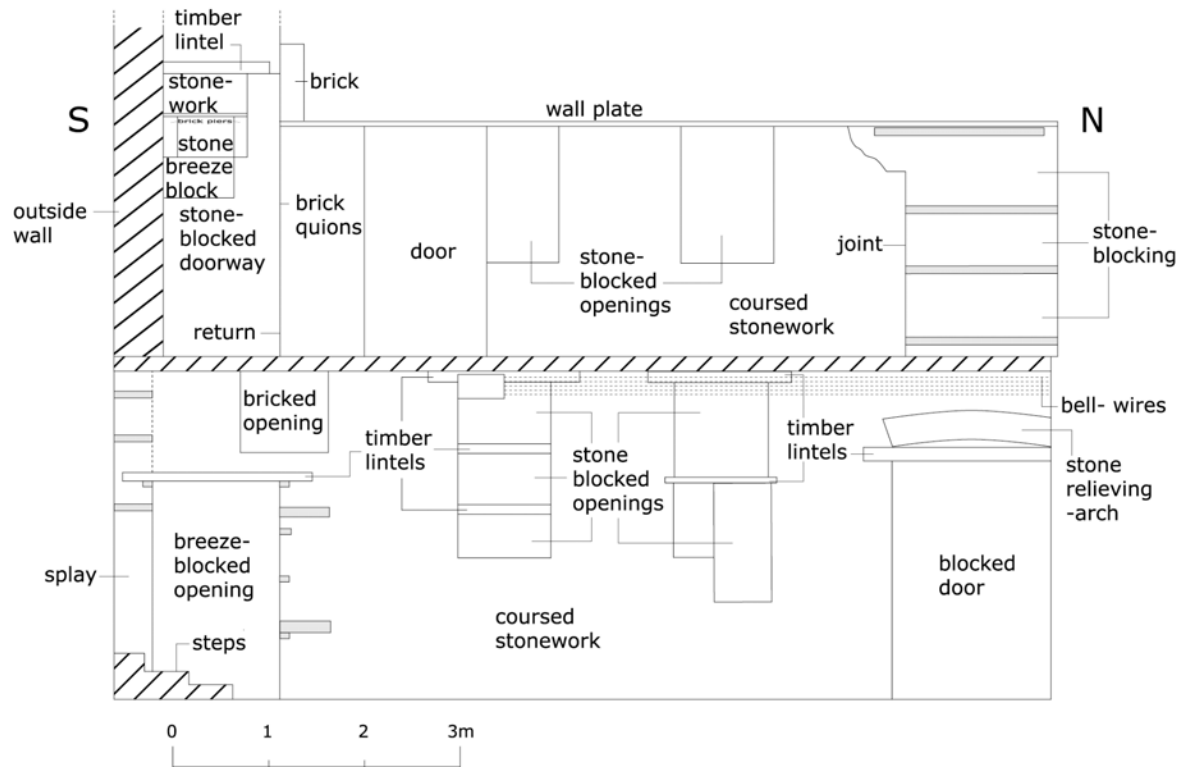


Figure 20: West wall of Room 5.



Plate 18: The blocked doorway at the south end of the west wall of Room 5.



Plate 19: The northern of the two blocked windows, with the later opening in the west wall of Room 5.



Plate 20: South blocked doorway in the upper level of the west wall of Room 5.



Plate 21: North blocked doorway in upper level of west wall in Room 5.

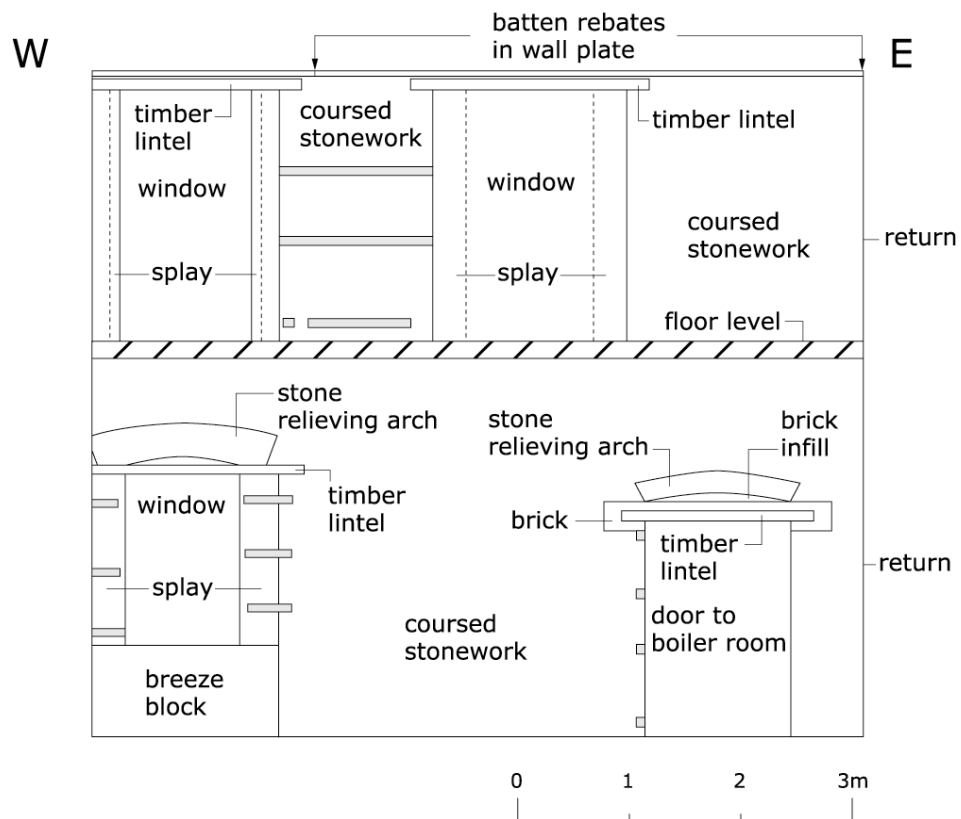


Figure 21: North wall of Room 6a.



Plate 22: A former door modified into a window in the north wall of Room 6a.



Plate 23: General view east along the north wall of Room 6a showing the French doors that lead to a central courtyard.



Plate 24: View east along the upper level of the north wall of Room 6a showing the two splayed window openings.

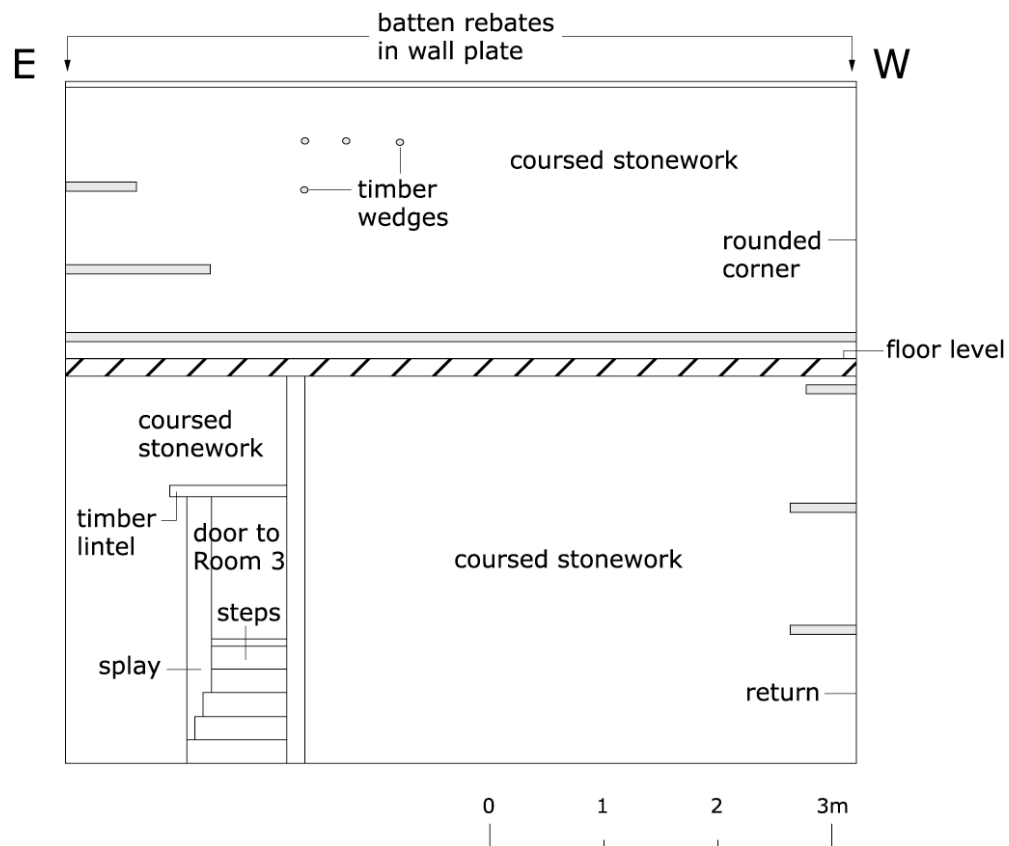


Figure 22: South wall of Room 6a.



Plate 25: The door to Room 3 in the south wall of Room 6a.

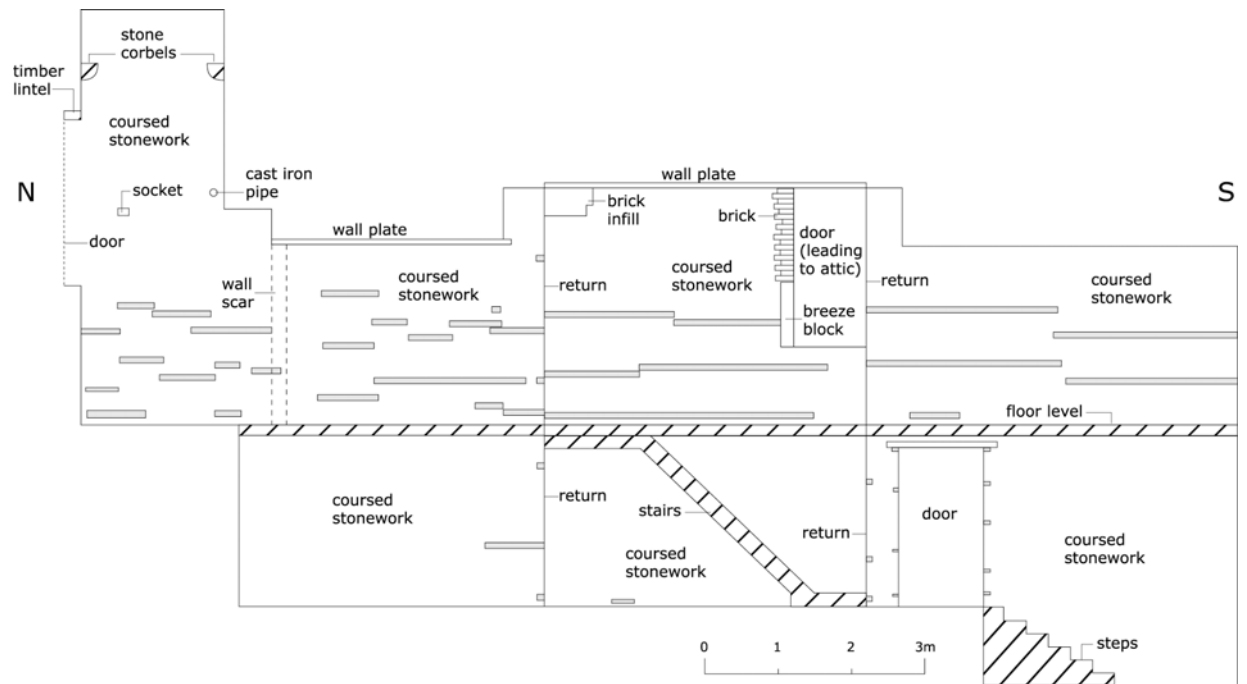


Figure 23: East wall of Room 6b.



Plate 26: A view north along the east wall of Room 6b with the wooden stairs to the upper floor.



Plate 27: A view south along the upper part of the east wall of Room 6b showing the door to the attics above Rooms 1 and 2.

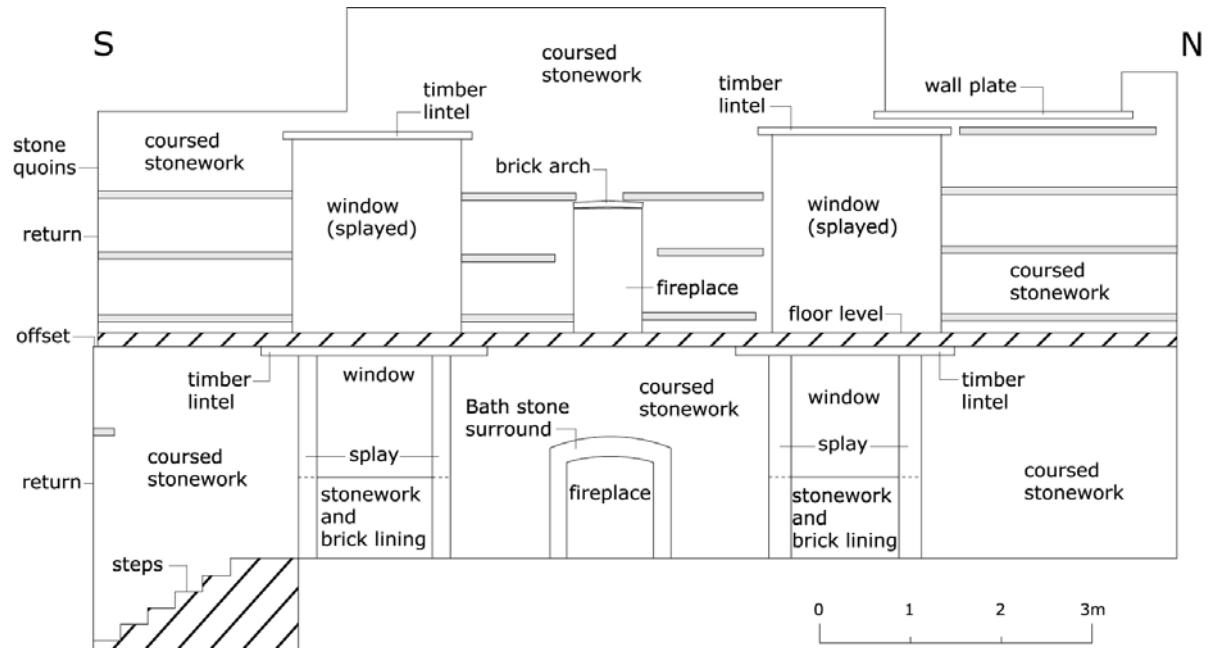


Figure 24: West wall of Room 6b.



Plate 28: The southernmost window in the west wall of Room 6b.



Plate 29: The fireplace in the west wall of Room 6b.



Plate 30: view south along upper level of the west wall of Room 6b showing the central fireplace and the southernmost window. Also shown are the courses of bricks inserted to replace horizontal timbers.



Plate 31: North wall of the attic above Room 1 showing top of chimney breast and blocked opening.



Plate 32: East wall of the attic above Room 1.



Plate 33: South wall of the attic above Room 2.



Plate 34: Section of the west wall of the attic above Room 2.