

BUILDING RECORDING AT THE OLD DAIRY BUTTERHILL FARM St. ISHMAEL'S PEMBROKESHIRE

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Paratowyd gan Archaeoleg Cambria
Ar gyfer Mr and Mrs Halpen
Prepared by Cambria Archaeology
For Mr and Mrs Halpen



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BUILDING RECORDING AT THE OLD DAIRY, BUTTERHILL FARM, St. ISHMAEL'S PEMBROKESHIRE

Gan / By

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CONTENTS

1.0	SUMMARY	1
2.0	INTRODUCTION	2
3.0	EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS	2
4.0	INTERIOR PLANS	3
5.0	CONCLUSIONS	4

ILLUSTRATIONS

- Figure 1:** Ground floor and first floor plan
- Figure 2:** West and east external elevations
- Figure 3:** North and south external elevations
-
- Photo 1:** West facing exterior elevation, south end
- Photo 2:** West facing exterior elevation mid section
- Photo 3:** West facing exterior elevation, north end
- Photo 4:** North facing exterior elevation, north end
- Photo 5:** East facing external elevation, north end A
- Photo 6:** East facing elevation north end B
- Photo 7:** East facing external elevation mid section A
- Photo 8:** East facing external elevation, mid section B
- Photo 9:** North facing external elevation, south end of building
- Photo 10:** East facing elevation, south end of building
- Photo 11:** South facing elevation A, south end of building
- Photo 12:** South facing elevation B, south end of building
- Photo 13:** Room C, north wall
- Photo 14:** Room C, north wall, detail of oven
- Photo 15:** Stone block in southwest corner of room C
- Photo 16:** Engine setting? on floor of Room C
- Photo 17:** South wall of Room C

- Photo 18:** North wall of Room B
- Photo 19:** Room D, looking east
- Photo 20:** Room E, looking west
- Photo 21:** Room F, north wall
- Photo 22:** Room F, east wall
- Photo 23:** Room F, south wall
- Photo 24:** First floor, looking south
- Photo 25:** Northermost window in west wall of first floor

SUMMARY

In advance of the conversion of an agricultural building known as 'The Old Dairy', at Butterhill Farm, St. Ishmael's, Pembrokeshire, a RCHMW level 2 drawn, photographic and written record of the building was undertaken by Cambria Archaeology. This report presents the record made. Additional photographs are included in the archive for the building record.

**BUILDING RECORDING AT THE OLD DAIRY
BUTTERHILL FARM,
St. ISHMAEL'S, PEMBROKESHIRE**

INTRODUCTION

In advance of the conversion of 'The Old Dairy' (a farm building), at Butterhill Farm, to a domestic dwelling, a photographic, drawn and written record was undertaken by Cambria Archaeology. Architects plans and elevations of the building were annotated to include details of wall joints, blocked openings, and any other visible alterations or indications of building phases.

The complex consists of a range of buildings on a roughly north-south alignment. The two storey dairy forms the central portion (Rooms C, D, E and F on figure 1). To the north is a small building (Room G) of uncertain function. North of this is a smaller structure (Room H). built of rubble stone with a slate roof. To the south of the dairy is another adjoining structure on an east-west alignment (Rooms A and B). There is an upper floor above rooms D, E, and F, accessed by external stairs on the north end of the dairy. Floor levels are stepped down the slope northwards.

EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS

The exterior of the building may originally have been lime mortar rendered, but this was difficult to ascertain due to substantial ivy growth at the time of recording. Only the roof of the dairy has survived substantially intact. The buildings to the north and south of the dairy (Rooms G, H, A and B) are roofless, and were inaccessible at the time of recording, due to vegetation and collapsed roofing material. The upper floor of the dairy was considered too dangerous for more than a cursory inspection from the doorway. No evidence to suggest significant alterations or repairs to the buildings was apparent from the exterior elevations.

West facing exterior elevation (Fig: 2, Photos: 1, 2 and 3)

This elevation included door openings to rooms C, D, E, F, G and steps to the upper floor. The arched entrance to Room F includes a keystone bearing the date 1842. With the exception of a blocked first floor window above the doorway to Room D, no other evidence for alterations to the buildings could be discerned. The west-facing wall of Room H includes a red-brick arched opening at its base, for a drain.

North facing exterior elevation (Fig: 2, Photos: 2, 4 and 9)

With the exception of the north facing wall of Room B, little of the north facing elevation could be discerned due to ivy growth. A stub of wall (of unknown significance) extends northwards from the north end wall of Room H, on its east side.

East facing exterior elevation (Fig: 3, Photos: 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10)

The east-facing elevation includes a door opening to Room H, and a window opening to Room C. The east wall of Room B contains one blocked and one open window opening. Two recesses on the wall of the dairy may have supported the roof of a lean-to structure on the east side of the building. No other significant features were apparent.

South facing exterior elevation (Fig: 3, Photos: 11 and 12)

This elevation includes door openings to Rooms A and B and three blocked window openings.

INTERIOR PLANS

Rooms A and B

Both rooms were lime plastered and whitewashed. Neither room appears to have had a fireplace. The walls of Room C butt up to the north wall of Rooms A and B, perhaps suggesting that Rooms A and B are a later addition to the south end of the dairy complex (the south wall of Room C having first been removed). The original function of these rooms is not evident from what survives.

Room A (Figs: 1, 2 and 3, no photos possible)

Room A was inaccessible due to vegetation and a collapsed roof. It has a door opening and a blocked window on its south wall, and a second window on its west wall. A recess on the north wall, indicated on the architects plan could not be investigated, but no evidence of a blocked opening was discernable on the other side of the wall in Room C. No evidence of flooring was apparent.

Room B (Figs: 1 and 2, Photo: 18)

Room B was adjacent to Room A, but there was no communicating doorway between them. Room B has a door opening and two blocked window openings in its south wall, two window openings (the northernmost one blocked) in the east wall, and two window openings and a doorway in the north wall leading to Room C. No evidence of flooring was apparent.

Room C (Figs: 1 and 2, Photos: 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17)

Room C had a single window in its eastern wall, a doorway in the south wall, leading to Room B, and a door opening in the west wall. The north side of the room consisted of a substantial stone built fireplace/hearth, with cupboards built into the western recess and a brick built oven built into the eastern recess. The dividing walls between Room C and D (on either side of the fireplace) butt up to the east and west walls of the dairy.

Any original floor surface in Room C appears to have been removed. A possible setting for an engine or generator appears to have been set into the floor in the southern half of the room. The remains of the roof timbers are also considerably blackened. A large stone block, possibly originally from a gateway, is situated in the southwest corner of the room.

Room D (Figs: 1 and 2, Photo: 19)

The walls of room D butt up to the east and west walls of the dairy. The only opening is the doorway in the west wall. There is a step up approximately 1.0 metre into the room. Any original flooring material appears to have been removed. This space may have functioned as a fuel store.

Room E (Fig: 1 and 2, Photo: 20)

The north and south walls of Room E butt up against the side-walls of the dairy. The only opening is the doorway in the western wall, in which there is a stable-type door. The walls are whitewashed but not plastered/rendered. No evidence of former fixtures or fittings was apparent. There is a considerable difference between the exterior and interior ground levels, perhaps suggesting that the original flooring material (cobbles or slate?) has been removed. This room may have been used for stabling.

Room F (Figs: 1 and 2, Photo: 21, 22, 23)

Room F has a single opening in the west wall, a fine archway 2.0m wide, constructed from dressed limestone blocks. The keystone is inscribed with the date 1842. The interior walls appear not to have been plastered, rendered or whitewashed. There was no apparent evidence of former fixtures or fittings. Uneven, natural bedrock was exposed in places at the base of the southern wall, suggesting that the original floor surface (cobbles or stone slabs?) has been removed.

Room G (Fig: 1, no photos possible)

This appears to be a later addition to the range of buildings. It is built against the north side of the stone-built staircase leading to the upper storey of the dairy, which forms the south wall of the room. The room has two window openings and a door opening in the west wall. The east wall butts up to the end wall of the dairy, forming an alcove between the east wall and the stone staircase. The north wall contains three wall niches and a ventilation slit. The east wall shows evidence of a work surface having run along its length. Room G could not be easily accessed. The floor surface could not be seen. The function of the room is uncertain. Two drains are visible in the exterior of the north wall of Room G.

Room H (Figs: 1 and 2, no photos possible)

Room H butts up against the north wall of Room G. It has a door opening flanked by windows, in the east wall. There is a red brick arched drain opening at the base of the western wall, and a drain apparently leading from Room G. This Room is believed to have housed a toilet, though no evidence was visible.

Upper floor (Fig: 1, Photos: 24 and 25)

The upper floor of the dairy was considered too dangerous to access. The only access was from a door opening in the north wall, leading to the external staircase. A chimneybreast from the fireplace in Room C was visible on the south wall of the room. The west wall contained three window openings, the southernmost of which was blocked up. No evidence of former fixtures or fittings was apparent.

Roof

The roof consisted of four bolted roof trusses of sawn timbers, with two rows of purlins. Bolted trusses, rather than pegged, are generally considered not to have come into use until after 1850. This may suggest that the building has been re-roofed, possibly when (if) Rooms A and B were added to the south end of the range.

CONCLUSIONS

The range of buildings known as 'The Old Dairy' appear to consist of a fairly typical combination farm building with a variety of uses on the ground floor and a granary above. There is no surviving evidence of specific uses for the various rooms within the building, and no surviving evidence to indicate which, if any of the buildings were in use as a dairy.

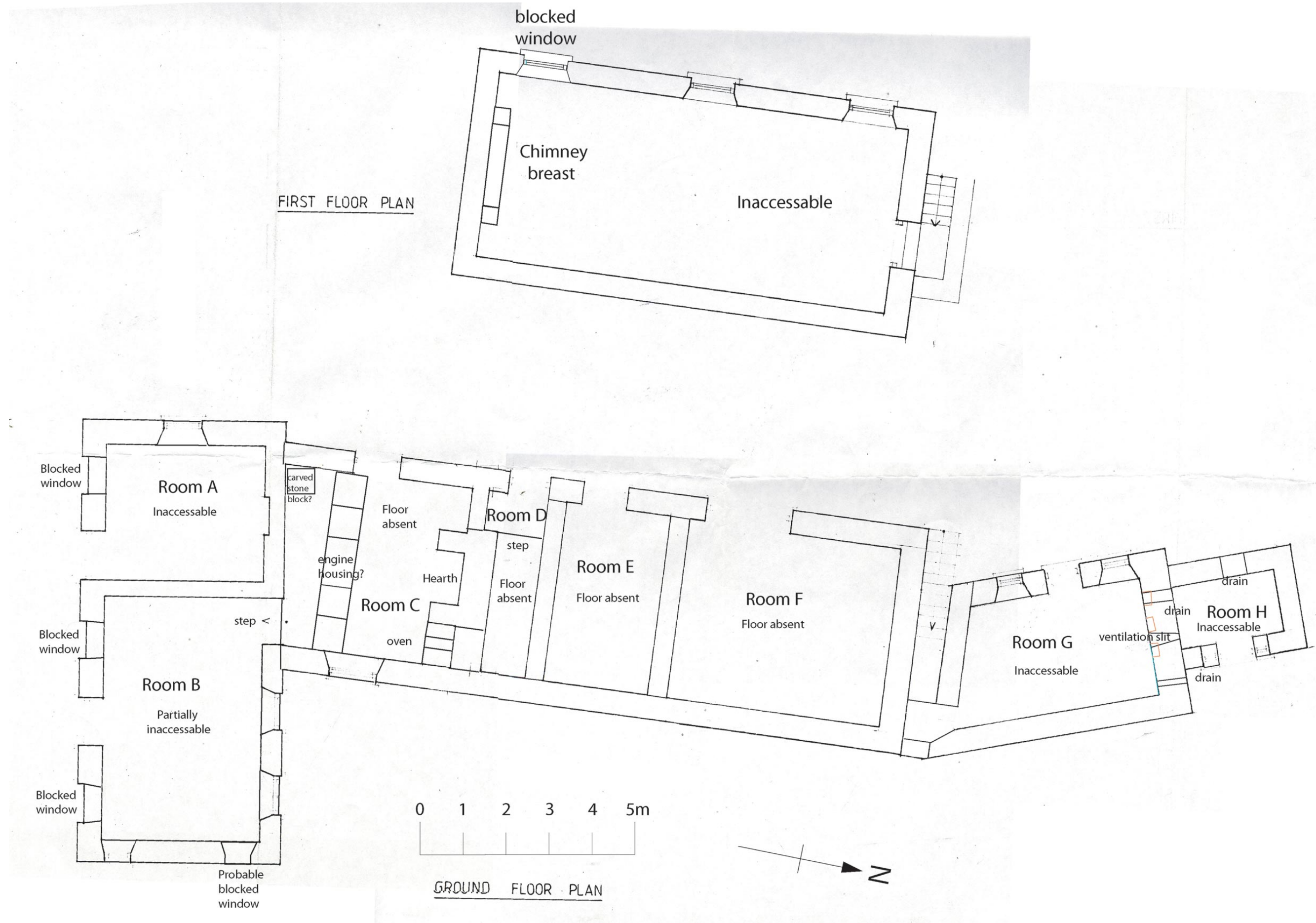


Figure 1: West and east elevations

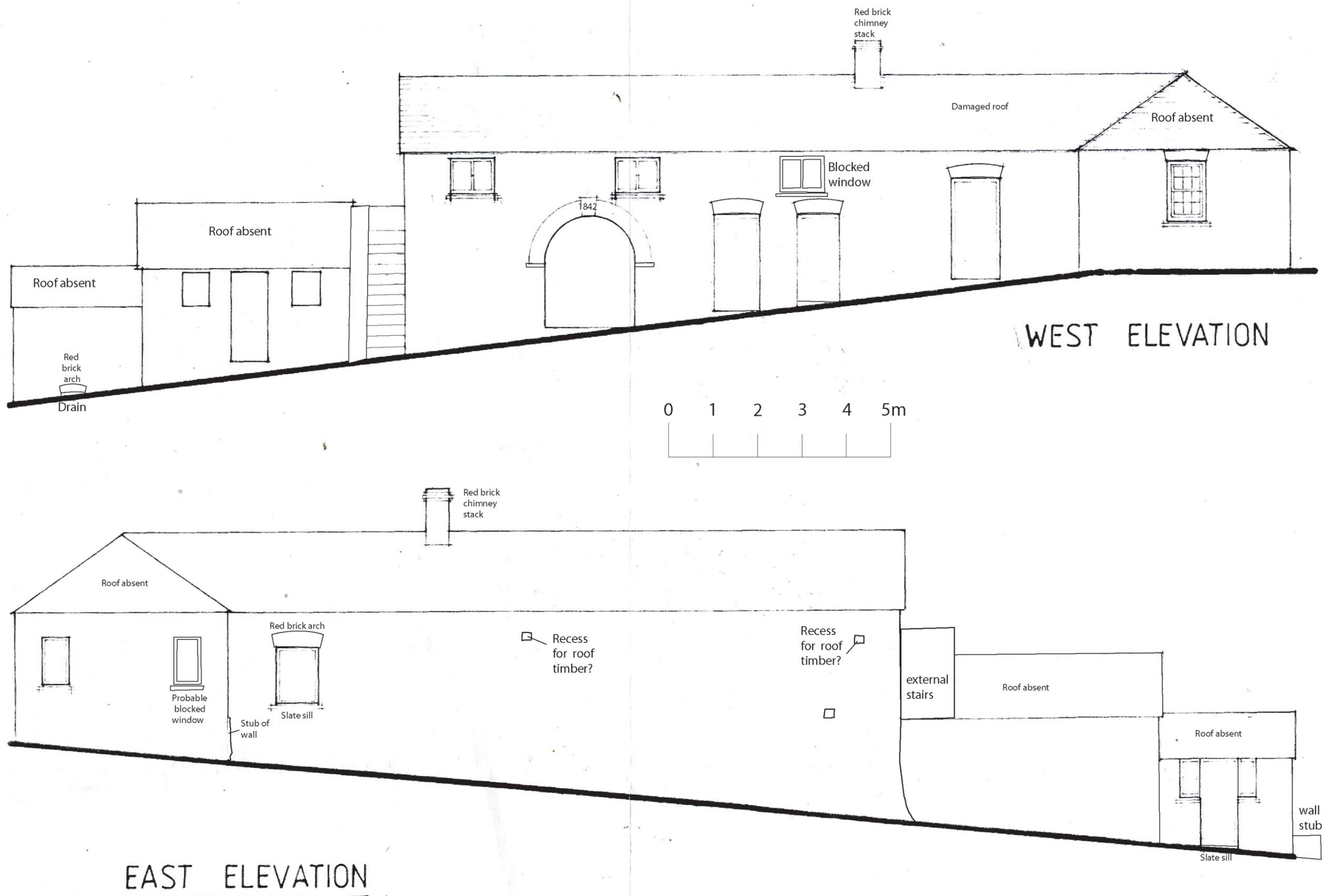
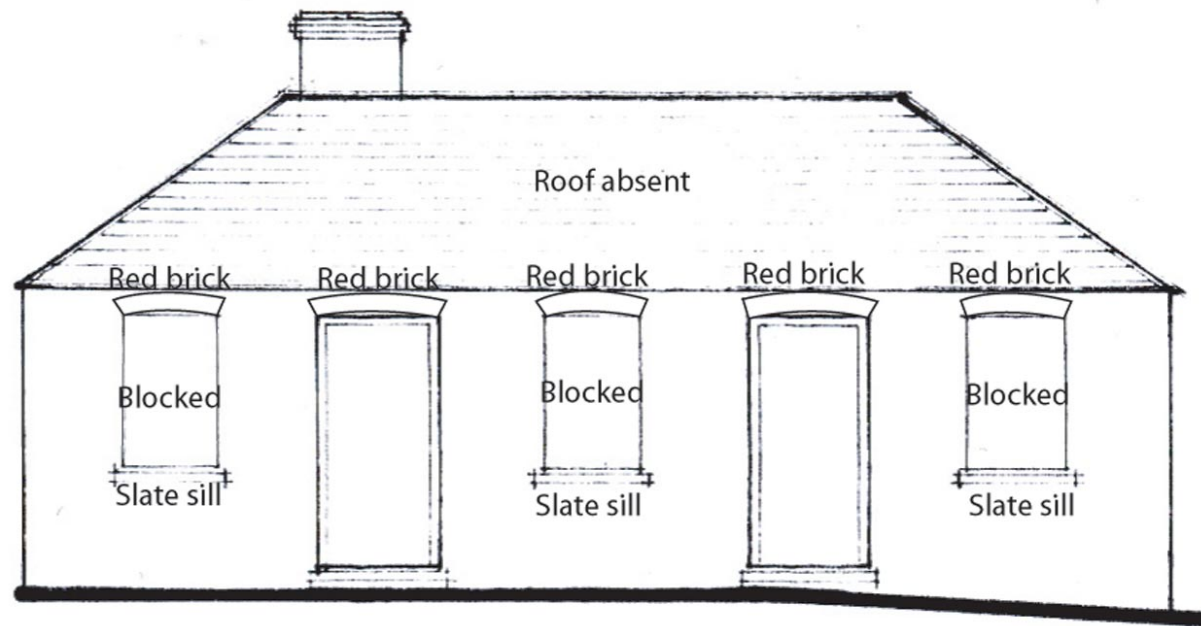
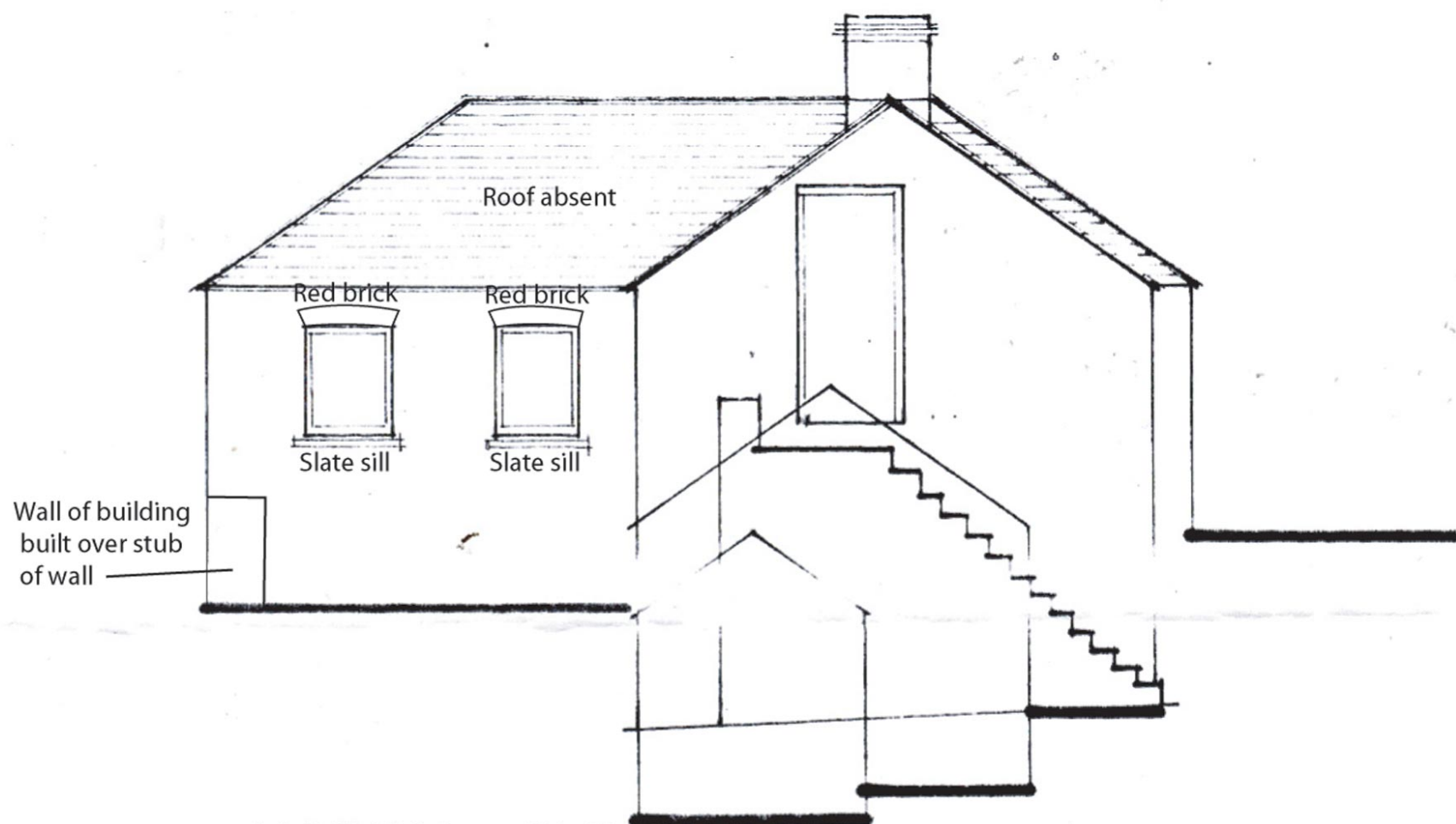


Figure 2: First floor plan



SOUTH ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION



Figure 3: North and south elevations



Photo 1: West facing exterior elevation, south end



Photo 2: West facing exterior elevation mid section



Photo 3: West facing exterior elevation, north end



Photo 4: North facing exterior elevation, north end



Photo 5: East facing external elevation, north end A



Photo 6: East facing elevation north end B



Photo 7: East facing external elevation mid section A



Photo 8: East facing external elevation, mid section B



Photo 9: North facing external elevation, south end of building



Photo 10: East facing elevation, south end of building



Photo 11: South facing elevation A, south end of building



Photo 12: South facing elevation B, south end of building



Photo 13: Room C, north wall

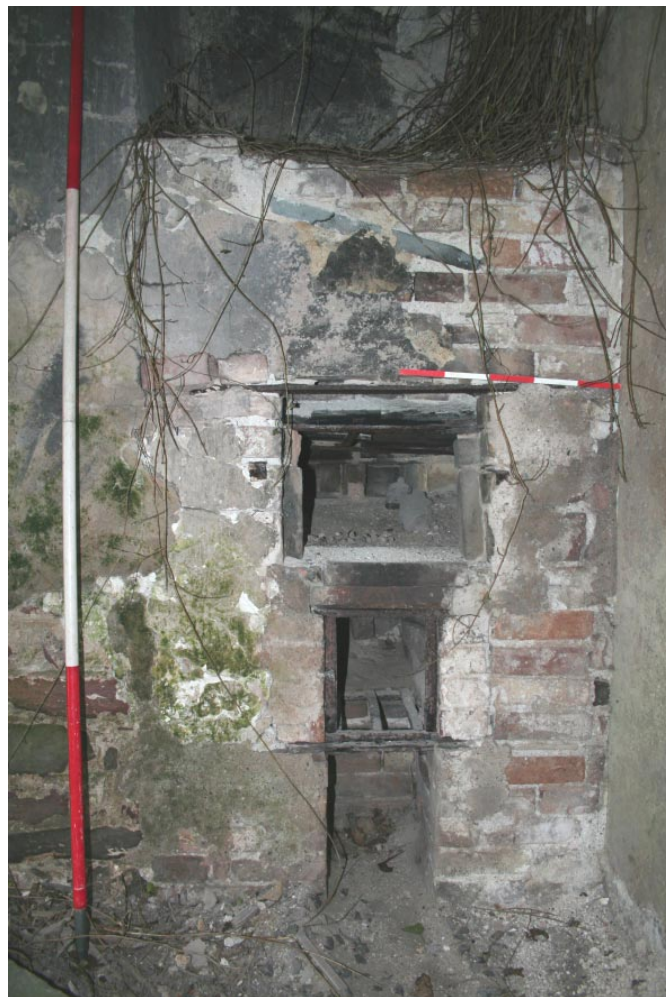


Photo 14: Room C, north wall, detail of oven



Photo 15: Stone block in southwest corner of room C



Photo 16: Engine setting? on floor of Room C



Photo 17: South wall of Room C



Photo 18: North wall of Room B



Photo 19: Room D, looking east



Photo 20: Room E, looking west



Photo 21: Room F, north wall



Photo 22: Room F, east wall



Photo 23: Room F, south wall



Photo 24: First floor, looking south



Photo 25: Northermost window in west wall of first floor

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Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
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Yn unol â'n nŵd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau
sydd gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

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