

DINEFWR HOME FARM: RECORDING OF COURTYARD



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For: The National Trust



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RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2008/102
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 94418

Hydref 2008
October 2008

DINEFWR HOME FARM: RECORDING OF COURTYARD

Gan / By

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INTRODUCTION

In June 2008 the National Trust asked Dyfed Archaeological Trust to record stone-built foundations revealed during the excavation of a sewerage tank in the centre of the agricultural courtyard at Dinefwr Home Farm. The excavated pit measured approximately 2m square and was 2m deep. The upper 0.8m of the pit's sides comprised a concrete slab over modern make-up. The stone-built foundations appeared to be part of a square urine pit or soak-away pit, later revealed to be approximately 2.2m by 1.8m and 0.55m deep. In the northwest corner of the courtyard building contractors had removed the same modern concrete slab and make-up seen in the sides of the pit, to reveal a cobbled surface. During July the remainder of the concrete and make-up was removed from across the courtyard. In July-August 2008 Dyfed Archaeological Trust was commissioned to clean up the revealed yard surfaces and record them. The cleaning was done with the assistance of a six-ton tracked excavator driven by Eynon Price. The revealed surfaces were surveyed using an electronic theodolite with data recorder and were photographed by Aerial Mast Photography, Llandysul, using a telescopic pole with attached digital camera. At the same time a cross section of the Hammel, the building on the north side of the courtyard, was drawn. This report presents all this information together with a map regression showing the development of the courtyard over the past 180 years.

COURTYARD DEVELOPMENT

Summary of Development

In the mid 18th century, before 1757, Home Farm was moved away from Newton House to its present location, and then, following advice from a visit from Mr Brown in 1775, Home Farm was reordered. It is assumed that this reordering was completed between 1775 and 1810 (Colvin and Moggridge 2003, 38). The layout shown on the 1839 Llandyfeisant tithe map is probably the result of this reordering.

In 1839 the courtyard at Home Farm had buildings on all sides except the south side, which was open. Essentially the same pattern prevailed in 1886 except that two small buildings replaced a single building towards the northeast corner of the courtyard. Subdivisions of the courtyard are shown on the 1886 map. Very little change is noted in 1906, but by 1946 the northeast corner had been reordered, with the two small buildings replaced by a single building within the courtyard, and the central soak-away is shown for the first time. It is probable that it was present earlier but omitted from the maps. Between 1946 and 2008 large agricultural buildings were constructed in and around the courtyard and several of the older buildings were demolished. All these modern buildings were cleared away in 2008. The date of the courtyard's cobble surfaces and central pit is unclear, but they seem to be an integral part of the courtyard and are therefore probably contemporaneous with the earliest buildings.

1839 (Maps 1 and 7)

Owing to the small scale of the 1839 tithe map it is not always possible to equate the information shown with that depicted on later maps. It does contain, however, some very useful information, from which the map (Map 1) and the following description have been compiled. The 1839 map depicts buildings along the entire west and north sides of the courtyard (presumably including the cart shed and Hammel both extant in 2008), and two buildings on the east side. The southern side is open apart from a boundary.

1886 (Maps 2 and 8)

The Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 provides the earliest reliable depiction of the courtyard. This shows the cart shed on the west side of the courtyard with a

building attached to its north end, as in 1839 but now gone, and a small walled yard area on its south side where a building was shown in 1839. As in 1839, a range of buildings, the Hammel, runs along the whole of the north side of the courtyard. The western end of the Hammel has now been demolished. A building lies towards the southern end of the east side, as in 1839, but towards the northern end two small buildings with yards have replaced a single building shown on the 1839 map (all these buildings and yards have now been removed). A boundary runs east–west dividing the courtyard into two unequal portions – the larger portion being on the north. This division equates with the cobbled area in the northern part of the courtyard and the stony area in the south as revealed in 2008. A second north–south boundary divides the southern portion of the yard. A boundary defines the south side of the courtyard: there are no buildings here.

1906 (Maps 3 and 9)

The 1906 2nd Edition 1:2500 map shows only minor changes had occurred since 1886. In the northeast corner of the courtyard a small yard has been constructed, and against the southern boundary wall towards its western end a new building with a yard can be seen. A square yard is shown towards the centre of the courtyard; this may be the urine/soak-away pit uncovered in 2008, although the location of the pit as surveyed in 2008 does not directly coincide with that shown on this map. The small yard on the south side of the cart shed as shown on the 1886 map has been converted to a small building.

1946 (Maps 4 and 10)

Due to the height at which they were taken it is not possible to detect detail on the vertical aerial photographs taken in 1946, particularly with regard to the size of buildings, and whether additions had been made to them since 1906. However, several general useful points can be gained. There appears to be little change to the buildings on the west and north sides of the courtyard, apart from the building towards the southern end of the west side seems to have been reduced in size (although this is not certain owing to deep shadows) and the building at the courtyard's northeast corner has been demolished. The two small buildings on the east side, shown on the 1886 and 1906 maps, together with their yards, have also been demolished. However, a new building has been added within the northeast corner of the courtyard next to the small yard area first shown on the 1906 map (the foundations and floors of this building and yard were revealed in 2008). The small building originally shown on the 1906 map against the southern boundary is not on the 1946 photographs. Detail of the courtyard interior is visible on the aerial photographs: the urine/soak-away pit uncovered in 2008 is clearly visible as are several worn paths. The latter are of interest as the courtyard surfaces, including the cobble surface, must have been covered with accumulated soil or other material for these to be created.

Pre-2008 (Map 5)

Dramatic changes took place between 1946 and the restoration works of 2008. Several large buildings were erected within the courtyard and thick concrete slabs were laid across the whole courtyard, inside and outside the buildings. The pre-2008 map also shows a building has been constructed along the south side of the courtyard, and a new large building added onto the southeast corner (built partly over the site of an earlier building present in 1946, but presumably demolished). The buildings shown on the 1946 map in the southwest and northeast corners of the courtyard appear to have been demolished. In addition the building in the northwest corner of the courtyard, which appears to have been present since 1839, has been demolished and replaced by a larger structure. All these buildings and slabs were removed in 2008.

2008 (Map 6)

Following the building clearance and concrete slab removal the courtyard and surrounding buildings comprised: the cart shed on the west side of the courtyard, the Hammel (the west end demolished) on the northside, and the foundations and surfaces within the yard.

In the southwest corner of the courtyard foundations and ceramic setts of an interior floor surface were revealed during clearance. These remains are of a building constructed between 1906 and 1946, on the site of an earlier, larger building. The building measures 7.2m north–south and 3.7m east–west internally. The south and west walls are stone built, with the west wall surviving to c.2m high and the south wall just 0.6m high and revetting a yard surface to the south. Only the foundations of a brick wall on the east side survive. There is a gap of 1.1m between the ceramic setts and the east wall, perhaps for a passageway. The setts are laid in three clear panels. It seems likely that this building was used for accommodating animals, possibly a stable.

In the northeast corner a tile surface, a patch of cobbles and discontinuous stone foundations represent the remains of a building constructed between 1906 and 1946. To the north a patch of cobbling is all that remains of a small yard first shown on the 1906 map, against which the building was erected. Internally the building measures 7.1m north–south and 3.6m east–west, and was divided into two rooms, with a passageway or subdivision in the north room. The floor of the north room is constructed from one-foot square ceramic tiles. A patch of cobbles indicates the surface of the south room.

The removal of the modern concrete slabs across the courtyard revealed cobbled and other yard surfaces. The yard is divided into two clear zones that presumably represent the different functions of the two areas. The northern half is cobbled; the southern half is surfaced with compacted 'hardcore'. The cobbled surfaces slope gently down to the centre of the yard into a stone-lined urine pit or soak-away; the southern portion of the yard is fairly flat. The urine/soak-away pit was partly damaged in June 2008 by the digging of a hole to take a sewerage tank. The urine pit/soak-away is c.0.5m deep (measured from the cobbled surfaces), 2.2m east – west and 1.8m north – south, built with mortared stone walls and a stone-slab/cobbled floor (see photographs at end of report). A stone cross-wall was added to the pit at some time in the past, either to reduce its size or to divide it into two compartments. The cobble yard surfaces run over the edge of the urine pit walls, demonstrating that the pit either pre-dates the cobbles or, more probably, that they were constructed at the same time. The cobble surface is laid as six main bands running east–west. The remains of north–south laid cobble bands can be seen towards the corners of the courtyard. There is considerable disturbance of some of the cobble bands, particularly the north–south ones, and it is not known how extensive these originally were. A linear area of rough stone surface, bordered by a line of cobbles along its southern edge, located to the southwest of the east-west cobble bands may indicate the position of another such band of cobbles. On the south side of the courtyard there are the remains of a cobbled ramp that drops down into the courtyard.

The southern part of the courtyard is surfaced with compacted stones. These have worn to a smooth round shape in some areas, and in other areas have been disturbed. The original surfaces within the east, southeast and northwest parts of the courtyard have been heavily disturbed or destroyed, as has, probably, the western side fronting the cart shed.

Several drains have been excavated through the cobbled surfaces, as have the foundation trenches for the large buildings demolished in 2008.

SOURCES

Colvin and Moggridge 2003, *Parc Dinefwr: Designed Landscape Survey*

Llandyfeisant Tithe Map 1839. Copy in the regional Historic Environment Record, Llandeilo

Ordnance Survey 1886, 1st Edition 1:2500 map

Ordnance Survey 1906, 2nd Edition 1:2500 map

Vertical Aerial photograph 106G/UK/1625 5154 in the regional Historic Environment Record, Llandeilo

INDEX TO ARCHIVE DVD

Photographs:

- 12 to 14th AUGUST 2008 CESS Pit photos

- Aerial 4-09-08

- Gen shots during recording of courtyard 04-09-08

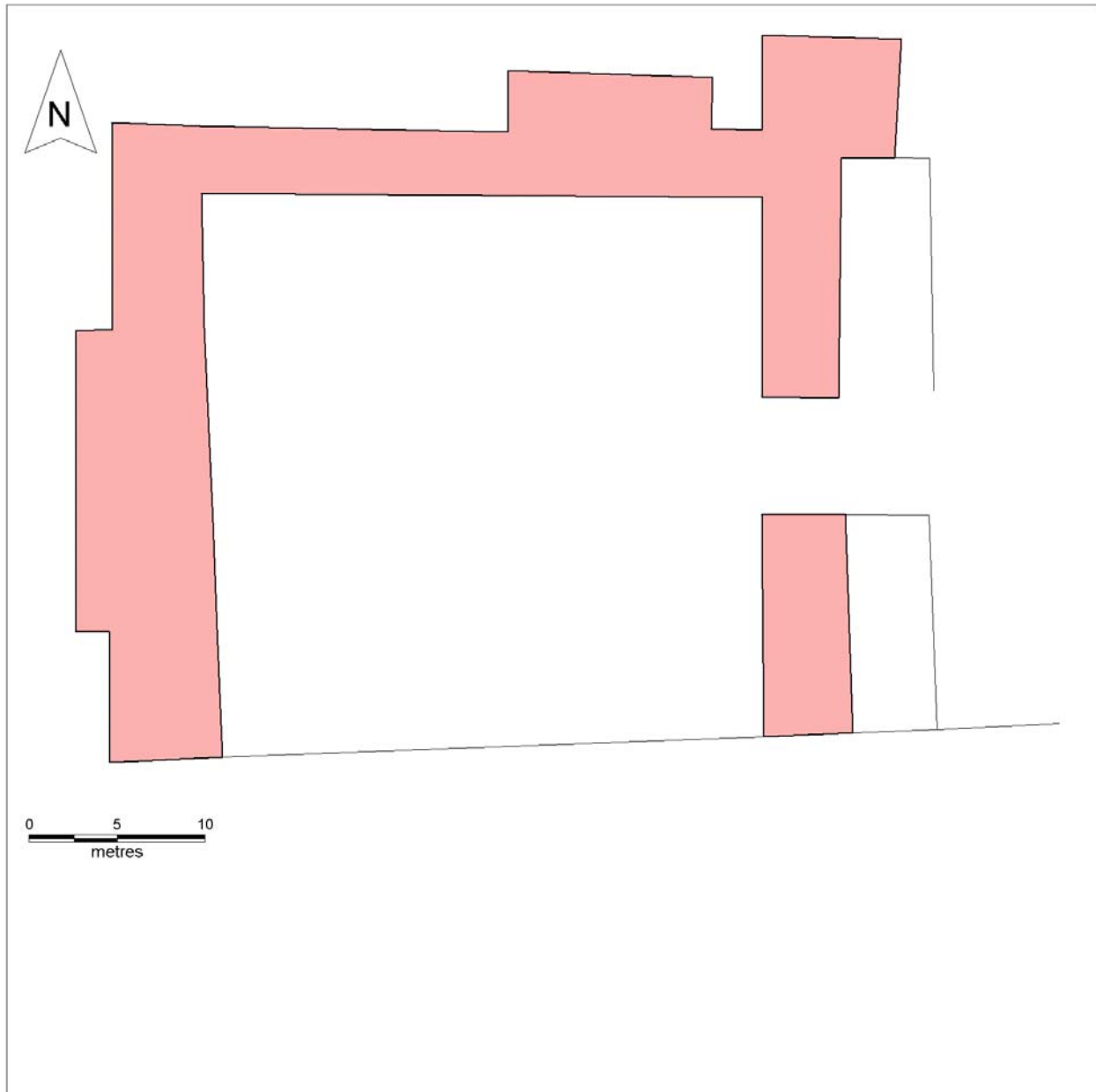
- Photographs of urine pit 4 June 2008

- Reduced size aerial photos

MapInfo Tables and Jpeg images of tables.

Pdf file of the report.

Jpeg image of the recording of the urine/soak-away pit.



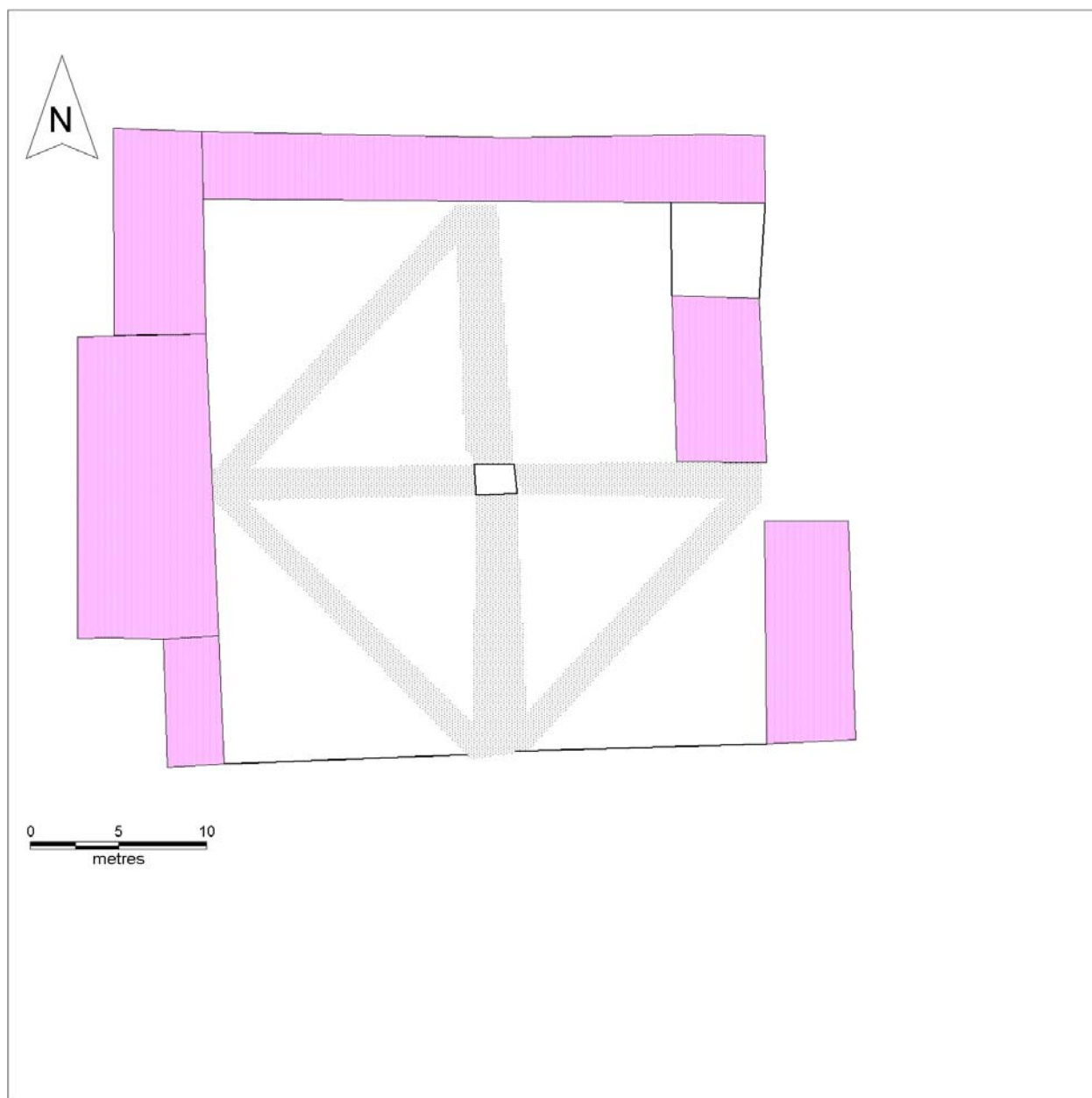
Map 1. Dinefwr Home Farm Courtyard. Layout based on the 1839 tithe map. Buildings in pink, boundaries in black. The buildings on the north and west side are shown with confidence. The location of those buildings on the east side are less secure – it is possible that these should be slightly further west.



Map 2. Dinefwr Home Farm Courtyard. Layout based on the 1886 1:2500 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map. Buildings in pink, boundaries in black.



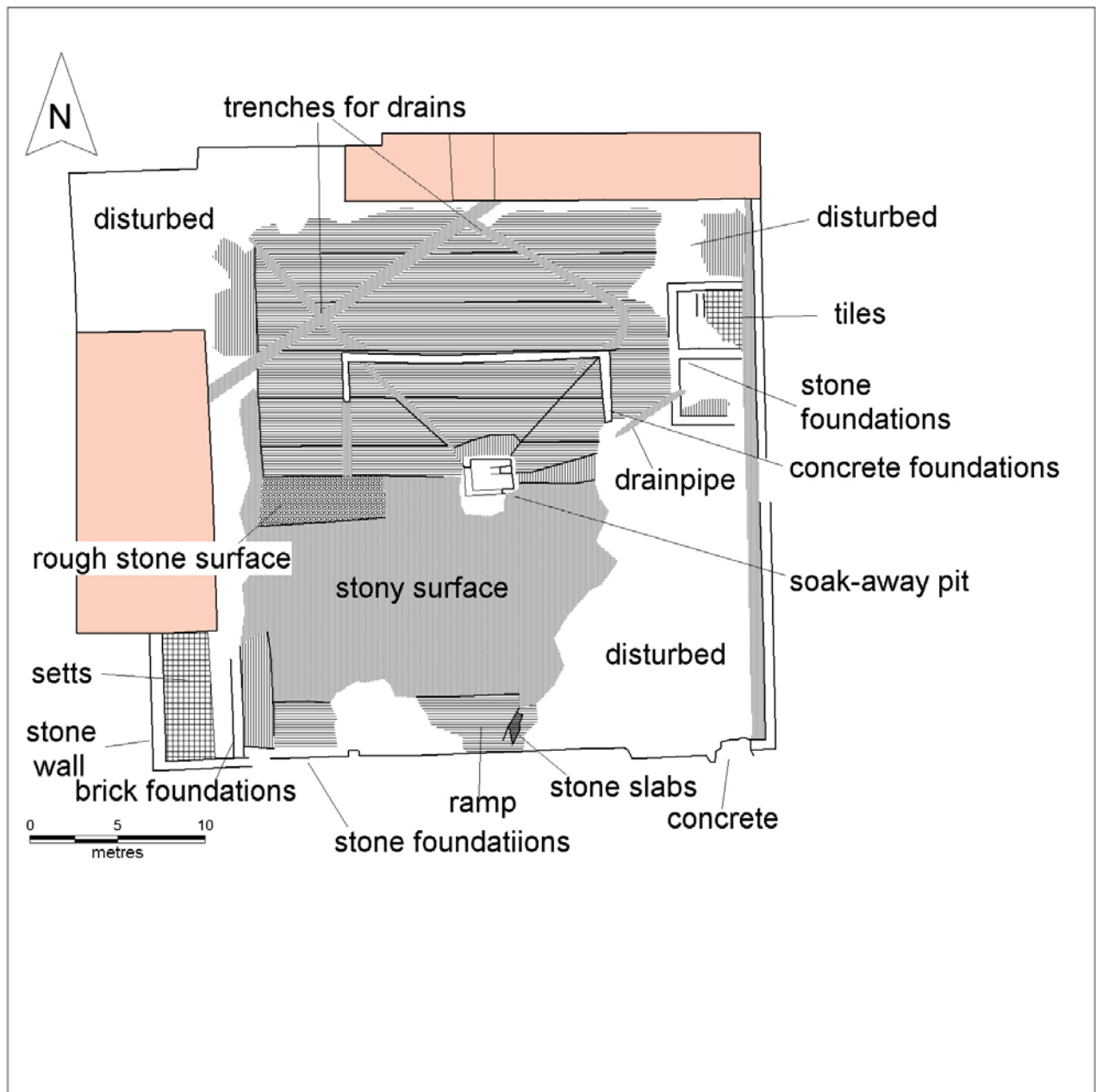
Map 3. Dinefwr Home Farm Courtyard. Layout based on the 1906 1:2500 2nd Edition map. Buildings in brown, boundaries in black.



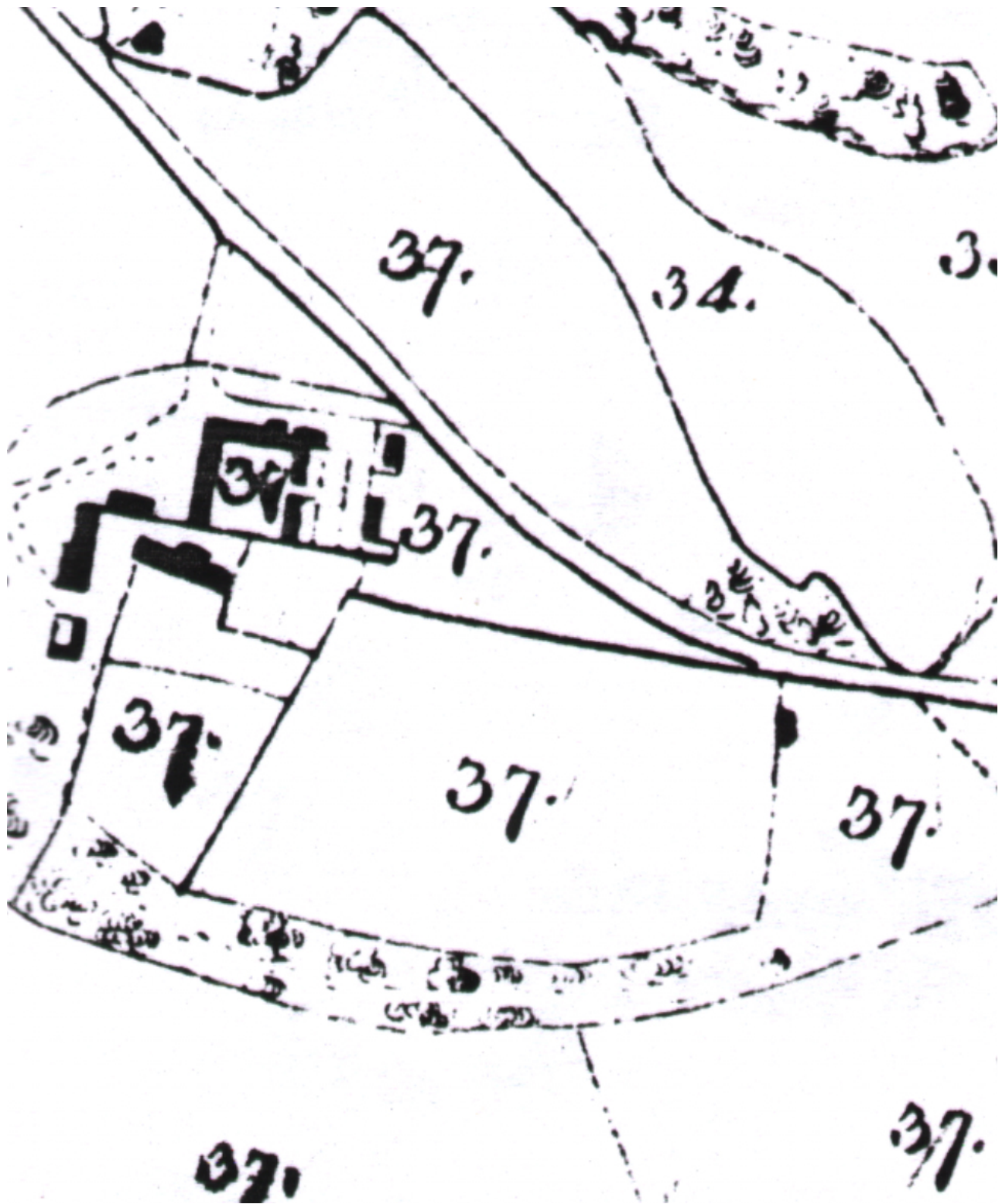
Map 4. Dinefwr Home Farm Courtyard. Layout based on 1946 vertical aerial photographs. Buildings in pink, boundaries in black. Note the central soak-away pit. Worn paths are shown stippled.



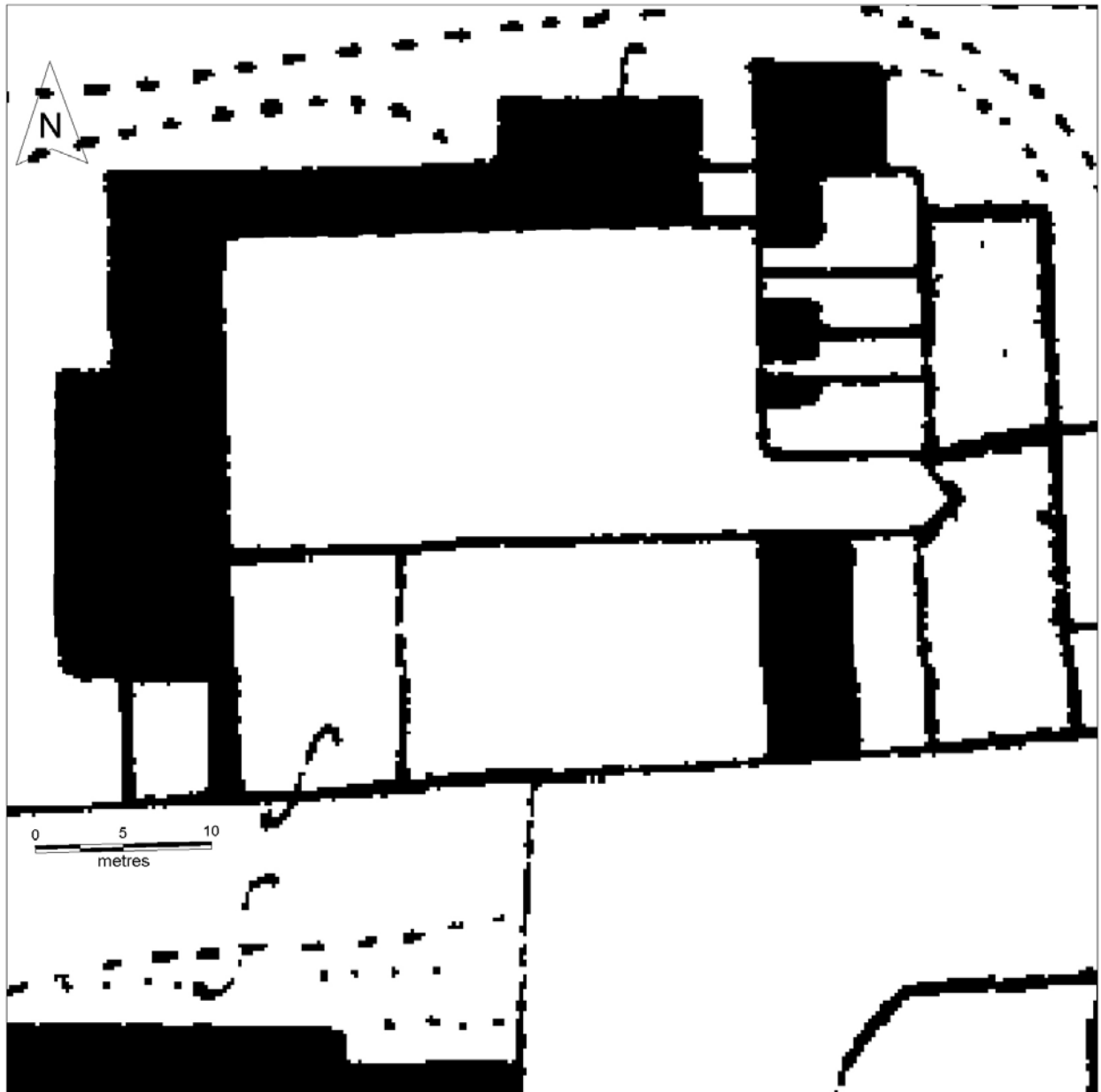
Map 5. Dinefwr Home Farm Courtyard. Layout pre-2008 demolition showing buildings in pink and boundaries in black.



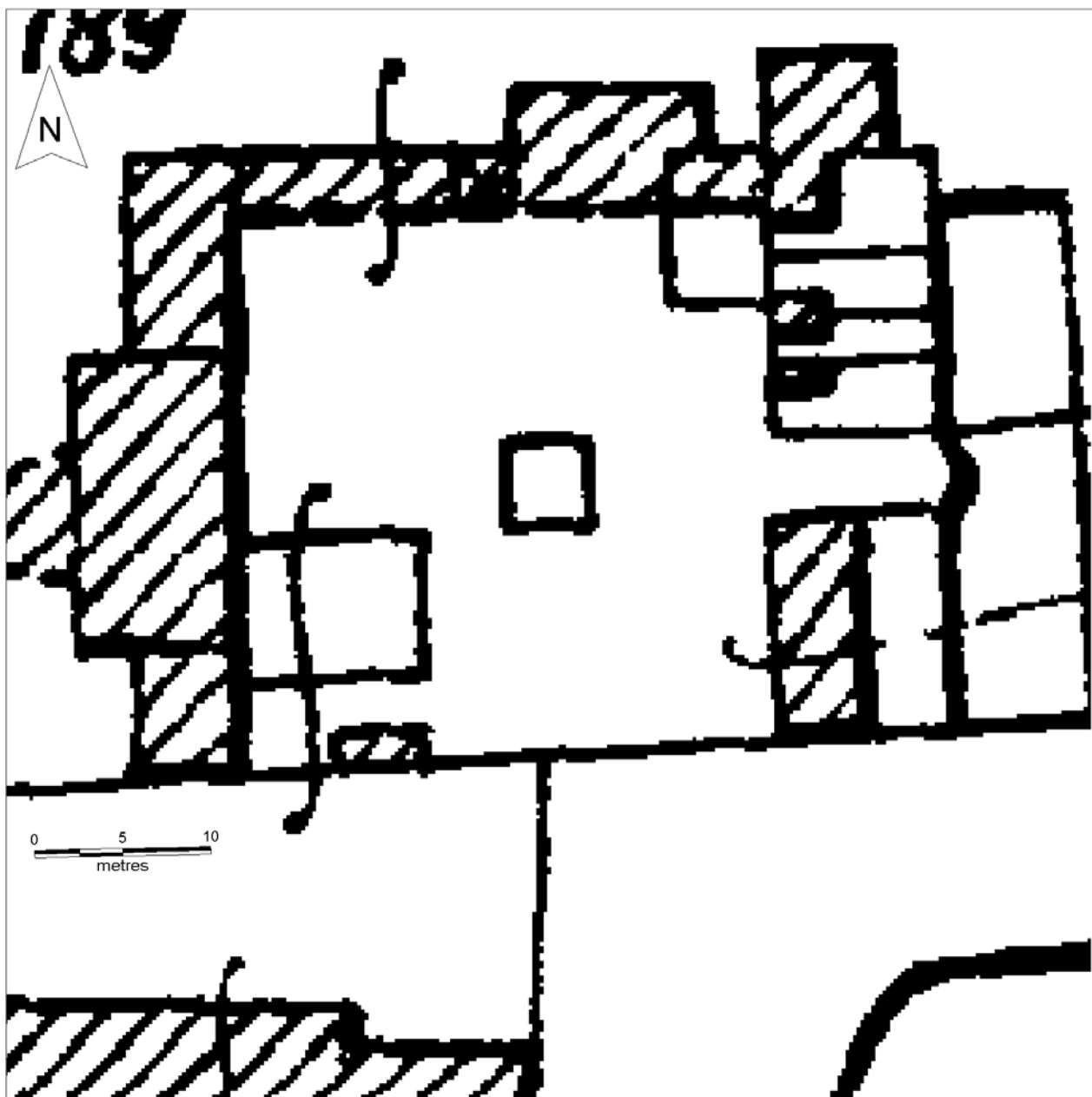
Map 6. Dinefwr Home Farm Courtyard. Layout of the courtyard surveyed 2008. Cobbled surfaces are shown hatched in the approximate direction of the cobble bands.



Map 7. Dinefwr Home Farm Courtyard. Extract from the 1839 Llandyfeisant tithe map.



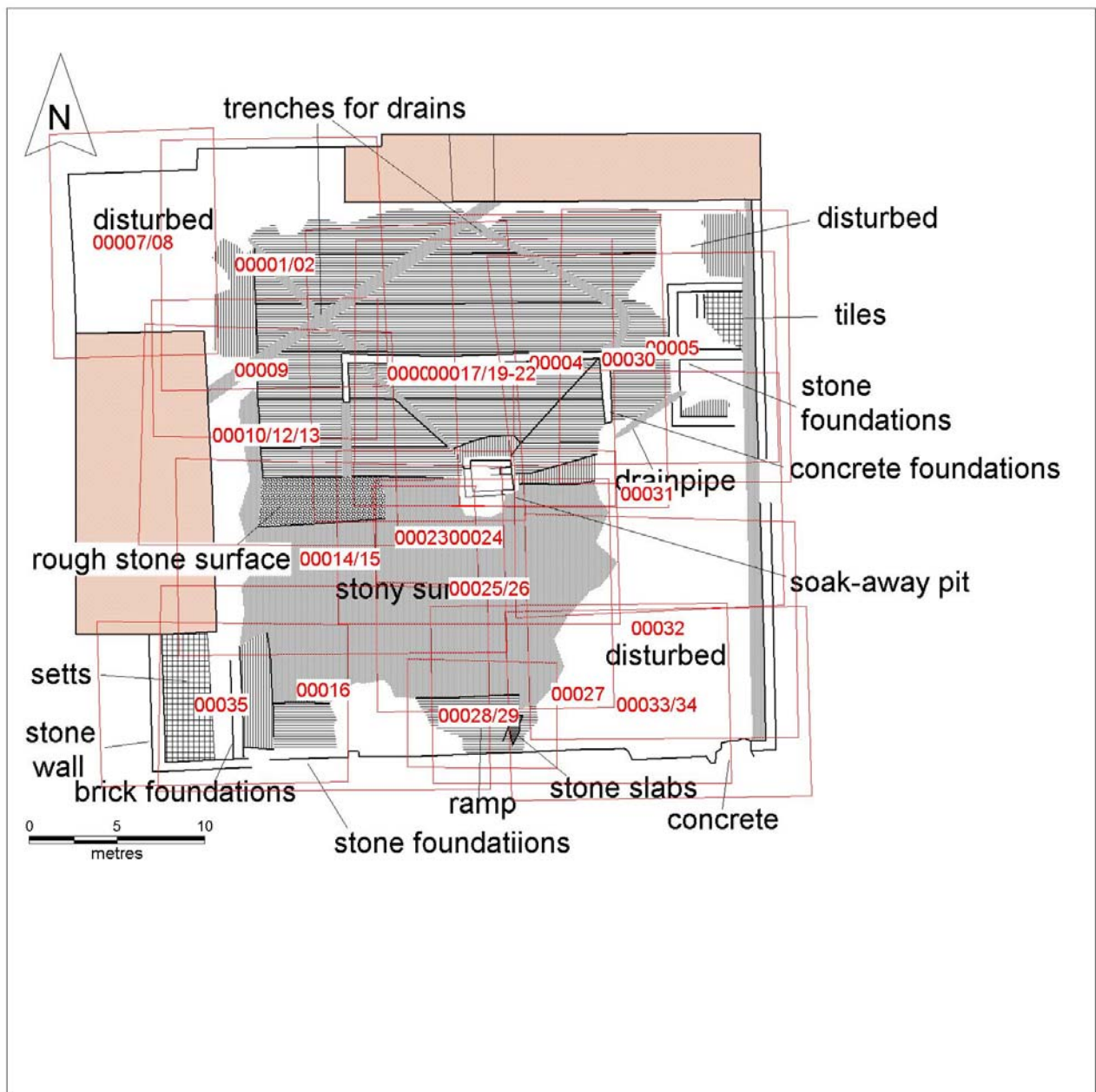
Map 8. Dinefwr Home Farm Courtyard. Extract from the 1886 Ordnance Survey 1st Edition Map.



Map 9. Dinefwr Home Farm Courtyard. Extract from the 1906 Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition Map.



Map 10. Dinefwr Home Farm Courtyard. Extract from the 1946 vertical aerial photograph 106G/UK/1625 5154.



Map 11. Index to aerial mast vertical photographs. Not all photographs on this index are including in the selection of photographs in this report.

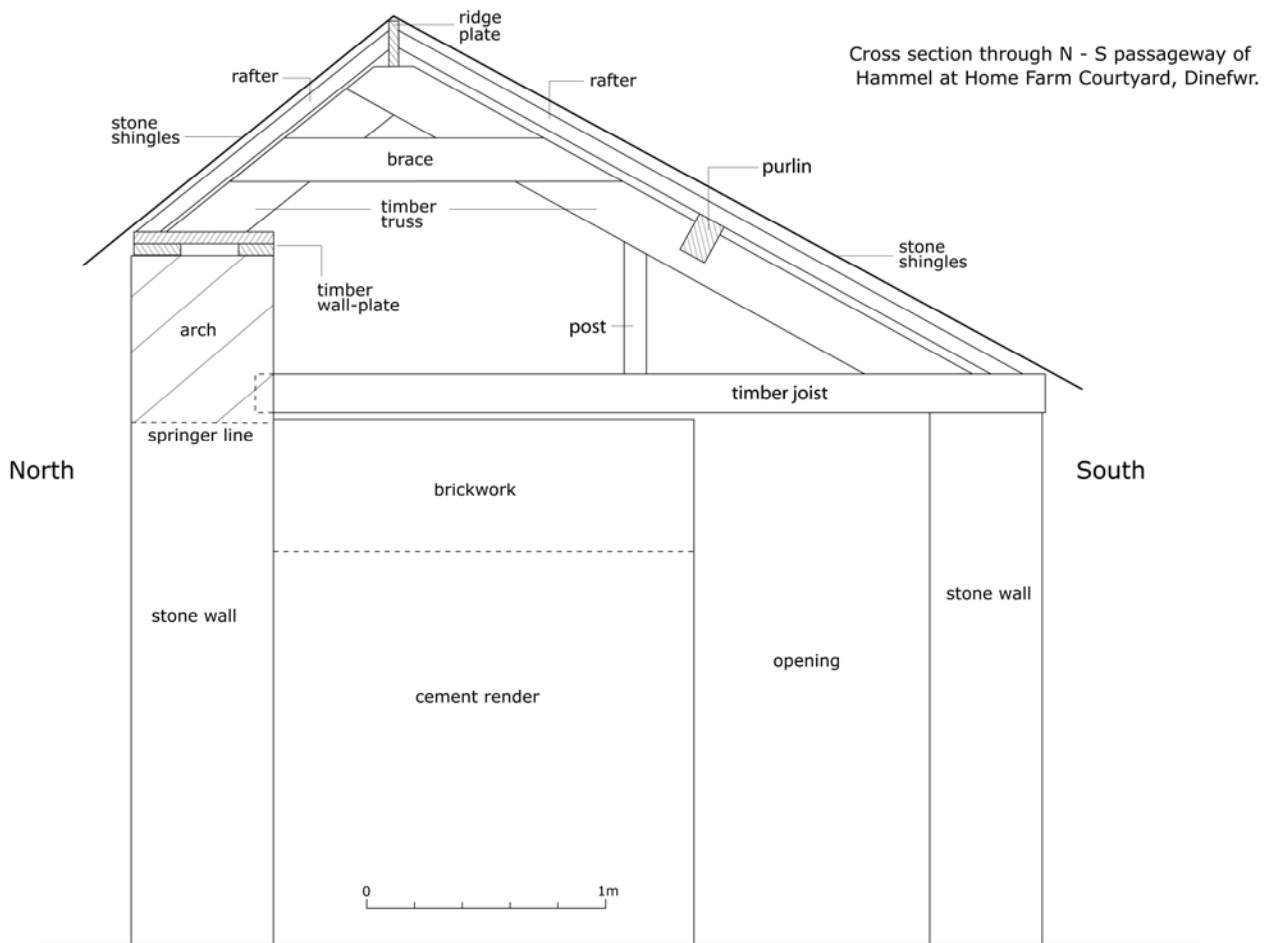


Figure 1. Cross section of the Hammel, north side of Dinefwr Home Farm Courtyard.



Vertical Photograph of Courtyard. Aerial Mast Photograph 00001.



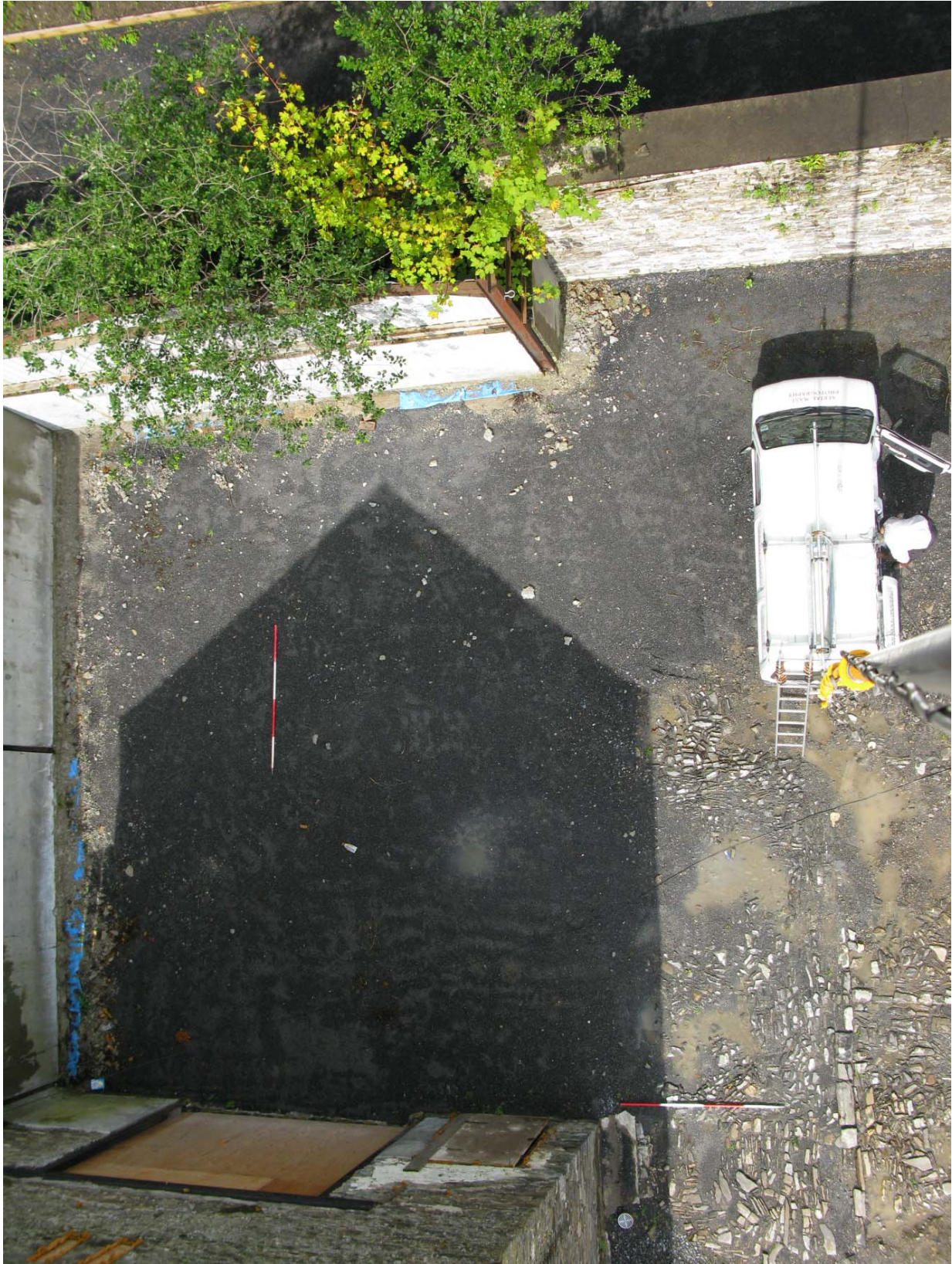
Vertical Photograph of Courtyard. Aerial Mast Photograph 00003.



Vertical Photograph of Courtyard. Aerial Mast Photograph 00004.



Vertical Photograph of Courtyard. Aerial Mast Photograph 00005.



Vertical Photograph of Courtyard. Aerial Mast Photograph 00007.



Vertical Photograph of Courtyard. Aerial Mast Photograph 00009.



Vertical Photograph of Courtyard. Aerial Mast Photograph 00013.



Vertical Photograph of Courtyard. Aerial Mast Photograph 00014.



Vertical Photograph of Courtyard. Aerial Mast Photograph 00015.



Vertical Photograph of Courtyard. Aerial Mast Photograph 00016.



Vertical Photograph of Courtyard. Aerial Mast Photograph 00017.



Vertical Photograph of Courtyard. Aerial Mast Photograph 00019.



Vertical Photograph of Courtyard. Aerial Mast Photograph 00020.



Vertical Photograph of Courtyard. Aerial Mast Photograph 00024.



Vertical Photograph of Courtyard. Aerial Mast Photograph 00027.



Vertical Photograph of Courtyard. Aerial Mast Photograph 00028.



Vertical Photograph of Courtyard. Aerial Mast Photograph 00030.



Vertical Photograph of Courtyard. Aerial Mast Photograph 00032.



Vertical Photograph of Courtyard. Aerial Mast Photograph 00033.



Vertical Photograph of Courtyard. Aerial Mast Photograph 00035.



Two photographs of the central soak-away or urine pit during clearance of 14-15 August 2008.

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Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by K Murphy

Swydd / Position: Director

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
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on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

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Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

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

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