

ROCH CASTLE, PEMBROKESHIRE (SM 8803 2121)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK- BASED ASSESSMENT AND BUILDING APPRAISAL



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For: Acanthus Holden Architects



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Gan / By

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SUMMARY

A planning application (No. NP/09/009) and Listed Building Consent (No. NP/09/010) has been submitted to Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA) by Acanthus Holden for the renovation of the existing structure of Roch Castle in Roch, Pembrokeshire (SM 8803 2121).

Roch Castle is a stone built D-shaped structure built upon a large isolated outcrop of rock. The castle is a very visible landmark.

The original part of the castle substantially dates from the later 13th century, having probably been constructed by Thomas de Rupe, possibly as a replacement to an earlier earthwork and timber castle. It was originally built as a defensive structure but would later have been converted to a more high status domestic residence.

The castle was inhabited during the medieval period, and evidence suggests sporadically inhabited during the post-medieval period. Royalist soldiers were garrisoned at the castle during the Civil War, but was taken by the Parliamentarians before changing hands twice more before 1645. The castle was badly damaged during the Civil War and does not appear to have been inhabited afterwards until 1901.

The castle changed hands a number of times between 1645 and 1899 when it was purchased by Viscount St. David's and a programme of restoration work was carried out in 1901 to convert it back to a residence (including the addition of a northern extension). Further improvement works were carried out throughout the 20th century. The early 20th century renovation work included the insertion of concrete floors, gypsum plastering of the walls and asphaltting of the roof. These modern materials have not sat well with the original medieval fabric.

In early 2009 the castle was purchased by Keith Griffiths and plans have been submitted to undertake further renovation works of a more sympathetic nature than those undertaken in the 20th century (using more traditional materials such as lime plaster for rendering and pointing). The renovation work should prove beneficial to the long term future of the castle.

As noted above the castle is of substantially medieval date and is considered to be of high historic significance and as such is designated as a Grade I Listed Building.

The proposed development works inside the castle have the potential to expose earlier medieval fabric and features once plaster or floors are removed, and as such a scheme of historic building recording should be implemented to make a record of this material. The exterior of the castle will not be substantially altered by the proposed works, other than through vegetation clearance and re-pointing work. Any proposed groundworks in the areas around the castle should be initially archaeologically investigated to ensure that no buried archaeological remains would be disturbed.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 A planning application (No. NP/09/009) and Listed Building Consent (No. NP/09/010) has been submitted to Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA) by Acanthus Holden for the renovation of the existing structure of Roch Castle.
- 1.1.2 Roch Castle is located within the village of Roch, close to the west coast of Pembrokeshire (SM 8803 2121). The castle is located at the eastern end of the present village, to the northwest of the church.
- 1.1.3 The development area comprises the main structure of the castle, a stone built building comprising a substantially medieval tower at the southern end (of roughly D-shaped appearance – with the apsidal end to the south) and a rectangular stone built extension of early 20th century date on the northern end.
- 1.1.4 The stone castle is built on an isolated outcrop of igneous rock within a roughly kidney shaped enclosure of gardens, lawned areas and rough grass. Roads surround this enclosure on all but the north and northwestern parts, which is defined by field boundaries. The enclosure itself is separated into two parts, with the southern part around the castle being separated from the rough grass to the north by a scarp slope (partially defined by a stone wall).

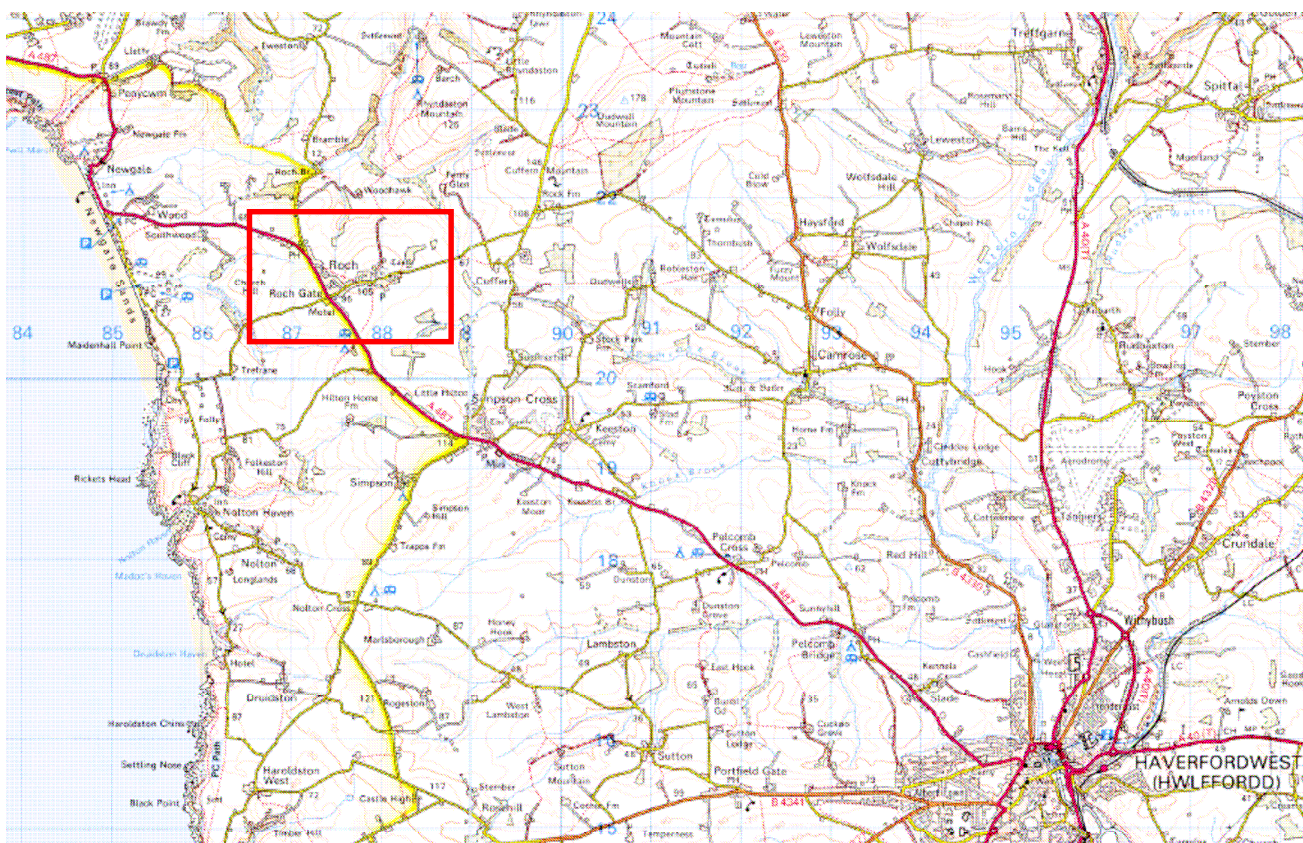


Figure 1. Location plan of Roch, based on Ordnance Survey

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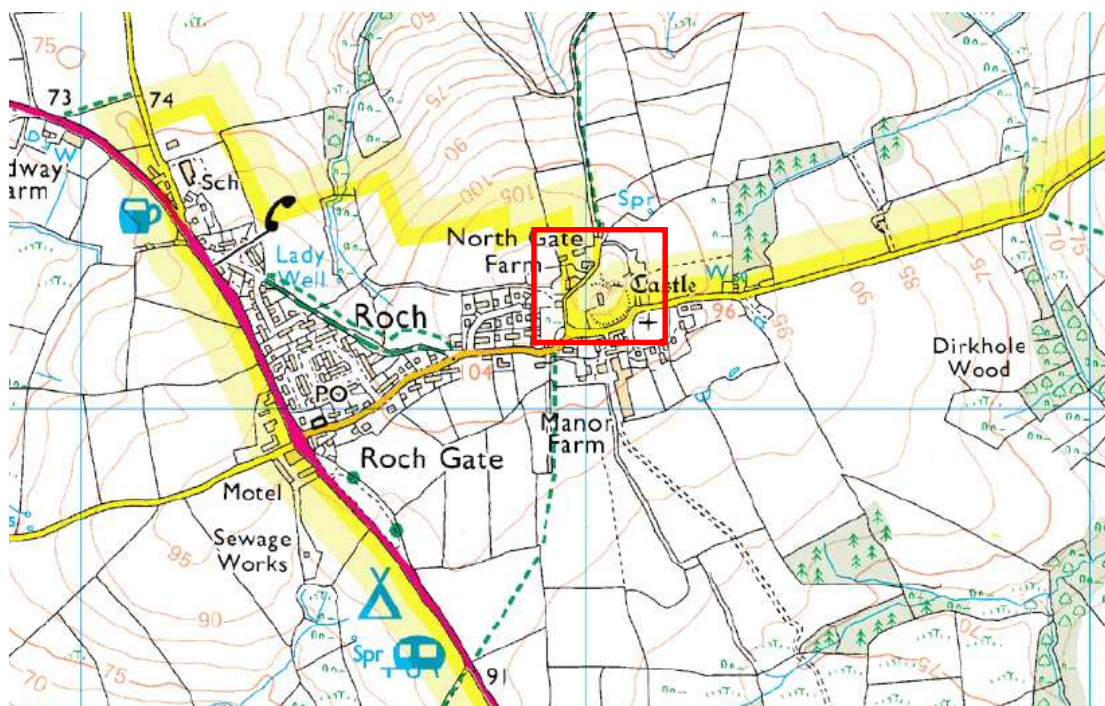


Figure 2: Location plan of Roch Castle within Village, based on Ordnance Survey

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- 1.1.5 It is understood that the rough grass area in the northern part of the castle enclosure is not part of the proposed development area, as it is retained in ownership by the previous owner of the castle, Mr. Dave Berry.
- 1.1.6 Roch Castle is designated as a Grade I Listed Building (LB 11982; see Appendix 1).
- 1.1.7 Given that the development plans will involve removal of some of the early 20th century fabric of the structure, namely plastered surfaces on the interior walls of the castle, and some possible external alterations to the existing driveway and parking area, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management, as advisors to the PCNPA, recommended that initial archaeological research should be undertaken to determine the extent of existing knowledge and information regarding the castle in order that an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy could be designed to be implemented by way of a condition on any planning or Listed Building consents given for the development proposals.
- 1.1.8 To comply with this requirement Acanthus Holden have commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to carry out this research in May/June 2009.
- 1.1.9 It is understood that as part of the consultation process for the Listed Building and Planning consents that CADW and the Society of Preservation of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) have been involved in giving advice on the development proposals. This advice is specifically to do with the development proposals and does not form part of this document.
- 1.1.10 The Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) are statutory consultees for Listed Building Consent applications, but have been involved indirectly in the consultation process,

possibly through a clerical error. The RCAHMW has been consulted as part of the preparation of this document and have provide a considerable amount of the information contained herein, as the castle has been the subject of one of their research projects.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Method of Baseline Data Collation

2.1.1 The following sources have been consulted in the process of producing this report:

- Dyfed Archaeological Trust HER, RCAHMW online database, including data, unpublished archaeological reports, aerial photographs, and Listed Building information;
- Information held at the RCAHMW National Monuments Record (NMR) in Aberystwyth including archaeological records, bibliographic sources, plans, photographs and draft documents;
- Cartographic, photographic and bibliographic information held by the Pembrokeshire Records Office;
- Scheduled Ancient Monument and Listed Building Information (obtained from CADW);
- Walkover surveys of the Site (undertaken on 06/05/09); and
- Other background material (various internet sources).

2.2 Consultation

2.2.1 Consultation has been undertaken with Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management and Royal Commission of Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales.

2.3 Archaeological Timeline

2.3.1 The following timeline has been used to identify archaeological and historical periods within this report (Table 1).

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c.AD 410 – AD 1066	
Medieval Period –	1066 – 1485	
Post-Medieval Period –	1486 – 1750	
Industrial Period	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20th century onwards	

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Historical background

- 3.1.1 The following section presents a summary of the known historical references and events within the history of Roch Castle. The early documentary information is based on verified references that have been compiled and checked by David Browne of RCAHMW in his ongoing research of the castle. Only relevant information to the history of the castle is given.
- 3.1.2 The earliest reference which is attributed to the lordship of Roch dates from c.1246 where the name of 'de Rupe' is recorded in a roll (King 1983, 403). The translation of the name 'Rupe' (Latin word) is 'rock' and is considered to directly relate to the outcrop of rock on which the castle is situated. The name of 'Rupe' is again referred to in 1259. Later the name is changed to the Old French equivalent 'Roche'. It is unclear if the castle existed at this stage, but the inference is that a structure associated with the lordship would have been present. The location of Roch close to the northern extent of the Anglo-Norman occupation area of Pembrokeshire would imply that a fortification of some sort must have been present as the 'de Rupe'/'Roche' families are of Flemish origin. Browne suggests that it is possible that an earthwork and timber castle may have been present (perhaps associated with the earthen mound located on the northwestern side of the castle?). A large defensive moat may have also been present surrounding the earthwork, possibly corresponding with the remnant earthworks indicated on the first and second edition Ordnance Survey (OS) maps (see below).
- 3.1.3 The exact date of construction of the stone castle is not known, but stylistically it is attributed to the late 13th century and would therefore have been built by Thomas de la Roche. It is suspected that the castle was originally built primarily as a defensive structure, but the use later change to a high status residence.
- 3.1.4 The castle had definitely been built by 1314, as an inquisition of Edward III records that the castle was struck by lightning on 6th May and the tower was 'shattered'. It is presumed that the tower was rebuilt soon afterwards.
- 3.1.5 A charter of Edward III dated to 1367 records that a lease was granted to Henry de la Roche which enjoined Henry to undertake necessary repairs (to the castle) and guard any prisoners within it, which implies that it was partially in use as a gaol at this time.
- 3.1.6 References to the castle being 'ruinous and deserted' exist from 1469-71, which corresponds with the end of the male line of the de Roche family, after which it was passed via marriage through the female line of the family into different family ownership.
- 3.1.7 In 1601 the castle was sold to William Walter of Trefan. The Walter family retained ownership of the castle until the Civil War period.
- 3.1.8 In the winter of 1643 Royalists were garrisoned at the castle by the Earl of Carbery. On 25th February 1644 the castle was supposedly attacked by Parliamentary forces under the leadership of Colonel Rowland Laugharne, and was surrendered on 27th February. It was recaptured by Royalists on the 7th July (including the seizure of 300 cattle and 1500 sheep belonging to the Parliamentary forces). It is said that the Parliamentarians recaptured the castle again in 1645.

- 3.1.9 The Walter family are recorded as claiming £3000 compensation from parliament for the repair of the castle which is said to have been 'gutted and burned' by Parliamentary forces.
- 3.1.10 Following the Civil War, the castle is thought to have been deserted and the fabric deteriorated.
- 3.1.11 A settlement of 3rd April 1732 provides details of the marriage settlement of Joseph Walter and Elizabeth Barlow, who was the daughter of John Barlow (deceased) formerly of the Manor and Barony and Lordship of Roch. Roch Castle and associated lands were included in the settlement (Pembs RO D/LLW/146). A conveyance of 11th November 1746 records that Roch Castle and associated were conveyed through a Chancery Grant to a number of people, including Alexander Eliot (see below) (Pembs RO D/LLW/147). A mortgage of 1813 records the castle in the ownership of John Stokes Stokes of Cuffern (D/EE/2/25). A lease and release of the land is recorded in March 1840 indicating that the castle was owned by Elizabeth Rees (widow) and the Stokes family (Pembs RO D/EE/2/32). None of the above references make it clear whether the castle was actually habitable or if just a ruin.
- 3.1.12 The castle was purchased by Sir John Wynford Philips in 1899, who was later to become Lord St. Davids, and latterly Viscount St. Davids. The main phase of restoration work was commenced between 1901 and 1904 to designs of the architect William Thomas, with the builders Edwin G Thomas Builders of St. Davids. No information regarding the details of the renovation could be found during the research undertaken for this document. Ledger books dating from 1904 to 1914 are held (Pembs. RO: D/RKL/1121) which indicate that sums of money were still being spent on the castle after the main period of renovation. Letters and correspondence was also viewed (Pembs RO: D/RKL/1128 – 1147) spanning the period to 1927 which give details of further monies spent on the castle, many of which relate to repairs of the roofs which seem to have leaked almost as soon as they had been built.
- 3.1.13 Correspondence indicates that Viscount St. Davids visited the property occasionally. Caretakers were appointed to look after the property, working on behalf of the land agents – initially Sgt Hugh Thomas, and from the mid-1920s a Mr K. Lucas. The house was also let out to various acquaintances of Viscount St. Davids, including Lord and Lady Churton, although by 1920 they no longer wanted to stay at the castle mostly due to the damp problems and leaks. On 4th March 1920 a letter is sent to Lady Churton from Hugh Thomas which states that 'The castle is extremely damp, and will need a great deal of firing before it will be fit for you to live in'. Evidently she never returned.
- 3.1.14 Due to the persistent damp problems Viscount St. Davids had a number of repairs carried out on the castle roofs, including the spreading of 'Matex' (a patent composition of asphalt) across the roof areas and also infilling cracks and voids in the roof with the material (letters dating from 1918). He also embarked on a second phase of building works in 1922 when the additional floor was built on the northern extension and other repairs and re-pointing was carried out to improve the state of the castle. These works were designed by D. F. Ingleton. The majority of the building work (including the additional floor of the extension) was completed by September 1922. Further improvements, including the replacement of electric generators and batteries was also undertaken following 1922. In 1926 all of the metal framed windows were replaced with gun-metal windows, as they had corroded badly and leaked or did not open.

- 3.1.15 The castle was sold in 1954 to the Honourable John M H Whitfield (son of Lord and Lady Kenswood, who occupied the property) for £10,250. Photographs of the interior of the property dating from the mid-1950s show that internal improvements had been undertaken, including the addition of gothic-medieval styled wooden doors.
- 3.1.16 Lord Kenswood sold the castle on to Mr. Hollis M Baker (of Grand Rapids, Michigan) in 1965. Mr. Baker was also responsible for undertaking some internal alterations during this time, although no specific details could be found. Mr. Baker sold the castle in 1972, when it was bought by Mr. Dave Berry.
- 3.1.17 During the latter part of the 20th century the castle was rented out as holiday accommodation. Internal decoration and improvements associated with its use as a holiday let were carried out, although no major structural alterations were made.
- 3.1.18 The castle was sold by Mr. Berry to the present owner in early 2009.

3.2 Cartographic Information

- 3.2.1 The earliest cartographic source to show the castle that was available for consultation during the preparation of this report is that of a plan of the Alexander Eliot estate surveyed and drawn by John Butcher in 1748 (Pembs RO: D/RTP/MLP/369). The plan shows that the castle and its enclosure were not owned by Alexander Eliot but by John Stokes Esq. The map is interesting as although the castle enclosure has no cartographic details shown, a sketch of the southern façade of the castle standing on its rock is included. The sketch implies that this façade of the castle was relatively intact, although the accuracy of the depiction is questionable. This map cannot be reproduced for copyright reasons.



Figure 3: Extract of 1839 Tithe Map of Roch showing village and Castle (reversed D in centre of map)

3.2.2 The 1839 Tithe map records the fields within the Roche Castle boundary as follows:

Field Number	Field Name	Land Owner	Occupier
Field 443	Castle Field and Rocks	Elizabeth Rees	James Lamb
Field 444	Castle Field and Rocks	Elizabeth Rees	James Lamb
Field 445	Castle Field and Rocks	Elizabeth Rees	James Lamb
Field 446	Castle Field	Elizabeth Rees	James Lamb

Field 447	Castle Field	Elizabeth Rees	James Lamb
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- 3.2.3 The map shows little detail regarding the castle, although interestingly uses a reversed D shape to indicate its location, presumably reflecting the general shape of the building (although the apsidal end is orientated incorrectly to the west). The castle enclosure has a number of straight field boundaries indicated, which are assumed to be related to the agricultural use of the land as opposed to any earlier land divisions. The church and its enclosure is clearly indicated to the south-east.
- 3.2.4 The first edition Ordnance Survey map of around 1880 shows the castle soon before its renovation by Viscount St. Davids at the turn of the 20th century. It is labeled as 'Roch Castle (in ruins)', with the map indicating the structure survived as an empty shell.. The field boundaries indicated on the 1839 Tithe map are still visible. Of most interest on the map are the series of earthworks surrounding the castle, which imply a large ditch (labeled as a 'moat') was present around the castle, following the southern boundary of the castle enclosure and part of the northwestern boundary. The ditch is not depicted to the northeast of the building, where it the natural rock outcrop is located. A spur from the ditch runs directly to the north of the castle, but only runs for a short stretch, and it is possible that it was replaced with the north-south aligned roadway.
- 3.2.5 The second edition OS map of the early 20th century was surveyed following the renovation of the castle by Viscount St. Davids. The shape of the structure is amended to show the northern extension. A driveway and parking area is depicted on the north and northeastern side of the castle, the driveway leading from the southwestern corner of the castle enclosure. The ditched 'moat' is shown in an identical layout as for the earlier map, except where the driveway crosses it to the west of the castle.

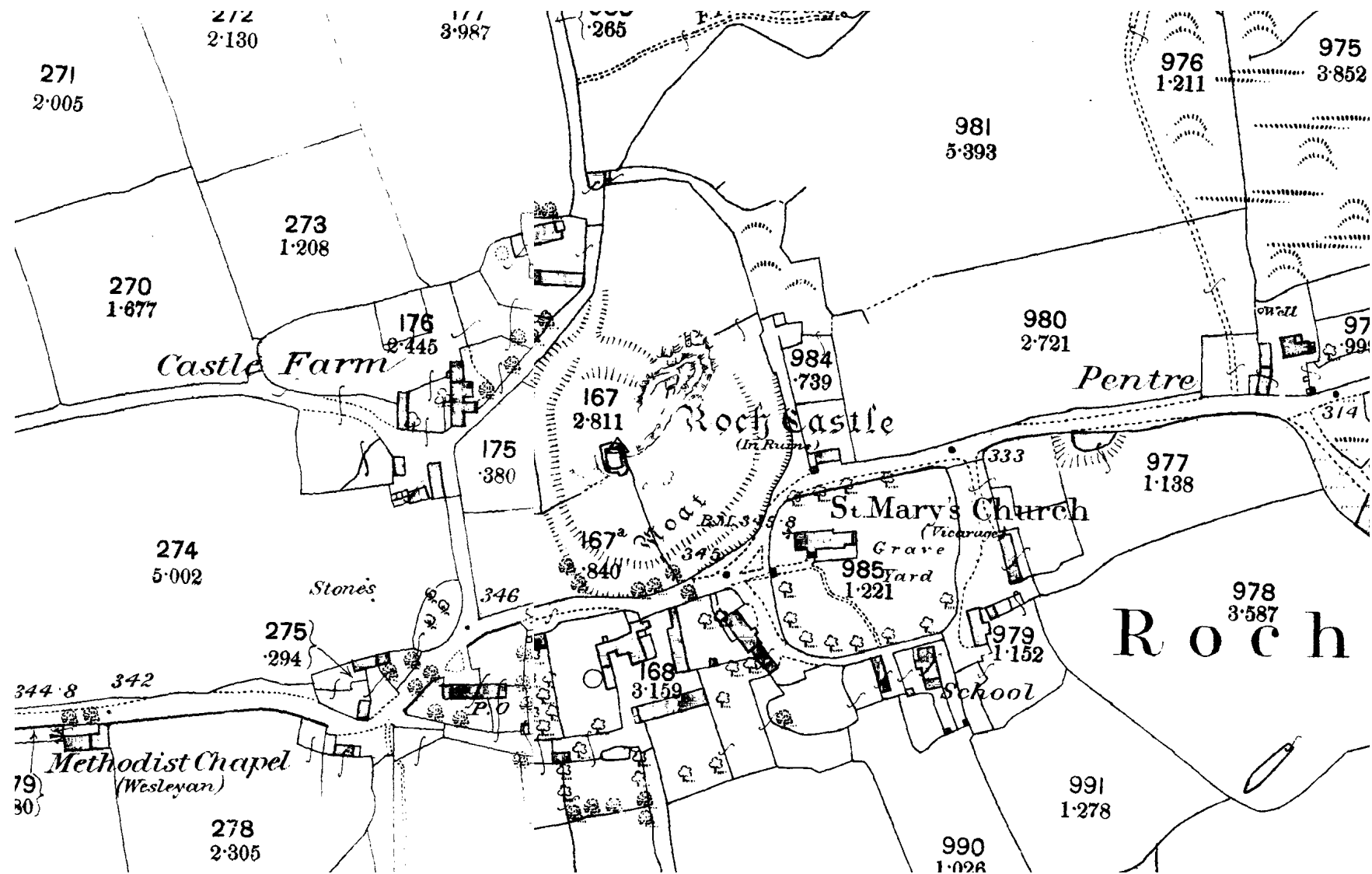


Figure 4: Roch Castle shown on 1st edition 1:2500 scale map

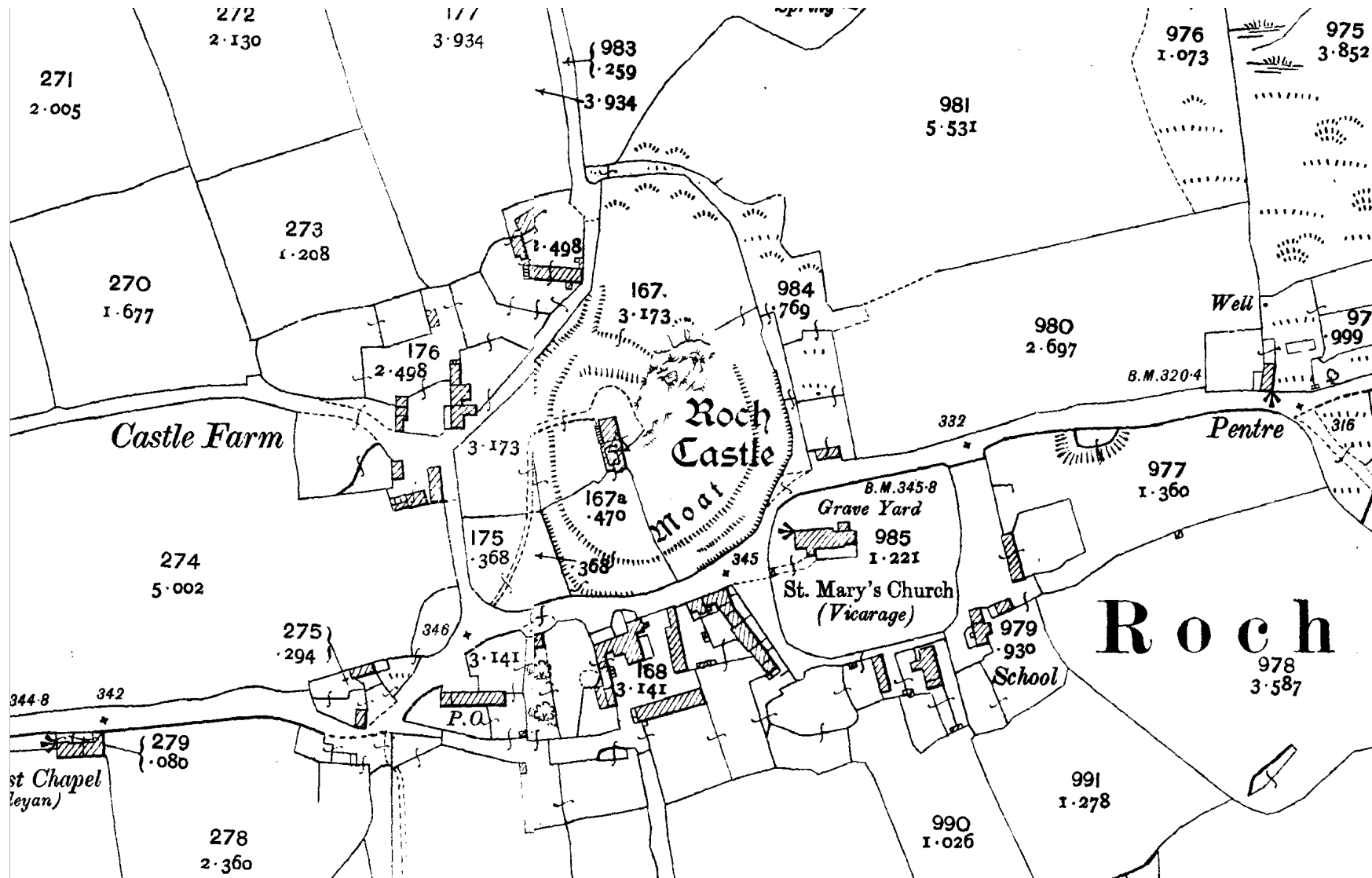


Figure 5: Roch Castle shown on 2nd edition 1:2500 scale map

3.3 Site Visit Information Relating to the Environs of the Castle (Including Background Archaeological Information)

- 3.3.1 An initial description of the environs is included prior to discussing the actual castle structure itself. This places the structure in its wider context and relates more specifically to the cartographic description above.
- 3.3.2 The earliest known site located within a 1km radius of Roch Castle is a pair of Bronze Age standing stones that were formerly located at Castle Farm, around 125m to the southwest of the castle (DAT HER 2809; Grid ref SM 8791 2116). The stones were removed during construction of a housing estate in the area. No associated sites or remains have been located elsewhere.
- 3.3.3 An undated rectangular enclosure has been recorded as a cropmark on an aerial photograph, located some 200m to the southeast of the castle, which may indicate the presence of a later prehistoric enclosure, although the site has not been dated (RCAHMW Ref. 410458; Grid Ref. SM 882 212).
- 3.3.4 Known medieval remains in the vicinity of the site include the castle itself (DAT HER 2803/RCAHMW Ref. 102780; Grade I Listed Building 11982; Grid Ref. SM 88029 21212); ST, Mary's Church less than 100m to the south-east (DAT HER 2804 and 59635; Grade II Listed Building 19080); Grid Ref. SM 8811 2117); and the medieval Holy Well of Lady Well around 500m to the westnorthwest (DAT HER 12143/RCAHMW Ref. 32486; Grid Ref. SM 8751 2126). The churchyard around St. Mary's is also included on the DAT HER, and there is a suggestion that the churchyard could be located on an earlier enclosure, perhaps a reused Iron Age enclosure, although there is no evidence to confirm this (DAT HER 7565; SM 8811 2116). These sites confirm the known medieval activity in the vicinity of the castle.
- 3.3.5 Post-Medieval to modern sites include the entrance walls and gatepiers surrounding Roch Castle (DAT HER 59634; Listed Building Grade II Ref. 19079; Grid Ref. SM 87978 21158); Castle Farm located 125m to the southwest (RCAHMW Ref. 21725; Grid Ref. SM 8804 2114); the Toll Gate known as Roch Gate 700m to the westsouthwest (DAT HER 16143; Grid Ref SM 874 209); Roch Methodist Chapel 250m to the westsouthwest (DAT HER 17973/RCAHMW 11032; Grid Ref. SM 8780 2110); and Roch School located 150m to the southeast (DAT HER 17974; Grid Ref. SM 8815 2112). The sites merely demonstrate the continued development of the area from the 18th century onwards (most sites being 19th century or later).
- 3.3.6 The ditched moat shown on the early OS maps was mostly removed during landscaping of the gardens during the 20th century. A slight depression in the lawned area to the southeast of the castle is still visible, although the previous owner, Dave Berry (pers. comm. 06/05/09), mentioned that the land had been cleared and leveled fairly recently (photo 1).



Photo 1: Lawned area to southeast of castle showing possible depression of former moat (view southeast)

- 3.3.7 A change in ground level is present to the northwest of the castle (dropping own from the castle), following roughly the line of the ditch marked on the earlier OS maps which suggests the line of this feature is still visible, although possibly slightly further to the north than shown on the maps) (Photo 2 and 3). Stone work is present within this change in level, which may indicate a stone wall was formerly present, although the remains do not suggest a very substantial wall (ie. not a massive curtain wall that formerly surrounded the castle, but perhaps a revetment wall) (Photo 4). A breach is present through this area associated with a modern vehicle access track (Photo 2). It is understood that the land to the north and east of this ground level change is outside of the property boundary of the castle (as sold in 2009).



Photo 2: View south towards castle, showing change in ground level



Photo 3: View southeast, showing change in ground level



Photo 4: Stone wall along edge of change in ground level to the north of castle

- 3.3.8 To the northeast of this level change is a short stretch of a former road or trackway (Photo 5), which has been leveled and improved in more recent years (Dave Berry pers. comm., 06/05/09). The trackway is shown on all of the earlier maps, running from opposite the church, heading north around the outside of the 'moat'. The 1748 and 1839 maps show that the road ran around the perimeter of the castle enclosure, with building present on its northern/eastern side. The stone footings of some of these buildings are still visible, although are in a poor state of repair and have been affected by more recent clearance activities (Photo 6 and 7). The original dates of these structures is uncertain, but none except the cottage directly opposite the church are shown on the second edition OS map.
- 3.3.9 The castle enclosure contains numerous piles of stone, and numerous large stone blocks are present. These accumulations have come about through clearance works associated with modern gardening and clearance activities. It is assumed that the stone mostly originates from the ruination of the castle during the civil war, although it is also likely that the material was associated with other structures in the area (such as those to the north and east of the castle).



Photo 5: View southwards along trackway towards church, also showing raised ground associated with wall



Photo 6: Stone walls of former building on northeastern side of castle enclosure, of uncertain date and function (view south)

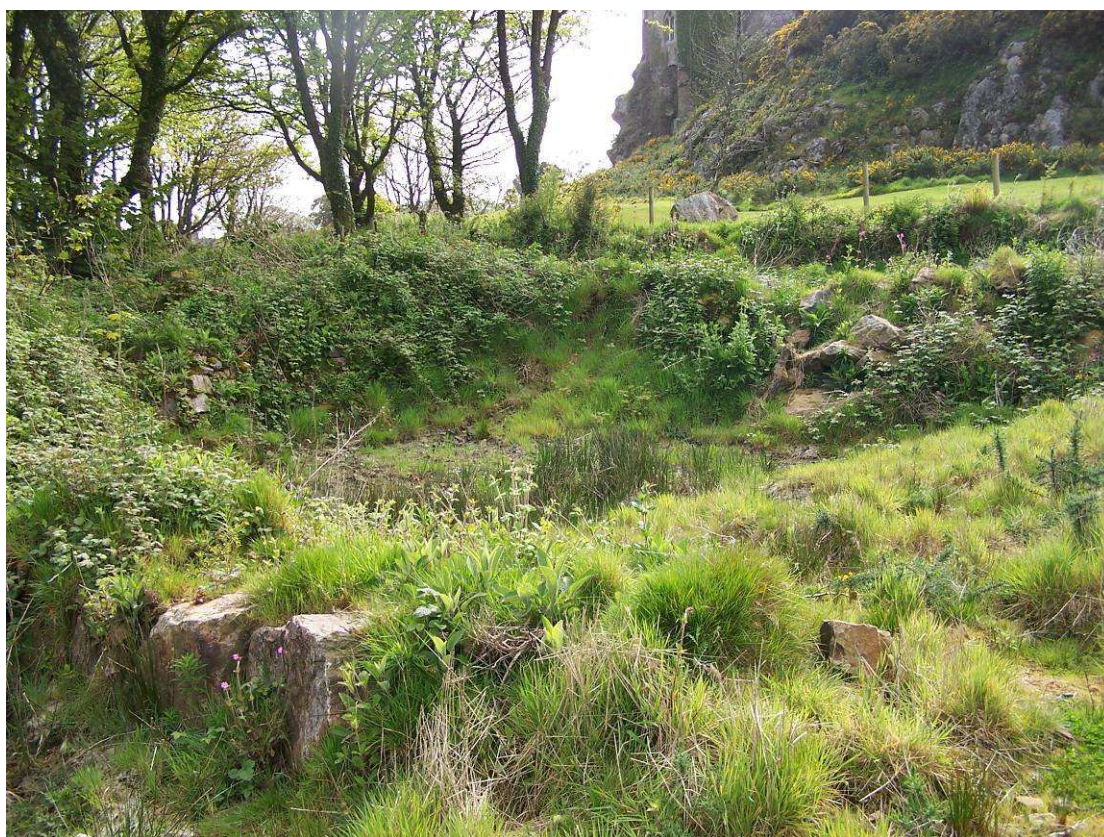


Photo 7: Stone walls of former building on northeastern side of castle enclosure, of uncertain date and function (view west)



Photo 8: Stone walls associated with former cottage directly opposite the church

4. THE STRUCTURE OF ROCH CASTLE

4.1 The Existing Layout Of The Castle

4.1.1 In order to simplify the descriptions of the castle, the following numbering and label system is being used, which is also indicated on the attached floor plans (based on the 1960s survey by Douglas Hague held by the RCAHMS).

- Ground Floor (Figure 6)
 - Room 1: Entrance Hall
 - Room 2: Barrack (room mostly occupied by stone outcrop)
 - Stairs to first floor (partially built in thickness of wall)
- First Floor (Figure 7)
 - Room 3: The Court Room (main room, southern half lying on bedrock)
 - Room 4: Study (small room to south-east lying on bedrock)
 - Room 5: Chapel (vaulted room lying in southern tower)
 - Landing Area with stairs leading to second floor (partially built in thickness of wall)
- Second Floor (Figure 8)
 - Room 6: Bedroom 1 (located in rectangular part of tower)
 - Room 7: Laundry (with cupboards and ledges)
 - Room 8: Bathroom (with passage running along inside of curved wall)
 - Room 9: Bedroom 2 (located in southern projecting square tower, with vaulted ceiling)
 - Room 10: Garderobe (small room possibly former garderobe)
 - Stairs from first floor (partially located in thickness of wall)
 - Stairs to northern part of third floor (modern staircase)
 - Stairs to Bedroom 2 and Upper chamber in southern tower (partially spiral stair)
- Third Floor (not illustrated)
 - Room 11: Bedroom 3 (located in rectangular part of tower, modern)
 - Room 12: Bedroom 4 (located above Bathroom and Laundry on Second Floor, substantially modern)
 - Room 13: Bedroom 5 (located at top of southern tower with modern concrete ceiling)
 - Eastern Turret
 - Western Turret

4.2 The Castle During the 19th Century

4.2.1 The main sources of information for the condition of the structure of Roch Castle come from written descriptions and photographic evidence.

- 4.2.2 The earliest detailed description of the castle dates from 1864 following a visit to the site by the Cambrian Archaeological Association. The description was prepared by Mr. G. T. Clarke and is as follows:

'It is built on one horn of a double upburst of igneous rock, and consists of a D-shaped tower with prolonged sides, and may be of the reign of Henry III, or more probably the following one. The tower floor was probably a barrack, although filled up to one quarter of its area by a mass of rock in-situ, which must have been very inconvenient. A straight staircase marked by some broken steps and the rake of loops led from the floor past a garderobe to the front floor and the chapel. The principal room occupied the square part of the floor with three large openings to the west, north and east. South of this was a second room, and beyond this was an oratory, which consisted of a small vaulted ground chamber, occupying a projection from the south, or convex face of the tower. Above it is another such chamber vaulted, but now inaccessible. The floors seem to have been of timber. Each stage had a fire place. The stairs were enclosed within the thickness of the walls, but the inner shell had fallen. The exterior door had no portcullis but was some little height from the ground. Certain bonding stones in the tower indicate that it was at one time intended to enclose the other portion of the rock in a kind of court, but that had never been carried into effect. At the foot of the rock are a double bank and ditch enclosing a paddock. There are certain Tudor windows and other later alterations. The Tudor windows would lead us to suppose that the tower was inhabited in Tudor times, as described by Leland, whose concluding remark seems to hint of a claim set up by Barlow to the ownership of this fortress.' (as transcribed in Laws, 1995; original in *Archaeologia Cambrensis* of 1865)

- 4.2.3 In summary the description indicates that the tower survived substantially intact, although without any floors, excepting that which sits on top of the rocky outcrop on the southern side of the structure (southern part of room 3, Room 4 and Room 5). The upper floors were missing. Staircases were visible within the walls of the tower, but only the lower staircase was still accessible (to the first floor above the rocky outcrop). Those visible from ground floor were encased in the thickness of the walls, although it notes that the walls on the inside of the building that surrounded the staircase had collapsed.
- 4.2.4 The description of the ground floor being a barrack is not qualified, although the small size of the available space is considered unlikely to have served as this purpose (whether Room 1 or Room 2 or both). The description refers to a chapel or oratory on the first floor (sitting directly on the top of the rock outcrop; Room 5), located within the tower, and has presumably been described as such as the room had a vaulted ceiling and the possibility of an arched window (as shown on engraving of the castle included in Fenton 1917). A garderobe is noted adjacent to the chapel, which presumably refers to Room 4.
- 4.2.5 Photographic evidence and illustrations from the 1900s give a good indication of the exterior fabric of the structure. Two of the best date from 1865 and are included in *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, as used to illustrate the above description by Mr. Clarke (Illustrations 1 and 2). Other illustrations consulted were more romantically drawn and their accuracy is considered doubtful.
- 4.2.6 Illustration 1 shows the southern façade of the structure, including the projecting square tower, with arched window shown at the first floor level (associated with the possible chapel, Room 5). The illustration depicts this

façade as remarkably intact, which may be due to artistic licence as opposed to an accurate representation). Of note is that the southern square projecting tower seems intact to the crenellations.

- 4.2.7 Illustration 2 depicts a view from the southeast and includes much of the eastern and part of the northern façade. A large void is shown in the wall stretching from the ground floor, almost to the second floor window on the eastern elevation (the window is shown with as being arched). The crenellations at the top of the tower is also shown to have been damaged. A large void is also shown on the northern façade. The Eastern Turret is illustrated as surviving relatively intact. This illustration would appear to be far less accurate than Illustration 1, possibly due to problems with perspective and the different directions of the facades of the building.

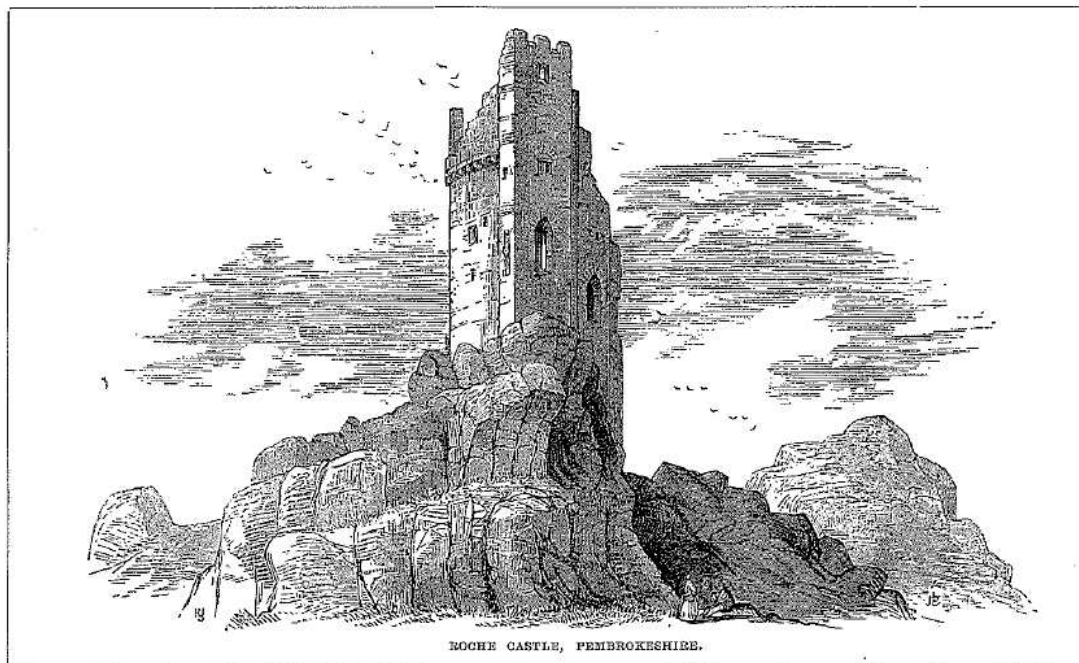


Illustration 1: Roch Castle Southern Façade (Archaeologia Cambrensis 1865)

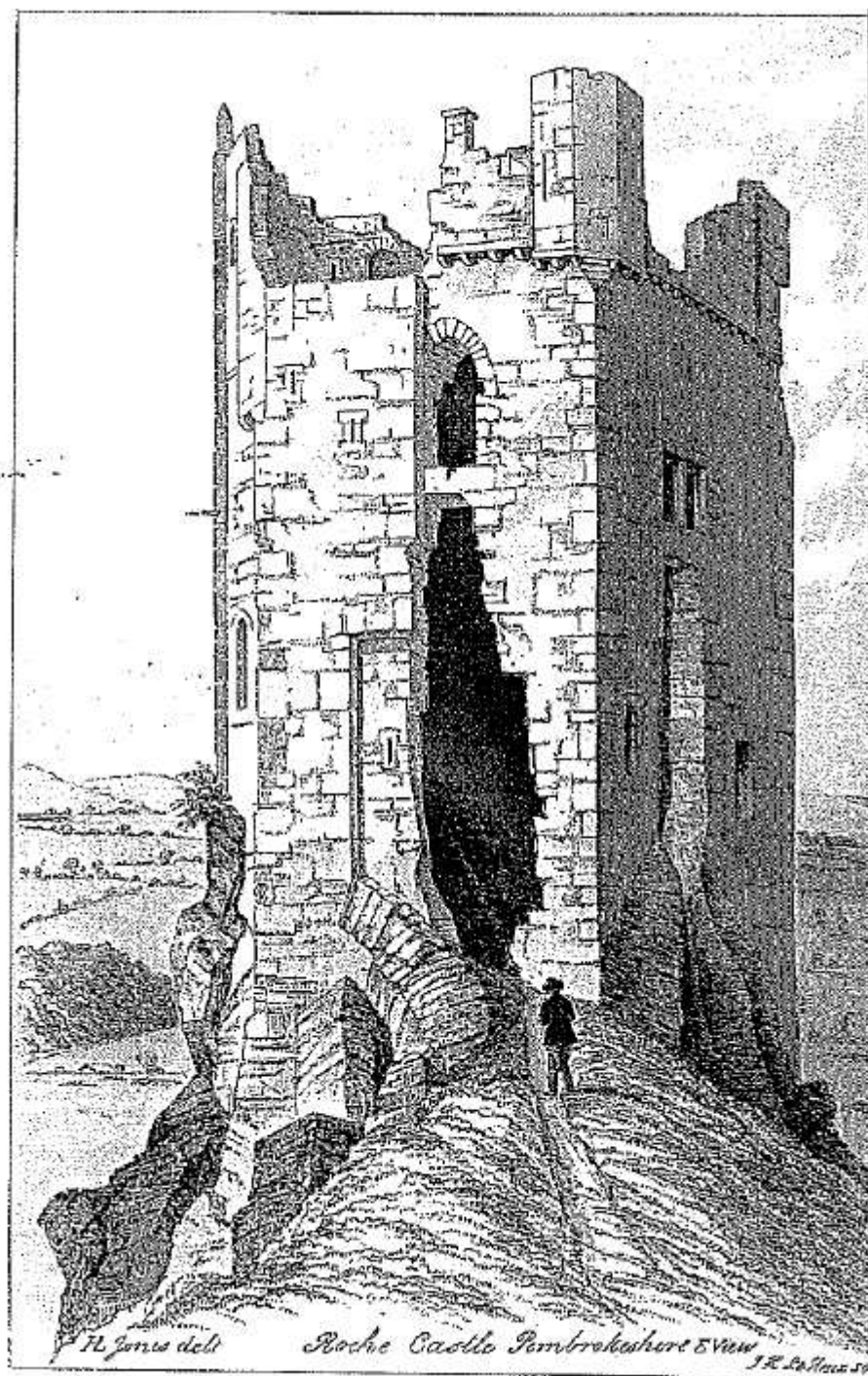


Illustration 2: Roch Castle Eastern and Northern Façades (Archaeologia Cambrensis 1865)

4.2.8 Photographs taken in the latter part of the 19th century confirm the above illustrations, although provide more detail on the extent of ruination and damage that had occurred to the castle.



Photo 9: View of Roch Castle from Southeast Pre-1900 (reproduced from Acanthus Holden Design and Conservation Statement 2008)

- 4.2.9 Photo 8 closely follows the information shown on the 1865 illustrations, although it can be seen that the arched window within the southern square tower projection is far less intact than previously illustrated, with only a hint of the arched opening visible back from the damaged façade. The void in the wall on the eastern façade is clearly shown, as is a void in the south-eastern façade in the location of the Room 4 at first floor level. The photograph confirms the survival of much of the fabric of the Eastern Turret. The southern square tower projection is shown to survive relatively intact to the upper crenellations. A relieving arch is shown at

the base of Room 4, to join the wall sitting directly on the upper part of the rock outcrop with the lower stone built wall to the north. This arch is still visible today (see Photo 38).



Photo 10: Southwestern view of Roch Castle taken pre-1900 (reproduced from Acanthus Holden Design and Conservation Statement 2008)

4.2.10 Photo 10 also dates from pre-1900, showing a view of the southern façade, but is notable as it indicates that the top part of the southern square projecting tower must have collapsed or the photograph has been altered (although this is considered unlikely).

4.3 The Castle During the 20th Century

4.3.1 Following the renovation of the castle in the first years of the 20th century it was transformed from a ruin back to a habitable building. The voids in the walls were repaired and much of the outer stone work of the castle was re-pointed or replaced. The window openings were mostly retained in their original locations, although were adapted to fit newly made window frames. An extension was attached to the northern façade of the castle, which was originally only of two stories height (Photo 11). Photo 11 also shows that part of the western tower, but indicates that no crenellations were present at this time.

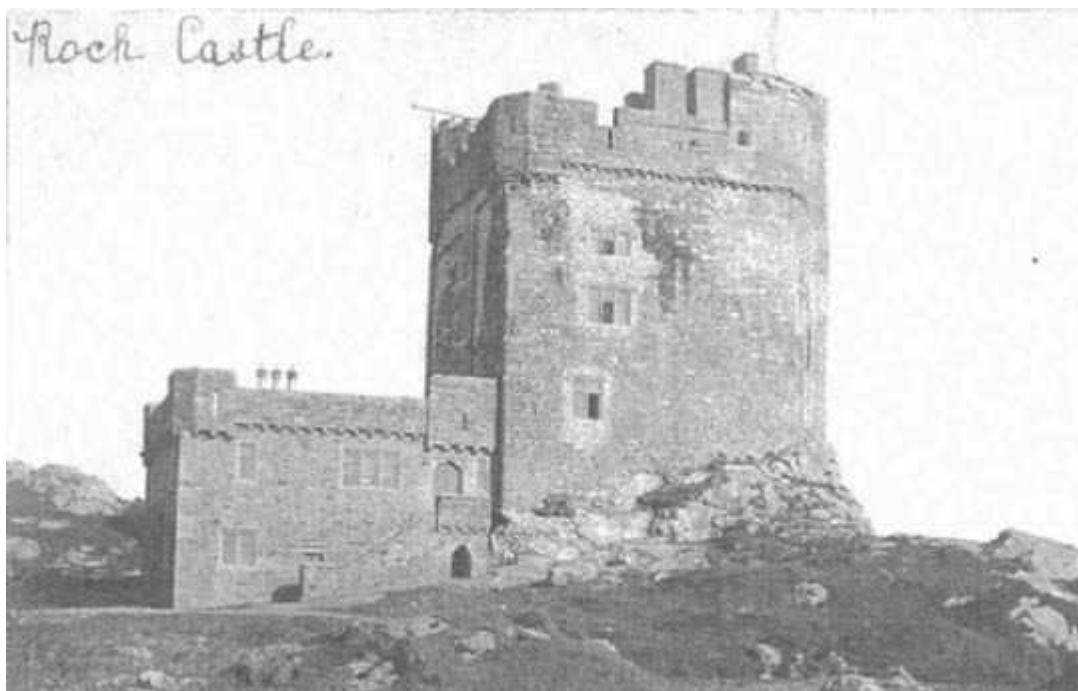


Photo 11: Western view of Roch Castle taken pre-1922, after first phase of restoration showing two storey northern extension (reproduced from Acanthus Holden Design and Conservation Statement 2008)

- 4.3.2 As noted in the historical background above, the additional floor to the northern extension to the castle was added during building works in 1922.
- 4.3.3 During the 1950s, whilst the castle was in the ownership of the Lord Kenswood a number of internal photographs were taken which showed the layout of the two principal rooms on the ground and first floors. The photographs indicate the extent of the faux-medieval décor that was placed within the castle, including the fireplaces and door furniture (Photos 12 – 14).



Photo 12: The Entrance Hall (Room 1) looking southwest towards replacement fireplace taken during the 1950s (reproduced from Acanthus Holden Design and Conservation Statement 2008)



Photo 13: The Entrance Hall (Room 1) looking southeast towards entrance doorway and refurbished stairway to first floor taken during the 1950s (reproduced from Acanthus Holden Design and Conservation Statement 2008)



Photo 14: The Court Room (Room 3) looking northwest towards replacement fireplace, window opening and entrance way through to the northern extension (right hand side of photo), taken during the 1950s (reproduced from Acanthus Holden Design and Conservation Statement 2008)



Photo 15: The Court Room (Room 3) looking southeast towards Room 4 (study, left hand side doorway) and Room 5 (Chapel) (centre doorway), taken during the 1950s (reproduced from Acanthus Holden Design and Conservation Statement 2008). The left hand wall before the arched doorway to Room 4 is a modern insertion.

- 4.3.4 The RCAHMS also hold a number of photographs taken of the interior of the castle during recent years when it was still owned by Mr. Dave Berry and in use as a holiday rental. These photos provide a good record of the condition of the building before the investigative works that have been undertaken more recently as part of the structural analysis of the building. These photos are not reproduced here.

4.4 The Existing Castle Interior

- 4.4.1 The site visit to the castle was carried out on 6th May 2009. At this time the inside of the original part of the tower had been subject to a number of works including removal of all ceiling coverings and some investigative areas of plasterwork. The fireplaces had been covered to prevent damage and were not visible. All rooms were accessible, as were the roofs of the castle and all of the castle enclosure. Mr. Dave Berry, the former owner, was present during part of the external observations of the castle and grounds, who provided much useful information.
- 4.4.2 The following descriptions give a broad overview of the existing fabric, with italicised sections beneath outlining where the main focuses of future building survey should be targeted.

Ground Floor, Room 1: Entrance Hall

- 4.4.3 The walls of this room are mostly original, with modern facings and re-pointing. The northern wall has been breached to provide access to the modern extension, and a modern toilet has also been built into the width of the wall (possibly these have used voids in the walls left from damage caused in the civil war). An original window opening is present in the western wall (with modern window inserted). The fireplace on the western wall is a modern addition, although probably in the original fireplace location. The wall between Room 1 and Room 2 would appear to be original stonework, based on its rough stone construction as apparent on its internal face within Room 2 (Photo 17), although it is rendered on the interior face. The stairs to the first floor are thought to partly follow the original staircase within the width of the wall, but are of concrete and have been made to curve into the room.

Following the removal of render within the room photographic record of the walls should be carried out, to include written description and drawings where original fabric is revealed and in areas of window openings or other features. Confirmation of the originality of the entrance doorway and fireplace location should be undertaken.

Ground Floor, Room 2: Barrack Room

- 4.4.4 The outer walls of this room are original and include part of an original window light that projects into the southwestern apsidal wall of the building (although the modern floors above have partly covered the window; Photo 16). The room has a small doorway through to an adjacent corridor which runs along the northern face of the rock outcrop (Photo 17). The rock outcrop occupies the majority of the rooms, and it was noted that the rock has been smoothed. The internal stone walls are original and un-rendered.

Internal photographic survey and drawn and written record of details of the layout of the rooms and any features which may provide evidence as to their original function should be undertaken. Detailed record of the visible area of the window opening should be made, to ascertain its relationship with the floor level and the window opening above within the Court Room.



Photo 16: Window Light in Room 2 (Barrack Room) with modern concrete floor above (view southwest from doorway)



Photo 17: View east within Room 2 towards adjacent corridor running along northern edge of rock outcrop

First Floor, Room 3: Court Room

- 4.4.5 The Court Room has exposed stone walls on the northern side, and a breach where it formerly led through to the modern extension. The walls are substantially of medieval date with some modern re-facing and re-pointing (Photo 18). The western/southwestern wall of the room is original, but has been rendered with modern materials. The window openings through this wall are original (Photo 19), although the relationship between the southwestern window and the window light visible in Room 2 beneath is not understood at this stage. A modern fireplace has been inserted into the wall, probably in the location of an original fireplace. An alcove of possible medieval date is present on the southern part of the curving wall. The eastern wall of this room is a modern concrete addition used to separate the stairway from the living space. An arched doorway leads to the east on the southern part of the wall into Room 4 (Study).
- 4.4.6 The southern part of the ceiling of Room 3 is lower than that to the north, comprising concrete beams and floors. This would appear to be a modern design as opposed to recreating the medieval original floor layout, and undertaken to create an additional floor within this part of the castle, whilst allowing access to the original room levels in the southern part of the tower. The difference in ceiling level is best illustrated on Photos 14 and 15.



Photo 18: View of northern wall of Court Room (Room 3) showing exposed stonework, and modern breach on left hand side of photograph

Following the removal of render within the room photographic record of the walls should be carried out, to include written description and drawings where original fabric is revealed and in areas of window openings or other features. Investigation as to the relationship between the southwestern window and the window light in Room 2 below should be undertaken. Confirmation of the

originality of the fireplace location should be undertaken. An aim of the work in this room would be to identify the original floor levels and also the locations of original staircases.



Photo 19: Window opening in southern part of west wall of Court Room (Room 3), an original medieval opening with modern window inserted

First Floor, Room 4: Study

4.4.7 Room 4 is a small room on the eastern side of the building, which may have formerly housed a garderobe and possibly a spiral staircase (although this is not confirmed). The window in the room is a modern insertion, being of gothic arched style. The large size of the window may have served the purpose of filling a large void that is shown to have been present in the wall on earlier photos (Photo 9).

Following the removal of render within the room photographic record of the walls should be carried out, to include description and drawings where original fabric is revealed and in areas of window openings or other features. An aim of the work in this room would be to identify if a spiral staircase was previously present and any evidence for a garderobe.

First Floor, Room 5: Chapel

4.4.8 An arched doorway also leads through to Room 5 from the Court Room (Room 3) (Photo 20). The room has original walls on all sides, with an original window opening, window light and alcove. The description from 1864 states that it has a vaulted ceiling, although that which exists today comprises exposed modern sandstone ribs with plasterboard vaulting. Four vents are present through the plasterboard and it was noted that a concrete ceiling was present above, implying that the original vault seen in 1864 was removed and a visual facsimile rebuilt using modern materials.



Photo 20: Arched doorway through to Room 5, with both original and replacement voussoirs, showing white imitation vaulted ceiling and modern sandstone ribs inside the room

Following the removal of render within the room photographic record of the walls should be carried out, to include description and drawings where original fabric is revealed and in areas of window openings or other features. An aim of the work in this room would be to identify if any evidence for the original function of the room is present. The ceilings are modern, but potentially evidence for their original construction may be revealed. As with all rooms within the southern projecting square tower an aim should be to confirm or otherwise whether this is part of the original structure or a later addition.

Second Floor, Room 6: Bedroom 1

4.4.9 Access to Room 6 is from a staircase built within the outer wall of the castle (an original staircase location, but modernised). This leads both into the bedroom and also to a second modern staircase leading up to an additional modern room above Room 6 on the Third Floor. The room has original walls to the north and west, with original window openings, with modern window inserts. These window openings are arched internally, with original stone voussoirs visible beneath areas of removed plaster (Photo 21). The position of this window within this part of the room



Photo 21: Arched window opening in west wall of Room 6, with stone voussoirs visible on left hand side of photograph above arch

Following the removal of render within the room photographic record of the walls should be carried out, to include description and drawings where original fabric is revealed and especially in the areas of the window openings or any other features. An aim of this work would be to establish if evidence for the original floor levels is present, and how they relate to the existing apparently (and original) window openings. Information regarding the original staircase layouts may also be present.

Second Floor, Room 7: Laundry

4.4.10 Room 7 has no original walls or features and was inserted as part of the renovation of the castle.

Only a cursory photographic record of this room would be needed prior to modern walls etc being removed.

Second Floor, Room 8: Bathroom

4.4.11 Room 8 was previously used as a bathroom. There is an original window opening on the western side of the room, with the original curving stone wall along the western and southern parts. Modern walls are present between Room 8 and Rooms 6 to the north and 7 to the east. Alterations have been made to the southern wall between Room 7 and Room 9.

Following the removal of render within the room photographic record of the original walls to the west and south should be carried out, to include description and drawings where original fabric is revealed and especially in the areas of window openings or any other features. An aim of this work would be to establish how much of the wall between Room 8 and Room 9 in the square tower is original fabric.

Second Floor, Room 9: Bedroom 2

4.4.12 Bedroom 2 is located in the southern projecting square tower above Room 5 (the Chapel). Unlike the room below this room has a substantial area of original stone vaulting (part exposed, Photo 22) and some original stonework within the ribs survives. An original alcove is present within the northeast wall of the room, and an apparently original window opening is present to the southwest. It is probable that the window opening on the southeast wall is modern, although is situated within an original window location. Most of the walls of the room would appear to be original, although substantial repaired areas are likely to be present on the southeastern part.



Photo 22: Original exposed stone vaulting in northwest part of Room 9

Following the removal of render, where present within the room, photographic record of the walls on all sides should be carried out, to include description and drawings where original fabric is revealed and especially in the areas of window openings, the doorway, alcove or any other features. Detailed record of the vaulting and ribs should also be undertaken. An aim of this work would be to establish the extent of repair carried out on the southeastern wall of the tower. A detailed record of the stairway between Room 9 and 10 and the layout of this area should also be undertaken.

Second Floor, Room 10: Garderobe

4.4.13 Room 10 is a small room on the eastern side of the castle of uncertain original function, but most probably a garderobe and original stairway over. The room is very small with an original opening on its eastern wall. It is likely that all walls within this room are original.

Following the removal of render, photographic record of the walls on all sides should be carried out, to include description and drawings where original fabric is revealed and especially in the area of the window opening and the doorway or any other features. An aim of this work would be to establish whether the room below was also a garderobe. The relationship of this room to the adjacent stairways should also be investigated, and how this projecting area relates to the main part of the castle.

Third Floor, Room 11: Bedroom 3

4.4.14 Room 11 may partially have original stone walls around the lower parts of its northern and western walls, but is otherwise a modern additional room on the northern part of the upper floor of the castle. Room 3 has the lowest floor level of the three rooms on the third floor.

Following the removal of render from the lower parts of the walls a photographic record should be carried out, to include description and drawings where original fabric is revealed and any features. Only a photographic record would be needed of the remainder of the room.

Third Floor, Room 12: Bedroom 4

4.4.15 As with Room 11, Room 12 may also partially have original stone walls around the lower parts of its southern and western walls, although the extents of this are very uncertain. The northern wall is entirely of modern concrete. The southeastern part of the curved southern wall of the room may contain original fabric adjacent to the staircase, but this is uncertain.

Following the removal of render from the lower parts of the walls a photographic record should be carried out, to include description and drawings where original fabric is revealed and any features. Only a photographic record would be needed of the remainder of the room.

Third Floor, Room 13: Bedroom 5

4.4.16 Room 13 is located in the top part of the southern projecting square tower. The floor of the room is presumably laid upon original medieval fabric above the vaulted ceiling of Room 9 below, but has a modern concrete ceiling itself. It is likely that much of the walls of the room are original (Photo 23), although with rebuilding on the southeast wall. The window openings may be located in original positions, but have probably been rebuilt. Of most interest in this area are the curving staircases that lead to and from the room, which are substantially located within the original thickness of the wall. The underside of the staircase leading to the roof area is visible close to this room, which indicates original staircase

fabric survives (Photo 24). In the area above the Room 10 Garderobe, within the eastern wall is a remnant of an infilled window or alcove, visible as straight joints in the exposed stonework (Photo 25).

Following the removal of render from the plastered walls a photographic record should be carried out, to include description and drawings where original fabric is revealed, window openings, doorways, alcoves and any other features. The record should aim to ascertain the extent of rebuilding of the southern wall of the southern projecting square tower. For the staircases to the north of the room, a record of their layout should be made, with a detailed written and drawn record. The infilled area within the eastern wall above Room 10 (Garderobe) should also be undertaken in the aim of establishing what its original function was.



Photo 23: View of eastern part of Room 13 showing original stone walls and alcove (and modern vents)



Photo 24: View south down staircase on southeastern part of castle, showing underside of original staircase above



Photo 25: View of eastern wall above Room 10 (Garderobe) which shows infilled window or alcove as seen by straight joints in the stonework

Roof Area

4.4.17 The majority of the accessible roofed area is located on top of modern concrete ceilings associated with the 1900s renovations (Photo 26 and 27). The roofs have then been covered with asphalt to prevent leakages (as noted above). The crenellations around the tops of most of the walls have been rebuilt during the renovations also, or have been covered with concrete render and asphalt preventing direct observation of the fabric. An water tank housed in an asbestos structure is located above the

northern end of Room 11 (Photo 26). The top of the southern projecting square tower is curved on the inside edge, mirroring the arc of the western side of the southern part of the structure.



Photo 26: Asbestos structure housing water tank above Room 11, viewed from the modern roof above Room 12. The two turrets are visible in the background.



Photo 27: Top part of the modern Room 12 viewed from the roof above Room 11



Photo 28: View towards roof of southern projecting square tower above Room 13
(modern glass addition covers the staircase area to the north of Room 13)

Following the removal of asphalt and other roof coverings a photographic record should be carried out, to include description and drawings where original fabric is revealed within the crenellations and any features that may come to light. The aim of this work will be to establish whether any original fabric survives at roof level. Only a photographic record would be needed of the remainder of the room. Investigation should be made of the curving inner wall of the southern projecting square tower to establish whether the wall represents part of an earlier wall (pre-dating the tower) or is merely a cosmetic feature mirroring the overall D-shape of the castle.

Roof, Eastern Turret

4.4.18 The eastern turret (Photo 26) is shown as being relatively intact on early photographs and illustrations. The crenellations appear to have been enhanced, presumably as part of the renovation work, but the turret floor has been constructed using corbelling suggesting a medieval construction date (Photo 29). The upper floor of the turret is covered in asphalt and could not be seen. On the inside of the eastern wall of the castle at roof level are a number of projecting stones suggesting that former steps would have been present leading up to the turret (Photo 30).

Following the removal of the asphalt from the inside walls and floor of the upper part of the turret a photographic record should be carried out, to include description and drawings where original fabric is revealed and any features. A detailed written and drawn description of the corbelling on the underside of the floor and possible steps leading up to the floor should be recorded.



Photo 29: Underside of turret floor showing stone corbelling suggesting original medieval fabric



Photo 30: Projecting stones on the eastern side of the castle to carry steps to allow access to the turret floor.

Roof, Western Turret

4.4.19 The western turret (Photo 26) is not clearly shown on early photographs and illustrations, and the implication is that it was either not present or had collapsed. The majority of the upper fabric of this tower appears to have been rebuilt as part of the renovation work. The floor of the turret is supported on concrete and steel beams (Photo 31).

Following the removal of the asphalt from the inside walls and floor of the upper part of the turret a photographic record should be carried out, to include description and drawings where original fabric is revealed (if any is present) and any features.

4.5 The Existing Castle Exterior

- 4.5.1 A thorough description of the external appearance of the castle has been prepared by David Brown of the RCAHMS. The following descriptions present only a short summary of the external appearance and descriptions of the fabric, as the detail of the record prepared by David Browne is already adequate.
- 4.5.2 It is noted by Browne that much of the original medieval fabric is evident due to the differential lichen growth. Re-pointed areas and some re-facing has occurred such that the majority of the actual wall internal fabric is of medieval date, but the exterior face is later (or has the appearance of being later).
- 4.5.3 The existing external description by David Browne notes that there are a number of areas that would require further investigation, including those that are presently covered in ivy. As part of the development proposals vegetation will be removed from the façade and will therefore make these visible. It is not proposed to make any alterations to the exterior of the building, other than re-pointing, replacing window frames and removing asphalt surfaces from the roofs and crenellations.

Western Elevation



Photo 31: Western Elevation of Roch Castle

- 4.5.4 Based on internal layout it is considered that the windows on the northern part of the façade are replacement windows but in original window locations. The small window in the upper centre part of the elevation,

located below the corbel course within Room 8 is an original window location, but the window above this (and above the corbel course) would seem to be a modern insertion providing light to the additional room (Room 12). There are few early illustrations or photographs which clearly show this elevation.

- 4.5.5 As noted above, the Western Turret is substantially a modern rebuild, although may potentially have some original fabric on the outer wall above the course of corbels.
- 4.5.6 The corbel course would appear to be original.
- 4.5.7 The castle is built directly upon the rock and it is assumed that the majority of the lower stonework is original fabric, although with some patching and re-facing (Photo 32).



Photo 32: Lower part of western elevation built directly upon bedrock

- 4.5.8 The crenellations in the centre of the elevation indicate different phases of building, with vertical joints visible through the stones (Photo 33), and it is considered likely that the area to the left hand side of the photograph is original fabric, with that to the right being later rebuilding of the adjacent crenellations. A tall vertical stack of stonework is visible on illustration 2 that is likely to correspond with this. Concrete re-pointing is also visible on the wall surface, as are smaller areas of repair of different dates, including a patch beneath the window which is presumably of more recent date.



Photo 33: Evidence of Phases of Rebuilding in Crenellations

Southwestern Elevation

- 4.5.9 The southwestern elevation shows the curving wall of the D-shaped structure and the southern projecting square tower. Illustrations and photographs suggest that this was the most intact part of the original structure and all but the upper parts would be of medieval date (although with re-facing and re-pointing associated with the 1900s renovations).
- 4.5.10 The windows on the curving part of the structure (excluding that below the course of corbels) are original window locations with replacement windows inserted during the 1900s renovation works. The arrow slot on the western side of the southern projecting tower is an original feature. The window above is an original window opening location, although the wall has been substantially rebuilt such that the window in the top of the tower (lighting Room 13) is of modern construction.
- 4.5.11 Two features are also visible on the curving wall of this elevation, including a small light just below the larger window and also a stone projecting feature located to the right of this window (Photo 35). It is assumed that these are original features. The stone light beneath the inserted window would be that which the lower part is visible within Room 2 (Photo 16). The relationship between the two windows and original floor levels needs further analysis.
- 4.5.12 The castle is built directly upon the rock and it is assumed that the majority of the lower stonework is again original fabric, although with some patching and re-facing (Photo 36).



Photo 34: Southwestern elevation of Roch Castle



Photo 35: Southwestern elevation of Roch Castle showing original features either side of window into Room 3



Photo 36: Southwestern elevation of Roch Castle showing how walls have been built directly upon the rock outcrop.

Southern/Southeastern Elevation

- 4.5.13 The southern and southeastern elevations (Photo 37) comprises the projecting square tower and the adjacent projection carrying stairways and possible garderobes on the upper floors of the castle.
- 4.5.14 Early photographs and illustrations indicate that the square tower survived relatively intact, although a collapse of the upper part of the tower may have occurred just before the renovation work of the 1901 (Photo 10). The windows within this elevation correspond with original window locations with the central window most similar to the original. The lower window is a replacement for the former arched window, and has been substantially rebuilt and re-faced. The upper window is likely to be entirely of new build. The crenellations have been rebuilt during the renovation work in 1901.
- 4.5.15 Early photographs and illustrations indicate that the southeastern elevation had survived in a poor state, with a large void in the wall at the first floor and significant disturbance to the upper levels of the castle. The façade was substantially rebuilt in the first phase of restoration, including the majority of the third floor and roof level. Although much of this façade is covered by ivy growth, it can be seen that the corbel course that surrounds most of the castle is only partially present on this elevation (it should be noted that there is no evidence for it ever having been located on the southern projecting square tower).
- 4.5.16 The southeastern façade includes the large arched gothic window (Photo 38) placed into Room 4 (Study) on the First Floor, which filled a large void indicated in this area on early photos and illustrations. Below this window is an original relieving arch (Photo 38) built into the fabric of the wall, as

indicated on earlier photographs and illustrations to span the differences in the heights and layout of the bedrock.

- 4.5.17 Also present on this elevation (Photo 38 and Photo 39) are three sets of projecting stones to the right of the relieving arch which are those as described by Clarke in 1864 which indicate the intention of a further wall coming off from the main castle, although no further evidence for this ever having been completed exists.



Photo 37: Southern / Southeastern of elevation of Roch Castle

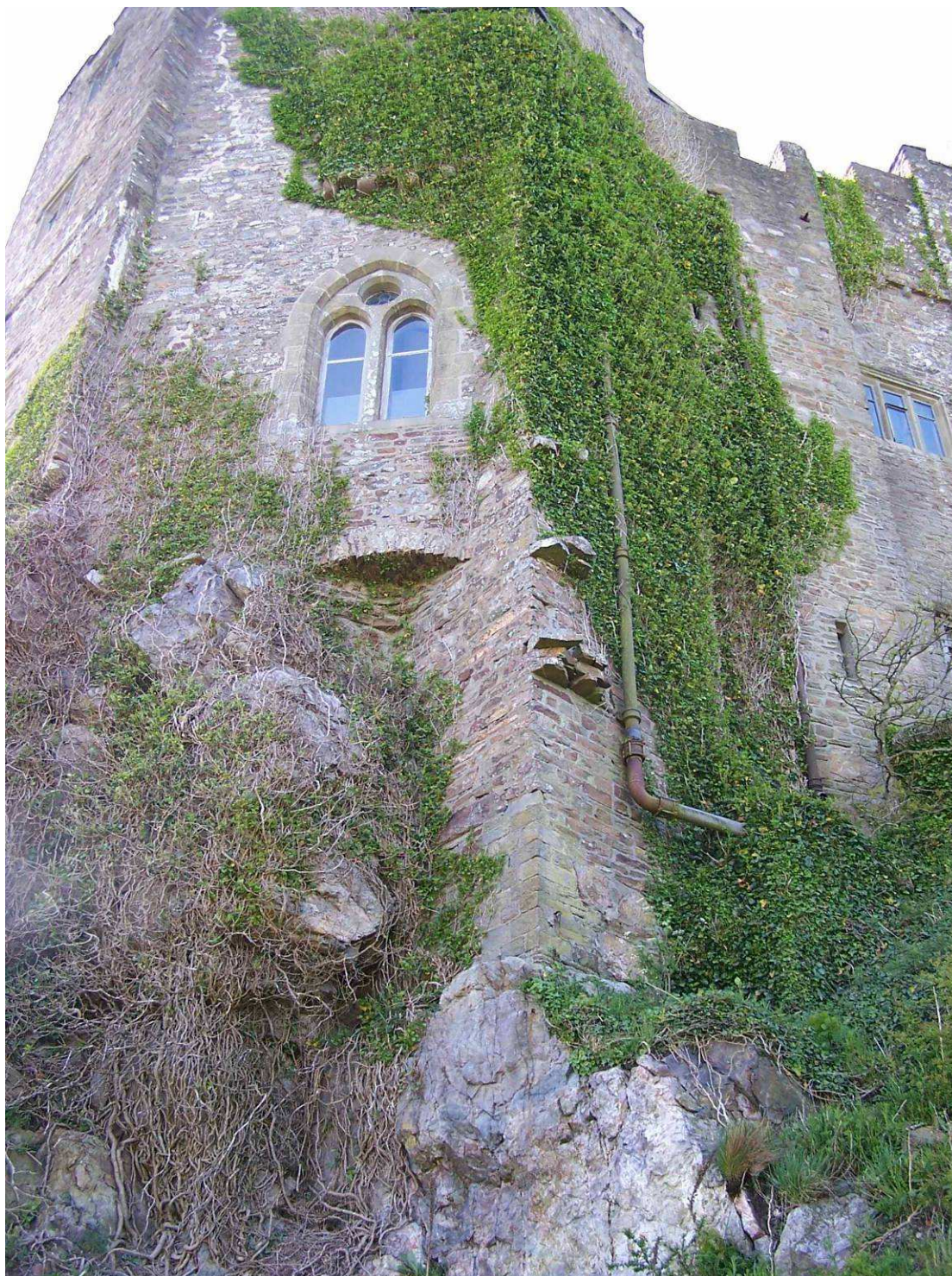


Photo 38: Southeastern elevation showing Gothic window inserted in 1900s, relieving arch beneath and three sets of projecting stones to the right.

Eastern Elevation

4.5.18 The eastern elevation has also been substantially rebuilt during the first phase of restoration. The early photographs and illustrations indicate a large void running down a sizeable portion of the wall, with the upper levels of the castle and crenellations also missing.

4.5.19 An arched window is shown on the 1865 illustration (Illustration 1) and the upper part of this arch is still visible in the fabric of the wall, although the window beneath has been substantially rebuilt (Photo 40).



Photo 39: Eastern elevation of Roch Castle



Photo 40: Former arch above replacement and rebuilt window in eastern façade

4.5.20 The main entrance into the castle is through the eastern façade, and has been substantially rebuilt and remodelled. This was inserted through an existing void in the fabric of the wall, as shown on earlier photographs and illustrations, although elements of a possible earlier doorway internally which suggest this was the original entrance (and as indicated on Illustration 2). The doorway was originally set fairly high within the wall of the building, and access was improved in the first phased of restoration with the construction of a stone stairway up to the doorway (Photo 41).

An arrow slit to the south of the doorway may be an original feature (as shown on Illustration 2).

- 4.5.21 Further arrow slits / vents are visible within this façade, although partially covered by ivy, within the possible garderobe section. An arrow slit is also visible on the Eastern Turret, which is also thought to be an original feature, and the fabric of most of this turret is also thought to be original.



Photo 41: Main doorway in eastern façade

Northern Elevation

- 4.5.22 The majority of the northern elevation has been completely remodelled with the construction of the northern extension during the first and second phases of renovation. The only part of this elevation still exposed is that above the extension (Second and Third Floors). A central window is present on the Second Floor which is in an original location (as shown on Illustration 2) (Photo 42). The only other features on this wall are the entire stretch of the course of corbels, and the Eastern and Western Turrets (the corbel course beneath both of these may also be original).



Photo 42: Eastern side of Northern elevation, showing Eastern Turret, part of central window and corbel course



Photo 43: Western side of Northern elevation, showing Western Turret and corbel course

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1** The archaeological and historical significance of Roch Castle is demonstrated by its status as a Grade I Listed Building (Appendix A). The structure largely survives as a medieval castle with renovation work undertaken in the early 20th century, including a three storey extension on its northern side.
- 5.2** Roch Castle is a stone built structure of later 13th century date, most likely built by Thomas de Rupe, one of an important Norman family who had occupied the southern part of Pembrokeshire. The castle was likely to have originally been built for defensive purposes, possibly replacing an earthwork castle at Roch. The possible remains of an earthwork motte and surrounding moat are present within the castle enclosure.
- 5.3** The defensive use of the castle would appear to have been superseded as a residence, although when this occurred is uncertain.
- 5.4** The castle has the appearance of a D-shaped Keep, of which other examples exist at Ewloe, Flintshire; Montgomery, Montgomeryshire; and Helmsley Castle, Yorkshire. The other examples are all of clear D-shaped design with a full apsidal end, whereas Roch only has an incomplete apsidal end.
- 5.5** It is considered likely that the main body of the Roch was built in a single phase, with the floorplan designed to incorporate the overall shape of the outcrop of rock. At this time there is no reason to consider that the southern projecting square tower is not contemporary with the whole structure, constructed as such to fit the shape of the outcrop and take advantage of the higher part of the outcrop at its southern end. Further information regarding whether the tower is contemporary or an addition may come from internal recording once plaster has been removed.
- 5.6** There is presently no evidence for any associated stone structures within the castle enclosure. The structures in the northern part of the enclosure discussed above cannot be related to the castle in any way at this stage. Should development proposals include groundworks around the perimeter of the castle within the castle grounds then preliminary archaeological investigation should be undertaken to establish whether any associated remains are present.
- 5.7** Further internal historic building recording should be undertaken within the original part of the castle as plaster work and any floor levels are removed. The aim of such work would be to identify medieval layouts of the castle, including floor levels, fireplaces and staircase arrangements. Analysis of this would also establish areas of original fabric and rebuild associated with the 20th century renovation works. Historic building recording should be undertaken to an appropriate level, to include photographic survey (including rectified photography of significant areas), drawn and written record. Modern additions to the castle should be recorded to a basic photographic survey level, whereas original fabric and features should be surveyed to full detail. Areas of rebuild should be noted, but would not need to be recorded to a full detailed level.
- 5.8** A photographic record of the ongoing works should be taken to provide a record of this phase of development of the castle.
- 5.9** It is not anticipated that the overall external appearance of the castle will be altered, other than through re-pointing, removal of vegetation and some remedial works. As such it is not considered necessary that any recording works of the exterior of the castle would be required as part of

these works. Further record could be completed at a later date, possibly by RCAHMS as part of their ongoing research into the castle.

SOURCES

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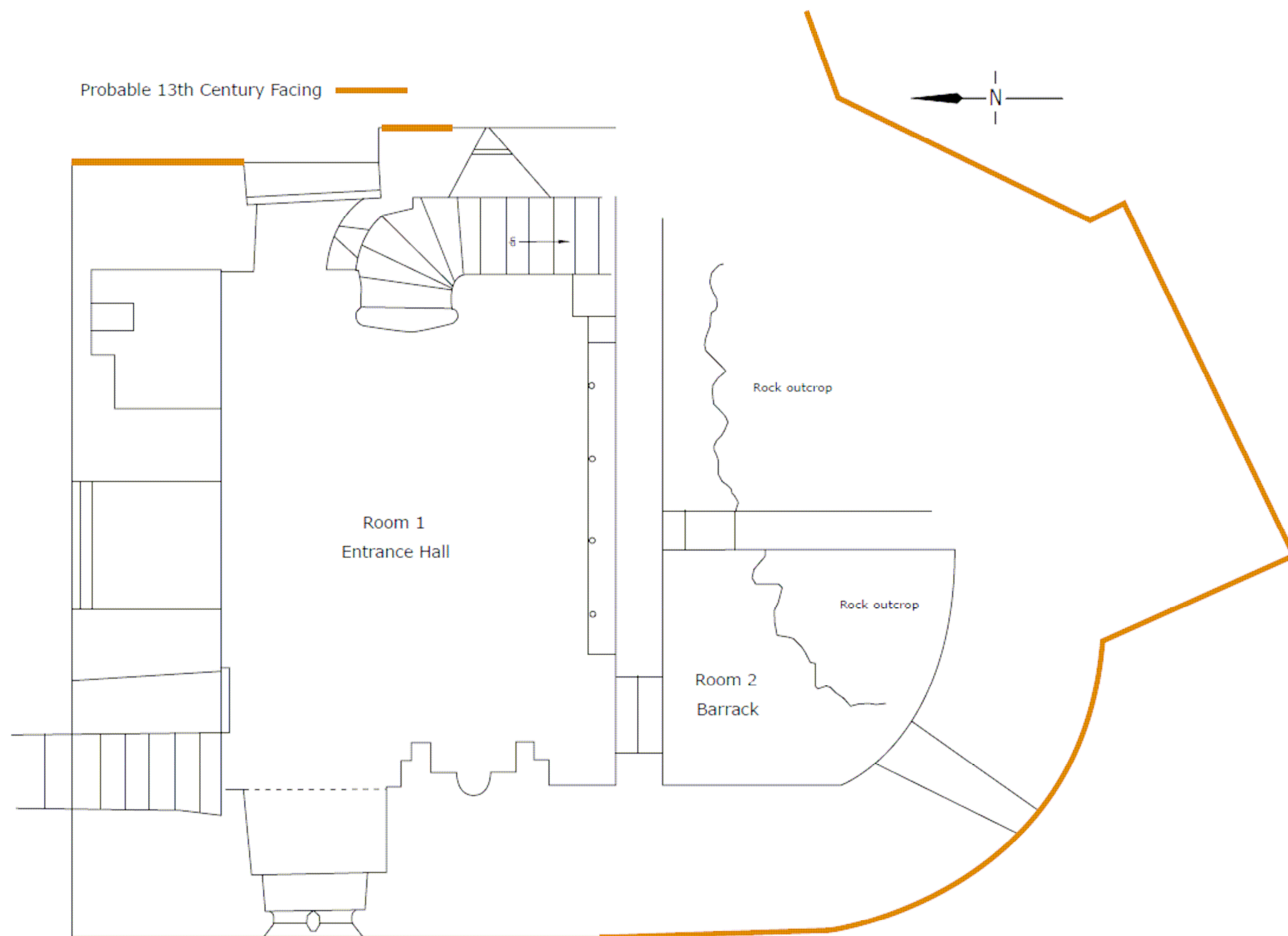


Figure 6: Ground Floor Plan of Roch Castle (based on RCAHMW survey)

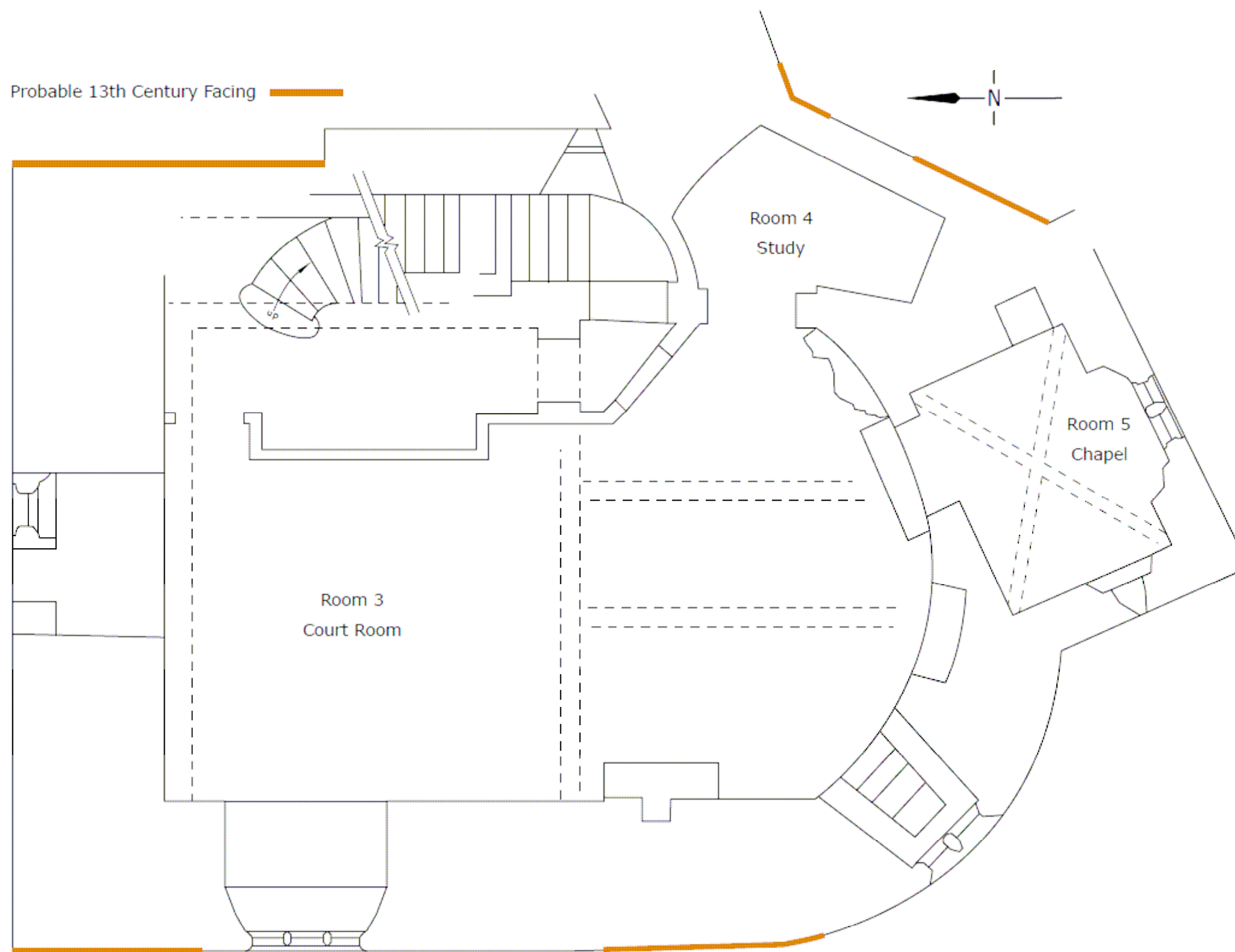


Figure 7: First Floor Plan of Roch Castle (based on RCAHMW survey)



Figure 8: Second Floor Plan of Roch Castle (based on RCAHMW survey)

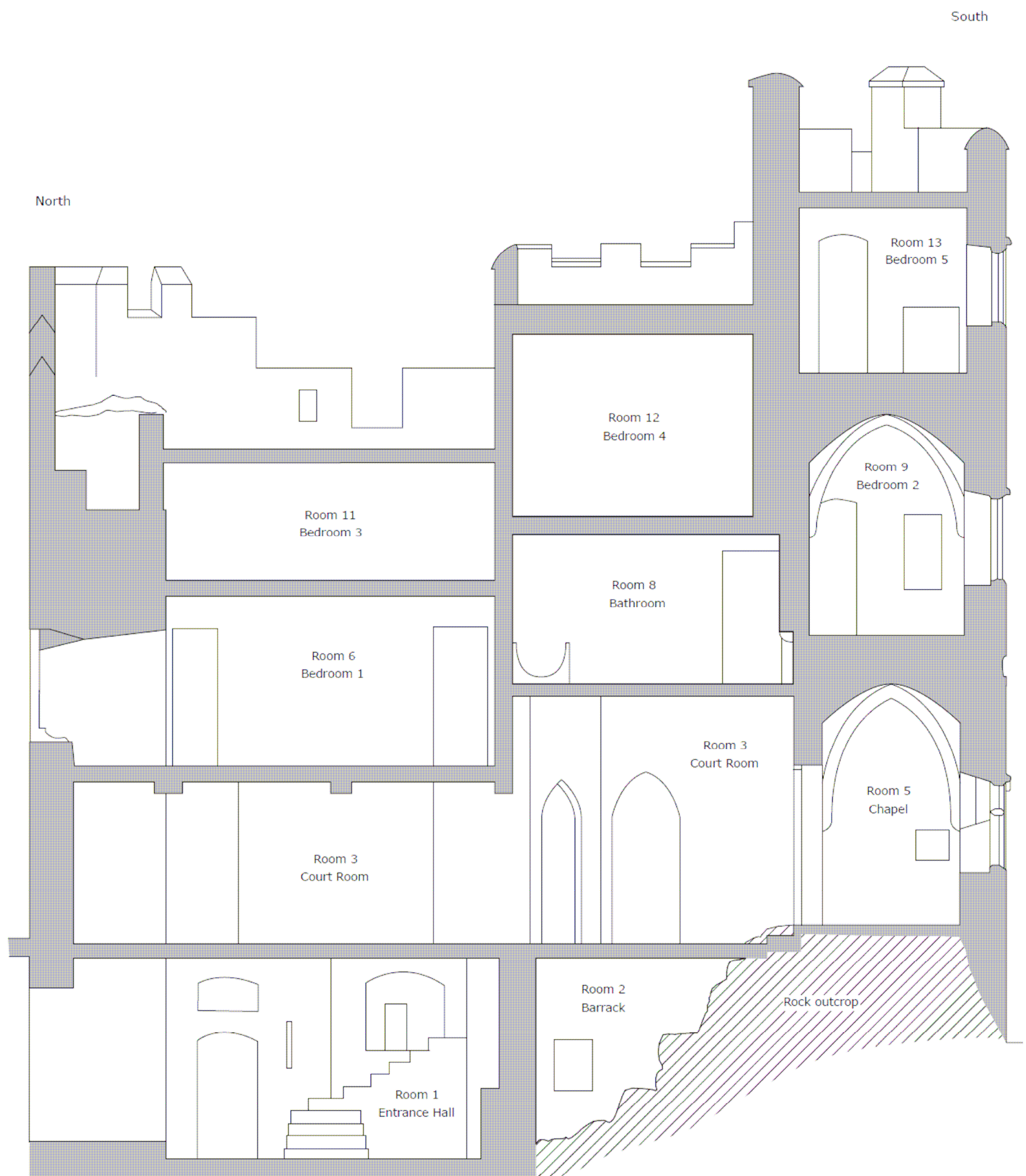


Figure 9: Roch Castle (based on RCAHMW survey)