

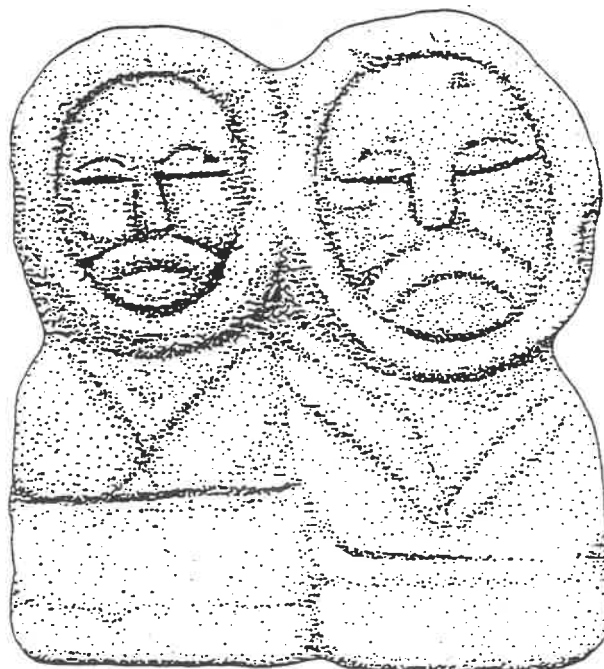
CAMBRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS LTD

POYERS ARMS FARM, TEMPLETON, PEMBROKESHIRE:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

by Nick Tavener, BA, Dip. Soil Science, MIFA

Project Record Number 38745



CAP Report No. 101

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**By Nick Tavener, BA, Dip. Soil Science, MIFA**

**Prepared for:-**

South Haven Construction Ltd  
Stockwell Road,  
Llanion Park  
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Pembrokeshire

**on behalf of:-**

Pembrokeshire Housing Association

**Project No. 156**

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Date:- August 1999

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## SUMMARY

Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd undertook a watching brief on the construction of a new housing development at the south end of Templeton village at around N.G.R. SN 1130 1150 on land previously occupied by the farmyard and outbuildings of Poyers Arms Farm.

The existing layout of Templeton village indicates that it was originally founded as a planned and probably 'planted' settlement in the early middle ages. Documentary sources indicate that the village may have grown around a priory established by the Knight's Templar in the 1180's. There have been no archaeological excavations within the area of the medieval borough. A recent study has speculated that the borough may have grown around the site of the priory (*Soulsby and Jones, 1975*). The same study identified the site of the priory as being under St. John's Church which lies on the northern boundary of the development area. This is almost certainly incorrect, for that church was built in 1859 according to the local Sites and Monuments Record. References by early 19th-century travellers indicate that the early church probably lay at the north end of the village.

No medieval deposits were found during the watching brief. The north end of the area had been terraced down into the subsoil some 30 years ago. The Northeast corner of the site and area under the main farmhouse had been reduced to an even lower level (down into bedrock) prior to the construction of the farmhouse. The southern part of the site had been covered by up to 2m depth of landfill some twenty years ago.

The main farmhouse was gutted and renovated as part of the development. The building measured 13m by 4.35m and was two storeys high. It was believed to date to the 17th century with alterations through to the 19th century. The house featured a lateral chimney adjacent to the front door on the west wall and a massive square chimney externally on the south wall. The lateral chimney has been referred to as a 'Flemish' Chimney.

During monitoring of the refurbishment, a blocked window of small aperture was found near the Southwest corner of the building with a stone corbel floor support nearby. The arrangement of these features indicated that the original ceiling height had been much lower. Another blocked window of identical dimensions and height was found near the Northeast corner.

It is proposed that these features, in conjunction with the lateral chimney, indicate a residence dating to the 17th century and of moderate stature. The square chimney appears to have been a slightly later addition to the house and later still used as part of a forge. The house was a pub in the 19th century and the name indicates some local tradition of a connection with the celebrated Col. Poyer of Second Civil War fame or possibly one of his descendants. None of these were particularly famous. There is no direct evidence for this association although the family lived in the parish in the later 17th century and it is not impossible that Col. Poyer might have been active in the parish around 1640.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Pembrokeshire Housing Association have received planning permission from Pembrokeshire County Council to carry out a housing development on land to the rear (east) of Poyers Arms Farm at the southern extremity of Templeton village. The development area is centred at N.G.R. SN 1130 1150.

1.2 The main bulk of the development consisted of a terrace row, orientated north south, of 10 new-build housing units (Nos. 4-13) situated some 30m to the east of the main farmhouse (*Fig. 2*). In addition, a new-build unit (*No. 1 on Fig. 2*) would be inserted between the main farmhouse and the churchyard wall. The main farmhouse (building 7 on *Fig. 3*) was to be retained as unit 2 (*Fig. 2*), but would be gutted and renovated (with minor alterations to existing openings). A pair of 19th century outbuildings tacked onto the southern end of the main farmhouse (*Buildings 8 and 9 on Fig. 3*) would also be gutted and renovated as part of the new unit 3 (*Fig. 2*). The eastern 'wing' of the new unit 3 was to be formed by demolishing an old stone shed (*building 5 on Fig. 3*) and rebuilding on the same 'footprint' utilising the salvaged masonry. Other groundworks would be confined to:-

a) services connected with the drainage of a pond or bog at the south east corner of the site (*see Fig. 2*)

b) relatively shallow stripping of the new development access road (which largely followed the line of the old farmyard access).

1.3 Prior to the commencement of construction, all the outbuildings (i.e., buildings 1-6 inclusive on *Fig. 3*) were to be demolished. The main farmhouse, together with outbuildings 8 and 9 (*Fig. 3*), were to be gutted. It was agreed that the archaeological contractor would inspect all the outbuildings first to ensure that none were of any archaeological, historical or architectural merit.

1.4 The potential archaeological importance of the development area arises from the fact that the layout of the existing housing within the village (viewed in conjunction with the layout of the surrounding field pattern) indicates that Templeton is probably one of the best preserved early medieval small towns or boroughs surviving in Pembrokeshire. Hard documentary or archaeological evidence is, however, sparse. Thus, any intrusive groundworks within the village that might disturb archaeological deposits could produce information of enormous help in establishing when the settlement was founded.

1.5 Accordingly, the Curatorial Section of Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology (henceforward ACA Curatorial), acting in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, requested that the works be monitored as a 'watching brief' by a suitably qualified archaeologist. The main contractors, South Haven Construction Ltd, commissioned Cambrian Archaeological Projects to undertake the watching brief; this report details the results of that watching brief.

## 2 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The development area forms a rough triangle c. 0.35 hectares in extent. It is flanked by St. John's Church on the north side, the railway embankment on the east side, a children's play area along the south western border and the carriageway of the A478 along the north western edge. There were no structures of any great antiquity visible either on the development area or around its periphery with the possible exception of the main farmhouse (building 7 on Fig. 3).

2.2 There has been remarkably little archaeological work undertaken in Templeton and no previous excavations. This makes any opportunities for investigation arising from development within the village of especial importance. The relatively sparse amount of information available comes from a few fragmentary medieval documentary sources and from a variety of early and late 19th century 'travelogues'.

2.3 The noted Pembrokeshire traveller, Richard Fenton wrote of Templeton "*It is the skeleton of a large village consisting chiefly of a row of houses on each side of the great road leading to Tenby, though there are lanes and something like streets in some places diverging from the main one. It exhibits here and there the ruins of pretty large houses, and the remains of a cross, now overturned...*" (Fenton, R. 1811 [1903 Ed.).

2.4 Fenton also noted that "*On the east side of the road, or main street, a little recessed in a field, stands a fragment of what I suppose was once a chapel from its site due east west, tradition likewise tending to confirm it*" (1811). The wording is a little ambiguous but it would appear that the chapel and the cross were not in the same place.

2.5 Fenton also noted the 'Flemish houses' similar to those found in Somerset and Devon with round chimneys out on the front wall near the door.

2.6 At a slightly later date, Samuel Lewis noted numerous ruins and ancient buildings in his short note on Templeton in his section on Narberth (Lewis, 1833). He also recorded the tradition of there being an ancient church or chapel of ease, placing it at the site of the non-Conformist chapel cum schoolroom (by which he probably meant the Congregational Church at the top of village).

2.7 A local tourist leaflet (Anon./ ?ACA Curatorial, undated) states that the church adjacent to Poyers Arms Farm (i.e., St. John's) was built in 1859. The burial ground surrounding the church was donated by Mr. J.C.H. Poyer-Callen; this places descendants of the Poyer family as land owners right on the northern boundary of Poyers Arms Farm in the 19th century. The relevance of the Poyer family is dealt with in section 6B *infra*. The church is thought to be situated on the site of a medieval hospice built by the Knights Templar, but the pamphlet notes that there is no historical evidence to support this theory. The same pamphlet also notes that the remains of the medieval cross in the churchyard came from the chapel remains further up the village.

Compare As  
excavation  
1995  
PRN 21535



2.8 The village of Templeton takes its name from the society of Knight's Templar who founded a priory here in the 1180's. The priory appears to have functioned until 1308-12 (*Soulsby and Jones, 1975*), although it had passed into private hands by the end of the thirteenth century. There was possibly also a small hospital here. Soulsby and Jones (1975) also stated that the priory was on the present site of St. John's Church, but close reading of both Fenton's and Lewis' description (*paras. 2.4 and 2.6*) indicates a local tradition that the true site was probably at the top of the village. 'Burgesses of the wind' are recorded at 'Templar's Vill' in 1283 and also in later accounts. In 1547 there were some 35 burgage plots in the *vill* which would suggest that the late medieval borough probably corresponded closely in size with the present settlement (*Soulsby & Jones, 1975*).

2.9 The origins of the medieval burgh / settlement are not clear. The borough may have been established after the priory was built or may have been associated with the construction of the motte and bailey castle known as Sentence Castle and situated just to the west of the village. There is possibly a reference to this castle in the 'Chronicle of the Princes' in 1113 AD.

2.10 All things considered, dating the foundation of the town as being connected with that castle seems a logical choice. Following early Norman incursions into Southwest Wales in 1093 (by Arnulf de Montgomery) the Welsh regained the offensive and an uneasy balance of power set in after 1094. Southern Pembrokeshire was seized by de Montgomery and the old Welsh *cantref* of Penfro was converted into the earldom of Pembroke. Like most marcher lords, de Montgomery had lands in England and was soon away to pursue his other interests. The task of consolidating the new conquests was then left to local magnates, e.g., the de Barri, de Brian, fitz Gerald and fitz Martin families. Castles were built and settlers were brought in to exploit the new lands and to help defend them if necessary. Key holdings were grouped into Baronies or entrusted to dependable men or organisations such as the Knight's Templar.

2.11 Arnulf de Montgomery was involved in the unsuccessful Belleme rebellion and was forced to flee abroad. The earldom of Pembroke was thus forfeit to the Crown from 1102-1138 and the king, Henry I, opened up the land to large numbers of Flemish (and other) settlers (*Kissock, J., 1997*). The influx seems to have been facilitated by overpopulation problems in the Low Countries. The importation of the settlers seems to have been directed by a special type of person called '*locatores*' (e.g., the Flemming, Wizo, at Wiston), who would source a new population and move it into the newly 'acquired' area. In many cases the '*locatores*' were expected to pay for the move, to maintain the settlers until the first harvest and to set up houses, a church, mills etc. (*Kissock, J., 1997*). The rewards were great. The resulting villages were planned and can usually be detected by their linear and regular arrangement. The linear arrangement of the village at Templeton in conjunction with the fragmentary medieval references outlined in para. 2.8 indicates that the village was probably a prime example of this type of 'planned' settlement.

2.12 The development area contains a single standing structure of possible importance, namely the main farmhouse known as Poyers Arms or Poyers Arms Farm. The Royal Commission Pembrokeshire Inventory (*RCAHMW, 1926, entry 749*) noted

the lateral chimney on the west wall and stated quite definitively that when the house was visited in 1914 it had been thoroughly modernised, but that until recently the kitchen mantel beam bore the date of 1672. It also noted that in the same room was a stone corbel which once supported the floor of the room above.

2.13 The county Sites and Monuments Record (*ACA SMR - no date*) contains three entries for the site. The first, PRN 6742, refers to the main farmhouse as a cottage of possible medieval/post-medieval date. The second entry, PRN 34719, deals with documentary evidence that part of the same building was a public house (*see Plate 1*) in the 19th century. The third entry, PRN 34720 deals with the fact that there was a smithy on the site (this is indicated at building 9 [*Fig. 3*] on Ordnance Survey maps as late as 1947).

2.14 The information supplied by ACA-Curatorial to this author (as part of the Sites and Monuments record search) includes text that appears to be part of an early draft for the leaflet mentioned above (*para. 2.7*). It notes that Templeton grew during the 16th and 17th centuries probably largely due to an influx of traders from Tenby (?including John Poyer; *see section 6*). It notes that Poyers Farm is probably the oldest building in the village but misquotes the date engraved on the mantel beam as being 1642 (it was 1672). It states that Colonel Poyer used to live at 'Grove' and may have visited. This author has not seen any definitive proof that the notorious 'Colonel' John Poyer bought 'Grove' but there is a good chance that he may have done (*section 6B*). Poyers Arms Farm was apparently once known as 'Loweringtown'.

2.15 The main farmhouse is a listed building, Grade II (*CADW Record No. 14763*). The main features noted by Cadw were the chimneys, especially the lateral chimney on the west wall. Cadw noted that the original rear wall of the house was thought to have a small-pane sash concealed within a later lean-to (this proved to be essentially correct). Cadw noted that the farmhouse was part of the Henllan Estate, probably of 17th century origin and altered in the 19th century including re-fenestration.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Prior to their demolition by tracked excavator, the farm outbuildings were inspected and a photographic record was made. A quick reconnaissance was made of the main farmhouse at the same time.

3.2 There had been a small amount of shallow earthmoving and disturbance over much of the area during the demolition, so immediately after the it was finished the whole development site was intensively field-walked to see whether any features or artefacts of interest had been turned up by the machine. It should be understood at the outset that less than 10% of the development area was ever reduced to levels below recent topsoil (i.e., to levels that would expose archaeological features of any antiquity). These areas were confined entirely to the extreme northern periphery of the site, the area under the farmhouse floor and the narrow footings excavated for the new-build. Within days of the demolition, compaction and churning by the tracking of vehicles and plant made it unlikely that any features or deposits of interest would be recognised outside of the intended foundation trenches. The true archaeological potential of circa 90% of the development area therefor remains unseen, but any features or deposits that might exist are likely to have suffered great churning and compaction.

3.3 The foundation trenches or footings for the new-build units were excavated using a JCB Site Master fitted with a 3 foot toothless bucket.

3.4 Outside of the main farm house, context records were kept for all significant contexts (i.e. layers and features); numbers in brackets in this report refer to context numbers allocated during the watching brief and correspond to the same layers etc. shown in *Figs 3-5*.

3.5 As no features or deposits any great merit were found over the majority of the development area, the recording largely comprised the drawing, at scale 1:50, of one long profile/section running north-south along the main new-build terrace (*reproduced in it's entirety here as Fig. 4*) as well as three partial sections across the northern part of the site (*see Fig. 5*). Adapted copies of the architects 1:200 site plans were used to locate items discussed in this report. A photographic record was made of the excavated foundation trenches.

3.6 The original reconnaissance of the farmhouse had largely confirmed the statement in the RCAHMW Inventory of 1926 that the house had been modernised early this century. A second inspection following the gutting of the building showed that the main fabric of the house displayed some interesting characteristics. Despite there being no formal requirement for them to do so, South Haven Construction Ltd generously agreed to make reasonable funds available for a rapid recording of fabric of the main farmhouse (building 7 on *Fig. 3*).

3.7 The recording of the fabric of the farmhouse comprised a rapid photographic survey backed by written notes; a plan was made by annotating 1:50 architects survey plans provided by South Haven Construction. The results of this work are included in

this report as section 5, *Figs 8 & 9* and most of the plates. A detailed description of the fabric is included as Appendix 3. The convention used was to allocate each wall a reference letter, e.g., wall (A) etc. and then to allocate features in or on that wall a number subset e.g., window (A2). These conventions were used during recording and are reproduced in this report.

3.8 It should be appreciated that for safety and practical reasons, the hacking-off of the internal render of the farmhouse did not proceed as a single continuous event, but was undertaken in stages interspersed with elements of re-construction and consolidation in cement and breeze block of newly cleaned areas. The building recording was thus undertaken during the time of 'maximum opportunity' just before the insertion of a complete scaffolding system and with c. 75% of the render removed. It was unlikely that any work thereafter would have produced any further useful information.

3.9 With the exception of two sherds of Gravel-Tempered North Devon pottery recovered from context (10), the finds consisted entirely of sherds of pottery and pieces of bottle dating to the late 19th or early 20th century. These were photographed, but as they will be of little research value they were not kept. No contexts suitable for environmental sampling were seen - no samples were taken.

3.10 The fieldwork was undertaken between early March and the end of July 1999. The site code was Archeoleg Cambria Archaeology (Sites and Monuments Record) **PRN 38745** and the site archive will be held at Scolton Manor.

## 4 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### 4A) The demolished outbuildings

The following were demolished by machine a week after the visit:-

#### 4.1 *Building 1*

Single storey. East and west walls 2.3m high of random rubble construction with cement bonding and Caernarfon slate roof - all of very late 19th or early 20th century construction type. No internal fireplaces or chimneys, so almost certainly purpose built for farm work. Floor surface was a concrete slab dating to perhaps 1960. Galvanised tin tunnel and electrical apparatus in ceiling space for ?hay or ?grain drying. Doorways at SW corner and midway on north wall.

#### 4.2 *Building 2*

Random rubble construction bonded with mixture of lime mortar and mud. Single storey - east and west walls 2.2m high. Roofed with asbestos sheeting fixed to crude 'A' frame trusses / long purloins. No internal fireplaces or chimneys, so almost certainly purpose built for farm work. Floor surface cobbled with rounded stones up to 0.1m in size set in earth. Doorway on west wall and also stable type door midway along north wall. Overall style indicated mid 19th century date.

#### 4.3 *Building 3*

Random rubble construction with east and west walls c. 3m high. Bonding was whitish grey lime mortar probably contemporary with major re-fenestration of main farmhouse. No roof. Main doorway in from SE corner. Almost certainly a barn of late 18th or early 19th century date. Note, the north wall was keyed to the east and west walls but serves as the churchyard retaining wall. The south wall was wall (A) of the farmhouse.

#### 4.4 *Building 4*

Random rubble construction with lime mortar and mud bonding. Wall thickness 0.45m. Slate roof on conventional joists. Single doorway on north wall. Internal 'furniture' consisted of 4 wooden milking stalls, each with a wooden feed rack. Milking parlour of mid 19th century date. Partial undercroft or cellar on south side.

#### 4.5 *Building 5*

Continuation to west of building 4 (same style & materials and also shared roof line/type). Divided from building 4 by a random stone partition wall bonded with lime mortar. Mid 19th century - most recently used as the tractor shed, doorway only on north wall.

#### 4.6 *Building 6*

Built recently as a single storey, southwards extension to building 1. Entirely of breeze block and concrete construction with asbestos sheet roof. Numerous internal partitions and remnants of equipment indicate a purpose built milking parlour of post-1960 date.

#### 4.7 *Building 8 (see Fig. 6)*

Not demolished but rather incorporated into the new development. Included in this section as it is of little architectural merit. Random rubble construction using whitish grey mortar bonding. Constructed as infill between buildings 7 and 9, it comprised only east and west walls. Single storey but pink lime-wash (of external type) still adhering to southern side of the big chimney (wall (U)) within the roof space indicates that the roof was raised c. 1950. Most recently used as a kitchen and possibly constructed for that purpose early this century as part of the modernisation noted by the Royal Commission in 1914 (RCAHMW, 1926).

#### 4.8 *Building 9 (see Fig. 6)*

Not demolished but rather incorporated into the new development. Included in this section as it is of little architectural merit although marked as a forge on O.S. maps. Random rubble construction using grey white mortar and mud bonding. Single storey with late 19th or early 20th century slate roof fixed to wooden joists. Single width door openings on each of east, west and south walls, although latter blocked. No connecting doorway to building 8. Small hearth and flue midway along south wall may have been the forge. Beaten earth and rounded cobble floor. Built as an independent four walled structure, i.e., detached from main farmhouse and not simply an extension to building 8.

### 4B) The excavation of the footings and other groundworks

4.9 Prior the excavation of the footings, the outbuildings had been demolished. As already noted (*paras 3.1 and 3.2*) there was some shallow earthmoving and other clearance over much of the northern half of the site during this phase. Amongst these works was the removal of a concrete slab which occupied much of the north eastern part of the development area (*Fig. 3*). This was built circa 1960 as hard standing for the cows waiting to go into the milking parlour (building 6).

4.10 Removal of this concrete slab revealed only bright clean orange subsoil (04). The ground surface (01) within the churchyard on the north side of the retaining wall (*Fig. 3*) lay at 1 metre or slightly higher above the level of the concrete slab. The whole of the north east corner of the development area had been severely truncated prior to the laying of the slab; there were no archaeological features. The natural soil profile was exposed as a 'section' protruding from under the southern side of the base of the churchyard retaining wall along virtually its entire length. The wall sat perched on c. 0.5m depth of topsoil (02) overlying c. 0.2m of 'B' horizon (03). In places the upper 0.2m of the subsoil lay at the base of this section. The profile of this truncation is reproduced here as sections C-D and E-F on *Fig. 5* and also the north part of the section profile G-H on *Fig. 4*. No cut features or deposits of pre-Victorian age were seen anywhere within a band of 20m width to the south of the churchyard wall.

4.11 Truncation was even more severe in the north western corner of the site (see section A-B on *Fig. 5*). The terracing of the site evident here had gone 0.6m down into the bedrock. This had been done either during the creation of the barn (building 3 on *Fig. 3*) or perhaps earlier. To the south, it later became evident that the entire area

under buildings 7, 8 and 9 had likewise been stripped either deep into the glacial subsoil (04) or into the top of the underlying bedrock (05).

4.12 The farmhouse had been largely constructed straight onto the exposed bedrock. Most of the building had no footings, but a short stretch of original foundation trench (10) 0.25m deep was found below wall (X) [Fig. 8] at the south east corner of the house. The remnants of masonry footings bonded with hard pink mortar (see plates 7 and 8) were removed by machine. Subsequent hand excavation of the area revealed that the cut was 0.75m wide with a thin band of light brown clayey soil fill (11) between the masonry footings of wall (R)/(W) and the cut. A base sherd and body sherd were recovered from fill (11). Both sherds exhibited clean fresh breaks, i.e. were not weathered. Both sherds were North Devon gravel-tempered ware and as such would date to 1600-1750 (*K. Blockley, pers comm*). These sherds provide the only artefactual dating for the construction of the farmhouse.

4.13 On the east side of cut (10) there was a vertical cut (15) running east-west (Fig. 8). This could only be partially investigated, so its dimensions remain unknown. The fill was large voided rubble (16) with some Victorian type plaster evident but this may have fallen down the voids. A ranging pole could be inserted between the rubble (see plate 8) to a depth of 0.6m (at which level standing water could be seen). Although this lay 'under' foundation trench cut (10) it could easily have been later as it could have been dug in sideways from the east. The fill possibly indicates that it was a soakaway.

4.14 The topsoil (17) was never fully removed from any of the large area between the farmhouse (building 7 on Fig. 3) and the new build units Nos. 7-13 (Fig. 2). Field-walking after the demolition discovered only pottery of 19th century date. There were no features detected and subsequent tracking by machinery will have inflicted severe damage by compaction and churning to any that might have been present.

4.15 There was some shallow stripping of overburden along the west side of the farmhouse adjacent to the A478 and also continuing around the south side of building 9, but the topsoil (18) was largely never fully removed. Again, there were no artefacts pre-dating the 19th century and no features.

4.16 The only areas where the subsoil was exposed on the west side of building 7 were two service trenches dug adjacent to the building (Fig. 8). The first, trench (12), was dug on the west side of farmhouse wall (B). This revealed subsoil less than 0.1m down (below recent topsoil accumulation) and bedrock 0.1m below that. There were no finds. The second service, namely trench (13) was dug by the south west corner of the farmhouse wall (S). This revealed that the basal courses of masonry forming the 'Flemish' chimney were overlain by 0.2m of recent topsoil accumulation and sat directly on sterile glacial clay (plate 4). There were no finds.

4.17 The excavation of the footings for the new-build terrace, i.e., units 4-13 (see Fig. 2) revealed no deposits of any age. A long profile section was drawn of the footings along the west side of the new terrace; this is reproduced as Fig. 4 (see Fig 3 for location of points G, H, I and J). This side of the terrace was chosen because it

largely avoided the old footings for the milk parlour (building 6 on *Fig. 3*) and was thus more representative of what *might* exist to the west.

4.18 The footings for Units 4 and 5 were dug entirely through subsoil (05). At Unit 6, a thin layer of modern landfill overlay the subsoil. This landfill comprised brown clayey loam with numerous bits of 20th century rubbish (including lots of plastic). This layer extended all the way southwards down the slope towards the bog or stream at the southern end of the site getting progressively deeper until at units 11, 12 and 13 it was over 2m deep.

4.19 At unit 10, the 'old' landsurface pre-dating the modern landfill was seen for the first time at a depth of nearly 1 metre. The 'A' horizon was c. 0.3m thick and a fairly homogenous dark black-brown gritty silty loam. This increased in depth downslope to become about 0.6m deep at unit 12. The trenches here were far too deep and unstable to permit close examination, but a considerable amount of this buried soil material was examined as it reached the spoilheap. There were numerous pieces of 19th century pottery but absolutely no older material. The plastic evident in the overlying landfill shows that the land surface was buried within the last twenty years. A tractor gearbox was recovered from 2m down in the boggy area to the south of unit 12 during test pitting prior to the development. Soil (08) overlay yellow clay subsoil (09) that was identical to subsoil (04) to the north.



## 5 THE RECORDING OF THE MAIN FARMHOUSE STRUCTURE

5.1 Detailed descriptions of the wall fabrics and other features area included as Appendix 3. It is intended here to give only an overview.

5.2 The main farmhouse measured 12.95m north-south internally by 4.35m wide east-west (*Figs 6 & 8*), a length to width ratio of exactly 3:1. The east and west walls rose to 4.8m from the floor surface which was a fairly recent concrete slab. The gable end walls rose to 7.1m. The large chimney on the south wall rose to c. 8.2m and the 'Flemish' chimney on the west wall rose to a similar height, although the upper part of the stack of the latter chimney was rebuilt in breeze blocks c. 20 years ago.

5.3 Prior to this development, the ground floor was divided by three partition walls into a northern sitting room, a cross passage, a middle room and a southern room (*see Fig. 6*). The internal partitions were not at a right angle to the main house walls. The middle room contained the hearth for the 'Flemish' chimney and the southern room originally contained an enormous hearth below the massive southern chimney stack. This hearth was blocked off earlier this century and will remain so following the new refurbishment.

5.4 The first floor was of 4" width wooden planking laid on 9" by 3" joists. These ran north-south and were supported on the internal partition walls (Y), (F) and (H); these walls did not rise above the ground floor. The 9" by 3" joists formed an 'exposed beam' ceiling for the ground floor. These joists were only set into the walls at the extreme Northwest corner of the building. The upper floor was partitioned into a corridor down the east side giving access to three bedrooms. The partitions were of 6" by half inch wood plank panelling nailed to a 4" by 2" wooden framework. The whole arrangement probably dated from around the turn of this century. The roof timbers were sawn trusses and likewise of no real antiquity. The staircase, which was wood and featured ornate lathe-turned newel posts, was of late Victorian or Edwardian date. All the internal woodwork was removed.

### **The building materials of the walls**

5.5 There is a large amount of east-west linearity to the solid geology underlying Pembrokeshire and this is especially true of the Templeton area. The development area lies over Lower Limestone Shales of the Upper Carboniferous period. To the north, the rest of the village of Templeton overlies Red Marls of the Old Red Sandstone series. The British Geological Survey show the junction between the two rock types as running east-west below the churchyard of St. John probably no more than 50m to the north of the development area whilst some 300m the south lies the east-west junction to the main Limestone deposits (of Carboniferous age). The bedrock revealed below the farmhouse structure was an orangish (iron-stained), very light yellow, fine grained shale. This has undoubtedly suffered severe frost action at the end of the last glaciation and was very soft, breaking easily into small thin platy fragments. As such it would appear to have been unsuitable for building and its use for such was not detected.

5.6 Instead, the builders had favoured a roughly 40/60 mix of a) platy & blocky limestone (especially for any rough dressing of stonework, e.g., the corner quoins) and b) hard mudstones/fine sandstones. There were occasional examples of Old Red Sandstone. All these components could have been quarried fairly close the site. The only imported stones noted were a rough hewn black granite lintel over window (E1) and the thin slate or siltstone slab forming the chute at the internal base of the flue of the 'Flemish' chimney (wall (S)). Both rock types could probably be found in the north of the county.

5.7 In the first phase of construction, the overwhelming majority of the masonry work was random rubble 'brought to course' but there had been obvious selection for long platy pieces with near right angle breaks (along natural bedding or faulting planes). Stone size varied greatly from c. 0.15m to 0.6m in length and 0.1-0.3m in thickness; stones in the middle of the size ranges predominated. Stringer courses were fairly frequent and about 0.5m apart in all walls. The 1st phase wall construction was generally of very good quality with c. 90% of the surface of any part of any wall being stone and c. 10% being pointing. Internal wall surfaces were of remarkably uniform and flush appearance given the nature of the materials. Slightly less care had been taken to achieve a flush finish on external surfaces. Wall thickness was 0.67-0.69m.

5.8 The following mortar sequence was observed near the junction of walls (T)/(U) and conforms well with fragments of the sequence seen elsewhere. In stratigraphic order (earliest first) the sequence was:-

1) *Pink mortar*. Very hard near base of walls but tending to be softer and mixed with mud/loam higher up. A gritty light mauve-pink lime mortar mottled with tiny angular fragments of white quick lime and occasional small gravel inclusions. Putatively 17th century. The pink colour was probably caused by mixing in crushed Old Red Sandstone.

2) *Buff*, sometimes yellowish beige lime. Usually fairly firm and clean but with occasional small coal fragments. ?Early-mid 18th century.

3) *Greyish white* lime. Often fairly soft and crumbly with c. 2% small coal. ?Mid-late 18th century.

4) *Bright white*. Very clean, usually fairly hard. ?Late 18th century or ?early 19th. This mortar associated with the major re-fenestration.

5) *Dirty grey* with c. 5% small coal. Much darker than type 3. Usually very soft and crumbly. Certainly Victorian.

6) Hard lime cement. Grey. Probably c. 1950.

5.9 The following phasing of the various alterations to the structure is in many cases based on observations of direct stratigraphic relationships. Elsewhere, the above mortar sequence was used as an aid to phasing. The relevance of the stylistic elements of the structure to its dating will be considered in section 6A.

5.10 Working clockwise round the main building, the hard pink mortar was detected in walls (A), (D), (E), (P), (R), (W), probably (V), (T), (S) and (B), see e.g., plate 8. Thus, elements of all four main exterior walls seem to have been either contemporary or built at roughly the same time and it is proposed that the earliest building comprised most of the footprint of the existing building. This observation would also mean that the 'Flemish' chimney (wall (S)) was also built as part of the structure.

5.11 There were two blocked windows of identical size and height above floor level. These were (E1) and (T2). They had been much smaller than the current windows. Their apertures were 0.73m square at the internal wall surface and presumably much smaller on the outside (where they could not be discerned due to incomplete removal of render and limewash). The stone corbel (T1) adjacent to window (T2) was presumably used to support floor timbers and would make no possible sense in relation to the existing window height (see plate 6), but would work well with the height of window (T2). The original ceiling was therefor obviously much lower and both these windows were associated with that lower ceiling height. The presence of floor timbers indicates a house of two storeys and the pink mortar was detected in the upper part of walls (P) and (R). It was not detected elsewhere on the upper floor as the walls had not been sufficiently stripped of render. The original height of these walls thus remains unknown.

5.12 There were no surviving indications of internal partitions associated with this first phase building.

5.13 The pink mortar was also used in the construction of walls (N) and (Z) indicating that these were probably contemporary with phase 1 and possibly built for a semi-external staircase; wall (Z) would have had to extend further northwards to accommodate this but any trace of such extension has long been destroyed.

5.14 The eastern extension [walls (I), (K), (L) and (M)] featured a slightly different, more 'earthy' pink mortar/mud mix in their construction. As wall (M) butted wall (Z), then the extension appears to have been a later addition, but probably not much later. A blocked doorway (K1) midway along wall (K) may have been original; it was very narrow.

5.15 The large chimney on the southern wall remains something of an enigma. There was a ghost of a break in the masonry between walls (V) and (U) indicating that they were probably not contemporary (see plate 3). This leads to the possibility that the chimney was either a later insert or that it was standing before the house was built. No conclusive proof can be offered for either explanation.

5.14 The Flemish chimney, wall (S), featured an enclosed hearth. This was probably original but this could not be proved. A sloping slab forming the bottom of the chute indicated that the lintel height would have been c. 1.6m above (the most recent) floor level. The hearth opening had undergone several alterations in the 18th and 19th centuries (see Plate 3 and Fig. 9). Unfortunately the most recent of these (sometime earlier this century) had involved the most dreadful 'bodgery' so that a large

amount of masonry in the hearth area was in danger of collapsing when the internal wall render was removed.

5.15 The old window (T2) was blocked, possibly in the mid to late 18th century (although the advent of Window Tax might provide a better date). At around that time, a very wide access (R3) was cut through the south end of the east wall, i.e., the gap between walls (R) and (W). This was 2.6m wide from wall (R) to wall (W) and 2.5m high. The opening was formed by breaking through the pink mortar type wall and the resulting broken stub ends of the walls repaired and made flush with masonry (R3) and (W1). The bonding of greyish white mortar and the last finishing of white lime (*see plates 7 and 8*) indicated that the massive doorway was in use from possibly the mid 18th to mid/late 19th centuries. The width and height of this opening is of particular interest as it must have been created to get carts in and it must mean that the southern room of the building was now a working room, possibly as part of the farm. Another possibility is that this wide doorway (R3) indicates the earliest forge was in this room re-using the big fireplace (U). The creation of the wide doorway (R3) was apparently broadly contemporary with walls (Y) and (F), i.e., part of a big remodelling of the internal layout of the ground floor.

5.16 At a slightly later date, the west wall of the house was re-windowed [(S)/(T) and (B)/(C)] as part of a major reworking of the structure. The alterations usually featured the bright white mortar. The new windows were much larger and more importantly much higher, so the first floor was obviously raised. Other alterations still evident were the blocking of original window (E1) and the creation of wall cupboard (E2) within the aperture and also the creation of wall cupboard (D1). It seems that the building may have been a pub prior to the re-windowing, for the strange layout of walls (F) and (Y) as well as the curved arrangement of (J), (G) and (O) predated the re-fenestration and was obviously undertaken to get something big or heavy round the corner from the back doorway (e.g., beer barrels)

5.17 Later features were largely cosmetic or minor and include the remodelling the rear entrance with blocking (J), the blocking of doorway opening (G1), the insertion of wall (H) to create a partial cross passage and the blocking of another doorway opening with wall (Q). At a later date, wall (X) was built, blocking the wide doorway (R3) and the kitchen was moved out into building 8.

## 6 DISCUSSION

### 6A Post-medieval architecture in Wales

6.1 Pembrokeshire had an important medieval tradition of house building. Generally speaking, the use of stone for external walls and internal partitions was the norm, probably largely dictated by climate. Roofs were generally of thatch. In Pembrokeshire, the most conspicuous features were usually the chimneys. The square ones were always massive and not easily matched elsewhere in Britain. A common feature of medieval construction were 'outshuts' or lateral projections. These appear to be absent from Poyers Arms Farm and indeed there were no features observed anywhere within the farmhouse that would firmly indicate a medieval date for any of the structure, although the style of the large square chimney on the southern wall could be seen as having origins within that tradition (*see Fig. 10*).

6.2 In eastern Wales in the period from 1500 - c. 1640, rich farmers and people on fixed tenures (i.e., little or no rent increases) profited from rising prices for produce. This period has been called 'The Great Rebuilding' (*Smith, P., 1988 p.148*). The trend seems to have crossed the country east-west like a wave from the 17th - 19th centuries but there is little evidence for it in Southwest Wales until the 18th century. What is proposed here is that the influx into Templeton of traders and merchants from Tenby during the 16th and 17th centuries (*see para. 2.14*) may have brought in the sort of wealth that would have catapulted Templeton into the 'Great Rebuilding'.

6.3 In west Wales, evidence for the 16th and 17th centuries is less commonplace and thus, surviving buildings are far more important. The use of 'less workable' stone led to a strong tradition of 'random' stone construction. This, coupled with a general avoidance of the use of wood in the west means that diagnostically datable elements (e.g., decorative doorways, ceilings etc.) are rare, as are date inscriptions (*Smith, P., 1988, p. 279*). The Royal Commission noted an oral tradition of there having been a date of 1672 carved into the kitchen fireplace lintel beam at Poyers Arms Farm. The two sherds of North Devon gravel-tempered pottery recovered from the foundation trench cut (10) were of a type common over a date range spanning 1600-1750 (*K. Blockley, pers comm.*). These make the date of 1672 (or indeed a slightly earlier date) entirely feasible but also allow for the possibility of the whole structure being of mid 18th century date and, as such, fairly commonplace.

6.4 Much of the remainder of this section will therefor be devoted to assessing whether the farmhouse structure displays any evidence of features that can be dated to the 17th century by analogy to architectural trends elsewhere in Wales.

6.5 The masonry work on the original main fabric of the farmhouse was good, but, being of largely random local stone 'brought to course', it gives no clue to dating. There would appear to have been a measure of deliberate selection of large platy stones, but there appears to have been little or no dressing of stones with the notable exception of the magnificent (and often massive) external quoin stones which are a major feature of all four corners of the main structure (and also the external corners of

both external chimneys). Unfortunately this feature, whilst very attractive, is not closely datable.

6.6 The very distinctive pink mortar bonding of the original 'phase 1' structure was very hard near the ground level but tended to become mixed with clay or loam at height. This was probably deliberately done to allow for some settling without cracking. In the Bristol area, especially in the city, identical pink mortars are common and would be considered to be diagnostic of a 17th century date; unfortunately, this author can find no information on similar mortars in Pembrokeshire. It is entirely possible that one of the Tenby merchants (*para. 2.14*) had been to Bristol and brought the idea back. The colour is achieved in the Bristol area by incorporating ground Red Sandstone - some medieval mortars in Bristol, especially in the 13th century city walls, are entirely a lurid red in colour. At Poyers Arms Farm the pink mortar serves to give the walls a definite pink 'aura' in bright sunshine where not obscured by the later bright white lime renders.

6.7 The main surviving elements which might afford some clue are the corbel stone, the two (possibly) original windows and the two chimneys. The various renovations and alterations at Poyers Arms Farm have probably largely removed any earlier internal detail,

6.8 The surviving elements of the phase 1 structure of the farmhouse do however, conform extremely well to a type of post-medieval structure recently classified as 'Regional House Type 'A' (*Smith, P., 1988*). The essential features of such a house are a large lateral chimney on a side wall, usually near the front door and also an inside cross passage (*see Fig. 10*). The lateral chimney at Poyers Arms Farm would appear to fit the style (*see Fig. 10*) but the presence of a cross passage in the earliest phase of the structure cannot be proved as all trace of internal partitions for that phase have been destroyed. The ratio of length to width of exactly 3:1 at Poyers Arms Farm (from the first phase of construction onwards) might indicate the classic 'three room unit' noted by Smith (*1988, p. 158*).

6.9 The more grandiose 'lateral-chimney' houses featured a single projecting wing at the passage end, but there was no evidence for this at Poyers Arms. The extension on the east side [walls (I) etc.] might however, be comparable to the common fashion in the early post-medieval period for a large outer bay functioning as a heated parlour (*see Fig. 9, sub Fig. 92, house 'a'*).

6.10 The fireplace on the side or lateral wall of the house was probably the earliest type of enclosed fireplace (as opposed to open hearth). It seems that the fireplace in wall (S) was of such type. The enclosed fireplace had appeared in the last generation of (late) medieval hall-houses and is found in the earliest dated examples of 'storeyed' houses (*Smith, P., 1988, p. 441*).

6.11 The general introduction of the enclosed fireplace and flue made it possible to provide an overall upper floor. It is evident that Poyers Arms Farm was created as a two storey structure [as evidenced by Corbel (T1)].

6.12 In the Elizabethan age it was probably a sufficient indication of status to have a chimney at all. By the early 17th century chimneys had become commonplace and the richer house owners needed a particularly fine chimney to mark their place in society (*Smith, P., 1988, p. 270*). As a status symbol a chimney had no equal as it could be seen by all. The two chimneys at Poyers Arms Farm utterly dominate the outside of the building. Both were patently obviously sited on the sides of the house where they could be seen from the road.

6.13 In addition, both chimneys and both the Southeast and Southwest corners of the house featured magnificent (and occasionally massive) quoin stones (*see plate 2*). These were frequently of rough dressed stone. With the spaces of alternating random masonry lime-washed and the quoins picked out, the building must have been quite a handsome landmark to any traveller approaching Templeton from the south; this was the first house they would encounter. Unfortunately, these quoins will be largely hidden in the new-build.

6.14 Chimneys located on the outside wall (in west Wales) rarely served more than 1 fireplace so only needed one shaft. This was definitely true at Poyers Arms Farm. The simple square stone shaft (i.e., fireplace (U)) was common in the west. These were usually fairly short but otherwise massive in Pembrokeshire (*see Fig. 10*). Top shafts turned at 45 degrees to the lower stack usually indicate a 17th century date (*Smith, P., 1988, p. 270*) but it is not known whether the western wall chimney at Poyers Arms farm ever exhibited this feature; there is a fine example of such a chimney further up the street.

6.15 Room heights in the 17th century tended to be rather low (*Smith, P. 1988, p. 266*) and it is evident from the corbel and early window height that Poyers Arms Farm originally complied well with this style. Later, windows were usually set in harmony with the higher ceilings coming into fashion in the late Renaissance. Sliding sashes gradually replaced mullions and opening casements after about 1715. The early windows at Poyers Arms would appear to have been either small sliding sash or small casements, the latter perhaps more likely from the shape of blocked window openings.

6.16 Corbels or beam mouldings and stops were a common feature of wooden architecture further eastwards in Wales and were often ornate (*see Smith, P., 1988 pp 306/7*). They are generally in keeping with a 16th or 17th century date.

6.17 The corbel noted by the Royal Commission (*RCHAMW, 1926*) was still in situ (feature (T1)) in 1999; it was not decorated. Unfortunately it's position could indicate that the 'kitchen mantel' bearing the date 1672 was over either the fireplace on the west wall or that on the south wall (*see plates 3 and 5*) although the opening for the huge fireplace at the south end of the farmhouse seems the more likely location. The removal of the render was not completed to ceiling height over this fireplace, but all indications were that if the beam had been here then it appears to have been removed and substituted with bricks (*note concreted socket on plate 3*). There was no sign of any such mantel beam over the fireplace in the lateral 'Flemish' chimney although this chimney opening has been much modified down the years culminating in some dreadful 'botchery' at some stage early this century.

6.18 Glass appeared in Wales in relatively small houses from about 1590 (*Smith, P., 1988*). By the Restoration period it was available to all but the very poor. Glazing made it unnecessary to have windows on opposite walls. The fashion in the 17th century was to have windows on all walls, this fashion leading to symmetrically 'fenestrated' end walls. This made placing of furniture somewhat problematical. Whilst it might be going too far to suggest that Poyers Arms Farm had windows on all walls, the evidence from window (E1) possibly indicates a much wider 'scattering' of windows.

6.19 In the 18th century, the fashion became to have larger windows on one long wall; this improved room layout and gave a nicer lighting. There is plentiful evidence at Poyers Arms Farm for a re-modelling along these lines as window (E1) was blocked and, in the next window scheme, the openings were all sited along the west wall. These may have been created by widening existing opening.

6.20 A common trend during the 19th century was that poorer people moved into older 'gentry' houses as tenanted farms (*Smith, P., 1988*). In many houses the earlier detailing was of a class and quality far superior to the workmanship found in later additions and modifications, a sure sign that the building had declined in status (*Smith, P., 1988*). This statement would definitely apply to Poyers Arms, where the workmanship of some of the later 18th century and 19th century alterations was fairly poor. The creation of the wide doorway (R3) seems to indicate that part of the building was given over to work, possibly as a forge within the house, in the late 18th or early 19th century.

#### **6B John Poyer, 'the fighting mayor of Pembroke'**

6.21 Samuel Lewis noted that house known as 'Grove' some 1.5km to the north west of Templeton (but within the parish) was "chiefly remarkable for having been the patrimonial inheritance of the celebrated Col. Poyer" (*Lewis, 1833*).

6.22 John Poyer was one of the most extraordinary characters to ever inhabit Pembrokeshire. Little is known of his early days but Clarendon states he "had from a low trade raised himself in the war to the reputation of a very diligent and stout officer and was trusted by the Parliament with the Government of the Town and Castle of Pembroke" (*Laws, E., 1888* quoting *Clarendon, "History of the Rebellion", book xi*).

6.23 Poyer was the Bailiff of Tenby in 1639, a ship owner and merchant engaged in selling wool, corn, skins, butter and tallow, normally to the city of Bristol and thus a man of great influence (*Carradice, P. 1992*). In October 1641 he took up office as the Town Mayor of Pembroke. He was devoted to the Parliamentary cause and had for some years commanded some of the local Trained Bands which formed the staple element of the Parliamentary army as war approached. Concerned by the strength of the Royalists in the county in 1642 he had "put Pembroke in a state of Defence for Parliament, possibly using much of his own money" (*Laws, E., 1888, p. 321*). The Civil War began in earnest in August 1642. At about this time, his son, a 'J. Poyer' swore allegiance to the King at Tenby. Such were the complexities of the war, the course of which in Pembrokeshire is dealt with lucidly in a recent study (*Carradice, P., 1992*).



6.24 Poyer's stand was brave. For much of the war Pembroke remained the only Parliamentary holding in the whole county. There were many strongly active Royalist families in Pembrokeshire and although these were almost certainly of a 'genteel' nature, some had fought in Ireland and were thus hardened veterans. It was only the competence of Poyer and the local Parliamentary commander, Col. Roland Laugharne (actually a general) aided by the various bungling and double dealing of the local Royalists that kept the town undefeated. On the main battlefields in England, the fairly amateur Parliamentary armies did not fare well in the first half of the Civil War, suffering several disastrous defeats on the battlefield fighting against Royalist armies in which many officers and soldiers had served as mercenaries and soldiers of fortune in the Thirty Years War in Germany (especially the big phase of the early 1630's). The creation of the 'New Model Army' by Cromwell turned the tide and the war ended in 1646.

6.25 Of particular interest to Poyer's history were the staunchly Royalist Lort family of Tenby and the Barlow family of Slebech. The latter held much land in the area in the 17th century (*Lewis, S. 1833*). With the Royalist cause lost, the men of these families were back in the county 'on parole' in the late 1640's. They had been dispossessed of their lands by Cromwell (the Barlow's lands had been given to Col. Roland Laugharne). Poyer had spent most of the Civil War as Parliamentary Commissioner of the Pembroke area, a position of enormous power and influence. He now had some fairly vitriolic enemies.

6.26 Poyer was, according to the eminent historian Carlyle, given to brandy and there is reason to suppose that he was not entirely straight in money matters; Laws noted that "He did not hesitate to plunge his native county into all the horrors of a second Civil War for the sake of a disputed account". The problem arose over allegations, notably from the Lort and Barlow families, that Poyer had misappropriated funds whilst Commissioner for Parliament during the Civil War. Threatened with a lawsuit, Poyer entrenched himself in Pembroke Castle with 500 rebels.

6.27 An account of the somewhat incredible events of Poyers rise to notoriety is included as Appendix 5.

6.28 With the rebellion over, the three main 'ringleaders', Col. John Poyer, Col. Roland Laugharne and Col. Powell were taken as prisoners to Nottingham, then Windsor and finally the Tower of London.

6.29 During the hopeless siege, all three ringleaders had rather foolishly accepted commissions from the young prince in exile, i.e., become officers of the defeated Royalist cause. Presumably they had thought that the rewards they might get from a 'restored' and suitably grateful king (should the rebellion succeed) would make the risks worthwhile.

6.30 Instead, their deeds had nullified their previous good record and the three were tried by court marshal on 4th-14th April 1649 and sentenced to death. Following pleas for clemency, the Council of State decided that only one of the condemned

should die. Three pieces of paper were prepared, two with the words "Life given of God", the third was blank. The prisoners were instructed to draw lots for their lives but were unwilling to do so; a child drew the papers from a black bag. Poyers paper was blank. He was shot by firing squad at the 'Piazza' in Covent Garden on 25th April 1649.

6.31 Powell and Laugharne were released. Owing to the latter's involvement in the rebellion, his lands were given to his old enemy, Col. Horton. All these lands were subsequently restored to the Barlows at the Restoration.

6.32 The 'rebel' rank and file and junior officers were released immediately upon their surrender without harm on promises of good behaviour. There would have been much worse reprisals in an earlier age and comparison of the treatment of the Pembroke rebels with the terrible reprisals which followed the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion some 40 years later (i.e., the 'Bloody Assize' presided over by the infamous Judge Jeffries) shows that this was a remarkable act of leniency for that period considering the scale of the rebellion.

6.33 It is not clear whether any of Poyer's estate was confiscated in 1649 but this would have been extremely likely, especially in view of the alleged financial malpractice. A recent study has shown that the nearby house at (Great) Canton was occupied in 1688 by a John Poyer, a wealthy tanner who "founded the fortunes of the family" (*Jones, Maj. F, 1999*). Was this man one and the same as 'J. Poyer, son of John Poyer, the mayor of Pembroke' who had sworn allegiance to the King at Tenby in 1642 ? If so, his fortunes would have improved greatly following the Restoration especially as the young Prince Charles had given his father a commission during the siege at Pembroke; it is highly probable that any confiscated property would have been returned to the family after the Restoration in 1660.

6.34 Henry Poyer, also a rich tanner, bought 'Grove' from one Richard Hitching and was assessed at 'four hearths in the house' for tax purposes in 1670 (*Jones, Maj. F, 1999*). The nature of his relationship to the 'fighting mayor' is not clear, but Lewis asserts that descendants of the 'fighting mayor' were still at 'Grove' in the early 19th century (*Lewis, 1833*) so family or local tradition obviously considers Henry to have been a direct descendant.

6.35 By a will dated 1677, Henry Poyer left 'Grove' to his son Daniel Poyer who was described in 1701 as a tanner resident at 'Grove'. The male line died out not long after, but 'Beau' Nash, styled as the 'King' of Bath in the 18th century was a grandson of 'Col.' John Poyer. Family ownership of 'Grove' continued until Anne Poyer died in 1808 leaving the house to her husband William Callen of Merrixtion. A Charles Poyer-Callen owned the property around 1830 (*Lewis, 1833*). A later heiress of the Callens brought the property to her husband, J.L.G.P. Lewis of Henllan at which stage it was absorbed into the Henllan Estate; 'Grove' house still exists at N.G.R. SN 093129.

6.36 The name 'Poyers Arms Farm' would seem to indicate some local tradition of a connection with either the Civil War Colonel John Poyer or one of his descendants; being enormously less famous, the latter seem unlikely. The very inclusion of the

word 'Arms' (with all it implies) into the pub and farm name might be a somewhat scurrilous example of Pembrokeshire humour, for as Clarendon had noted he had come from humble origins and, as such, had no heraldic 'arms' or title. As already noted (*para. 2.7*), the Poyer-Callens donated the land for the churchyard adjacent to Poyers Arms Farm in c. 1859 which places the family on the doorstep and, according to CADW, Poyers Arms Farm has been part of the Henllan Estate in recent times (*para. 2.14*) which means that it might previously have been in the ownership of the Poyer family. John Poyer may have been one of the Tenby merchants who moved to the fashionable Templeton of the 16th and 17th centuries (*para. 2.15*) and thus active 'in the parish' at the zenith of his career (from perhaps 1640 to his capture, trial and execution in 1648/1649).

## 7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 As noted, a very large proportion (c. 90%) of the development area was never fully stripped of topsoil or 19th/20th century deposits and thus earlier deposits and features could have remained hidden. The eastern and southern margins of the site have been the subject of a massive landfill campaign within the last twenty years. The landfill is c. 2m deep over the southern third of the area and must amount to thousands of tons of material.

7.2 The requirement for a watching brief arose from the findings of fairly recent research which had speculated that the early centre of Templeton lay around the church (*Soulsby and Jones, 1975*). This research would appear to have chosen the wrong site; the church of St. John on the northern periphery of the development area was built in 1859. There is some limited 19th century evidence that the earlier church lies at the north end of the village.

7.3 The northern periphery of the site as well as the area under the main farmhouse had been subjected to deep and extensive terracing which had lowered the ground level down into either the subsoil or bedrock. Herein probably lies a clue. The site lies at the foot of a long slope. There is a junction between two rock types not far to the north and a spring rises from the north-east corner of the development area. This was probably always wet ground and the terracing below the farm house may have been a necessary pre-requisite to development; witness the presence of a sump (feature (15) at the Southeast corner of the building.

7.4 A large quantity of buried topsoil was examined from the area of the stream or bog at the south corner of the site. No material older than 19th century was present. Herein may lie another clue. The farm was obviously a dairy farm (buildings 4 and 6). It is highly likely that any archaeological deposits at the top end of the site will have migrated down the hill and into the stream in the sort of lovely 'sludge slide' that was a feature of Pembrokeshire dairy farms until the Environment Agency became interested in water quality.

7.5 Thus, although the absence of any medieval finds is far from being proof of absence of any medieval activity, all things considered, the utter lack of any such finds probably indicates that the site was not intensively occupied in the middle ages.

7.6 Instead, it is proposed that the site was first occupied in the 17th century when someone with money created what, for the period, was a very substantial residence and as such a fairly rare building. The date of 1642 ascribed to the construction of the farmhouse in recently published tourist pamphlets is very attractive, but appears to have arisen from a typographical error of the date 1672 said to have been carved on a beam in the house. The earlier date would be especially attractive because it would have coincided with the absolute zenith of the Poyer family fortunes.

7.7 The house name indicates a tradition of there having been a connection with one of Pembrokeshire's most famous inhabitants. If the connection could be proved,

the house might be worthy of a commemorative plaque. Unfortunately, there is no known evidence to place the Poyer family in the house.

7.8 If the original 'gentry' class house at Poyers Arms Farm was built by the Poyer family, then it was either by John Poyer himself in the 1630's or 1640's or much later in the same century by his heirs, probably using money which he had 'assembled' and they had improved upon.

7.9 It is possible that the answer to the riddle exists in documentary form somewhere. The obvious starting point would be the deeds for Poyers Arms Farm; these were not seen. Failing that, examination of papers relating to the Henllan Estate, the Barlows of Slebech, the Picton Estate or records relating to Poyer's trial might provide an answer. This would be a large undertaking and was deemed to be outside the scope of research appropriate to this project.

## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The author is grateful to Ken Smyth and Gary Jones, both of South Haven Construction, for assistance during the project.

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## **APPENDIX 1: Summary of contexts**

- (01) Topsoil within the churchyard
- (02) Remnants of topsoil along the southern edge of the churchyard wall
- (03) Remnants of 'B' horizon below (02). Light yellow brown silty clay.
- (04) Subsoil - bright yellow, slightly brashy, clay
- (05) Bedrock below (04) - fractured platy shale
- (06) Concrete slab along north edge of development area. Circa 1960 as hard standing for the cows.
- (07) Landfill below (06) along its southern edge. Brown clayey loam with numerous bits of 20th century rubbish including lots of plastic. Extended all the way southwards down the slope to the bog or stream at the southern end of the site getting progressively deeper until over 2m deep at the south end. A tractor gearbox was recovered from 2m down in the boggy area.
- (08) Buried landsurface / 'A' horizon in the bog/stream area. Dark black-brown gritty silty loam with numerous pieces of 19th century pottery but no older material.
- (09) Subsoil below (08). Same as subsoil (04).
- (10) Original foundation trench for the farmhouse. Short stretch only - found below wall (X) at the south east corner of the house.
- (11) Soil fill of foundation cut (10) between the masonry [wall W]] and the cut.
- (12) Service trench dug 0.6m deep on west side of farmhouse wall (B) in connection with present development.
- (13) Service trench dug 0.6m deep on south west corner of the farmhouse wall (S) in connection with present development.
- (14) Basal masonry courses of the 'Flemish' chimney exposed in north side of trench (13).
- (15) Cut - old drain or sump on partially exposed at south east corner of foundation trench (10).
- (16) Fill of cut (15) - large voided rubble, standing water at 0.6m below base of cut (10).
- (17) The topsoil between the farmhouse and the new build units No.s 7-13. Never fully removed. No features detected of any note.
- (18) The topsoil along the west side of the farmhouse and around the south side of building 9. Never fully removed. No features detected of any note.

## **APPENDIX 2: Summary of artefacts**

*context (08)* plentiful 19th cent pottery and glass (not retained)

*context (11)* 2 sherds, gravel-tempered North Devon ware

### APPENDIX 3: Detailed description of the building recording

**WALL (A)** *width 0.67m - internal mortar = pink (but only to 2m above floor level).*

No footings, sitting directly on bedrock. 20th century internal render not removed, but pink mortar visible in internal cavities on ground floor where new opening broken out in NE corner of building. The whole of the east half of the upper floor rebuilt this century for feature (A2) below. Examination of the exterior shows that the west half of the upper storey of the wall was also rebuilt early this century, i.e., the whole wall is recent above 2m above floor level.

**Fireplace (A1)** *width 0.8m                      height 1m*

Home brewed 20th century flue built using 9" salt-glaze sewer pipe sections set in concrete. Modern hearth insert rising to vertical flue c. 0.5m to east.

**WALL (B)** *width 0.69m - internal mortar = pink*

Pointing = white/light beige mortar. Softish, crumbly with pink lumps. Bonding below pointing = the pink mortar (hard gritty/coarse sandy with pinker lumps and 30% angular white lime fragments).

**Wall insert (B1)**

Pointing and bonding = dirty grey, soft mortar with frequent coal. Late 19th century blocking of a bigger bay window to reduce opening to same size as late 18th century window (S)/(T) to south.

**Angled window splay (B2)**

Finish = thin hard greyish white lime plaster. ?late 18th century.

**WALL (C)** *width 0.69m   mortar type:- pink internally.*

Pointing = soft gritty fine texture greyish white mortar with 5% coal. ?Late 18th century. Bonding-traces of the pink mortar visible under pointing between stones in splay (C1)

**Window splay (C1)**

Splay sharper than (B2) - ?original window opening. Sill at 0.35m above floor level.

**WALL (D)** *width 0.69m   mortar type:- hard pink*

Keyed into lower part of wall (A). Part of original structure.

**Wall Cupboard (D1)** *width 0.6m- mortar type:- bright white.*

North side of opening located 0.38m south of wall (A). Depth into wall (D) = 0.52m. Lintels = 2 grey sandstone slabs c. 0.05m thick, 0.3m wide and 0.9m long. Bottom of cupboard = 1.53m above floor. Top (underside of lintels) = 2.0m above floor level. Rendered internally with mud and white plaster. ?18th century. No provable relationship to window (E2).

**WALL (E)** *width 0.67m - mortar type:- hard pink*

Continuation, to south, of wall (D).

**Blocked window (E1)** *width 0.75m (at internal wall surface) - associated mortar type:- hard pink.*

One of the most important features found. Lintel = rough hewn black granite 1.5m long, 0.72m wide (i.e., entire width of wall with slight projection on exterior of wall) and 0.08m thick. Sill height 1.1m above floor, underside of lintel 1.85m (internal height 0.73m). This is almost certainly the small pane casement window referred to by CADW. The southern end of this lintel was set 0.65m southwards into wall (E) from the edge of the opening and was 2.34m south of wall (A). A square window of whose internal aperture dimensions are identical to window (T2).

**Wall cupboard (E2)** = built within window (E1) opening utilising original splay as sides.

Bonding of primary blocking of window (E1) = very grey mortar, gritty with 10% small coal. 2nd phase blocking stones faced flush on interior side and rendered with very white, hard gritty fine textured mortar (late 18th century) to create back wall of cupboard. Later entirely filled in with random rubble bonded with grey white mortar (?early 19th century).



**WALL (F)** width 0.37m - height 2.1m - mortar type:- greyish white [same as wall (Y)]

Internal partition wall at north end of the house. Slightly beige white lime plaster sealed in butt joint onto wall (G) shows that wall (F) definitely overlies wall (G). Plaster in seam of butt joint to wall (C) was hard beige-white same as butt (F)-(G) and also same type as in (B2). Pointing and render = grey white lime mortar. Single storey high. Strange angle to rest of building but on same alignment as wall (Y). Alignment possibly dictated by the strange curving entranceway (features (J), (G) and curve on north side of wall (O)). Late 18th or early 19th century and probably associated with the public house phase.

**WALL (G)** width 0.67m mortar type:- dirty grey

Short stubby addition to wall (E) presumably created at same time as opening (G1). Butt joint (over hard beige white mortar) to wall (E) so later (see plate 9). The most notable feature is the nicely rounded south east corner which is mirrored by a curve in the north end of wall (O) and also a curve in the west end of wall (I). ?Curved doorway to allow access for a small wheeled cart or trolleys for e.g., beer barrels. See main discussion.

**WALL (H)** width 0.12m - height 2.1m - bricks and cement

Southern wall of cross passage. Late Victorian addition to building associated with the public house. Alignment dictated by already existing wall (F). Note it butts onto Victorian masonry blocking of the old doorway between walls (G) and (O).

**WALLS (I), (K), (L) and (M)** width 0.66m mortar type:- soft pink with mud.

The lower part of these walls (below 1.2m above floor level) were all keyed into each other at the corners and so probably indicate a single build phase for the extension. The mortar type was odd, perhaps similar to pink mortar in the upper storey of the main building. The butt joint of wall (M) to wall (Z) indicates that the whole extension was almost certainly later than wall (Z). Above 1.2m the walls would appear to have been rebuilt in the ?early 19th century. All existing openings probably of that date, but see (K2) below. No remaining relationship of wall (I) to wall (E) because of insert (J) and the doorway into the 1950's toilet.

**Wall Insert (J)** width 0.15m - mortar type:- Victorian soft grey mortar bonding late 19th century bricks.

The original east edge of this doorway opening was splayed from inside to outside all the way from lintel to floor. This would appear to be related to the curve on the SE corner of wall (G) and the splay on wall (O). Blocking of part of an older 'curving entranceway'. See main discussion.

**Blocked doorway (K1)** width 0.73m - height unknown

Edges clearly visible in wall below existing central window of wall (K). Very narrow. ?original doorway.

**WALL (N)** width 0.69m mortar type:- hard pink.

Mortar type identical to main farmhouse walls, so probably contemporary. No joint visible to wall (Z), (i.e., keyed in) so probably contemporary. Space between wall (N) and wall (P) most recently used for the stairwell. Wall later rendered with buff lime plaster then bright white lime plaster. Has the stairwell always been at this location?, i.e. external to the main living area. No signs anywhere of there ever being an alternative position so seems likely. Otherwise a rather strange extension probably contemporary with the original house.

**WALL (O)** width 0.69m mortar type:- hard pink inside.

Continuation of wall (D)/(E). Same materials. Separated from wall (G) by a thin rubble insert (G1) bonded with dark grey Victorian type mortar and from wall (P) by recess (Q), itself a blocked doorway. Pink mortar clearly visible between stonework in lower part of upper storey.

**WALL (P)** width 0.69m mortar type:- hard pink inside.

Continuation of wall (D)/(E)/(O). Same materials. Pink mortar clearly visible in lower stonework of upper storey.

**Opening (Q) - blocking wall = yellow late 19th bricks and cement.**

Originally an opening through entire thickness of wall (O)/(P) - blocked in late 19th century with yellow bricks. Presumably a very secondary feature connecting the extension (I)/(K)/(L)/(M) to the middle room of the main farmhouse. Date of creation of opening unclear.

**WALL (R) width 0.69m mortar type:- hard pink inside.**

Continuation of wall (D)->(P). Same materials. No joint to wall (N) so probably contemporary. Cut at south end by wide doorway entry (R3). Overlain by wall (Y).

**Socket (R1) - Possible ?corbel or ?lintel**

Voided socket c. 0.25m square located 0.44m to south of stairwell near southwest corner of wall (R). Base of socket 1.94m above floor level, i.e. more or less level with corbel (T1). Blocked with same mortar as used to block the adjacent socket (R1) and also lintel socket (W2) which would make sense, i.e., abandonment of all bits of doorway (R3) in one go. Possibly location for another corbel similar to (T1) but not certain - not diametrically opposed to (T1) so possibly a beam socket for floor beam along top of wall (Y) and thus associated with the forge in southern room (i.e., with doorway (R3)).

**Socket (R2) - ?17th century corbel or ?stone arch socket** On extreme south west corner of wall (R). Base height at c. 1.9m similar to (T1) and probably too low for doorway (R3). Socket measuring c. 0.25m square probably and-set 0.3m into wall. Nearly diametrically opposed to corbel (T1). ?old corbel socket ?re-used for beam or arch lintel for doorway (R3). Not clear.

**Wide doorway (R3)**

2.6m wide from wall (R) to wall (W) and 2.5m high. Opening broken through pink mortar type wall and the broken stub ends of the walls repaired and made flush with masonry (R3) and (W1). Bonding = greyish white mortar and last finished in white lime (*see plates 7 and 8*). Type of support for wall above unclear as removed during creation of wall (X). Could have been a wood lintel or stone arch - shape of socket (W2) inconclusive.

A very wide, high opening. Of particular interest as it must mean that the southern room of the building was now a working room, possibly created to get carts in?. Another possibility is that this indicates the earliest forge was in this room re-using the big fireplace (U).

Apparently broadly contemporary with walls (Y) and (F), i.e., part of a big remodelling of the internal layout of the ground floor, but the big re-fenestration of the west wall appears to have been later.

**WALL (S) width 0.69m but 1.35m with 'Flemish chimney' -mortar type:- some pink visible in cavities at north end.**

The most notable aspect of this wall is that it contains the Flemish chimney. Examination of the corners of this feature indicate that it was keyed into the wall to north and south, i.e., the whole block of masonry would appear to be of one construction which would indicate that this was the original (and originally ?only) fireplace for the house.

**Hearth opening - blocking (S1)**

The north side of the original hearth opening had been blocked with rubble and grey white mortar (*see plate 5*) to narrow the opening. The old shape could be detected on the north side as a thin line of mortar plaster going into the splay under the blocking. At a later date there had been several phases of lintel, the trend being to continually lower the height of the opening. Early this century, much of the internal wall of the flue was removed at around the height of the ceiling and replaced with poor materials (*see plate*).

**Original hearth opening (S2)**

This was 1.2m wide and 1.6m high. A sloping slate slab can be seen (*on plate 5*) at c. 1.8m. This formed the base of a tapered chute going up into the main flue. The way that the plaster render of the splay rises to meet this slab indicates this is an early feature.

**Window (S)/(T)**

Sill height 0.6m above floor, base of lintel 2.3m above floor. Note that all other existing ground floor windows share same heights. Part of the great re-fenestration of the building which is nearly always associated with the bright white mortar so probably late 18th or early 19th century.

**WALL (T)** width 0.69m mortar type:- *hard pink inside*. Rendered with virtually every phase of lime mortar plaster extant in the building, but some pink mortar visible between the existing window (S)/(T) and the blocked window (T2) and also near wall (U). Area around joint to wall (U) not cleared of render so relationship of the two walls remains unknown. Contains two original features, (T1) and (T2) below. Seam of butt joint between (T) and wall (Y) has protected remnant wall plaster on wall (T) of buff/beige white lime [similar to that found below butt joints (H)-(C) and (F)-(G)].

#### **Stone Corbel (T1)**

Hard carved sandstone of local type - semi circular profile below (*see plate 6*) but no other decorative features. Buried within wall (Y) and only revealed when that wall was removed. Base 1.9m below floor, top 2.1m - corbel 0.25m wide. Covered with the old wall plaster revealed in butt joint (T)-(Y). The base level with top of lintel of window (T2) and almost certainly part of same house phase, i.e., phase 1. Note that the top is 0.2m below the lintel height of the existing window (S)/(T) and that any beams would be across the top of that window, i.e., this corbel goes with a much lower ceiling and window height. Diametrically opposed to socket (R2).

#### **Blocked window (T2)**

The ghost of a small blocked window 0.85m to the south of window (S)/(T) (*see plate 6*). Utterly square aperture 0.73m wide and 0.73m high with start of splayed edges of window reveal going into wall just visible. Sill height 1.05m off (most recent) floor surface. Remnants of wooden lintel removed and socket concreted just before photograph was taken. The lintel was 0.16m thick and 1.25m long, i.e., it overhung the window by 0.25m on each side. The mortar bonding of the blocking material was the very hard bright white lime mortar with occasional small coal. The thin line of plaster visible around the edges of the aperture (i.e., the last rendering on the window reveals) appears to have been the light buff mortar, i.e., probably last rendered in mid 18th century and blocked when the re-fenestration occurred. Window dimensions and height identical to those of window (E1) at the other end of the building.

**WALL (U)** various widths - mortar type:- *fairly soft crumbly buff yellow lime visible at edges but internal type unknown*.

The big chimney on the south end of the building (*see plates 2 & 3*). Featuring large, rough-hewn stone quoins on the external corners (*see plate 2*). The hearth remained blocked. The doorway on the east side was blocked with breeze blocks as part of the current renovations. The relationship of the west side to wall (T) was not clear but all indications were that the two walls were keyed. The lintel dated 1672 was probably in this fireplace - note recently cemented socket on plate 3 (there was no wooden beam). All blocking in the fireplace was of late 19th or early 20th century date. The upper part of the west side of the wall was a fairly tatty Victorian insert (*see plate 3*) and is hollow behind. The most important aspect is the relationship of the flue wall to wall (V). A definite ghost of a joint was apparent (note the difference between the masonry above the blocked fire opening and the stone work to the right on plate 3). Either the chimney is a slightly later insert into wall (V) or the chimney is earlier than wall (V) and as such pre-dates the rest of the farmhouse building. The looseness evident in the joints of the masonry of wall (V) would seem to indicate that it has been allowed to subside slightly at some point - ?possibly when left hanging following demolition of the west part to insert chimney wall (U)?. Uncertain.

**WALL (V)** width 0.68m mortar type:- *hard pink inside*.

Keyed to wall (W). Same materials and style of masonry (*see plate 3*) to wall (W) so probably contemporary. Relationship to wall (U) discussed above.

**WALL (W)** width 0.69m mortar type:- *hard pink inside*.

Junction to upper part of wall (V) is keyed in, i.e., no joint. Pink mortar also visible on second floor.

#### **Wall Insert (W1)**

Re-finishing of north end of cut stub of wall (W) when wide entry (R3) formed. Some stones added to form flush wall stub and then repointed and plastered in buff white lime mortar. The south side of (R3). Finishing extends up to old lintel position at 2.5m above floor level. Part of alterations of use of the south part of the house to some working occupation, ?possibly as a forge?. Why else have a doorway 2.6m wide, i.e., wide enough for a cart.

**Lintel beam socket (W2)**

Rough socket in wall at 2.5m above floor level. ?Lintel beam or ?stone arch. Not known. South side of doorway (R3). Created in 18th century. Last finish was bright white lime (plate 8) before blocked by wall (X).

**WALL (Y) width 0.12m - late 19th century brick and cement**

Southern wall of the cross passage built on strange alignment of earlier wall (H). Probably one of the most recent features in the building.

**WALL (Z) width 0.55m mortar type:- hard pink**

Keyed to wall (N) so probably contemporary. Earlier than wall (M). Always the outer wall for the staircase?. Must have extended slightly northwards to enclose staircase before extension (I)/(K)/(L)/(M) constructed but no trace when concrete floor removed, only clean bedrock.

## **APPENDIX 4: Contents of the site archive**

### **Archive database/cover sheet**

Site Name	Poyers Arms Farm, Templeton
Site Code	PRN 38745
PRN	38745
NPRN	N/A
SAM	N/A
Other Ref No	CAP Project no. 156
NGR	SN 1130 1150
Site Type	Possible medieval settlement
Project Type	Watching brief
Project Officer	Nick Tavener
Project Dates	March-July 1999
Categories Present	N/A
Location of Original Archive	Scolton Manor
Location of duplicate Archives	None
Number of Finds Boxes	1
Location of Finds	Scolton Manor
Museum Reference	N/A
Copyright	CPAT Ltd
Restrictions to access	None

## Chapter 8 Poyer's War

Following the surrender of King Charles and the end of hostilities, John Poyer was summoned to London to answer charges regarding his appropriation of land and property at Carew to the value of £6000. This included the cost of demolishing out-houses on various parts of the land in question and of spoiling lead and timber in Carew castle.

Poyer had been on bad terms with most leading members of the County Committee for a long time, in particular with John Elliot, the Lort family and Sir Richard Phillips - to whom much of the profit or income from the Carew demesne land was really due. The Speaker of the Commons, influenced to some extent by Roland Laugharne, eventually agreed to drop the charges for the time being and Poyer returned to Pembroke. He had been detained in London for some weeks and was apparently in such severe financial straits that his wife Elizabeth, who was with him in the city, spent the period in a state of considerable poverty.

In these first days of peace Laugharne seems to have been regarded as something of a hero. As a reward for his services he was given the sequestered estates of John Barlow at Slebech and was gratefully thanked by Parliament. Poyer, on the other hand, was lucky to escape without a prison sentence, even though he continued as Governor of Pembroke. Colonel Rice Powell had been appointed Governor of Tenby and he, too, continued to hold office.

However, within a relatively short space of time, Laugharne's political views seem to have become suspect. In April 1647 it was decided that his command in South Wales should be reduced to just 100 horse and 100 dragoons - something which Laugharne and his troops resented bitterly. It should be remembered that at this time Parliament was attempting to reduce, or even dissolve entirely, the New Model Army which was a potentially powerful weapon within the state. The religious and political re-groupings which were taking place in the wake of the King's defeat - Presbyterianism and Royalism, Independency and Republicanism - had split the old Parliament into various warring factions. Here, in these factions, even in the early moments of peace, can be found many of the causes, or at least the seeds, of the Second Civil War.

In Pembroke, John Poyer was continuing to cause problems. At one stage he shut up the three Lorts - Roger, Sampson and John - in Pembroke Castle. The reason for this is unclear. Perhaps it was an attempt to extort money from them. Such a motive would not have been beyond Poyer and he was certainly in need of money. There had never been any love lost between the four men and Poyer claimed that the Lorts had set upon him on the highway and had even tried to murder him in church.

Whatever the reason, Sir Thomas Fairfax, who had been made General of all

Parliamentary forces on 19 July 1647, ordered the release of the three men. Poyer refused. He was also now instructed to appear before the Committee of Accounts. Once again Poyer refused to comply, simply choosing to ignore the order.

The Ordinance of 24 December 1647 gave certain concessions to all those men who had fought for Parliament in the recent war. One of the concessions was that all accounts must be audited - this was important for the soldiers, many of whom were owed considerable arrears of pay. Amongst the Pembrokeshire auditors, however, were the Lorts, Sir Richard Phillips and John Elliot, none of whom was particularly well-disposed towards Poyer. Indeed, Elliot had already charged him with misappropriation of public money and the selection of these men as auditors

"undoubtedly created an exasperating situation for that unruly and possibly very dishonest man."

(Arthur Leonard Leach "The History of the Civil War in Pembrokeshire and on its Borders")

At the end of December 1647 Fairfax sent down Colonel Fleming, an officer in the New Model Army, ordering Poyer to deliver up the Castle and to appear before the General at the Army Headquarters in Windsor. Poyer again refused and now the possibility of dislodging him by force began to be considered. A communication from John Elliot at about this time informed Fairfax that Poyer had more than 200 men in the Castle and was concerned, not with Parliament or King, but only with furthering his own ends. This letter also included the unfortunate statement that Poyer was rarely sober and was often drunk in the afternoons! Whether or not this was the case, there can be no doubt that in the dark winter days of 1647-48 Poyer became markedly more bitter and belligerent.

The reason for Poyer's attitude is hard to discover. In all probability he dared not face the Committee of Accounts, knowing that he was at fault over the Carew situation, and preferred to remain unquestioned over his affairs. However, he was nobody's fool and he must have realized that his aggression, rudeness and bad relationships with many influential people - not just the County Committee in Pembrokeshire but also significant figures like Fairfax - would put him in a very hazardous position. In many respects, Poyer probably blundered, through pride and greed, into a situation which he could not avoid. Whatever he said later, he was most likely influenced by personal considerations rather than by an altruistic concern for the state of the country.

The Engagement, of December 1647, effectively committed a Scottish army to an invasion, ostensibly with a view to restoring the King to a position of authority. A second Civil War was now inevitable. In the murky waters of political intrigue which were typical of the times, Roland Laugharne became implicated in a plot to sieze Gloucester. Like many others, he had become unhappy about the way events were unfolding, not least the enforced disbanding of his troops. Consequently, when he tried to leave the Army Headquarters at Windsor he was arrested. However, within a few weeks, lax security allowed him to slip away and to head for West Wales.

At this stage Parliament made yet another request for Poyer to abandon

Pembroke. Poyer refused to even leave the Castle confines in order to meet Cadwell, the Speaker's messenger, and Colonel Fleming, who was still lodged in Pembroke, eventually brought the written message to him under a safe conduct. Poyer asked for time to consider but, as the days went on, it was clear that he meant to do nothing.

For sometime now Laugharne's troops had been refusing to disband until they were paid arrears in wages which they were owed. Poyer seized upon this issue and used it as an excuse for his actions. He would vacate the Castle, he declared, if his men were paid and if his own claim for expenses was met. Yet even while he was making this offer he was already talking about holding the Castle for "King and Parliament" and he may well have opened communications with the agents of Prince Charles, son of the King.

It is, perhaps, little justification but Poyer was undoubtedly upset by the sudden change of fortunes within the county. Former Royalists and turncoats like Roger Lort and John Elliot had become important figures. They now occupied positions of power and responsibility where they could hold to account loyal Parliamentarians like himself! By contrast, the Poyers, Powells and Laugharnes of this world had been ignored or even, on occasion, persecuted!

Poyer continued to provision the Castle, even taking food, as and when he required it, from market traders in the town. Finally, however, Colonel Fleming was reinforced by the arrival of 200 foot soldiers from Gloucester. He was at last able to occupy the town of Pembroke, blockade the Castle and prevent Poyer's foraging expeditions. Parliament had had enough and an Ordinance, again carried by Cadwell and dated 4 March 1648, gave a clear indication of their intention:-

"Poyer hath refused to deliver the Castle of Pembroke according to the direction of the General, Sir Thomas Fairfax, although required to do so by a letter from the Speaker and an Order from the House; he hath continued to hold the Castle and to victual and strengthen himself therein.

The Lords and Commons now order that within twelve hours after notice he is to deliver the Castle with all arms, ammunition etc, otherwise he and his adherents are declared Traitors and Rebels and the General is required to reduce the Castle and bring him and his adherents to justice."

Poyer replied that he would vacate the Castle when his arrears had been paid - idle words, really, as Parliament had already agreed to pay £1000 for which he had asked! In a desperate attempt to avoid bloodshed Fleming and the County Committee agreed that each of Poyer's men should receive their arrears. They would guarantee security for such payments. Significantly, the members of the Committee agreed to relinquish all actions or claims against Poyer, thus showing that they had a real desire to forget the unfortunate events of the past.

By now, however, Poyer was too deeply involved. He was expecting help from Prince Charles in France and refused to yield on any terms. Instead, he opened fire on Fleming's troops. Sixteen men were wounded, some fatally, and it can therefore be claimed, with some justification, that Poyer and the garrison at Pembroke Castle fired the first shots of the Second Civil War.

The town of Tenby soon followed Pembroke's lead. In the middle of March the Parliamentary Commissioners who had been sent there to oversee the disbanding of Laugharne's troops were physically assaulted and ejected from the town. The rebel soldiers then boarded ships in the harbour and sailed around to Pembroke where they were admitted to the Castle by one of the postern gates.

Hearing that forces under Captain Addis and Captain Agborow were marching to assist him, Poyer now sallied out to attack Fleming. Addis and Agborow fell on the Parliamentarians from the rear and in a short bitter fight Fleming's forces were routed. Fleming himself was missing for a while, feared killed, but he managed to obtain refuge on board a nearby ship. Many guns were lost, however, and Poyer now held all of Pembroke in his grip.

At the end of March 1648 Poyer led a raid on the nearby village of Pwllcrochan where two companies, 350 men, had landed. Led by Colonel Reade, the Parliamentarians took refuge in the church and defended it stoutly against Poyer's attacks. Eventually, an agreement was reached whereby the Parliamentarians, who were part of Colonel Overton's regiment from Bristol, would be allowed to leave, provided they gave an undertaking never to return to Pembrokeshire again. They sailed away on the same transports which had brought them there in the first place.

Poyer promptly moved on to Henllan House, the home of Griffith White, a bare half mile from the church. The owner was, at that moment, discussing how to quarter Reade's troops. With him were Colonel Fleming, Roger and John Lort and Mathew Bowen. Poyer arrived with iron bars and sledge hammers to break down the doors of the house but, alerted of their coming, White and his comrades managed to escape in time. Nobody was seriously hurt but both affairs gained much local prestige for Poyer.

There is a possibility that King Charles, then in captivity at Carisbrooke Castle, had become unhappy with the activities of Poyer at Pembroke and Rice Powell in Tenby. Prince Charles, however, had formally declared them, respectively, the Governors of Pembroke and Tenby and the two men were now publicly stating that they were fighting, not for pay arrears or for the Presbyterian Covenant, but for the King. They were, they said, also against those who wished to abolish the Book of Common Prayer. Help was daily expected from Ireland where Lord Inchiquin had recently declared for the King. No formal assistance was ever sent but many individuals did arrive, from Ireland and from the rest of the country, dissatisfied parties who, probably, hoped to advance their own causes and to gain something from this dramatic enterprise. The townspeople of Pembroke, in particular, were unhappy about the situation as they not only had to feed the in-comers but they were also forced to work at improving the defence works of the town.

General Fairfax now directed Colonel Horton to march against Poyer, the clear ringleader, and, on 8 April, with 1300 men Horton set off along the Brecon - Carmarthen road. Rice Powell, who controlled Carmarthen, gathered together a mixed force of 1400 English, Scots, Welsh and Irish and moved out to meet him. A stalemate resulted with Powell encamping himself on a high hill and Horton being

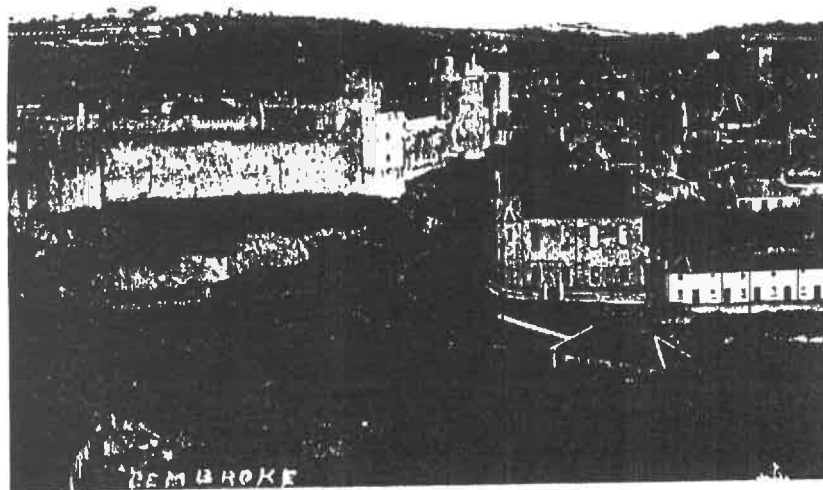
unable to dislodge him. During a skirmish, however, Colonel Fleming and a troop of horse became cut off from the rest of Horton's force. They took refuge in a church and sent an urgent message to Horton, asking for help. Assistance came too late, however, and when the church was relieved Fleming was found dead inside. In his hand was a pistol - he had, it seemed, killed himself rather than fall into the hands of Powell and Poyer.

Horton, who had lost 100 men, retreated to Brecon. In light of the problems, Fairfax decided to send in the heavy guns. He ordered a large detachment of the army under the command of Lieutenant General Oliver Cromwell to proceed to South Wales and decide the matter once and for all. Poyer back in Pembroke, and as boastful as ever, declared that

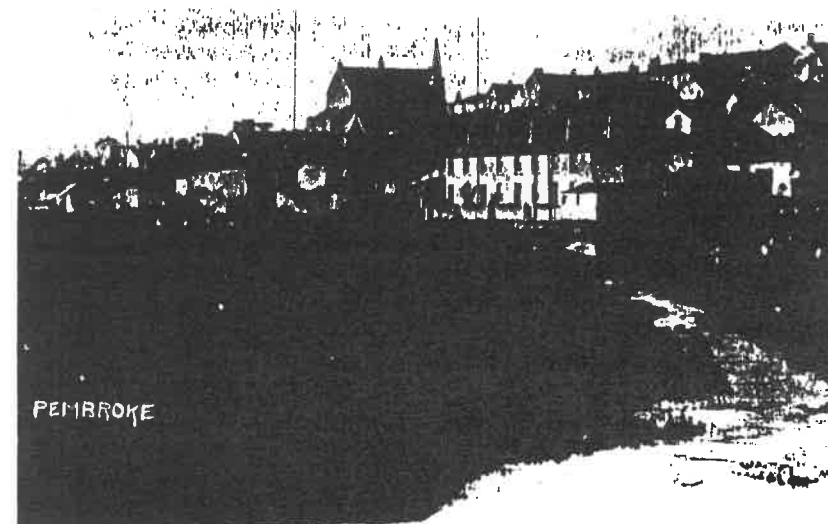
"he, who feared neither Fairfax, Cromwell or Ireton, would be first man to charge against Ironsides."

(Arthur Leonard Leach "The History of the Civil War in Pembrokeshire and on Its Borders")

The scene was set for the final action.



Pembroke and the town from the west. The row of white houses alongside Westgate Chapel (bottom right) was known as Bankers Row. The "Doomsday Survey" which was made after the Finance Act of 1910 listed 7 tenants as living in the Row. By 1940 the houses were derelict and they were demolished in 1957 and the area made into a car park.



Pembroke from the Commons to the south of the town walls. Notice the stream which, for many years, ran unchecked across the area.



## Chapter 9

### The Siege of Pembroke

Roland Laugharne finally linked up with the rebels in late April 1648. He had not made any overt political statements and, although he was on parole at Windsor because of an alleged involvement with Royalist insurrections at Gloucester, he seems to have had little in common with the self-interested Poyer or, for that matter, with political opportunists like Rice Powell.

Indeed, it is sometimes difficult to see quite what Laugharne could hope to achieve by his actions. He may well have gone to South Wales, not to hasten the revolt but to try to restrain hot heads like Poyer and Powell. He undoubtedly sympathised with the Royalist viewpoint at this stage but he was a wise campaigner and knew that the rebel forces were not yet ready. There was a great body of support for the King - or, at least, opposition to Parliament - in South Wales, not just in outposts like Pembroke and Tenby but also in the more populous area of Glamorgan. Given time, Laugharne knew that he could develop these rough and ready elements and turn them into a fairly significant force.

However, by the time Laugharne arrived matters had gone too far. The Glamorgan rebels were already mustering and Colonel Horton was preparing to go against them. Laugharne was thus compelled to take the field with forces which were ill-prepared and ill-equipped.

On 4 May he was present at the bloodbath of St Fagans, a battle which finally sealed the fate of the rebellion in Wales and, indirectly, of the entire Second Civil War. The rebel forces, many of whom marched into battle armed only with sticks and staves, were routed by Colonel Horton's trained professionals. There was a great loss of life. Laugharne was wounded, his brother Thomas was killed and over 3000 Royalist prisoners were taken.

In the aftermath of the battle there was nothing to do but flee. Laugharne and Rice Powell, who was also present at the action, sped westwards. Powell went to Tenby and Laugharne rode on to join Poyer at Pembroke. At Tenby there was little unity between the townspeople and Powell's forces who were, really, little more than soldiers of occupation. Most of them came from Glamorgan and Carmarthen and many of them were, like Powell, refugees from the recent defeat at St Fagans.

Colonel Horton was in hot pursuit of the rebels and no sooner was Powell secure within the walls of Tenby than he and his troops appeared outside the town. After an unsuccessful attempt, on 14 May, to take the place by storm, Horton began to blockade Tenby. Oliver Cromwell had left London, on the orders of Sir Thomas Fairfax, on 3 May but before he was across the Severn the Royalist revolt had been crushed at St Fagans. The garrisons of Tenby and Pembroke still posed an awkward problem for Parliament, however, and so Cromwell rode on, reaching Cardiff on 15 and Tenby on 23 May. Finding Horton well in control he left the

siege in his hands and went on towards Pembroke.

The end at Tenby came on 31 May when a breach was made in the town walls. Cromwell, by now investing Pembroke, decided to intervene, declaring that if the town did not surrender immediately then Horton would storm the place and would offer no mercy. Rice Powell promptly surrendered his forces and the town. He was taken into captivity and was sent to Carmarthen to await the coming of other traitors, once affairs were concluded at Pembroke.

However, the Castle and town of Pembroke promised to provide the Parliamentarians with an altogether more difficult and dangerous problem. The Castle was protected on three sides by water and by high, unscalable cliffs. It was also able to be isolated from the town by the Barbican Tower and Gate House, both of them strong, significant outposts. The Castle would undoubtedly prove almost impossible to storm. The town walls of Pembroke had been repaired and strengthened, providing an equally difficult task for any attacking force. The space enclosed by the walls was a long, narrow, almost rectangular stockade, which made assault almost impossible except on certain key areas. These were, naturally, covered or defended by strongly equipped towers or bastions.

Speed's map of 1610 shows that much of the space inside the town walls was occupied by gardens which reached down the flanks of the ridge, almost to the walls themselves. This meant that defenders could, if a breach was made, fire down onto attacking forces from the cover of the houses whilst the in-comers would have to cross wide open spaces at many points. Poyer had prepared well, the town was well equipped and supplied and Cromwell knew that the citadel would be difficult to take.

Cromwell arrived at Pembroke about 24 May. The main Parliamentary camp during the siege was at or near Underdown outside the south-east corner of the town, somewhere below St Daniel's church. Cromwell, however, probably spent most nights away from Pembroke, quite possibly at Welston near Carew. This house was owned by Walter Cuney, the brother-in-law of Rice Powell. However, Cuney was a loyal member of the County Committee and a steadfast Parliamentarian. During the siege Cromwell was badly troubled by gout and he was, therefore, occasionally confined to his bed.

The besieging forces included Cromwell's own regiment (known as the Ironsides), Colonel Pride's regiment of foot, Colonel Horton's horse, Colonel Okey's dragoons and Colonel Overton's foot under Lieutenant Colonel Reade - the latter regiment being the same men who had promised never to return to Pembrokeshire only a few weeks earlier. In all, the besiegers numbered approximately 8000 men although it is doubtful if all of these would have been present for the whole time. Garrisons needed to be maintained at various points along the Welsh coast and in mid June Cromwell was forced to send 4 troops of horse and 2 troops of dragoons to fight against the Scots. However, it is unlikely that the attacking force ever numbered below 6000 men. To oppose these seasoned, battle hardened warriors Poyer could muster only 2000 soldiers, many of whom were quartered in the town rather than the Castle. Most of the townspeople of Pembroke

had elected to stay in their homes but it was highly improbable that any of these would actually take part in the fighting.

The ship which was carrying most of Cromwell's heavy ordnance ran ashore near Berkeley and although the guns were recovered within a few days, contrary winds hindered their progress so that they did not arrive at Pembroke until the end of June. Hugh Peters, the Army Chaplain, managed to obtain some artillery - 2 drakes, 2 culverins and 2 demi culverins - from the warship "Lyon" which was moored in Milford Haven and these were placed in the churchyard at Monkton to the south west of the Castle. From here they kept up a steady and effective fire on the defenders.

Several attempts were immediately made to storm the town gates but these assaults were driven back. These were fierce contests with neither side giving nor asking for quarter. There must have been some considerable degree of support for Poyer's troops in the immediate vicinity of Pembroke as, on 28 June, Cromwell was writing to Fairfax, stating that

"We are forced to keep divers posts or else they would have relief or their horse break away ... the country since we sat down before this place have made two or three insurrections and are ready to do it every day."

However, since there is no other record of these "insurrections", perhaps Cromwell was providing excuses for his slow progress before Pembroke!

During the first weeks of the siege Roland Laugharne played little or no part in proceedings. Indeed, at first, Poyer would have nothing to do with his old comrade and denied any connection between himself, Laugharne and Rice Powell. Whether or not he was keeping his options open or whether he wanted the glory for himself, is something which is not known. However, once Laugharne had recovered from the wounds he had sustained at St Fagans, he was soon in the van of affairs, leading more than one charge against the enemy.

Exactly who took command of the defenders, however, is unclear. Poyer was Governor of the Town but Laugharne was undoubtedly the more able soldier. Neither of them had an ego suited to taking second place and what probably happened was that the defence of Pembroke was an ad hoc affair, individual commanders taking control and dealing with matters as they saw fit.

The siege was not a drawn-out, idle blockade or investment but was an affair of constant actions. Regular attempts were made by Cromwell to storm the walls and the defenders sallied out on many occasions in attempts to disrupt the plans of the attackers. On 4 June, for example, a storming party nearly got over the town walls but they were repulsed when their ladders, which were too short to allow easy access, were fired on by defenders. Cromwell lost 23 men killed and 4 officers severely wounded in the action. A few days later Laugharne led out a raiding party of dragoons and cavalry. Nine of his men were killed and 20 taken prisoner in a gallant but foolhardy action.

Fodder began to run low and by the middle of June Laugharne's horses were feeding on the thatch from the roofs of the houses. On 6 June more guns were taken from the "Lyon" and with the arrival of Horton's troops from Tenby the

town became totally encircled on all sides. Cromwell's ammunition was beginning to run low, however, the constant firing of his artillery pieces seeming to work its way through cannon balls at a rate of knots. Soon, he was being forced to fire huge stones from his mortars.

By 10 June the garrison, whose daily rations had been reduced to  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb of beef and  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb of bread, was in a state of near mutiny. Poyer had constantly promised that relief would come from other Royalist areas but nothing materialised. Several soldiers decided that they had had enough, climbed over the walls of the town and promptly vanished into the night. On 13 June Cromwell placed 2 guns on Golden Hill to the north of the town in a position which commanded both the Northgate and the Mill Bridge. That very evening the gunners managed to set fire to the thatched roofs of many houses in the town.

Towards the end of the month a serious breach was made in the town wall. A storming party gained access and drove the defenders up the Main Street, almost to the gates of the Castle. Nearly 100 defenders were killed in the running battle but at the crucial moment, the reserve failed. A Major who should have supported the assault with pike and muskets failed to arrive and the assault party became isolated. Laugharne charged the attackers in the rear, killing 30 of them and wounding many more. The Parliamentarians were driven out of town and the breach repaired.

On 28 June Cromwell was writing that he was having to deal with

"a very desperate enemy who, being put out of all hope of mercy, are resolved to endure to the uttermost extremity; being very much gentlemen of quality and thoroughly resolved."

At the beginning of July the heavy artillery finally arrived and an intense bombardment commenced. A deputation of defenders, now greatly dispirited, demanded that Laugharne and Poyer should treat for surrender. The two commanders were able to stave off the mutiny only by declaring that they were sure of relief within the next 4 days. If such relief did not come, they declared, then they would surrender. Prince Charles had promised help, as had Royalist supporters in the North of England and in Ireland. After the 4 days had passed relief has still not arrived and Poyer attempted to gain favourable terms with Cromwell. The attempt met with total failure.

The end was not far away, however, and in the first few weeks of July Cromwell's gunners managed to batter down many houses in the town. At least 30 people were killed, most of them being townspeople rather than soldiers. Discontent amongst the defenders was rife.

Finally, on 11 July 1648, Pembroke garrison was forced to ask for a cease fire. Poyer sent out a message claiming that he had always been loyal to Parliament, asking for terms rather than unconditional surrender. Cromwell was inclined to insist on absolute capitulation but he needed, as a matter of urgency, to free his troops to march against the Scots. So, together with his Council of War, he agreed and drew up terms of surrender. These were carried to Laugharne and Poyer by Hugh Peters.







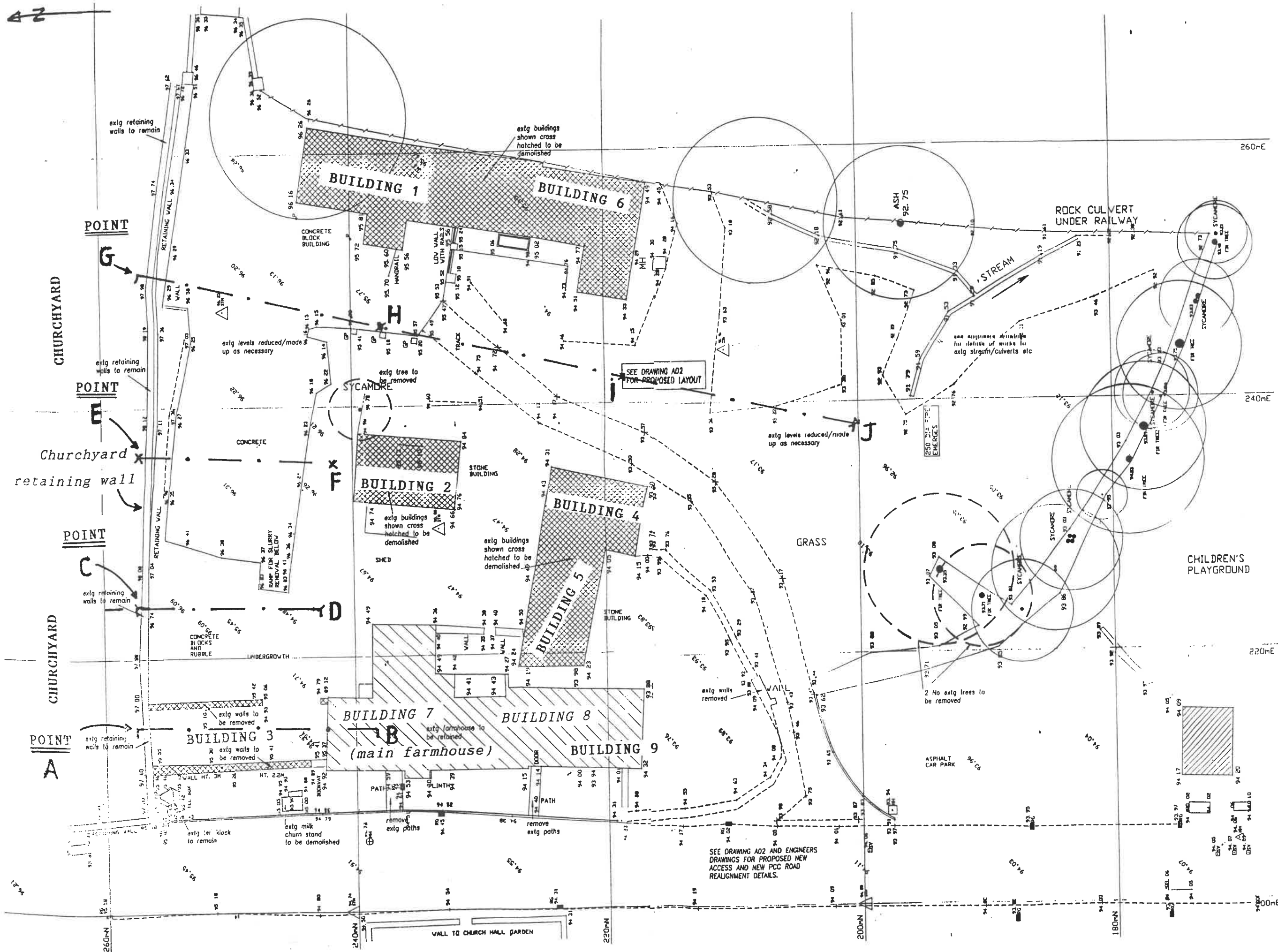
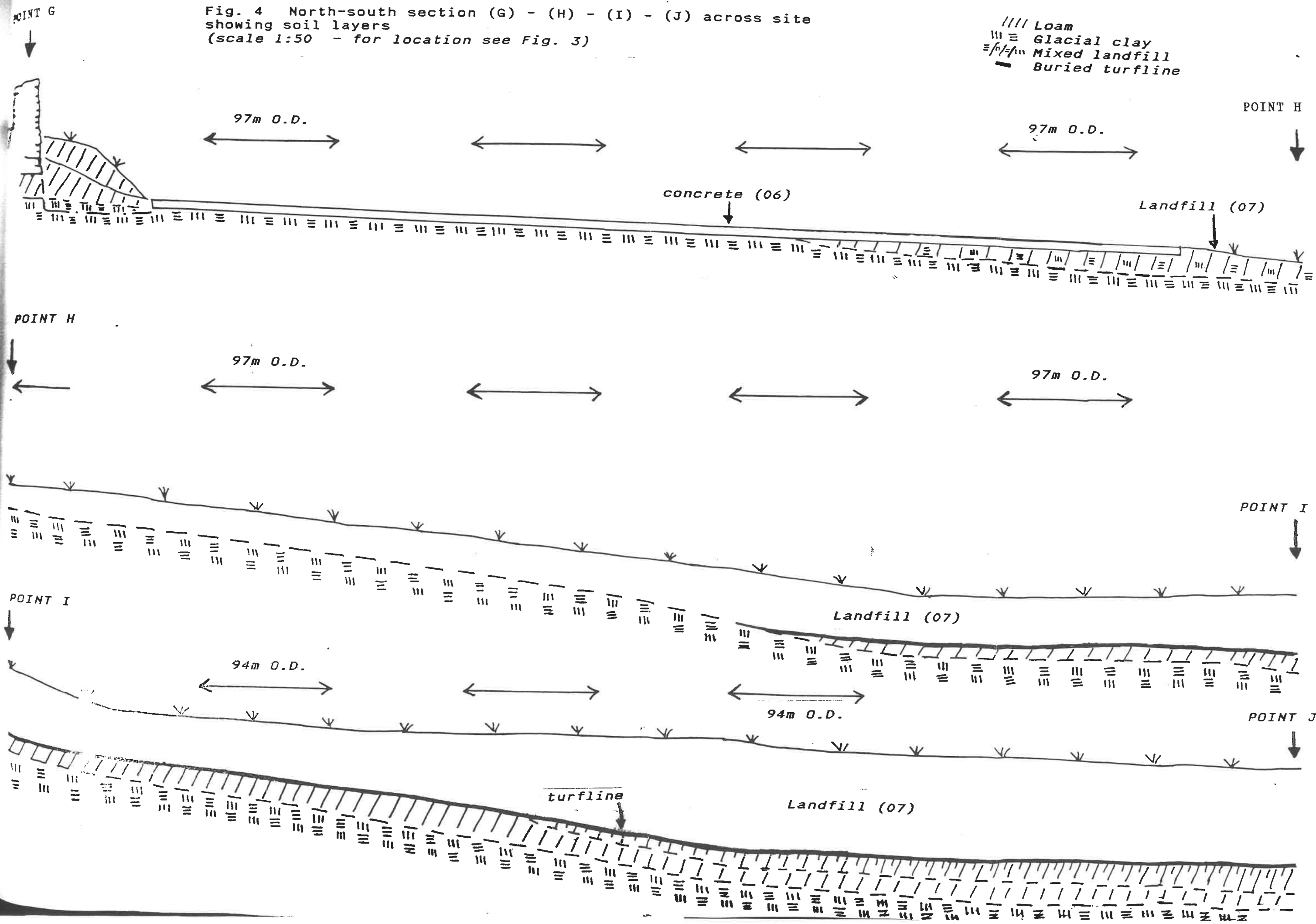


Fig. 3 Plan of previously existing buildings (architects drawing - original scale 1:200, now reduced)  
Building No.s are as described in report section 4A.

Fig. 4 North-south section (G) - (H) - (I) - (J) across site  
showing soil layers  
(scale 1:50 - for location see Fig. 3)

KEY

//// Loam  
 ||| Glacial clay  
 =/=/ Mixed landfill  
 — Buried turfline



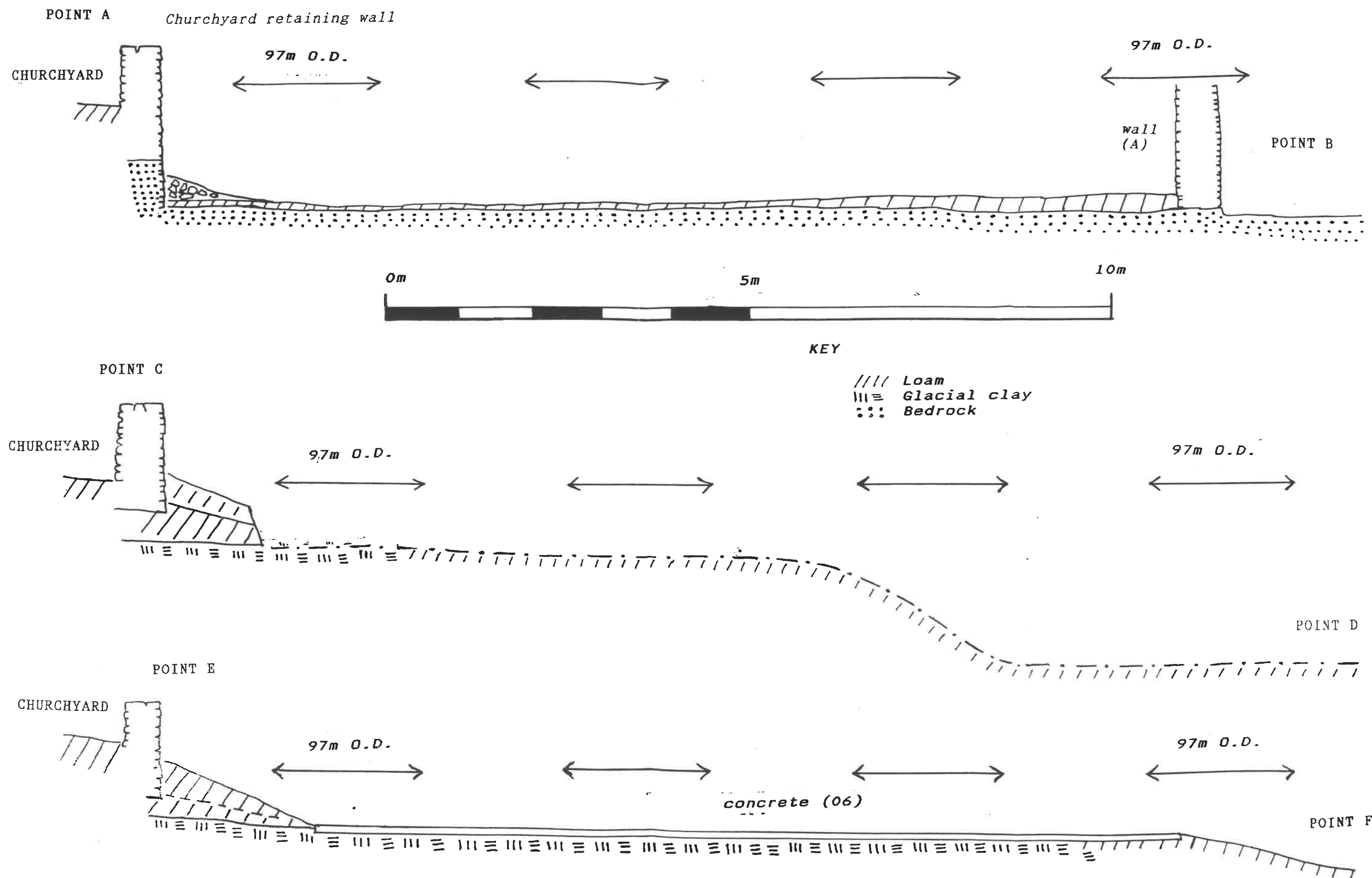


Fig. 5 Sections from churchyard wall across north part of development area showing soil layers (scale 1:50 - for location see Fig. 3)





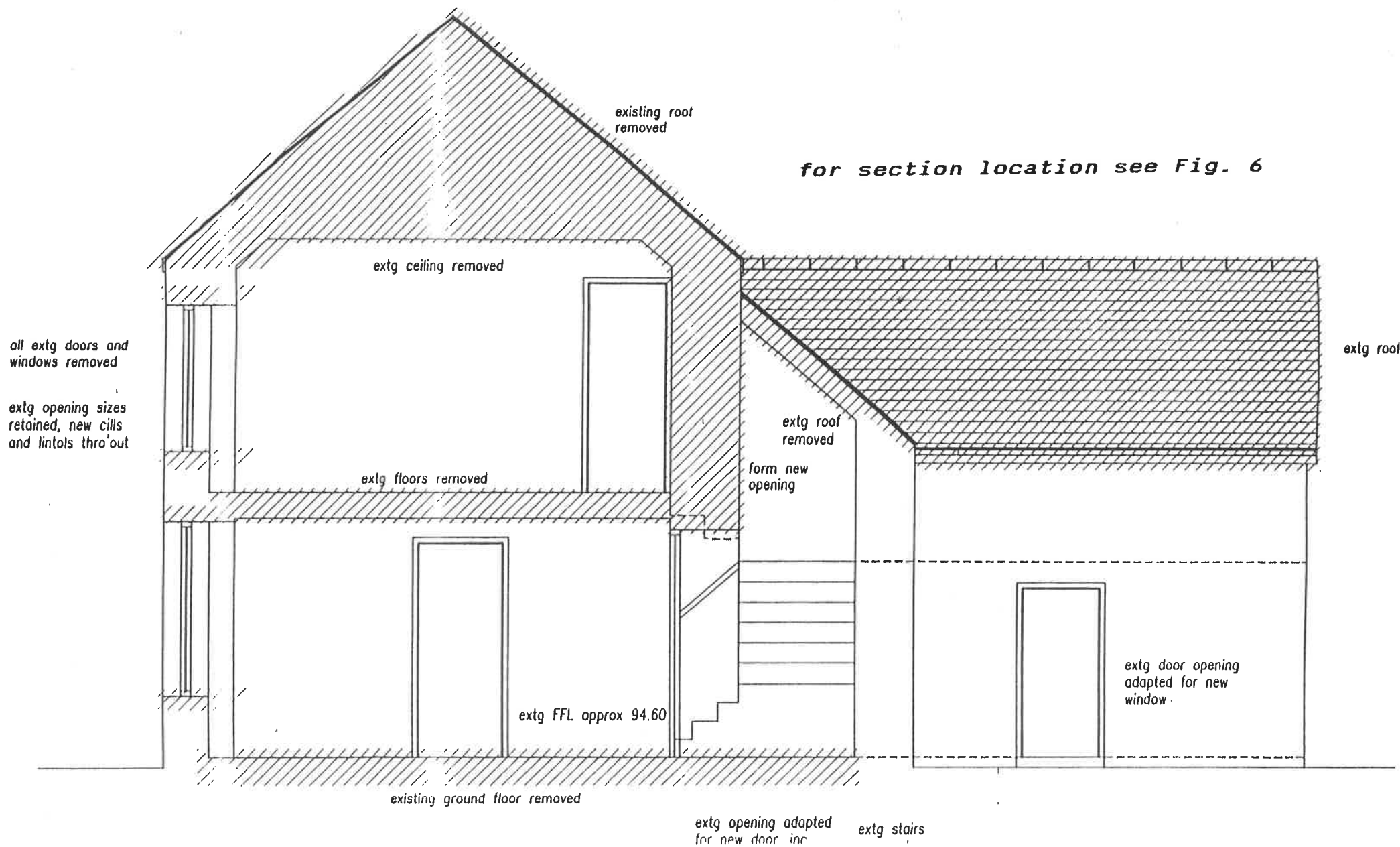


Fig. 7 East-west cross section of farmhouse

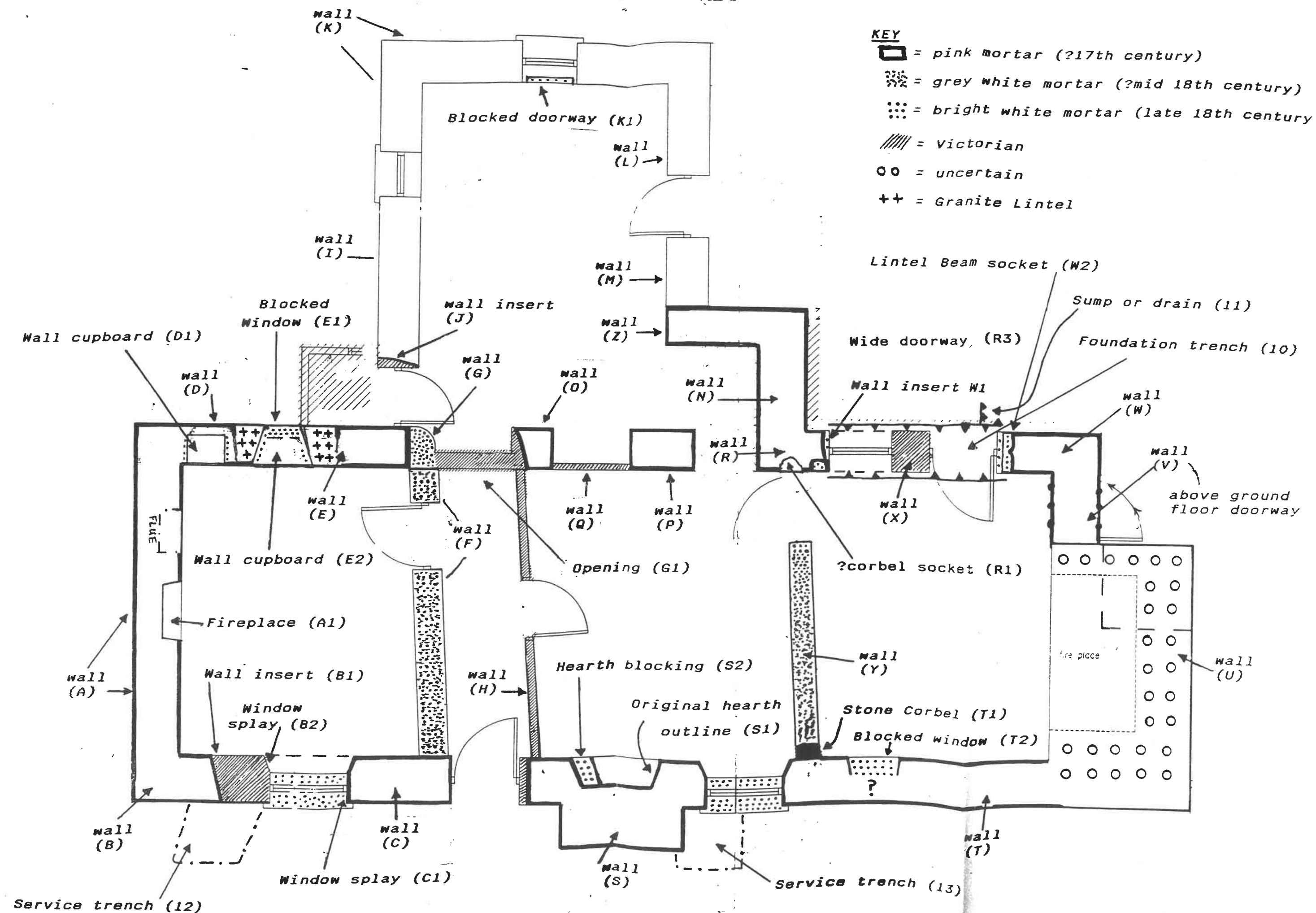


Fig. 8 Plan of groundfloor of farmhouse showing old architectural features

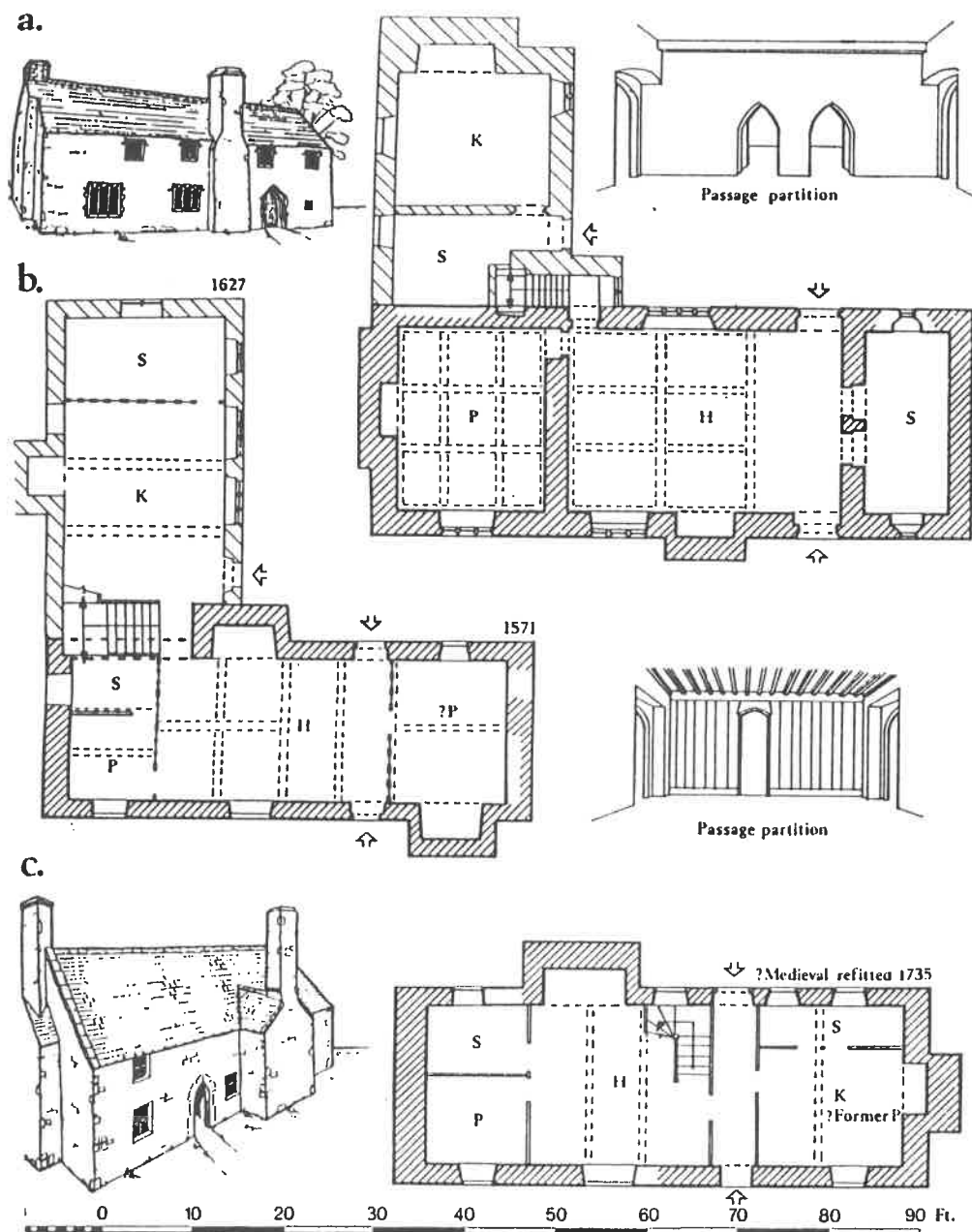


Fig. 91 The lateral-chimney house is further illustrated by plans of *a* Flemingston Court (Glam.), *b* Faenol-bach (Bodelwyddan, Flints.), 1571, and *c* Peniarth-fawr (Betws-y-nos, Denbs.). Note that although the parlour was at the dais end at *a* and at passage end at *b*, later kitchen wing was added at the dais end of the house in each case.

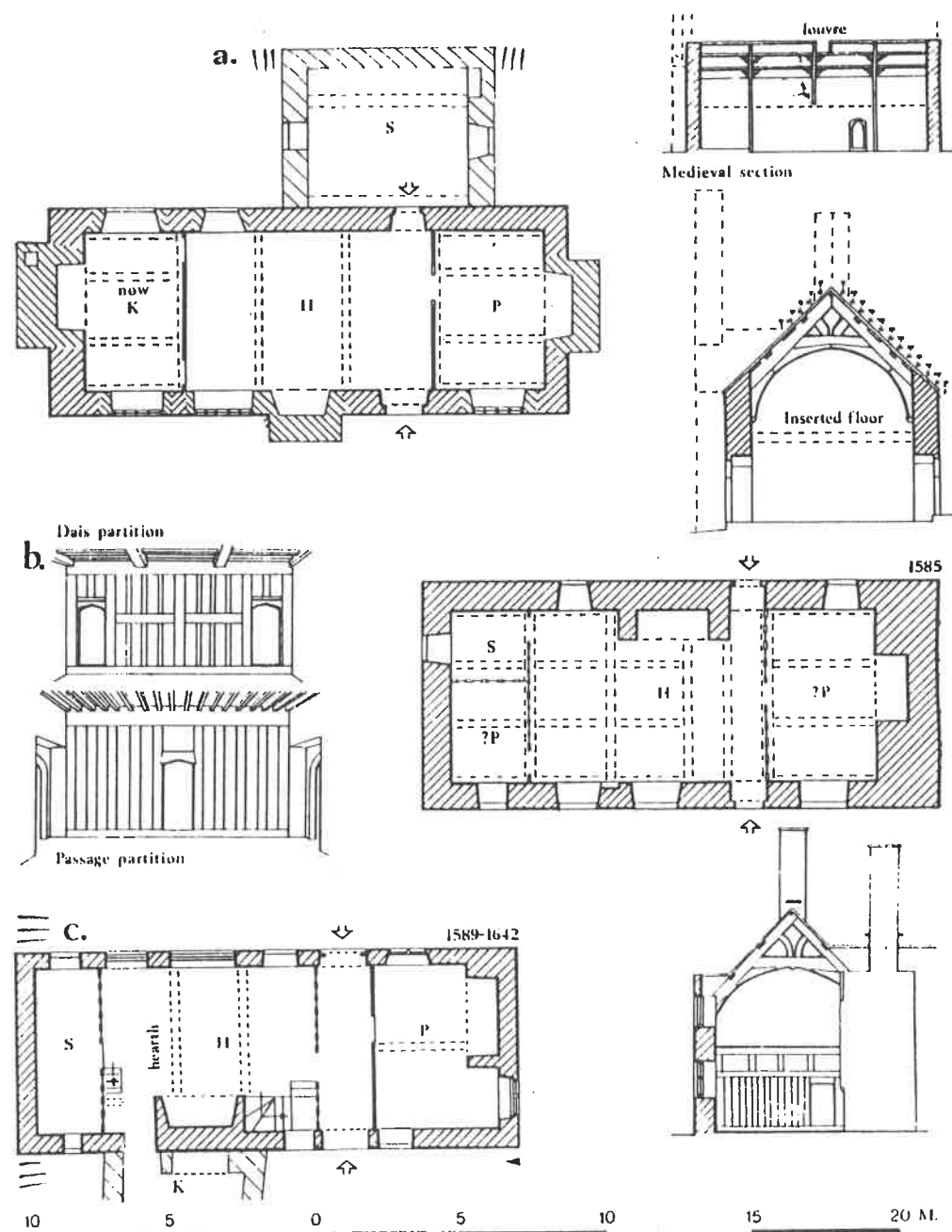


Fig. 92 The use of the large outer bay as a heated parlour seems established by *a* Plas-ucha (Llanfair D.C., Denbs.), by *b* Plasnewydd (Llanfair T.H., Denbs.), and by *c* Brithdir-mawr (Cilcain, Flints.).

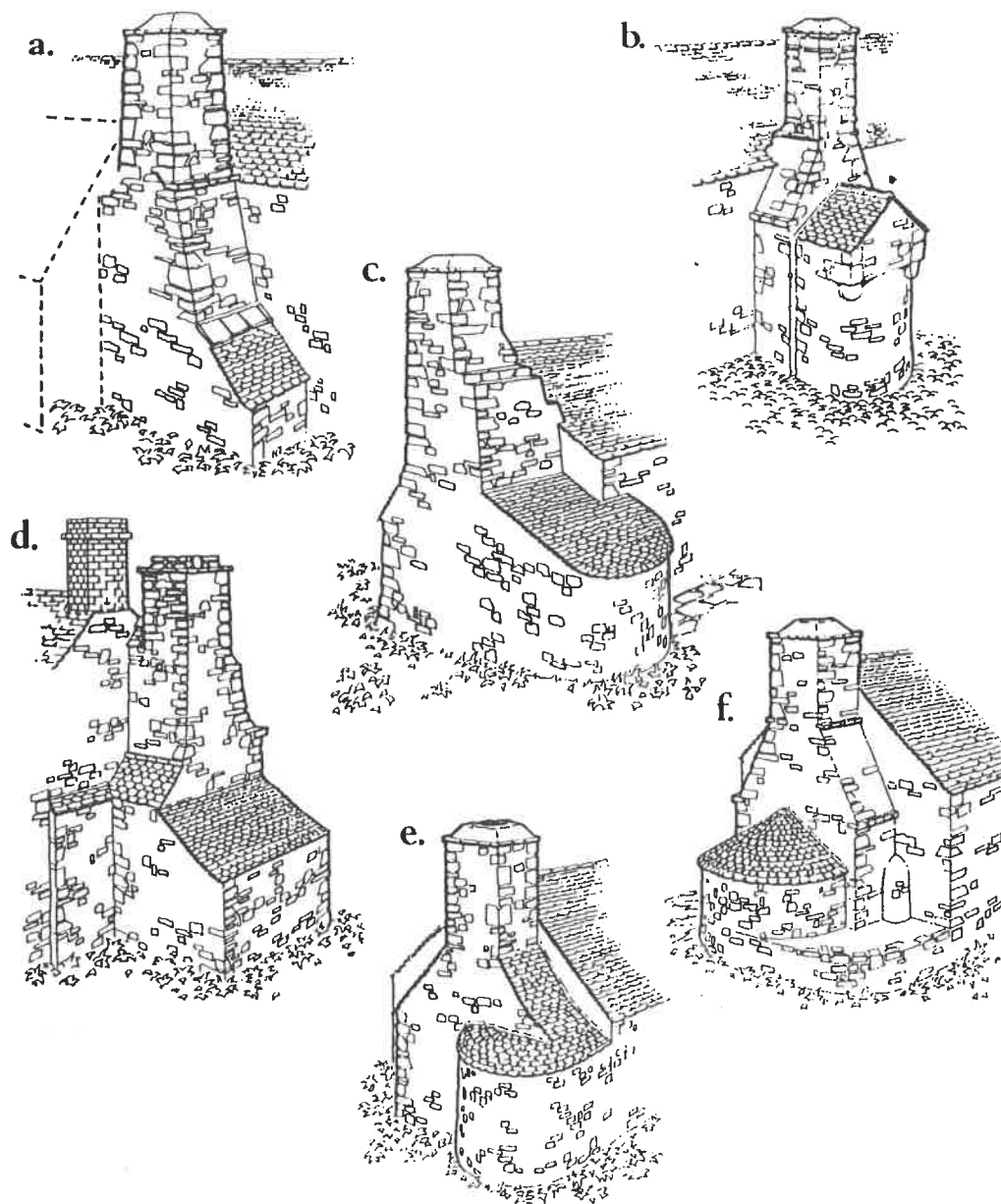


Fig. 159 The design of fireplace and chimney showed considerable regional variation. No chimneys are more distinctive than those of Pembrokeshire. Even more remarkable than the round chimneys of that county (map 8) are the square chimneys, as at *a* Hill Farm (Manorbier), *b* Palmerslake (Penally), *c* Bangeston (Stackpole Elidor), *d* Styles (Bosherston), *e* Dover (Bosherston), *f* Thorniston (Bosherston). Note variously-shaped ovens and the general asymmetry of the design, reflecting a peasant culture. Even the gable chimneys are not centred on the ridge.

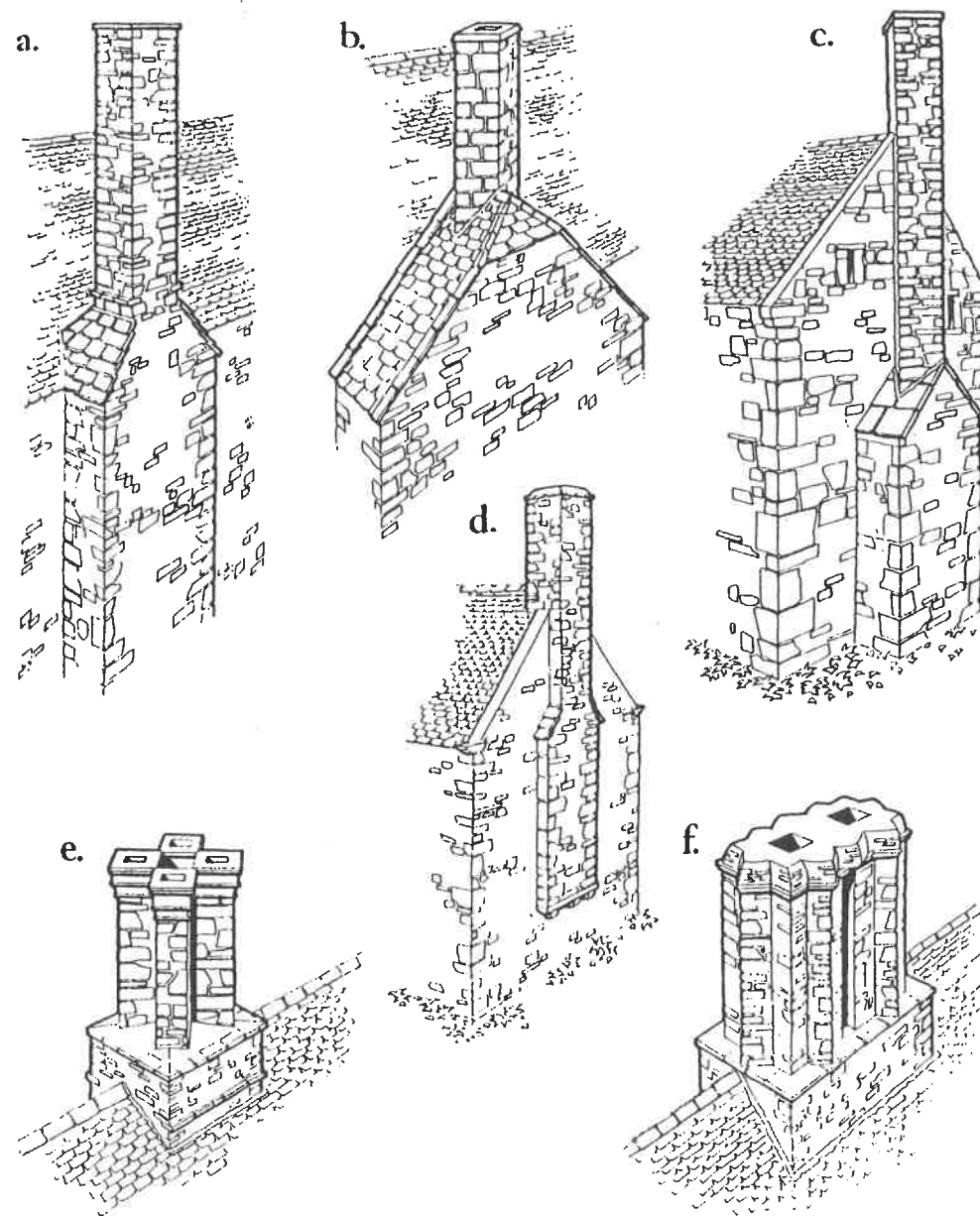


Fig. 160 In contrast are these chimneys in northern and eastern Wales, symmetrically designed to the standards of polite architecture: *a* Gellilyfdd (Ysceifiog, Flints.), *b* Hafoty (Llansadwrn, Anglesey), *c* Berain (Llanefydd, Denbs.), *d* Penrhyn Old Hall (Penrhyn, Caerns.), *e* Neuadd (Llandrindod Urban, Rads.), *f* Pentre (Llanfechain, Mont.). The chimneys at *b* and *e* are additions to rebuilt hall-houses. The single shaft external wall chimneys *a-d* contrast with the multiple-shaft



Plate 1 Poyers Arms Farm c. 1900 - camera facing north.

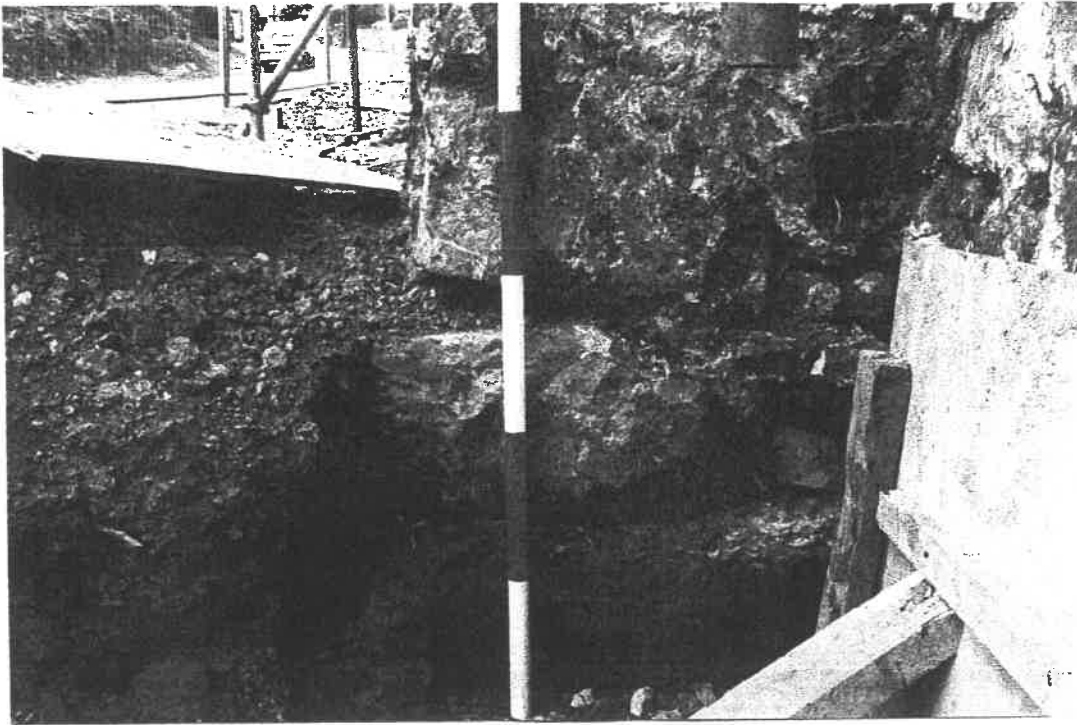




**Plate 2 The large external chimney on the south wall - camera facing NW.**  
 Note:- a) external pink limewash to ground floor height b) top of 'Flemish' chimney to right.



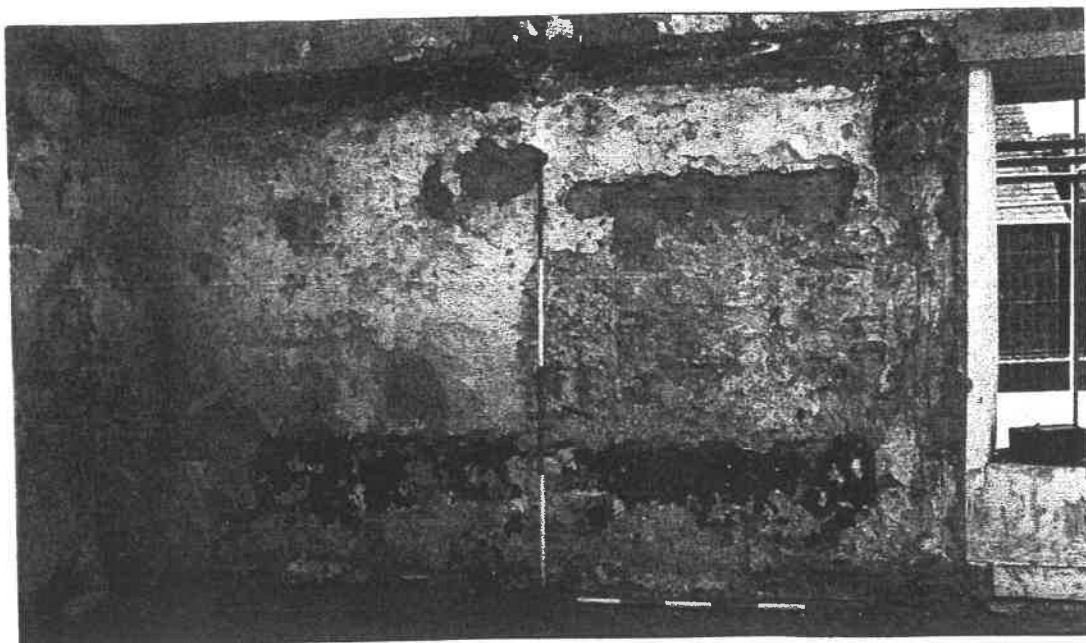
**Plate 3 The upper part of interior of south wall (U) - camera facing south.**  
 Note:- a) change in masonry above ranging pole showing 'ghost' of chimney flue in wall  
 b) blocked-in hearth and also old concrete filling old lintel position



**Plate 4** The basal courses of the SW corner of the 'Flemish chimney' lying directly on glacial clay / brash -camera facing north.



**Plate 5** The hearth opening of the Flemish chimney (wall S) - camera facing west.



**Plate 6** The (blocked) early window in wall (T) (just to right of vertical scale). Wall (U) to left. Camera facing west.

Note:- a) lintel height considerably below lintel height of late 18th century window on left  
 b) the stone corbel also below that height!  
 c) buff mortar type plastering revealed below the white



**Plate 7** The southern end of wall (R) with wall (X) removed - camera facing north  
 Note:- a) old lime plaster finish indicating that this was the north side of an opening  
 b) yellow/orange bedrock in base of foundation cut (10).



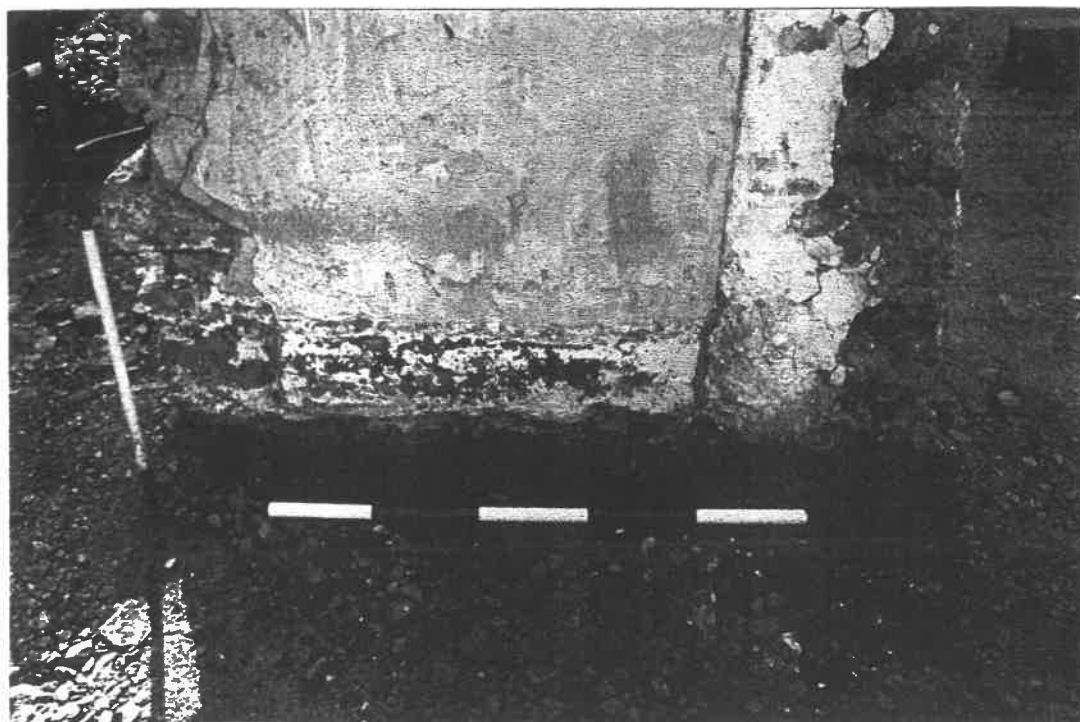


**Plate 8** The base of the northern end of wall (W) - camera facing south.

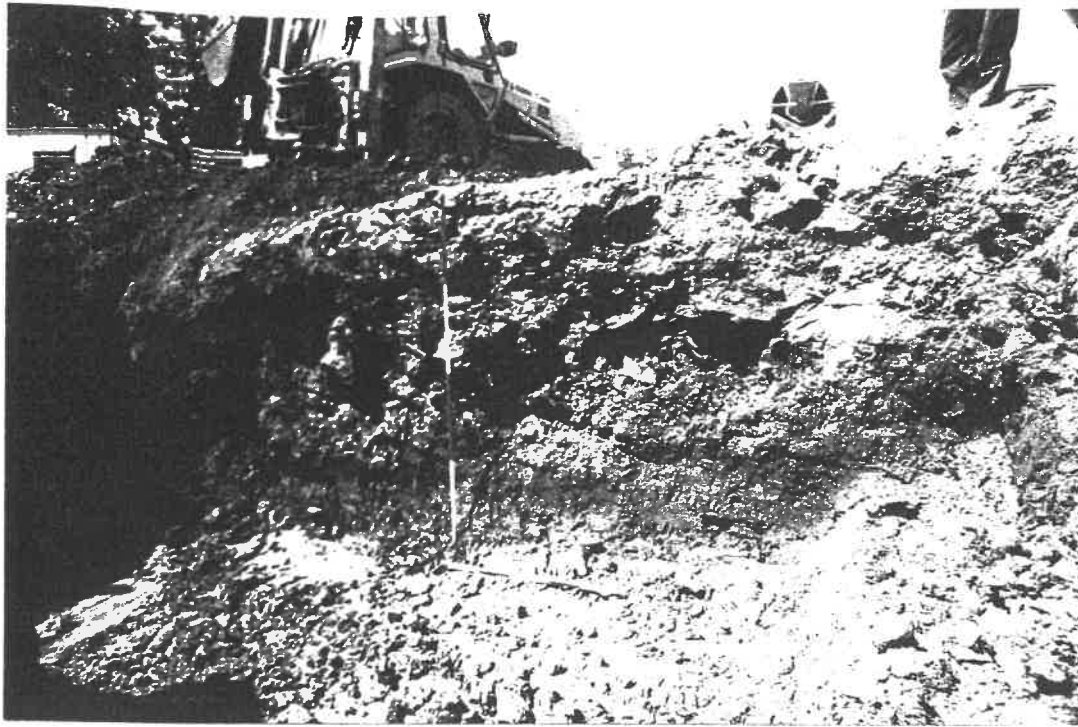
Note:- a) the hard pink mortar in foundation courses

b) old white lime plaster finish above indicating that this was the south side of an opening (see also plate 7)

c) yellow/orange bedrock in base of foundation cut (10) d) scale inserted c. 0.5m into rubble fill of cut (15)



**Plate 9** The base (interior) of wall (E)/(G) - camera facing east. Note butt joint. The bottom part of early window (E1) lies behind the plaster at top left.



**Plate 10 The landfill in the bog at the southern end of section I-J - camera facing WSW.**