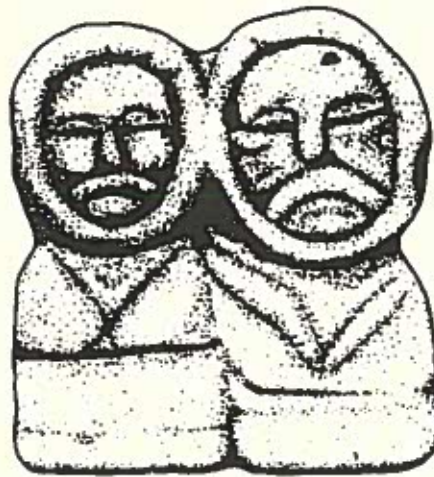
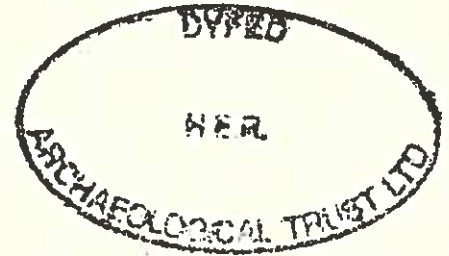


Cambrian Archaeological Projects

Eynon's Down, Newbridge Street, Laugharne

**Report on findings from Archaeological Watching Brief
and Building Survey**

By Phil Evans BA



CAP Report No: 135

Eynon's Down, Newbridge Street, Laugharne
Report on findings from Archaeological Watching Brief
and Building Survey

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May 2000

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- 1.1 The site is located within the historical settlement of Laugharne (SN 301 108). Situated on the north side of Newbridge Street, on the corner of King Street, the area of development lies immediately north of the presumed line of the 12th century settlement defences which protected the original area of the town to the north of the castle. The settlement is believed to have expanded further to the north in the 13th and 14th centuries.
- 1.2 Within the site are a group of farm buildings. These are depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. The east/west line of buildings is also located on the township Tithe map of 1842.
- 1.3 The site is therefore in an area of great archaeological importance, potentially including deposits relating to both the 12th century defences and the later medieval settlement of the town. The surviving remains of the farm buildings and the boundary walls also contain evidence that can add to the understanding of the post-medieval settlement of Laugharne.
- 1.4 As a result of the sensitive nature of this area an archaeological watching brief has been requested subject to a planning condition for application W/01812
- 1.5 *It is understood that some building works have already been undertaken (Units 'H' and 'G'). The remainder of the development has been undertaken under a watching brief by Cambrian Archaeological Projects, and building recording undertaken where possible.*
- 1.6 This report details the findings of the watching brief and building survey.

2 Site and Methodology

- 2.1 The watching brief was be undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects using proven archaeological techniques, it was carried out during all ground clearance and the excavation of foundations.
- 2.2 Context records were kept for all significant layers and features (Appendix I). All numbers that appear in brackets hereafter refer to a specific context.
- 2.3 All relevant features were cleaned and photographed.
- 2.4 The finds consisted of 1 fragment of North Devon Gravel Tempered Ware.
- 2.5 The fieldwork was undertaken on the 8th and 10th November 1999. The report is

only being published at this date as it was hoped that we would be given copies of the architect's ground plans of the barns for establishing a phased plan of the buildings. However, despite many attempts to obtain these plans none have been received.

2.6 All ground works were excavated by machine using a toothed bucket.

3 The Watching Brief

3.1 The watching brief was divided into two main areas:

1) The Southeast corner of the development area at the junction between Newbridge Street and King Street.

2) The ground clearance and foundation trenches for units 'E' and 'F'.

3.2 By the time of the watching brief Unit 'G' had already been completed so no recording could be undertaken in this area. However, it should be noted that works undertaken by Wyatt and Watts (Structural Engineers) revealed the following stratigraphic information: "Our inspection indicated that the foundation trenches had been generally excavated down to a layer of historical fill material, which overlies the original very soft brown silty clays. At the rear hand corner of Unit 'G' this natural clay had been exposed because of the additional depths of excavation at this point." (M. Watts. 24/09/1998.)

3.3 *Area 1*

The development in 'Area 1' was concerned with the demolition of the existing stone wall on the corner of Newbridge Street and King Street and with the excavation of a new foundation trench to build a new wall.

Excavation revealed the remains of two earlier walls that had been lime washed on their internal faces (Fig.2). These walls were thicker than the existing wall (0.75m as opposed to 0.5m). The existing wall had been built on top of these earlier walls and evidence of this could be seen at the northern end of this area of excavation ('A' Fig.2).

The demolition of the wall also revealed a stone shaft approximately 0.2m by 0.1m which was stone lined on all four sides to a depth of 1m. There was no clear evidence as to how this shaft related to the earlier wall but it appears that the earlier wall was built around the shaft. A fragment of North Devon Gravel Tempered Ware was also found at the base of the shaft.

3.4 *Area 2*

The development in 'Area 2' was concerned with ground clearance works and foundation trenching for Units 'E' and 'F' (Fig. 3).

Excavation of this area involved the removal of modern barn foundations and concrete plinths to the north and east of Unit 'D'. Lying directly beneath one of the concrete plinths there were the remains of a single course of a stone wall (Fig 3). The wall was set directly on a mid brown silty clay which in turn lay above the natural clay. The deposits to the west of the wall consisted of a similar stratigraphic sequence consisting of modern overburden/dump deposits and a mid brown silty clay above the natural clay. To the east of the wall the land had generally appeared to be made up of various modern dump deposits, the land having been made up in living memory. No datable artefacts were located during any of the foundation excavations.

4 **Building survey**

The group of farm buildings on the site is depicted on the 1st edition O.S. map surveyed in 1888. The east west line of buildings is also identified on the Lauagharne Township Tithe Map of 1842.

A photographic record was undertaken prior to any redevelopment of the buildings and architect's drawings were used as a basis for the recording of the architectural details and alterations made to the standing fabric of the buildings.

Unfortunately, despite many requests and visits to the development site, we were unable to obtain any of the architect's ground plans for our survey. It should also be noted that by the time of the last visit to the site (30/05/2000) Unit 'D' had been completely demolished.

Illustrations have been produced to show the original layout of the buildings and subsequent alterations that took place during the different phases of the buildings existence.

Units 'A' and 'B' were constructed at the same time and butt up against the Farmhouse itself. There have been very few alterations to these buildings except for the middle doorway on the southern elevation being partly blocked with stone to form a window. Unfortunately, apart from a fireplace in Unit 'A' and surviving three steps down into the building from the three open doorways, no other features survived.

Unit 'C' was added later and butts up against Unit 'B'. Again, there have been very few alterations to the building except for the doorway on the north elevation being partly blocked with stone to form a window. Modern breezeblock blockings and the laying of a concrete floor also occurred when work commenced on the site to form Unit 'C' into a storage room.

Unit 'D' has also remained largely unchanged except for a lean-to shed being constructed on the western side of the building (indicated by the dotted line on Fig.9).

5 Conclusions

It would appear that the standing fabric of the buildings has remained largely unchanged since their construction. Unfortunately most of the internal flooring and other features have been removed. The site has externally been altered from time to time with the wall in the Southeast corner being demolished and rebuilt on at least two occasions. The shaft located in the Southeast corner could possibly of been a small well for a hand water pump. The land to the north and west of Unit 'D' has been built up within living memory and subsequently there has been no affect on any archaeological deposits during foundation trenching.

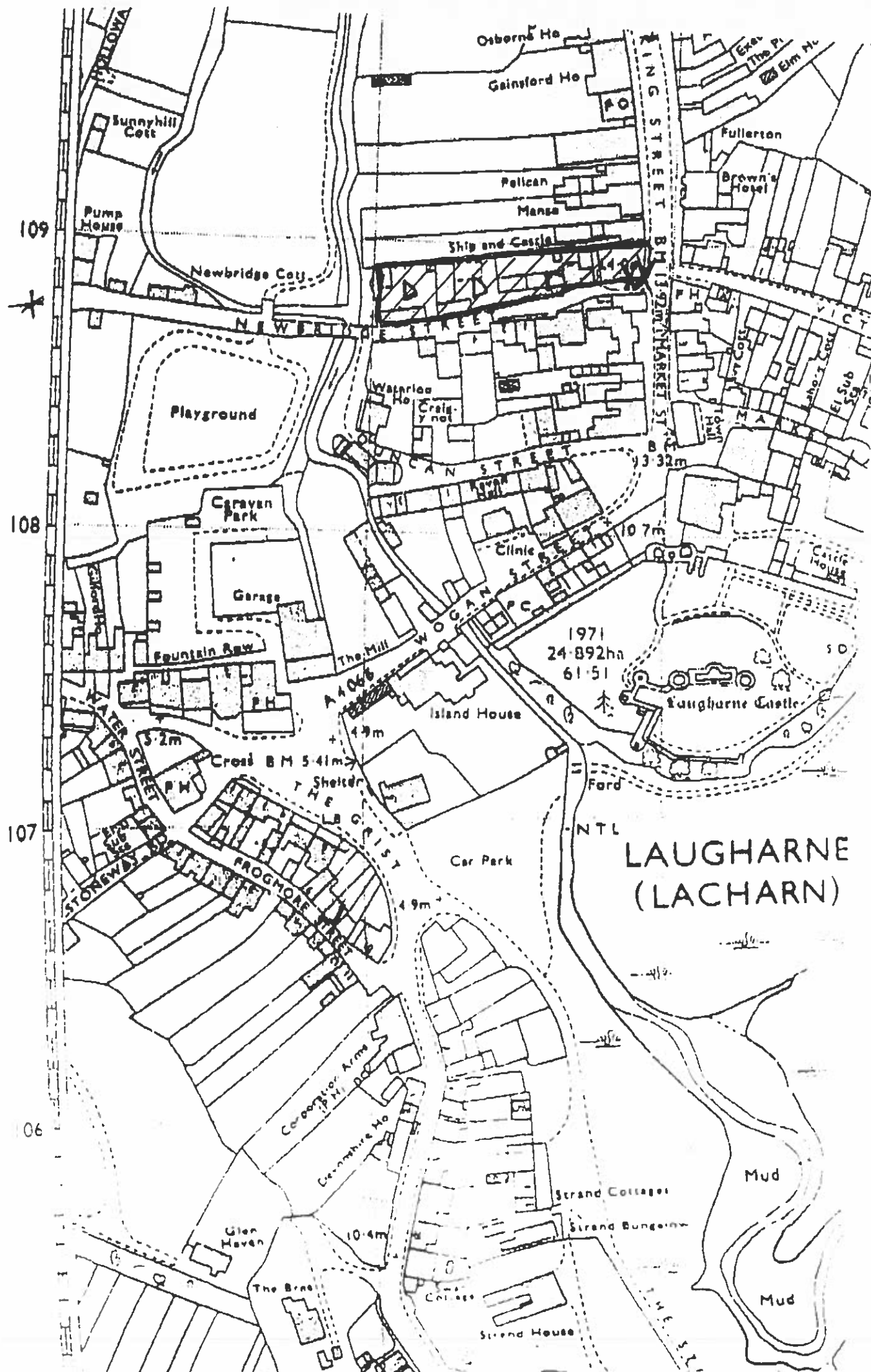


Fig. 1: Location plan

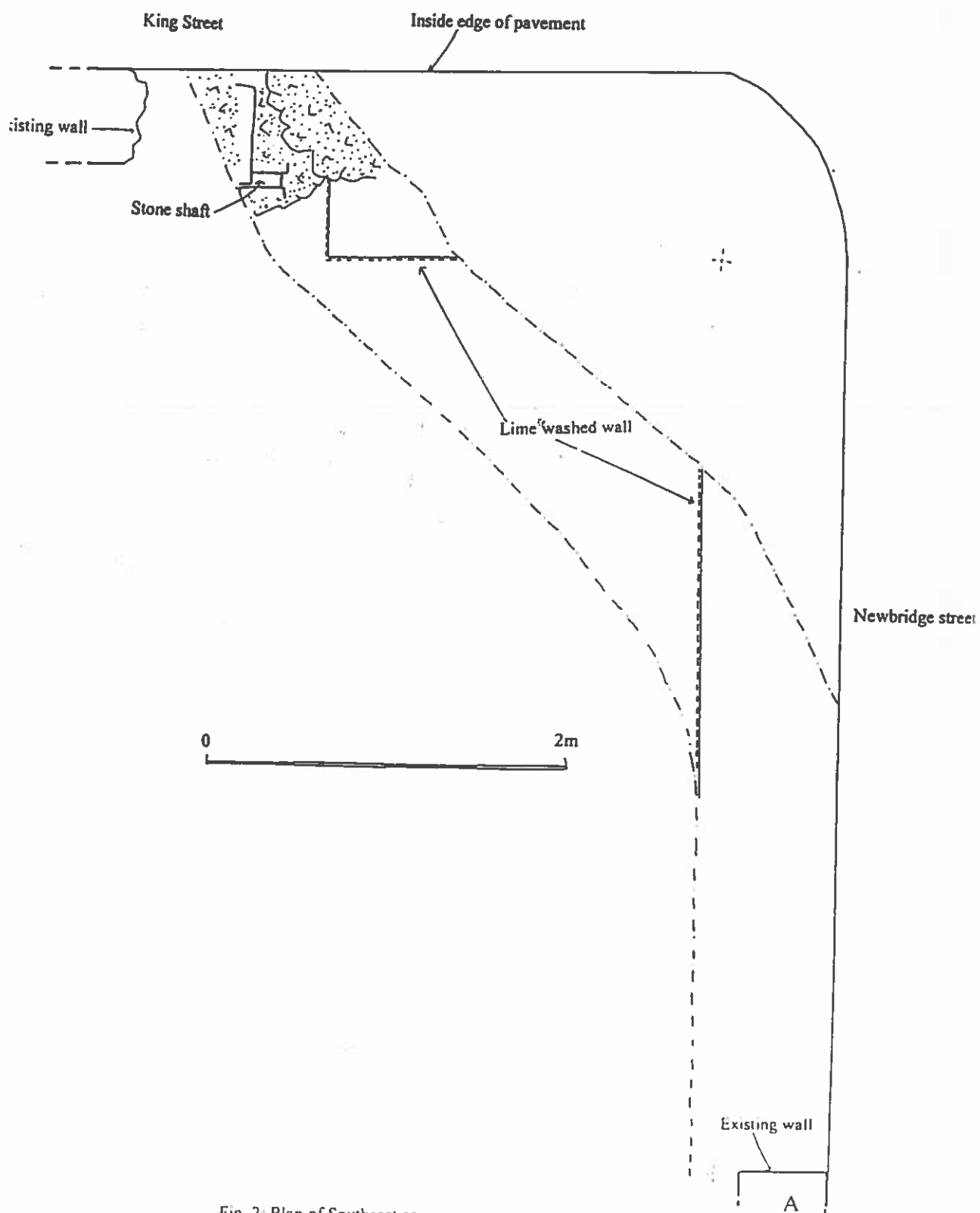


Fig. 2: Plan of Southeast corner

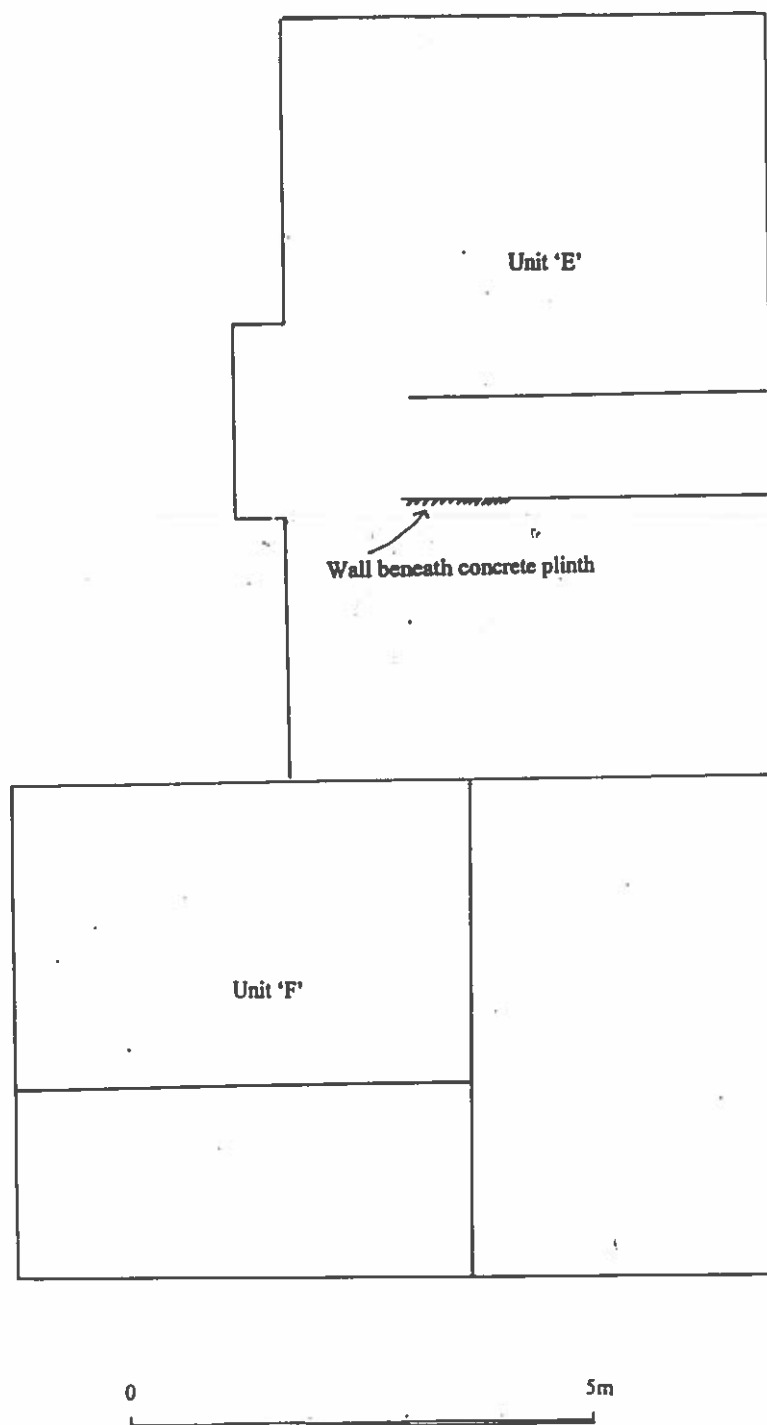


Fig.3: Plan of wall foundations for Units 'E' and 'F'

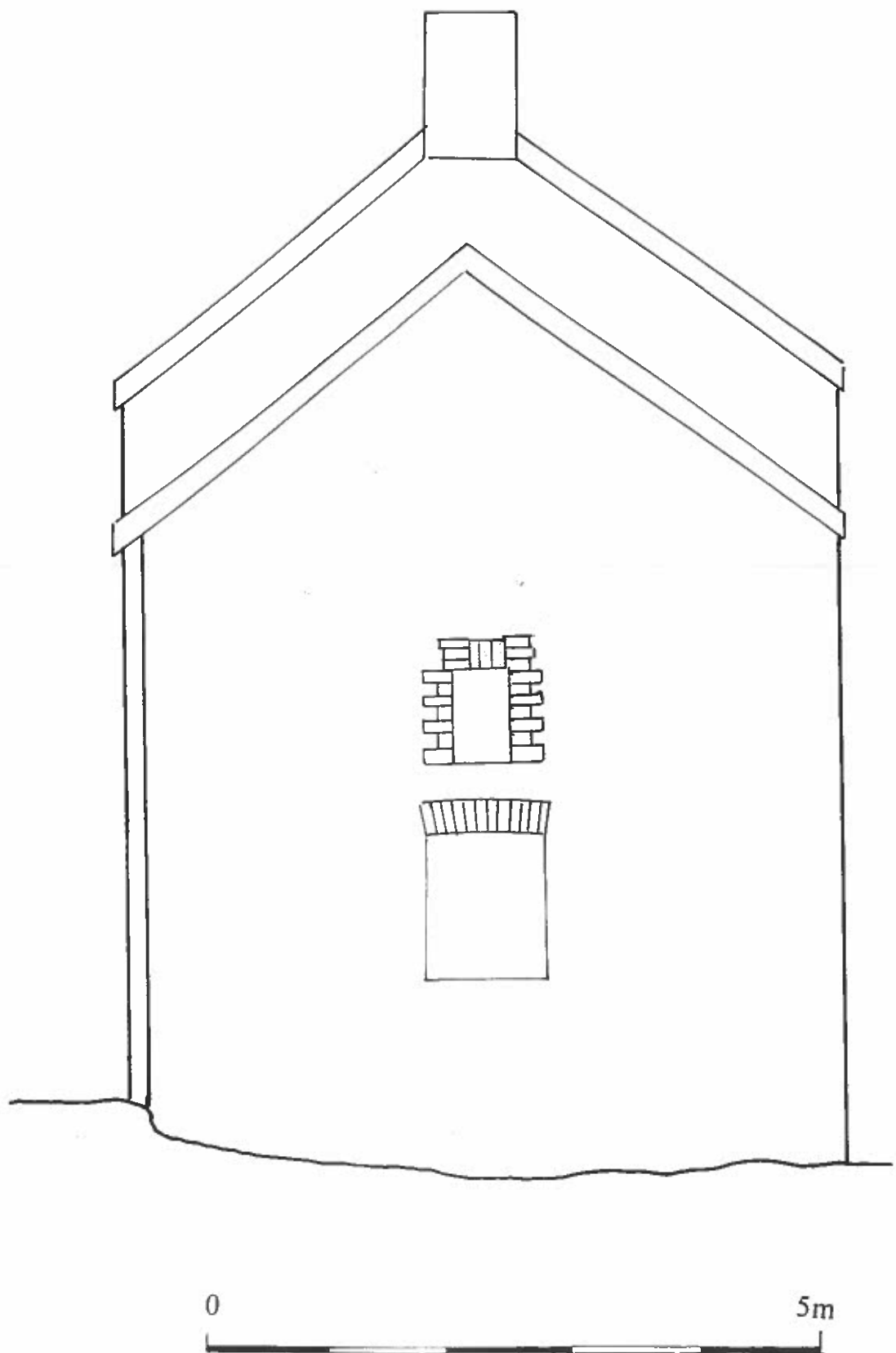


Fig.4: west Elevation Unit 'C'

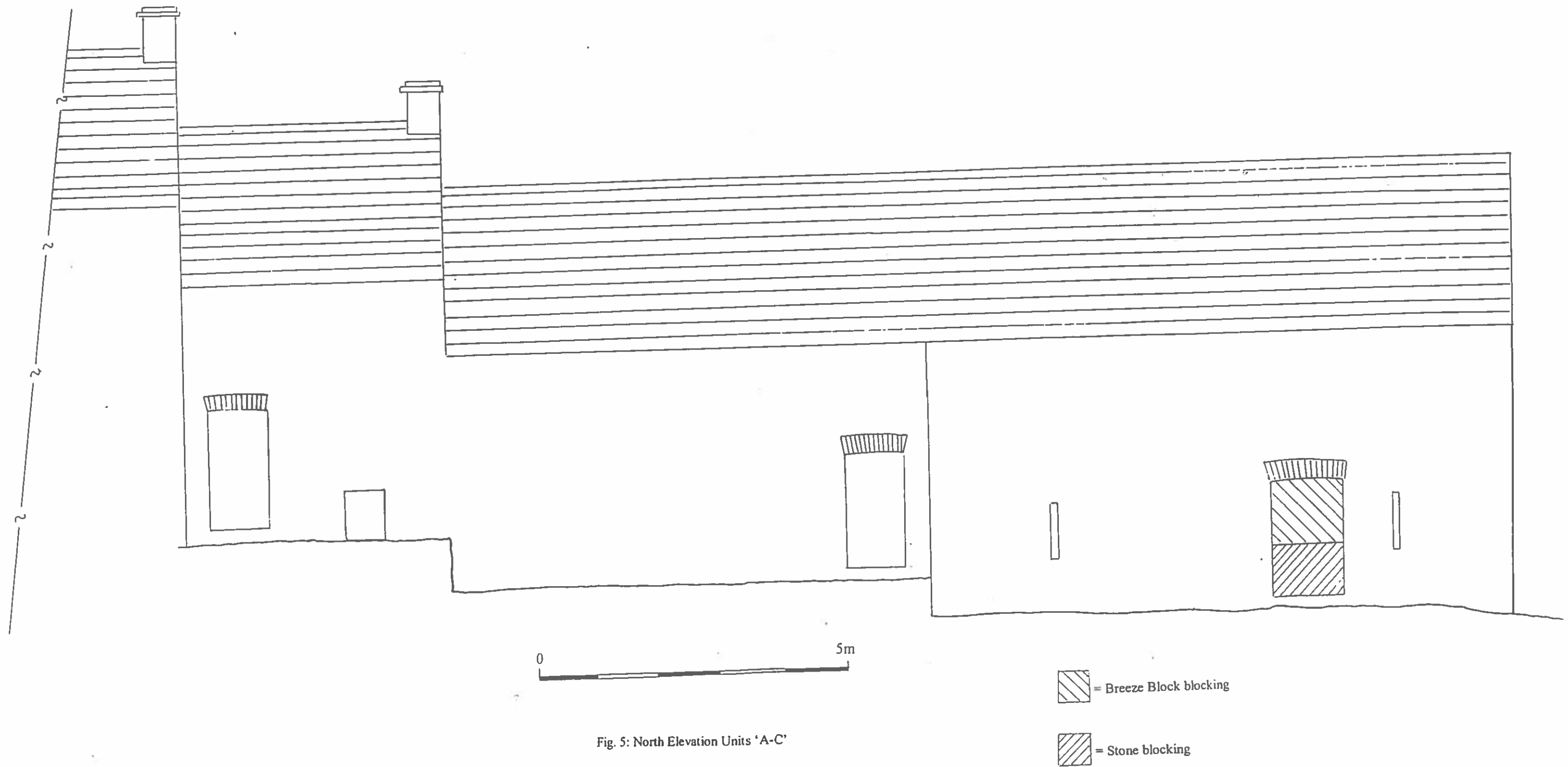


Fig. 5: North Elevation Units 'A-C'

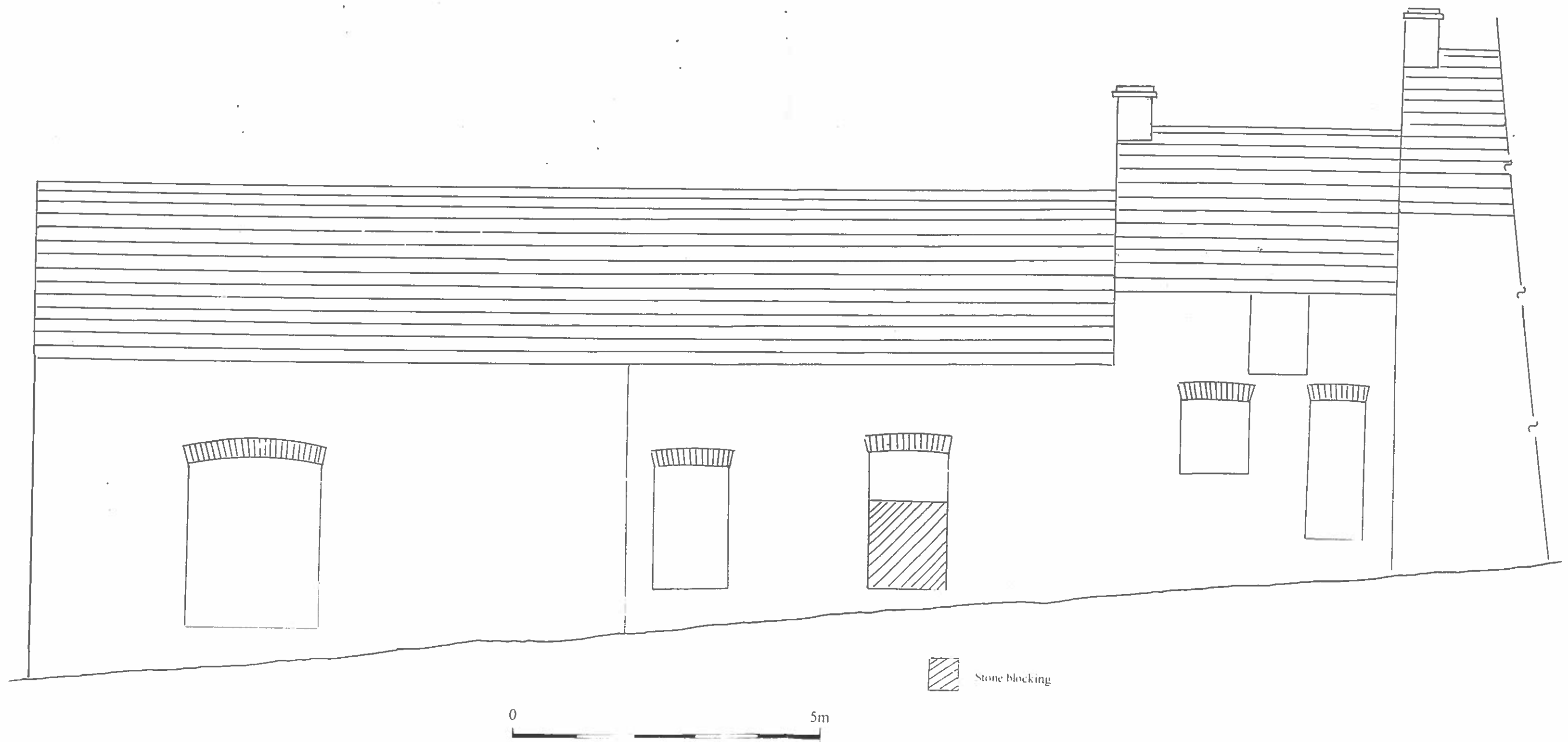


Fig. 6. South Elevation Units 'A-C'

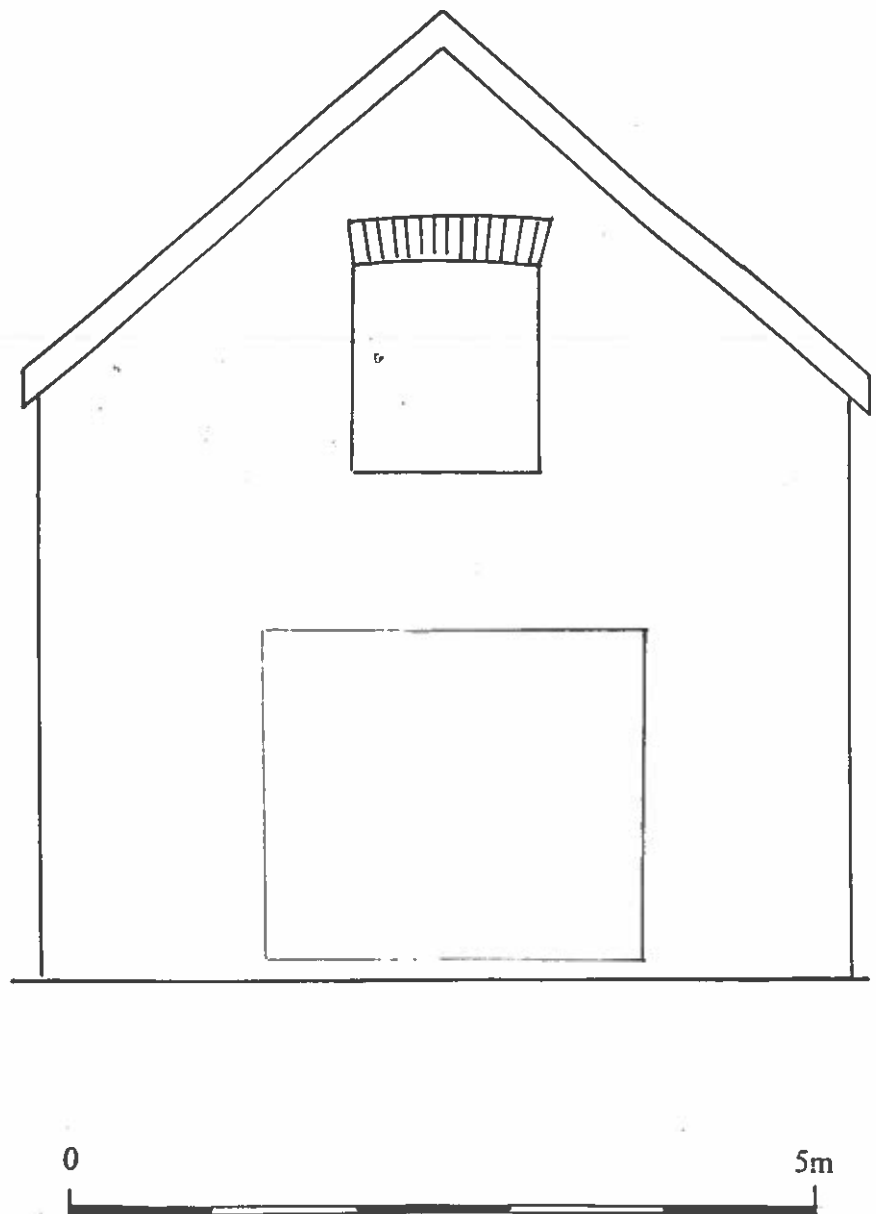


Fig.7: East Elevation Unit 'D'

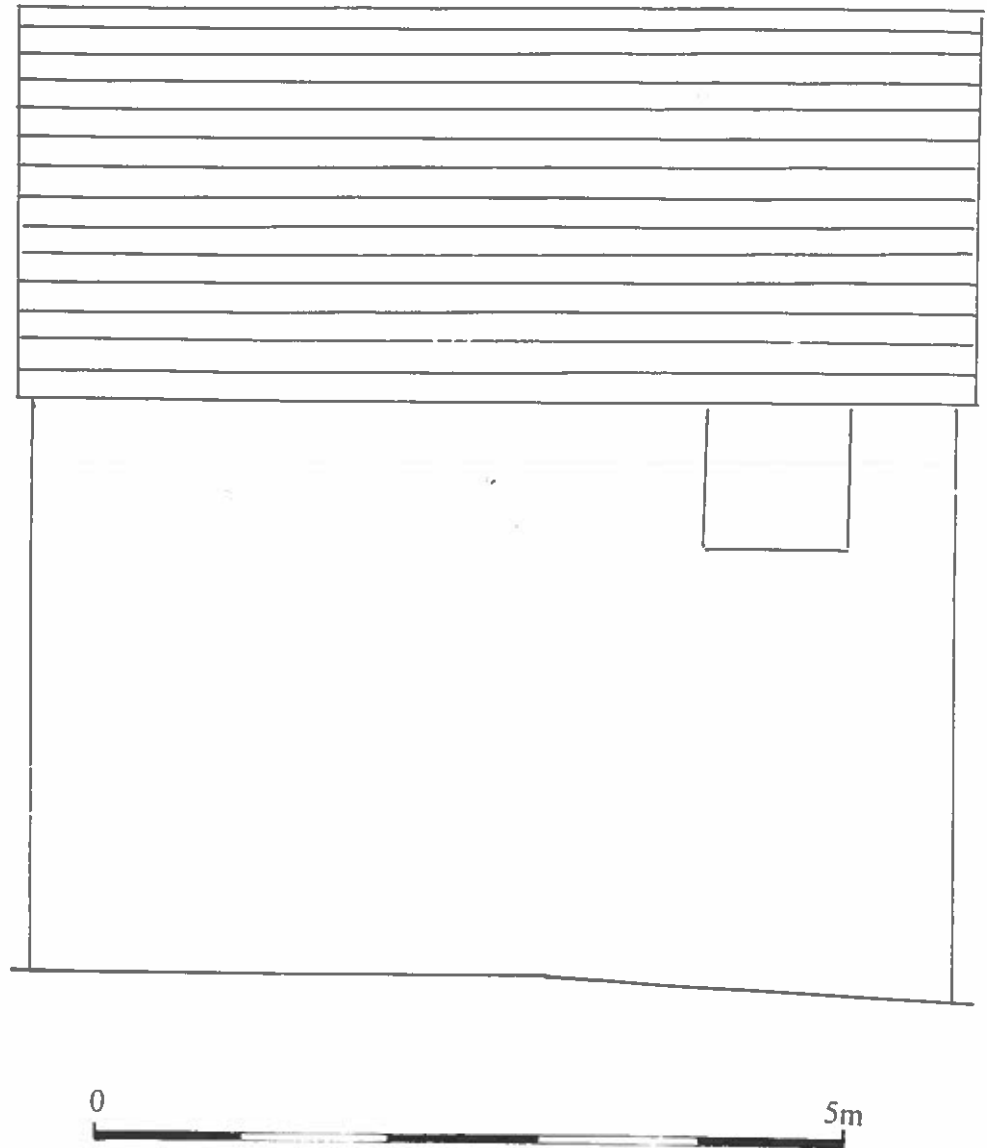


Fig.8: North Elevation Unit 'D'

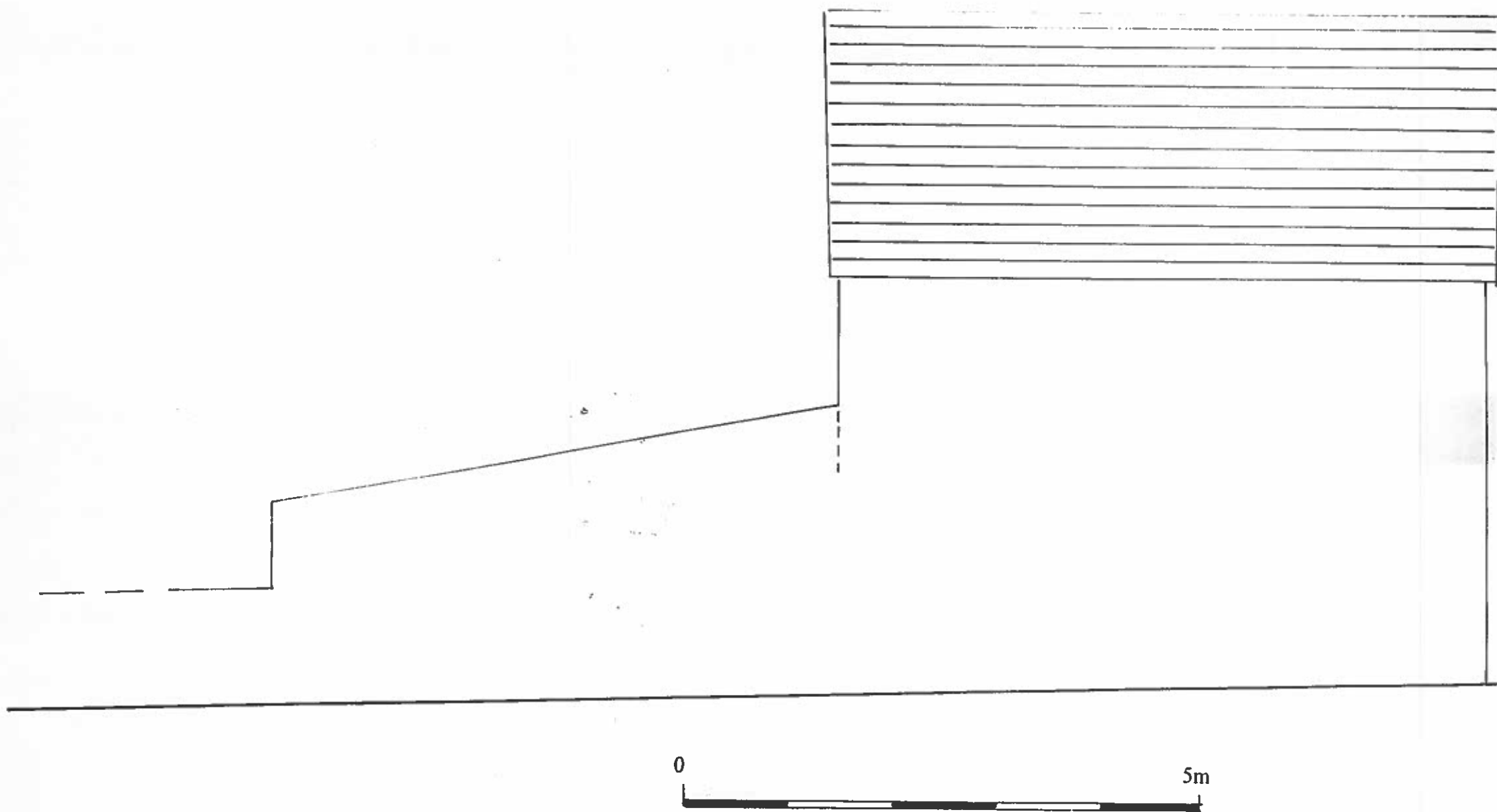


Fig.9: South elevation Unit 'D'