

CAMBRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS LTD.

**Slebech Park, Haverfordwest,
Pembrokeshire**

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment,
Field Evaluation
and
Standing Building Recording



By
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CAP Report No. 233

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FIELD EVALUATION AND STANDING BUILDING RECORDING**

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CAP Report No: 233

Date: January 2003



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Non Technical Summary

This report results from work undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd. on behalf of AROS prior to development works at Slebech Park, Pembrokeshire. An archaeological Desk-based Assessment was undertaken in order to establish the history of the site and to locate any known archaeological features within the development area. The results of this work were used in placing ten evaluation trenches to establish the impact of the proposed development would have on the archaeological resource. The archaeological evaluation revealed two areas of buried topsoil horizons dating to the medieval period, one to the east of the Stable Block and the other within the courtyard of the Stable Block. The evaluation and a building record of the Stable Block also established the sequence of construction of 19th century buildings within the courtyard including the remains of the Gatehouse.

1 Introduction

1.1 Site location (Figs. 1 & 2)

Slebech Park is a country home and estate located on the western bank of the Eastern Cleddau River. It is reached by one of two drives. The most convenient access is from a minor single-track road off the A40 to the east of Haverfordwest that leads to Picton Castle and Rhos. The other access is at the Mill at Blackpool, to the east where a bridge crosses the River Cleddau and the drive, referred to on the Ordnance Survey Map as 'Knight's Way', follows the course of the river to the house.(NGR SN03201399).

1.2 Archaeological and historic background

Slebech Park is included in the CADW/ICOMOS draft register of parks and gardens of special historic interest in Wales. The site was used from the 12th century, and parts of the present structure may incorporate remains of a Commandery of Knights Hospitaller, there was also supposed to be a medieval village in the area.

The listing description identifies that the current Slebech Mansion (PRN 3593) was built on the site of the Commandaey of the Knights Hospitaller (Knights of St John (PRN 3592)) and the only upstanding surviving building associated with the Commandery is the Scheduled Church of St John the Baptist. The Commandery was established in 1301 (according to Lewis in 1833). The building was demolished when John Symmond built Slebech Park Mansion in 1776.

The Stable Block (PRN 16742) lying to the east of Slebech Park is a U-shaped complex with crenulations on the side facing the hall. It is likely that the structure had been built by 1811 as Fenton in his visit to Slebech described a 'well connected range of offices'. It was clearly built by 1819 as it is shown on a plan of that date (NLW:PE/5129/1-17).

A full account of the archaeological and historic background to the site and its immediate environs was the subject of the enclosed Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (Section 6).

1.3 Planning Background

Cambrian Archaeological Projects were asked by AROS to submit a tender to undertake and archaeological desk-based assessment, field evaluation and building record prior to redevelopment works at Slebech Park, Pembrokeshire. The tender was successful and an archaeological specification for the works was produced and approved by Cambria Archaeology – Heritage Management (CA-HM)

2 Aims and Objectives

2.1 Desk-Based Assessment

To collate and assess all relevant information held in the Regional Sites and Monuments Record (including the results of previous archaeological investigations).

To collate and assess all cartographic information relevant to the area.

To assess the topography and landuse of the area through sites maps and site visits.

Undertake assessment of available aerial photographic coverage and plotting of identified features.

Provide a detailed assessment of areas of archaeological potential and survival based on the above research and identify key locations where intrusive investigations should be undertaken fully evaluate the archaeological potential of the site.

2.2 Field Evaluation

The field Evaluation will following the Desk-based Assessment, be designed to target the archaeological potential of the site. This will assess the location, extent, date, character, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

The evaluation should also consider any artefactual or economic information and provide an assessment of the viability for further study of such information.

The evaluation should include a comprehensive assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and should aim to highlight any relevant research issue within a national and regional context.

The evaluation should provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological deposits detailing zones of importance against known development proposals. An impact assessment should also be provided.

2.3 Standing Building Recording

The primary objective of the building record is to preserve the historic features of the building by record and to attempt to reconstruct the history and use of the structure and associated features.

3 Desk-Based Assessment Methodology

3.1 To collate the relevant information the following archives will be consulted:

- The Regional Sites and Monuments Record (ACA-HM)
- Cartographic information (National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth)
- Assessment of aerial photographs and building survey information (RCHMW, Aberystwyth)
- Information on listed buildings, scheduled monuments (Cadw)

4 Field Evaluation Methodology

4.1 Scope of the Fieldwork

The evaluation consisted of eight machine-excavated trenches and two completely hand dug trenches (Trenches 8 & 9) (Fig 9). A mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket removed the overburden under close archaeological supervision and all other excavations were undertaken by hand.

Site director Phil Evans and project assistants Jason Frankland and Paul Carley undertook the evaluation under the overall direction of Kevin Blockley (MIFA). The trenches were cleaned by hand and a drawn record consisting of plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10 was made. All trenches were photographed using colour slide and digital photography.

All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and Guidance: for an archaeological desk-based assessment, archaeological evaluation and archaeological building recording* (Appendix I) and current Health and Safety legislation.

4.2 Finds

Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context.

4.3 Paleo-environmental Evidence

No deposits suited to environmental sampling were located during the evaluation.

4.4 Presentation of Results

This presentation outlines the results from each trench. An inventory of all contexts (which includes measurements not presented within the text) is presented in Appendix II.

5 Standing Building Methodology

A building record of the dividing wall across the courtyard and of the two structures attached to it by means of plans, elevations and photographs was undertaken to RCHME Level 2.

A building record was also made of the kennel complex to RCHME Level 2.

6 The Desk-Based Assessment

6.1 Prehistoric Activity

There are only two recorded prehistoric sites within the immediate vicinity of Slebech Park. One is that of a Bronze Age axe of the South Wales socketed type which has converging decoration found by Mr. K. Lunn in 1984 at Minwear Farm (SN032134). The second is an Iron Age promontory fort at Picton Point (SN003117). The fort is roughly triangular shaped and is defended by a single bank and ditch and has a steep slope on its western side that goes down to the estuary.

6.2 Medieval and Post-Medieval Activity

The site of a commandery of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem (PRN 3592), the largest and richest of the three provincial houses in Wales was established at Slebech by 1130 from foundation donations from Walter, son of Wizo the Fleming of Wiston. Kilasp then required the commandery between 1148 and 1176. Apart from the ruins of the St. John the Baptist Church (PRN 4333) nothing now remains of the medieval hospice.

The St. John the Baptist Church at Slebech is a simple cruciform building with a tower between the north transept and the nave and an unusually long chancel (Fig. 9). The original church is believed to date from the 13th century but has undergone numerous alterations (Fig. 9). The windows in the north transept date to the 14th century and the west wall was rebuilt in the 16th century after it collapsed. The tower may well post-date the rest of the church but may be an enlargement of a two story vaulted porch.

There are also a small group of buildings in woodland, that are now almost completely hidden by mature trees and undergrowth, these buildings are known as Sister's House (PRN 3594). They are popularly supposed to have been a hospice for female pilgrims, or even a nunnery, in the middle ages due mainly to their proximity to the Commandery at Slebech and due to the corruption of the place name from 'Systeme House'. The remains of 13 buildings still stand and are separated from the adjacent field by a large boundary wall. There is nothing in this complex of ruined buildings that is defiantly medieval in date. In fact the site was described by Fenton in 1811 as a 'respectable mansion, once inhabited by a brother of Barlow who resided at Selbech'.

The mansion at Slebech Park was built on the site of the Commandery of the Knights Hospitallers. The site became the property of the Barlow family after the dissolution and remained in their hands until the latter part of the 18th century. The buildings they inherited were demolished and a new mansion was constructed in 1776 by Anne Barlow who had married John Symmons of Llanstinan. The architect is thought to of been

Anthony Keck. The original building was built 'castlewise', i.e. with castellated parapets, which have since been removed. Detailed information of the house as it appeared when it was first built are found in papers in the National Library of Wales (Slebech papers, bundle numbers 10819 – 10823). The design of the house might suggest a conscious imitation of Picton Castle, with four bowed wings imitating the four similarly placed four main bastions of the castle.

The estate was sold in 1778 to William Knox who was a leading figure in promoting enclosure and mineral exploitation locally. The estate was sold again in 1796 to Nathaniel Phillips, a wealthy Jamaican merchant, who is best known for constructing the Blackpool Mill at the eastern end of the estate. He married Mary Phillips and their daughter, also called Mary, married Charles Frederick Baron von Rutzen who took over the estate in 1822. The estate stayed in the hands of the Rutzen family until John, Baron de Rutzen was killed in action in 1944 and his widow married Lord Dunsany. The estate was then sold to the Hon. William Phillips, fourth son of the 1st Lord Milford and although he made some alterations, the house is still essentially the house erected by Symmons.

To the north and east of the house are the service buildings and stables. One building referred to as the kitchen or dairy abuts the north end of the house. This building is of one and two storeys dominated by a massive chimney stack. Because of the size and complexity of the stack it has been suggested that this was part of the original Commandery.

The Stable Block is located to the northeast of the mansion and was described by Fenton in 1811 as 'well connected range of offices'. It certainly dates from 1815 or earlier as it appears on a map of that date. It is thought that the building was designed by William Knock in the latter part of the 18th century. The plan of 1819 (not illustrated) shows that there was once a substantial building across the courtyard (Fig. 5), this building is referred to as the Coach House but has since been demolished. The change in levels of the present courtyard has been associated with the former Coach House. The 1819 map also shows that the north range was also more extensive with the external wall of this range forming one of the walls of a walled garden.

The Stable Block is listed by Cadw as a fine castellated stable block that forms part of a group of buildings within Slebech Park. The building comprises of a U-formed block of three stable ranges which falls to the south and east. The central entrance, which is now blocked, is located in the southwest elevation of the complex.

The main gardens of the estate (PRN 40482) were the earlier terraces to the west of the mansion bordering the River Cleddau. Originally there was a walled garden to the north of the Stable Block and although this has now gone the layout of the gardens has changed little since the plan of 1790. The park and water features are also recorded on this plan and the south-facing terraces, which overlook the eastern Cleddau River, are of outstanding historical interest. They were probably constructed by Sir John Barlow or his successor in the late 17th century with some remodelling taking place 18th and 19th centuries.

An overview of the gardens is provided by 'Cambrensis' writing in the Gardener's Chronicle in November 1882: 'The gardens, in which there are a good range of glass, are very ancient, and are laid out in walled terraces, the walls being covered with fruit trees. The upper terrace commands a fine view of the river on the one side, the other being

planted with coniferae and Rhododendrons, and forms a splendid promenade. The present Baron has planted large numbers of ornamental trees and shrubs in the grounds.'

6.3 Cartographic Evidence

John Speed Map of 1610 (Fig. 3)

This is the first map to show the location of Slebech (Slebach) Park.

Plan of 1780 (Fig. 4)

This map shows that the main areas of the gardens were always the extensive terraces to the west of the house. This map clearly shows the water features which today lie in the informal garden to the north and east of the house. This survey of the park itemises three parcels of land namely: 'The Front Meadow at 73 acres, Levrittes Division at 78 acres and Kiln Park at 67 acres.' Which gives a total of 212 acres of parkland at this time. This map also gives some evidence of the former field boundaries that are indicated as straight lines of parkland trees. The Main driveway to the west of the mansion is also shown as a faint line with a more substantial pond than that that appears today lying adjacent to it north of the bridge. Although this plan represents the landscape features reasonably accurately, on the house site a massive 'castle' has been sketched in to the west; this was never built.

Plan of 1815 (Fig. 5)

This plan shows the mansion with a splayed forecourt to the northwest of the house that continued around the house to a D-shaped forecourt and then on to the south to a further splayed forecourt. The driveway then continued to the grand entrance of the Stable Block Courtyard. Within the Stable Block Courtyard there is a complex of buildings on either side of the present day dividing wall, on the 1819 estate map this is referred to as the Gate House.

The plan also shows that the terrace garden is now well established and a wall completely surrounding the church, separating it from the house and the rest of the garden. The wall has a doorway along its northern stretch and steps to the west from the church and graveyard.

Tithe Map of 1830 (Fig. 6)

This map shows the main buildings, gardens and parkland of the Slebech Estate. However, the orientation of the Stable Block is wrong as it is illustrated with the main courtyard opening to the west rather than the north. The map also gives no indication of the buildings within the courtyard area itself.

The schedule of apportionments drawn up to accompany the map defines the main areas of the park as numbers 389 and 392 and are given as 84 acres and 76 acres respectively. These two plots represent the principal area of parkland but the whole estate now covers a total of 518 acres.

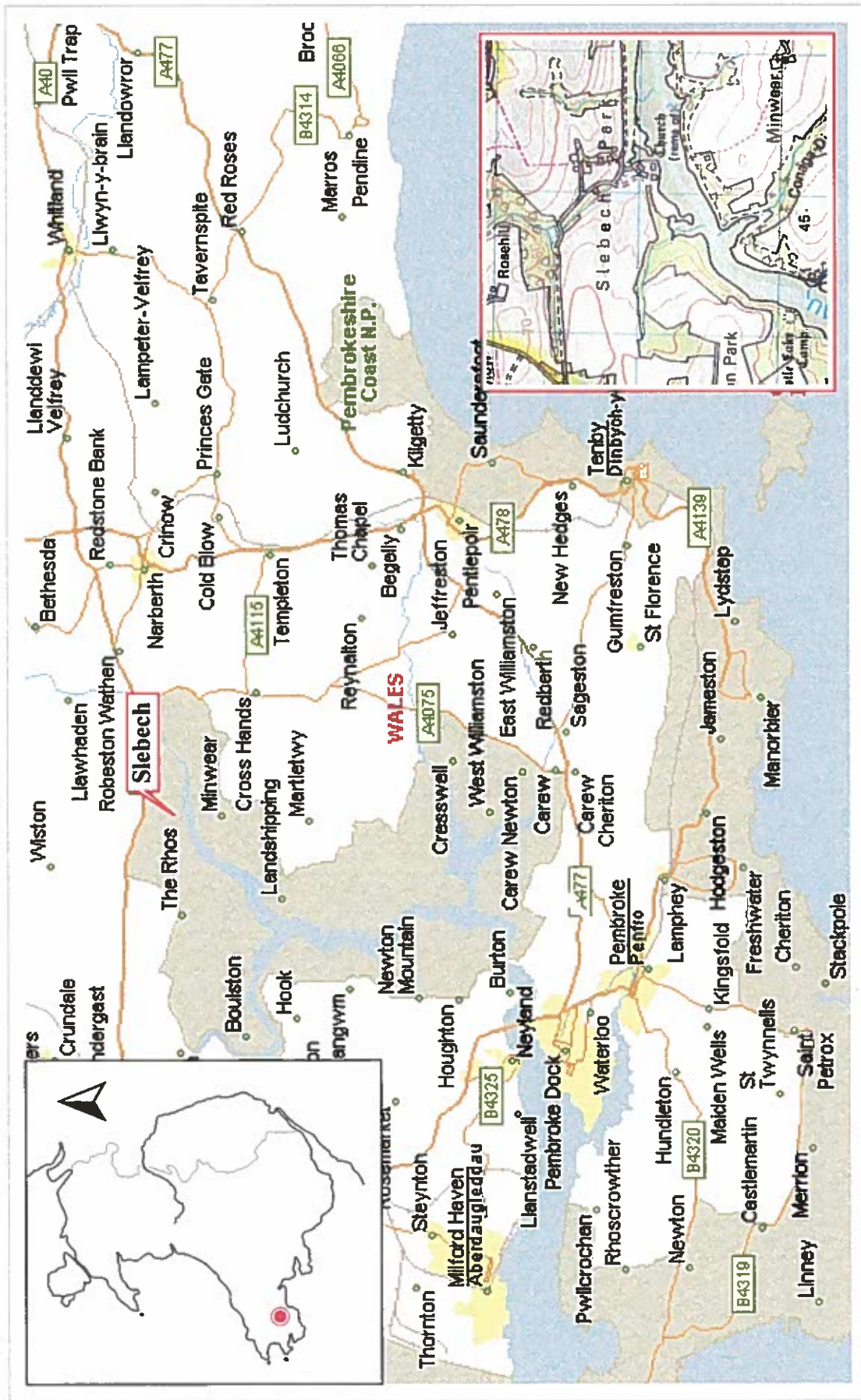


Fig 01: General Site Location Plan

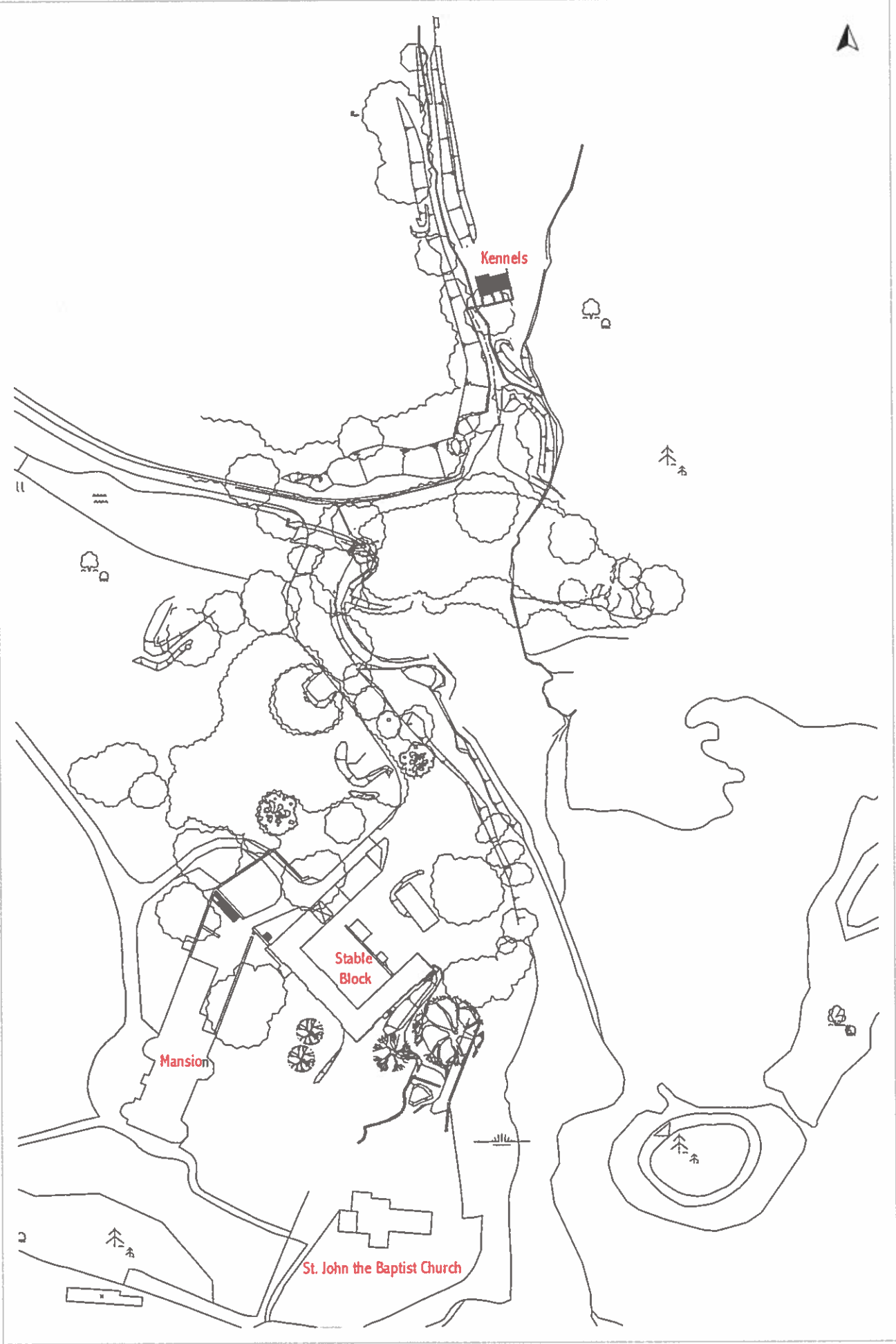


Fig 02: Detailed Site Location Plan (NTS)

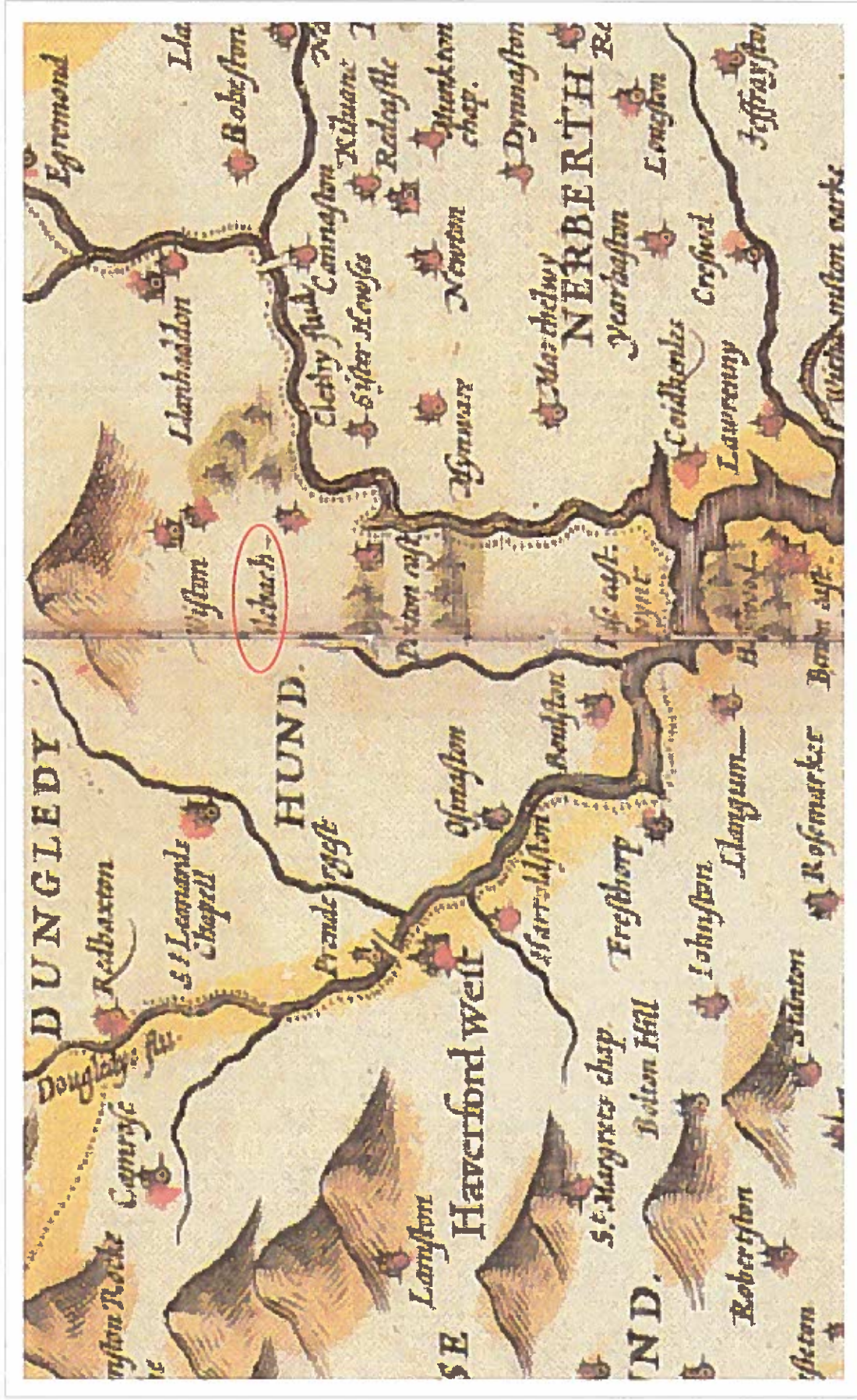


Fig 03: John Speed Map of 1610

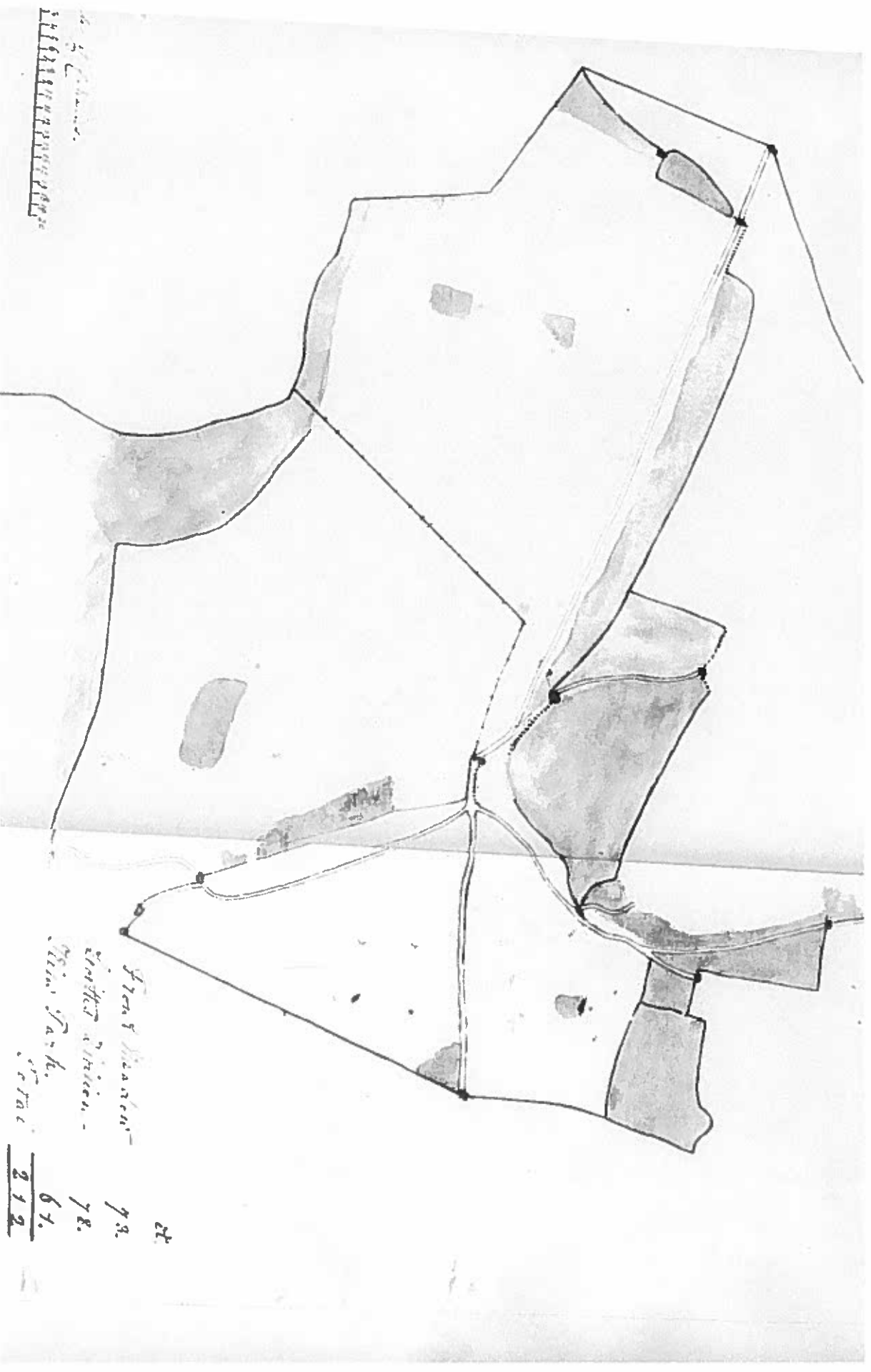


Figure 04: Map of 1780: National Library of Wales, Abergystwyth, Ref: 13903 No 13

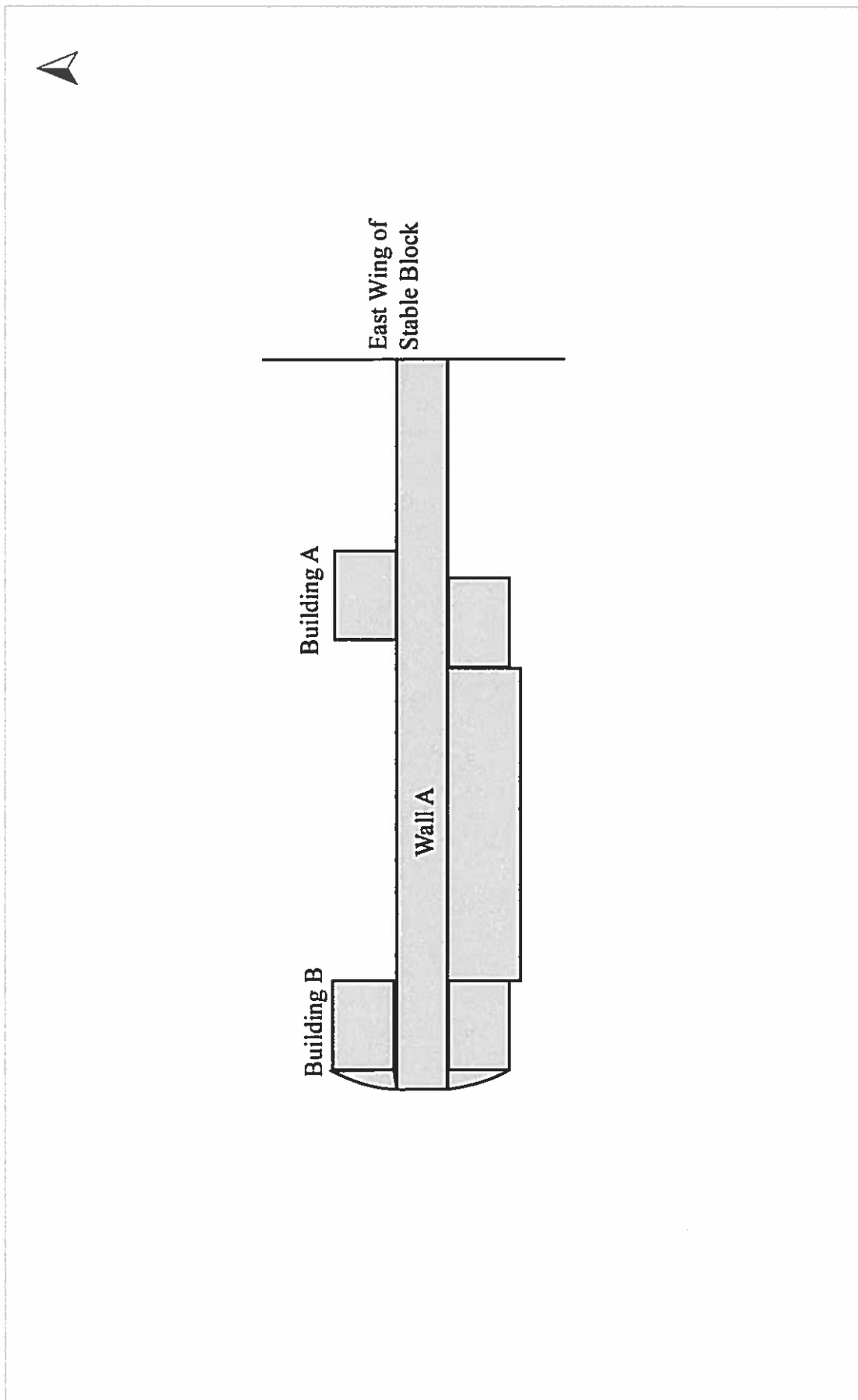


Fig 05: Tracing of part of 1815 plan of Siebach Park detailing the buildings within the courtyard of the Stable Block

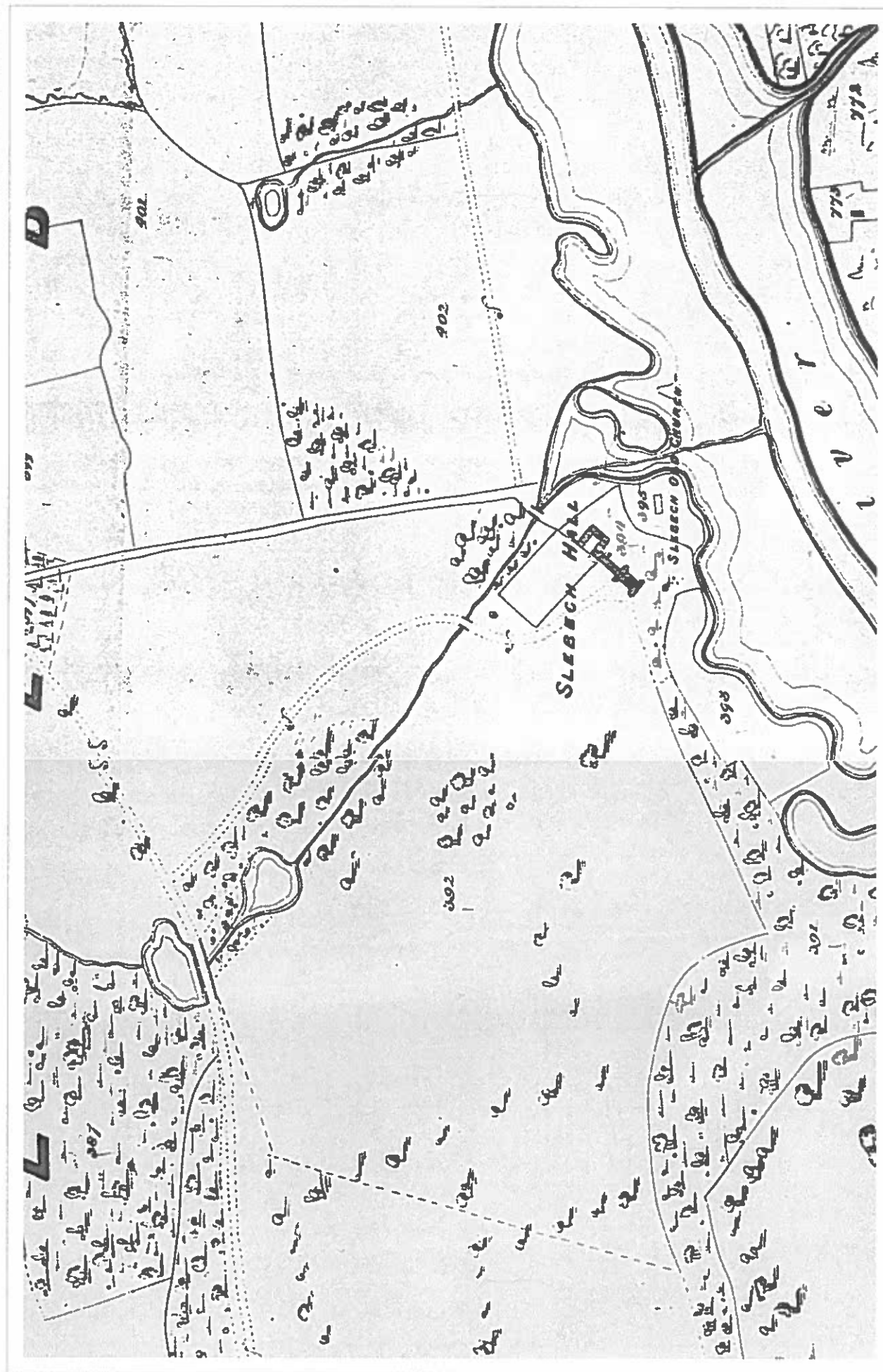


Figure 06: Tithe Map of 1830

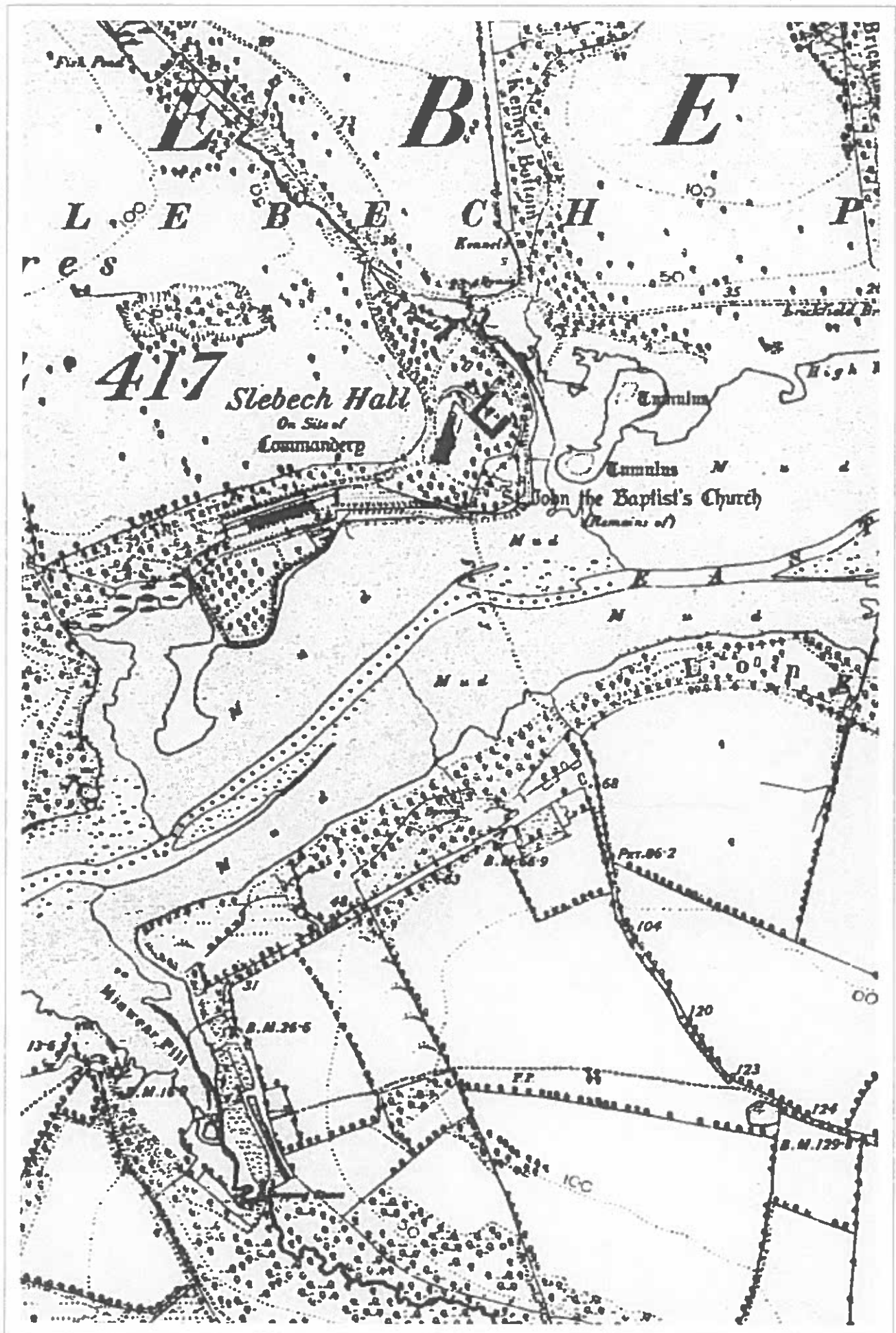


Fig 07: 1st edition OS Map of 1891

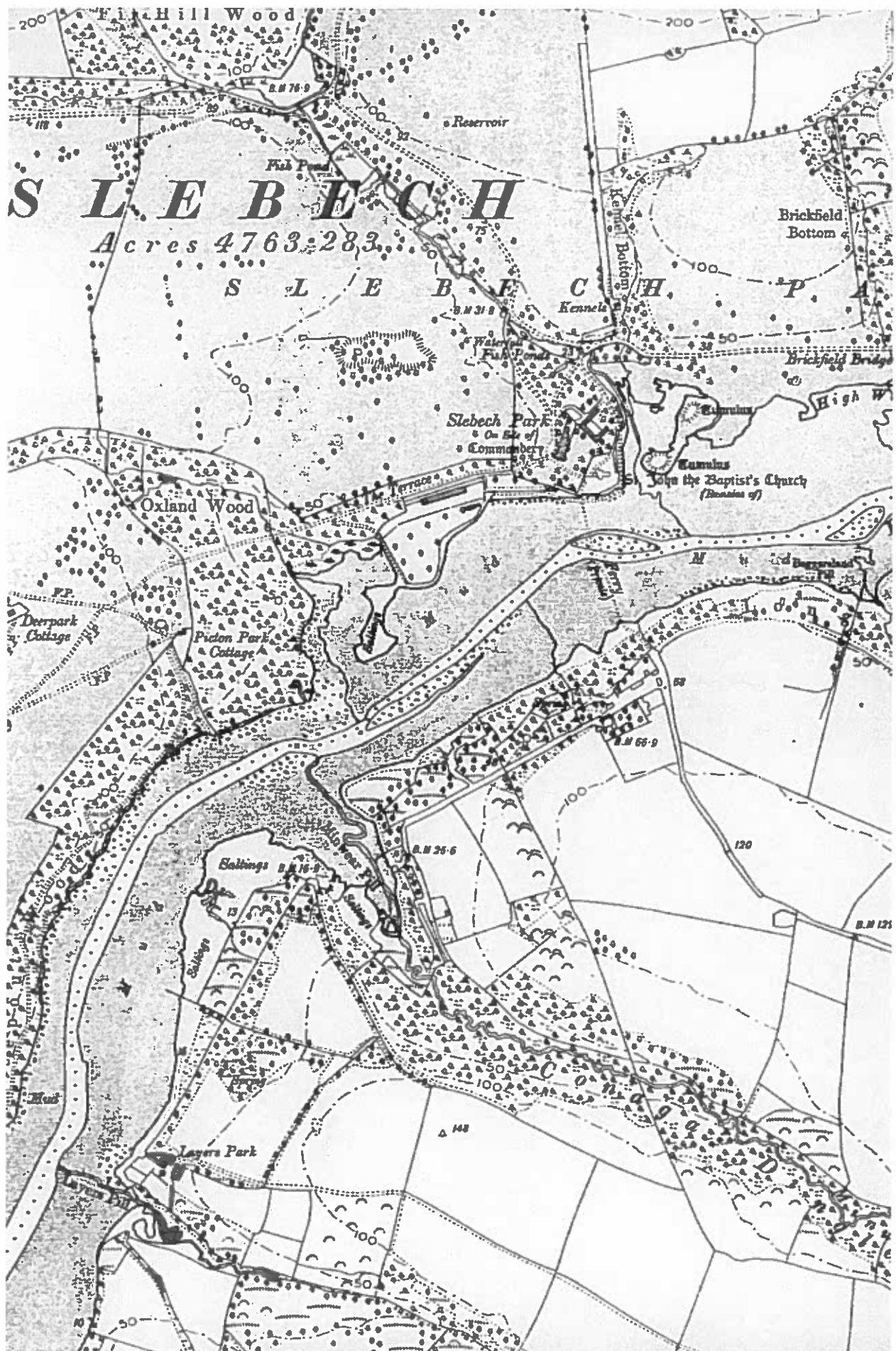
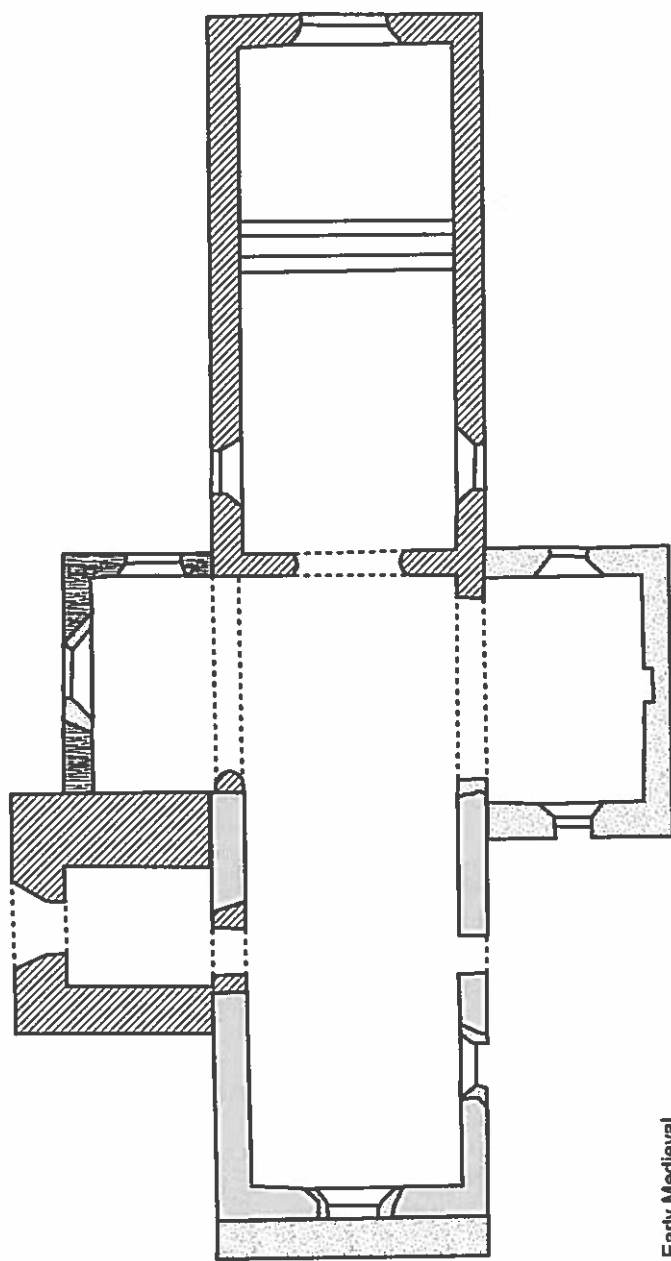


Fig 08: 2nd edition OS Map of 1908



- = Early Medieval
- ▨ = 15th Century
- ▤ = 16th Century
- ▦ = 18th Century

0 50'

Figure 09: Phased Plan of St. John the Baptist Church: From a Letter by W. G. Thomas to Rev Watkins in 1984

The main driveway to the house also appears to have been altered from that depicted on the earlier maps, additional driveways are also shown, one of which appears to echo the present main drive to the house.

The wall surrounded the church illustrated on the map of 1815 appears to have been removed and no further details are given about the gardens.

1st edition OS Map of 1891 (Fig. 7)

The layout of the estate has remained largely unchanged and the main driveway is now depicted as it is today. The buildings within the Stable Block Courtyard appear on this map but not in as much detail as on the 1815 map. Building B would appear to be smaller than as portrayed on the 1815 map and this possibly indicates that it was rebuilt between 1815 and 1891. Building A and the building lying next to it to the south both appear as illustrated on the 1815 map but the building to the north of building A and the other building depicted on the map of 1815 appear to have been demolished.

The Kennels are clearly depicted to the north of the main complex of buildings.

There appear to be some minor changes to the general layout of the park and gardens but there are some inaccuracies i.e the pond to the north of Lingham bridge, that was present on the 1830 map has disappeared but reappears on the 2nd edition OS Map of 1907.

2nd edition OS Map of 1907 (Fig. 8)

The vast majority of the estate has remained unchanged since the 1st edition OS Map of 1891. The only notable changes within the areas of study are that only Wall A is depicted within the courtyard of the Stable Block. Buildings A and B still survive today and are of an 18th century in appearance so it is unlikely that they were demolished. The other surviving buildings from the 1815 map, depicted on the 1st edition map may well have been demolished by this time.

6.4 Photographic Evidence

The aerial and oblique photographs consulted showed no evidence of any changes within the area of the Stable Block or the Kennel Complex to those of their present state.

7 The Field Evaluation

7.1 Descriptions

Trench 1 (Figs. 10 & 11)

Trench 1 was excavated on the outer southeastern corner of the Stable Block (Fig.9). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m over the majority of the trench. Adjacent to the structure itself it was excavated, under the supervision of the structural engineer, to a depth of c. 2m to examine the foundations. Excavation revealed that the area had been heavily landscaped with masonry waste to a depth of ?m. Lying directly beneath this landscaping deposit a buried topsoil horizon, 0.3m thick, containing

fragments of pottery from the medieval through to the late 18th century, was located. This in turn overlay the natural yellow clay subsoil. The excavations to reveal the extent of the Stable Block foundations failed to locate the bottom of the foundations, but it is thought that they would have extended down for approximately another meter.

Trench 2 (Figs. 10 & 12)

This trench was excavated at the mid point of the eastern wing of the Stable Block (Fig. 10). The upper 3.5m was excavated through the modern landscaping overburden to a depth of 1m revealing only the modern makeup. The trench was then widened and deepened eastwards revealing that the makeup deposit continued at least to a depth of 3m where a stone culvert bonded with white lime mortar and capped with 'flagstones' was revealed. At the far eastern end of the trench a deposit of natural clay was revealed. This had been cut for the construction of the culvert and the masonry waste deposit was used to backfill this trench after the construction of the culvert.

Trench 3 (Fig. 10 & 13)

Trench 3 was excavated on the northeastern corner of the Stable Block on a southwest/northeast orientation (Fig. 10). Excavation revealed the depth of the foundations of the Stable Block that extend to a depth of 1.4m below the present ground surface. The only other feature located within this trench was that of a cut (15) 0.8m from the main structure that had either been cut to re-point the foundations or during the construction of the steps at the northern end of the eastern wing of the Stable Block.

Trench 4 (Figs. 10, 13 & 15)

This trench was excavated immediately to the west of Building A at the southern end of the Stable Block Courtyard. These excavations revealed that the foundations of Wall A extended to a depth of 0.9m below the present ground surface and that Building A had originally extended 2.6m north of Wall A. Other than these two features the rest of the excavations only revealed the modern courtyard makeup and the natural subsoil.

Trench 5 (Figs. 10, 14 & 15)

Trench 5 was excavated immediately to the south of the dividing wall of the Stable Block Courtyard. Initial excavations within this trench revealed a mortared surface at c.1.2m below the present ground level at the southern end of the trench which sloped gently to the south. The dividing wall of the courtyard cut this surface at the northern end of the trench. A north/south stone wall bonded with a white lime mortar was located running along the western side of the trench, this wall butted the dividing wall of the courtyard and cut the mortared surface. A small trench was excavated through the mortared surface to ascertain the nature of the underlying deposits. Lying directly beneath the mortared surface a deposit of re-deposited natural clay was revealed, this in turn overlay a buried topsoil horizon that contained fragments of 13th century pottery. At a depth of 1.4m below the present ground surface the natural subsoil was revealed. This layer had a linear southwest/northeast feature cut into it filled with a dark brown silty clay, but no dateable artefacts were recovered to ascertain a date.

Trench 6 (Figs.10 & 17)

This trench had already been excavated, non-archaeologically, using a machine to ascertain the depths of deposits prior to the construction of a new tunnel for the Greater Horseshoe bats. Excavation within this trench revealed an earlier interior floor surface for the Stable Block that consisted of crushed red brick. This in turn overlay a deposit of masonry makeup and a thick deposit of black ash over the natural clay.

Trench 7 (Figs. 10 & 18)

This trench had also been excavated to establish the depths of deposits within the Stable Block. The same sequences of deposits as those located in Trench 6 were revealed and a culvert composed of stone blocks bonded with a white lime mortar was located at the base of the trench. All of the deposits within the trench butted the south wall of the Stable Block, indicating that the culvert and walls had been constructed after the original ground surface had been lowered to, or below, the level of the natural. The levels within the Stable Block were then raised with masonry waste deposits and a floor surface of crushed red brick was laid. This floor surface was then replaced later by the present concrete floor.

Trench 8 (Figs. 10 & 19)

This trench was excavated in the southwestern corner of the Stable Block (Fig. 10). Excavation revealed a deposit of masonry waste lying directly beneath the present flagstone floor. This in turn overlay the natural clays. The foundations of the western exterior wall of the Stable Block extended to a depth of 0.3m, however the foundations of the southern wall of the Stable Block were very shallow and only extended 0.1m below the present ground surface. A linear feature with a rounded southern end was located at 0.3m. This feature was filled with a dark brown/black silty clay containing small sub-angular stones and flecks of mortar to a depth of 0.4m. No datable material was recovered from this feature.

Trench 9 (Figs. 10 & 20)

This trench was located on the western wall of the West Wing of the Stable Block in the present workshop (Fig. 10). A wall foundation consisting of rough stone blocks bonded with a yellowish lime mortar was revealed at 0.2m below the present floor surface. The foundations ran in an east/west direction off the western wall of the Stable Block and butted the foundations of this wall. It would appear that these foundations were probably the remains of an earlier partition wall within the Stable Block that has since been removed.

Trench 10 (Figs. 10 & 21)

This trench was excavated to the north of the Stable Block Courtyard to a maximum depth of 1.2m. Excavation of this trench revealed only deposits of modern overburden and natural soils.

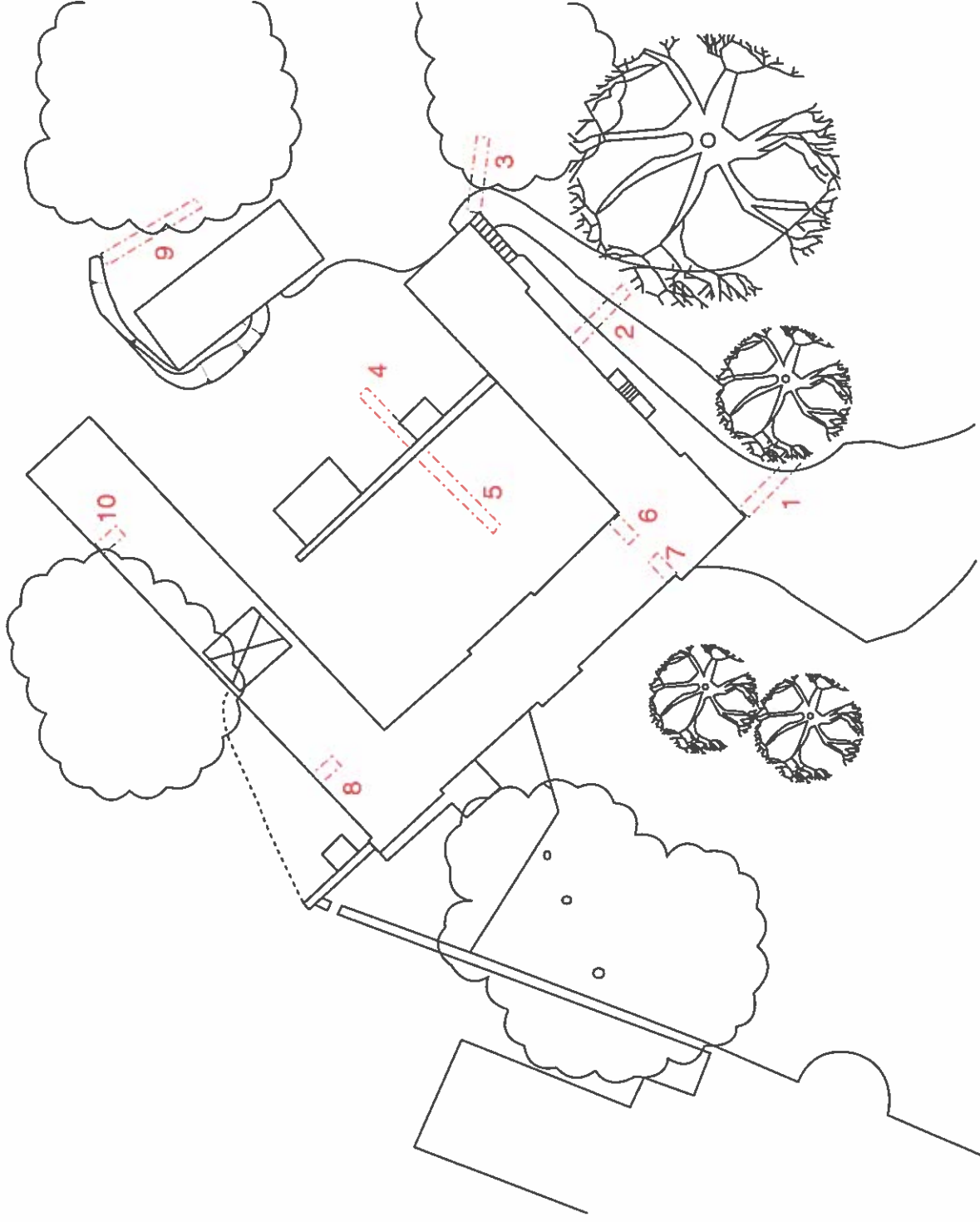
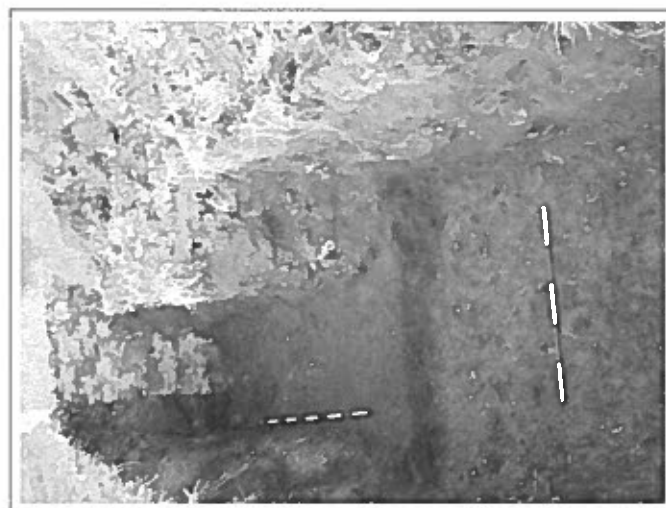


Figure 10: Trench Location Plan



Photograph of Trench 1: Scales 1 & 2m,
looking West.

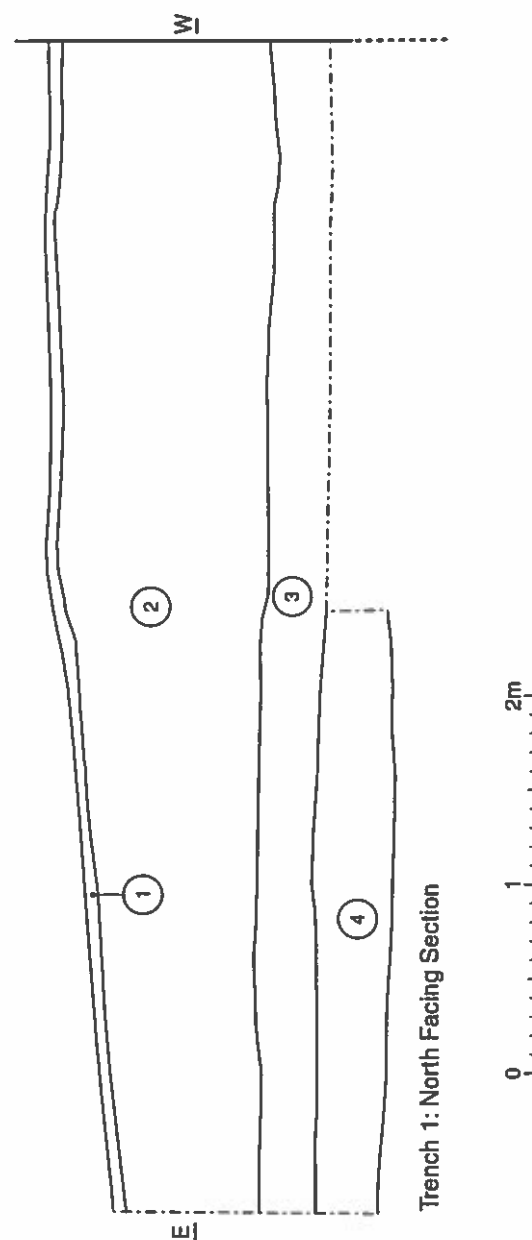
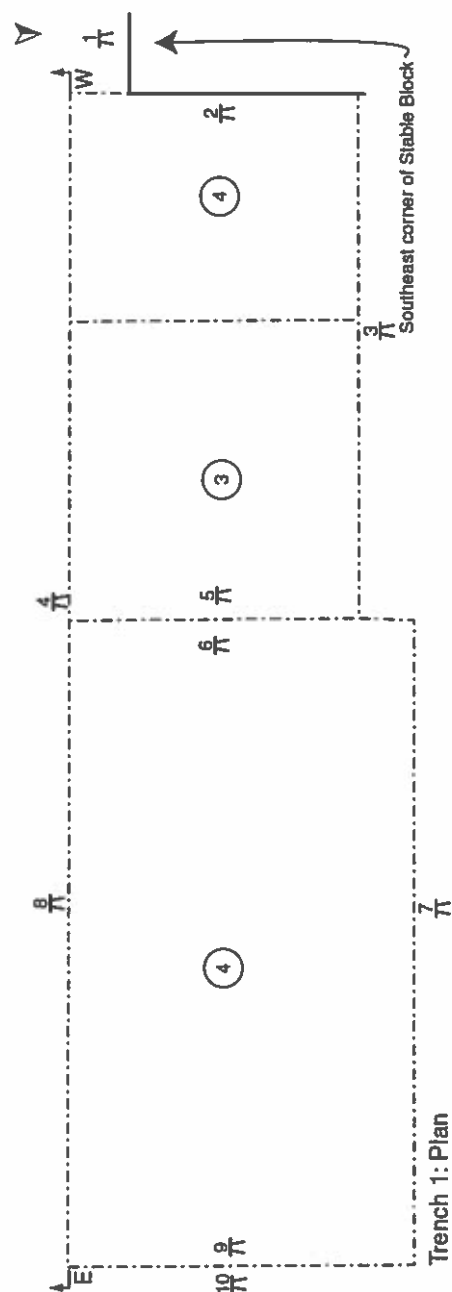


Figure 11: Trench 1 Illustrations.

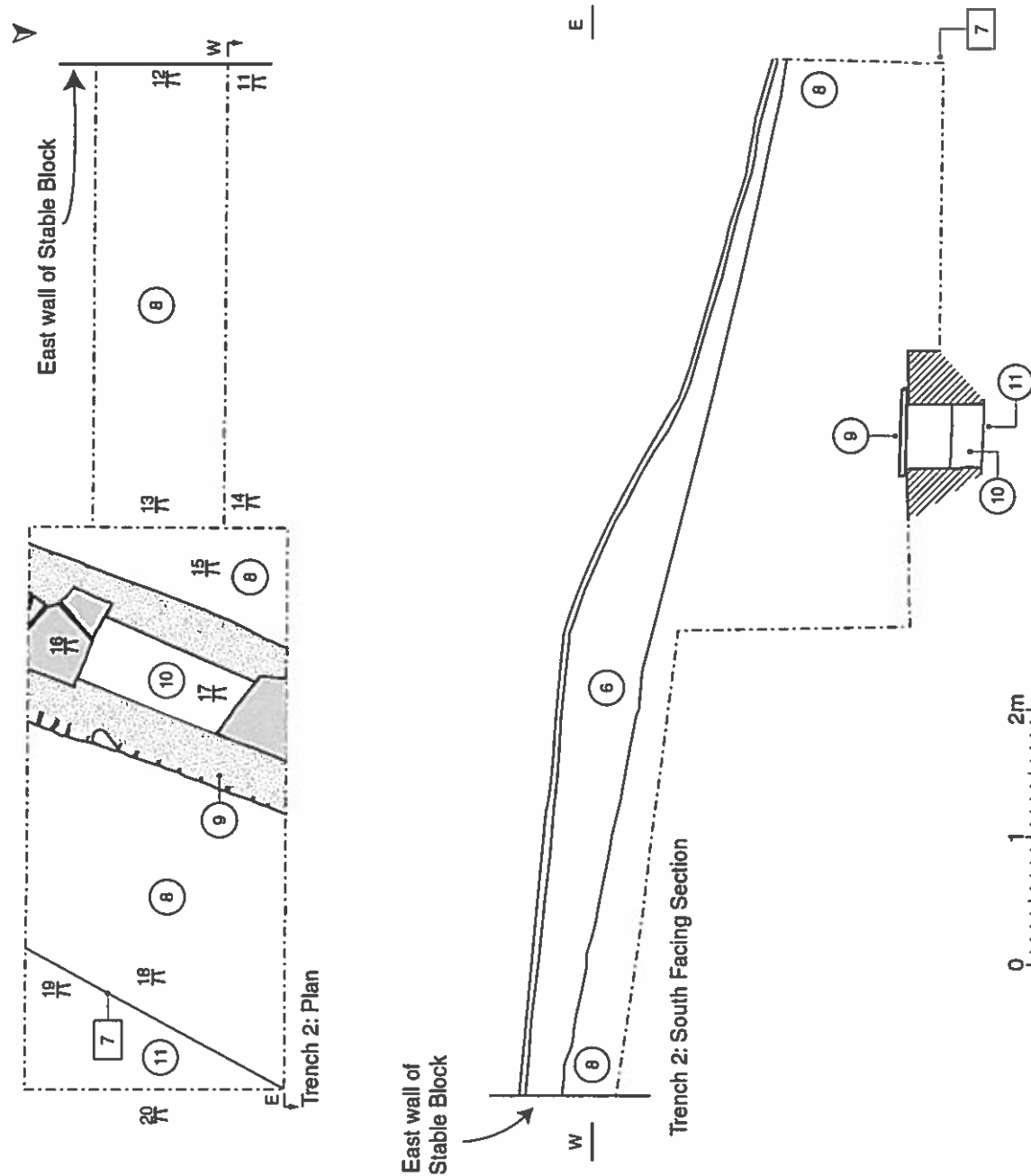


Figure 12: Trench 2 illustrations.

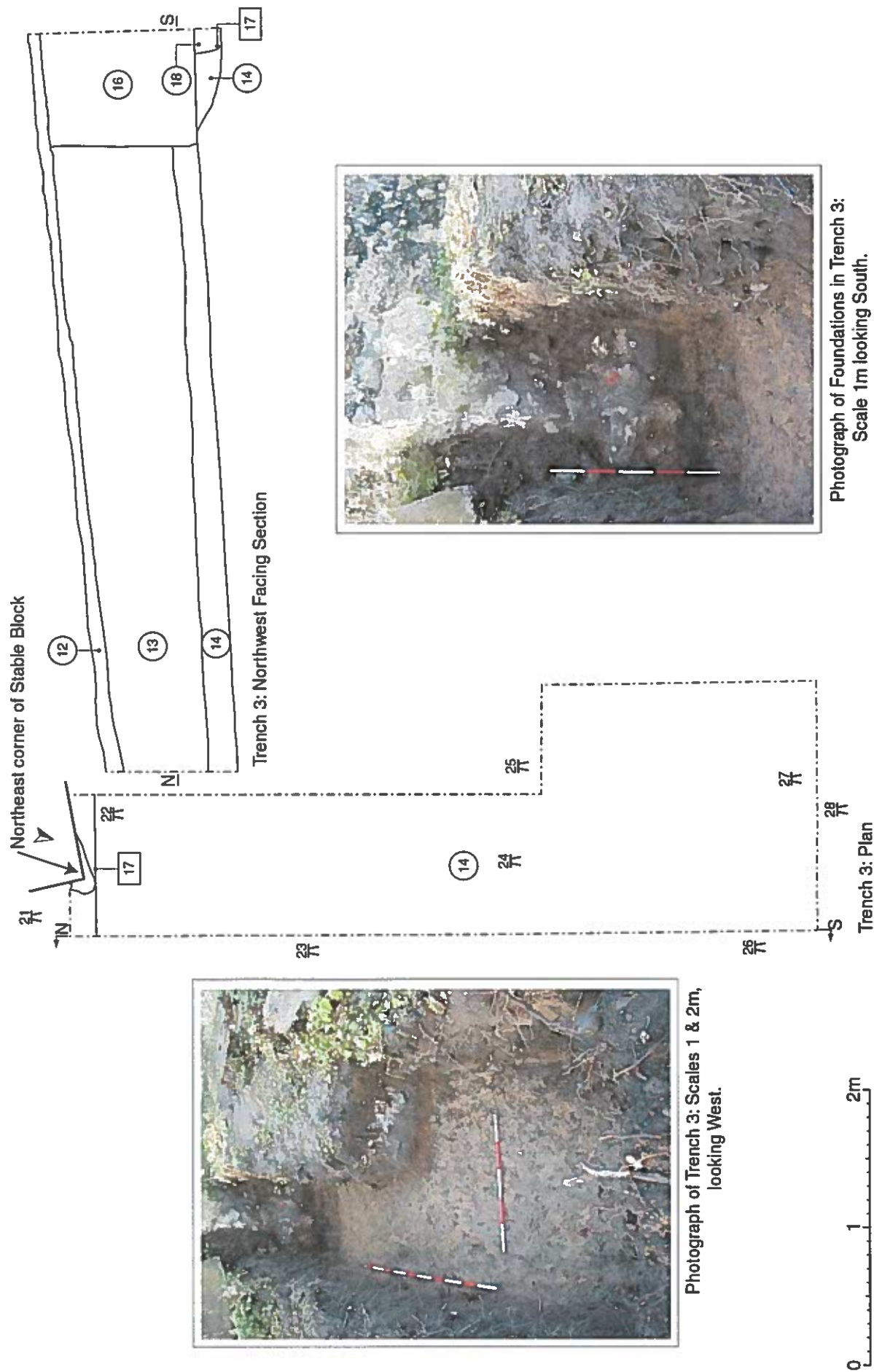
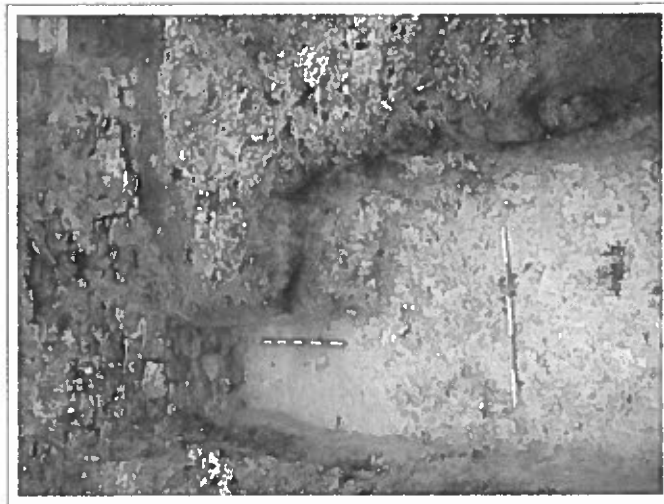
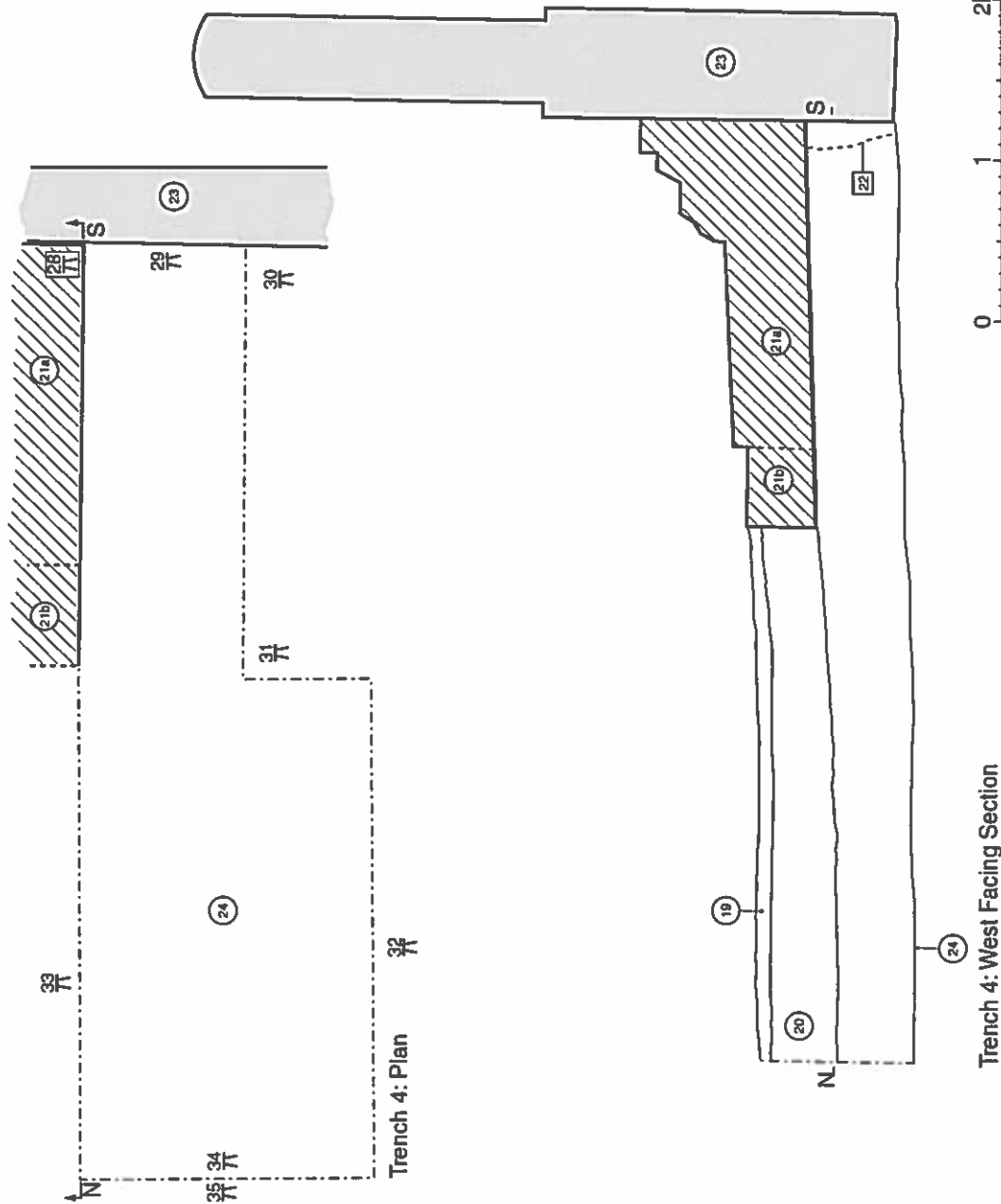


Figure 13: Trench 3 illustrations.



Photograph of Trench 4: Scales 1 & 2m, looking South.

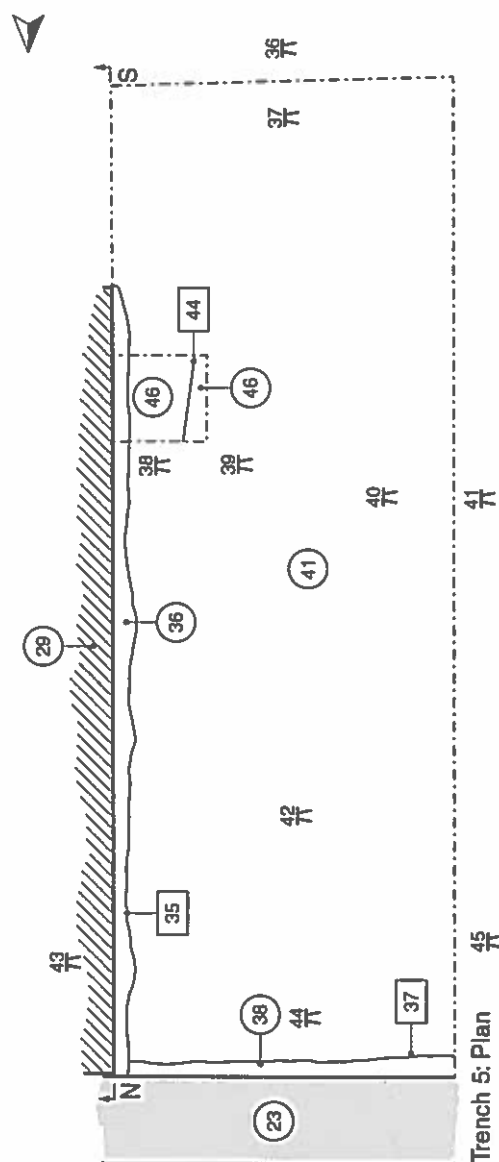
Figure 14: Trench 4 illustrations.



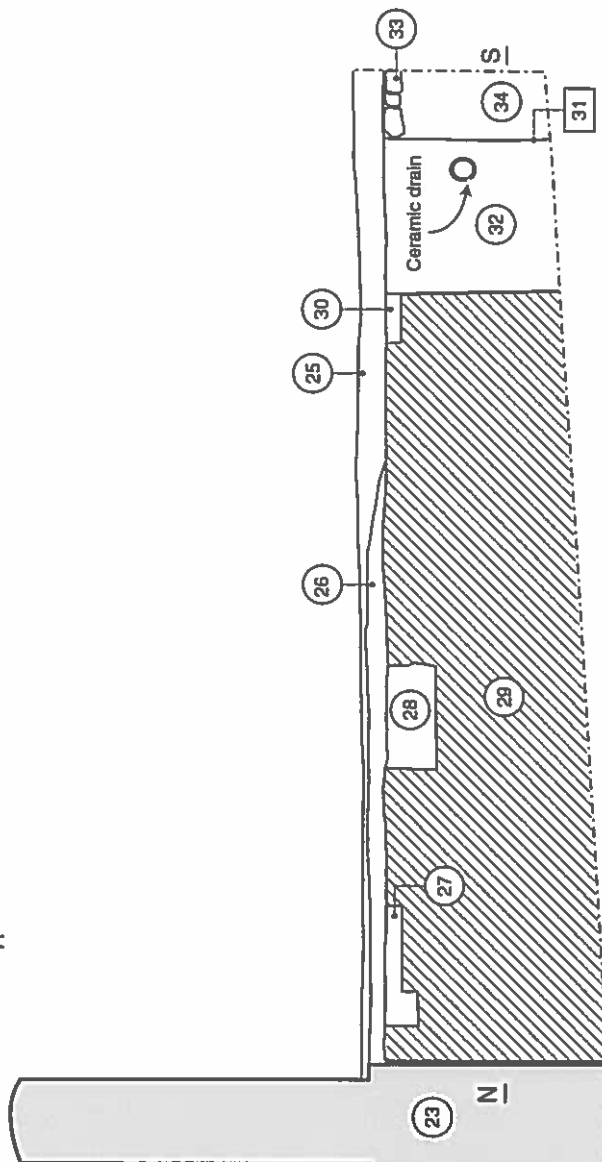
Photograph of Trench 5: Scales 1 & 2m, looking Northeast.



Photograph of Cut 44 and overlying deposits, scale 1m, looking South



Trench 5: Plan



Trench 5: West Facing Section

Figure 15: Trench 5 illustrations.

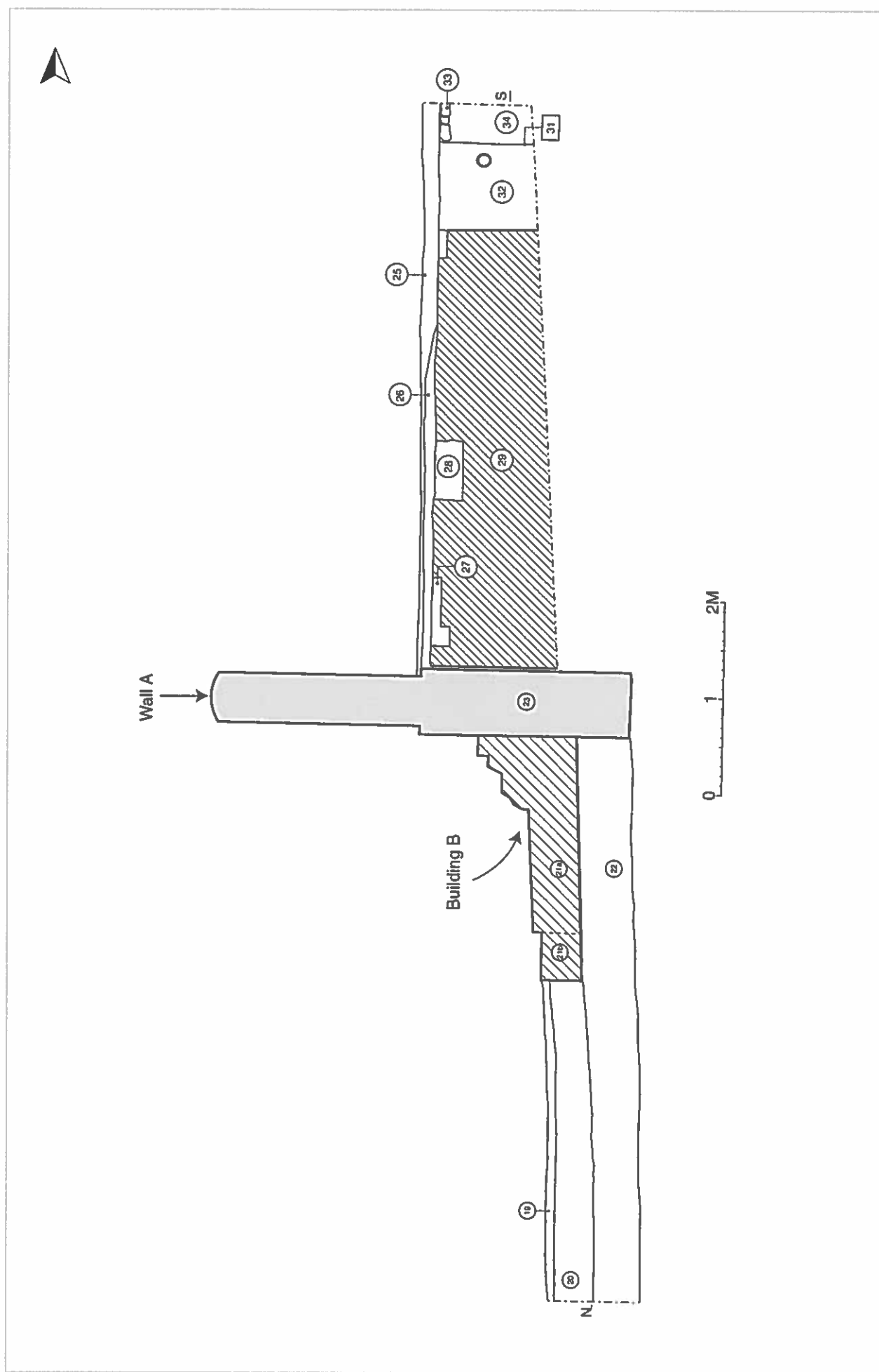


Figure 16: West Facing Sections of Trenches 4 and 5 showing change in levels within the Stable Block Courtyard

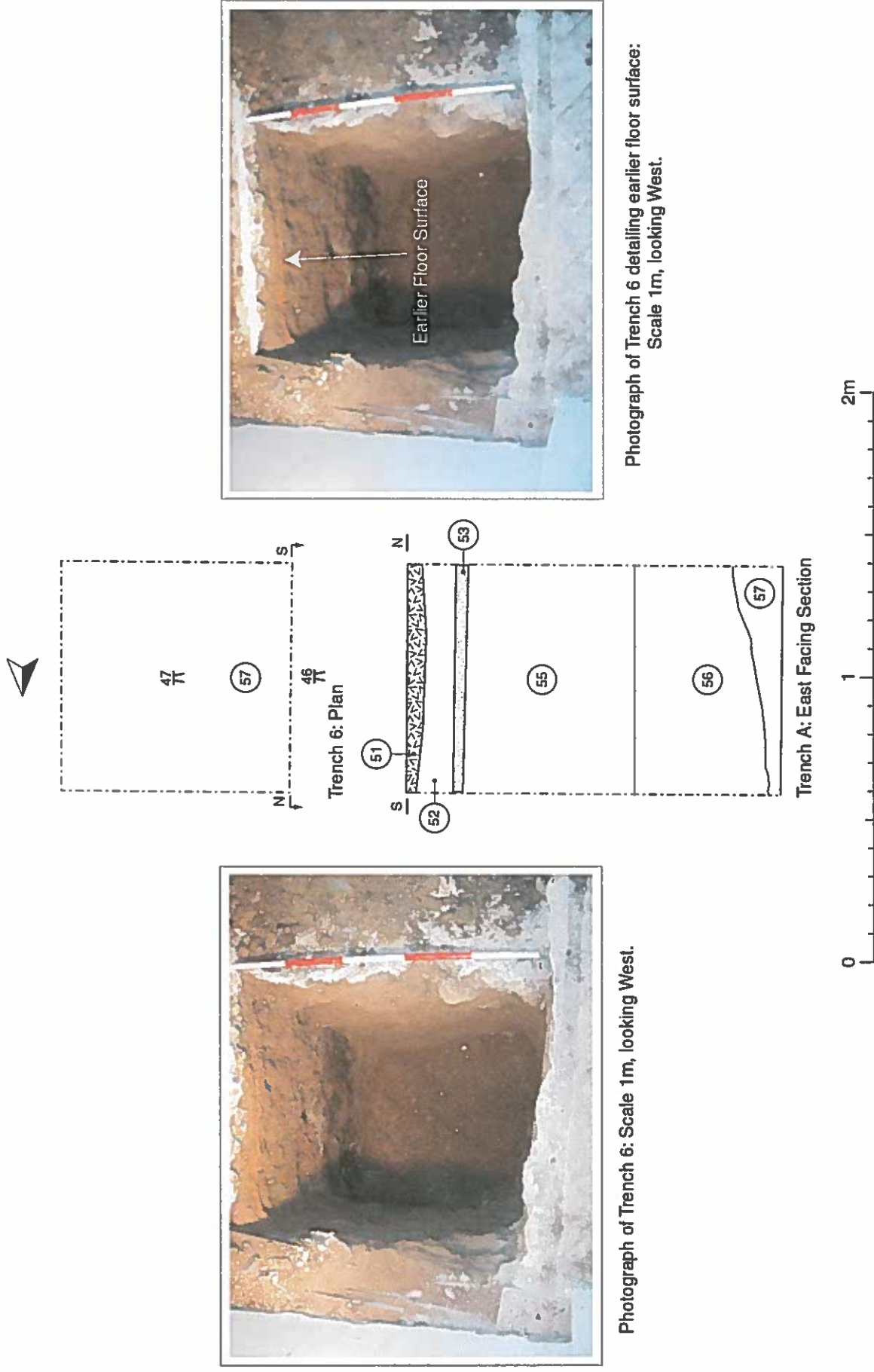
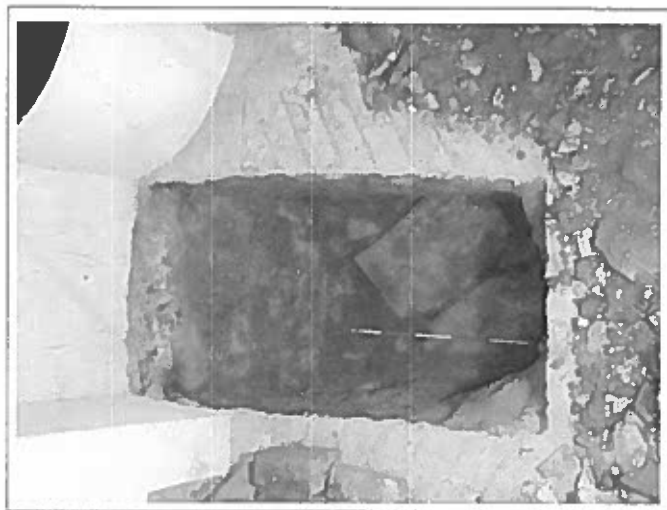
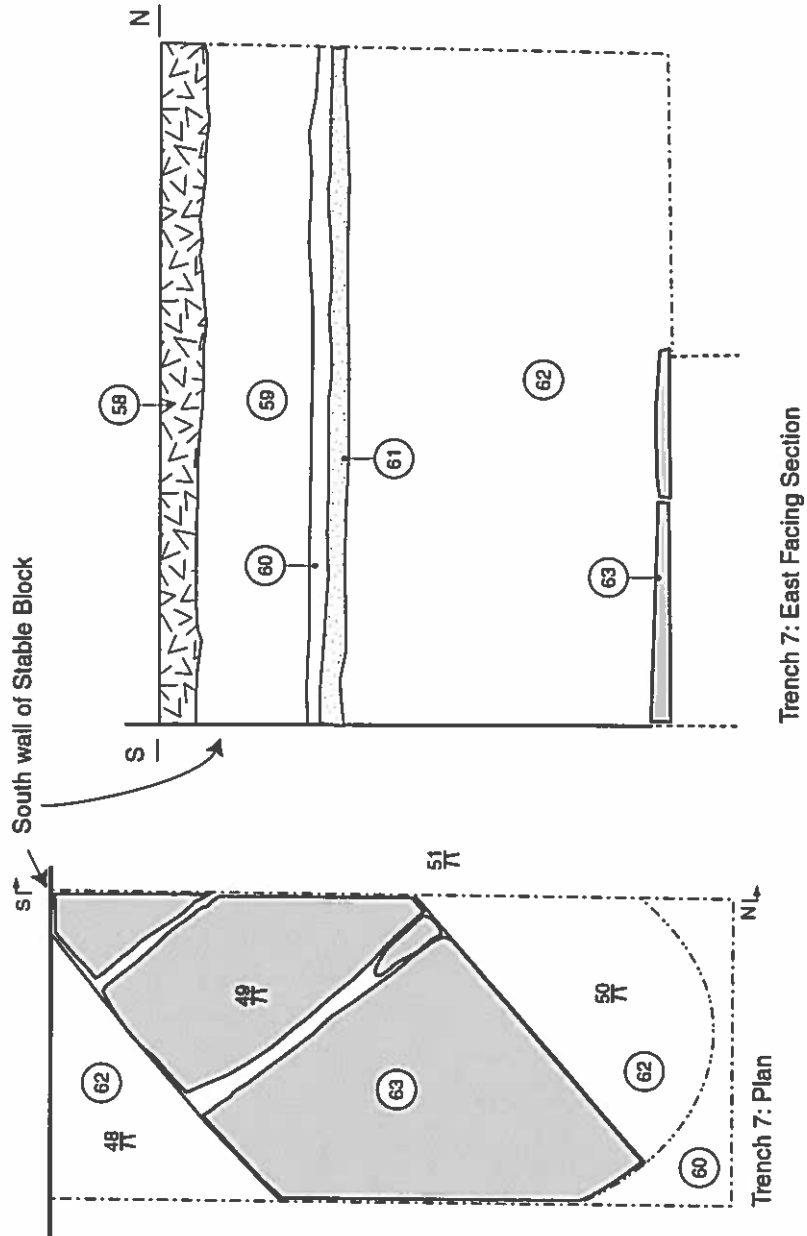


Figure 17: Trench 6: illustrations.

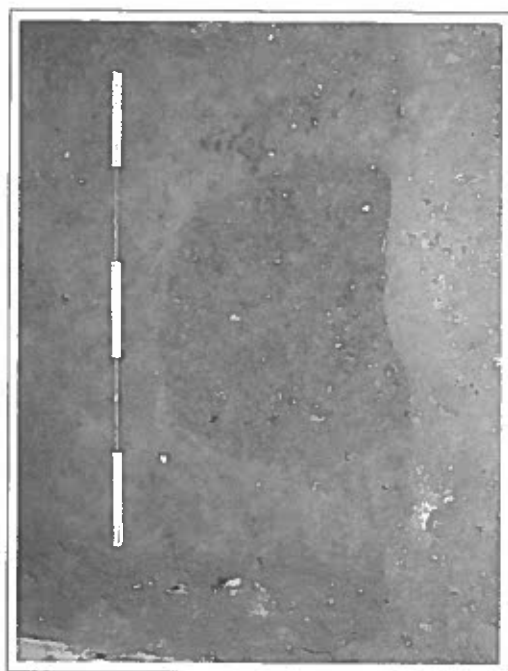


Photograph of Trench 7: Scales 1m,
looking South.

Figure 18: Trench 7 illustrations.



Photograph of Trench 8: Scale 1m,
looking West.



Photograph of cut feature in Trench 8: Scale 1m,
looking South.

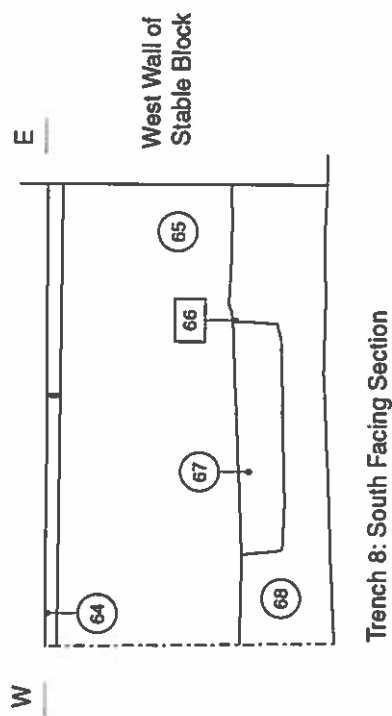
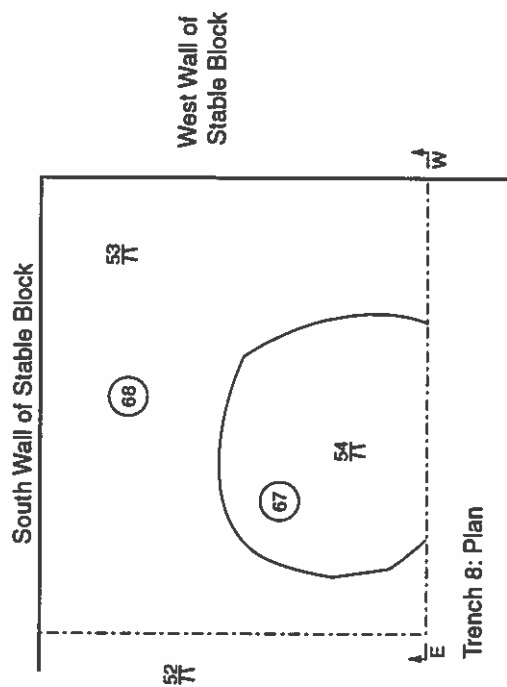


Figure 19: Trench 8 illustrations.



Photograph of Trench 10: Scale 1m
looking West.

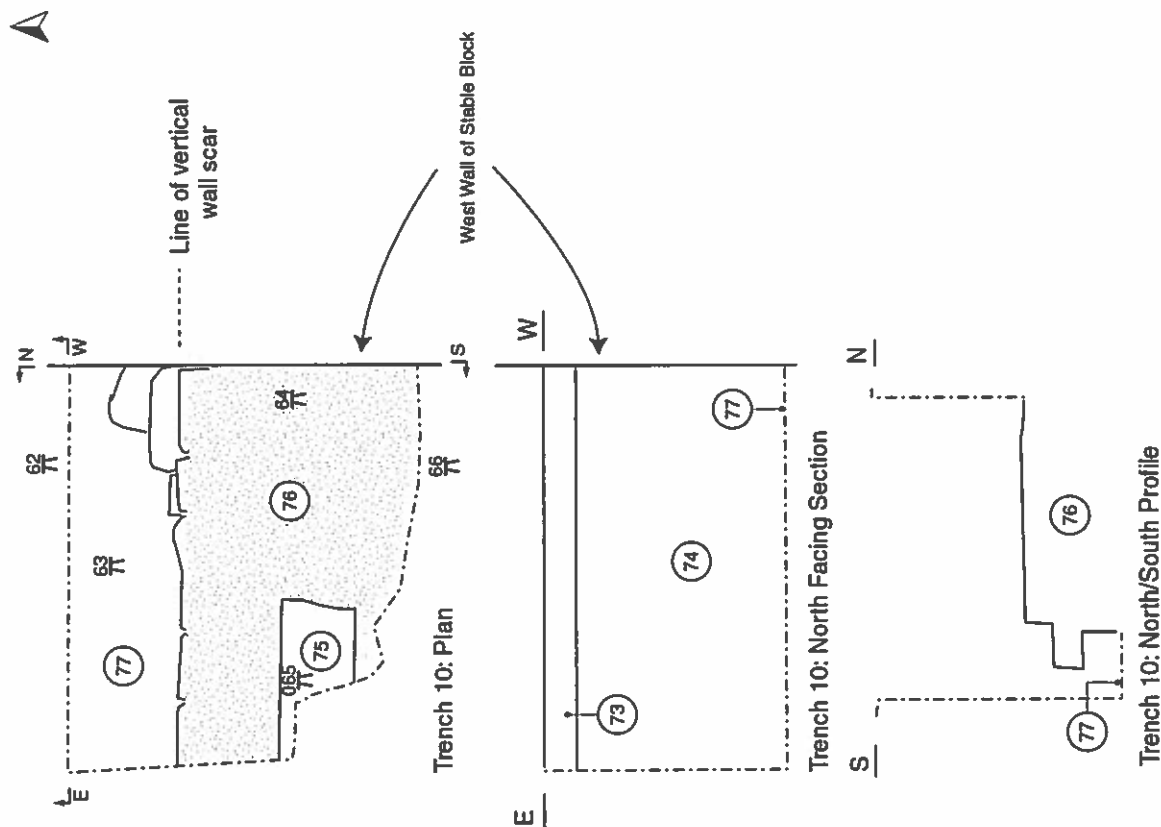


Figure 20: Trench 10 illustrations.



Photograph of Trench 11: Scales 1 & 2m, looking East.

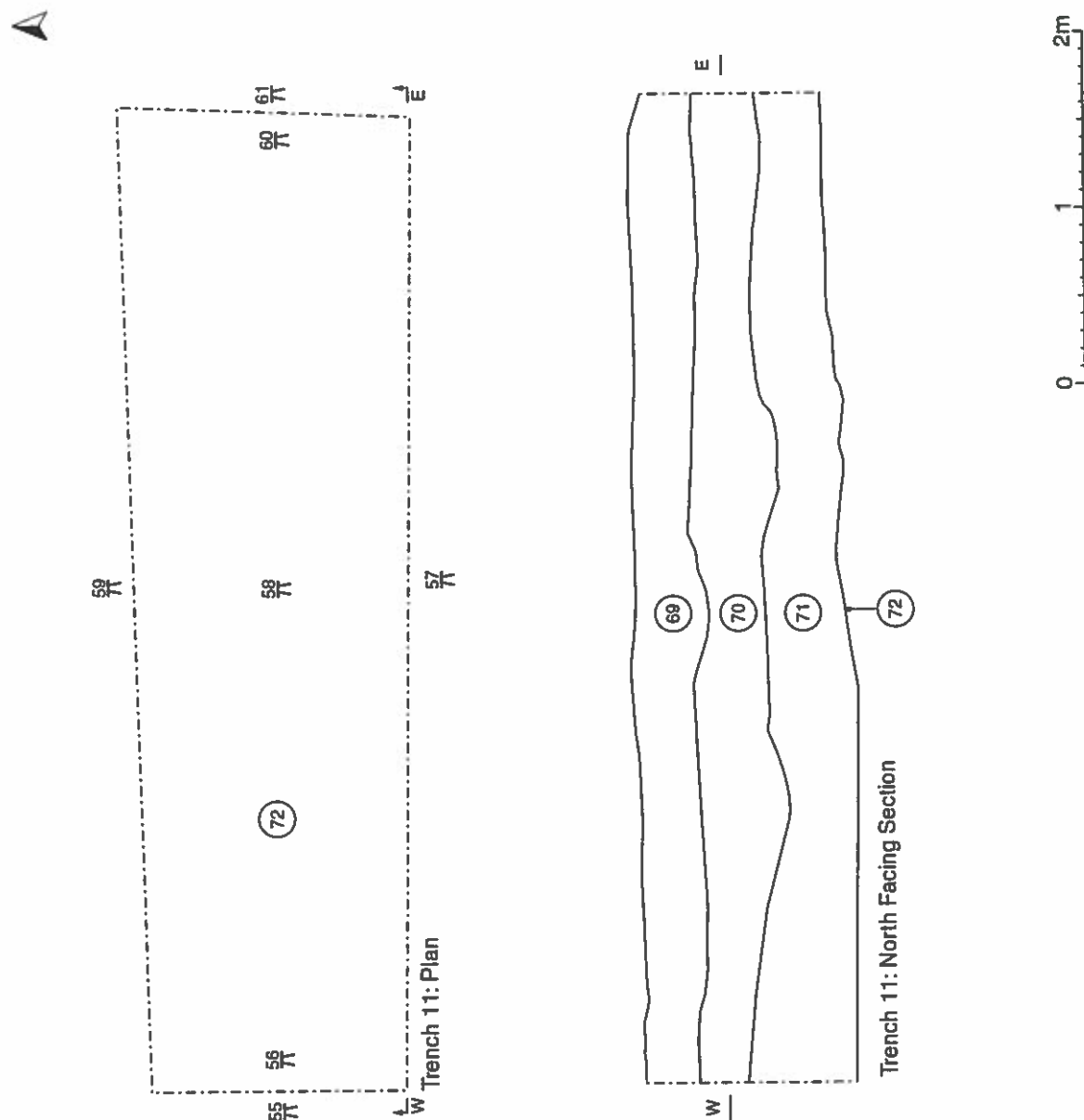


Figure 21: Trench 11 illustrations.

8 Standing Building Recording

8.1 Introduction

An RCAHME Level 2 record of the courtyard wall (Wall A) and two adjacent outbuildings (Buildings B and C) and the kennels (Building D) was undertaken as part of the project.

The courtyard wall and Buildings B and C were planned at a scale of 1:50 and elevations of the wall and buildings drawn to a scale of 1:50 also.

The kennels had been planned and elevations drawn at a scale of 1:100 by Tim Strickland (CAD Services) for Slebech Park Ltd. These plans were used as a rough base to prepare the 1:50 plans and elevations showing the survival of the remains in December 2002. The on-site recording was undertaken by Kevin Blockley (CAPLtd).

A photographic record in both 35mm colour slide and digital format was undertaken of Wall A and Buildings B-D.

8.2 Wall A (Figs 22-23)

Wall A is stone built and extends east-west across the courtyard terminating 4.5m east of the west range of the stable block. The wall is 0.5m thick, with a 0.1m offset foundation on either side. It is constructed of random stone, roughly laid to courses, with lime mortar bonding and is capped with a rounded fillet of mortar. Since the courtyard sloped from south to north the wall is taller on the north (downhill) side than the south side. On the south side the wall measures 2m tall, and on the north side 3.7m (adjacent to the east wing of the stable block). A short section of the wall adjacent to the east wing survives to a greater height (see below).

Wall A was clearly built in two main phases, and had undergone a number of alterations during its lifetime. The earliest section is a 0.8m long length against the east wing of the stable block (Plate CY3 and CY7). At this point the wall is 4.9m tall on the north side. This section is probably bonded to the east wing, rather than built up against it with a butt joint. Unfortunately, the mortar is abundant at this point and the detail is uncertain. It is recommended that the joint be checked (by an archaeologist) during demolition of the wall and further records of the joint made.

The second phase of Wall A, butting up to the earlier phase, comprises the remainder of the wall (Plates CY4, CY5, and CY8). At a point 3m west of the eastern end of the wall are two vertical joints (Plate CY3 and CY8). It is uncertain what these represent. It is recommended that these are investigated in more detail (by an archaeologist) when the wall is demolished and further detailed records made.

An opening is present in the wall at a point around 12m west of the east wing (Plates CY6 and CY9). Here is a 1.35m opening edged in red bricks. It is partly blocked with brickwork (when viewed from the north) up to the level of the courtyard surface on the south side of the wall. This opening appears to have been a window with a low arch. Alternatively, the opening, when viewed from the contemporary ground level located by the excavation trenches (see above), may have served as a doorway through the wall.

The west end of Wall A terminates in some slightly larger stones.

Voids Wall A, adjacent to Building B, are interpreted as joist holes for the roof of Building B (see below).

8.3 Building B (Figs 22-23)

Building B measures 2.8m by 2.1m across, with the west wall butting up to Wall A.

The west and north walls are largely demolished to a height of around 1m (Plate CY10), but the east wall survives to a height of 2.2m in one place, adjacent to a doorway (Plate CY11). The walls are 0.5m thick and bonded with lime mortar.

The building is of rubble stone, roughly coursed.

Wall A adjacent to Building B shows four voids (Plate CY10). The larger one is clearly for a timber lintel over the doorway of Building B, and the three smaller ones purlins and a wall plate supporting the roof of the building.

The interior of the building was largely full of rubble and no floor levels could be seen. It is advised that an archaeologist be present during demolition of the building to record such evidence that survives.

The excavation trench adjacent to Building B indicates that this building is now smaller than originally planned (see above).

8.4 Building C (Figs 22-23)

Building C had been built butting up to Wall A. It measured 6m by 3.6 m in plan and was 1.9 to 2.9m tall (front to rear).

The walls are of rubble laid in rough courses with larger 'quoins' stones on the corners. The walls are 0.5m thick and bonded with lime mortar.

The roof is of corrugated asbestos with concrete edgings.

It is evident from the elevations that the upper part of the building has been rebuilt (above a line of slate on the elevation). Although the building may not have been much taller when originally built, it probably had a different form of roof from that present today (Plates CY13 and CY14).

The eastern wall of the building is devoid of features save the line of rebuilding noted above (Plate CY13).

The western wall of the building has a narrow window 0.6m tall and 0.1m wide which splays to the interior to around 0.25m wide (Plate CY14).

The front (north) elevation has two similar narrow windows and a 1m wide doorway, the head of which has been replaced with a concrete lintel (Plate CY12).

8.5 Building D (Figs 24-28)

Building D measure overall 9m by 9.5m in plan and was the kennels for the estate.

The building comprises a 'kitchen', store room, three kennels and three runs. The structure has lost much of its slate roof, and substantial parts of the walls have tumbled.

No floor levels were visible because of rubble and silt on the floor, but it is possible that these survive. Overgrowth made the photographic study of the building very difficult to undertake. It is recommended that an archaeologist be present to photograph and record further details of the building if/when it is converted.

The walls were of rubble laid in rough courses with brick over the doorways and slate flagged thresholds.

Cast iron railings and gates surround the three runs (Plates K3, K4, K7 and K12).

Externally there is one doorway into the 'kitchen' on the west wall (Plate K6), and a principal gateway into the western run (Plate K7). The two other runs linked by cast iron gates.

Windows have all but fallen out, but fragments survive to show one in the west elevation (in the 'kitchen' – Plate K5) and one in the east elevation (in the store room – K8).

The 'kitchen' has a small fireplace in the south-east corner, formed by two brick walls butting the corner of the room (Plate K11). A chimney opening is evident in the wall, but no detail survives, and the chimney appears to have collapsed.

In the north-east corner of the 'kitchen' are two short supporting walls of brick standing to a height of 0.5m. these are interpreted as supports for a water tank in the corner of the room.

The kennels and runs show no detail, save the cast iron railings and gates. The corners of the runs are rounded on the outside (n-e and n-w corners).

In the gable end of the western kennel is a circular 'window', provided for its architectural merit.

8.6 Interpretation and dating of the buildings

The stable complex was clearly built by 1811 (see desk-top study, above), and a number of buildings are shown in the courtyard on a plan dated *c.*1815 (Fig 000). Wall A and Buildings B and C are visible as are buildings (not now standing) to the south of Wall A.

It will be noted that Building B is shown in its earlier form, as located by excavation. Building B as shown on the 1891 map is smaller and was rebuilt to the present plan between 1815 and 1891.

The structures shown either side of Wall A in the courtyard were probably used for storage.

Building C is marked on the *c.*1815 plan, but not annotated. This building was built specifically as a kennels.

All of the stable complex and buildings under study show clearly on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps of 1891 and 1908. The 1891 map shows Wall A and Buildings B and C in the courtyard, but not in the same detail as the *c.*1815 plan.

Only Wall A is shown on the 1908 map, although it is unlikely that Buildings B and C had been demolished. What remains today is clearly of 18th century build with lime mortar.

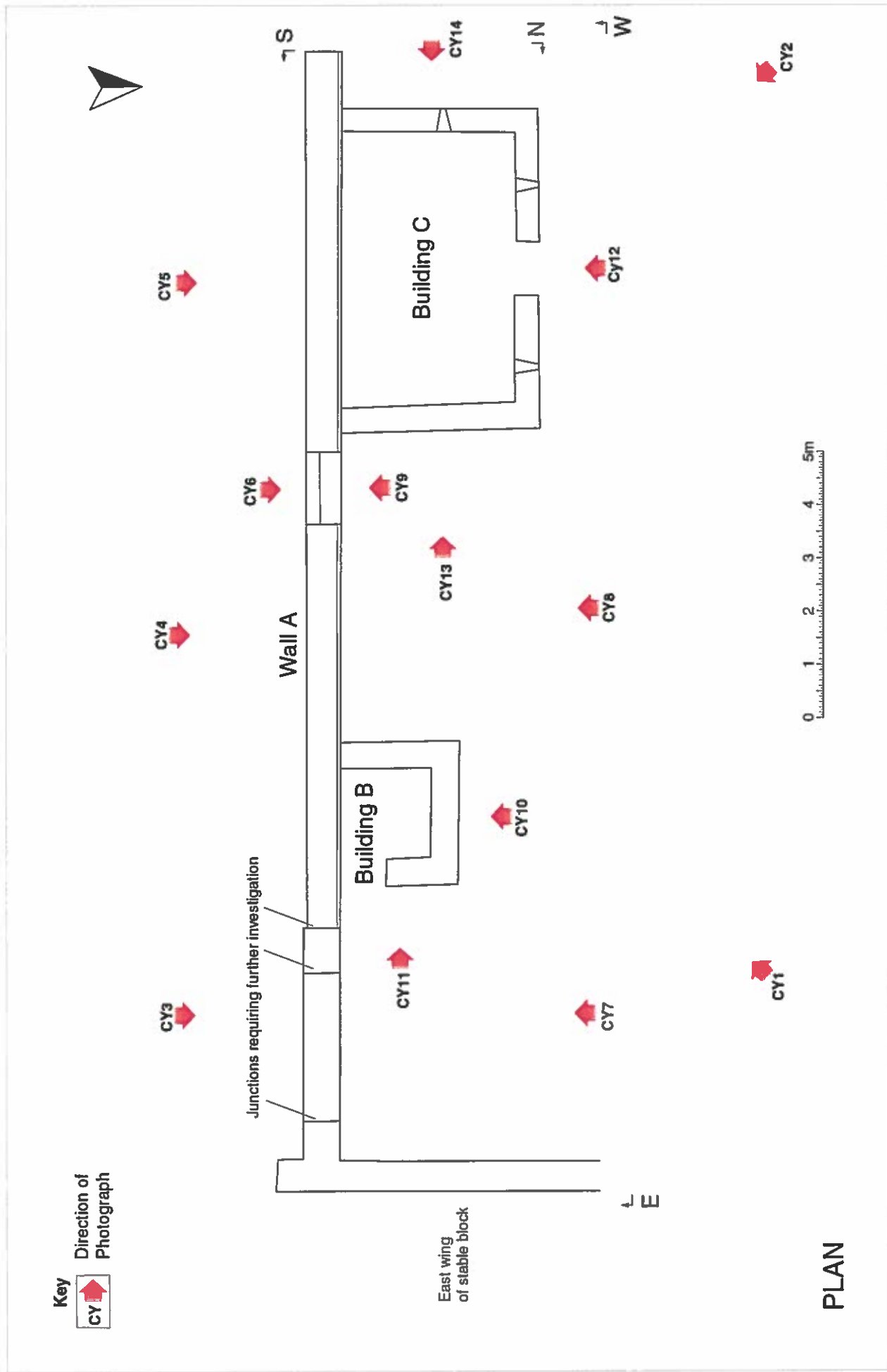


Figure 22: Plan of courtyard Wall A and Buildings B and C

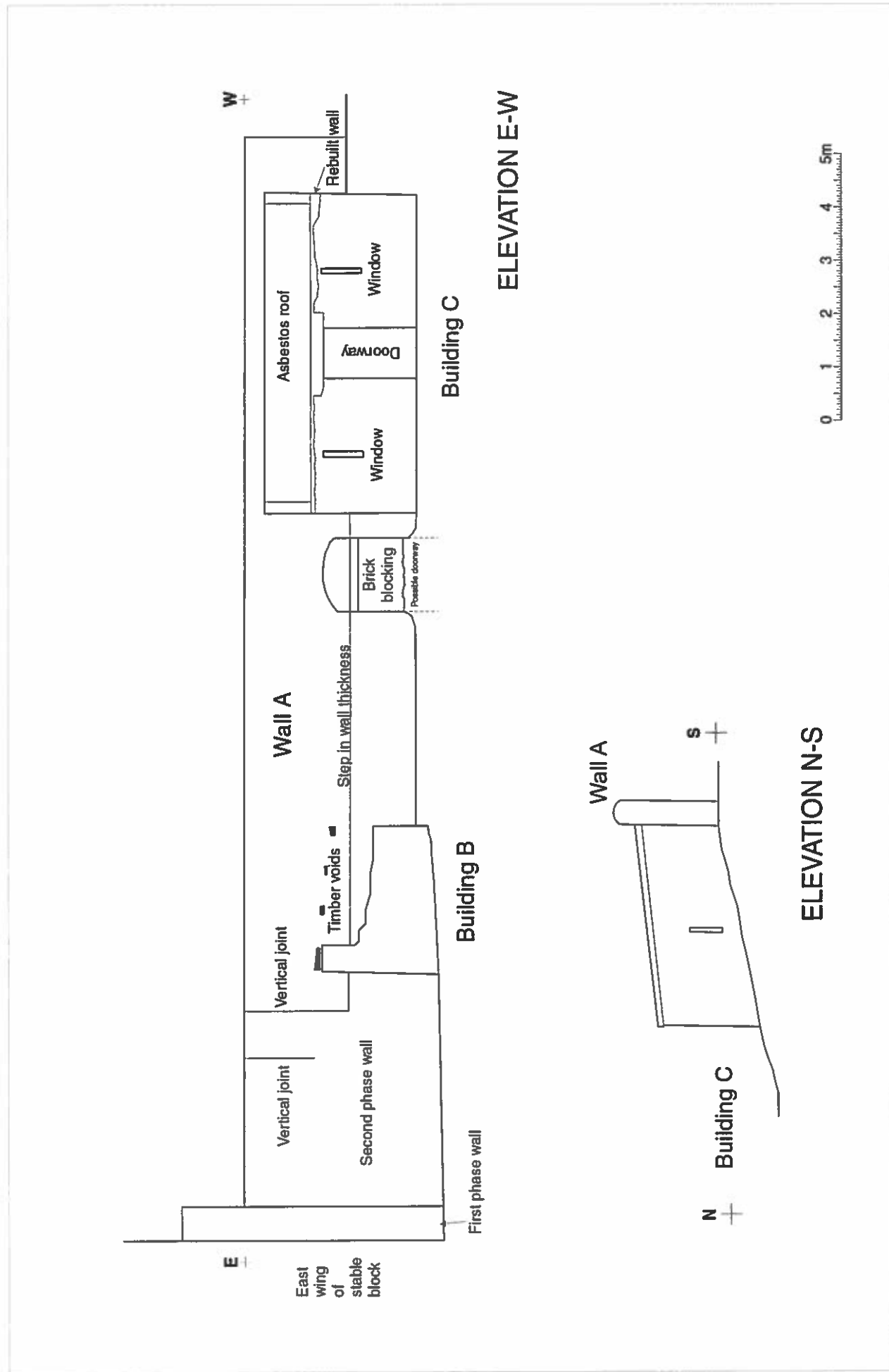


Figure 23: Elevation E-W of Wall and Buildings B and C, and Elevation N-S of Building C

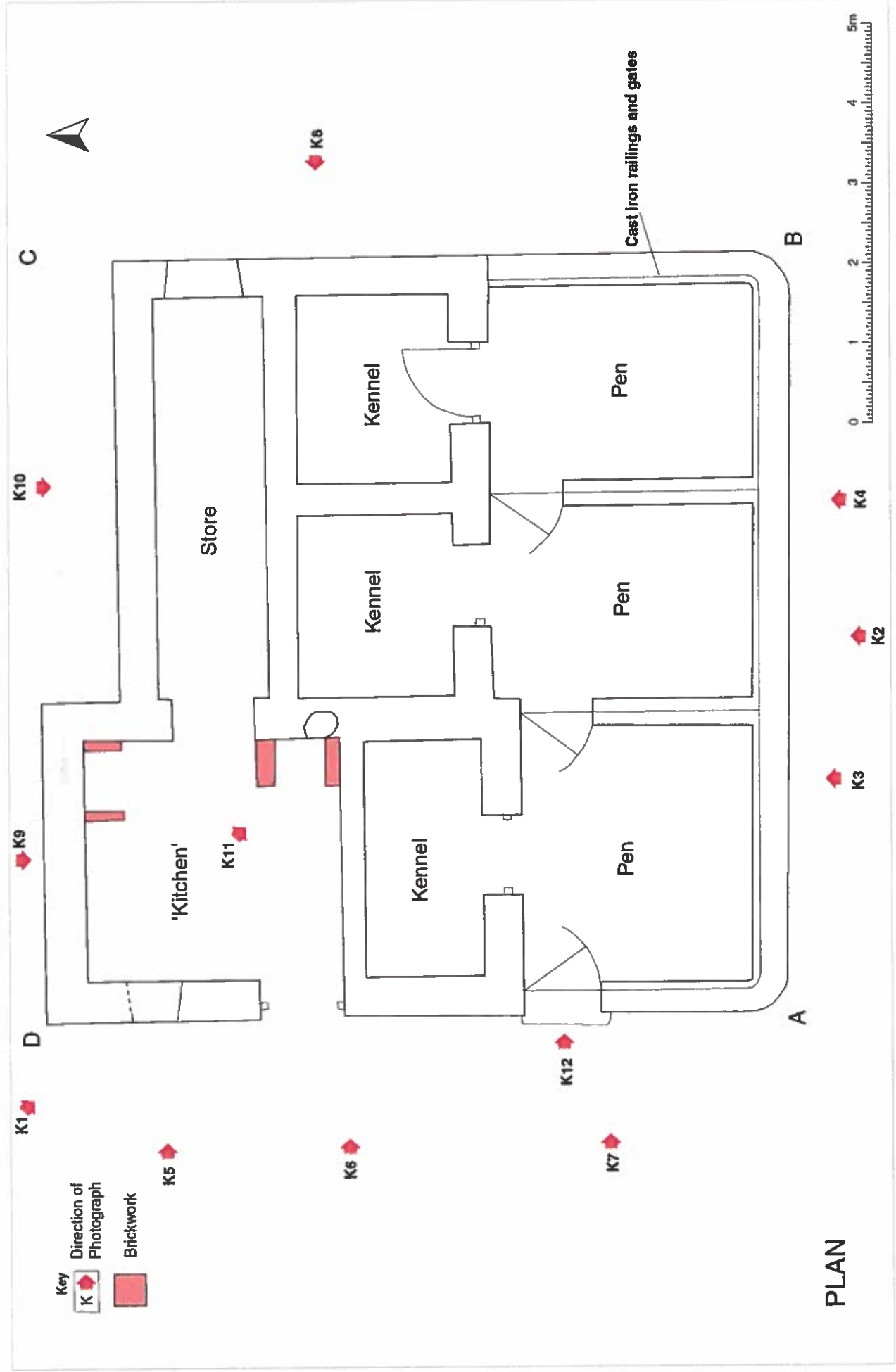


Figure 24: Plan of kennels, Building D

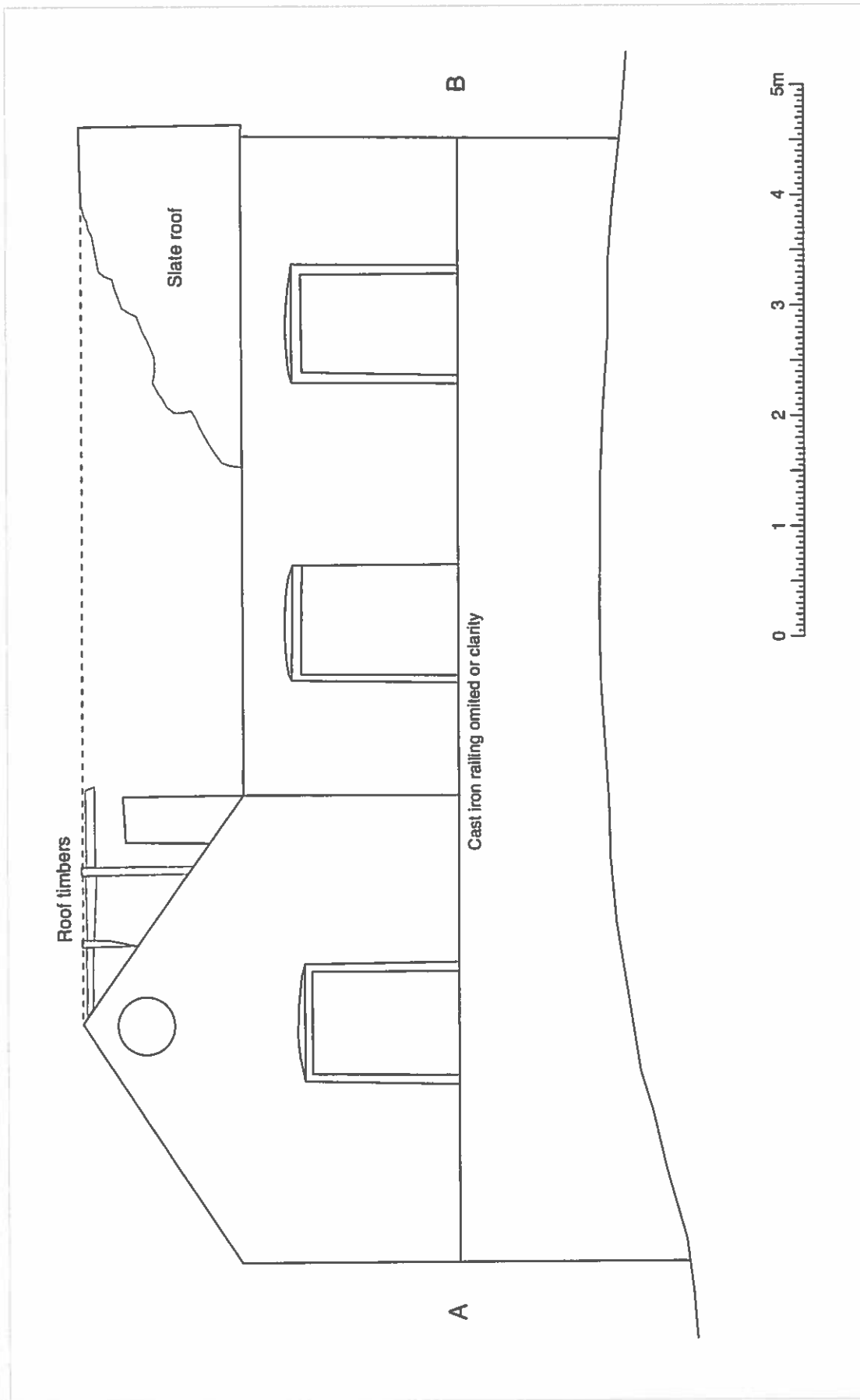


Fig 25: Kennels, Building D, south elevation A-B

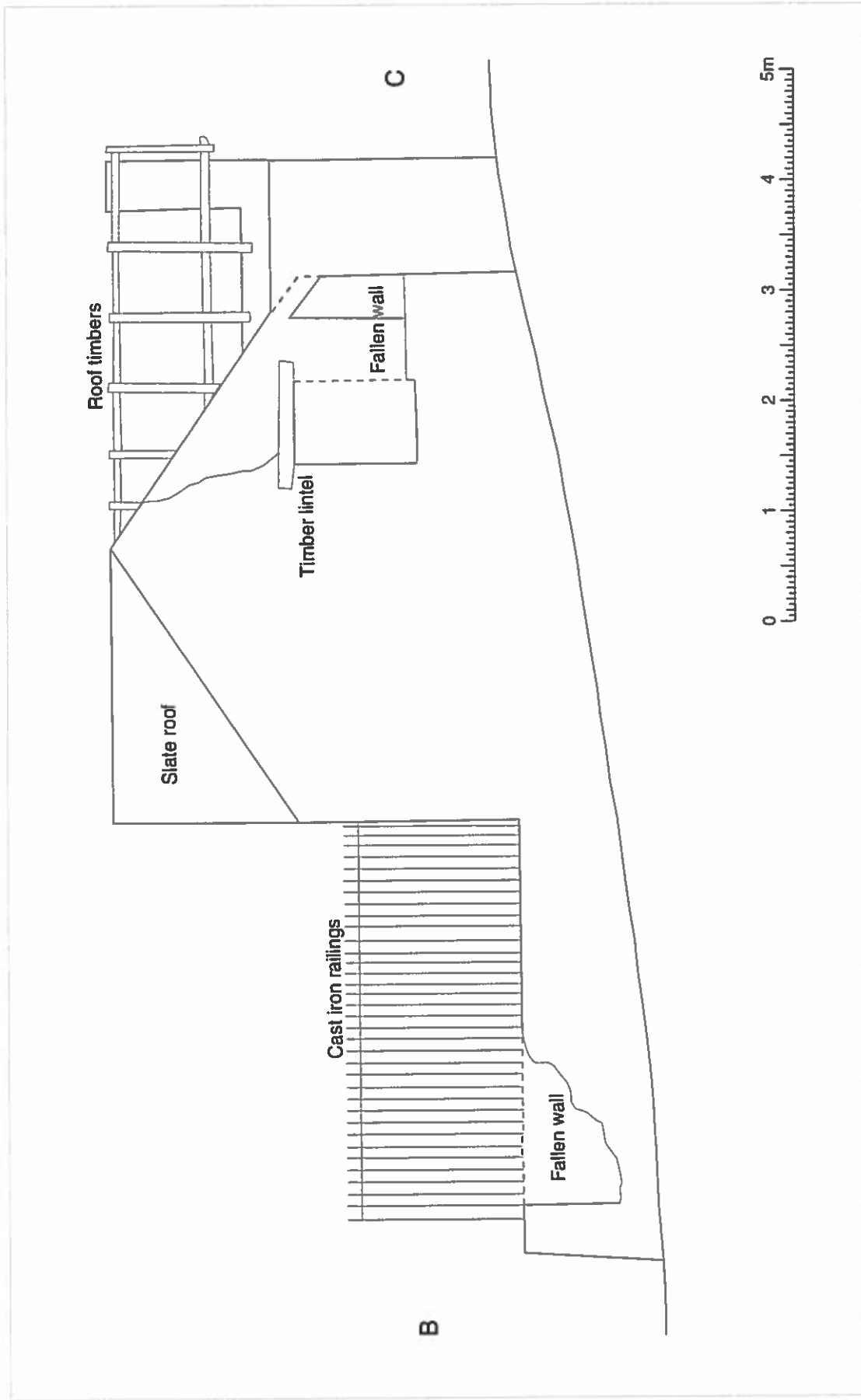


Fig 26: Kennels, Building D, east elevation B-C

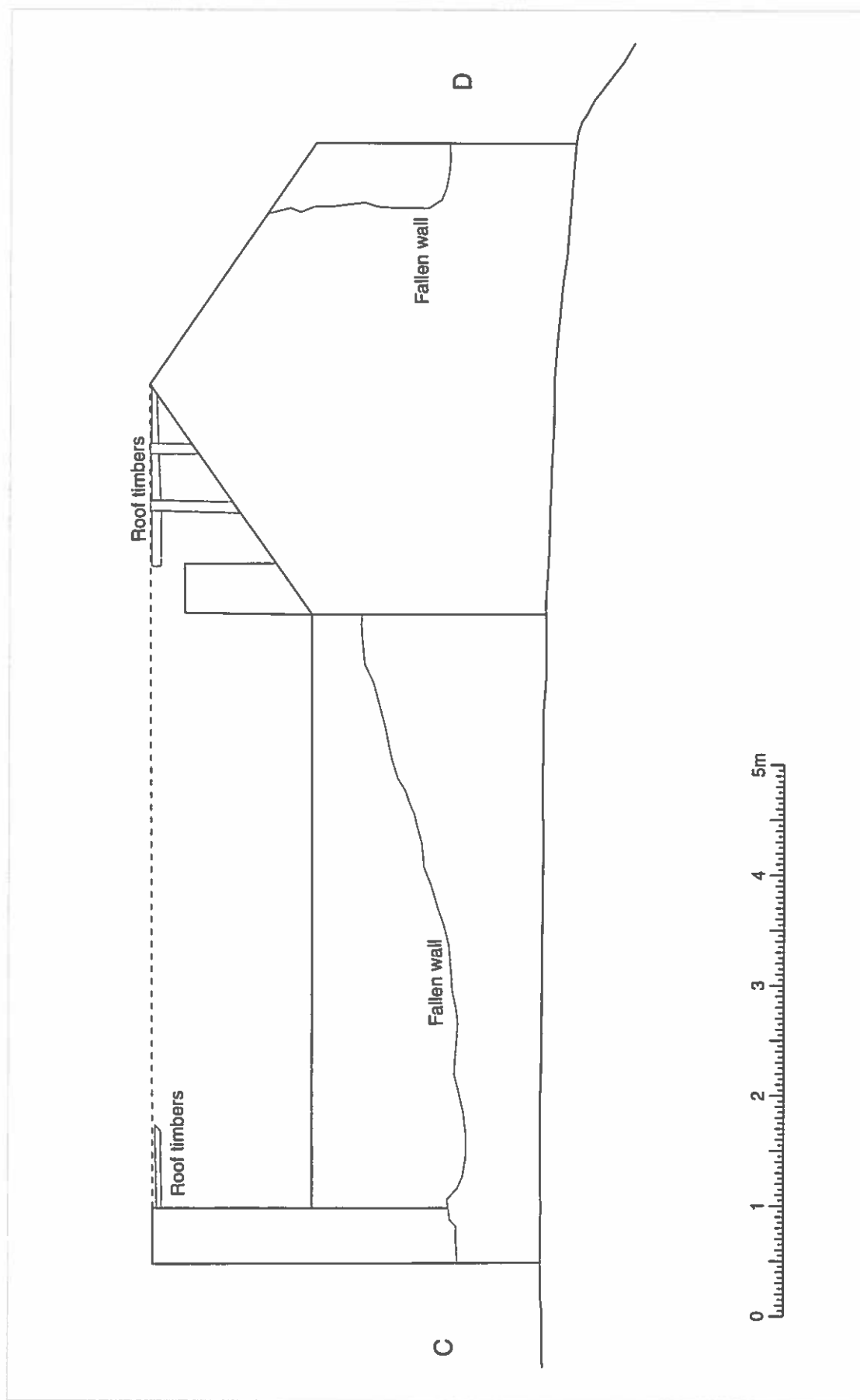


Fig 27: Kennels, Building D, north elevation C-D

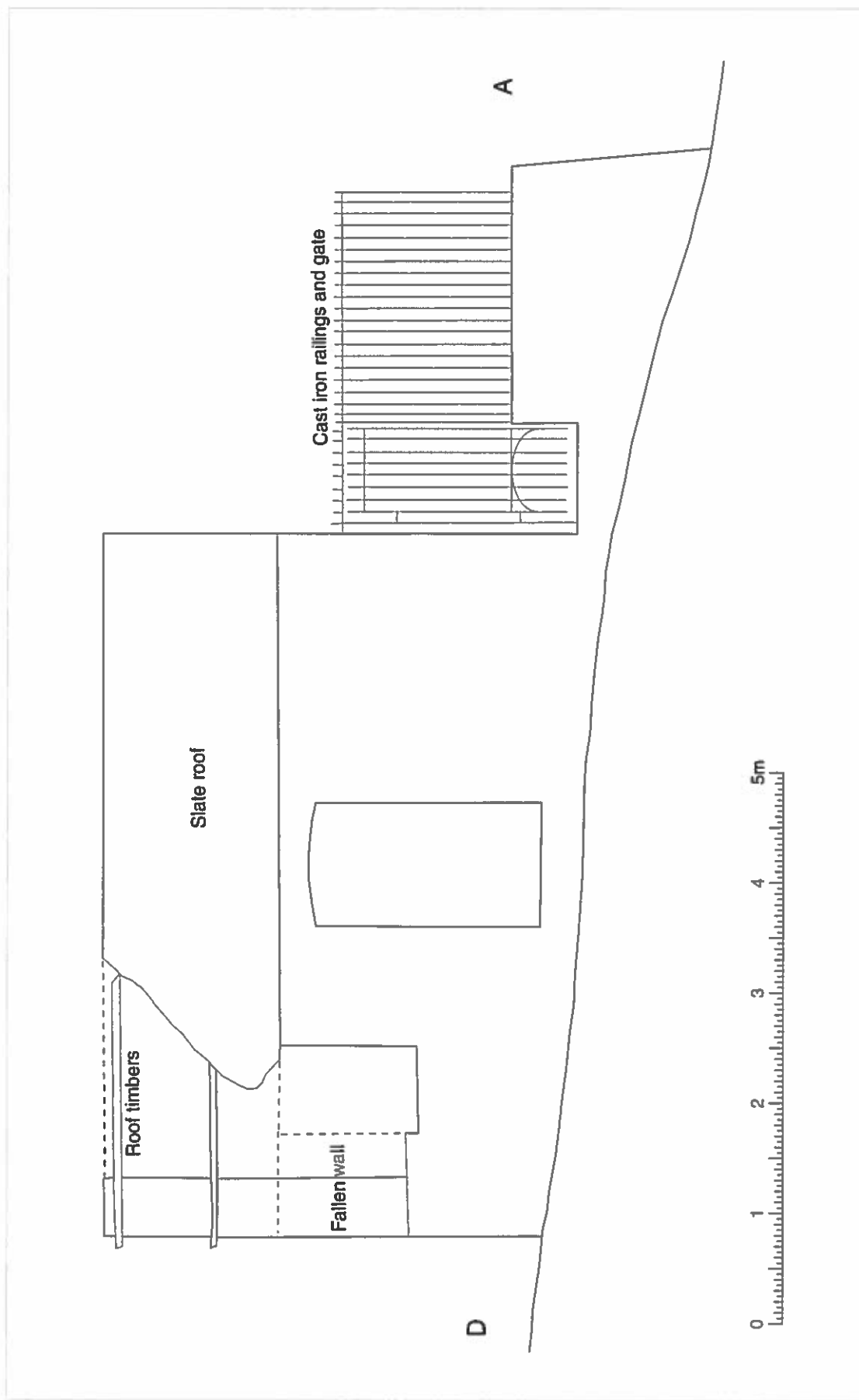


Fig 28: Kennels, Building D, west elevation D-A

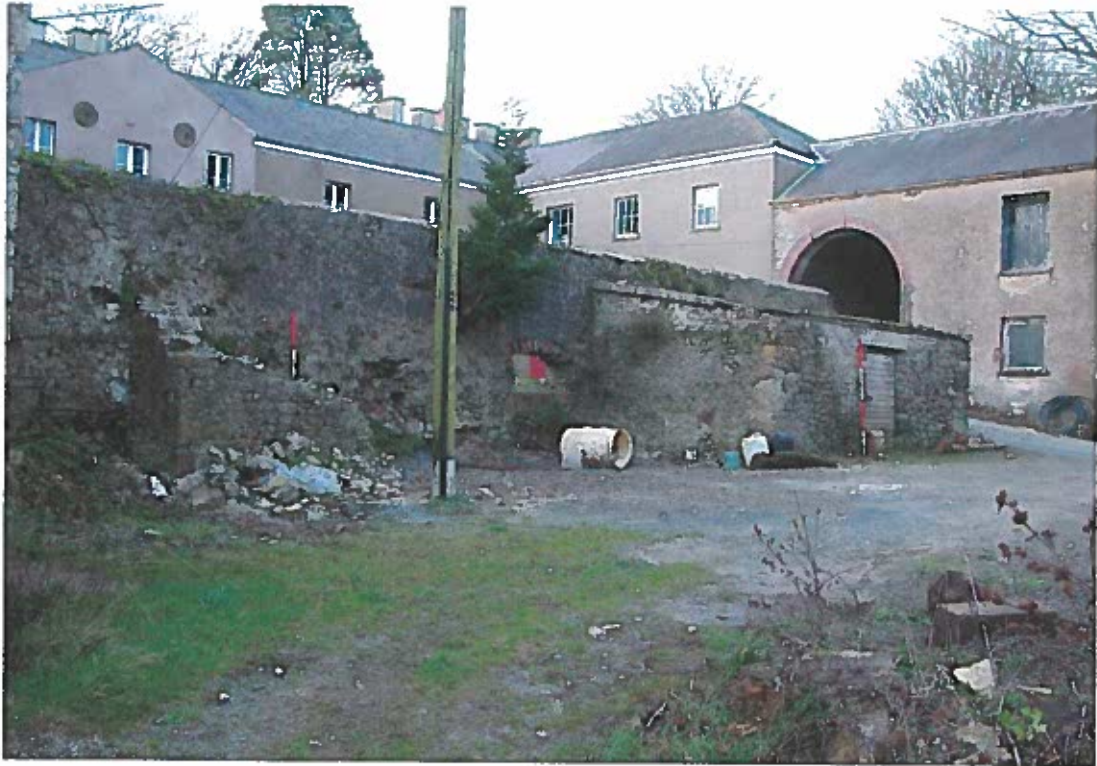


Plate CY1: General view of west wing of stable block, showing location of Wall A and Buildings B and C, looking south-west. Scale 2m

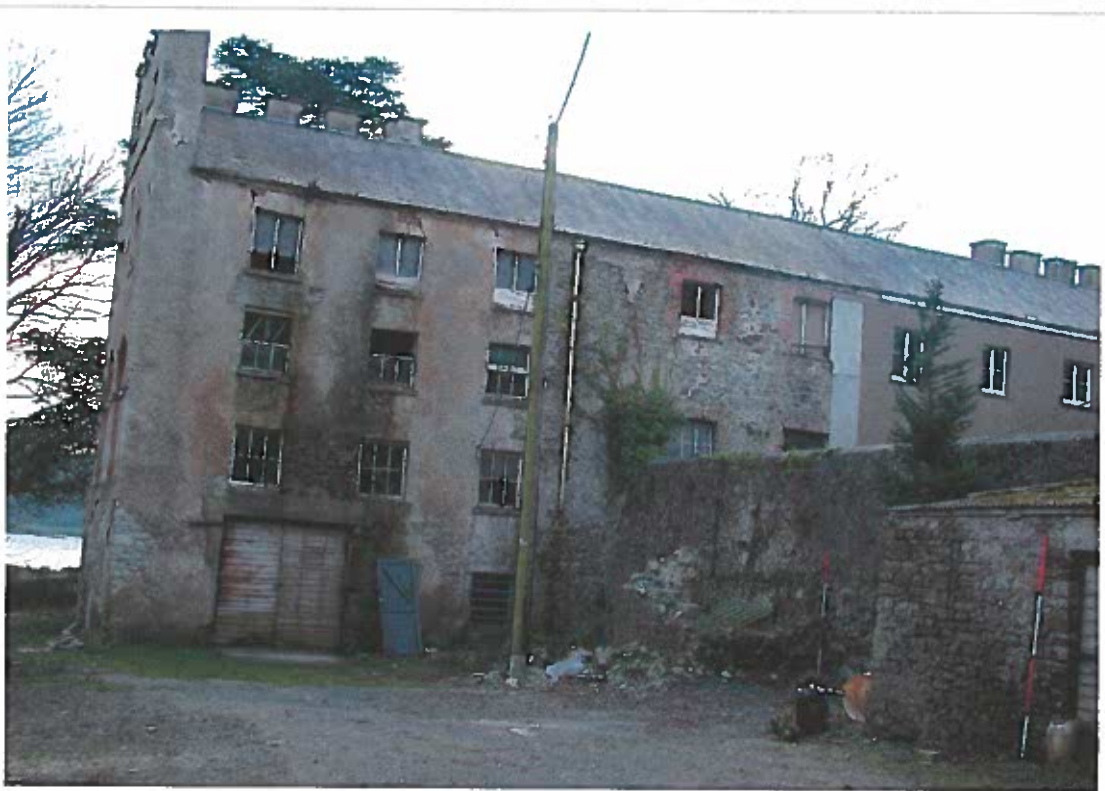


Plate CY2: General view of east wing of stable block, showing location of Wall A, and Buildings B and C, looking south-east. Scales 2m



Plate CY3: Wall A, east section, looking north. Scales 2m



Plate CY4: Wall A, central section, looking north. Scales 2m



Plate CY5: Wall A, west section, looking north. Scales 2m



Plate CY6: Wall A, detail of opening, looking north. Scale 2m



Plate CY7: Wall A, east section, looking south. Scales 2m



Plate CY8: Wall A, middle section, looking south. Scale 2m



Plate CY9: Wall A, detail of opening, looking south. Scale 2m



Plate CY10: Building B, north elevation. Scale 2m



Plate CY11: Building B, east elevation. Scale 2m



Plate CY12: Building C, north elevation. Scale 2m



Plate K1: General view of kennel building, looking south-east. Scales 2m



Plate K2: General view of kennel building, looking north



Plate K3: South elevation, west end, looking north. Scale 2m



Plate K4: South elevation, east end, looking north. Scales 2m



Plate K5: West elevation, north end, looking east. Scale 2m.



Plate K6: West elevation, middle section, looking east. Scale 2m



Plate K7: West elevation, south section, looking east. Scale 2m



Plate K8: East elevation, looking west. Scale 2m



Plate K9: North elevation, west section, looking south. Scales 2m



Plate K10: North elevation, east section, looking south. Scale 2m



Plate K11: Detail of fireplace in 'kitchen', looking south-east.
Note chimney flue in the corner. Scale 2m



Plate K12: Detail of cast iron gate into west run. Scale 2m

9 Site Interpretation

The evaluation trenches revealed two areas of a medieval buried topsoil horizon, one in Trench 1 to the east of the Stable Block and the other within Trench 5 in the Stable Block Courtyard. Although no archaeological features were revealed within these deposits the level below the present ground surface was established and medieval features, possibly relating to the church or the Commandery, may well be present in other areas of the site at or around this level.

Evaluation Trench 7, within the Stable Block, and Trench 3 to the east of the Stable Block revealed two sections of a stone built culvert. The makeup of the culvert and the alignment of both of the sections revealed suggest that they form part of the same structure. It would appear that the culvert was constructed before the erection of the Stable Block, as it runs beneath the east wing of the building in a southwest/northeast direction.

The Desk-based Assessment, Building Record of the wall and buildings within the courtyard and wall remains located in evaluation Trench 5 revealed the construction/demolition sequence of these structures. It would appear that the two surviving buildings on the southern side of the dividing wall along with the north/south wall located within Trench 5 are the remains of the 19th century Gatehouse.

10 Recommendations

The proposed developments at Slebech Park will have little effect on the archaeological resource on the eastern side of the Stable Block. The culvert located in Trenches 3 and 7 should be 'bridged' over and retained if at all possible.

Within the courtyard a two phase archaeological watching brief should be undertaken as follows:

Phase one should be undertaken during demolition of the courtyard wall (Wall A), so that further records can be made of the upper levels of the wall and the but joints recorded in the Building Recording.

Phase two should be undertaken when ground levels are reduced in the courtyard. This will investigate (just below ground level) the outline of buildings to the south of the courtyard wall, and at the level of the medieval ground surface any further archaeological features of medieval date.

11 Acknowledgements

Thanks to Jason Frankland and Paul Carley for their help with the fieldwork, and to the staff at Slebech for their help and co-operation on site.

Also thanks to the staff at the National Library of Wales, RCHMW and CA-HM for their help with the Desk-based Assessment.

12 Bibliography and References

Cartographic References

John Speed Map of 1610: The counties of Britian

Unattributed plan of Slebech Park (c. 1780): National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, ref: 13958 No 42

Coloured, (unattributed) pan of the park and gardens at Slebech Park showing proposed alterations (c. 1815): National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, ref: 13904 No 14

Estate Map (part) 1819: National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, ref: 13903 No 13

Tithe Award Survey and Schedule Apportionment's (1830): National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth

Plan of the estates of Baron and Baroness de Rutzen in the county of Pembrokeshire (1860): National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, ref: 13935 No 24

1st edition OS Map of 1887

2nd edition OS Map of 1908

Slebech papers: National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth: Bundle numbers 10819 – 10823

Documentary References

Regional Sites and Monuments Record

PRN'S:

3429	Slebech Park deserted settlement	13282	Slebech Park
3589	Island Mounds south	16742	Slebech Hall
3590	Island Mounds north	16989	Long Wood lime kiln
3591	Island Mounds finds	28054	Slebech settlement
3592	Slebech Park Commandery	38807	Trackway
3593	Slebech Park Mansion	38808	Ferry
3594	Sister's House Hospice	38811	Trackway
4333	St John the Baptist Church	40482	Slebech Park

11266 Minwear Farm finds	40483 The Terrace Garden
12559 Brickfield Bottom water mill	40491 Pond
43266 Lime Kiln	45062 Slebech Kennels

Other sources:

Historical Landscape Characterisation of the Milford Haven Waterway in the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic interest in Wales. Cambria Archaeology Report No 2002/02. Project Record No. 43924. Prepared for Cadw:WHM

Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in Wales. Part 1 – Parks and Gardens. Cadw.

RCHMW

PEM SN01-04	PEM ECC SN01SW
PEM Earthworks SN01	NA/PE/92/68e
NA/PE/92/68c	NA/PE/99/010e
NA/PE/91/33	NA/PE/90/49e

Photographic Evidence (RCHMW)

945032-53 (Oblique)	945032-50 (Oblique)
945032-47 (Oblique)	945032-52 (Oblique)
945032-45 (Oblique)	945032-66 (Oblique)

Aerial Photographs:

OS/64/209 ZEISS.12 F.8.500. 23 SEPTEMBER 1964. PEMBROKE

CPE/UK/2079.19 MAY 47. F20"/16.400'MULTI(4)58SQDN (2414)

106G/UK 14Y2 4 MAY 46 F/20"/540SQDN (4371)

Other Sources

Specification of Work for Archaeological Works at Slebech Park, Haverfordwest. AROS

Slebech Park Proposal – Environmental Report. Appendix A – Listed Buildings

Specification for Building Recording and Archaeological Evaluation at Slebech Park, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire. CAP.

Topographical survey – Exploratory Holes. Slebech Park, Haverfordwest Ground Investigation Ltd.



APPENDIX I:

IFA Standards and Guidelines

ii) IFA Standards and Guidance

THE INSTITUTE OF FIELD ARCHAEOLOGISTS (IFA)

Standard and Guidance for an archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures

The Standard

A programme of archaeological building investigation and recording will determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource associated with a specified building, structure or complex. It will draw on existing records (both archaeological and historical sources) and fieldwork. It will be undertaken using appropriate methods and practices which satisfy the stated aims of the project, and which comply with the *Code of conduct*, *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology*, and other relevant by-laws of the IFA. The programme will result in the production of drawings, an ordered accessible archive and a report.

Definition of archaeological building investigation and recording

The definition of archaeological building investigation and recording (ABIR) is a programme of work intended to establish the character, history, dating form and archaeological development of a specified building, structure, or complex and its setting, including buried components, on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater.

Purpose of archaeological building investigation and recording

The purpose of ABIR is to examine a specified building, structure or complex, and its setting, in order to inform:

- ◆ the formulation of a strategy for the conservation, alteration, demolition, repair of management of a building, or structure, or complex and its setting

or

- ◆ to seek a better understanding, compile a lasting record, analyse the findings/record, and then disseminate the results.

The Standard and Guidance for an archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures was formally adopted as IFA approved practice at the Annual General Meeting of the Institute held on 14th October 1994.

ii) IFA Standards and Guidance

THE INSTITUTE OF FIELD ARCHAEOLOGISTS (IFA)

Standard and Guidance for an archaeological field evaluation

The Standard

An archaeological field evaluation will determine, as far as it is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the projects, and comply with the *Code of conduct*, *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology*, and other relevant by-laws of the IFA.

Definition of field evaluation

The definition of an archaeological field evaluation is a limited programme of non-intrusive and / or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

Purpose of field evaluation

The purpose of field evaluation is to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following:

- ◆ the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource.
- ◆ the formulation of a strategy to initiate a threat to the archaeological resource.
- ◆ the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.

The Standard and Guidance for an archaeological field evaluation was formally adopted as IFA approved practice at the Annual General Meeting of the Institute held on 14th October 1994.

ii) IFA Standards and Guidance

THE INSTITUTE OF FIELD ARCHAEOLOGISTS (IFA)

Standard and Guidance for a desk-based assessment

The Standard

A desk-based assessment will determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature of the archaeological resource within a specified area. It will be undertaken using appropriate methods and practices which satisfy the stated aims of the project, and which comply with the *Code of conduct*, *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology*, and other relevant by-laws of the IFA.

Definition of a desk-based assessment

The definition of an desk-based assessment is a programme of assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater.

It consists of a collation of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

This definition and *Standard* do not cover chance observations, which should lead to an appropriate archaeological project being designed and implemented, nor do they apply to monitoring for preservation of remains *in situ*.

Purpose of a desk-based assessment

The purpose of a desk-based assessment is to gain information about the known or potential archaeological resource within a given area or site (including presence or absence, character and extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and relative quality of the potential archaeological resource), in order to make an assessment of its merit in context, leading to one or more of the following:

- ◆ the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource.
- ◆ the formulation of a strategy for further investigation, whether or not intrusive, where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be devised.
- ◆ the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.

The Standard and Guidance for an archaeological desk-based assessment was formally adopted as IFA approved practice at the Annual General Meeting of the Institute held on 14th October 1994.



APPENDIX II: **Summary of Context**

Summary of Context

1	Topsoil	2	Masonry waste
3	Buried topsoil	4	Topsoil
6	Masonry waste	7	Cut
8	Masonry waste	9	Culvert
10	Fill of Culvert	11	Natural
12	Topsoil	13	Dark Brown silty Clay
14	Natural	15	Cut
16	Fill of 15	17	Foundation Cut
18	Fill of 17	19	Topsoil
20	Dark brown silty clay	21a	Building A
21b	Building A	22	Foundation Cut
23	Wall A	24	Natural
25	Courtyard chippings	26	Black ash
27	Rubble and masonry	28	Rubble and Masonry
29	Wall	30	Rubble and masonry
31	Cut for services	32	Fill of 31
33	Courtyard cobbles	34	Masonry waste
35	Cut for 29	36	Fill of 35
37	Cut for 23	38	Fill of 37
39	Cut for repointing	40	Fill of 39
41	Mortar surface	42	Redeposited natural
43	Void	44	Linear Cut
45	Fill of 44	46	Natural
47	Void	48	Void
49	Void	50	Void
51	Concrete	52	Mid brown silty clay
53	Crushed red brick	54	Void
55	Mid brown silty clay	56	Black ash
57	Natural	58	Concrete
59	Mid brown silty clay	60	Mortar spread
61	Crushed red brick	62	Masonry waste
63	Culvert	64	Concrete
65	Mid brown silty clay	66	Cut
67	Fill of 66	68	Natural
69	Overburden	70	Mid brown silty clay
71	Natural	72	Natural
73	Concrete	74	Mid brown silty clay
75	Concrete plinth	76	Wall
77	Natural		



APPENDIX III: **Summary of Finds**

LIST OF POTTERY SHERDS FOUND IN EVALUATION TRENCHING

Context 3

Local red earthenware	1 body sherd	13 th century
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Context 10

Local red earthenware	2 sherds	late 18 th – early 19 th century
China	2 sherds	late 18 th – early 19 th century
English Stoneware	1 base sherd	late 18 th – early 19 th century

Context 20

Local red earthenware	3 sherds	late 18 th – early 19 th century
China	3 sherds	late 18 th – early 19 th century

Context 42

Local red earthenware	1 rim sherd	13 th century
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Context 45

Local red earthenware	3 body sherds	13 th century
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APPENDIX IV:

Levels Record

Levels Record

1	8.88m AOD	44	8.10m AOD
2	7.22m AOD	45	9.44m AOD
3	8.42m AOD	46	10.50m AOD
4	8.41m AOD	47	8.13m AOD
5	7.17m AOD	48	8.23m AOD
6	6.83m AOD	49	8.33m AOD
7	8.11m AOD	50	8.23m AOD
8	6.75m AOD	51	9.53m AOD
9	8.28m AOD	52	9.53m AOD
10	7.95m AOD	53	9.09m AOD
11	9.08m AOD	54	8.55m AOD
12	8.17m AOD	55	5.92m AOD
13	7.58m AOD	56	4.91m AOD
14	9.03m AOD	57	5.71m AOD
15	5.82m AOD	58	4.90m AOD
16	5.74m AOD	59	5.57m AOD
17	4.71m AOD	60	5.11m AOD
18	5.54m AOD	61	4.90m AOD
19	5.54m AOD	62	8.08m AOD
20	6.72m AOD	63	7.48m AOD
21	7.19m AOD	64	7.75m AOD
22	5.51m AOD	65	7.86m AOD
23	6.61m AOD	66	7.99m AOD
24	5.71m AOD		
25	6.65m AOD		
26	5.53m AOD		
27	6.43m AOD		
28	8.76m AOD		
29	7.05m AOD		
30	7.93m AOD		
31	7.71m AOD		
32	7.77m AOD		
33	7.76m AOD		
34	6.88m AOD		
35	7.75m AOD		
36	9.45m AOD		
37	8.30m AOD		
38	7.84m AOD		
39	7.71m AOD		
40	8.46m AOD		
41	9.46m AOD		
42	8.19m AOD		
43	9.46m AOD		



APPENDIX V: **Chronological Divisions**

_____	MODERN (1901 -)
_____	INDUSTRIAL (1700 - 1901)
_____	POST-MEDIEVAL (1547 - 1700)
_____	MEDIEVAL (1066 - 1547)
_____	EARLY MEDIEVAL (AD 450 - 1066)
_____	ROMAN BRITAIN (AD 43 - AD 450)
_____	IRON AGE (700 BC - AD 43)
_____	BRONZE AGE (2300 - 700 BC)
_____	NEOLITHIC (4000 - 2300 BC)
_____	MESOLITHIC (10,000 - 4000 BC)
_____	PALAEOLITHIC (500,000 - 10,000 BC)

Chronological Divisions as used by the Council for British Archaeology (CBA),
in the *British and Irish Archaeological Bibliography*.



APPENDIX VI:
Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Site Name:	Slebech Park, Pembrokeshire
Site Code:	SP/02/DBA/EV/BR
PRN:	3593
Other Ref No:	N/A
NGR:	S N03201399
Site Type:	Estate Park
Project Type:	Desk-based Assessment/Evaluation/Building Record
Project Officer:	Phil Evans and Kevin Blockley
Project Dates:	Decemberr 2002
Categories Present:	N/A
Location of Original Archive:	N/A
Location of duplicate Archives:	N/A
Number of Finds Boxes:	1
Location of Finds:	Not assigned
Museum Reference:	Not assigned
Copyright:	CAP Ltd.
Restrictions to access:	None