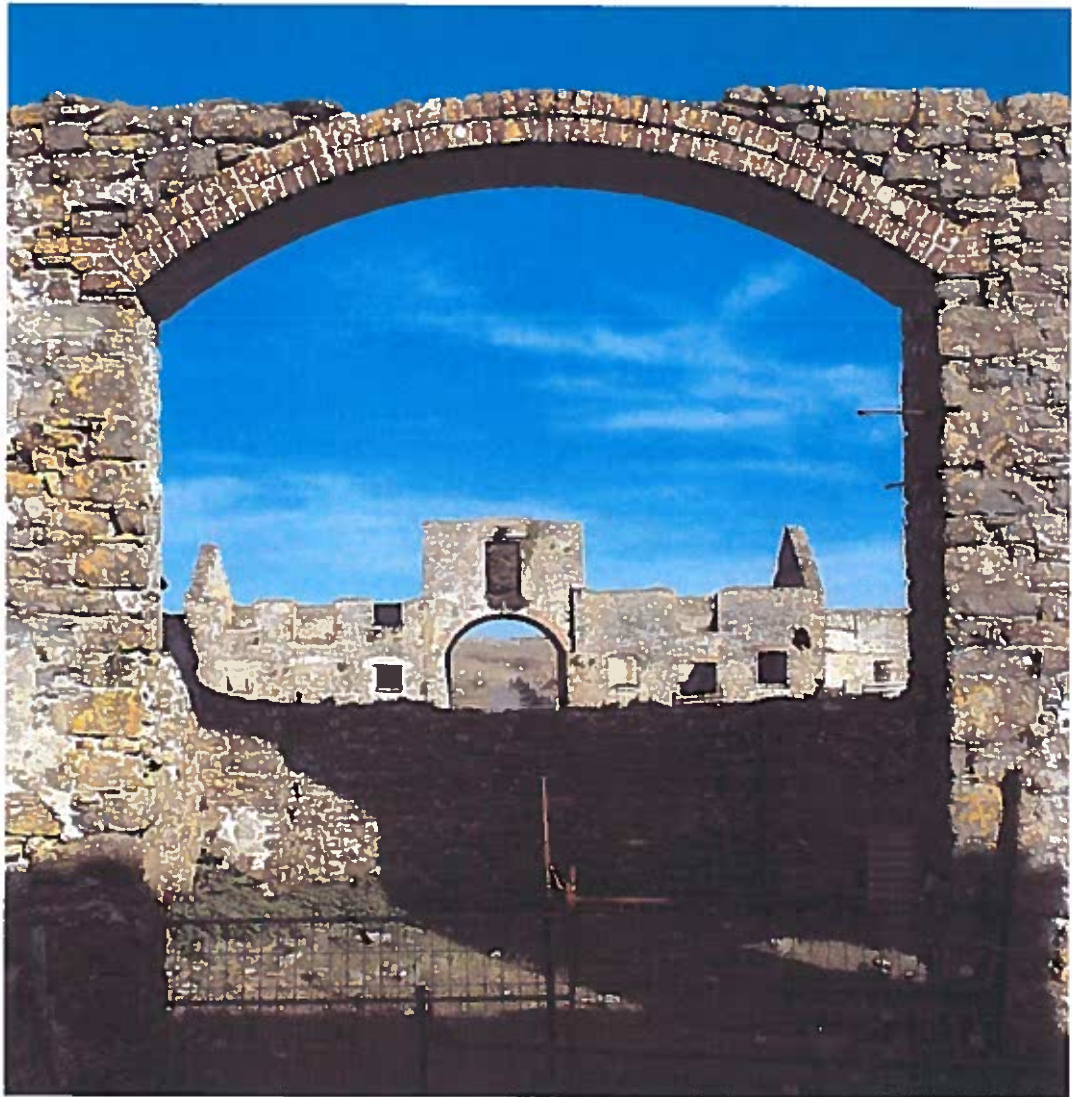


Brownslade Farm, ATE Castlemartin, Pembrokeshire

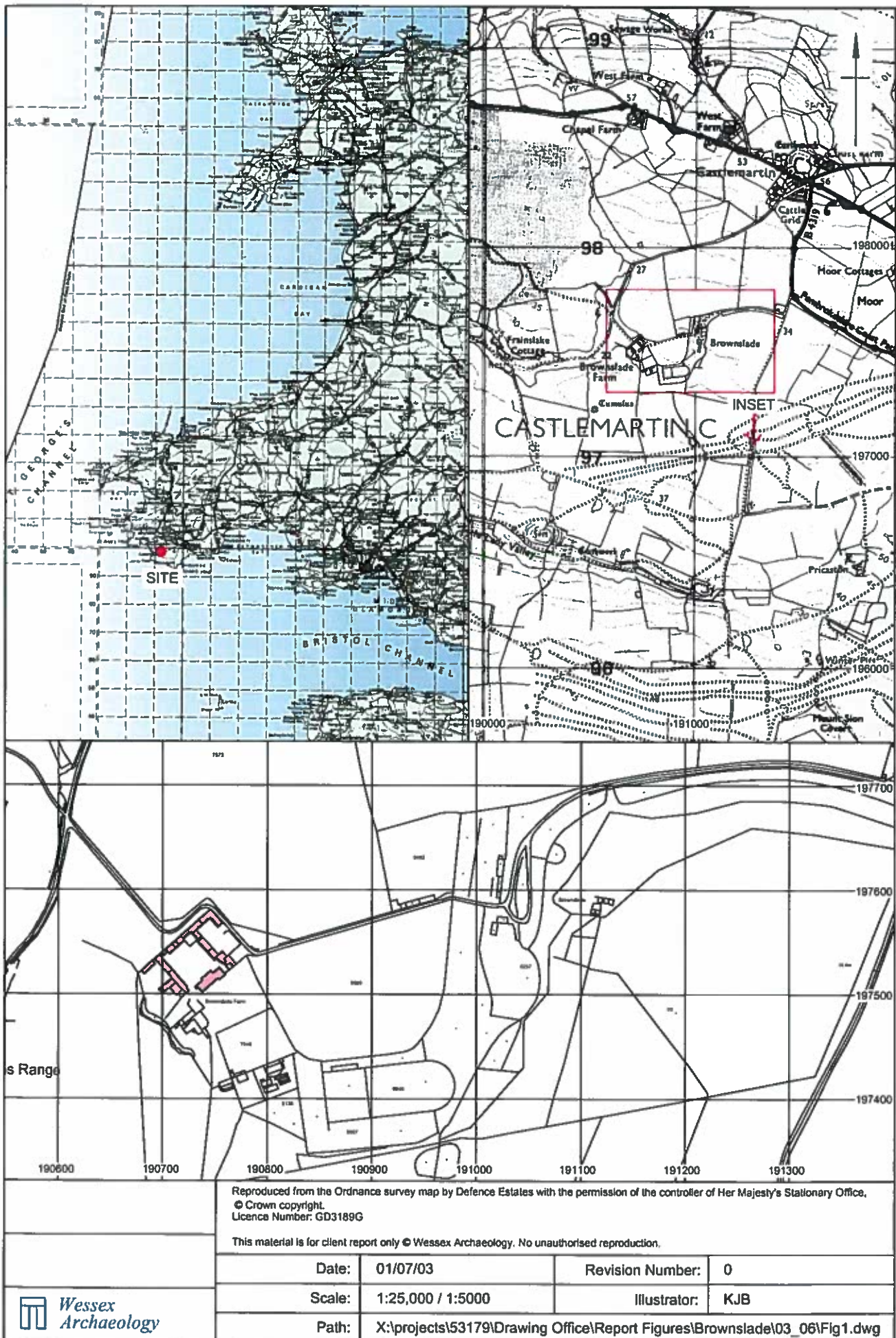
Archaeological Building Recording

Wessex Archaeology



Ref: 53179

July 2003



Site location maps

Figure 1

**Brownslade Farm,
ATE Castlemartin,
Pembrokeshire**

Archaeological Building Recording

Prepared for:
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July 2003

Brownslade Farm, ATE Castlemartin, Pembrokeshire

Archaeological Building Recording

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Defence Estates Environment Support Team to carry out building recording at Brownslade Farm, ATE Castlemartin, Pembrokeshire, centred on 190730 197530. The purpose of the survey was to provide a record of the building prior to planned consolidation and repair work. This work was undertaken on 14th and 15th April 2003.

Brownslade Farm is situated on the Castlemartin Training Area, approximately 1km to the south-west of the village of Castlemartin, Pembrokeshire. It is listed Grade II and lies within the boundaries of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

The Farm dates from c.1800 and comprises various buildings arranged around a central courtyard. Two further courtyards extend to the north-east and south-west. The buildings are largely constructed of local stone with some use of red brick for dressing window openings etc.

The Farm was acquired by the Army in 1939 and has been disused ever since. All floors, roofs and joinery have been removed and the buildings have been reduced to a stable ruin. The use of the yard for stock pens has controlled plant growth, however some vegetation, including ivy, is established along masonry at higher levels.

Acknowledgements

The building recording was commissioned by Defence Estates Environment Support Team, and the assistance of Niall Hammond, the Environmental Advisor (Archaeology), of that organisation is acknowledged. The work was funded by the Castlemartin ATE. The staff at Castlemartin Range Office are also thanked for their assistance.

The assistance given by Richard Jones at Cambria Archaeology and staff at the Pembrokeshire Record Office, Haverfordwest, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Aberystwyth and the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth is gratefully acknowledged.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Paul Falcini. The building recording was undertaken by Bob Davis and Charlotte Cutland. Elaine Wakefield carried out the photographic survey with assistance from Philip Young. This report was compiled by Charlotte Cutland and the illustrations produced by Kitty Brandon and Rob Goller.

Brownslade Farm, ATE Castlemartin, Pembrokeshire

Archaeological Building Recording

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Defence Estates Environment Support Team (hereafter DE) to carry out building recording at Brownslade Farm, ATE Castlemartin, Pembrokeshire, centred on 190730 197530. The purpose of the survey was to provide a record of the building prior to planned consolidation and repair work.
- 1.1.2 Brownslade Farm is situated on the Castlemartin Training Area, approximately 1km to the south-west of the village of Castlemartin, Pembrokeshire (**Figure 1**). It is listed Grade II and lies within the boundaries of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.
- 1.1.3 The building recording was undertaken in accordance with a project design (Wessex Archaeology 2003), which was agreed in advance of the start of the project by DE and Cambria Archaeology.

2 METHODS

2.1 Aim

- 2.1.1 The aim of the building recording work was to provide a documented baseline to inform future consolidation and repair works. The baseline will also be used as a basis for future study and research.

2.2 Archive Consultation

- 2.2.1 The National Monuments Record held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW), Aberystwyth, was consulted for and reference material and archaeological records. The aerial photographs held by this establishment were also viewed.
- 2.2.2 The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, was visited for reference information and in order to consult their collection of historic maps. In addition the Pembrokeshire Record Office at Haverfordwest was visited.

- 2.2.3 The Pembrokeshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) held by Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire was also consulted for this report.

2.3 On-Site Recording

- 2.3.1 The building recording was carried out on 14th and 15th April 2003. Existing unmeasured architect's plans were used as an aid to describing the building, no new drawn record was required by the brief. The buildings were inspected from ground level internally and externally. No first floors remain apart from the dovecote over the entrance. The main record was created using photography.
- 2.3.2 Written notes were made on the following:
- Materials and methods of construction
 - Evidence for changes, additions and alterations
 - Evidence for phasing or development of the buildings
 - Condition of the buildings
- 2.3.3 General views of the buildings, external and internal elevations and interesting architectural features were photographed. In total 226 colour slides were taken, along with 77 digital images.
- 2.3.4 A representative selection of photographs and digital images are shown in this report (Figures 3-13). The full photographic archive will be deposited at an appropriate museum.
- 2.3.5 This methodology is broadly in line with level 2/3 as expressed in the document *Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification* (3rd Edition, RCHME 1996).

3 BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Brownslade Farm buildings are arranged around a courtyard with the main elevation facing north-west (**Figure 1**). There is an additional group of buildings forming a courtyard to the north-east, and a small range to the south-west, bounded by a rocky outcrop. A large derelict domestic building lies to the south-east. Brownslade House itself was situated to the east but was demolished c.1980.
- 3.1.2 The farm buildings were constructed on the Campbell (Cawdor) estate c.1800. The main courtyard is Listed Grade II as 'an attractive group of model farm buildings laid out with a sense of architectural composition...the historic nucleus of the home farm and identifiable with John Mirehouse, the agricultural improver'.

- 3.1.3 The main complex of farm buildings has been broken into its component parts and each structure has been labelled (A), (B), (C) etc. The plan (**Figure 2**) shows these divisions. Each building is described individually below. In discussion with the Environmental Advisor (Archaeology) it was decided that the north-east and south-west courtyards only merited a general description due to the incomplete nature of the remaining buildings.

3.2 Gateway (A)

- 3.2.1 The front (north-west) elevation of the courtyard is marked by an entrance gateway (**Figure 3**) which still has the original cobbled surface, probably using local beach pebbles. The gateposts are of coursed rubble stone and appear to be earlier than the rest of the structure, with straight joints (**Plate 1**) against the masonry either side. Two blocked openings on each side of the gateway once led into cart sheds (B) and (K); the timber lintels to the openings are visible (**Plate 2**).

- 3.2.2 The barrel vault above the gateway is of red brick, with the two exposed arches being of higher quality construction than the main vault. A 1975 Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) survey dates the vault between 1838 and 1866. Above the vault is a large dovecote or pigeon loft. Built of coursed rubble stone, there are central doorways in the north-east, south-west and south-east elevations. No roof structure survives and some masonry has been removed, destroying evidence of its former construction. The 1975 RCAHMW survey records a pyramidal roof, possibly once with a finial or weather-vane.

- 3.2.3 Inside the dovecote there are many nesting places built into the walls, some of which continue to be used by pigeons and crows. There is substantial plant growth inside the dovecote, which could ultimately affect the integrity of the vault below.

3.3 Cottage (B)

- 3.3.1 Built against the gateway and abutting the gateposts with a straight joint, this building (**Figure 4**) was probably constructed when the gateway was improved (1838-66), acting as a buttress to the barrel vault. Although it appears to be a domestic building, the absence of a chimney stack would suggest otherwise.

- 3.3.2 Constructed of coursed random rubble, the south-east (courtyard) elevation is symmetrical, with windows either side of a central doorway and a further central doorway on the first floor. There is a first floor opening into the dovecote, possibly a later addition. The windows and entrance door have canted brick arches and timber lintels, the latter in the windows are replacements. The windows have brick sills while the central first floor doorway has dressed stone surrounds.

3.3.3 Internal inspection of the building (**Plate 3**) revealed corbels on the south-west and north-east walls, originally supporting one axial beam. Transverse corbels remain in the south-east wall, however the corresponding corbels opposite have been stripped out, leaving holes in the north-west wall. The remains of a cement render are visible at first floor level, also seen in patches on the ground floor. The timber lintels seen in the gateway are also visible in the south-west wall.

3.3.4 No roof structure survives, however holes for double purlins remain, along with a scar demonstrating the building had a pitched roof. Some plant growth is visible at eaves level, especially on the gable end (north-east).

3.3.5 The building has several structural cracks, most notably that between the central doorways. This crack (**Plate 4**) runs right through the stone sill of the first floor doorway, through the masonry below and through the mortar of the brick arch of the ground floor doorway. A second crack runs from the eastern corner of the building at eaves level, down to a hole in the south-east elevation where a corbel has been removed.

3.4 Cattle Shed (C)

3.4.1 This building is a single-storey L-shaped byre or cattle shed in the northern corner of the courtyard (**Figure 5**). Built of coursed rubble stone to approximately 1 metre high with random rubble masonry above, the courtyard side of the cattle shed consists of five large drum piers (**Plate 5**). The spaces between some of these piers have been infilled with rubble masonry to give continuous walls.

3.4.2 At the west corner is a doorway with access to the road north-west of the farm buildings. Along the north-west elevation is a stone platform with a cement top, presumably the base for a wooden manger, the holes for which are visible at points along the wall. There is substantial plant growth on top of the platform and this is encroaching into the adjoining wall.

3.4.3 No roof structure survives. The remains of two purlins are visible in the south-west wall, above which is the scar of a lean-to roof; the east wall sloped to accommodate the roof structure. There is some plant growth along the top of the north-west wall, and substantial ivy growth along the north-east and east walls.

3.4.4 A low wall and fence forms an open pen in front of the main cattle shed. The wall has brick structure at its base with cement render, possibly to hold a water trough or additional mangers.

3.5 Buttressed Barn (D)

3.5.1 Separated from the Cattle Shed (C) by an alleyway through to the north-east courtyard, this building forms the north-east side of the main group of farm buildings.

- 3.5.2 Again built of coursed rubble stone, this building (**Figure 6**) is 1½ storeys high and has four large buttresses with slate tops (later additions) to its south-west (courtyard) elevation (**Plate 6**). This elevation has three doorways, each with a flat voussoir head; there is also a central doorway to the upper floor. In the north-east wall there is a doorway opposite the middle ground floor entrance, suggesting there was once a central passage through the building. There is a blocked doorway in the north-west wall which led through to the alleyway mentioned above. In the south-east wall is a further doorway which also leads round to the north-east courtyard; this has a replacement oak lintel.
- 3.5.3 Two windows have been inserted into the south-west elevation, these have oak lintels. Original openings are narrow slits with splayed internal reveals and stone lintels (**Plate 7**). These occur in opposing pairs along the south-west and north-east elevations and were probably used for aeration, suggesting that this building was some kind of granary or store. Windows in the upper floor are located directly below the wall-plate, one in the north-east elevation is blocked.
- 3.5.4 Internal inspection of the building revealed very large corbels (**Plate 8**) in the south-west and north-east walls, two of which are of dressed stone. Joist holes are located in the north-west and south-east walls. Visible in the gable ends are the holes for double purlins. The building is rendered internally at ground floor level. The 1975 RCAHMW survey recorded a massive roof structure with roughly chamfered beams supported by the corbels. The roof trusses had lapped collars and two purlins per side and the whole structure was covered in slate.
- 3.5.5 At the south-east end the building is joined by a straight joint to an external stone staircase which leads to a door in the south corner of the first floor. The door has a replacement oak lintel.
- 3.5.6 There is a structural crack in the south-east end. An additional crack is visible above the blocked doorway in the north-west wall. This wall is covered in substantial ivy growth, which, combined with the cracking, could jeopardise the integrity of the north-west and south-west walls. There is also significant ivy growth on the south-east wall.
- 3.5.7 The 1975 survey reports that 'the size of the beams and the rough detailing of the corbels suggests that it may be the earliest outbuilding remaining' although a date is not given. RCAHMW phase plans included in the 1989 PSA report indicate that this building is early eighteenth century in date.

3.6 Threshing Barn (E)(F) and (G)

- 3.6.1 This is a large stone building with larger dressed quoins, of typical threshing barn design (**Figure 7** and **Plate 9**). The central doorways in the north-west and south-east elevations were designed to funnel the wind through during the winnowing process. The stone threshing floor is still visible. The north-

west doorway has a deep segmental brick arch, while the slightly smaller south-east doorway has stone voussoirs.

- 3.6.2 There are many tall air-vents (**Plate 10**) in the south-west end of the barn, some of which have been partially blocked. These slit openings with splayed internal reveals are similar to those in building (D) but much longer. The building would have had a pitched roof, but none of this survives.
- 3.6.3 The 1975 RCAHMW report recorded a plank built door with long vertical bolts in situ on the south-east doorway. It also recorded that the south-west bay had a brick floor while the north-east bay was of concrete. RCAHMW phase plans included in the 1989 PSA report indicate that this building is early eighteenth century in date.
- 3.6.4 While the south-west end of the barn is largely intact, the north-east end is much altered. Beyond a rubble stone and brick wall dividing the threshing floor from the remainder of the barn, a series of modifications have taken place. In the north-west elevation there is a large opening through to a lean-to building ((G) constructed against the courtyard front of the threshing barn). Above the opening is a replacement timber lintel supporting infill masonry and a (?) failed timber lintel with loose rubble above. To the right (north-east) of this opening is a shaped recess in the wall with two small openings above containing some parts of a timber frame (**Plate 11**). The 1975 survey states these were drive-shaft bearings for a small engine.
- 3.6.5 The former north-east end of the barn is partially demolished and now leads through to building (F). A door has been inserted in the north corner, while another opening has been blocked slightly to the east. In the east corner are three stone steps leading to the rear half of building (F).
- 3.6.6 Building (F) (**Plate 12**) is divided in two by a rubble wall. The rear (south-eastern) part has doorways at ground and first floor level in the north-east wall. To the right (south-east) of the ground floor doorway is a rectangular recess with a part brick surround and joist holes above. The front (north-western) part has two wide openings, both with timber lintels and brick surrounds. One is adjacent to the doorway in the north-east wall and the second is in the north-west wall, leading into the courtyard. A doorway leads through to the main barn (E). Two iron beams cross this part of the building between the dividing wall and north-west wall. There is a partially infilled gap between buildings (F) and (G).
- 3.6.7 Building (G) (**Plate 13**) is constructed over the central door in the north-west (courtyard) elevation of the main barn (E). It is a simple one-storey, rubble stone built building, previously with a lean-to roof, which may have housed machinery driven by the drive shaft inside the north-east end of the main barn.

3.7 Stables (H)

- 3.7.1 This building (**Figure 8**), again built of rough coursed rubble stone, is of two storeys with a stone external staircase on its north-east side (**Plate 14**) which leads to the first floor of building (I). The building only has two openings, a ground floor doorway with a window above; doorway reveals are in poor condition with many stones missing. The building had a pitched roof, now removed. The 1975 RCAHMW report suggests it was a stable with tack room attached. The possible tack room to the south-west is of similar construction but is only one storey high and has a window in the south-west wall dressed in red brick

3.8 Cowshed (I)

- 3.8.1 Joined with a straight joint to building H and the attached staircase, this is a two-storey, rubble stone building in the southern corner of the courtyard (**Figure 9**). A two-storey extension (possibly a stable) is attached by a straight joint on the north-west wall.
- 3.8.2 The north-east (courtyard) elevation has five ground floor openings and two at first floor level. The two end doorways have red brick surrounds, block bonded into the stone walls. The three openings between these doors have stone surrounds and voussoirs. The outer two of these openings have been blocked to sill level and now act as windows, whilst the central one remains in use as a door. There are no openings in the south-west elevation.
- 3.8.3 Inside the building is rendered. Rough stone corbels remain in the south-west wall (**Plate 15**), while the north-east wall contains much brickwork (**Plate 16**) and the remains of tie straps (some of which are also visible in the opposite wall). Fixings for mangers (similar to those in building B) are visible in the south-west wall.
- 3.8.4 At first floor level there is a doorway in the south-east wall (accessed by stone steps), and two doorways in the north-west wall, both now blocked. The pitched roof has been removed and consequently there is some vegetation growing along the eaves line, especially along the south-west wall.
- 3.8.5 The extension building (stable) has a small window in the north-east elevation. To the right (north-west) is a doorway, originally with a window above. The lintel of the doorway has fallen out, leaving the masonry above to fall out too. The loss of this masonry, which ties the north-west and north-east walls together, is causing the north-west wall to lean – a potentially dangerous situation effecting the structural integrity of the building. To the right (north-west) is an entrance to the south-west courtyard. The 1975 RCAHMW report suggests this building was a stable, and states that it has a floor of beach-pebbles on edge, although this is no longer visible.

3.9 Open-fronted byre (J)

- 3.9.1 To the north-west of the cowshed (I) is a long open area, probably open-fronted byres (**Figure 10**). The 1975 RCAHMW survey states that this area also had a beach-pebble floor. A rubble wall approximately 2 metres high projects from the courtyard boundary wall at the point of a blocked opening. Block bonded into the boundary wall here is a column of bricks, possibly a flue for a small smithy-hearth (RCAHMW 1975).
- 3.9.2 The wall has some surviving render. At the west corner is an entrance to the south-west courtyard, which also gives access to the road north-west of the farm buildings. A large timber (**Plate 17**) is set at an angle across the west corner, possibly acting as a tie to the north-west and south-west walls. Adjacent to this is a blocked opening, also visible from outside the courtyard.
- 3.9.3 A large rounded pier (similar to those in building (C)) stands nearby. This was part of a mono-pitched roof structure, the scar of which is visible on the south-west wall of building (L).

3.10 Cottage (K)

- 3.10.1 Similar to building (B), this building was constructed against the gateway (A) and abuts the gateposts with a straight joint (**Figure 11**). Like (A), the building was probably constructed when the gateway was improved, acting as a buttress to the barrel vault. Although it appears to be a domestic building, the absence of a chimney stack might suggest otherwise.
- 3.10.2 Constructed of coursed random rubble, the south-east (courtyard) elevation is symmetrical, with windows either side of a central doorway with this arrangement echoed on the first floor. There is a first floor opening into the dovecote, possibly a later addition. The windows and entrance door have replacement timber lintels. The windows all have red brick sills, and the first floor openings are dressed entirely in brick.
- 3.10.3 Unlike building (B), this building does not retain any corbels, however joist holes are visible in the north-west wall. The remains of a cement render are visible at first floor level, also seen in patches on the ground floor. The timber lintels seen in the gateway are also visible in the north-east wall.
- 3.10.4 No roof structure survives, however holes for double purlins remain, along with a scar demonstrating the building had a pitched roof (**Plate 18**). Some plant growth is visible at eaves level, especially on the gable end (south-west), and notably in cracks in the rubble walls. Some structural cracking is visible in the masonry, the eastern corner of the building in particular.

3.11 South-West Courtyard

- 3.11.1 Bounded by an extension to the front (north-west) wall of the main courtyard and a natural outcrop of rock, this area contains single-storey pens and a derelict concrete building (**Figure 12**). The yard has a natural rock floor.

- 3.11.2 Behind building (I) is an open yard, possibly for poultry. Pens project from the wall behind building (I) (**Plate 19**). Two buildings, each divided into four pens, originally had pitched roofs and were possibly for lambing or - as the 1975 RCAHMW report states - pigsties. An additional pen to the south-west was certainly a pigsty and is only partly roofed. Some of the original decorative stone tiles remain; the 1975 RCAHMW report assumes this sty was separate from the others as it housed the prize boar.
- 3.11.3 The derelict structure at the north-west side of the courtyard is of concrete, dressed to look like rusticated stone (**Plate 20**). The building has almost totally collapsed.
- 3.11.4 From this area of the south-west courtyard it is possible to see coping tiles along the main courtyard wall (**Plate 21**).

3.12 North-East Courtyard

- 3.12.1 This area of Brownslade Farm is rather overgrown (**Figure 13**). Three main buildings survive, all of rubble stone construction. Forming the north-east perimeter of the courtyard are the remains of two buildings. The eastern building has a apsidal north-west end and masonry survives to a height of approximately 1.5 metres. The northerly building remains as two gable-ends, the northernmost of which has received some repointing. To the west of this are the remaining walls of a long structure, whose north-west wall forms the boundary of this courtyard.
- 3.12.2 The north-east courtyard was more intact when inspected by RCAHMW in 1975. It reported that along the north-west wall was a long byre with attached yard, and that the byre had a pantiled roof and feeding trough. At right angles to this building was an open-fronted shed, the south-west wall plate supported by simple cast iron pillars with moulded capitals. The report states that the apsidal-ended building was a horse-gin, possibly to provide power to the saw-pit shown on the 1908 map. The RCAHMW dates part of the yard to 1838 with the remainder built by 1860.

4 HISTORY

- 4.1.1 Brownslade Farm lies in the parish of Castlemartin, a name possibly derived from the name of a nearby earth mound castle 'Castell-mor-dyn'. The parish forms a promontory on the coast, with Freshwater West and St George's Channel to the north and the Bristol Channel to the south and west.
- 4.1.2 The land at Brownslade was leasehold of the Lord of the Manor by 1599, and 'Brown Slade' is listed in records of 1665 as a property with a current lease (RCAHMW). 'Slade' is a South Wales term for a dry valley, usually in reference to limestone areas such as the Castlemartin and Gower Peninsula (MacNamara 1988).

- 4.1.3 The old house contained eight hearths in 1670 and was occupied by John Leach. The Leach family remained in the house until 1789 when its lease was surrendered to John Campbell (later Baron Cawdor) of nearby Stackpole Court for the princely sum of £3,500. Another family also lived at Brownslade at the same time, suggesting there were once two houses there. Four generations of the Holcombe family lived at Brownslade until Admiral Essex Holcombe, R.N. died in 1770. (Jones 1996, 14)
- 4.1.4 John Mirehouse arrived at Brownslade c. 1770. He had been at Cambridge University with John Campbell and was employed by him as his Pembrokeshire land-agent. In 1786, Mirehouse is recorded as being the tenant of Brownslade (Jones 1996, 14), which was rebuilt c. 1784 to a design believed to be by William Thomas – an architect who had published previous designs for Brownslade in 1783 (Lloyd 1989).
- 4.1.5 The surveyor John Johnnes worked with Mirehouse on the development of the farmstead. In *'The Scenery, Antiquities and Biography of South Wales'* (Malkin 1804), the author heaps much praise on Mirehouse and his farm:
- '...The gardens, which were doomed by friendly forebodings to eternal barrenness, are so sheltered by thick plantations between them and the sea, as to have been made the most productive of the country...Mr Mirehouse is esteemed one of the best gentlemen farmers in the kingdom; his farmyard and offices are on a large scale, and admirably arranged.'*
- 4.1.6 In 1800, the 'Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce' bestowed on Mirehouse the gold medal for improving waste moors. Malkin (1804) describes Mirehouse's achievements:
- 'The land, which is within a mile of Mr Mirehouse's residence, lies between two hills, about a quarter of a mile from the sea. It had been probably for ages a morass, inaccessible to cattle, except on its borders...By an expence [sic] of five hundred pounds, part of it was made into the most valuable meadow in the neighbourhood...The arable part produces excellent wheat, while the rest yields hay abundantly, and breeds a considerable number of cattle.'*
- 4.1.7 Little is recorded of Brownslade throughout the nineteenth century. The farm developed steadily with the construction of the courtyards to the north-east and south-west, but it would seem that the farm was so efficient, little change was needed.
- 4.1.8 The Tithe Apportionment of 1836 shows that Earl Cawdor was the landowner and John Mirehouse Esquire the occupier. The Tithe Award map of 1838 shows the main courtyard (with an open entrance-way) and part of the north-east courtyard. The 1866 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the vaulted roof of the entrance and additional buildings to the north-east and south-west courtyards (Figure 14).

4.1.9 On 23 August 1902, King Edward VII, Queen Alexandra and Princess Victoria, along with a large entourage, arrived at Brownslade on a private visit. The Royal party took lunch at the house, then spent two hours in the gardens inspecting a herd of Castlemartin cows, which had been driven to Brownslade from nearby Bulliber Farm.

4.1.10 The modern farming methods at Brownslade continued to impress all who visited. Fenton (1903, 223) writes:

'Hence the road takes me in front of Brownslade, the western extremity of Lord Cawdor's immense and contiguous property...a place worthy of the attention of every traveller, as a specimen of farming brought to a degree of perfection unexampled in this country, and not outdone in any, and highly worthy of imitation. The scale on which improvement is carried on here is immense, whether we consider the extent of the holding, the means employed to turn it to account, or the whole system in gross or detail; for gates, hedges, roads, and every thing incident to a farm which meet the eye, indicate a superior style of management.'

4.1.11 The 1910 Finance Act Record of Valuations records the occupier of Brownslade as Col. F. W. Lambton. The land and house covered 56 acres, with the land being valued at £26-10s per annum and the house at £117-10s per annum. Alderman (2000) recalls the triumphal return in 1902 of Captain George Lambton to Brownslade following the Boer War. Presumably he was Col. Lambton's son.

4.1.12 In September 1939 the Parish of Castlemartin was chosen by the Army (despite strong protest) to be the Headquarters of the 'Armoured Fighting Vehicle Range'. Eleven farms and houses were taken over and, amid the normal harvest activity, the farms were cleared by October that year. Further land was taken to the east in 1940.

4.1.13 Correspondence following the acquisition of Brownslade by the Army, shows that prior to their arrival the house had become a guest-house (Jones 1996, 14 states this was following the Second World War). A valuation of compensation due to the lessee of Brownslade House (Mr Parcell) in respect of the acquisition of the property by the War Department shows the acrimonious nature of the takeover.

'Mr Parcell has suffered more than exceptional loss in losing Brownslade...[he] showed exceptional foresight and initiative ...in attempting a new business on so large a scale and in that remote part of the country. The reward was early success and a definite indication of more to come. He may be excused in not foreseeing the smallest likelihood of the Government also discovering possibilities in such a remote district...'

4.1.14 The compensation claim totalled £7614 0s 7d, which included a claim by the tenants of Brownslade Cottages. (Ref. Pembrokeshire Record Office D/ROC/MISC/9/11)

- 4.1.15 An account in Alderman (2000, 57) states that 'the Military established their H.Q. at Brownslade, the mansion being the Officers' Mess and various offices'. Another account recalls

'whilst we gathered in the 1940 harvest...three German aircraft flew low over us and went on to attack the oil tanks at Pennar. One of the aircraft returned and machine-gunned the army tanks at Brownslade...'

- 4.1.16 It would appear that for the first few years, Brownslade was the centre of Army operations on the Castlemartin Range. In August 1943 the Headquarters moved to the newly-built camp at Merriem. The RCAHMS surveyed Brownslade House and Farm in 1975, describing the farm as 'derelict and near-ruinous'. Brownslade House was demolished c.1980.

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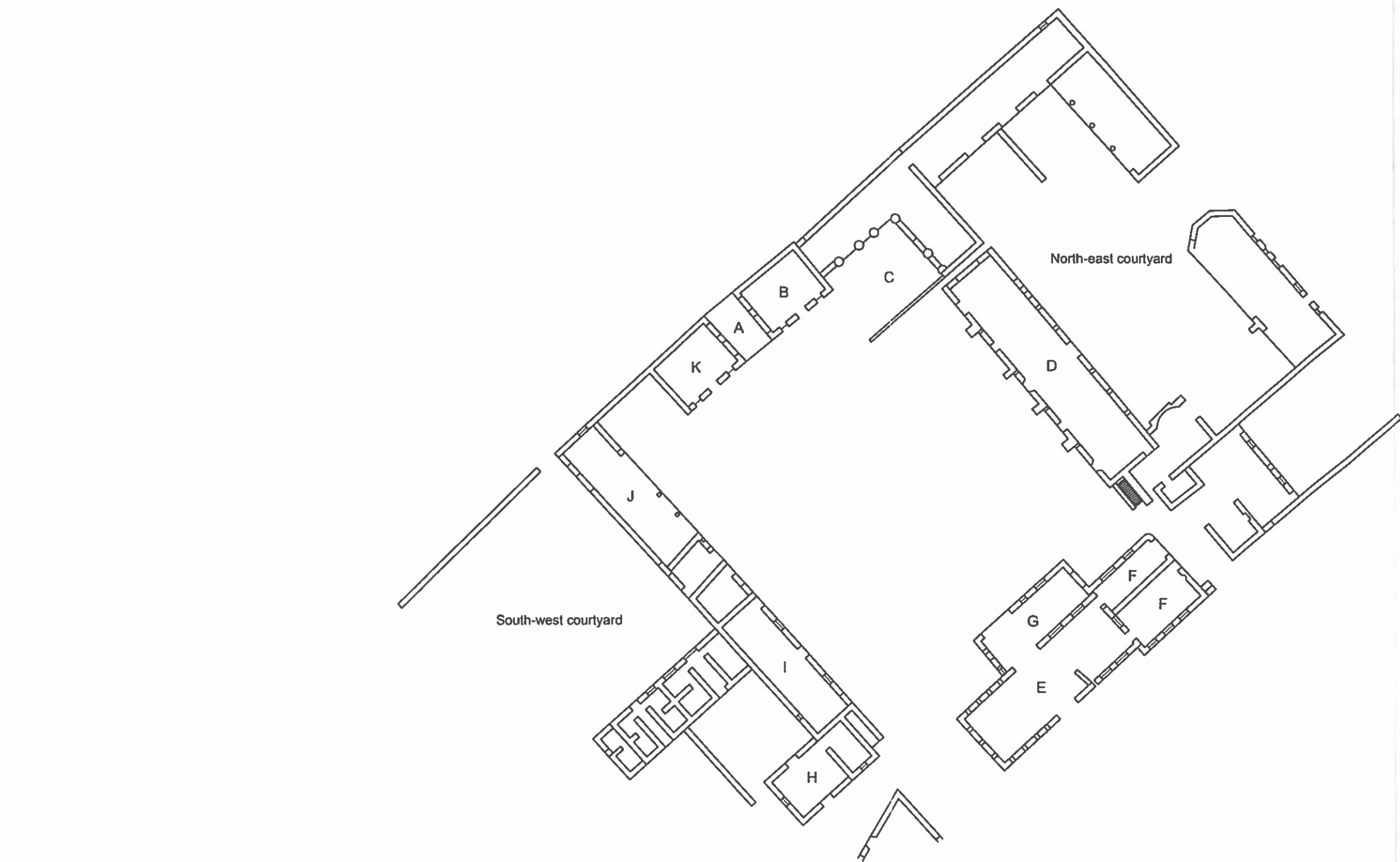
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Cattle shed (C)

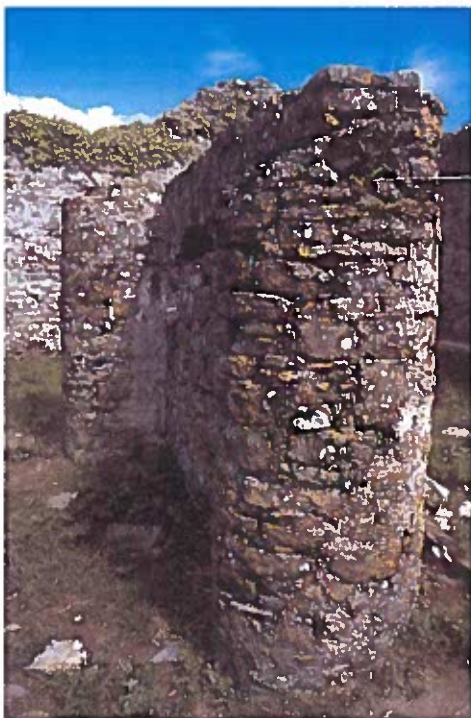


Plate 5. Drum piers

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Butressed Barn (D)



Plate 6. Buttresses



Plate 7. Slit openings



Plate 8. Corbels


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Figure 6



Plate 11. Drive shaft fixing



Plate 12. Building F

Opening to building G



Stables (H)

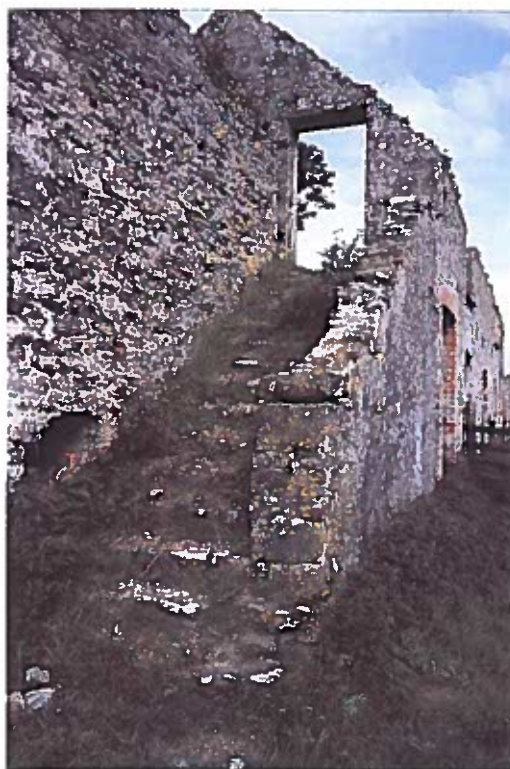



Plate 14. Stone stairs to north-east side

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Cow shed (I)



Plate 15. Interior, south-west wall



Plate 16. Interior, north-east wall


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Figure 9



Open fronted byre (J)



Plate 17. Large timber across west corner

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Cottage (K)

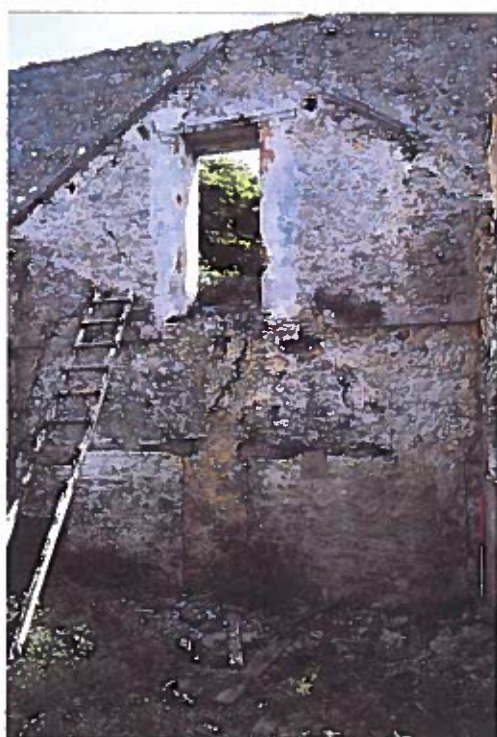


Plate 18. Scar of roofline

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Pigsty



South-west courtyard



North-east courtyard




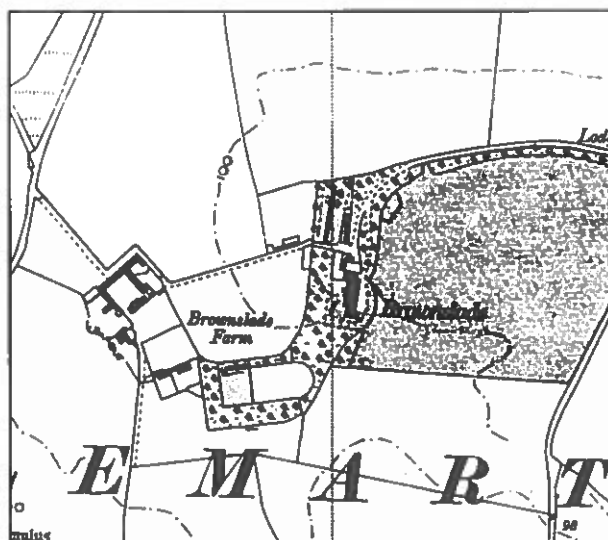
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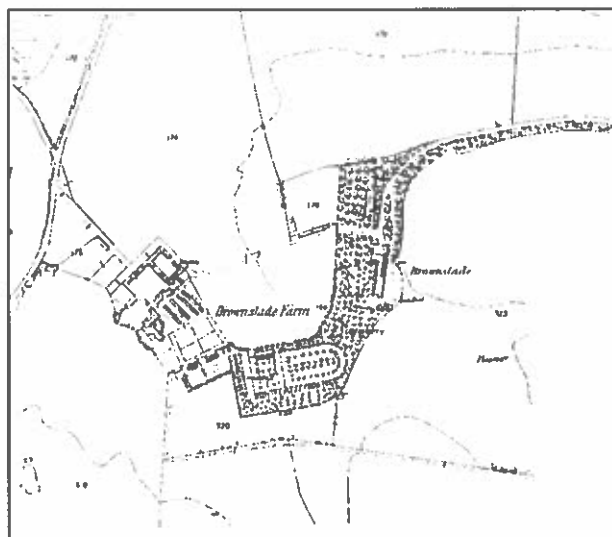
Figure 13



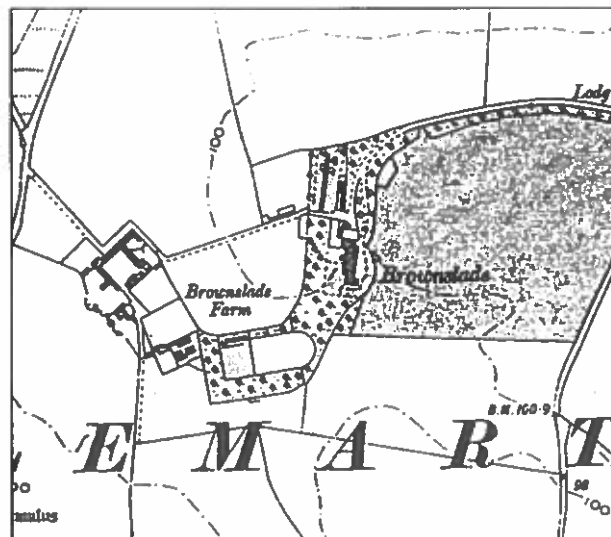
Provincial edition Ordnance Survey map (1948)



Second edition Ordnance Survey map
scale 6 inches to 1 mile

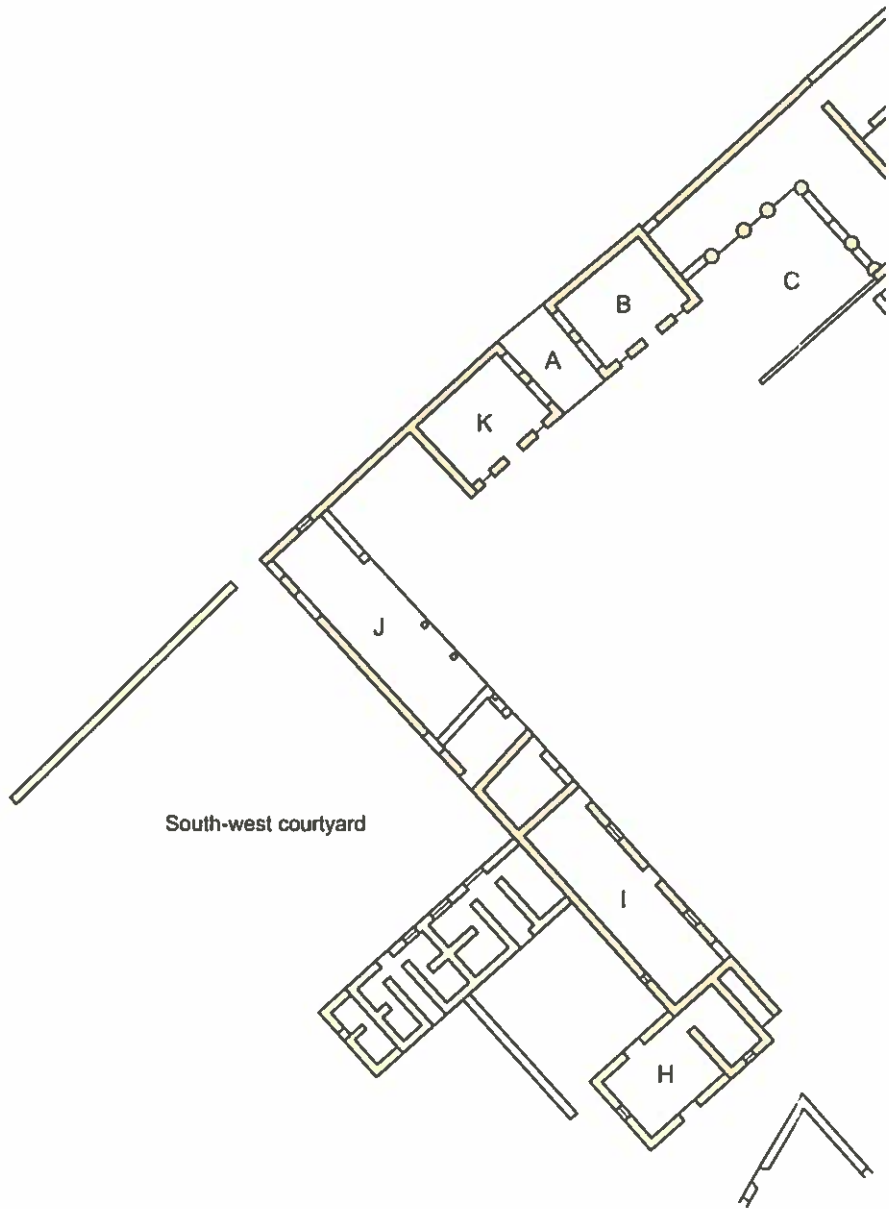


First edition Ordnance Survey map (1880),
scale 25 inches to 1 mile



Ordnance Survey map (1880),
scale 6 inches to 1 mile

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Early Eighteenth Century



Mid Nineteenth Century



Uncertain



Late Eighteenth Century



Post 1866