

eas

Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd.

**Plas Dol-y-Moch, Maentwrog, LL41 3YT,
Standing Building Record**



Commissioned by

Derec Jones

DOBSON:OWEN penseiri : architects

Analysis by

I.P. Brooks

Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd

EAS Client Report 20243/09

Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd is

Registered in England No 286978

CONTENTS

<i>NGR</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Status</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Planning Reference</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Location and Topography</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Archaeological Background</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Aims of Survey</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>SUMMARY</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Methods:</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Building Survey</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>External</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Internal</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Recording of Chimneys and the Northern Gable of the Eastern Range</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Conclusions</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>References</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Appendix 1: Specification</i>	<i>83</i>
<i>Appendix 2: Listing Description</i>	<i>88</i>
<i>Appendix 3: List of Photographs in the Archive</i>	<i>91</i>

List of Illustrations

<i>Figure 1: Location</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Figure 2: Location of Plas Dol y Moch</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Figure 3: Historic images</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Figure 4: Historic mapping</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Figure 5: Historic mapping</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Figure 6: Ground Floor Plan</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Figure 7: First-floor Plan</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Figure 8: Second-floor Plan</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Figure 9: Royal Commission Plan</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Figure 10: Details of the Frieze from Williams 1882, 209 and 210</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Figure 11: Trusses</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Figure 12: Trusses in the Central Range</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Figure 13: Northern Gable of the Eastern Range</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Figure 14: Chimney 1</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Figure 15: Chimney 1</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Figure 16: Stone Moulding below the Flaunching of Chimney 1</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Figure 17: Northern Gable of the Rear Range</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Figure 18: Summary of Chimney 1</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Figure 19: Chimney 2</i>	<i>29</i>

<i>Figure 20: Parlour Wall</i>	30
<i>Figure 21: Location of the Photographs in the Archive (external)</i>	31
<i>Figure 22: Location of the Photographs in the Archive (Ground-floor)</i>	32
<i>Figure 23: Location of the Photographs in the Archive (First-floor)</i>	33
<i>Figure 24: Location of the Photographs in the Archive (Second-floor)</i>	34
<i>Plate 1: Location of Plas Dol y Moch</i>	35
<i>Plate 2: Gable of cross wing before repairs</i>	35
<i>Plate 3: The front elevation</i>	36
<i>Plate 4: The southern gable of the eastern range</i>	36
<i>Plate 5: Date scratched on the southern gable of the eastern range</i>	37
<i>Plate 6: Western face of the eastern range</i>	37
<i>Plate 7: Blocked opening in the western face of the eastern range</i>	38
<i>Plate 8: Front elevation of the central range</i>	38
<i>Plate 9: Current front door</i>	39
<i>Plate 10: Date scratched in the stonework adjacent to the front door</i>	39
<i>Plate 11: Partly blocked opening adjacent to the current front door</i>	40
<i>Plate 12: The eastern face of the western range</i>	40
<i>Plate 13: Drill casts on the eastern face of the western range</i>	41
<i>Plate 14: Gable end of the western range</i>	41
<i>Plate 15: Western face of the western range in the service yard</i>	42
<i>Plate 16: Northern end of the western range</i>	42
<i>Plate 17: Gable of the rear range</i>	43
<i>Plate 18: Stair tower</i>	43
<i>Plate 19: Eastern face of the stair tower</i>	44
<i>Plate 20: Northern gable of the eastern range</i>	44
<i>Plate 21: Small window on the northern gable of the eastern range</i>	45
<i>Plate 22 The eastern face of the eastern range</i>	45
<i>Plate 23: The hall, looking west</i>	46
<i>Plate 24: The hall, looking east</i>	46
<i>Plate 25: The fireplace in the Hall</i>	47
<i>Plate 26: Chamfering and stop on the ceiling beam of the hall</i>	47
<i>Plate 27: Repair to the ceiling beam in the Hall</i>	48
<i>Plate 28: The Parlour, looking north</i>	48
<i>Plate 29: The Parlour, looking south</i>	49
<i>Plate 30: Chamfering and stop on the ceiling beam in the Parlour</i>	49
<i>Plate 31: Chamfering and stop on the ceiling beam in the Parlour</i>	50
<i>Plate 32: Area where the paint has flaked off showing the stonework of the frieze</i>	50
<i>Plate 33: Eastern section of the frieze</i>	51
<i>Plate 34: Northern section of the frieze</i>	51
<i>Plate 35: Southern section of the frieze</i>	52
<i>Plate 36: Western section of the frieze.</i>	52

<i>Plate 37: The armorials in the stone frieze</i>	53
<i>Plate 38: Detail of the bird and strapwork</i>	54
<i>Plate 39: Possible coal hole below the stairs</i>	54
<i>Plate 40: Detail of the southern end of the possible coal hole</i>	55
<i>Plate 41: Underside of the stairs in the possible coal hole</i>	55
<i>Plate 42: Ground floor passage behind the hall</i>	56
<i>Plate 43: Recess in the passage behind the hall</i>	56
<i>Plate 44: Underside of the main staircase</i>	57
<i>Plate 45: First floor fireplace</i>	57
<i>Plate 46: Beam in the short passage along the eastern range bedrooms</i>	58
<i>Plate 47: One of the bedrooms in the eastern range</i>	58
<i>Plate 48: The southern, first floor, bedroom of the eastern range, looking south</i>	59
<i>Plate 49: Corbel holing the main ceiling beams in the southern, first floor, bedroom of the eastern range</i>	59
<i>Plate 50: The southern, first floor, bedroom of the eastern range, looking west</i>	60
<i>Plate 51: Detail of the fireplace in the southern, first floor, bedroom of the eastern range</i>	60
<i>Plate 52: Graffiti on the beam in the southern, first floor, bedroom of the eastern range</i>	61
<i>Plate 53: First floor passage linking the bedrooms in the central range</i>	61
<i>Plate 54: Beam crossing the eastern, first-floor bedroom in the central range</i>	62
<i>Plate 55: Eastern, first-floor bedroom in the central range, looking east</i>	62
<i>Plate 56: Western, first-floor bedroom in the central range</i>	63
<i>Plate 57: Plaster armorial</i>	63
<i>Plate 58: Partially blocked doorway adjacent to the armorial</i>	64
<i>Plate 59: Bedroom door</i>	64
<i>Plate 60: First-floor room in the rear range, looking north west</i>	65
<i>Plate 61: First-floor room in the rear range, looking north east</i>	65
<i>Plate 62: Later repairs to the ceiling beam</i>	66
<i>Plate 63: Plaster overmantel</i>	66
<i>Plate 64: Door to the first-floor room in the rear range</i>	67
<i>Plate 65: Truss over the stair turret</i>	67
<i>Plate 66: Window in the eastern wall of the stair turret</i>	68
<i>Plate 67: Window in the northern wall of the stair turret</i>	68
<i>Plate 68: Truss within the northern bedroom on the second floor of the eastern range</i>	69
<i>Plate 69: Truss in the passage in the eastern range</i>	69
<i>Plate 70: Truss in the second floor, northern, bedroom of the eastern range</i>	70
<i>Plate 71: Truss in the second floor, northern, bedroom of the eastern range</i>	70
<i>Plate 72: Detail of the joint between the collar and principal rafter of the truss in the northern room of the eastern range</i>	71
<i>Plate 73: Purlin and principal rafter in the cleaning cupboard</i>	71
<i>Plate 74: Principal rafter in the cleaning cupboard</i>	72
<i>Plate 75: Trusses exposed in the corridor along the northern side</i>	72

<i>of the central range</i>	
<i>Plate 76: Eastern bedroom on the second floor of the central range</i>	73
<i>Plate 77: Truss within the eastern bedroom on the second floor</i>	73
<i>of the central range</i>	
<i>Plate 78: Second bedroom on the second floor of the central range</i>	74
<i>Plate 79: Truss within the second bedroom on the second floor</i>	74
<i>of the central range</i>	
<i>Plate 80: Third bedroom on the second floor of the central range</i>	75
<i>Plate 81: Truss within the third bedroom on the second floor</i>	75
<i>of the central range</i>	
<i>Plate 82: Detail of the joint between the collar and the principal rafter</i>	76
<i>in the third bedroom on the second floor of the central range</i>	
<i>Plate 83: Fourth bedroom on the second floor of the central range</i>	76
<i>Plate 84: Truss in the fourth bedroom on the second floor</i>	77
<i>of the central range</i>	
<i>Plate 85: Truss within the rear bedroom</i>	77
<i>Plate 86: Apotropaic Mark on the collar of the truss of</i>	78
<i>the rear bedroom</i>	
<i>Plate 87: Carpenter's marks on the truss in the rear bedroom</i>	78
<i>Plate 88: Carpenter's marks on the truss in the rear bedroom</i>	79
<i>Plate 89: Top of the truss in the eastern range</i>	79
<i>Plate 90: Top of a truss in the central range</i>	80
<i>Plate 91: Chimney over the eastern range during demolition</i>	80
<i>Plate 92: Chimney over the eastern range under demolition</i>	81
<i>Plate 93: Parlour wall after the removal of the plasterboard sheets</i>	81
<i>Plate 94: Blocked opening in the northern wall of the parlour</i>	82

NGR:

Centred on: SH 68408 41908

Status:

NPRN: 28359

PRN: 12351

Listed Building Reference: 4695. Grade II.

Planning Reference: Snowdonia National Park Authority NP5/73/LB74S and 74U

Location and Topography (Figures 1 and 2)

Plas Dol y Moch is located on the northern edge of the floodplain of the Afon Dwyrdd, approximately 2.3 km north east of the village of Maentwrog and 1.6 km east of Llan Ffestiniog. It is accessed off a minor road linking the A496 near Rhyd-y-sarn and the A497 at Tan-y-bwlch, near to the Pont Dol-y-moch where it crosses the Afon Dwyrdd.

The house sits on a platform along the northern edge of the floodplain with the steep slopes of Moel Dduallt behind (Plate 1). In front of the property is a flat area occupied by gardens and to the south east is a range of what was originally agricultural buildings set at right angles to the main house.

Archaeological Background

There has been a house at Plas Dol y Moch since at least 1588 when it was visited by Lewys Dwnn (<https://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=&id=4695>). The listing description suggest that the main, central range with kitchen at the western end and service wing to rear are of late sixteenth century date, whilst the east wing was added in 1643. This, however, is based solely on a date scratched on the south eastern corner of the range. The current kitchen and the south end of the left hand (western) range were built about 1910 (Hemp 1948-9, 300). The 1910 extension was designed by Oswald P. Milne for W.H. Jackson, a London barrister (Haslam *et al* 2009, 675). In about 1912 the attics were opened up and dormer windows inserted (Hemp 1948-9, 301).

Some indication of the building prior to the erection of the 1910 extension can be gained from a couple of images. In 1882, G.J. Williams published an engraving of the house (Figure 3.1) in his “Hanes Plwyf Ffestiniog O’r Cyfod Boreuaf” (page 207). The National Library of Wales also holds a painting (PA 10217) (Figure 3.2) which shows a tumbled down range on the western end of the house constructed of random stone blocks. The gable end chimneys shown on both of the images may suggest that this range may have been constructed as a Snowdonia type A (end-chimney) style house (Smith 1988, 157-158). If this is true it would suggest a construction date in the first half of the sixteenth century (Suggett and Dunn 2014, 27).

There appears to have been a period of abandonment in the late 1760’s as Francis Jones (1948, 1949) refers to a tourist who wrote in July 1770, that Dol y Moch was never finished and had been abandoned.

The use of the rooms in Plas Dol y Moch in the late 1940's can be judged from a sales document from 1949 (National Library Merionethshire 53 Sales Catalogue) which lists the rooms as:

Ground Floor

- Hall
- Dining Room with exposed oak beam ceiling
- Lounge with plaster frieze
- Cloakroom
- Kitchen
- Scullery
- Pantry
- Larder
- Domestic yard

First Floor

- Five Bedrooms
- Sewing Room
- Linen Room
- Bathroom

Second Floor

- Library and Billiards Room

The eastern range is noted for its a stone frieze consisting of swags and birds sitting upon them, which frame a series of shields of arms representing different North Wales tribes. There are also plaster armorials in two of the first-floor room, within the central range. One the arms of Collwyn impaling those of Hywel Coetmor, whilst the other is a more elaborate achievement of the arms of the South Wales tribe of Iestyn ap Gwrgant (Hemp 1948-9, 300 – 301).

Only limited mapping was located, the earliest of which is the Tithe Map of the “Parish of Ffestiniog in the County of Merioneth” from 1842 (Figure 4.1). This mapping does not show Plas Dol y Moch as a building, but Plot 22 is listed on the schedule as “Dolymoch” which was occupied by Evan Evans and owned by Rev'd Edward Banks and The Right Hon'ble Earl of Falmouth (https://places.library.wales/browse/52.958/-3.959/14?page=1&alt=&alt=&leaflet-base-layers_70=on). The six-inch Ordnance Survey mapping shows little or no variability between the maps published in 1888 and 1967 (Figure 4.2 – 5.2)

Aims of Survey

The principal objectives of the proposed works are as follows:

1. To record the chimneys before they are demolished and rebuilt
2. To allow an adequate analytical record of the buildings to be made, before they are converted, to ensure that the buildings origins, use and development are understood and the main features, character and state of preservation are recorded

SUMMARY

The demolition and rebuilding of two of the chimneys, together with the removal of the plasterboard lining on the northern wall of the parlour at Plas Dol y Moch (Snowdonia National Park planning references NP5/73/LB74S and 74U), was monitored by Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd between 27/3/2024 and 17/4/2024. At the same time a Level 2 recording of the historic building as defined in Historic England (May 2016) Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice was carried out.

It appears that the chimney, on the northern gable of the eastern wing of the building, has at least two phases of re-building or repairs and it originally had a moulded stone cap, only parts of which survived until the demolition. The chimney on the northern gable of the rear range appears to have been a single phase of construction, possibly later than the chimney on the eastern range. Within the parlour a blocked opening to the east of the fireplace was recorded.

The building record added further details of the building.

Cafodd y gwaith o ddymchwel ac ailadeiladu dwy o'r simneiau, ynghyd â thynnu'r leinin bwrdd plastr ar wal ogleddol y parlwr ym Mhlas Dol y Moch (cyfeirnod cynllunio Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri NP5/73/LB74S a 74U), ei fonitro gan Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd rhwng 27/3/2024 a 17/4/2024. Ar yr un pryd, gwnaed recordiad Level 2 o'r adeilad hanesyddol fel sy'n cael ei ddiffinio gan Historic England (Mai 2016) Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good record practice.

Mae'n ymddangos bod gan y simnai, ar dalcen gogleddol adain ddwyreiniol yr adeilad, o leiaf ddau gyfnod o ailadeiladu neu atgyweirio ac roedd ganddi gap carreg wedi'i fowldio yn wreiddiol, a dim ond rhannau ohono a oroesodd hyd y dymchweliad. Mae'n ymddangos bod y simnai ar dalcen gogleddol y rhes gefn wedi cael ei adeiladu o fewn un cyfnod, o bosibl yn hwyrach na'r simnai ar y rhes ddwyreiniol. O fewn y parlwr cofnodwyd agoriad rhwystredig i'r dwyrain o'r lle tân.

Ychwanegodd y cofnod adeiladu fanylion pellach am yr adeilad.

Methods

Plas Dol y Moch was visited on 27/03/2024 in order to carry out a Level 2 recording of the historic building as defined in Historic England (May 2016) *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*. Photographs were taken with a Nikon V5 Digital Camera at a resolution of 24.2 MP with the photographs recorded in RAW format, which was converted to .TIFF for the archive. Where possible the photographs included a metric scale. Further photographs were taken with a Akaso Brave 6 Plus, with a resolution of 20.1 MP, on an extendable pole which were processed with Agisoft Metascape v. 2.0.2 to produce photogrammetric models. The location and orientation of the photographs was recorded on the plans of the building prepared by Dobson-Owen Architects (Drawing Reference P1 00)

An initial visit to record the chimneys and associated gables was made on 22/03/2024 before any work took place. At this stage, the chimneys and part of one of the gable ends was covered to protect them from the weather (Plate 2). After the scaffolding had been constructed and the coverings removed, the chimneys were recorded on 03/04/2024. A series of overlapping photographs were taken with an Akaso Brave 6 Plus. The removal of plasterboard from the northern wall of the parlour allowed the recording of the wall revealed on 17/04/2025.

Building Survey

The fieldwork for the standing building survey was carried out on 27/3/2024. The house has a rough “H” plan (Figures 6 - 8) with a central range flanked by cross ranges and a further range along the rear of the property which includes a stair tower. The western range was, at least in part, rebuilt in 1910, replacing an earlier house. The whole building complex (with its later additions, sits on a raised platform on the northern side of the floodplain of the Afon Dwyryd.

External

The front elevation of Plas Dol y Moch (Plate 3) can be divided into three with an eastern range, a slightly lower (later) western range and the core of the building. The main range and the eastern range are both of two and a half storeys, whilst the western range is of two storeys.

The eastern range (Plate 4) presents its gable to the front elevation. It has three centrally placed windows whose sizes reduce as they go up the building. The ground floor window occupies the space of a blocked doorway shown on the engraving of 1882 (Figure 3.1) and the undated painting in the National Library (Figure 3.2). These two images also show that the attic windows, in both the main and eastern ranges are later additions. The top sector of the eastern range gable is rendered, whilst the rest of the building has exposed stonework. Near to the northern edge of this elevation is a scratched date of 1643 (Plate 5). This date has been taken to date the construction of the eastern range (Haslam *et al* 2009, 675), although this is an assumption which cannot be confirmed. The western face of the eastern range (Plate 6) has a blocked first-floor window (Plate 7). This window does not appear on the 1882 engraving (Figure 3.1) and the blocking may pre-date this image.

The central range has three, ground floor windows and a doorway that is set, off centre, to the east. Above, on the first floor, there are four windows and in the attic space four dormers wholly within the roof space (Plate 8). The front door (Plate 9) is a panelled door with a drop

handle and a knocker in the form of a loop of rope. Immediately adjacent to the door is a scratched date of 1777 (Plate 10). There are hints that there are other scratched graffiti in this area, but they are difficult to determine. It is clear that this is not the original position as there is a blocked opening below the window to the west (Plate 11). The moving of this doorway must have taken place before 1882 as the engraving of this date (Figure 3.1) shows a similar pattern of windows as the current layout.

The western range is clearly of a different build using smaller, darker stones (Plates 12-15) which have been extracted using explosives (Plate 13). It is likely that the source of this rock was one of the local slate quarries, using the county rock. This is unlike the earlier ranges which probably used immediately local sources, probably behind the house. The east facing elevation (Plate 12) has two windows, one above the other. The lower window is a multi-paned casement window in four main sections, whilst the first-floor window is somewhat shorter with two sections. These windows are similar in design to those in the rest of the house, possibly suggesting the whole of the building was defenestrated, possibly at the same time the dormers were added to the attic level. The gable end has two six-unit, casement windows set one above the other in the middle of the elevation.

The western face of the western range (Plate 15) gives access to the yard and a range of service buildings. The stone used for this elevation tends to be smaller and less well prepared than that used for the publicly visible section of the range. The door is a relatively modern replacement, whilst the windows are of a similar design to that used for the rest of the building. The first-floor windows are set in wall dormers with single pitch roofs (Plate 16).

The rear of the building presents as a series of four gable ends (Plates 16 – 20). To the west is the northern end of the twentieth century extension (Plate 16) with a tall, chimney in the gable wall with moulded stone cap with flaunching over. There is also tabling to the east and west of the stack.

The next gable to the east is the gable of rear extension of the seventeenth century central, range (Plate 17). This has a gable chimney which is the western chimney under repair. At the time of the initial survey this chimney stack was wrapped to prevent moisture ingress. There is, however a slate cap with mortar flaunching over and slate slab tabling.

The next gable is that of the stair tower (Plate 18) which has a small, nine-paned window below a stone lintel lighting the attic level. On the eastern face of the stair tower (Plate 19) there are two window openings, at first-floor level, there is a twin leafed casement window with each of the opening leaves having twelve panes. At the second-floor level is a smaller, two leafed, casement window with each leaf having six panes.

The eastern gable is the northern end of the eastern range (Plate 20). Partly obscured on the initial survey by protective sheeting and the chimney was wrapped to prevent water ingress. There are two openings in this elevation, a later door acting as a fire escape from the first-floor level and a small window located on the first-floor level, but immediately adjacent to the stair tower (Plate 21). This is a six-paned window below a stone lintel.

The eastern elevation of the eastern range (Plate 22) has three, windows on the ground floor, two larger windows to the north and south with a smaller window between. The northern and southern windows are multi paned casement windows divided into six leaves. These are three, lower nine-paned windows below and three, six-paned windows above, the central one of which acts as a fan light. The central window has four leaves, with two, lower, nine-paned

windows below two six-paned openings. At the first-floor level are two windows, above the northern and southern, ground floor windows. These consist of three leafed windows with each leaf holding eighteen panes. Within the roof level are three, later external, pitched dormers, which were added to the roof about 1912 (Hemp 1948-9, 301). Changes in the stonework of this elevation may suggest that the roof level may have been increased.

Internal

Plas Dol y Moch is entered through the main door in the central range. This gives access to the, stone floored, hall (Figure 6, Plates 23 – 25). This room has a large fireplace in its western end and a smaller fireplace (Plate 25) in the east end. Whilst the western fireplace is large, but its lintel has been covered, the eastern fireplace is relatively small and has a modern fire surround. There are three beams crossing the ceiling. Which are chamfered and have diagonal cut stops (Plate 26). The middle beam (Plate 27) has iron strapping to stabilise a crack in its centre consisting of two iron plates on either side of the beam and a strap which wraps around the beam. In the south eastern corner of the room is a blocked opening which originally was the doorway to the parlour. The current doorway must have been inserted after 1914 as the Royal Commission plan (Figure 9) only shows the now blocked, northern doorway.

The parlour occupies the eastern range of the building (Plates 28 and 29). It has a fireplace in its northern wall (Plate 28) and a timbered ceiling with two beams supporting the joists. The beams are moderately chamfered and have either diagonal cut stops or run-out stops (Plates 30 and 31). The most impressive feature of the room, however is the frieze that runs around the room at ceiling level (Plate 33 – 37). This feature is heavily painted, obscuring many of the details, however, in one place the paint has flaked off (Plate 32) revealing that this is carved stone frieze. An engraving published in 1882 (William 1882, 209, 210) gives a better impression of the frieze before it was covered in white paint (Figure 10). The frieze is usually described as depicting the armorials of the Fifteen Tribes of North Wales (Haslam *et al* 2009, 675, Hemp, 1948-9, 300). Eight of the shields survive and seven of these appear to represent some of the Fifteen Tribes (Plate 37). Hedd Molwynog of Uwch-Aled, Braint Hir of Is-dulas, Ednowain Bendew, Ednowain Ap Bradwen, Gweirydd Ap Rhys Goch and Efnnydd are represented, however the remaining shield is nearest to that of Cilmin Troed-Du, but does not match the details shown by Pennant (1883 428 – 453). Between the shields is a repeated device of birds perching on swags which are attached to strapwork (Plate 38).

Within the stair tower, and beneath the stairs themselves is a small cellar, or more likely a coal hole (Plates 39 and 40). The entrance to the outside is now blocked with modern, machine-made bricks (Plate 39), although there is an iron lintel to the opening suggesting this space was probably modified as part of the early twentieth century modifications to the house. What this space does, however is to show the underside of the stone stairs (Plate 41) within the stair tower.

Running behind the hall is a passageway (Plate 42) separating the stair tower and the rear range from the main range holding the hall. At the western end of the passageway is a recess in the wall (Plate 43) of unknown function. The underside of the main staircase (Plate 44) can also be seen at the eastern end of the passage, showing the stone, probably slate, used for the treads.

The first-floor (Figure 7) has been converted into a series of bedrooms, both in the main and eastern ranges. This has led to a fireplace (Plate 45) being left in a passage to the fire escape at the northern end of the eastern range.

Throughout the first floor there are significant ceiling beams, even in the short passage along the eastern range (Plate 46). There are two bedrooms in the eastern rooms, the northern of which (Plate 47) has a modern partition to the north which also forms the southern wall of the passageway to the fire exit. The larger southern bedroom (Plate 48) has a ceiling beam crossing the room which is supported on stone corbels at each end (Plate 49). The northern end of the room has a fireplace (Plate 50) which have a surround with a series of “Delft style” tiles (Plate 51). These are likely to be replicas rather than seventeenth century originals. The beam has a well carved inscription of “T. Jones CRICCIETH 1871” (Plate 52).

The passage along the northern side of the central range, on the first-floor level, has a series of ceiling beams (Plate 53) and joists exposed. The beams run across the width of the range and are also exposed in the bedrooms to the south of the passage. There are two bedrooms in the central range, the eastern of which has two of the tie-beams exposed in the ceiling (Plates 54 and 55). The western bedroom (Plate 56, however has a plaster overmantel (Plate 57) which shows the shield of the arms of Collwyn (sable (black) A chevron between three fleurs de lys argent (silver or white)) impaling those of Hywel Coetmor (azure (blue) A chevron between three bloody spearheads argent (silver)) (Hemp 1948-9, 300). The shield is surrounded by a laurel wreath and is flanked by two heads. Hemp (1948-9, 300-301) suggests that this armorial indicates that “The earliest recorded owners were of the tribe of Hywel and the shield suggests that a daughter may have conveyed it in marriage to a member of the neighbouring family of Gruffydd of Plas Tan-y-bwlch.” To the north of the fireplace is a partially blocked doorway (now used as a closet) (Plate 58) which has a moulded frame with step stops on the lower part of the frame. The door to the bedroom is a reeded plank door (Plate 59) with an upright doorhandle which has leaf shaped terminals. Handles of this type are typical of the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century (Hall 2005, 57), however the use of round headed screws to fix the handle may suggest this handle may have been re-used.

The first-floor room in the rear range (now used as a staff room) (Plates 60 and 61) has a timbered ceiling with a central beam and joists. The joists are slightly more robust than those in the main range suggesting they may be earlier. The beam has a major repair to its eastern end (Plate 62) which required the addition of a diagonal prop. Dominating the room is a plaster overmantel (Plate 63) which show the arms of the South Wales tribe of Iestyn ap Gwrgant (gules (red) three chevrons argent (silver).) quartering those of Collwyn. The crest being the lamb and flag and the motto VELLE QUOD VULT DEUS (Desire what God wishes). The shield is flanked by figures of Apollo and Venus. Hemp (1948-9, 300-301) suggests this represents “the new ownership of the seventeenth century by John Jones, son of Richard Jones of Craflwyn, who seems to have acquired the property by purchase, possibly in 1643, the Collwyn quartering being inherited from his great-great-grandmother who was an heiress and a member of that clan”. The door to this room is similar to that in the western bedroom and has the same sort of upright door handle (Plate 64).

The second floor (Figure 8) is effectively within the roof space of the house. The top of the stair tower (Plate 65) has a simple “A” form truss with slightly trenched purlins. Two windows light this space which are notable as being smaller than those in the rest of the building. The window in the eastern wall (Plate 66) is a two leafed casement window with each leaf holding six panes. The window in the northern (gable) has a single leafed casement window with nine panes which is set within a spayed opening (Plate 67).

Whilst the attic space is now divided into a series of bedrooms, in the first half of the twentieth century it contained only two named rooms, a billiard room and a library (National Library Merionethshire 53 Sales Catalogue). Before this the attic space was used, as the stone stairs within the stair tower reach to the attic level, although its function is unknown. The trusses in the eastern, central and western ranges are at least partly exposed (Figures 10 and 11, Plates 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 77, 79, 81, 82, 84, 85) all of which appear to follow a similar pattern with a collar. In the eastern and western ranges above the collar are splayed studs (Plates 85 and 89), however the limited visibility of the space above the ceiling suggests that the space above the collar of the eastern truss of the central range (Plate 90) contains a partition of upright planks. It is not known if this pattern is reflected in the other two trusses of this range, or if this eastern truss marks the position of an original division within the attic.

The addition of the dormer windows, to the southern side, of the main range can be demonstrated in the bedrooms along this side of the range. Here, the access to the dormer windows is obstructed by the purlin (Plates 76, 78 and 80) which is part of the original roof structure.

The best exposed truss is that in the western range, dividing the bedroom called “Moelwyn”. As previously stated, this is a truss with a collar which has splayed struts above. It has partly trenched purlins and carpenter’s marks on the joints between the struts and the principal rafters (Plates 87 and 88). On the collar there is also a “taper mark”, a small area of deliberate burning (Plate 86). This is thought to be an apotropaic mark, made deliberately and may well have been made whilst the building was under construction. The interpretation is to see them as a ritual protection against lightening and fire (<https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/features/discovering-witches-marks/types-of-marks/>).

Recording of the Chimneys and the Northern Gable of the Eastern Range

The partial demolition of two of the chimneys took place in April 2024. Chimney 1 was on the northern gable of the eastern range, whilst Chimney 2 was on the gable of the rear range.

Chimney 1 (Figures 13 - 15) was 2.69 m tall with a shaft 1.07 x 0.94 m in cross section. Below the flaunching was an oversailing stone slab (Figure 16) with a cavetto moulding. At the base of the shaft was a stone water tabling around the shaft. This had been partly replaced on the northern side by a slate slab without the tapered cross section of the stone tabling (Figure 17). Below this tabling the shaft becomes slightly wider (1.14 m) for a further 0.22 m before there is a second, stone water tabling slab. Whilst it is clear there had been some repairs to the upper stone tabling with the replacement of part of the tabling with a slate slab, it is likely that the shaft has been totally re-built at some point. This is suggested by the mismatch in the size of the shaft either side of the upper water tabling and the presence of a lower, less well-preserved set of water tabling.

Chimney 2 was 2.63 m high with a shaft 0.90 m square in cross section (Figures 18 and 19). It had a slate cap below the flaunching and moulded, stone water tabling around three sides of the shaft. The fourth (southern face) of the shaft has lead flashing at a slightly higher level that serves as the water tabling on this side of the chimney.

Within the parlour, the removal of the plasterboard lining the northern wall (Figure 20, Plates 93 and 94) revealed a blocked opening to the east of the fireplace. This is 0.57 x 0.6 m in size below a large stone lintel. There is also a hint that there was a cill below the opening with a width of 1.13 m and height of 0.18 m. The function of this opening is uncertain, whilst it may

have been a window, however the ground level behind the house would appear to be, at least in part, above the level of any opening and no sign of any blocked opening was recorded in the external wall. It is therefore probable that there was a something like a cupboard or salt-box next to the fireplace. Above and to the east of the blocked opening the wall has been partly re-built using smaller, angular stones which do not exhibit the same level of finish as the rest of the blocks used to build this wall.

The current fireplace has at least two phases with an initial large fireplace below a stone lintel which was partially blocked with bricks at some point.

Conclusions

Plas Dol y Moch has been modified throughout its life to suit its changing roles. Probably the earliest structure recorded was the building that occupied the site of the western range. Shown on the engraving published by G.J. Williams in 1882, and the undated painting held by the National Library of Wales (Figure 3). Although there are differences between these two images (the chimney is on opposite gables in the two images) they suggest this may have been a Snowdonia type A (end-chimney) style house (Smith 1988, 157-158). If this is true it would suggest a possible construction date in the first half of the sixteenth century (Suggett and Dunn 2014, 27).

To this original building the Central range was added, probably together with the western range, probably in the seventeenth century. The scratched date of 1643 has been taken as the date of the western range, although this seems speculative as a later date (1777) is scratched near to the door in the main range which would reverse the construction phasing suggested by Cadw in the listing description (Appendix 2). It is therefore more likely that both dates were scratched on a pre-existing building.

Documentary evidence suggest that the house was unoccupied in the 1760's (Jones 1948, 1949) and possibly some undefined construction works were apparent at this point. By 1777 there is at least some activity at the house as is evidenced by the scratched date next to the door. Activity within the house is shown by the carved name and date on a beam in the eastern wing in 1871. The major reworking of the building took place in the early twentieth century, around 1910, when the western range was totally rebuilt and the dormer windows added to the central and eastern ranges. There are internal changes that take place after 1914, such as the moving of the doorway to parlour, however an exact date has not been located. The house remained in private use until 1945 and then had several other private owners until 1957 when it was bought by the Central Electricity Generating Board (<https://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=&id=4695>). In 1966, Plas Dol y Moch was bought by Coventry City Council (<http://www.friendsofplasdolymoch.co.uk/index.php/about-us>). It is likely that division of the first and second floors into a series of small bedrooms took place at this point.

It is clear that Chimney 1 (on the northern gable of the eastern range) has been repaired probably rebuilt at least once in its life. The slightly wider shaft below the upper water tabling suggests a slightly wider chimney at some place and the use of a slate slab to repair the water tabling suggests a nineteenth century repair. No similar phasing can be located for Chimney 2 (on the northern gable of the rear range), however the use of slate for the cap below the flaunching may suggest either repairs of a re-build having taken place in or after the nineteenth century.

Modifications have also been located in the northern wall of the parlour. There is clearly a blocked opening to the east of the fireplace and an area of rebuilding above and to the east of this feature. The function of the blocked opening is unknown, whilst it may have been a window it is probably more likely to have been a cupboard or salt-box adjacent to the fire. The dating of the blocking and re-building is unknown, but may have been part of the early twentieth century re-vamp of the house.

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Derec Jones of Dobson:Owen penseiri : architects. Access to the building was organised through Sandra Jones for the Plas Dol y Moch Outdoor Education Centre and she is thanked for her help in gaining access to record the building. The support of Elgan Williams of R O Williams and his team is gratefully acknowledged. The project was monitored by Tom Fildes for the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service and by Anne Lloyd Morris for the Snowdonia National Park Authority.

References

- Francis Jones, T.D., 1948, 1949 An Approach to Welsh Genealogy. *Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion*
- Haslam, R. Orbach, J and Voelcker, A. 2009. *The Buildings of Wales. Gwynedd, Anglesey, Caernarvonshire and Merioneth*. Yale University Press, London.
- Hemp, W.J. 1948-1949. Plas Dol-y-Moch. *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 100, 300-301.
- Pennant, T. 1883 *Tours in Wales. Vol. III*. H. Humphrey, Caernarvon.
- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Constructions in Wales and Monmouthshire. 1921. *An inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire. VI. County of Merionethshire*. HMSO London.
- Smith P. 1988. *Houses of the Welsh Countryside. A study in historical geography*. HMSO. London
- Williams, G.J. 1882, *Hanes Plwyf Ffestiniog O'r Cyfod Boreuaf*. Hughes and Son, Wrexham



Reproduced from the ExplorerTM OL187, 1:25,000 scale
by permission of the Ordnance Survey ® on behalf of
The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office
© Crown Copyright 2009
All Rights Reserved Licence Number AL 100014722

Figure 1: Location
Scale 1:25,000

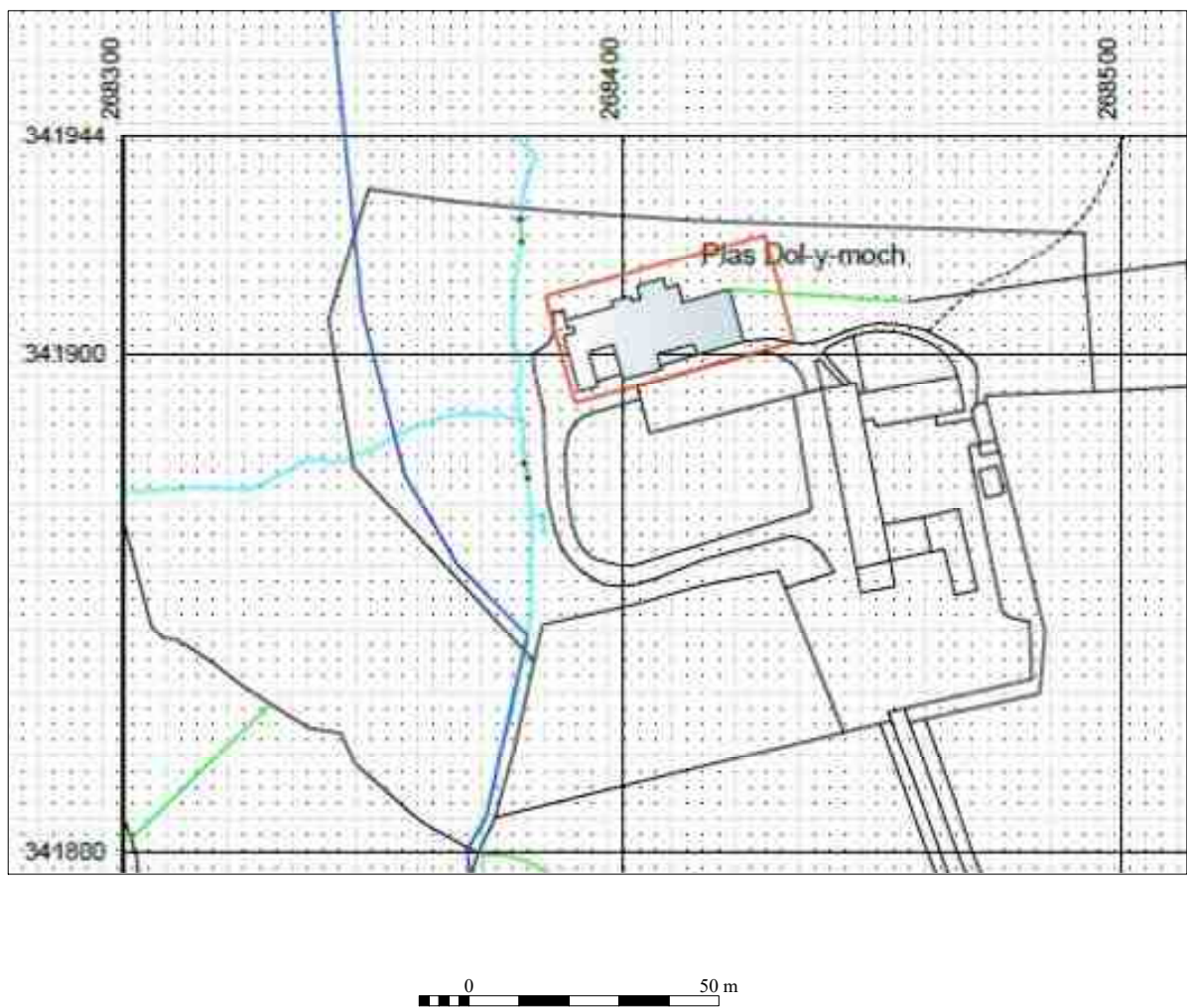
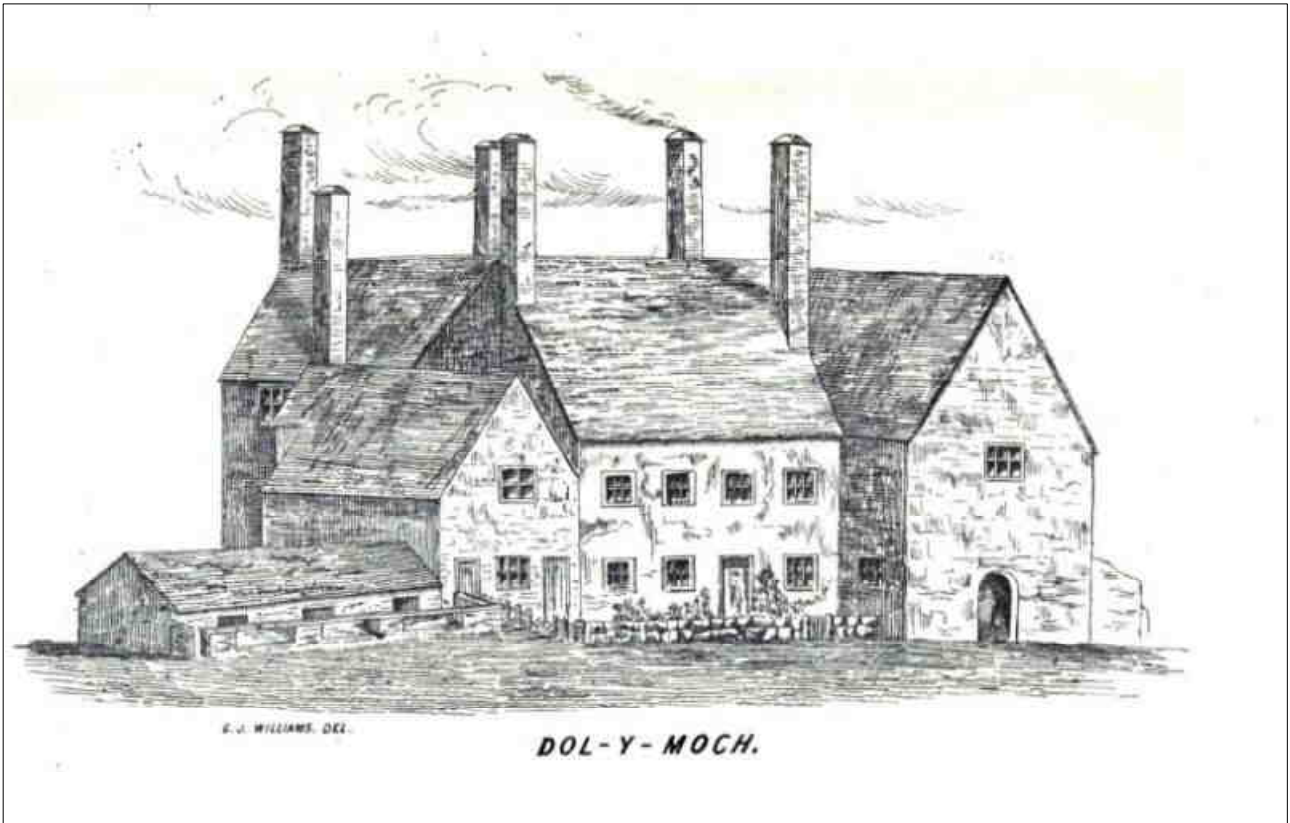


Figure 2: Location of Plas Dol y Moch
Scale 1:1,500

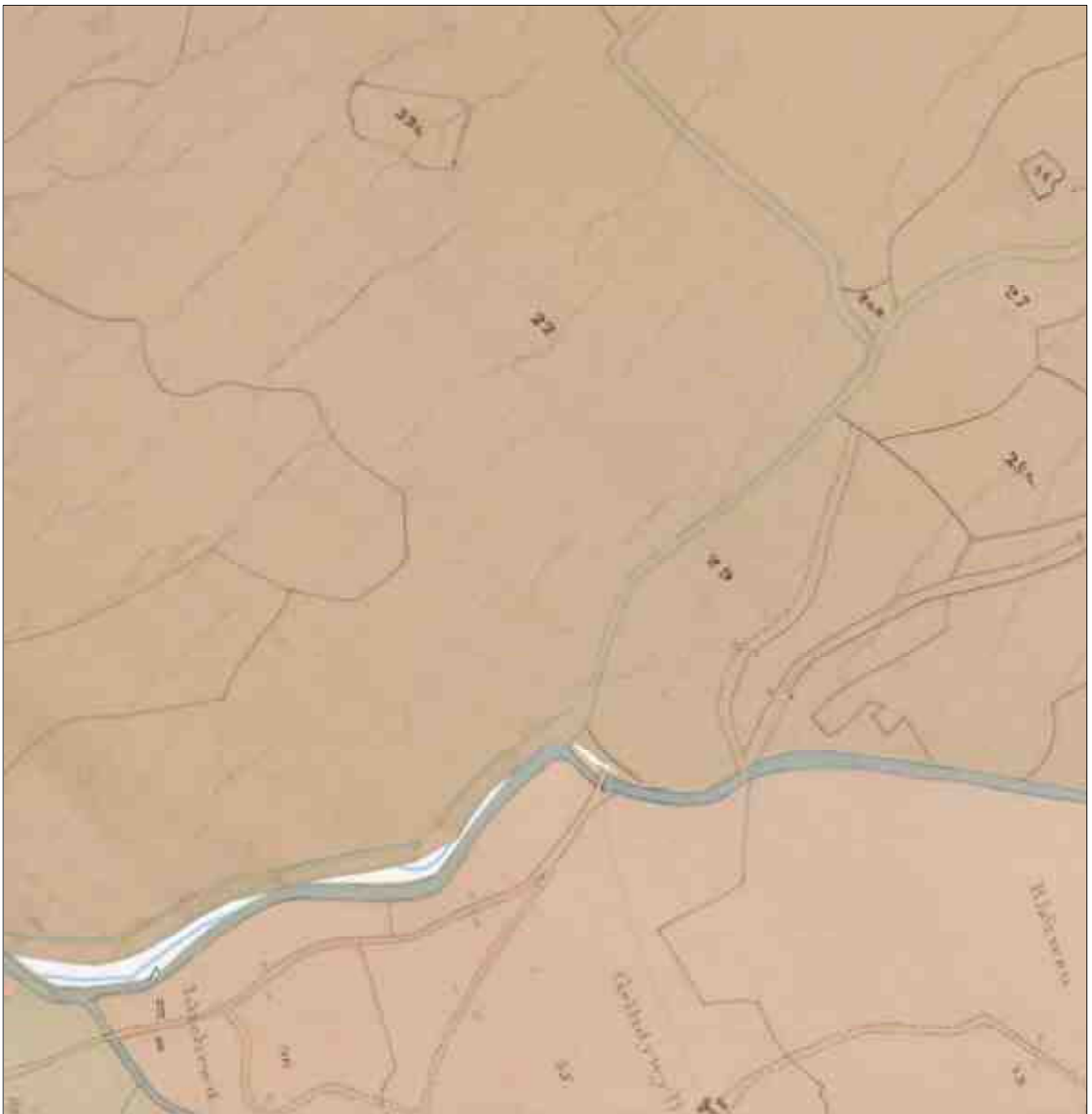


Williams, 1882, page 207



National Library PA10217

Figure 3: Historic Images



1842 Tithe



1888

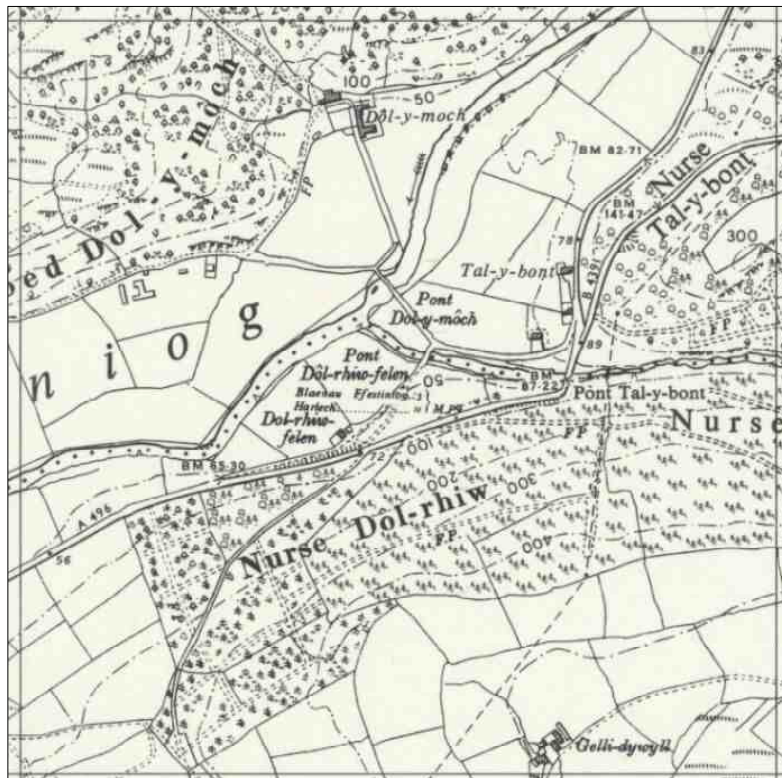


1901

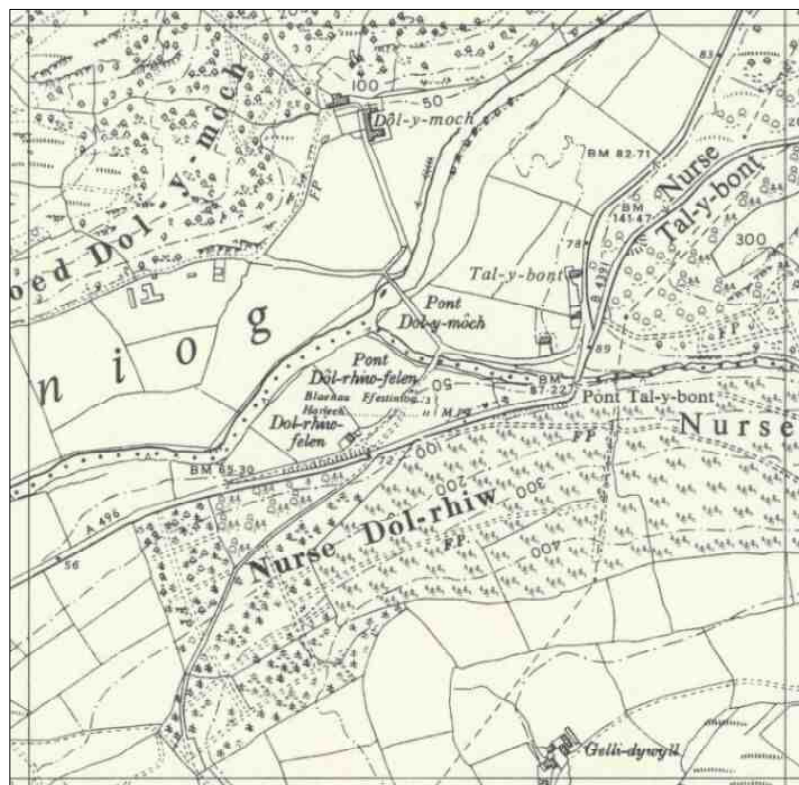


1958

Figure 4: Historic Mapping
Re-scaled to 1:10,000 (approx)



1963



1967

Figure 5: Historic Mapping
Re-scaled to 1:10,000 (approx)

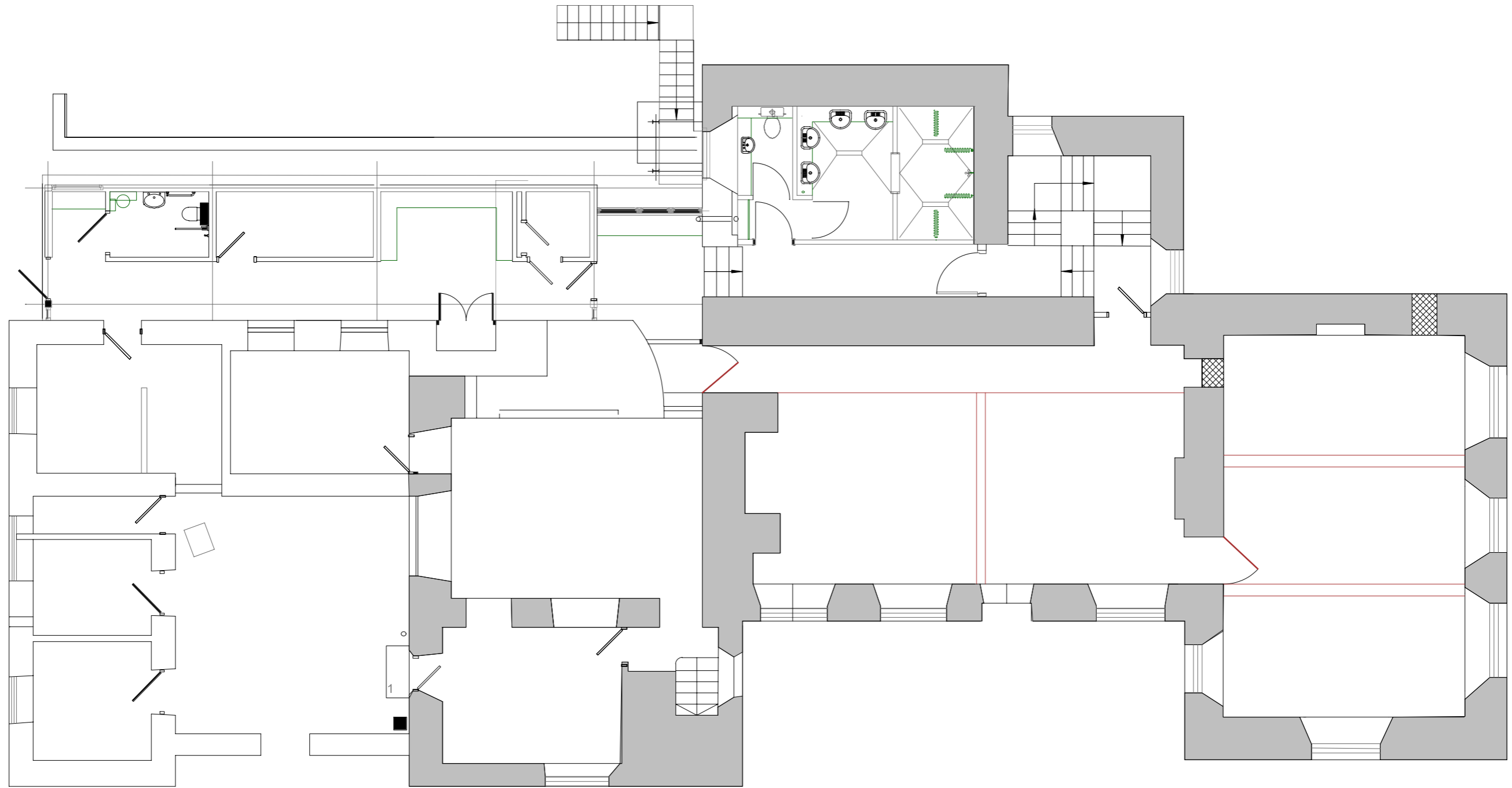


Figure 6: Ground Floor Plan
Scale 1:100

Based on drawing 2012-024
by Dobson Owen Architects



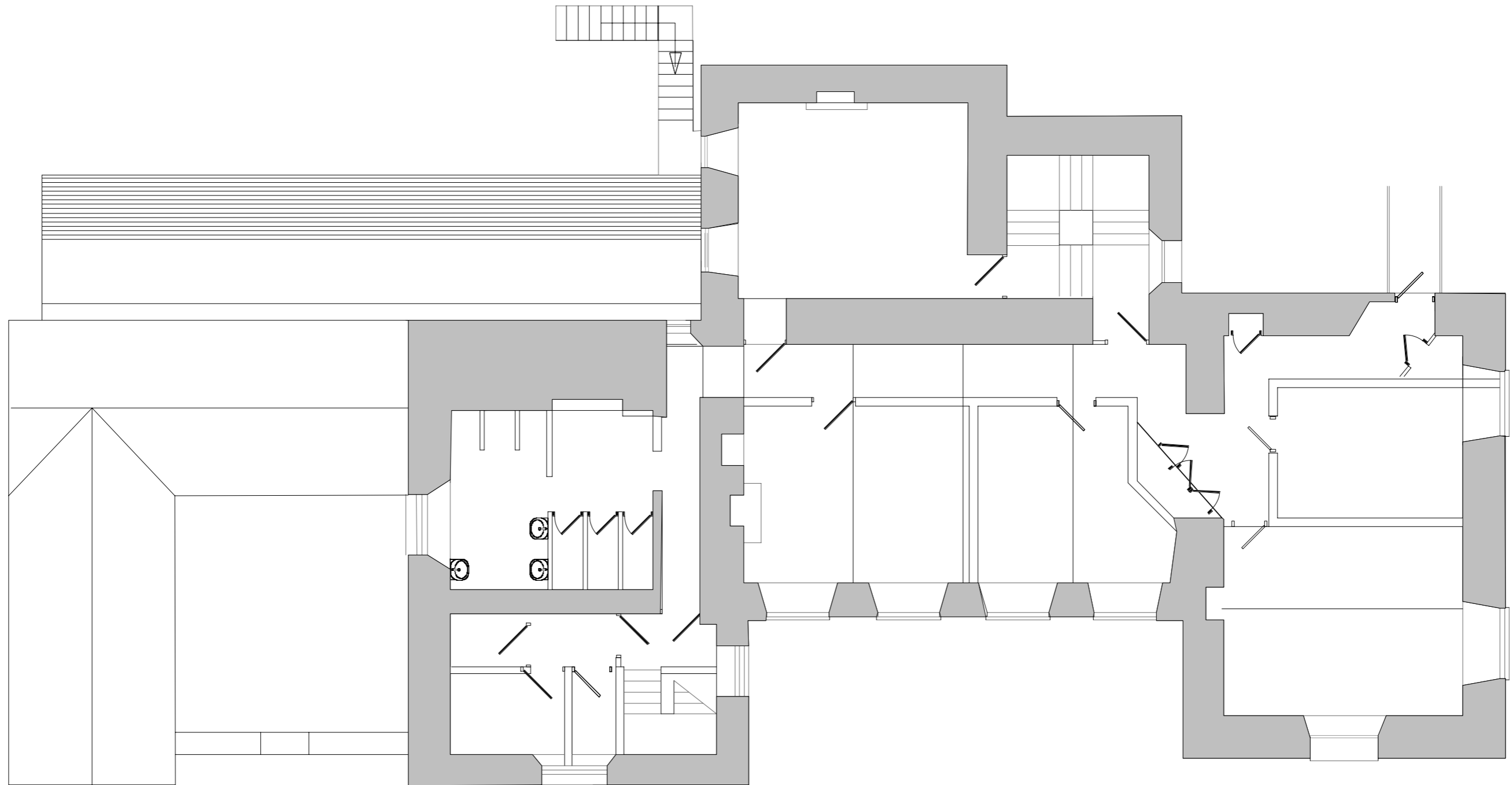
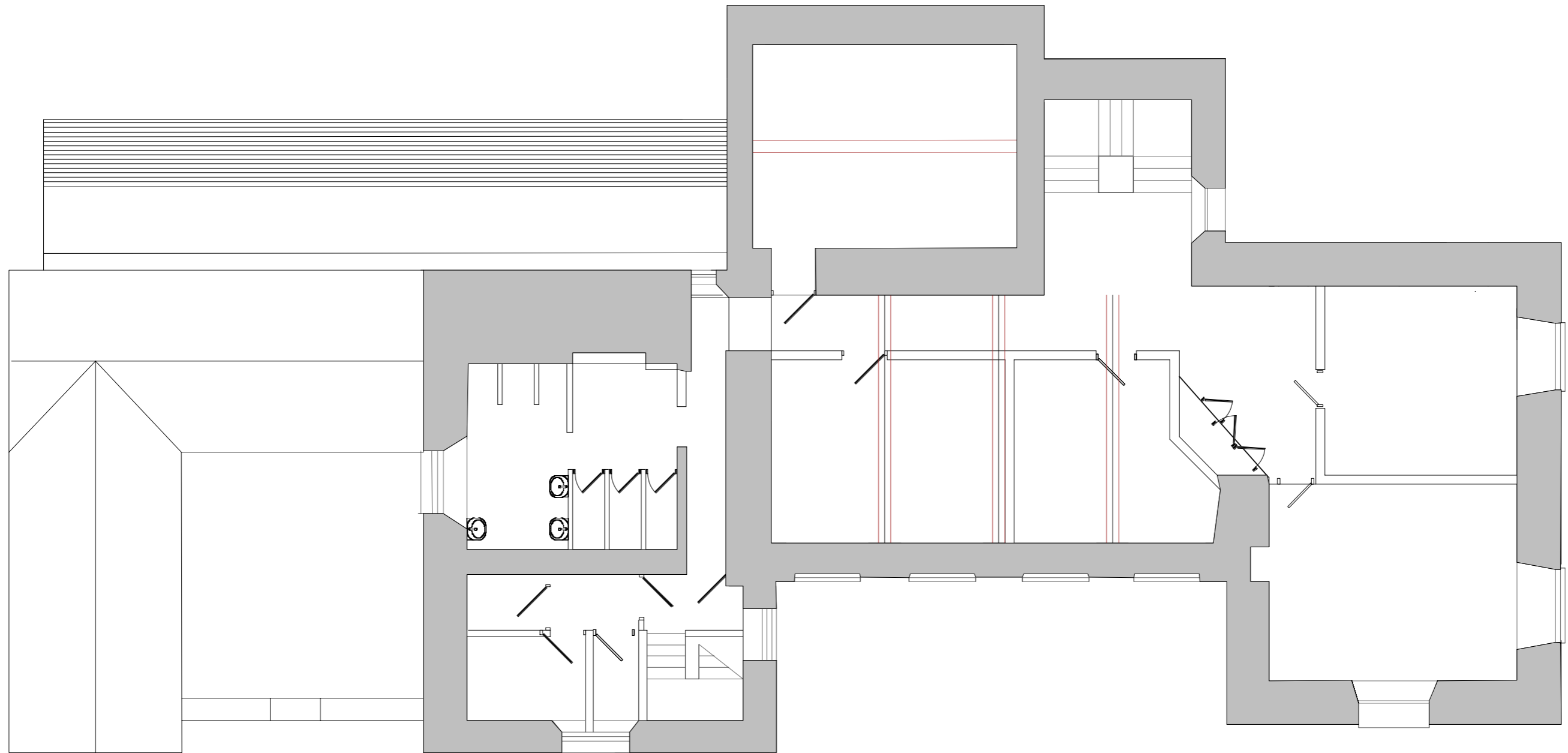


Figure 7: First Floor Plan
Scale 1:100

Based on drawing 2012-024
by Dobson Owen Architects





0 5 m

Based on drawing 2012-024
by Dobson Owen Architects

Figure 8: Second Floor Plan
Scale 1:100

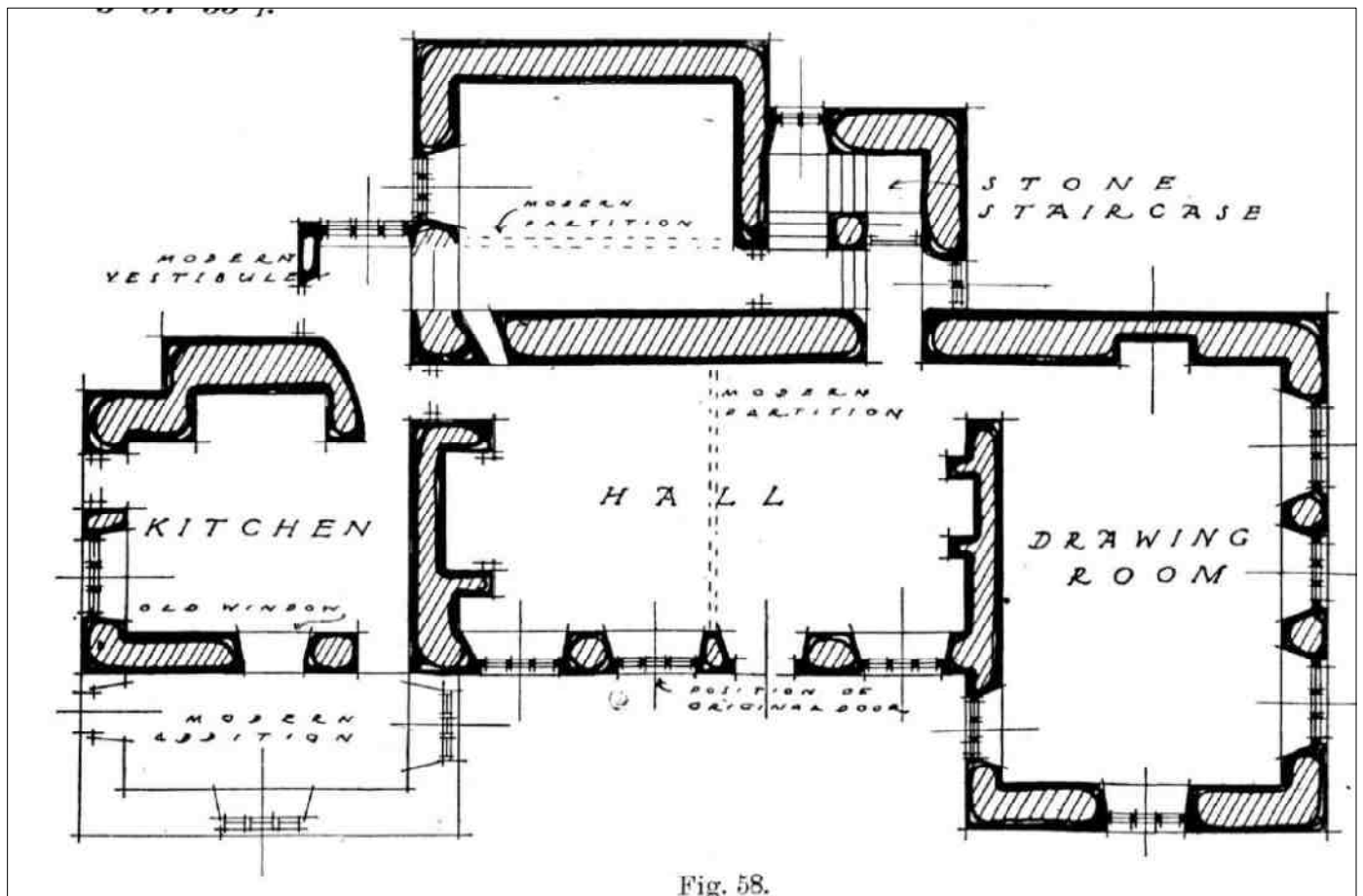


Figure 9: Royal Commission Plan
Rescaled to 1:150

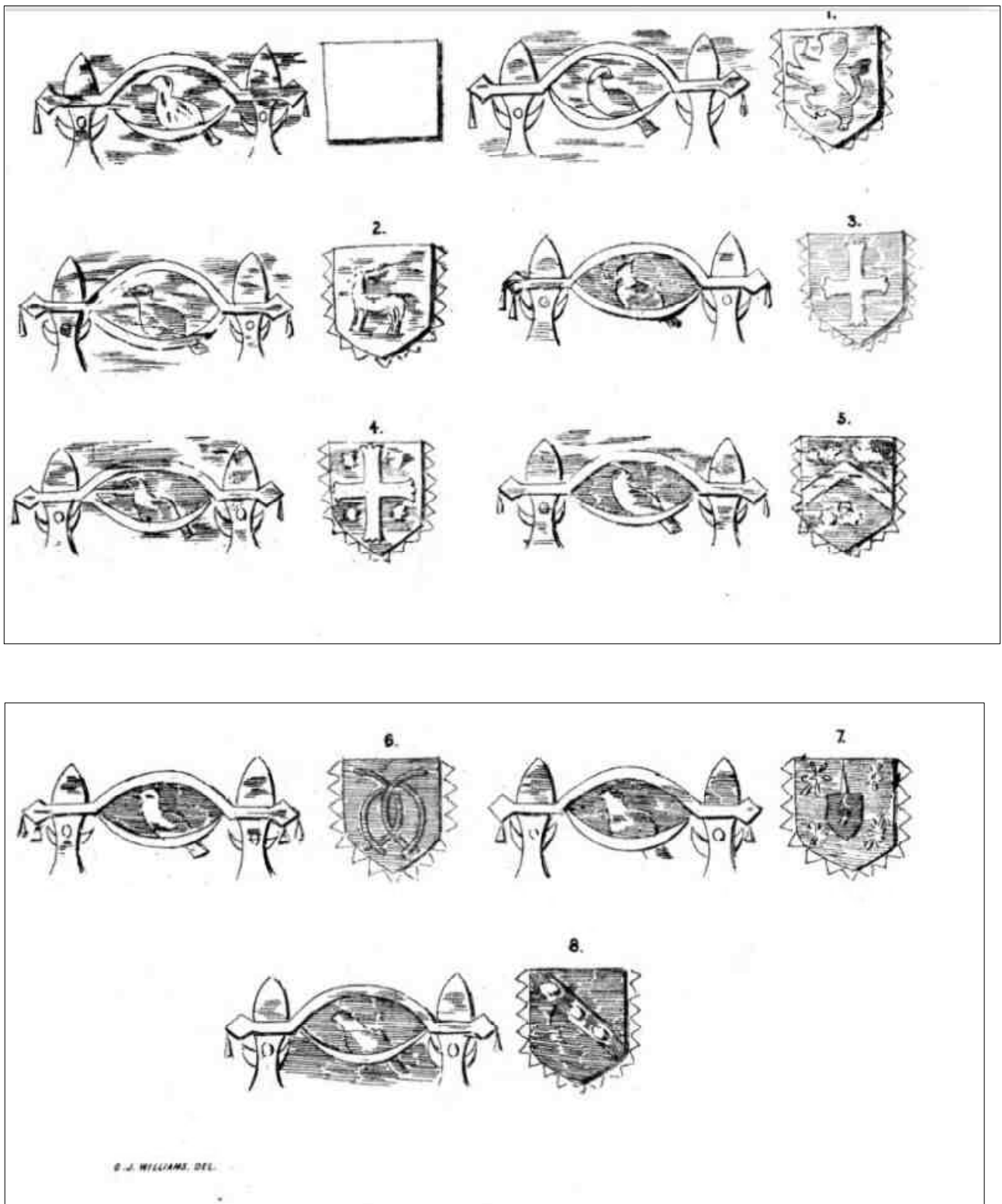


Figure 10: Details of the Frieze from Willaims, 1882, 209 and 210
Not to scale

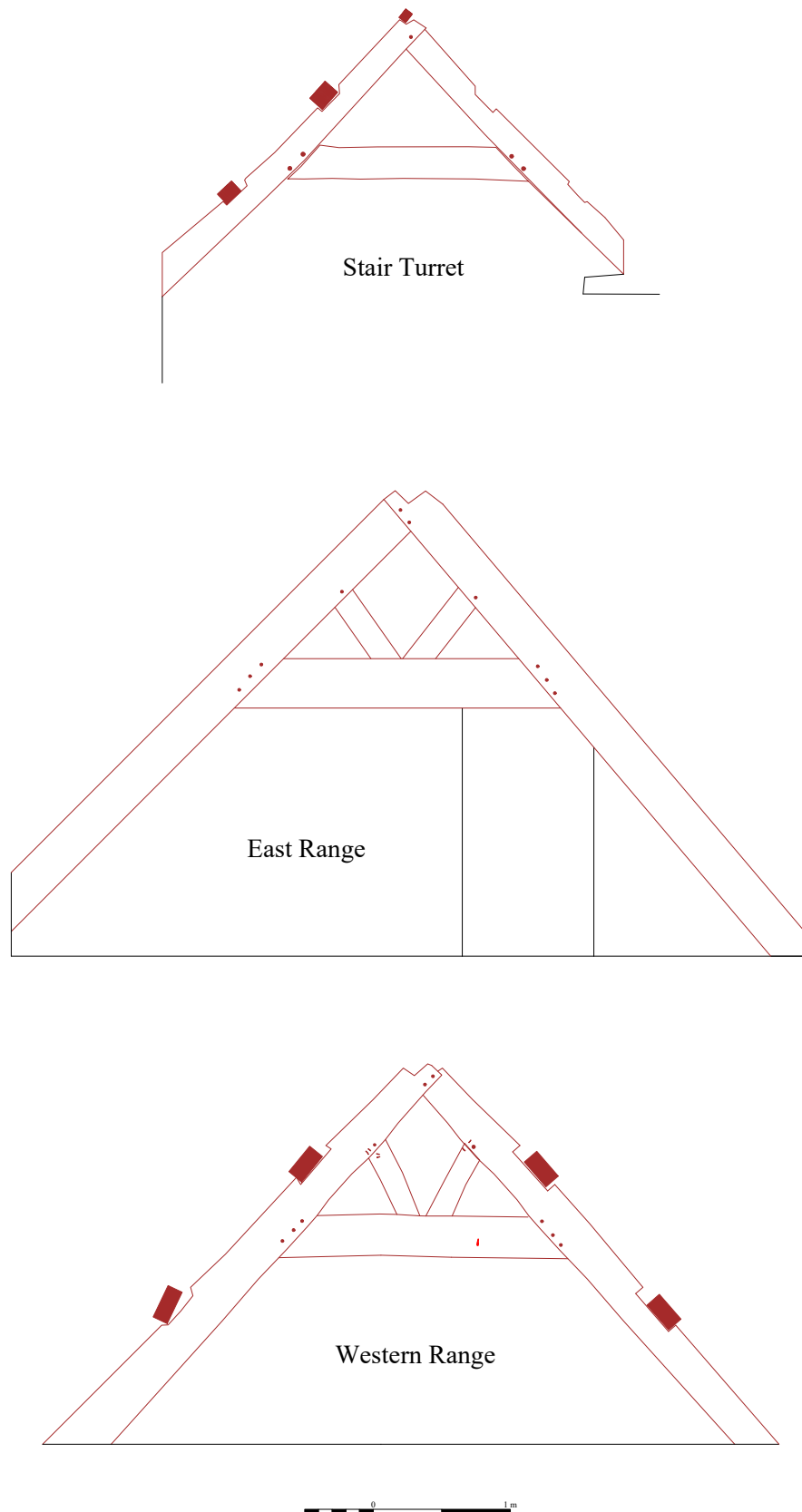
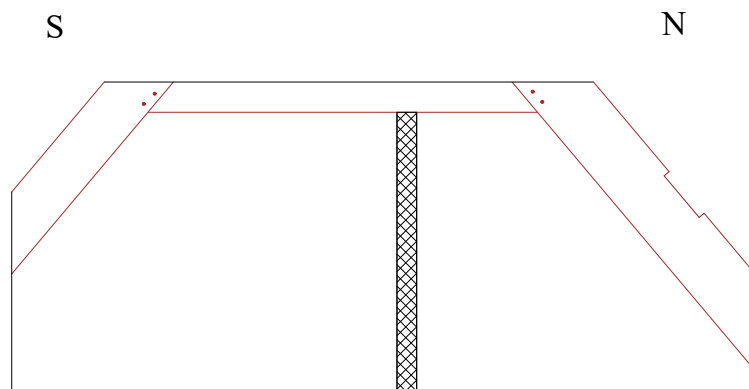
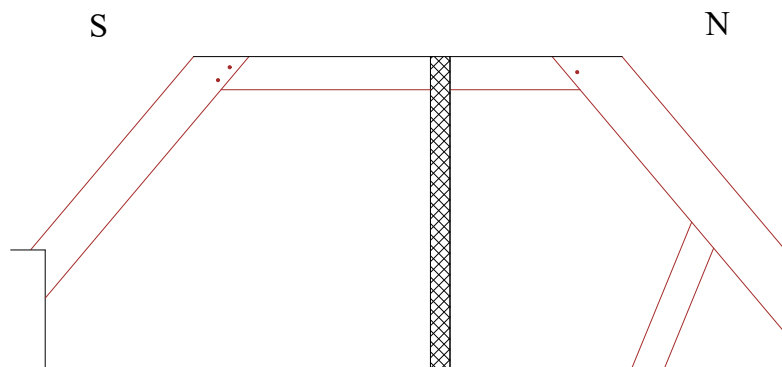


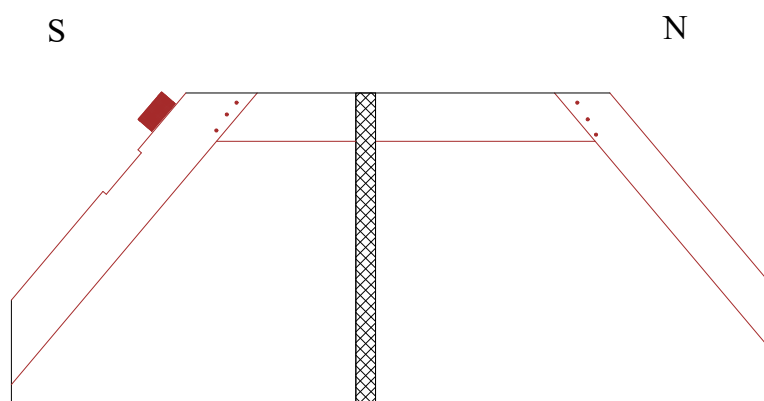
Figure 11: Trusses
Scale 1:50



Main Range Truss 1



Main range Truss 2



Main range Truss 3



Figure 12: Trusses in the central range
Scale 1:50

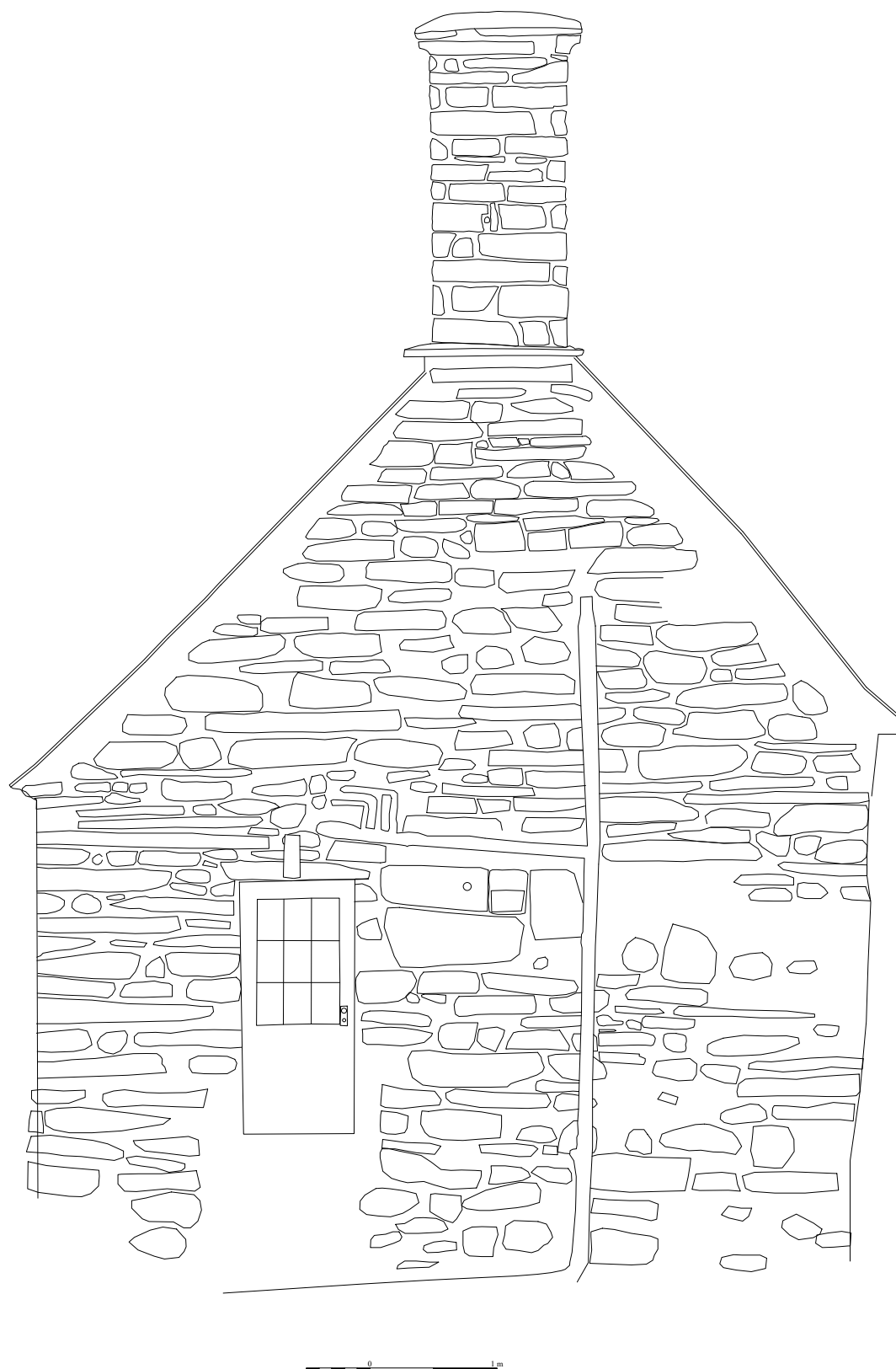


Figure 13: Northern Gable of the Eastern Range
Scale 1:50

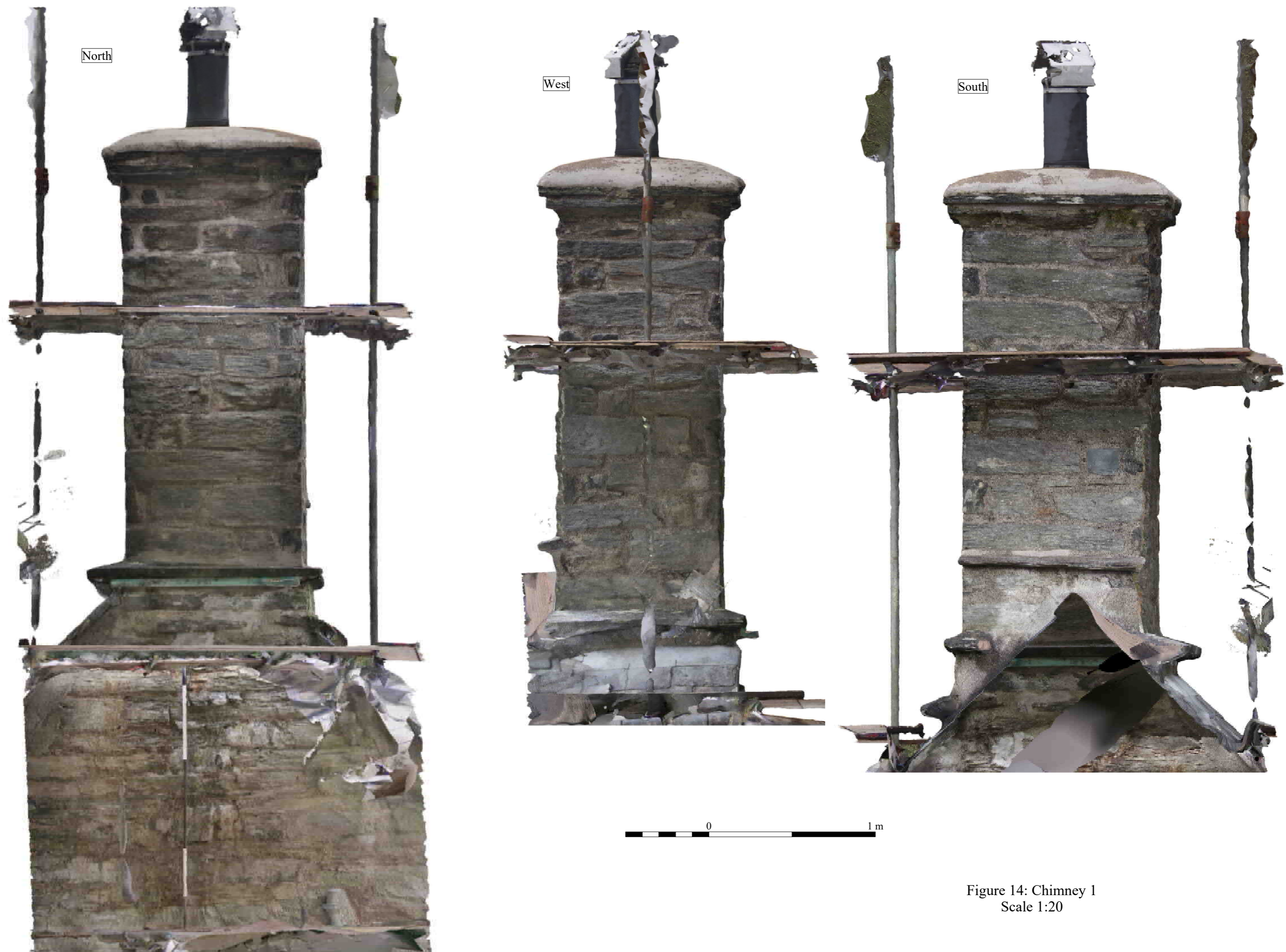


Figure 14: Chimney 1
Scale 1:20



Figure 15: Chimney 1
Scale 1:20

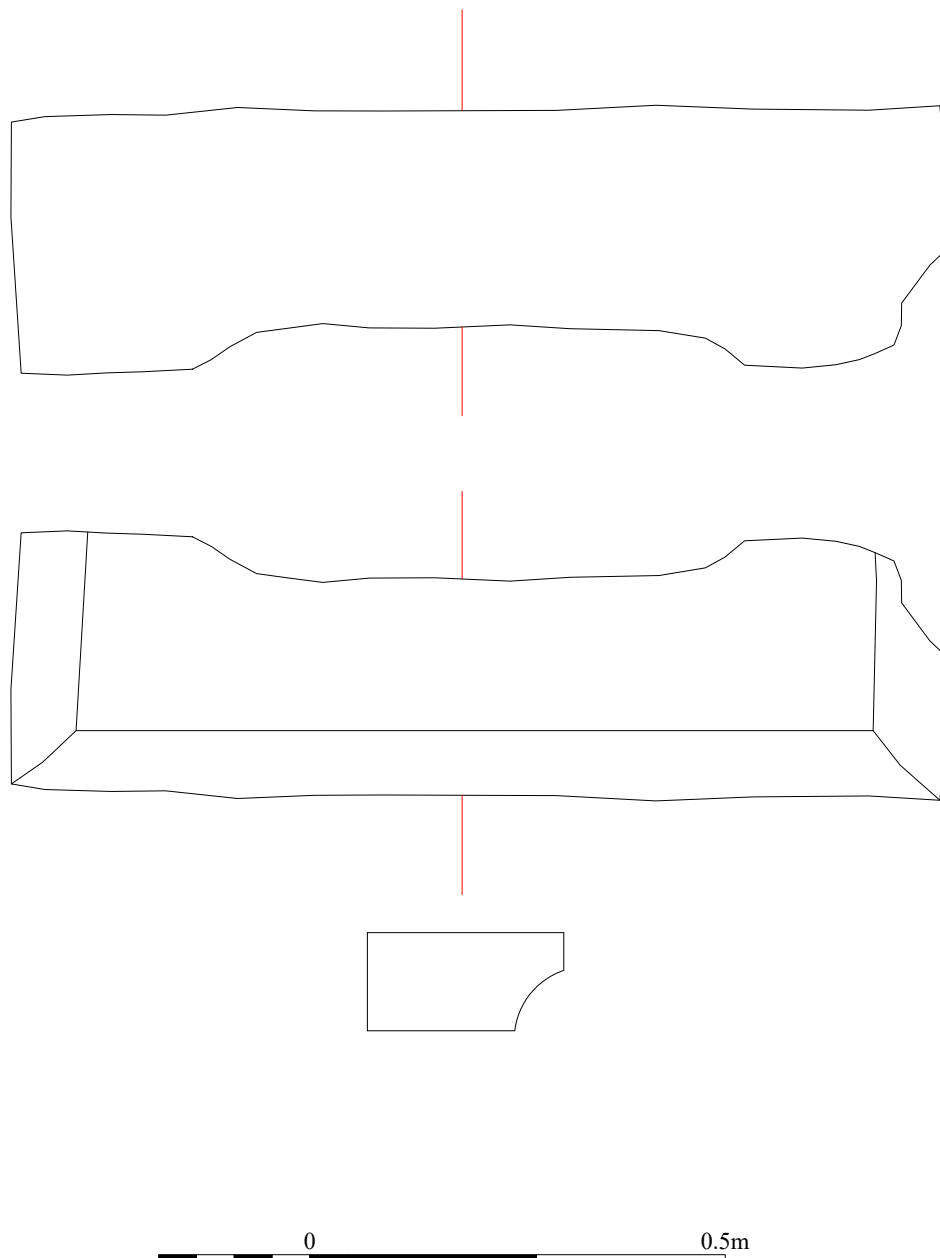


Figure 16: Stone moulding below the flaunching of Chimney 1
Scale 1:10

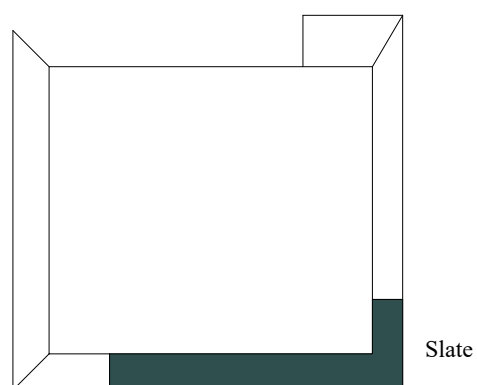
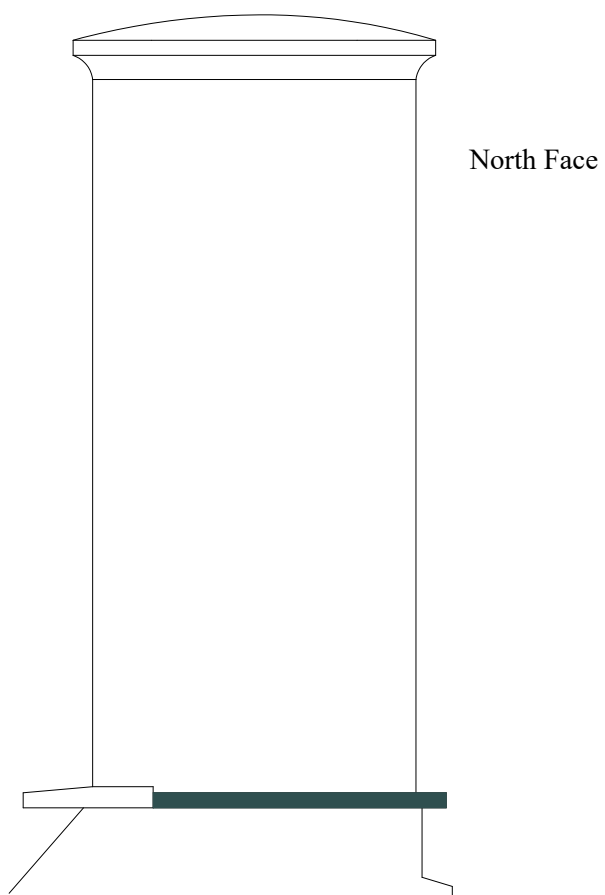
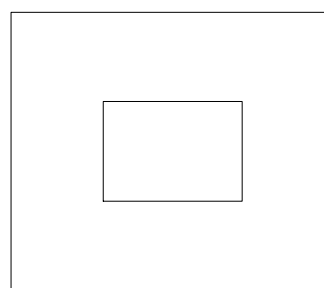
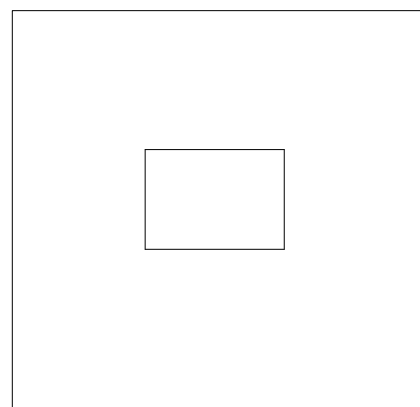
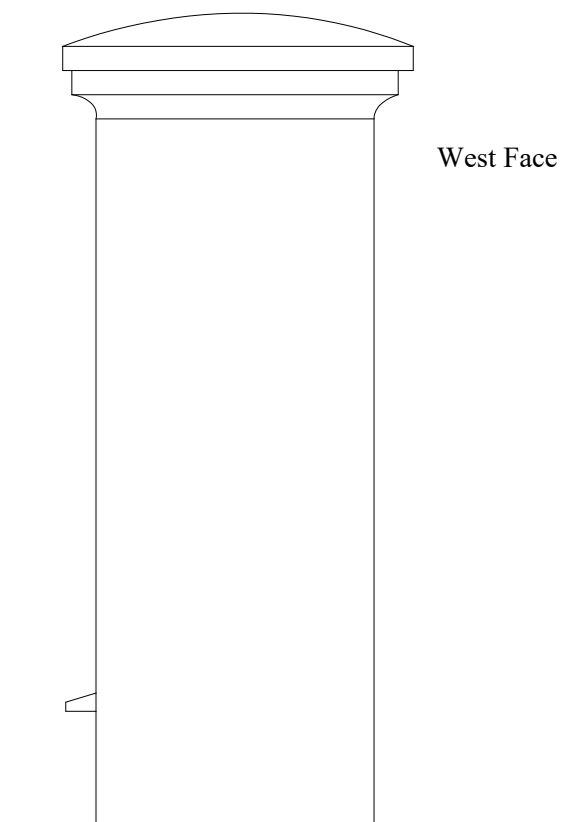


Figure 17: Summary of Chimney 1
Scale 1:25

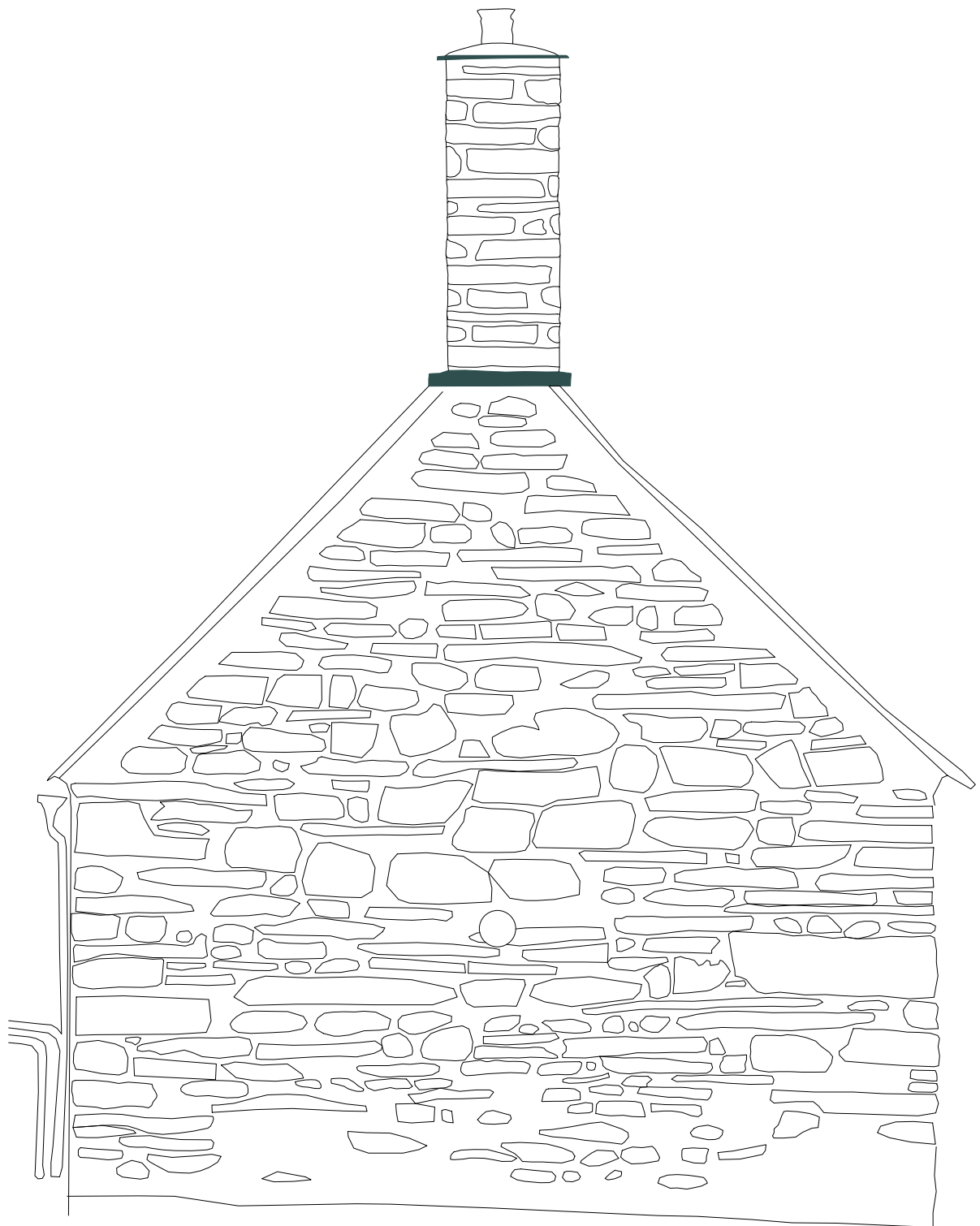


Figure 18: Northern Gable of the Rear Range
Scale 1:50

South

West

North

East



0 1 m

Figure 19: Chimney 2
Scale 1:20

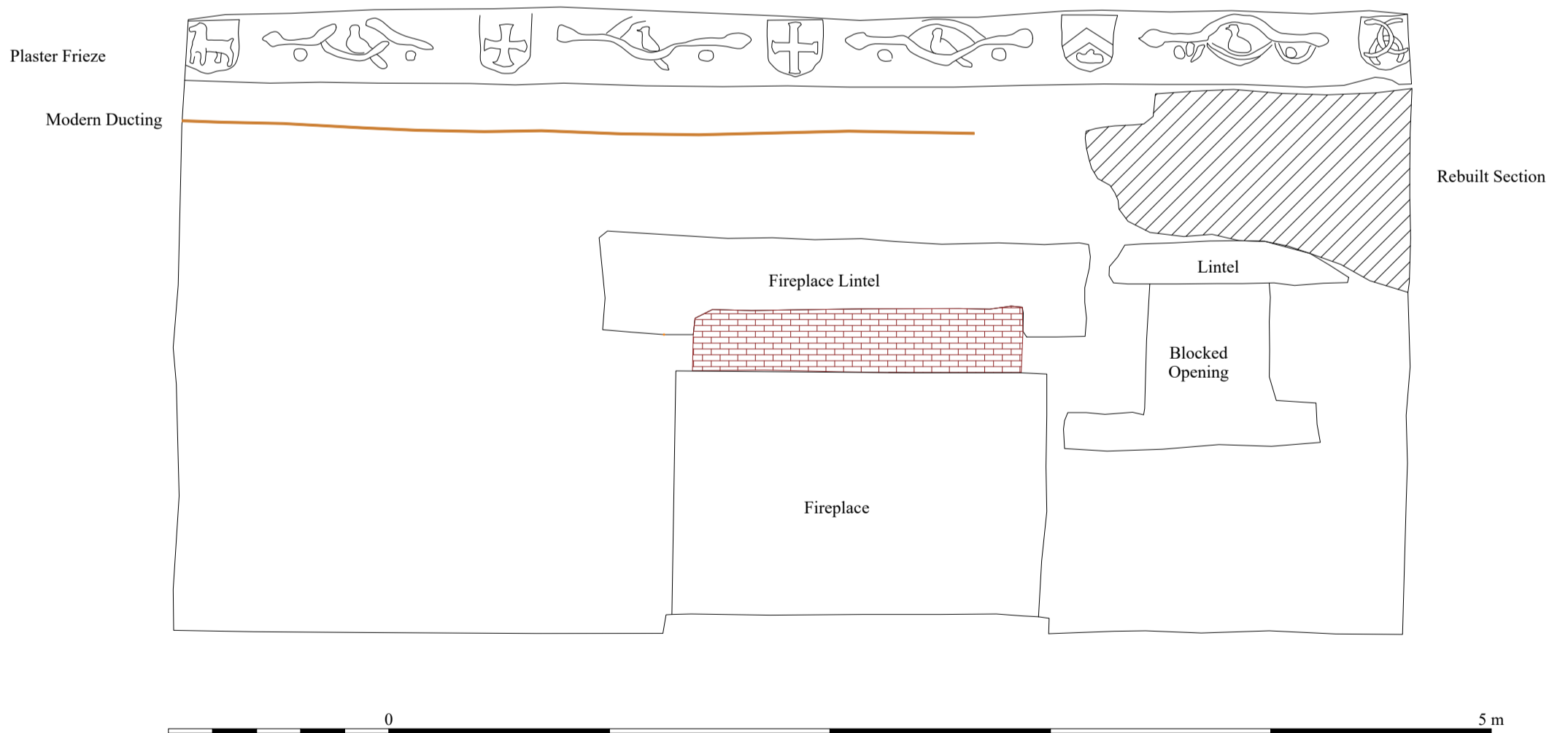


Figure 20: Northern Wall of the Parlour
Scale 1:25

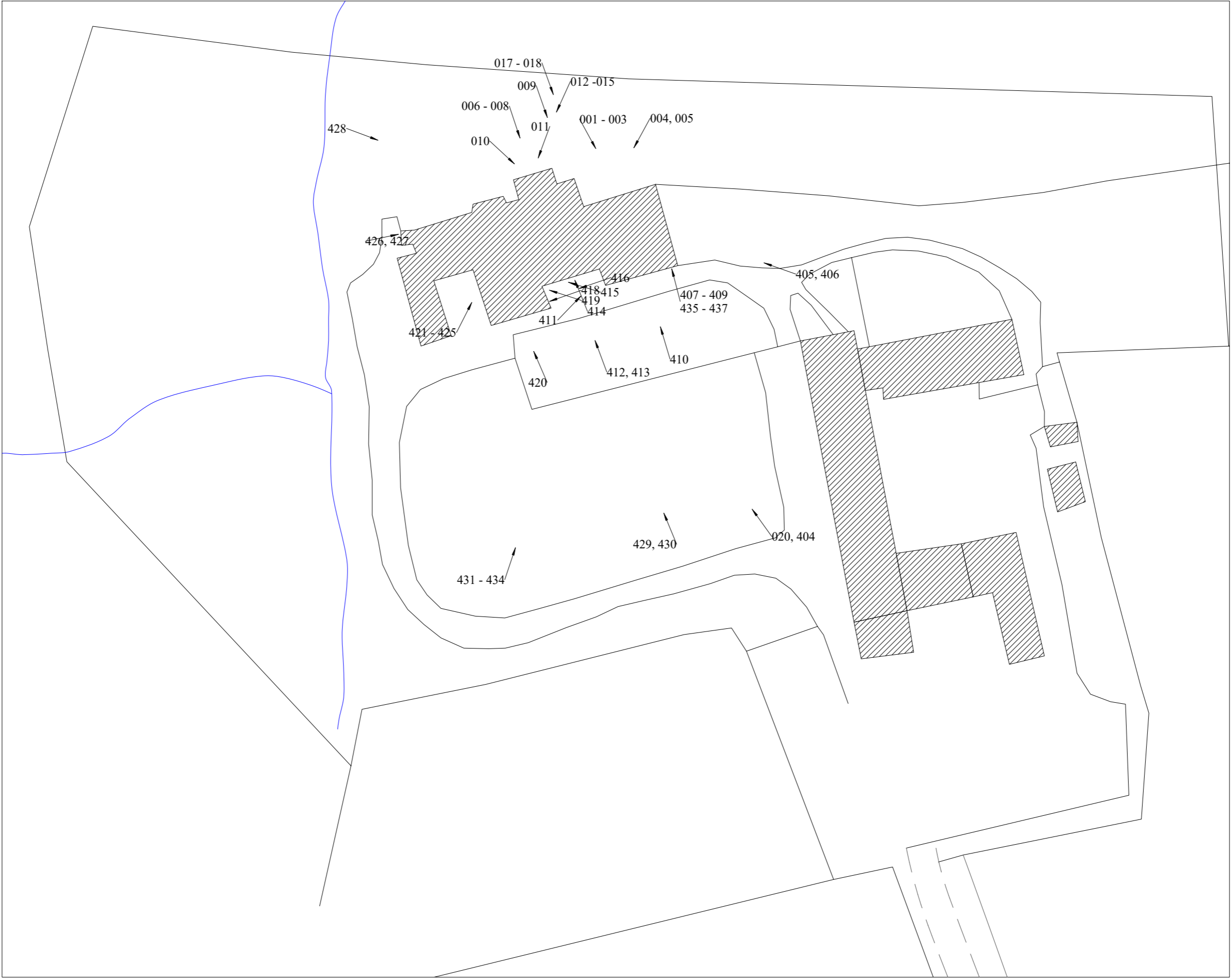
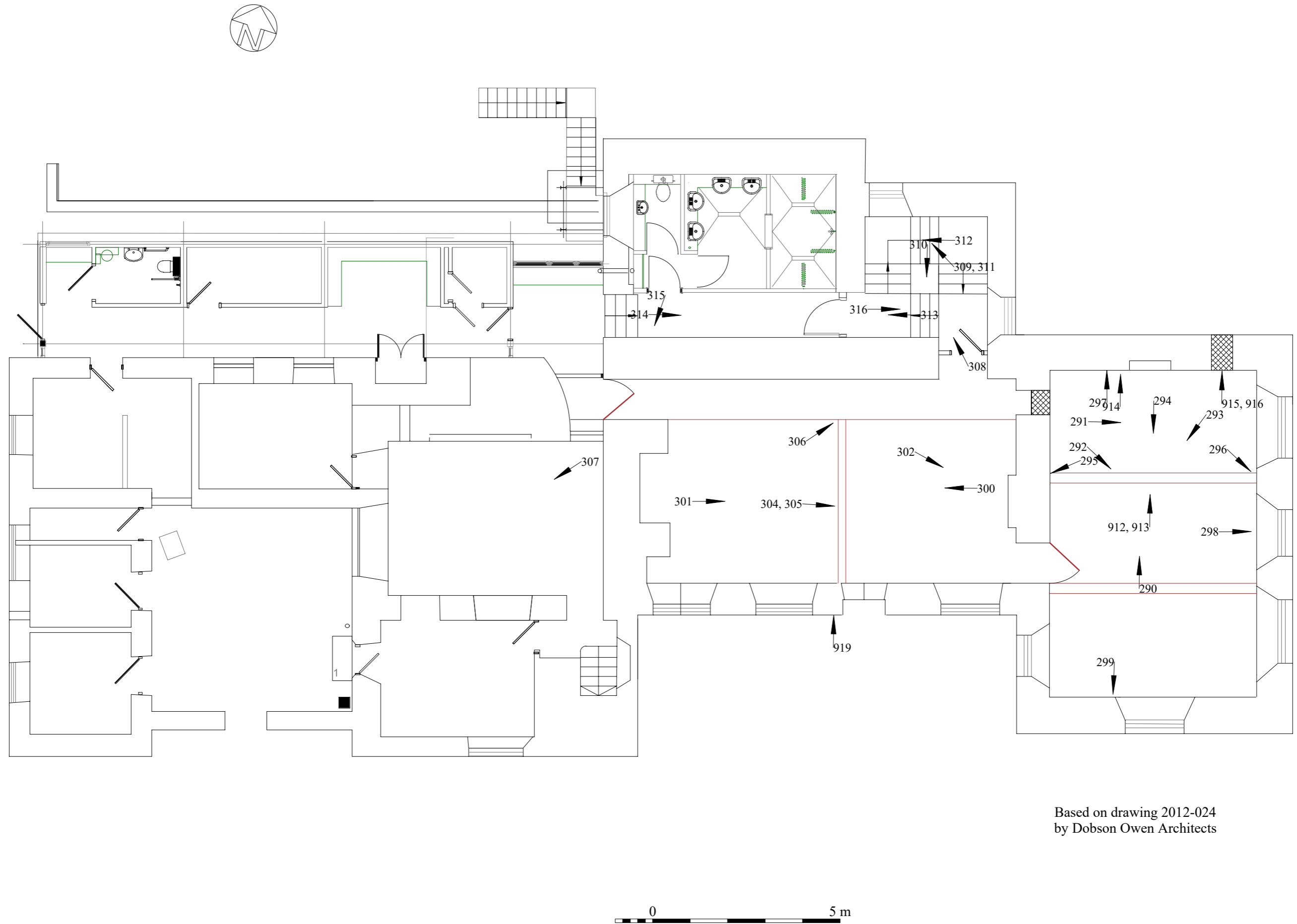
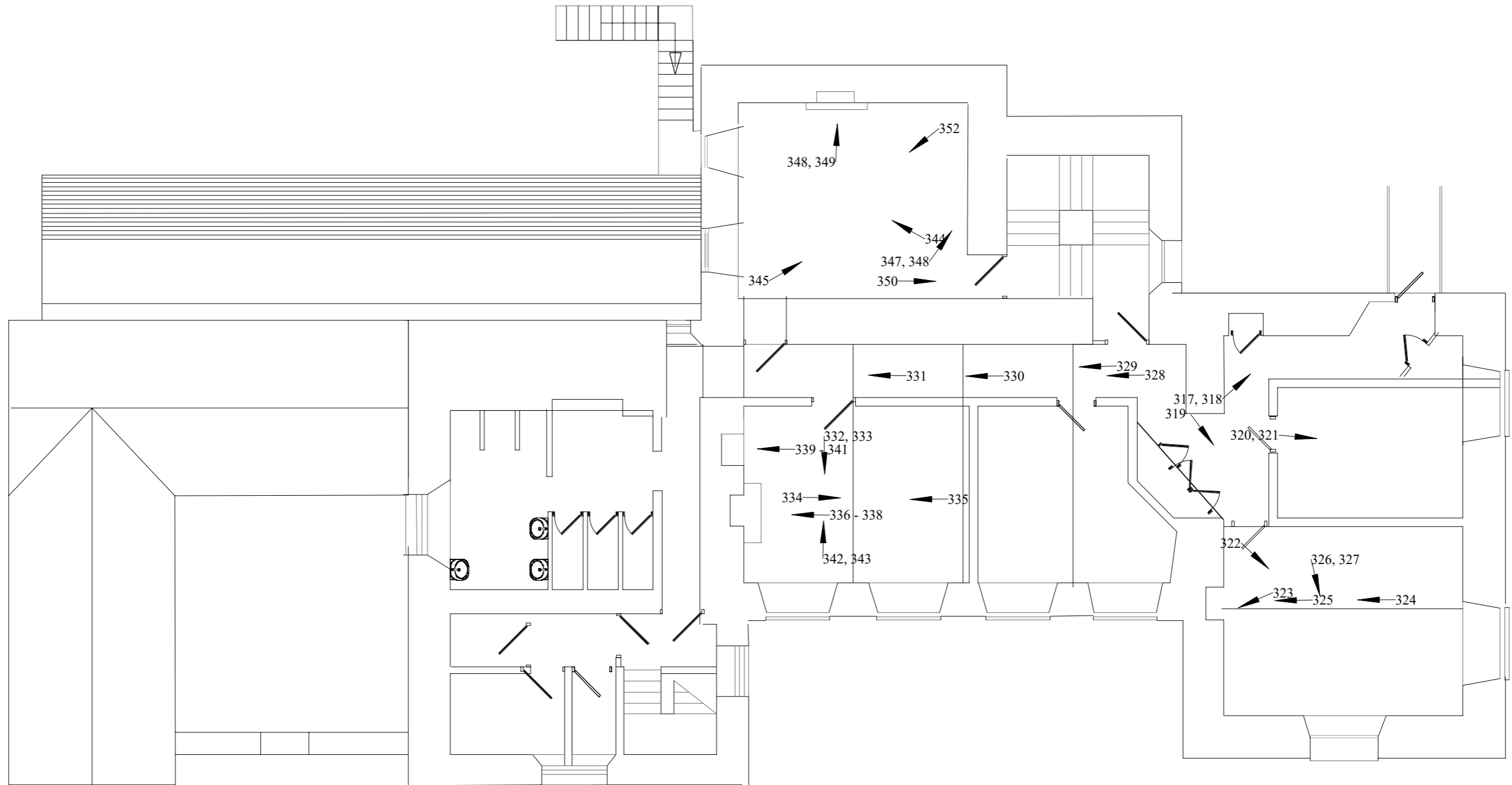


Figure 21: Location of the Photographs in the Archives (External)
Scale 1:500



Based on drawing 2012-024
by Dobson Owen Architects

Figure 22: Location of the Photographs in the Archive (Ground Floor)
Scale 1: 100



Based on drawing 2012-024
by Dobson Owen Architects

Figure 23: Location of the Photographs in the Archive (First Floor)
Scale 1: 100

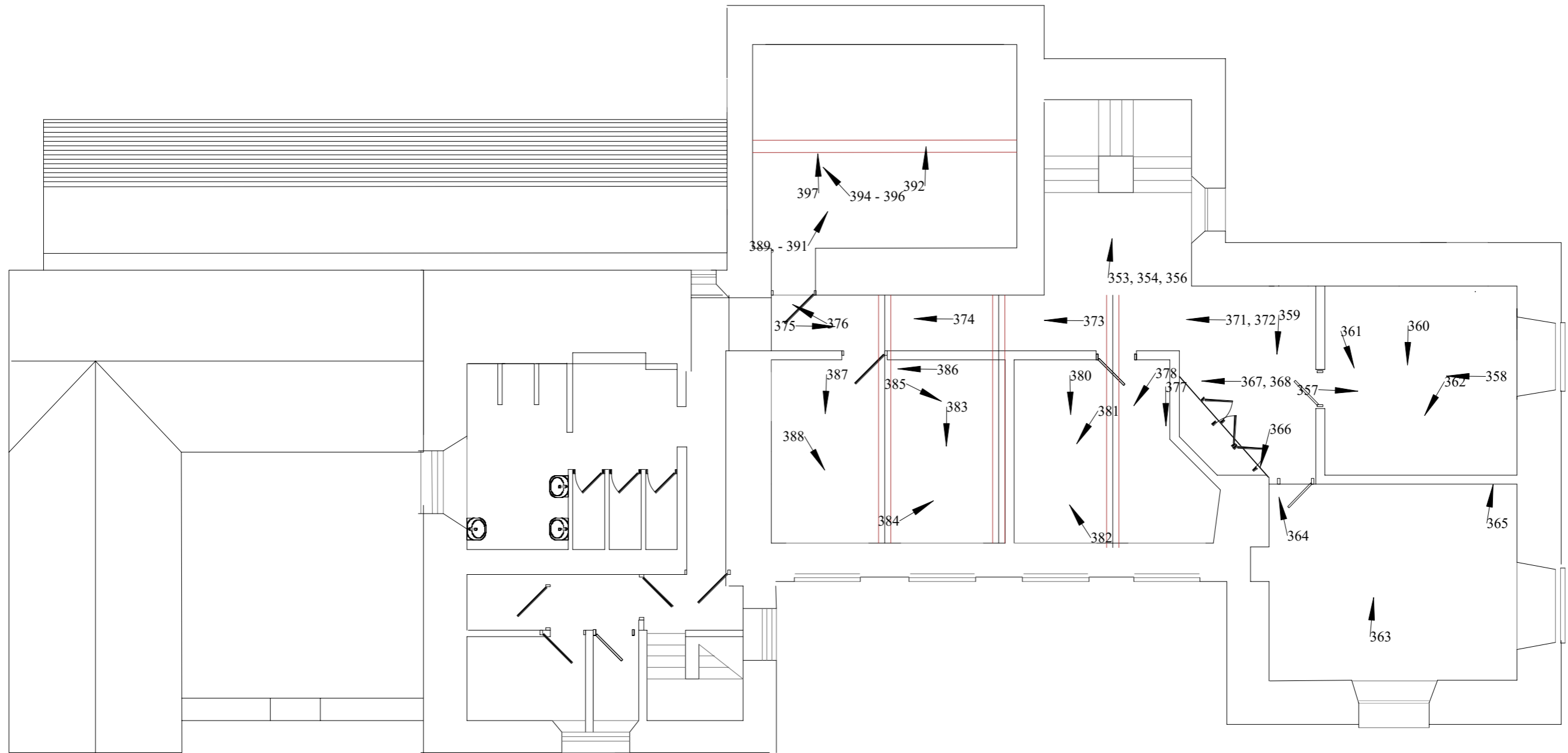


Figure 24: Location of the Photographs in the Archive (Second Floor)
Scale 1: 100

Based on drawing 2012-024
by Dobson Owen Architects





Plate 1: Location of Plas Dol y Moch



Plate 2: Gable of cross wing before repairs



Plate 3: The front elevation



Plate 4: The southern gable of the eastern range



Plate 5: Date scratched on the southern gable of the eastern range



Plate 6: Western face of the eastern range



Plate 7: Blocked opening in the western face of the eastern range



Plate 8: Front elevation of the central range



Plate 9: Current front door



Plate 10: Date scratched in the stonework adjacent to the front door



Plate 11: Partly blocked opening adjacent to the current front door



Plate 12: The eastern face of the western range



Plate 13: Drill casts on the eastern face of the western range



Plate 14: Gable end of the western range



Plate 15: Western face of the western range in the service yard



Plate 16: Northern end of the western range



Plate 17: Gable of the rear range



Plate 18: Stair tower



Plate 19: Eastern face of the stair tower



Plate 20: Northern gable of the eastern range



Plate 21: Small window on the northern gable of the eastern range



Plate 22 The eastern face of the eastern range



Plate 23: The hall, looking west



Plate 24: The hall, looking east



Plate 25: The fireplace in the Hall



Plate 26: Chamfering and stop on the ceiling beam of the hall



Plate 27: Repair to the ceiling beam in the Hall



Plate 28: The Parlour, looking north



Plate 29: The Parlour, looking south



Plate 30: Chamfering and stop on the ceiling beam in the Parlour



Plate 31: Chamfering and stop on the ceiling beam in the Parlour



Plate 32: Area where the paint has flaked off showing the stonework of the frieze



Plate 33: Eastern section of the frieze



Plate 34: Northern section of the frieze



Plate 35: Southern section of the frieze



Plate 36: Western section of the frieze.



Hedd Molwynog of Uwch-Aled



Braint Hir of Is-dulas



Edwin, King of Tegaingle



Ednowain Bendew



Ednowain Ap Bradwen



Unkown sheild.
Not Cilmin Troed-Du



Gweirydd Ap Rhys Goch



Efnydd

Plate 37: The armorials in the stone frieze



Plate 38: Detail of the bird and strapwork



Plate 39: Possible coal hole below the stairs



Plate 40: Detail of the southern end of the possible coal hole



Plate 41: Underside of the stairs in the possible coal hole



Plate 42: Ground floor passage behind the hall



Plate 43: Recess in the passage behind the hall



Plate 44: Underside of the main staircase



Plate 45: First floor fireplace



Plate 46: Beam in the short passage along the eastern range bedrooms



Plate 47: One of the bedrooms in the eastern range



Plate 48: The southern, first floor, bedroom of the eastern range, looking south



Plate 49: Corbel holding the main ceiling beams in the southern, first floor, bedroom of the eastern range



Plate 50: The southern, first floor, bedroom of the eastern range, looking west



Plate 51: Detail of the fireplace in the southern, first floor, bedroom of the eastern range



Plate 52: Graffiti on the beam in the southern, first floor, bedroom of the eastern range

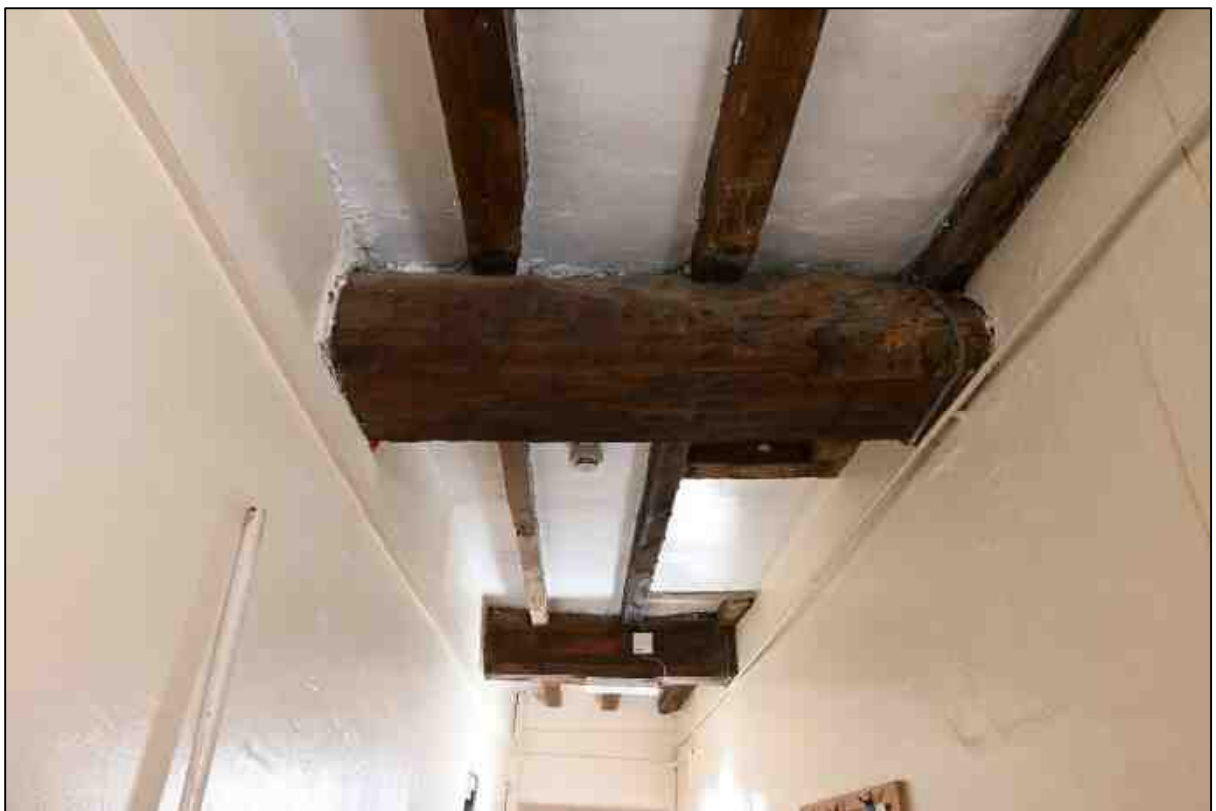


Plate 53: First floor passage linking the bedrooms in the central range



Plate 54: Beam crossing the eastern, first-floor bedroom in the central range



Plate 55: Eastern, first-floor bedroom in the central range, looking east



Plate 56: Western, first-floor bedroom in the central range



Plate 57: Plaster armorial



Plate 58: Partially blocked doorway adjacent to the armorial



Plate 59: Bedroom door



Plate 60: First-floor room in the rear range, looking north west



Plate 61: First-floor room in the rear range, looking north east



Plate 62: Later repairs to the ceiling beam



Plate 63: Plaster overmantel



Plate 64: Door to the first-floor room in the rear range



Plate 65: Truss over the stair turret



Plate 66: Window in the eastern wall of the stair turret



Plate 67: Window in the northern wall of the stair turret



Plate 68: Truss within the northern bedroom on the second floor of the eastern range



Plate 69: Truss in the passage in the eastern range



Plate 70: Truss in the second floor, northern, bedroom of the eastern range



Plate 71: Truss in the second floor, northern, bedroom of the eastern range



Plate 72: Detail of the joint between the collar and principal rafter of the truss in the northern room of the eastern range



Plate 73: Purlin and principal rafter in the cleaning cupboard



Plate 74: Principal rafter in the cleaning cupboard



Plate 75: Trusses exposed in the corridor along the northern side of the central range



Plate 76: Eastern bedroom on the second floor of the central range



Plate 77: Truss within the eastern bedroom on the second floor of the central range



Plate 78: Second bedroom on the second floor of the central range

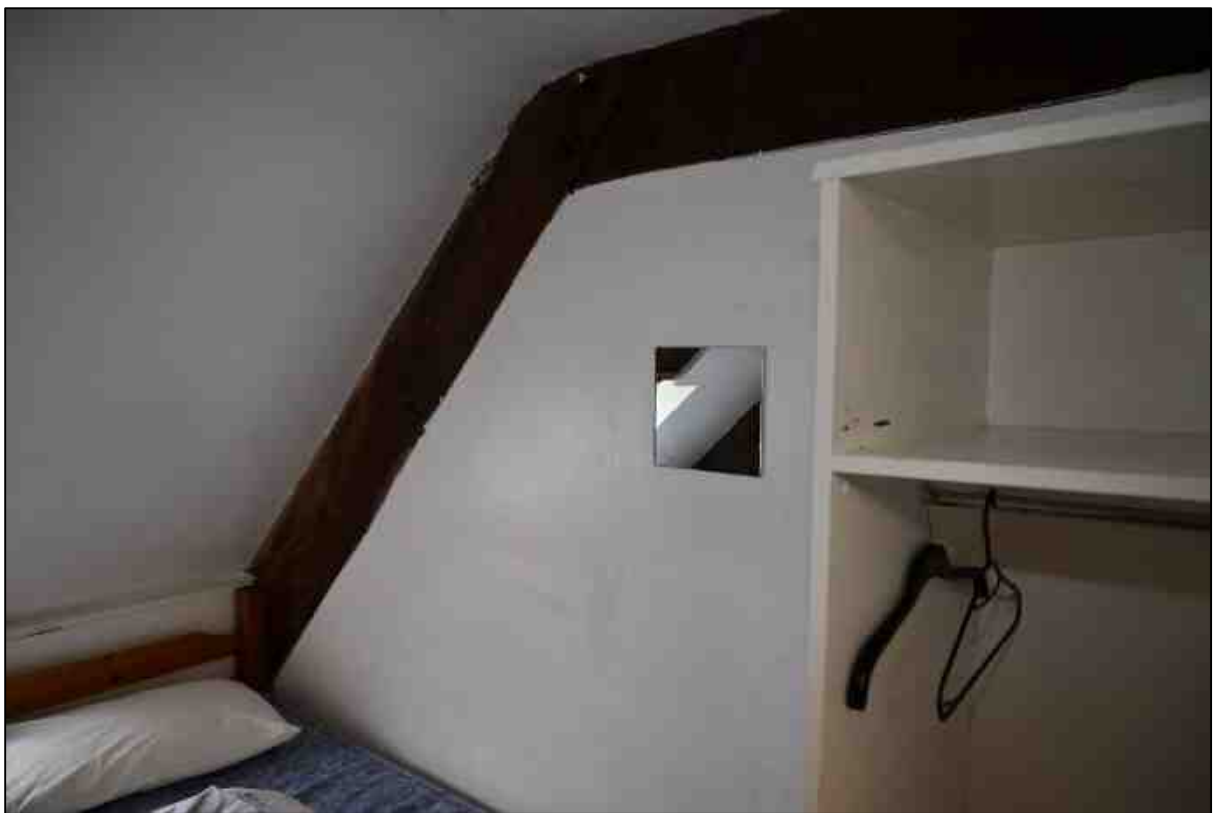


Plate 79: Truss within the second bedroom on the second floor of the central range



Plate 80: Third bedroom on the second floor of the central range



Plate 81: Truss within the third bedroom on the second floor of the central range



Plate 82: Detail of the joint between the collar and the principal rafter in the third bedroom on the second floor of the central range



Plate 83: Fourth bedroom on the second floor of the central range



Plate 84: Truss in the fourth bedroom on the second floor of the central range



Plate 85: Truss within the rear bedroom



Plate 86: Apotropaic Mark on the collar of the truss of the rear bedroom



Plate 87: Carpenter's marks on the truss in the rear bedroom



Plate 88: Carpenter's marks on the truss in the rear bedroom



Plate 89: Top of the truss in the eastern range



Plate 90: Top of a truss in the central range



Plate 91: Chimney over the eastern range during demolition



Plate 92: Chimney over the eastern range under demolition



Plate 93: Parlour wall after the removal of the plasterboard sheets



Plate 94: Blocked opening in the northern wall of the parlour

Appendix 1: Specification

Specification for the Recording of Plas Dol y Moch, Maentwrog, Gwynedd, LL41 3YT (Planning Reference NP5/73/LB74S)

1. Non-Technical Summary

- 1.1. It is planned to rebuilding of two of the chimneys at Plas Dol y Moch, Maentwrog and to carry out associated drainage works. The gable end of the building and the chimneys will be recorded and a Level 2 survey (Historic England (May 2016) Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice) of the building carried out.

2. Background

- 2.1. It is planned to rebuilding of two of the chimneys at Plas Dol y Moch, Maentwrog (Figure 1) and to carry out associated drainage works.
- 2.2. The house consists of a late 16th century main, central range with kitchen at the left end and service wing to rear; the east wing was rebuilt in 1643. The building was listed because, notwithstanding later alterations and additions, as a fine sub-medieval gentry house retaining good traditional character and with fine interior detail including fine plaster overmantels and frieze.
- 2.3. The building is a Grade II, Listed Building, Ref. 4695

3. Objectives

- 3.1. The principal objectives of the proposed works are as follows:
 - 3.1.1. To record the chimneys before they are demolished and rebuilt
 - 3.1.2. To allow an adequate analytical record of the buildings to be made, before they are converted, to ensure that the buildings origins, use and development are understood and the main features, character and state of preservation are recorded.

4. Fieldwork Program

- 4.1. A program of field work is proposed for this area that will include:
 - 4.1.1. The recording of the gable end and chimneys
 - 4.1.2. A written description
 - 4.1.3. A drawn record
 - 4.1.4. A photographic record
 - 4.1.5. Report preparation
 - 4.1.6. Archive preparation

5. Methodology

- 5.1. Prior to demolition the gable end of the building and the chimneys to be rebuilt will be recorded.
 - 5.1.1. A photogrammetric model of the gable end will be made prior to any scaffolding being erected.
 - 5.1.2. Once the scaffolding is erected photogrammetric models of the chimneys will be made prior to their demolition.

- 5.1.3. Photographs will be taken with an Akaso Brave 6 Plus camera, with a resolution of 20.1 MP, on an extendable pole. These photographs will be processed with Agisoft Metashape v. 1.6.3 to produce photogrammetric images of the trenches.
- 5.2. The recording of the building will conform with a Level 2 survey as defined by Historic England (May 2016) Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice.
- 5.3. Written description
 - 5.3.1. The written description will include:
 - 5.3.1.1. The precise location of the building as an address and in the form of a National Grid reference.
 - 5.3.1.2. A note of any statutory designation.
 - 5.3.1.3. The date when the record was made, the name of the recorder and the location of any archive material.
 - 5.3.1.4. A longer summary statement summarising the building's form, function, date and sequence of development.
- 5.4. Drawn Record
 - 5.4.1. The drawn record will be based on the plans, sections and elevations already prepared by Dobson-Owen Architects
 - 5.4.2. Measured plans (to scale or fully dimensioned) as existing. Plans will show the form and location of any structural features of historic significance, such as blocked door ways, windows and fireplaces, masonry joints, ceiling beams and other changes in floor and ceiling levels, and any evidence for fixtures of significance
 - 5.4.3. Measured drawings recording the form or location of other significant structural detail (for example timber or metal framing).
 - 5.4.4.4 Measured cross-sections or long-sections to illustrate the vertical relationships within a building (for example floor and ceiling heights, the form of roof trusses).
 - 5.4.5.5 Measured drawings to show the form of any architectural decoration (for example the moulding profiles of door surrounds, beams, mullions and cornices) or small-scale functional detail not easily captured by photography. A measured detail drawing is particularly valuable when the feature in question is an aid to dating.
 - 5.4.6.6 Measured elevations, where these are necessary to an understanding of the building's design, development or function.
 - 5.4.7.7 A site plan relating the building to other structures and to any related topographical and landscape features
- 5.5. Photographic
 - 5.5.1. A general view or views of the building in its wider
 - 5.5.2.2 The building's external appearance.
 - 5.5.3.4 The overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas.
 - 5.5.4. Photographs will be taken with Nikon V5 SLR Camera at a resolution of 24.2 MP
 - 5.5.5. If appropriate photographs will be taken with an Akaso Brave 6 Plus camera on an extendable pole. These photographs will be processed with Agisoft Metashape v. 1.6.3 to produce photogrammetric images of the elevations

6. *Report and Archive*

- 6.1. On completion of the survey a report shall be produced which will contain:
 - 6.1.1. Non-technical summary
 - 6.1.2. Location and NGR
 - 6.1.3. Statutory designations
 - 6.1.4. Date of record, recorder and archive deposition
 - 6.1.5. Introduction
 - 6.1.6. Site location
 - 6.1.7. Topography and Geology
 - 6.1.8. Methodology
 - 6.1.9. Result of the desktop study
 - 6.1.10. Summary of the form, function, date and development of the building
 - 6.1.11. Summary description of the building
 - 6.1.12. Past and present usage
 - 6.1.13. Evidence for former existence of demolished structures, removed fittings etc
 - 6.1.14. Site Plans and Elevations
 - 6.1.15. Phase plan (if necessary)
 - 6.1.16. Conclusions
 - 6.1.17. References
- 6.2. A digital copy of the report will be submitted to the client within one month of the completion of the field work.
- 6.3. The digital records will be archived with the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales
- 6.4. The digital archive will be prepared in line with Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales. 2015. Guidelines for digital archives
- 6.5. The digital file formats used for the archive will follow those recommended within the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales. 2015. Guidelines for digital archives.
- 6.6. The preparation of the report will conform to the Welsh Archaeological Trusts 2018 “Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)”

7. *Staff*

- 7.1. The project will be carried out by Ian Brooks, PhD, BA, MCIfA., FSA

8. *Timetable*

- 8.1. It is intended to carry out the fieldwork from 25th March 2024 or as soon as possible

9. *General*

- 9.1. CIfA Code of Conduct

- 9.1.1. All staff will abide by, and all procedures be carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct

9.2. Health and Safety

- 9.2.1. EAS Ltd adopt and adhere to safe working practices at all times.
- 9.2.2. A copy of the company's general statement of policy is available on request.

9.3. Staff

- 9.3.1. The project will be directed by Dr I.P. Brooks MCIfA FSA
- 9.3.2. Project Staff will include Dr I.P. Brooks MCIfA FSA.

9.4. Curatorial Monitoring

- 9.4.1. The Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service will be informed as to the start date and progress of the fieldwork.

9.5. Insurance

- 9.5.1. EAS Ltd carries all necessary Public and Employee Liability Insurances.
- 9.5.2. EAS Ltd carries Professional Indemnity Insurance

10. Data Management

10.1. Photographs will be taken in Nikon NEF (Raw) format

- 10.1.1. These will be converted to TIFF for archiving and JPEG for illustrations and general use.
- 10.1.2. Photographs for photogrammetry will be taken in JPEG format and processed using Agisoft Metascape v. 1.6.3. Orthographically corrected elevations photos will be produced in JPEG format and converted to TIFF for archiving.

10.2. Any topographic survey will be carried out using a Leica TS06 total station with the data processed using NRG Engineering Surveying System V2016.00.

- 10.2.1. Survey files will be converted to DXF format.

10.3. Initial written notes will be made on an "i Pad" using the "Pages" app. These will be converted to WORD format (.docx) format on downloading

10.4. The text for the report will be produced in Word (.docx) format

10.5. Drawing will be made in TurboCad 2021 v. 28.0 and stored in .TCW format. These will be converted into .DXF or .DWG format for archiving.

10.6. The report will converted to .PDF format using Expert PDF 15.

10.7. All files will be stored on the company laptop computer and backed up onto a suitable storage device.

11. Copyright

11.1. EAS Ltd shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other

project documentation, under the Copyrights, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved: excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

- 11.2. EAS Ltd is prepared to assign a licence to the client for the use of the report and any associated data.



Reproduced from the Outdoor Leisure OL18 Map, 1:25,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey ® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright 1994 All Rights Reserved Licence Number AL 100014722

Figure 1: Location

Appendix 2: Listing Description

Reference Number	4695
Building Number	
Grade	II
Status	Designated
Date of Designation	24/04/1951
Date of Amendment	25/02/2005
Name of Property	Plas Dol-y-moch
Location	
Unitary Authority	Gwynedd
Community	Maentwrog
Town	
Locality	Vale of Ffestiniog
Easting	268401
Northing	341907
Street Side	
Location	On the narrow country road that runs along the N side of the Vale of Ffestiniog between the A487(T) and the B4391; ENE of Maentwrog.
Description	
Broad Class	Domestic
Period	
History	<p>Dol-y-moch means 'house of the rapids', originally called Dol-y-dwryd. and was visited by Lewys Dwnn in 1588, when the head of the family which lived there was John ap Robert ap Hywel, descended from Hywel Coetmor, whose attributed arms Lewys recorded for John. The older (late C16) part of the house comprises the main, central range with kitchen at the L end and service wing to rear; the RH (E) wing rebuilt in 1643. The early C20 additional block is at the L end of the main range, including the LH advanced wing.</p> <p>The present house of Dol-y-moch was acquired in 1643, by John Jones, son of Richard Jones of Craflwyn, Beddgelert, a descendant of Iesty ap Gwrgan, Morus, Baron of the Exchequer</p>

in 1585 and Dafydd Bangor, Dean of Bangor in 1399; he married Ann of Braich-y-bib and Coetmor, descendant out of Hywel Coetmor of Dolwyddelan Castle and Llewelyn Fawr, and heiress of the Dol-y-moch estate.

The estate passed down through the family to their descendant, Miss Jones Pugh (of Pennant, Penmachno) who married W J Bankes of Flintshire in the early C19 and their son, John Eldon Bankes, sold Dol-y-moch to the Oakeley family of Plas Tan-y-bwlch in 1874.

It was put up for sale, along with the Plas itself and many of the estate properties in the village of Maentwrog, in an auction in 1910. The house and grounds was then purchased by William Howland Jackson, a barrister of Lincolns Inn, London, who restored the farmhouse and built the nearby Dol-y-moch farm; the architect Mr Oswald P Milne. The house remained in the family until 1945 and then had several other private owners until 1957 when it was bought by the Central Electricity Generating Board; sold 9 years later to the present owners, the City of Coventry Corporation.

The buildings at Plas Dol-y-moch are not annotated on the tithe map of the parish, 1840, which seems to be a strange omission as the estate is recorded in the apportionment as being a substantial holding of close to 1300 acres (526 hectares); owned by George G Bankes Esq, Reverend Edward Bankes and the Right Honorable Earl of Falmouth, and occupied at that time by Evan Evans.

Exterior

Gentry house of 2-storeys and attics. Built of coursed and dressed local stone; slate roof with exceptionally tall stone stacks with dripstones and capping.

Main range with later flanking wings. Main range of two and a half storeys, a 4-window range with the doorway offset to the R (E) with 2 windows to L and one to R. The windows are modern mullioned and transomed timber casements of 3-lights and the attic windows are 2-light casements in gable dormers. The gable end of the advanced wing to R has similar ground and 1st floor windows and the 2-light casement attic window is set in a rendered gable apex; the ground floor window in a partially blocked doorway. The L lateral wall has a single ground and first floor window and the R lateral wall is a 3-window range with central doorway and gable dormers. A stone on the outer wall is inscribed with the date: 1643.

The L (W) advanced wing is slightly lower, and has similar windows to ground and first floor, the R lateral wall has a single

	<p>window and the L (W) wall is a 2-window range with first floor windows in raking dormers that break the eaves line. At the NW corner is a single storey range built to an L-shaped plan along the N and W sides of an enclosed yard; the range has boarded doors and small paned casements of 2 and 3-lights.</p>
Interior	<p>House comprises hall and parlour (now dining room) in main range; staircase in wing to rear. Kitchen and scullery are in the west wing, drawing room in wing to right. Larders and stores to north and west of enclosed yard.</p> <p>The older parts of the house retain large collared trusses with angled struts and massive chamfered cross beams and exposed joists; a staircase constructed of slate slabs is raised from the hall to the top of the house and there is a slate slab floor along the rear passageway.</p> <p>Running around the walls of the drawing room, in the E advanced wing, is a plaster frieze depicting the shields of arms of the 15 tribes of Gwynedd; only 8 of which now remain, some others have been defaced or lost.</p> <p>In the principal upstairs room is a plaster overmantel that bears an armourial bas-relief with a shield of the arms of Gollwyn ap Tangno implaing a chevron between 3 spear heads (Hywel Coetmor); the shield is encircled by a floriate motif and flanked by human heads. In the back room is a similar overmantel that bears of shield of arms Quarterly Iestyn ap Gwrgan and Gollwyn ap Tangno. The crest is the Paschal Lamb, and the motto: Velle quod vult Deus; the whole flanked by human figures on pedestals.</p>
Reason for designation	<p>Listed, notwithstanding alterations and additions, as a fine sub-medieval gentry house retaining good traditional character and with fine interior detail including fine plaster overmantels and frieze.</p>

Appendix 3: List of Photographs in the Archive

File	Scale	Description
PDM_001	2m	Northern gable of the eastern range before conservation works
PDM_002	2m	Northern gable of the eastern range before conservation works
PDM_003	none	Chimney on the northern gable of the eastern range before conservation works
PDM_004	none	Eastern elevation of the rear range
PDM_005	none	Eastern elevation of the rear range
PDM_006	none	Northern elevation of the rear range before conservation work
PDM_007	none	Northern elevation of the rear range before conservation work
PDM_008	none	Northern elevation of the rear range before conservation work
PDM_009	none	Northern elevation of the stair tower
PDM_010	none	Chimney on the northern gable of the rear range before conservation works
PDM_011	none	Chimney on the northern gable of the rear range before conservation works
PDM_012	none	Chimney on the northern gable of the rear range before conservation works
PDM_013	none	Chimney on the northern gable of the rear range before conservation works
PDM_014	none	Chimney on the northern gable of the rear range before conservation works
PDM_015	none	Chimney on the northern gable of the rear range before conservation works
PDM_016	none	Lower part of the northern gable of the rear range before conservation
PDM_017	none	Northern gable of the stair tower
PDM_018	none	Northern gable of the stair tower
PDM_019	none	Northern gable of the stair tower
PDM_020	none	Front elevation of the Plas Dol y Moch, looking NW
PDM_290	2 m	Northern wall of the parlour
PDM_291	2 m	Northern end of the eastern wall of the parlour
PDM_292	2 m	Southern end of the eastern wall of the parlour
PDM_293	2 m	Western side of the southern end of the parlour
PDM_294	2 m	Southern end of the parlour
PDM_295	none	Chamfering and stop on the ceiling beam of the parlour
PDM_296	none	Chamfering and stop on the ceiling beam of the parlour
PDM_297	none	Part of the frieze including the shield of Braint Hir of Is-dulas
PDM_298	none	Part of frieze including shield
PDM_299	none	Part of frieze including area where the paint has flakes off showing the stonework below
PDM_300	2 m	Hall, looking west
PDM_301	2 m	Hall looking east
PDM_302	2 m	Eastern fireplace in the hall
PDM_304	none	Repair to the ceiling beam
PDM_305	none	Repair to the ceiling beam
PDM_306	none	Chamfering and stop on a ceiling beam in the Hall
PDM_307	none	Kitchen

File	Scale	Description
PDM_308	2 m	Base of the main staircase
PDM_309	1 m	Brick blocking in the cellar
PDM_310	1 m	Southern end of the cellar
PDM_311	1 m	North western end of the cellar
PDM_312	none	Underside of the main staircase in the cellar
PDM_313	2 m	Corridor behind the Hall, looking west
PDM_314	2 m	Corridor behind the Hall, looking west
PDM_315	2 m	Niche in the western end of the southern wall of the corridor behind the Hall
PDM_316	none	Underside of the stairs
PDM_317	2 m	Fireplace in corridor to the fire escape on the first floor
PDM_318	2 m	Fireplace in corridor to the fire escape on the first floor
PDM_319	2 m	Ceiling beams at the junction between the eastern and central ranges on the first floor
PDM_320	2 m	Northern bedroom of the eastern range on the first floor
PDM_321	2 m	Northern bedroom of the eastern range on the first floor
PDM_322	2 m	Southern bedroom of the eastern range on the first floor, looking east
PDM_323	2 m	Corbel supporting the ceiling beam in the Southern bedroom of the eastern range on the first floor, looking east
PDM_324	2 m	Southern bedroom of the eastern range on the first floor, looking west
PDM_325	2 m	Fireplace on the western end of the southern bedroom of the eastern range of the first floor
PDM_326	none	Inscription carved in the ceiling beam of the southern bedroom of the eastern range of the first floor
PDM_327	none	Inscription carved in the ceiling beam of the southern bedroom of the eastern range of the first floor
PDM_328	none	Ceiling beams in the corridor in the central range of the first floor, looking west
PDM_329	none	Ceiling beams in the corridor in the central range of the first floor, looking west
PDM_330	none	Ceiling beams in the corridor in the central range of the first floor, looking west
PDM_331	none	Ceiling beams in the corridor in the central range of the first floor, looking west
PDM_332	2 m	Eastern bedroom in the central range on the first floor, looking south
PDM_333	none	Ceiling beam in the Eastern bedroom in the central range on the first floor, looking south
PDM_334	2 m	Western bedroom in the central range on the first floor, looking east
PDM_335	2 m	Western bedroom in the central range on the first floor, looking west
PDM_336	1 m	Overmantel in the 2 m Western bedroom in the central range on the first floor
PDM_337	1 m	Overmantel in the 2 m Western bedroom in the central range on the first floor

File	Scale	Description
PDM_338	1 m	Overmantel in the 2 m Western bedroom in the central range on the first floor
PDM_339	2 m	Partially block doorway in the western end of the western bedroom in the central range on the first floor
PDM_340	none	Detail of the door frame to the partially block doorway in the western end of the western bedroom in the central range on the first floor
PDM_341	none	Detail of the door frame to the partially block doorway in the western end of the western bedroom in the central range on the first floor
PDM_342	2 m	Door to the western bedroom on the central range on the first floor
PDM_343	2 m	Detail of the door handle to the western bedroom on the central range on the first floor
PDM_344	2 m	Staff room, looking NW
PDM_345	2 m	Staff room looking NE
PDM_346	none	Eastern end of the ceiling beam in the Staff Room
PDM_347	none	Repair and support to the eastern end of the ceiling beam in the Staff Room
PDM_348	none	Overmantel in the Staff Room
PDM_349	none	Overmantel in the Staff Room
PDM_350	2 m	Door to the Staff Room
PDM_351	none	Detail of the door handle of the Staff Room
PDM_352	2 m	Staff Room looking SW
PDM_353	2 m	Truss over the stair tower
PDM_354	2 m	Truss over the stair tower
PDM_355	2 m	Eastern window on the second floor of the stair tower
PDM_356	none	Gable window on the second floor of the stair tower
PDM_357	1 m	Northern bedroom in the eastern range on the second floor, looking south
PDM_358	1 m	Northern bedroom in the eastern range on the second floor, looking north
PDM_359	1 m	Part of a truss exposed in the corridor along the eastern range
PDM_360	1 m	Truss exposed in the southern wall of the middle bedroom of the eastern ranges on the second floor
PDM_361	1 m	Truss exposed in the southern wall of the middle bedroom of the eastern ranges on the second floor
PDM_362	1 m	Truss exposed in the southern wall of the middle bedroom of the eastern ranges on the second floor
PDM_363	1 m	Truss exposed in the northern wall of the southern bedroom of the eastern range on the second floor
PDM_364	none	Detail of the joint between the principal rafter and the collar of the truss exposed in the northern wall of the southern bedroom of the eastern range on the second floor
PDM_365	none	Detail of the joint between the principal rafter and the collar of the truss exposed in the northern wall of the southern bedroom of the eastern range on the second floor

File	Scale	Description
PDM_366	none	Truss exposed in the cleaning cupboard off the corridor along the eastern range on the second floor
PDM_367	none	Truss exposed in the cleaning cupboard off the corridor along the eastern range on the second floor
PDM_368	none	Truss exposed in the cleaning cupboard off the corridor along the eastern range on the second floor
PDM_369	none	Truss exposed in the cleaning cupboard off the corridor along the eastern range on the second floor
PDM_370	1 m	Truss in the corridor along the eastern range on the second floor
PDM_371	1 m	Trusses along the corridor along the central range on the second floor, looking west
PDM_372	1 m	Trusses along the corridor along the central range on the second floor, looking west
PDM_373	1 m	Trusses along the corridor along the central range on the second floor, looking west
PDM_374	1 m	Western truss crossing the corridor along the central range on the second floor, looking west
PDM_375	1 m	Trusses along the corridor along the central range on the second floor, looking east
PDM_376	1 m	Purlin crossing the dormer window in the eastern bedroom of the central range on the second floor
PDM_377	none	Truncated purlin in the NW corner of the corridor along the central range of the second floor
PDM_378	none	Truss exposed in the eastern bedroom of the central range on the second floor
PDM_379	none	Beam exposed in the eastern bedroom of the central range on the second floor
PDM_380	1 m	Purlin crossing the dormer window in the central-eastern bedroom of the central range on the second floor
PDM_381	1 m	Truss exposed in the western wall of the central-eastern bedroom of the central range on the second floor
PDM_382	1 m	Truss exposed in the western wall of the central-eastern bedroom of the central range on the second floor
PDM_383	1 m	Purlin crossing the dormer window in the central-western bedroom of the central range on the second floor
PDM_384	1 m	Truss exposed in the western wall of the central-western bedroom of the central range on the second floor
PDM_385	1 m	Truss exposed in the western wall of the central-western bedroom of the central range on the second floor
PDM_386	none	Detail of the joint between the principal rafter and the collar of the truss exposed in the western wall of the central-western bedroom of the central range on the second floor
PDM_387	1 m	Purlin crossing the dormer window in the western bedroom of the central range on the second floor
PDM_388	none	Truss exposed in the western wall of the western bedroom of the central range on the second floor
PDM_389	1 m	Truss in the rear range on the second floor
PDM_390	1 m	Truss in the rear range on the second floor

File	Scale	Description
PDM_391	1 m	Truss in the rear range on the second floor
PDM_392	none	Taper mark on the collar of the truss in the rear range on the second floor
PDM_393	none	Carpenter's mark on the joint between the principal rafter and the western strut of the truss in the rear range on the second floor
PDM_394	none	Carpenter's mark on the joint between the principal rafter and the eastern strut of the truss in the rear range on the second floor
PDM_395	none	Possible graffiti on the truss in the rear range on the second floor
PDM_396	none	Possible graffiti on the truss in the rear range on the second floor
PDM_397	none	Possible graffiti on the truss in the rear range on the second floor
PDM_398	none	Top of a truss in the eastern range in the roof space
PDM_399	none	Top of a truss in the eastern range in the roof space
PDM_400	none	Top of a truss in the eastern range in the roof space
PDM_401	none	Top of the eastern truss of the central range in the roof space
PDM_402	none	Top of the eastern truss of the central range in the roof space
PDM_404	2 m	Front elevation, looking NW
PDM_405	2 m	Eastern elevation of the eastern range, looking NW
PDM_406	2 m	Eastern elevation of the eastern range, looking NW
PDM_407	none	Date scratched on the eastern corner of the front elevation of the eastern range
PDM_408	none	Date scratched on the eastern corner of the front elevation of the eastern range
PDM_409	none	Date scratched on the eastern corner of the front elevation of the eastern range
PDM_410	2 m	Southern gable of the eastern range, looking north
PDM_411	2 m	Western elevation of the eastern range, looking east
PDM_412	2 m	Front elevation of the central range, looking north
PDM_413	2 m	Front elevation of the central range, looking north
PDM_414	2 m	Front door
PDM_415	2 m	Partly blocked opening in the front elevation of the central range, looking NW
PDM_416	2 m	Eastern elevation of the western range, looking W
PDM_417	2 m	Eastern elevation of the western range, looking W
PDM_418	0.5 m	Drill hole showing blasting was used to extract the stone of the western range
PDM_419	none	Blocked first floor window in the western elevation of the eastern range, looking east
PDM_420	2 m	Southern gable of the western range, looking north
PDM_421	2 m	Western elevation of the eastern range, looking ENE
PDM_422	2 m	Western elevation of the eastern range, looking ENE
PDM_423	2 m	Western elevation of the eastern range, looking ENE
PDM_424	2 m	Western elevation of the eastern range, looking ENE
PDM_425	2 m	Western elevation of the eastern range, looking ENE
PDM_426	2 m	Rear of the building, looking east
PDM_427	2 m	Western elevation of the rear range, looking east
PDM_428	none	Rear Range, looking SE
PDM_429	2 m	Front elevation, looking north
PDM_430	2 m	Front elevation, looking north

File	Scale	Description
PDM_431	2 m	Front elevation, looking north
PDM_432	2 m	Front elevation, looking north
PDM_433	2 m	Front elevation, looking north
PDM_434	2 m	Front elevation, looking north
PDM_435	none	Date scratched by the front door
PDM_436	none	Date scratched by the front door
PDM_437	none	Date scratched by the front door
PDM_912	2 m	Northern wall of the parlour after the removal of test sections of the plasterboard covering
PDM_913	2 m	Northern wall of the parlour after the removal of test sections of the plasterboard covering
PDM_914	2 m	Detail of the test section to the west of the fireplace of the northern wall of the parlour
PDM_915	1 m	Detail of the test section to the east of the fireplace of the northern wall of the parlour
PDM_916	1 m	Detail of the test section to the east of the fireplace of the northern wall of the parlour
PDM_917	none	Top of Chimney 1 after the removal of the cap
PDM_918	none	Detail of the moulding of the stone cap to Chimney 1 after its removal
PDM_919	none	Date scratched adjacent to the main door
PDM_999	none	Chimney 2 after the removal of the flaunching
PDM_1000	none	Chimney 1 after demolition
PDM_1011	2 m	Northern wall of the Parlour after the removal of the plasterboard
PDM_1012	2 m	Northern wall of the Parlour after the removal of the plasterboard
PDM_1013	2 m	Blocked opening and rebuilt section of the northern wall of the parlour
PDM_1014	2 m	Blocked opening of the northern wall of the parlour
Chimney 1a	none	Rectified composite photograph of the northern face of Chimney 1
Chimney 1b	none	Rectified composite photograph of the eastern face of Chimney 1
Chimney 1c	none	Rectified composite photograph of the southern face of Chimney 1
Chimney 1d	none	Rectified composite photograph of the western face of Chimney 1
Chimney 2a	none	Rectified composite photograph of the southern face of Chimney 2
Chimney 2b	none	Rectified composite photograph of the western face of Chimney 2
Chimney 2c	none	Rectified composite photograph of the northern face of Chimney 2
Chimney 2d	none	Rectified composite photograph of the eastern face of Chimney 2
Parlour Wall	2 m	Rectified composite photograph of the northern wall of the parlour after the removal of the plasterboard