

Archaeology Wales

Bryn Gwylan Threshing Barn, Llangernyw, Conwy

Level 3: Archaeological Building Survey



By
Dr Irene Garcia
Rovira

Report No. 1640

Archaeology Wales Limited
The Reading Room, Town Hall, Llanidloes, SY18 6BN
Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371
Email: admin@arch-wales.co.uk
Web: arch-wales.co.uk



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Prepared For: ERW Consulting, on behalf of Mr Elfed R Williams

Edited by: Rowena Hart
Position: Regional Director
Signature: 
Date: 05/01/2018

Authorised by: Rowena Hart
Position: Regional Director
Signature: 
Date: 05/01/2018

By
Dr Irene Garcia Rovira

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Non-Technical Summary

This report results from a Level 3 Building Survey by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) on the Grade II Threshing Barn at Bryn Gwylan (PRN99527 – SAM 21490) produced at the request of ERW Consulting, on behalf of Mr Elfed R Williams. The work was undertaken as a condition of a planning consent prior its demolition and clearance (Planning application number - DC/0/43909).

Desk-based research evidences that the barn was already built by 1784 as noted in cartographic sources. However, while Bryn Gwylan is documented from as early as the 15th century, no written sources directly relate to the barn or to the activities carried out within it.

The building survey of the barn has provided evidence for at least three main phases of use of the structure. Its original form and dimensions are characteristic of a corn-barn dating to the 16/17th century built following mountain district traditions. An analogous structure can be found at Pen-y-Garreg corn-barn (Tal-y-llyn, Merioneth). A second phase of alteration and repair echoes the mechanisation of agricultural activities, and it is mostly defined by the remains of line shafting and a series of deposits which originally contained fuel used to propel the engines. It is known that the barn was used during the 20th century for grinding corn and slicing turnips. It was also used to shear sheep during the summer seasons. The barn was disused in the 21st century due to its unsafe condition.

1. Introduction

Location and scope of work

In December 2017 Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) carried out a Level 3 building survey (English Heritage guidelines), in advance of the proposed demolition and clearance of Grade II listed former threshing farm – Bryn Gwylan, Turnpike Ucha to Nant Mawr, Llangernyw LL228PF (SH 88837 69952) (Figure 1). The planning application no. is DC/0/43909. The work was carried out as part of mitigation prior its demolition.

The requirement for the survey were set out by CPAT-DC in its capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority. As a consequence, a Written Scheme of Investigations was prepared by Irene Garcia Rovira (AW) prior to the work taking place. This was subsequently approved by the CPAT-DC (Appendix 3).

This report has been produced to comply with condition 3 which states that:

No demolition shall take place until a programme of building recording and analysis, equivalent to an English Heritage Level 3 Building Survey and a Written Scheme of Investigations has been carried out and submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The programme of building analysis and recording must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists in the Standards and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings and Structures.

Reason: to allow an adequate analysis and recording of the building to be made, before it is altered, to ensure that the building origins, use and development are understood and the main features, character and state of preservation are recorded.

This report has been produced at the request of Mr Elfed R Williams.

2. Building Recording Methodology

The research and investigation has considered the building and its relationship to other archaeological and historical sites within its setting, by means of search of various available primary and secondary sources:

1. Designated areas (Historic Landscapes, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Registered Parks & Gardens, Registered Battlefields)
2. Non-designated sites and listed buildings.
3. Excavation reports and archives affecting the site and its setting.
4. Relevant extant aerial photographic (AP) evidence.

5. Map regression analysis using all relevant cartographic sources e.g. All editions of the Ordnance Survey County Series, Tithe and early estate maps (as available).
6. Place name evidence
7. Internet sourced satellite imagery
8. Historic documents (e.g. Charters, registers, estate papers).

The Level 3 Archaeological Building Survey has been undertaken by a suitably experienced Building Recording Archaeologist who can understand and interpret the structure and record the important details. The photographic and drawn record represent a comprehensive record to archive standard of the existing buildings and structures, both externally and internally. The following has been considered:

- Site layout and organisation
- Function
- Materials, method of construction
- Fenestration
- Internal arrangements
- Original fixtures and fittings
- Subsequent fixtures and fittings
- Evidence of use and status
- Date/period of initial build and subsequent alterations

The work was completed in accordance with CIfA *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2014) and to a standard equivalent to Historic England Level 3 (Historic England (formerly English Heritage) *'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice'* 2016).

All photographs were taken in a high resolution digital format. For both general and specific photographs, a photographic scale was included. The photographic record was accompanied by a photographic register detailing as a minimum, feature number, location and direction of shot.

A site plan and measured plans of the buildings was produced. Wherever possible, existing plans and elevations were used to supplement the report and further measured plans and elevations may also be provided to illustrate features not more readily obtained by photography. Plans were used to highlight photographic locations within the final report.

3. Historical Background

General Background

No archaeological features predating the 1500s have been discovered in the adjacent area of the threshing barn. However, a number of isolated finds suggest human activity in the area from Neolithic times.

- In 2004, a hammer stone of Neolithic date was recovered from an adjacent field (see Vaughan and Vaughan 2014).
- A Class I Early Christian Inscription on shale was found in 1985. This stone yielded the following inscription 'VERE' which is believed to be a personal name. The inscription has been dated to the 6th century AD (PRN 17494) (Silvester and Hankinson 2003).
- A silver groat of Henry VIII was found in a field c 100m NE of the site during a metal detector survey (see PASS database) (Spink 2008).

Bryn Gwylan and the threshing barn

The history of the barn cannot be disassociated from Bryn Gwylan Farm. Records predating the construction of the farm date back to the 1400s, time in which Gruffudd Llwyd of Hafodunos and Bryn Gwylan is mentioned as living in the area (Vaughan and Vaughan 2014). From that moment onward, activity in the area associated to the Llwyd family is reflected in a number of documents included in the Bodgynwch Tittle Deeds – township of Llangernyw – from 1527. However, these documents do not make a direct mention to Bryn Gwylan (ibid, 10).

The first person directly associated to Bryn Gwylan in existing records is Robert ab Ieuan ap Dafydd Llwyd. The latter is mentioned in William Cynwal's Book of Pedigrees post-dating 1865. Most probably, Robert was responsible for the construction of Bryn Gwylan Farm. The latter yields an inscription on a ceiling beam noting 'Anno Domino 1589'. Furthermore, a sample taken to the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory produced a date of 1586/87 for the felling of the tree (see Vernacular Architecture Group 2016). Further mention to Bryn Gwylan is also found on the Llangernyw Parish records from the baptism of Robert's sons onward (see Vaughan and Vaughan 2014).

Despite the existence of records dating to the 17th and 18th century relating to Bryn Gwylan, no information regarding the first construction and use of the threshing barn appears recorded. The earliest existing record for the threshing barn is found in the Estate Map and Schedule of 1784 (see figure 2). This map states Willian Wynne as the landowner of Bryn Gwylan Farm and John Lloyd as its tenant. The main farm building at Bryn Gwylann, the

threshing barn, and some associated buildings are already recorded on this map.

The threshing barn appears on the Tithe Map of the Parish of Llangernyw 1839 (see figure 3). This states that the tenancy of Bryn Gwylan corresponds to Catherine Lloyd while William Wynne of Garthewin is the owner. The map and its associated tithe records demonstrate that associated fields to Bryn Gwylan are arable. However, there is no indication on the type of crop, therefore hindering the possibilities of obtaining information regarding the function of the threshing barn during these chronologies. Census relating to the mid-19th century indicate that Catherine, her sons and a number of servants were living and working at Bryn Gwylan as farmers. However, no details that can shed light on the threshing barn are offered (Vaughan and Vaughan 2014).

The OS County Series of Denbighshire 1875 (1:2500) (see figure 4) depicts the threshing barn as well as the main farm building and associated structures. A circular enclosure is depicted immediately north of the threshing barn. This may be evidence for changing farming methods and technology in the form of a gin gang which would have contained the horse gin for a horse to drive the threshing machinery. However, this suggestion cannot be verified as the circular structure depicted on this map is no longer depicted in subsequent map editions (e.g. OS County Series Denbighshire 1914 1:2500-figure 5) and evidence for it was not found during the survey of the barn. The association of Bryn Gwylan to the Llwyd family continues during the late 19th century and beginning of the 20th century as demonstrated in a number of census (see Vaughan and Vaughan 2014 for details). However, no mention of corn threshing appears on existing documents.

The NE addition depicted during the building survey (see section 4) is for the first time depicted on an OS map edition of 1943. This addition, may correspond to the incorporation of paraffin and then oil to fuel the threshing machinery. Remains of the latter were still evident during the building survey carried out in December 2017 in the form of line shafting.

4. The Building Recording Results

GENERAL

Bryn Gwylan threshing barn (PRN99527 – SAM 21490) is a rectangular barn aligned NW/SE with two doors opposite each other in the centre of the long sides. Typically of corn-barns, it is pierced by a number of small ventilation slits.

Corn-barns vary in size and construction. While in rich corn-growing areas these are very large (e.g. Gellilydfy, Flintshire), in highland areas, corn-barns

are much smaller, often only containing three bays: a middle bay for threshing and two side bays used for storage (Smith 1988: 146). Bryn Gwylan threshing barn corresponds to the latter group and has clear architectural associations to vernacular buildings characteristic of mountain district traditions. Pen-y-garreg corn-barn (Tal-y-llyn, Merioneth) (see Smith 1988 plate 108) represents another example of such tradition.

The main structure at Bryn Gwylan threshing barn is built of random limestone rubble, and rests on a low plinth made of larger stones, measuring in average 0.6m/1m in height. Furthermore, the barn is reinforced by quoins in its four corners. Some of the quoin stones appear to have been dressed. The structure measures around 17m in length and 6m in width. A small addition (measuring 3m in width and length) is located on the NE end of the barn. As noted in section 3, the main structure of the barn is first documented in a map dating to 1784.

During the building survey, it was noted that alterations to the structure generally relate to the mechanisation of agricultural activities overtime or to episodes of repair of the building. The changing function of the structure during the 20th and 21st century is mainly evidenced by the objects still contained within the structure (see below for details).

FRONT ELEVATION (Plate 1-10; Figure 7)

This elevation is characterised by two door openings and a ventilation slit.

The main entrance appears to be original and it is defined as a rectangular opening accessed through a flight of steps, and a timber lintel above. The latter is approximately 2.4m in length and c 0.2m in width, and contains two main rectangular hinges, suggesting that the timber was reused at the time in which it was incorporated into the fabric of the building (most probably a reused beam). The door itself is defined by a split boarded door on iron strap hinges.

The four steps leading to the entrance door appear to have been originally constructed using local stone. However, they are nowadays reinforced by a layer of concrete, similar to that observed at the base of this elevation (see below).

The front elevation, similarly to all other elevations of the building is composed of random local stone, containing quoins in each of its edge. The stone used for its construction does not appear to have been dressed, with the exception of the quoins. Seven stacked quoin stones are found at the easternmost edge of this elevation, varying in size from 0.8m x 0.5m to 0.4 x 0.2m. Only five quoin stones are found at the westernmost edge.

At least three episodes of mortaring are observed on this elevation. The latest one is a light orange sandy mortar located in a number of regions of the elevation, and most noticeably below the window opening. The latter was originally another door opening, however, it was converted into a window during the 21st century (Vaughan pers comm). The window opening is c. 0.9m in width and 0.76m in height, and it is capped by a timber lintel. The light orange mortar observed below this opening was applied by Mr Vaughan. The trowel and some of the material used for this job can still be found in the interior of the building. Mr Vaughan also reinforced the base of this elevation and the flight of stairs with a concrete layer.

Two additional mortaring events are observed on this elevation. They are both characterised by lime mortar. However, in close inspection it is possible to observe an original phase and secondary phase which, in several occasions is applied over the stone rubble.

EASTERN ELEVATION (Plate 11-12 and 15; Figure 8)

This elevation is approximately 6m in width and is defined by five ventilation slits and gable end. The ventilation slits measure between 0.10m to 0.16m in width and c. 1m in height. The base of the structure is constructed using three courses of large stones. The stone used to build this elevation decreases in size towards the roof. A stack of quoins is located at each edge of this elevation. An event of repair is observed at the southernmost end of this elevation. This is observed by a layer of mortar located underneath the slate roof, replacing the original timber.

This elevation is damaged by a central fracture and it is bulging outward. Some of the stone used for its construction have fallen and are currently located at its base.

REAR ELEVATION (Plate 17-22; Figure 9)

This elevation is characterised by a main entrance located opposite to the entrance described for the front elevation, two ventilation slits and an attached shed to the NW of the barn. Reinforcing quoins are located at each edge of this elevation. However, the quoins located on the NW extreme of this elevation have been partly concealed by the 20th century addition.

The ventilation slits are located towards the western part of this elevation. They measure 0.55m in length and approximately 0.12m in width. The entrance is defined by a rectangular opening measuring 1.6m in width and 1.74m in length. It contains a concrete lintel. Although it is not possible to demonstrate it, this lintel appears to have been a latter addition, most probably replacing a timber lintel such as that located above the entrance of the front elevation. The door itself is defined by a split boarded door on iron strap hinges.

The rear elevation, similarly to all other elevations of the building is composed of random local stone, containing quoins at each of its edges. Generally, the stone used does not appear to have been dressed, with the exception of the quoins. This elevation also shows evidence of episodes of reinforcing and repair in the form of mortar repointing. Three main episodes of mortar are evidenced: (1) the original lime mortar used for the construction of the building, (2) lime mortar infill that post-dates the construction of the building and (3) a layer of mortar defined by light orange sandy mortar known to have been applied by Mr Vaughan in recent years.

A 3m x 3m shed is located to the NE extreme of this elevation. This structure is formed by a timber structure covered with corrugated zinc panels. The view/approach to the shed is currently partly obstructed by a corral, and therefore, it made the survey of the shed difficult to carry out. The shed is first depicted in historic maps dating to the 1940s, though it is thought to have been constructed to enclose an oil engine associated to the threshing machine during the 1920s (Vaughan pers. comm).

WESTERN ELEVATION (Plate 13-14; Figure 10)

Comparable to the eastern elevation, the western elevation is approximately 6m in width and is a gable end. Contrary to the eastern elevation, this elevation contains no ventilation slits, and there is no evidence to suggest that they have been blocked, rather omitted during the build. A detailed observation of this elevation allows noting that the northern side of the wall has been subjected to an event of repair/alteration mostly evidenced by higher densities of lime mortar. The structure sustaining the possible remains of a threshing machine is attached to this elevation. Since it is known that threshing machines were not incorporated into threshing barns in this area until 1808 (McDonald 1975), it is possible to assert that the installation of the threshing machine involved an episode of alteration of, at least, this elevation.

BARN INTERIOR (Plate 24-47; Figure 11)

The barn interior appears to have been disused during the 21st century due to its unsafe condition. The objects still stored within it echo the mechanisation of agricultural activity, the changing function of the barn during the 20th century, and its last use as storage space.

Plates 23, 26, 31, 43-44: The two opposing doors as well as the three spaces produced by elevating the central area between the two doors appear the most characteristic elements still remaining from the original layout of the threshing barn. The central area would originally have been used as a threshing floor; a space in which the grain was separated from the straw with wooden flails. The open doors provided a through draft which carried away the chaff (Thirsk 1990).

Plate 33 -34: The interior walls appear to have been reinforced with a thick layer of lime mortar. The proportion of mortar is much higher in the interior walls than on the outer walls. While the mortar might represent a later alteration of the interior walls, there is no conclusive evidence to assert it.

Plate 27-28: The front elevation is currently characterised by a window opening, however, this was originally a door blocked by Mr Vaughan using sandy mortar and stone. The remains of this event are still visible within the barn (e.g. the trowel and the mortar). Interestingly, the initials J.H. are engraved on the window lintel. These initials correspond to John Hughes, who married Diana Lloyd of Bryn Gwylan in 1878 (Vaughan and Vaughan 2014).

Plate 35, 37-38, 40: Mechanised threshing was widespread into the region by the end of the 19th century. The adoption of the threshing machine involved profound changes into the structure of the barn, particularly on the eastern and northern elevation. The installation of machinery was carried out by the alteration of the eastern elevation from which the main structure was subjected. The remains of line shafting are also subjected to the easternmost truss.

Plate 29-30, 39, 41: Physical evidence of the power used to propel the engine is limited to a series of deposits derived from an oil powered engine located in the NE addition and dating to the 1920s (Vaughan pers. comm). A minimax fire extinguisher still found within the barn, dating to the first half of the 20th century. During the second half of the 20th century, the barn was used for chaffing straw, grinding corn and slicing turnips for the animals. During the summer, it was used for shearing sheep (A. Vaughan pers comm). It is therefore possible that some of the tanks located within the barn were used to carry out some of these activities.

Plate 24-25: Evidence for electricity within the building is manifest by a fuse box and a number of switches located above the front elevation door. While difficult to date with precision, the fuse box is identified as a Wylex consumer standard unit popular in Britain until 2001, and the light switches date to the first half of the 20th century.

Plate 45- 48: The ceiling is defined by a four-bay collar rafter with through purlins on trusses and chamfered tie beams and collars. The main rafters contain pegged mortice and tenon joints at their apex and feet. While heavily dilapidated, the roof is characterised as a hand riven slate roof with low gable parapets.

5. Discussion and Interpretation

Overall interpretation

Bryn Gwylan threshing barn retains most of the traits of a small threshing barn dating to the 17th/18th centuries characteristic of mountain district traditions with its opposing doors, the remains of a threshing floor and a number of ventilation slits.

During the survey it was noticed that the barn has at least four main phases of use:

- 1) The original function of the barn echoed on its original layout.
- 2) A phase of alteration associated to the mechanisation of farming best reflected with the remains of line shafting and with the installation of a number of features that functioned to power machinery.
- 3) Events of repair dated to the 20th century carried out to prevent the dereliction of the building.
- 4) A last phase defined by the used of the building as storage space.

Although judging from comparisons with other analogous buildings it is possible to suggest that the structure post-dated the 16th century, no written sources have allowed refining the date of its construction. The barn appears documented for the first time in an Estate map dating to 1784.

Reliability of field investigation

The precarious state of the barn at the time of the survey did not affected the location of some of the photography and therefore of the examination of certain traits of the barn. This was particularly true for the lean-to shed. The latter was not accessed as it posed serious health and safety concerns. A close examination of the western elevation was also avoided as the main wall is currently heavily bulging out. Furthermore, a more detailed analysis of the interior floor was hindered by the quantity of debris fallen from the roof and by the density of objects stored within the barn.

All photographs taken on site are included within the archive.

6. Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Mr and Mrs Vaughan for granting access to a number of sources used during the production of the report of Bryn Gwylan Farm.

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Maps

Estate Map and schedule of 1784 (Garthewin MSS Bangor)

Tithe map, Parish of Llangernyw, Denbighshire 1839

OS County Series Denbighshire 1875, 1:2500

OS County Series Denbighshire 1914, 1:2500

OS Map edition 1943, 1:2500

Websites

<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk> (accessed 20/12/17)

<http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk> (accessed 20/12/17)

<http://www.cofiadurcahcymru.org.uk> (accessed 20/12/17)

<http://map.coflein.gov.uk/> (accessed 21/12/17)

<http://bag.org.uk> (accessed 28/12/18)

MAP

Chapters of The Agrarian History of England and Wales: Volume 5, The ..

Archaeology
Wales

APPENDIX I:

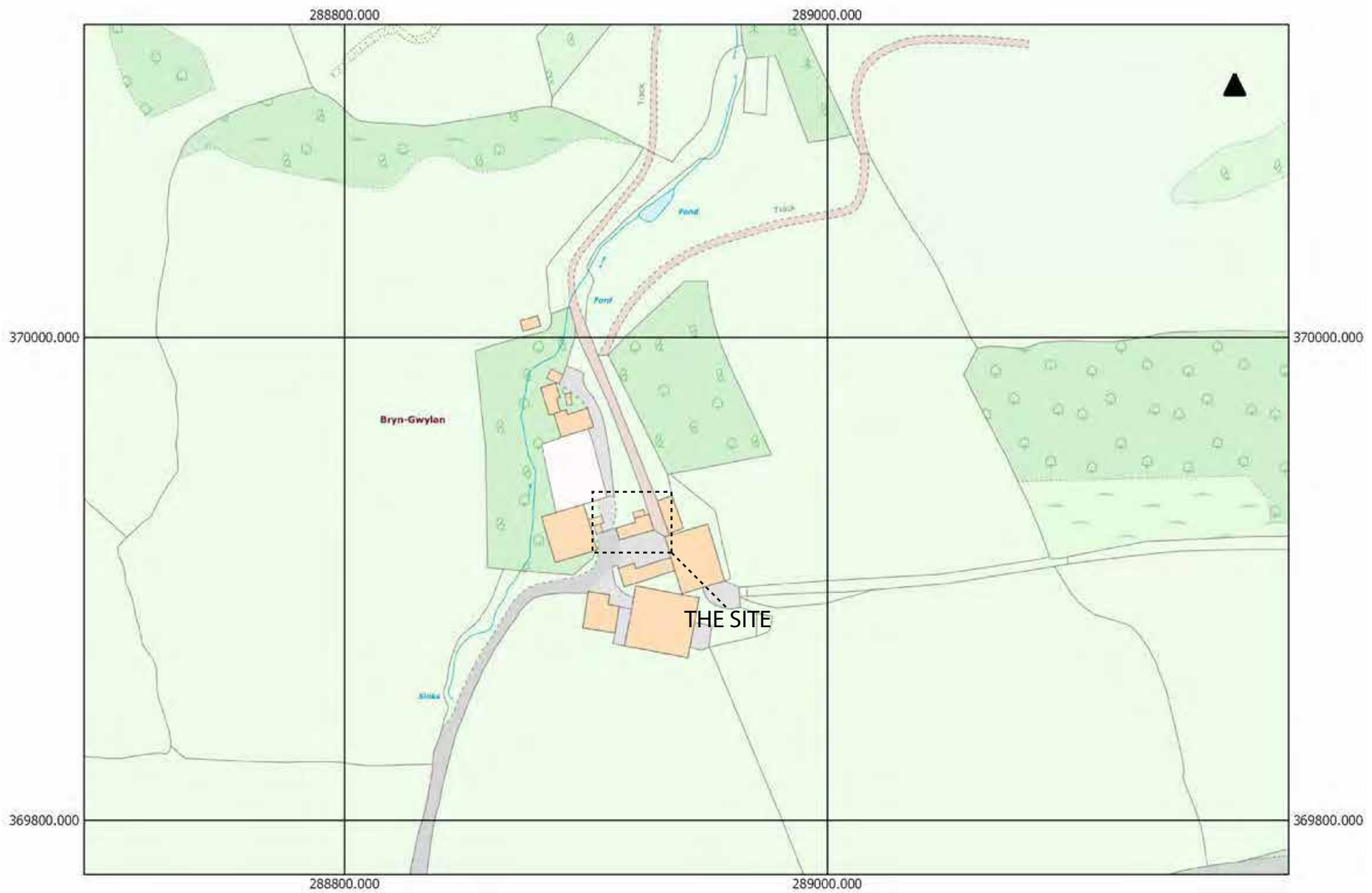


Figure 1. Site location.

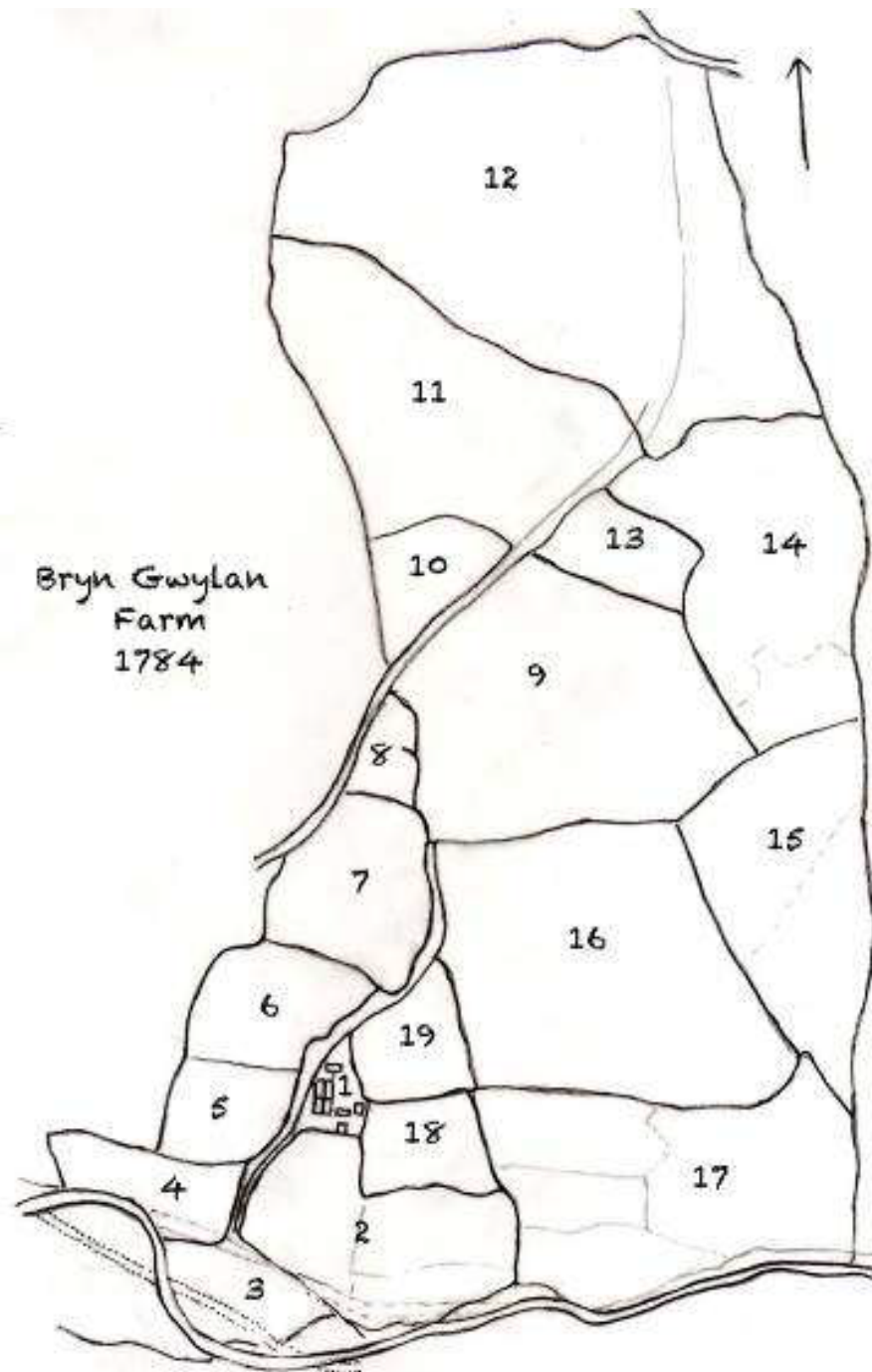


Figure 2. Estate map of 1784 (MSS Bangor)

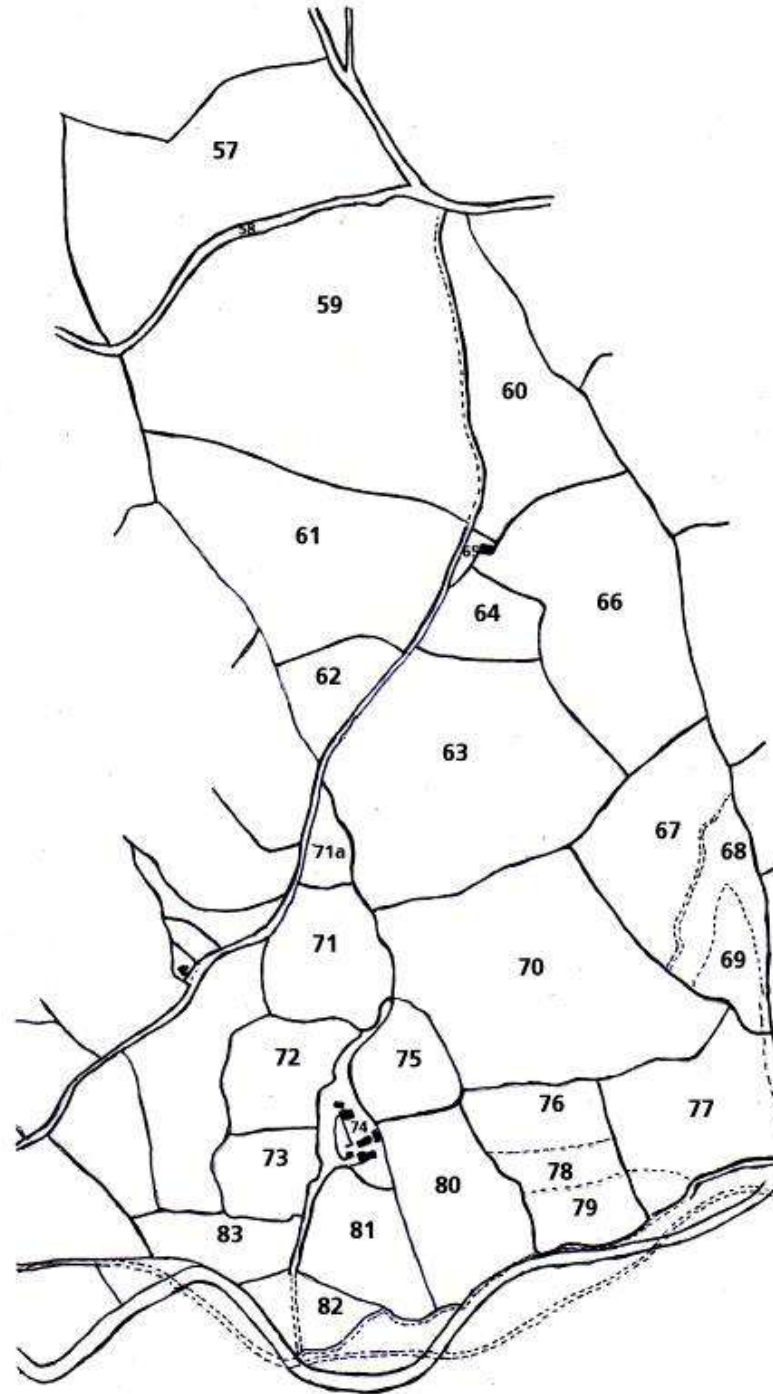


Figure 3. Fragment of tithe map, Parish of Llangernyw 1839.

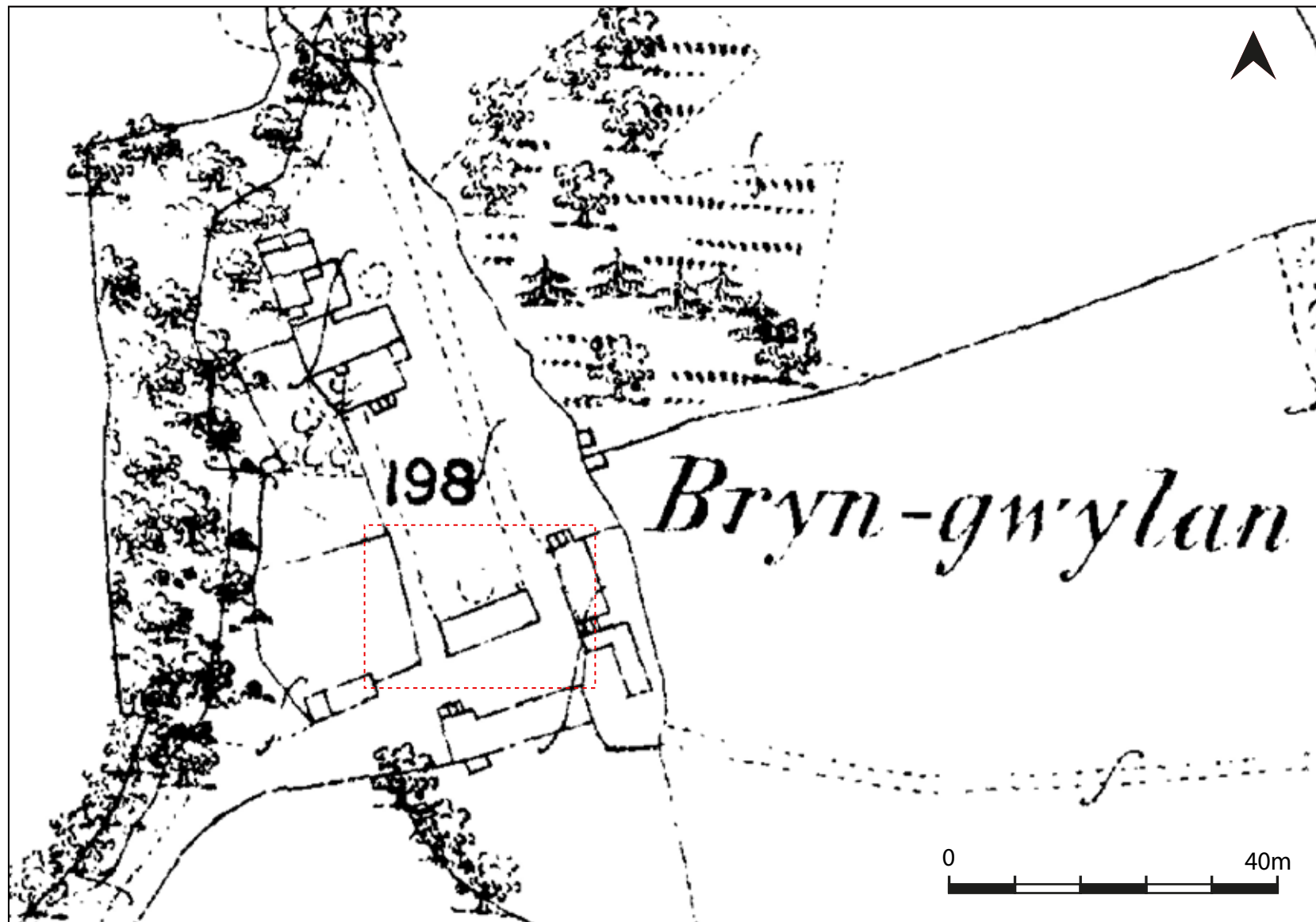


Figure 4. Fragment of OS County Series Denbighshire 1875, 1:2500.

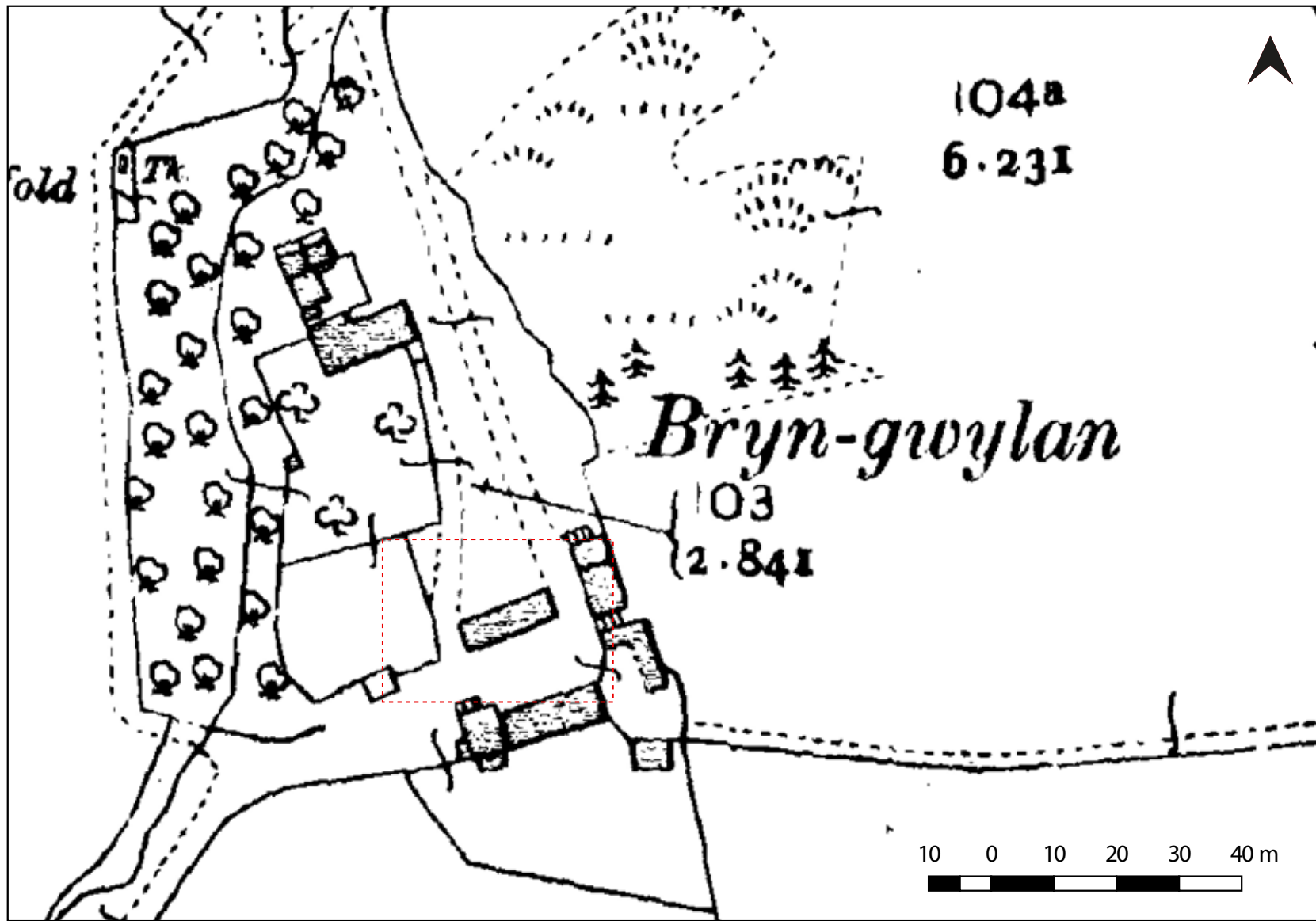


Figure 5. Fragment of OS County Series Denbighshire 1914 1:2500.

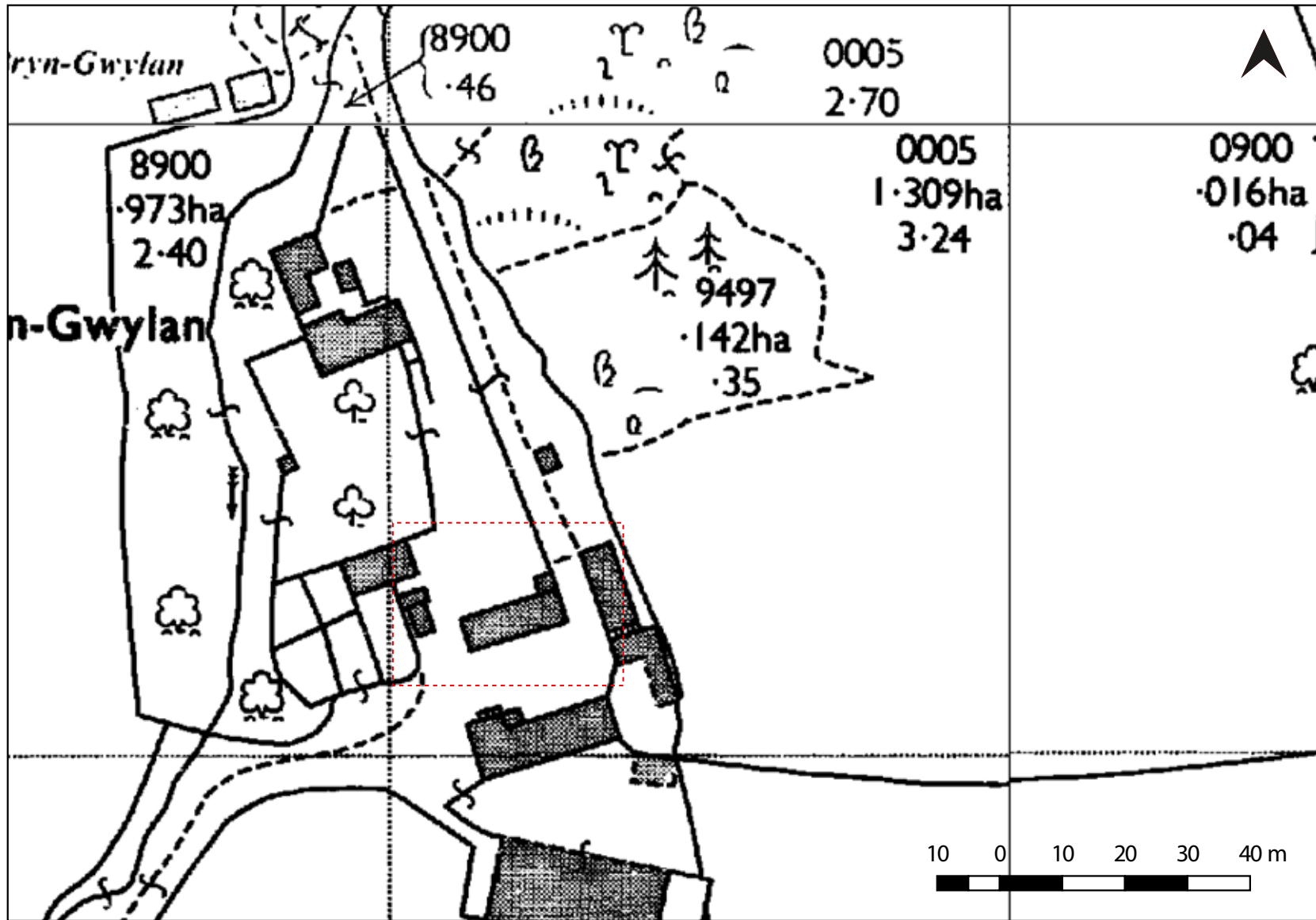


Figure 6. Fragment of OS Map edition 1943 1:2500.

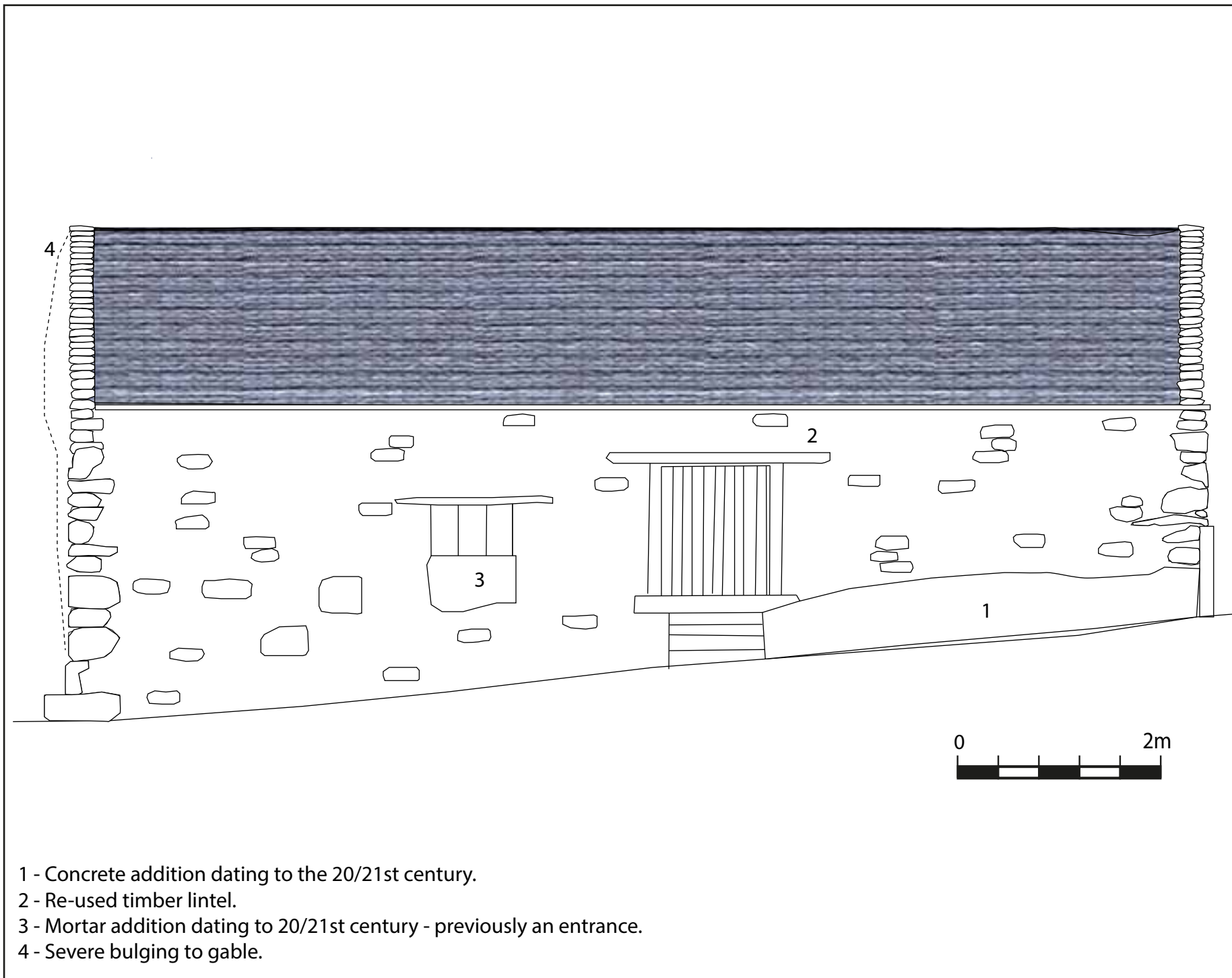
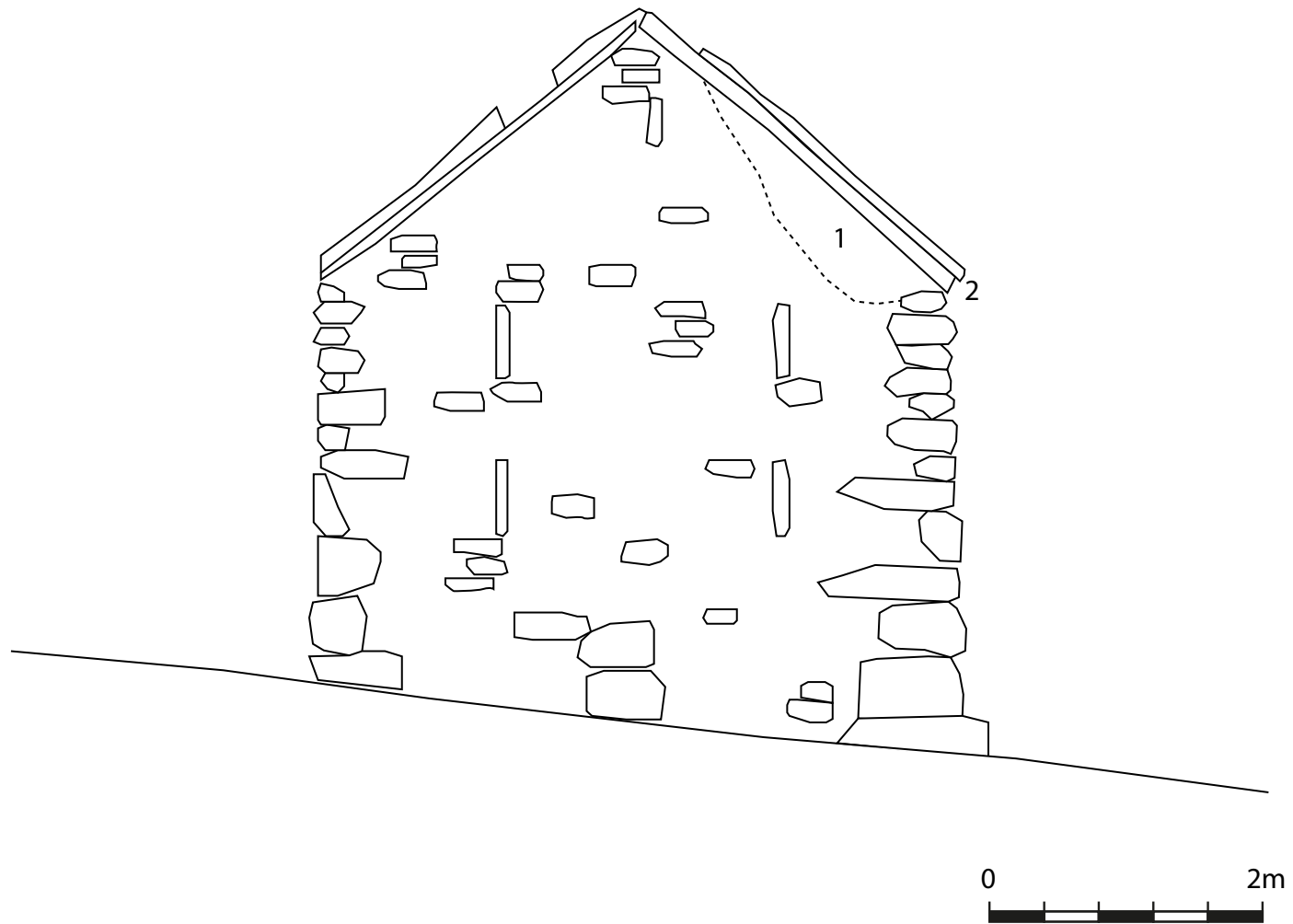


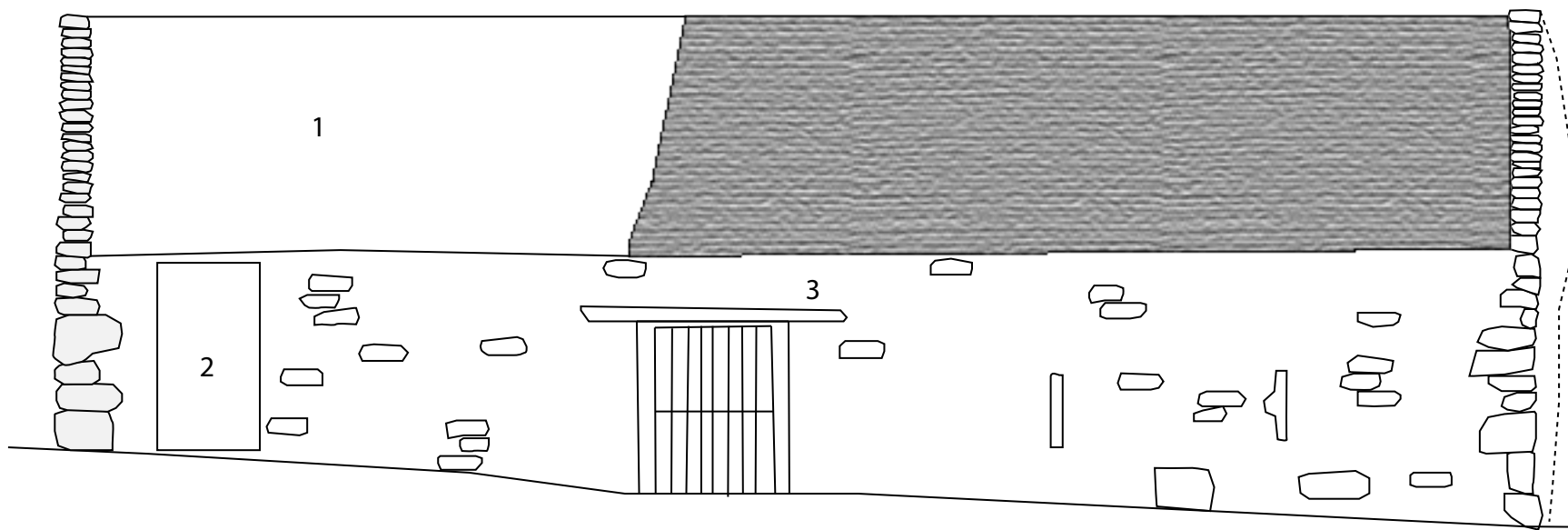
Figure 7. Existing front elevation.



1 - 20/21st century repair.

2 - 20/21st century repair - timber frame replaced by layer of mortar.

Figure 8. Western side elevation.



- 1 - Missing roof.
- 2 - View blocked by panelled addition.
- 3 - Concrete lintel.

Figure 9. Rear elevation.

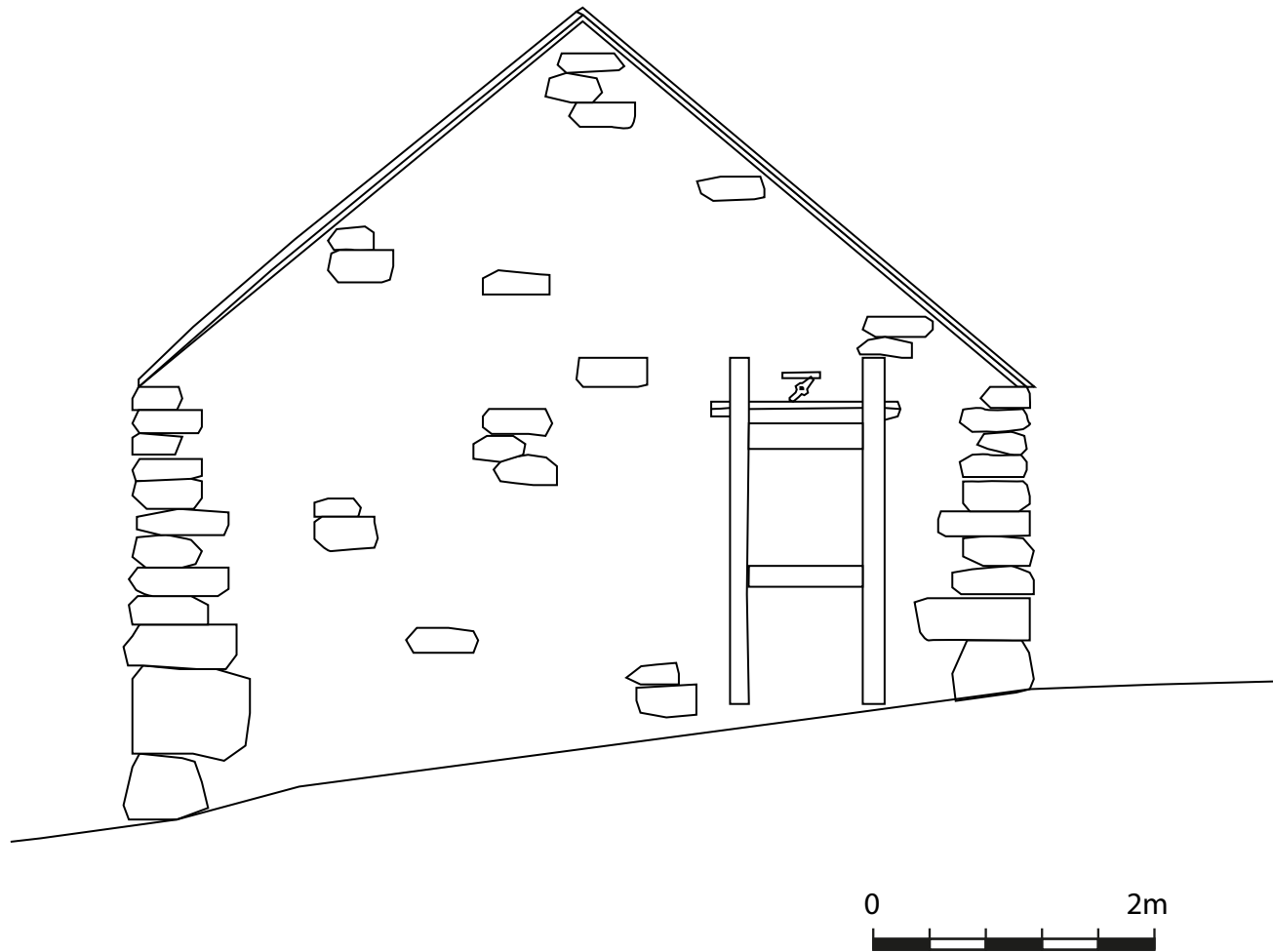


Figure 10. Eastern elevation.

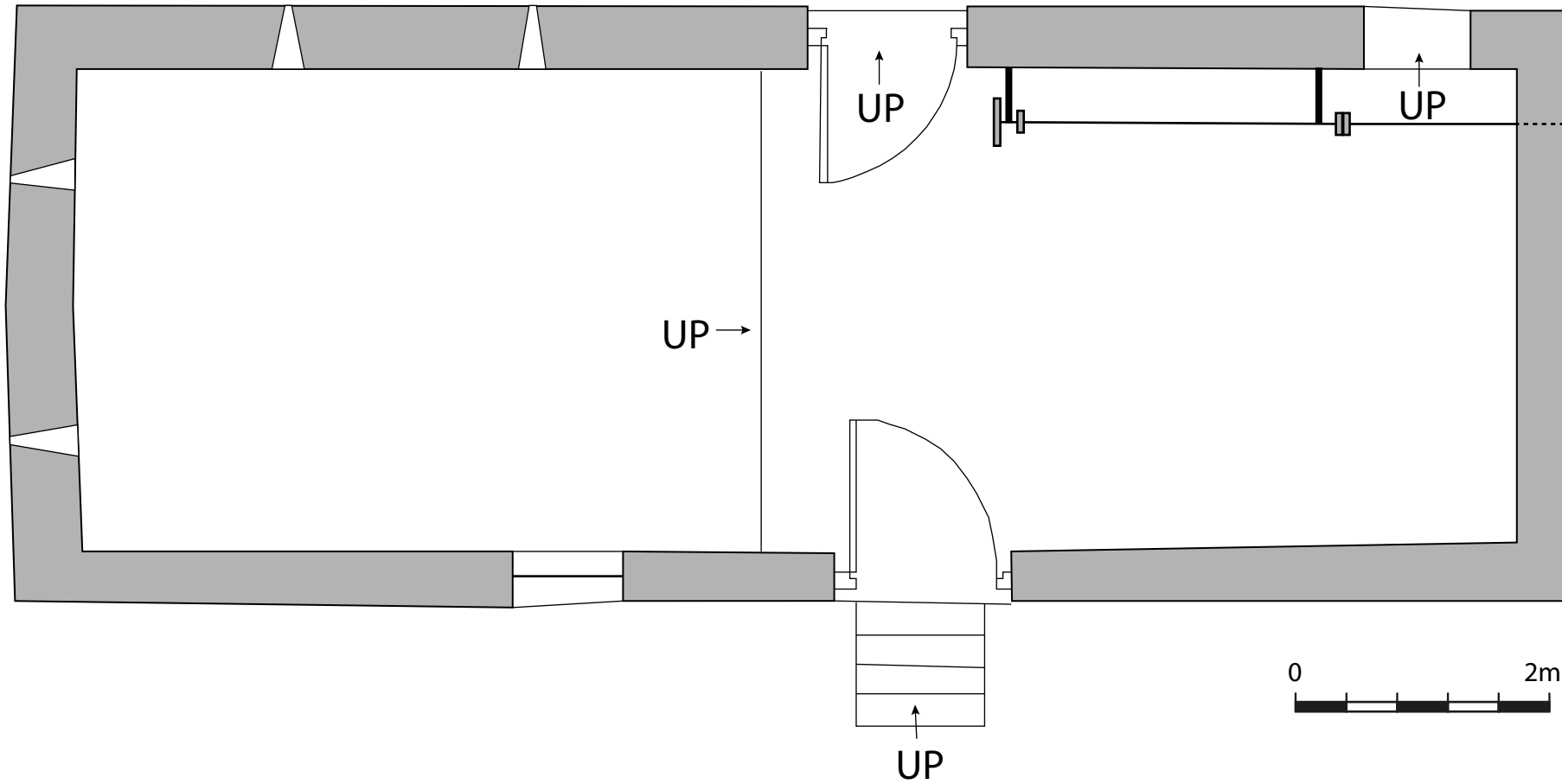


Figure 11.
Existing floor plan.

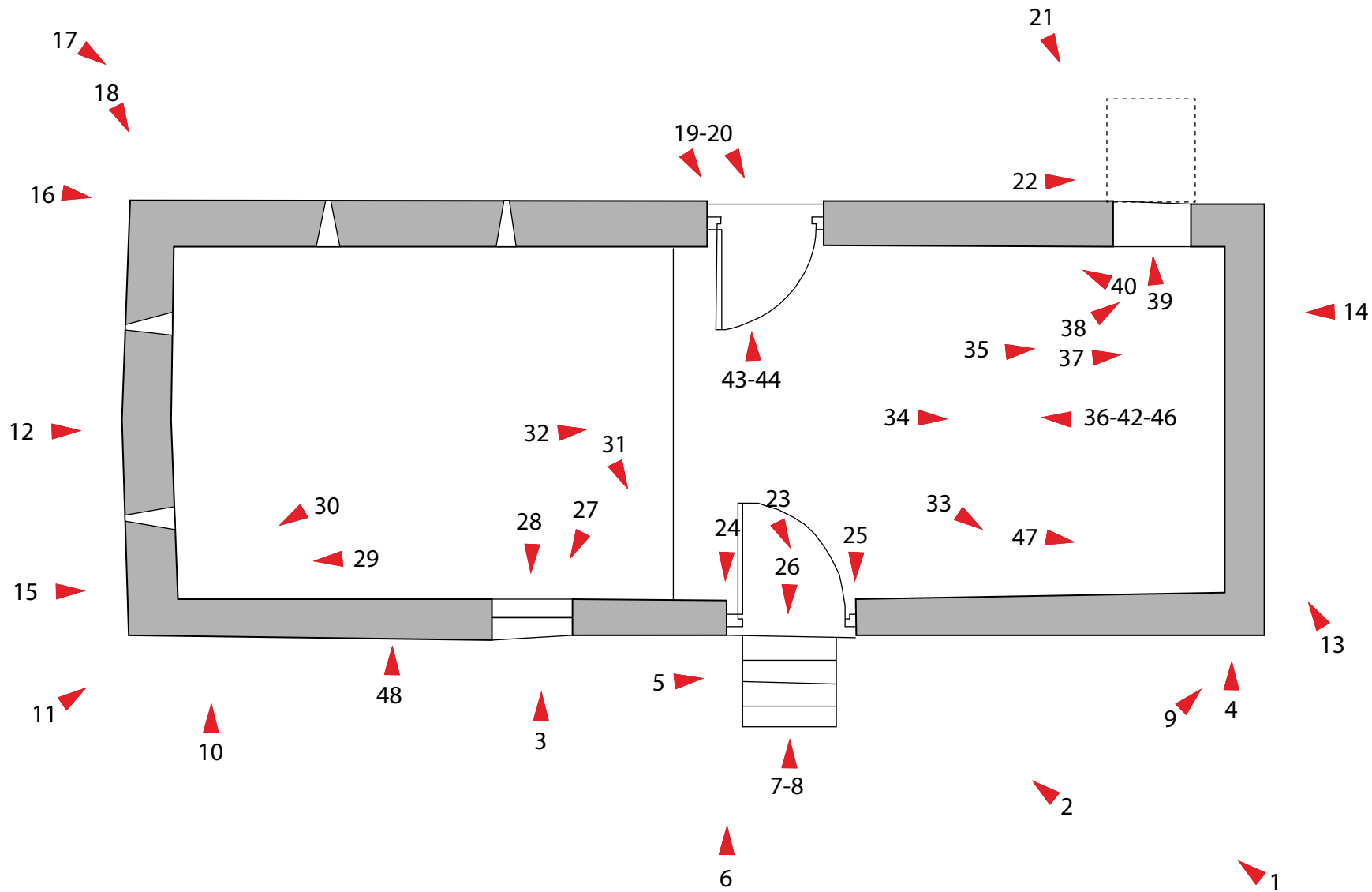


Figure 12
Direction of shots.

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APPENDIX II:



Plate 1 (above): View of front elevation, looking NW.

Plate 2 (below): View of front elevation, looking NW - detail.



Plate 3 (above): View window opening, looking N.

Plate 4 (below): Horse shoe used to lock gate to the easternmost end of front elevation.



Plate 5 (above): Detail of steps with concrete layer, looking E.

Plate 6 (below): View of front elevation, looking N.



Plate 7 (above): Worked lintel above main entrance.

Plate 8 (below): Detail of worked lintel above entrance.

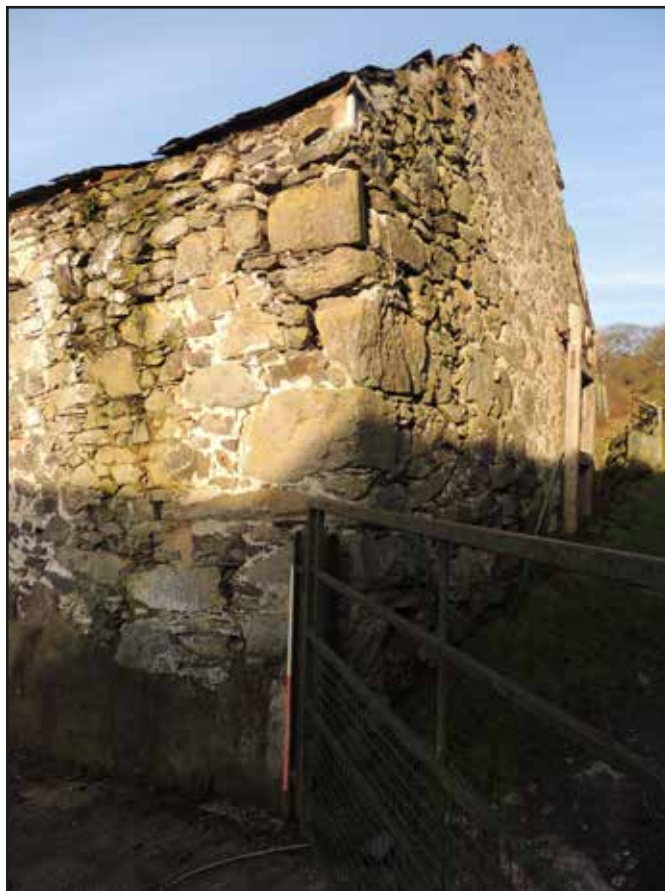


Plate 9 (above): Quoins, easternmost of front elevation.

Plate 10 (below): Quoins and ventilation slot, westernmost of front elevation.



Plate 11 (above): View of western elevation, looking NE.

Plate 12 (below): View of western elevation with adjacent buildings.



Plate 13 (above): Eastern elevation, looking NW.

Plate 14 (below): Detail of threshing machine structure attached to eastern elevation.



Plate 15 (above): Detail of repair, rear elevation.

Plate 16 (below): Detail of quoins, rear elevation.



Plate 17 (above): View of rear elevation, looking SE.

Plate 18 (below): Detail of quoins, rear elevation.



Plate 19 (above): View of main entrance, rear elevation.

Plate 20 (below): Detail repair - rear elevation.



Plate 21 (above): View of NE addition looking SW.

Plate 22 (below): View of NE addition, looking NE.



Plate 23 (above): View of entrance, looking SE - interior.

Plate 24 below): Fuse box above entrance, looking SE.



Plate 25 (above): Light switch above entrance, looking S - interior.

Plate 26 (below): Detail of timber hinges above entrance, looking SE - interior.



Plate 27 (above): Window - originally entrance - looking SE - interior.

Plate 28 (below): Detail of timber engraving (JH) - interior.



Plate 29 (above): Deposit located on the corner between the SW and the W elevation -interior.

Plate 30 (below): Detail of deposit located on the corner between the SW and the W elevation -interior.



Plate 31 (above): Elevated area adjoining SW and NE entrance -interior.

Plate 32 (below): Detail of elevated area adjoining SW and NE entrance -interior.



Plate 33 (above): View of SW elevation, looking SE.

Plate 34 (below): View of E elevation.



Plate 35 (above): Remains of threshing machine and deposit above, looking NE.

Plate 36 (below): View of barn interior, looking W.



Plate 37 (above): Remains of threshing machine with conical fire extinguisher, looking N.

Plate 38 (below): Remains of threshing machine, looking NE.



Plate 39 (above): view of lean-on shed, looking N.

Plate 40 (below): Remains of line shafting.



Plate 41 (above): Detailed view of fire extinguisher.

Plate 42 (below): View of barn interior, looking W.



Plate 43 (above): Panelled door from rear elevation, looking N.

Plate 44 (below): Detail of metal hinges.



Plate 45 (above): View of trusses, looking E.

Plate 46 (below): View of trusses, looking W.



Plate 47 (above): Truss detail.

Plate 48 (below): Detail of slate tiles.

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APPENDIX III:

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
BUILDING RECORDING LEVEL 3
AT BRYN GWYLAN, LLANGERNYW

Prepared for:
ERW Consulting, on behalf of Mr Elfed R Williams

Planning Application Number: DC/0/43909
Project No: 2578

08/12/2017



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Figure 1. Map with location of site

Figure 2. Barn plan and elevations

Summary

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details a programme of Archaeological Building Recording to be undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd at the request of ERW Consulting, on behalf of Mr Elfed R Williams.

*The Archaeological Building Recording will consist of a Level 3 standard according to **Historic England 'Understanding Historic Buildings' guidelines. It will be undertaken prior to the commencement of works associated with the proposed demolition and clearance of Grade II listed former threshing farm – Bryn Gwylan, Turnpike Ucha to Nant Mawr, Llangernyw LL228PF (SH 88837 69952). The planning application no. is DC/O/43909.***

Bryngwylan threshing barn (PRN99527 – SAM 21490) is a Grade II listed building dating to the 17th/18th centuries. The structure is a gabled vernacular threshing barn and is already documented in OS maps dating to 1874. The barn is part of a group value which includes a farmstead located c 70 north. A class I Early Medieval inscribed stone, and a Henry VIII goat have been discovered in the surrounding area to the site.

All work will be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

1. Introduction and planning background

This WSI details the methodology for a programme of Archaeological Building Recording, Level 3 to be undertaken in association with the proposed demolition and clearance of Grade II listed former threshing farm – Bryn Gwylan, Turnpike Ucha to Nant Mawr, Llangernyw LL228PF (SH 88837 69952). The planning application no. is DC/O/43909.

This WSI has been prepared by Dr Irene Garcia Rovira, Trainee Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of ERW Consulting, on behalf of Mr Elfed R Williams (henceforth – the client).

The methodology set out in this WSI has been agreed with Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust – Development Control (henceforth – CPAT-DC) in its capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority. CPAT-DC has recommended that an Archaeological Building Recording Level 3 of the farm is undertaken prior to the commencement of works to assess and mitigate the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

The purpose of the archaeological assess Building Recording Level 3 is to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains on the site of the development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy (revised edition 8, 2016), Section 6.5, and Welsh

Office Circular 60/96. The work is to ensure that all archaeological and historical components of the affected building are fully investigated and recorded if they are disturbed or revealed as a result of activities associated with the development.

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

2. Site Description

The site of the proposed development is located 2.8km NE from the village of Llangernyw, and it is accessed from a lane of the A548 road. The site is surrounded by pasture and agriculture field and it is located 158m AOD.

The underlying geology is defined by the Elwy Formation and includes mudstone and slumped rocks formed during the Silurian Period. No superficial soils are recorded for this site (BGS 2017).

3. Archaeological background

Bryngwylan threshing barn (PRN99527 – SAM 21490) is a Grade II listed building dating to the 17th/18th centuries. The structure is a gabled vernacular threshing barn and is already documented in OS maps dating to 1874. The barn is part of a group value which includes a farmstead located c 70 north. The latter is characterised as a 3-unit storeyed farmhouse dated to 1589. CPAT carried out a Desk-Based-Assessment of focused on the farmhouse, commissioned by the Dendrochronology Project in partnership with RCAHMW (see Vaughan and Vaughan 2014).

A class I Early Medieval inscribed stone was found at Bryn Gwylan farm in 1985. This stone is nowadays stored in the main farm building (see Silvester and Hankinson 2013). Furthermore, a silver groat of Henry VIII was found in a field c 100m NE of the site during a metal detector survey (see PASS database).

4. Objectives

This WSI sets out a program of works to ensure that the Archaeological Building Recording Level 3 will meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for **Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Building Investigation and Recording** (2014) **and according to Historic England's Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice** (2016).

The primary objective of the Building Recording will be to describe and record, by means of high resolution digital photography and measured drawings, all of the key internal and external components of the affected building(s) so that a permanent record survives prior to demolition or renovation. This will be completed by means of an English Heritage Level 3 Building survey.

Level 3 is an analytical record, and will comprise an introductory description followed **by a systematic account of the building's origins, development and use. The record** will include an account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail.

It will also include all drawn and photographic records that may be required to **illustrate the building's appearance and structure and to support an historical analysis.**

Other recent structures existing on the site will be recorded by means of digital photography.

The work will result in a report, which will provide a comprehensive record of all the work undertaken.

4.1. Site Specific Research Aims

It is important to recognize that whilst primarily designed to mitigate impacts, developer-led archaeology is also regarded as research activity with an academic basis, the aim of which is to add to the sum of human knowledge. Curators recognize the desirability of incorporating agreed research priorities as a means of enhancing the credibility of the development control process, ensuring cost-effectiveness and legitimately maximizing intellectual return.

A research framework for the archaeology of Wales has been produced (2011-2014) and currently in the process of review. This Archaeological Building Recording Level 3 has the capacity to identify areas where subsequent mitigation may contribute to the following research aims regarding medieval archaeology in Wales: study of any aspects relating to agriculture and small-scale medieval and post-medieval industry.

Broader themes are also to be addressed as follows: the extent, nature, economy and character of settlement and landscape use; the relationships between landscape, geomorphology and soil types, the type and date of land-use within the site.

5. Timetable of works

5.1. Fieldwork

The programme of Archaeological Building Recording Level 3 will be undertaken prior to the commencement of works associated with the proposed development. Archaeology Wales will update CPAT with the exact date.

5.2. Report delivery

The report will be submitted to the client and to CPAT within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional HER (see section 8.2 for details).

6. Details of work

6.1. Desktop research phase

In terms of search for a historic environment or archaeological appraisal only readily available material will be consulted. The search will consider the building to be investigated and its relationship to other archaeological and historical sites within its setting, by means of search of various readily available primary sources:

1. Designated areas (Historic Landscapes, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Registered Parks & Gardens, Registered Battlefields)
2. Non-designated sites and listed buildings.
3. Excavation reports and archives affecting the site and its setting.
4. Relevant extant aerial photographic (AP) evidence.
5. Map regression analysis using all relevant cartographic sources e.g. All editions of the Ordnance Survey County Series, Tithe and early estate maps (as available).
6. Place name evidence
7. Internet sourced satellite imagery
8. Historic documents (e.g. Charters, registers, estate papers).

6.2. Building Investigation

The Level 3 Archaeological Building Recording will be undertaken by a suitably experienced Building Recording **Archaeologist who will be able to 'read' the structure** and record the important details. The photographic and drawn record will be a comprehensive record to archive standard of the existing buildings and structures, both externally and internally. The following will be considered:

- **Site layout and organisation**
- **Function**
- **Materials, method of construction**
- **Fenestration**
- **Internal arrangements**
- **Original fixtures and fittings**
- **Subsequent fixtures and fittings**
- **Evidence of use and status**
- **Date/period** of initial build and subsequent alterations

The work will be completed in accordance with ClfA Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (2014) and to a standard equivalent to Historic England Level 3 (Historic England (formerly English Heritage) *'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice'* 2016).

All photographs will be taken in a high resolution digital format. For both general and specific photographs, a photographic scale shall be included. The photographic

record shall be accompanied by a photographic register detailing as a minimum, feature number, location and direction of shot.

A site plan and measured plans of the buildings will be produced. Wherever possible, existing plans and elevations will be used to supplement the report and further measured plans and elevations may also be provided to illustrate features not more readily obtained by photography. Plans will be used to highlight photographic locations within the final report.

6.3. Recording

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc) using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

All features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries.

Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 12MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

6.4. Finds

The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for **Archaeologists' Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological (2014)** will form the basis of finds collection, processing and recording.

In the occurrence of discovery of relevant buried finds regardless of category and date will be retained.

Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under *The Treasure Act 1996* will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (normally Phil Parkes at Cardiff University).

7. Monitoring

CPAT will be contacted approximately five days prior to the commencement of archaeological site works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

Any changes to the WSI that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to CPAT for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.

Representatives of CPAT-DC will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the building recording. CPAT-DC will be kept regularly informed about developments.

8. Archive and Reporting programme

8.1. Archive

8.1.1. Site archive

An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with: *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2006) upon completion of the project.

The site archive will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and deposited with an appropriate receiving organisation, in compliance with ClfA Guidelines (Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and **deposition of archaeological archives**, 2014). The legal landowners consent will be gained for deposition of finds.

The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW including a copy of the final report. This archive will include all written, drawn, survey and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. NMR Digital archives will follow the standard required by the RCAHMW (RCAHMW, 2015). A copy of the digital archive only will also be lodged with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust.

8.1.2. Analysis

Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of analysis and reporting will be undertaken. This will result in the following inclusions in the final report:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the building/s assessed by the building recording, with all structures and features investigated
- Plan and elevation drawings with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- Written description and interpretation of all structural features identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features.
- Conclusion(s) as appropriate of all the structural remains investigated.
- A discussion of the local, regional and national context of the building by means of reviewing published reports, unpublished reports, historical maps, documents from local archives and the regional HER as appropriate.

- Appendices as appropriate including maps, drawings and photographs taken.

8.2. Reports and archive deposition

8.2.1. Report to client

Copies of all reports associated with the building survey, together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, including photographs and illustrations, will be submitted to the client, the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist at Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (Mark Walters mark.walters@CPAT-DC.org.uk) On approval the final report should be submitted in high resolution PDF format to the Historic Environment Record Officer (Gary Duckers gary.duckers@CPAT-DC.org.uk), Clwyd- Powys Archaeological Trust for inclusion within the Historic Environment Record.

Archaeology Wales will obtain copies of the HER Deposition Guidance and HER Depositor Licence from the HER Officer (Gary Duckers gary.duckers@CPATDC.org.uk) before any reports or archives are submitted to the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record.

8.2.2. Additional reports

After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of all reports will be deposited with the relevant county Historical Environment Record, the National Monuments Record and, if appropriate, Cadw.

8.2.3. Summary reports for publication

Short archaeological reports will be submitted for publication in relevant journals; as a minimum, a report will be submitted to the annual publication of the regional CBA group or equivalent journal.

8.2.4. Notification of important remains

Where it is considered that remains have been revealed that may satisfy the criteria for statutory protection, AW will submit preliminary notification of the remains to Cadw.

8.2.5. Archive deposition

The final archive (site and research) will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution, usually the relevant Local Authority museums service. Arrangements will be made with the receiving institution before work starts.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, copies of all reports and the final archive will be deposited no later than six months after completion of the work.

Copies of all reports, the digital archive and an archive index will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER. A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to CPAT-DC.

9. Staff

The project will be managed by Irene Garcia Rovira (Trainee Project Manager) and the fieldwork undertaken by a suitable building archaeologist from Archaeology Wales Ltd. Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of CPAT-DC and the client.

Additional Considerations

10. Health and Safety

10.1. Risk assessment

Prior to the commencement of work AW will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. A copy will be sent to the client (or their agent as necessary) for their information. All members of AW staff will adhere to the content of this document.

10.2. Other guidelines

AW will adhere to best practice with regard to Health and Safety in Archaeology as set out in the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (2002)*.

11. Community Engagement and Outreach

Wherever possible, AW will ensure suitable measures are in place to inform the local community and any interested parties of the results of the site investigation work. This may occur during the site investigation work or following completion of the work. The form of any potential outreach activities may include lectures and talks to local groups, interested parties and persons, information boards, flyers and other forms of communication (social media and websites), and press releases to local and national media.

The form of any outreach will respect client confidentiality or contractual agreements. As a rule, outreach will be proportional to the size of the project.

Where outreach activities have a cost implication these will need to be negotiated in advance and in accordance with the nature of the desired response and learning outcomes.

12. Insurance

AW is fully insured for this type of work, and holds Insurance with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hiscox Insurance Company Limited through Towergate Insurance. Full details of these and other relevant policies can be supplied on request.

13. Quality Control

13.1. Professional standards

AW works to the standards and guidance provided by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*. AW fully recognise and endorse the Chartered Institute for **Archaeologists' Code of Conduct**, *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* and the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological building investigation and recording* currently in force. All employees of AW, whether corporate members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists or not, are expected to adhere to these Codes and Standards during their employment.

13.2. Project tracking

The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

14. Arbitration

Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision **in accordance with the Rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' Arbitration Scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists** applying at the date of the agreement.

15. References

British Geological Survey: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, retrieved 08.12.17

Vaughan, Idwal and Ann , 2014 , Bryn Gwylan, Llangernyw, Abergele, Conwy (© CPAT)

Silvester, B & Hankinson, R , 2003 , Early Medieval Ecclesiastical and Burial Sites in Mid and North-east Wales: The Second Report (© CPAT)

Spink , 2008 , Coins of England and the United Kingdom. Standard Catalogue of British Coins 2009

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Bryn-Gwylan

THE SITE

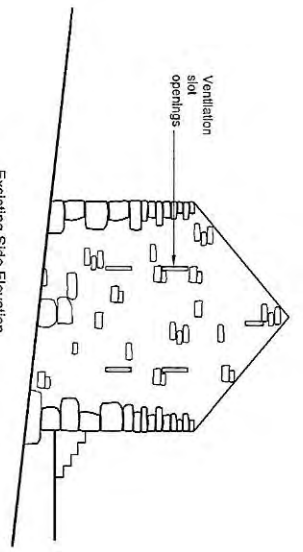
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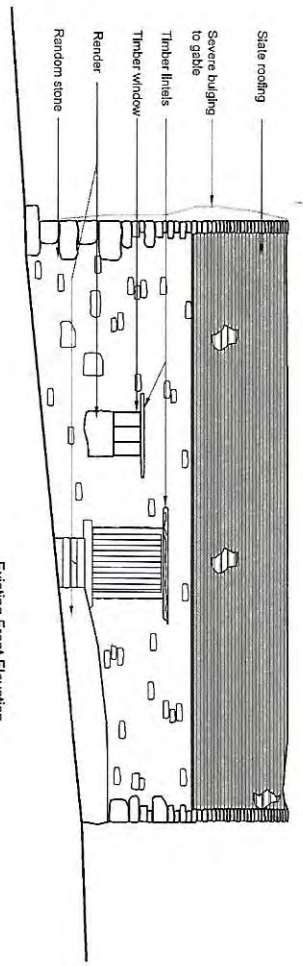
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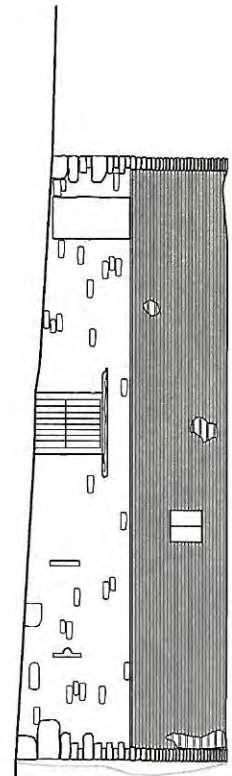




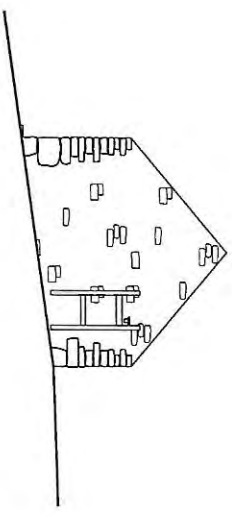
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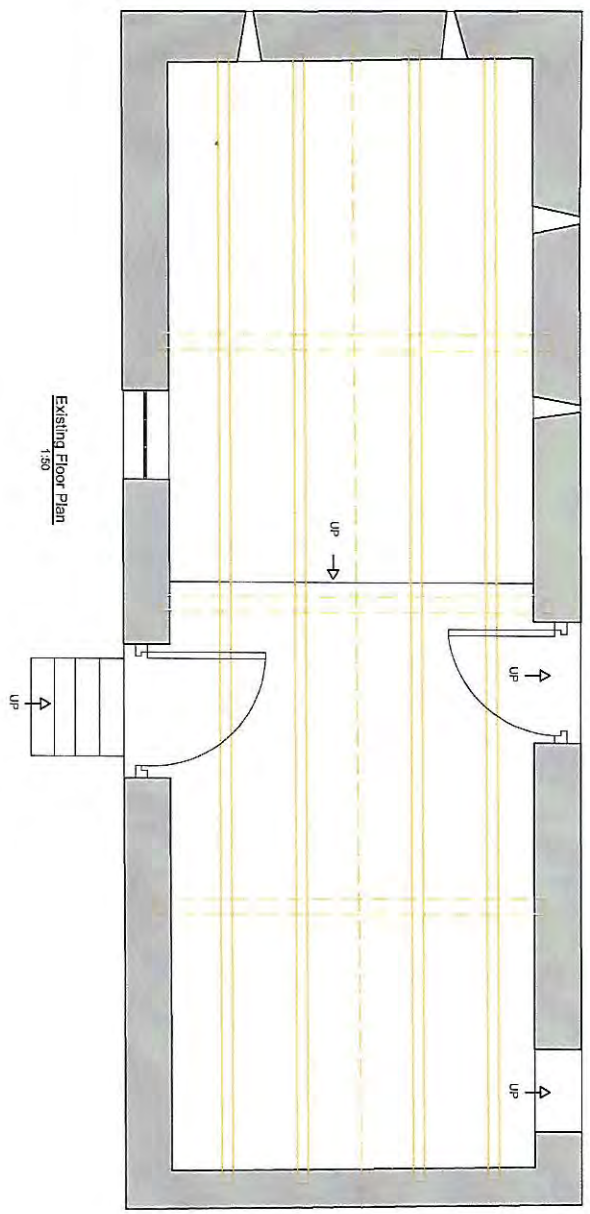
Existing Front Elevation
1:100



Existing Rear Elevation
1:100



Existing Side Elevation
1:100



Existing Floor Plan
1:50

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Any discrepancy found between the said any schedule or specification must be referred back to the consultant before work is undertaken to be checked on site. Do not scale.
All dimensions to be checked on site. Do not scale.
The drawing must not be copied, made or printed without the prior written permission of Building Design Wales.

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Building Design Wales
ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES
Tanywylford Reg. (Honi)
20, Tanywylford Rd, Tanywylford, Cardiff, CF11 1JL
07957 201 163
www.builtindesignwales.co.uk

project: Proposed demolition of Barn at Bryn Bryn, Llangynydd, Aberystwyth, Cernyw, LL22 8PF
client: Mr. Idrwal Vaughan

title: Existing Elevations and Plan
date: 08/10/2014
scale: As Shown @ A2
drawn: TPV

drawing no.: 550-02-14-01

Archaeology Wales

Archaeology Wales Limited

The Reading Room, Town Hall, Llanidloes, SY18 6BN

Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371

Email: admin@arch-wales.co.uk

Company Directors: Mark Houlston MCifA & Jill Houlston

Company Registered No. 7440770 (England & Wales)

Registered Office: Morgan Griffiths LLP, Cross Chambers

9 High Street, Newtown, Powys, SY16 2NY

