

CPAT Report No. 1644

# Llidiart Fawr, Pentrecelyn, Ruthin




Archaeological Building Survey



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS

CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Client name: Mr Dennis Lightfoot  
 CPAT Project No: 2350  
 Project Name: Llidiart Fawr, Pentrecelyn, Ruthin  
 Grid Reference: SJ 16035 52045  
 County/LPA: Denbighshire  
 Planning Application: 20/2018/1142/PF  
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 Event PRN: 140284  
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## Summary

A Level 3 Building Survey was conducted by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust to record Llidiart Fawr farmhouse, at Pentre Celyn, near Ruthin, in Denbighshire. The work was undertaken as a condition of planning consent prior to the demolition of the building and its replacement with a new dwelling.

Llidiart Fawr was probably built in the late-sixteenth century as a two-storey house, with a stone shell and internal timber partitions. The original entrance would have been at its south-west end alongside a fireplace and an adjoining stair to the upper floor. Additional extensions and alterations were made subsequently.

## Crynodeb

Bu Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys yn cynnal Arolwg Adeilad Lefel 3 i gofnodi ffermdy Llidiart Fawr, ym Mhentre Celyn, ger Rhuthun, yn Sir Ddinbych. Ymgwymerwyd â'r gwaith fel amod caniatâd cynllunio cyn dymchwel yr adeilad a chodi annedd newydd yno yn lle.

Adeiladwyd Llidiart Fawr tua diwedd yr unfed ganrif ar bymtheg, yn ôl pob tebyg, fel tŷ deulawr â muriau o gerrig a pharwydydd pren mewnol. Byddai'r fynedfa wreiddiol wedi bod ar ei ben de-orllewinol ochr yn ochr â lle tân a staer cyffiniol i fyny i'r llawr uchaf. Gwnaed estyniadau a newidiadau ychwanegol yn ddiweddarach.

# 1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust was engaged by Mr Dennis Lightfoot to undertake a programme of building recording in connection with a proposed development at Llidiart Fawr, Pentrecelyn, near Ruthin (SJ 16035 52045). The proposal involves the demolition of the existing farmhouse and its replacement with a new dwelling.



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018

Fig. 1: Location of Llidiart Fawr

- 1.2. Planning permission (20/2018/1142/PF) was granted in January 2019, with the inclusion of the following pre-commencement condition:

4. No demolition works shall be carried out until an appropriate programme of building recording and analysis of the existing dwelling and outbuilding, to include desktop study, photographic and descriptive survey, has been carried out, and the survey details and resulting digital photographs have been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

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Reason: To allow an adequate analytical record of the existing buildings to be made, before they are demolished, to ensure that the buildings origins, use and development are understood and the main features, character and state of preservation are recorded.

- 1.3. The main objective of the survey was to describe and record all of the key internal and external components of the surviving building complex so that a permanent record survived, prior to demolition works commencing. This was completed by means of a desktop study and building survey.
- 1.4. Fieldwork was carried out on 11 February 2019.

## 2 Methodology

- 2.1. The archaeological works were conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2014), also the CIfA *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (2014).

### Desk-based Assessment

- 2.2. The first stage of the assessment involved the examination of all readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, and photographic sources at the following repositories:
  - the regional Historic Environment Record
  - the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth
  - the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth
  - Denbighshire County Archives

### Building Survey

- 2.3. The survey took the form of a Level 3 building survey as defined by Historic England in *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (2016). This has allowed an analytical record of the building to be created, which includes a written description and photography, with the use of existing site plans, historic cartography and a drawn record of particular features.

## 3 Desk-based Assessment

- 3.1. Although it is clear that Llidiart Fawr was in existence at the time the Ordnance Surveyors' drawing (No 313) was being compiled in 1819, the map has no detail on the layout of the buildings, and this is similarly the case with the 'one inch' (1:63360) map of the 1830s (Sheet 74) that resulted from the earlier survey. The first representative depiction of the building comes with the production of the Tithe map for Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd in 1839 (Fig. 2).
- 3.2. The tithe map shows two adjoining buildings at Llidiart Fawr, and it is described as 'house and garden' (No 1039) in the accompanying apportionment, occupied by Robert Lloyd. The house is the south-western of the two buildings, with the north-eastern being a barn/byre range; the adjoining field named 'Cae Ysgubor' (No 1041) confirming its function.

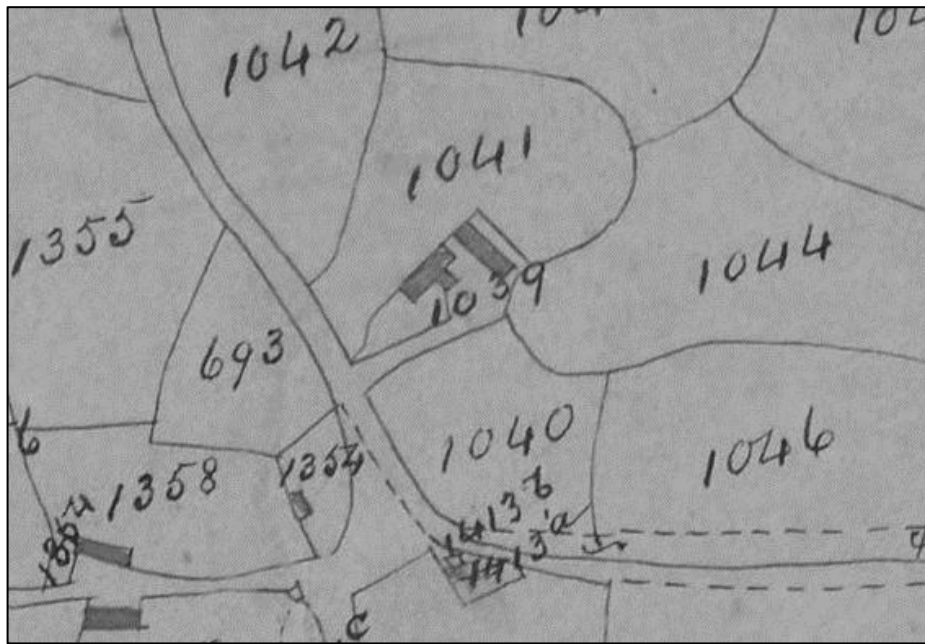


Fig. 2: The 1839 Tithe map, showing Llidiart Fawr (No 1039)

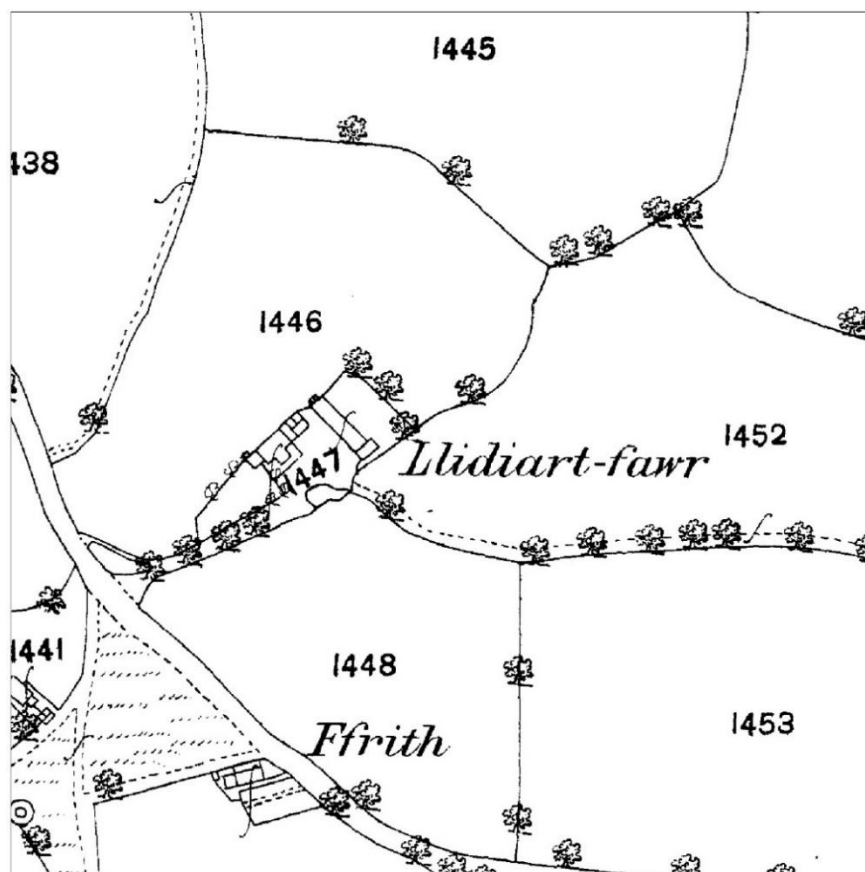


Fig. 3: The 1879 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map (Denbighshire 27.05)

- 3.3. The same arrangement is apparent on the 1879 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 3), though this also shows some additional structures attached to the core of the house, which was still evident as a north-east/south-west aligned building, with a wing projecting

to the south-east. The function of the attached structures is not clear, though one to the north-east has the appearance of a pigsty with an attached yard space.

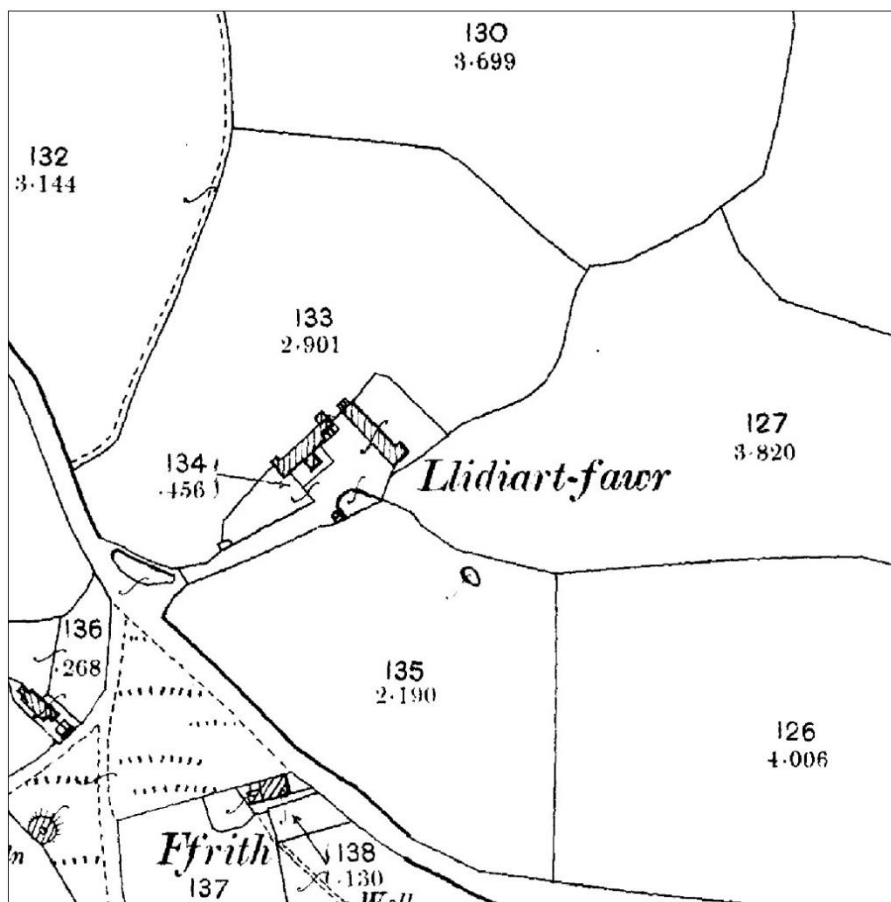


Fig. 4: The 1899 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map (Denbighshire 27.05)

- 3.4. By the time of the second edition map in 1899 (Fig. 4) the house seems to have been extended to both north-east and south-west, or at least the additional structures were incorporated more closely into the core of the building. There seems to have been no material change to the barn/byre, but it is known that it was demolished in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and replaced by a modern farm range on a similar alignment.

## 4 Building Survey

- 4.1. The survey was conducted on 11 February 2019 and took the form of a Level 3 building survey as defined by Historic England (2016) *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*. Phased plans are provided at the rear of this report (Figs 12-13), together with plans locating the position and direction of view of the photographs (Figs 14-15). These are based on plans supplied by the client, which were checked and found to be accurate. In addition, a measured sectional view (Fig. 8) is provided, which shows the original ground floor partition and the roof truss on the first floor.





Fig. 5: General view of Llidiart Fawr from east, showing the pebble-dash covering and later piecemeal additions. The north-east end of the original house is identified by a gutter downpipe to the left of the three modern dormer-type windows. CPAT 4599-0008

- 4.2. The original house at Llidiart Fawr has containing walls of stone with lime mortar bonding, within which the structure was timber-framed. The probable construction date is provided by an inscription of '1568' on one of the uprights of the post-and-panel partition which survives on the ground floor (Fig. 9). This was a period of change in house design, from the late medieval hall-house with its bays open to the roof to the sub-medieval house with an upper floor and enclosed chimney. On balance it seems that the latter is the more likely original design, having one large room (Fig. 12, G1) on the ground floor with two smaller rooms (now Fig. 12, G2) at the opposite (north-east) end and two approximately equally-sized rooms (now Fig. 13, G1-G6) upstairs, accessed by a stairway.
- 4.3. A fireplace, surmounted by a large curved beam, lies at the south-west end of the interior in room G1 and is offset from the centre line of the house, though it can be seen in the attic space that the chimney was centrally positioned and built of stone. This design most probably accommodated a stair to the first floor but also indicates that the main entrance lay immediately to the south-east of the fireplace in the south-west end wall of the house. There are now three gaps in the south-east wall of the ground floor, but at least two of these must be later insertions, and the third, central one, lacks the corresponding entrance in the opposite wall that would have been expected if there had been a cross-passage. It seems likely that the central doorway was inserted to provide access to a later projecting wing attached to the south-east side of the original rectangular house (see para 4.8).



Fig. 6: The fireplace, adjoining doorway and ceiling beams in the south-west part of the original house, from north-east. CPAT 4599-0033



Fig. 7: The post-and-panel partition on the ground floor. CPAT 4599-0030

- 4.4. On the ground floor, the single post-and-panel partition (Fig. 7) which separates the main room (G1) from the small room (G2) to its north-east is of good quality with the vertical edges of the posts decorated with a groove, the posts themselves are nicely

finished and have a very slightly convex cross-section. There were openings, now blocked, at either end of the partition which indicate that the room to the rear would originally have been divided in two to form a parlour and a service room. The opening to the left (north-west) retains evidence that there would have been a curved doorhead. Most significantly, one of the posts has the date 1586 incised on it, along with at least three sets of initials (see Fig. 9).

- 4.5. There are also two sets of assembly marks, the lower (and earlier) of these can be seen on the upper part of Fig. 9 and show that these are scratched onto the posts and panels, while the upper (and later) are simple chisel marks; both are depicted on the sectional view, below. The peg holes in the partition have also been depicted on Fig. 8, and while the function of some is obscure, the lower ones probably indicate the position of a dais bench. It would appear that the panel may have been shortened somewhat at its south-eastern end, perhaps when the south-east wing was added.

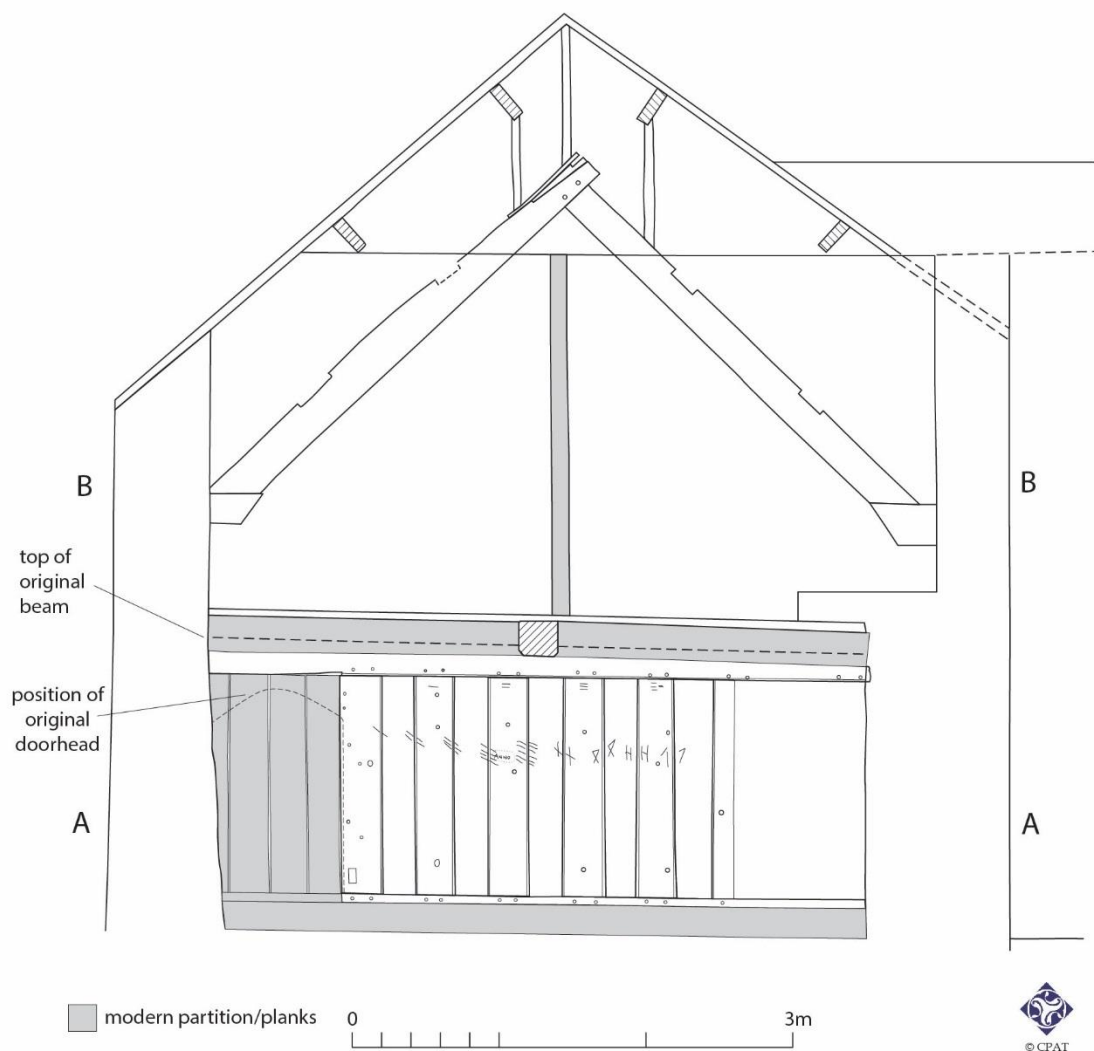


Fig. 8: Sectional view of the ground floor partition (with assembly marks and peg holes) and the roof truss visible on the first floor, from south-west. Note that the lower partition (A-A) is placed a third of the way from the north-east end of the house, while the upper (B-B) is centrally-placed. The south-east wing is to the right.



Fig. 9: The incised date of 1586 on one of the posts in the partition, also showing the three sets of initials, the decorative grooves on the vertical edges of the post and the assembly marks. CPAT 4599-0039



Fig. 10: The north-west end of the roof truss visible on the first floor in room F1, with slots for the purlins of the original roof. The projecting horizontal stub of the sawn-off horizontal beam can be seen to lower left. CPAT 4599-0020

- 4.6. The ceiling of the ground floor is based around a large, chamfered beam running along the central north-east/south-west axis of the house, with smaller beams resting on this and the side walls of the building (see Fig. 6). The main beam may run along the entire length of the original building, but limited visibility at the partition meant that this could not be confirmed.
- 4.7. The single roof truss on the first floor (Fig. 10) is centrally positioned. It seems to have been of a simple triangular design with slots cut in the blades for two sets of purlins on either side of the ridge line, where the blades were pegged together. The roof was later raised by building up the north-west and south-east walls and using the truss as a support, and though when this was done cannot now be determined, a late 19<sup>th</sup>-century date seems likely. The projecting horizontal stubs seen on Fig. 8 indicate where the central section of the cross-beam was sawn off, probably to facilitate access.



Fig. 11: The apex of the roof truss in the loft space. CPAT 4599-0028

- 4.8. The house was later extended by the addition of a stone-built south-east wing (Fig. 12, part of G6; Fig. 13, F7), centrally placed along that wall. Doorways were probably cut into the wall of the original house to provide access to it on the ground and first floors. The wing was in place by 1839 but is likely to be of 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>-century date. The owner noted that the end of this structure collapsed owing to a nearby bomb explosion in the Second World War and it was rebuilt. This is evident in changes of wall thickness.
- 4.9. At the north-east end of the original house there are a series of largely brick-built extensions (Fig. 12, G3-G5; Fig. 13, F8-F10) of no architectural merit, probably dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. According to the late 19<sup>th</sup>-century Ordnance Survey mapping, another may have lain at the south-west end of the house, though there is now only a modern porch (Fig. 12, G9). Single storey extensions (Fig. 12, part of G6, G7 and G8)

were placed in the angles between the original house and south-east wing in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, again these are of no architectural merit.

## 5 Conclusions

- 5.1. Llidiart Fawr appears to represent the somewhat modified remains of a sub-medieval storeyed house, comprising a stone shell within which the partitions are wooden. It retains some features that found their origin in the medieval hall-house, the most significant of which is the good quality post-and-panel partition on the ground floor with its date of 1586, retaining traces that imply there was an attached dais bench.
- 5.2. The original house has seen many modifications and additions, which include the addition of a centrally-placed south-east wing in the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century, together with various 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-century extensions. These led to the insertion of a number of doorways into the south-east wall of the original structure, none of which are likely to be original as the most probable entrance position was in the south-west end wall, adjacent to the fireplace and nearby stairs.
- 5.3. Although the house is to be demolished, the owners have indicated that they wish to retain the ground floor post-and-panel partition for use as a non-load bearing feature in the new dwelling. This should ensure that the most important part of the house is protected and retained for future appreciation and study.

## 6 Sources

### Published sources

Smith, P., 1988. *Houses of the Welsh Countryside*. London: HMSO.

### Cartographic sources

1819 Ordnance Survey Surveyors' Drawing No 313 (not reproduced as no detail)

1839 Tithe map for Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd Parish

1879 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1<sup>st</sup> edition Denbighshire 27.05

1899 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Denbighshire 27.05

## 7 Archive deposition Statement

The project archive has been prepared according to the CPAT Archive Policy and in line with the ClfA *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives guidance* (2014). The digital archive only will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and the paper/drawn/digital archive with the National Monuments Record (RCAHMW).

### Archive summary

CPAT Event PRN: 140284

A2 Site drawing

45 digital photographs, CPAT film no 4599

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## Appendix 1: CPAT WSI 2018

### 1 Introduction

1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust has been invited by Mr Dennis Lightfoot to submit a proposal for undertaking a programme of building recording in connection with a proposed development at Llidiart Fawr, Pentrecelyn, Ruthin (SJ 16035 52045). The proposal involves the demolition of an existing building and its replacement with a new dwelling.

1.2. Planning permission (20/2018/1142/PF) was granted in January 2019, with the inclusion of the following pre-commencement condition:

4. No demolition works shall be carried out until an appropriate programme of building recording and analysis of the existing dwelling and outbuilding, to include desktop study, photographic and descriptive survey, has been carried out, and the survey details and resulting digital photographs have been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason: To allow an adequate analytical record of the existing buildings to be made, before they are demolished, to ensure that the buildings origins, use and development are understood and the main features, character and state of preservation are recorded.

### 2 Objectives

2.1. The objectives of the survey are:

- to describe and record all of the key internal and external components of the surviving outbuilding complex so that a permanent record survives prior to alterations commencing. This will be completed by means of a desktop study and English Heritage Level 3 building survey;
- to prepare a report outlining the results of the survey;
- to prepare a final publication of the results in an appropriate regional or national journal, depending on the nature and significance of any archaeology.

### 3 Methodology

3.1. The archaeological works will be conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (2014), Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment (2014).

#### Desk-based Assessment

3.2. Stage 1 of the assessment will involve the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, and photographic sources at the following repositories:

- the regional Historic Environment Record

- 
- the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth
  - the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth
  - Powys County Archives

3.3. All cartographic sources consulted will be included within the desktop section of the report, together with transcriptions of relevant documents and copies of plans, maps and photographs containing relevant information, subject to any copyright restrictions.

#### **Building Survey**

3.4. The survey will take the form of a Level 3 building survey as defined by Historic England 2016 *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*. This level of survey is intended to create an analytical record of the building, and will include:

- Description and photographic record of the exterior and the interior
- Detailed account of type, construction, form, function
- Phasing
- Past and present use and relationship with setting
- Copies of historic maps, plans, photographs and documents
- conclusions regarding the building's development and use

3.5. The drawn record will be based on existing plans and elevations which will be checked in the field and annotate/amended as necessary. The end result will include:

- Measured plans of each floor, elevation and cross-sections
- Drawings of any architectural features/decoration
- Phase plans showing the development of the structure

#### **Photography**

- General views of elevations
- General views of external appearance
- Overall appearance of principal rooms
- Internal and external structural detail
- Fixtures, fittings, machinery, related contents

#### **Report**

3.6. Following the on-site work an illustrated report will be prepared containing conventional sections to include:

- Non-technical summary
- Location and NGR
- Statutory designations
- Date of record, recorder and archive deposition
- Introduction
- Site location
- Methodology
- Summary of the form, function, date and development of the building
- Desk-based study, including copies of historic maps and photographs where permitted



- 
- Summary description of the building
  - Past and present usage
  - Evidence for former existence of demolished structures, removed fittings etc
  - Conclusions
  - References
- 3.7. The report summary will be provided in English and Welsh, in accordance with the *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) V1* (July 2018).

#### **Site archive**

- 3.8. The overall archive will conform to guidelines described in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Historic England 2006, the CIfA (2014) *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* and *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales* (NPAAW, 2017) and *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) V1* (July 2018).
- 3.9. The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record (NMR), 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.

## **4 Resources and programming**

- 4.1. The assessment will be undertaken by a team of skilled archaeologists under the overall supervision of Nigel Jones, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). CPAT is also a CIfA Registered Organisation (RAO No 6) and as such agrees to abide by their *Code of Conduct* (2014) and the *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (2014).
- 4.2. All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist(s) who conducted the fieldwork.
- 4.3. At present CPAT would be in a position to undertake the survey during February 2019, subject to the receipt of sufficient advanced notice from the client.
- 4.4. Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 4.5. CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance, as well as Professional Indemnity insurance.

N W Jones

30 January 2019

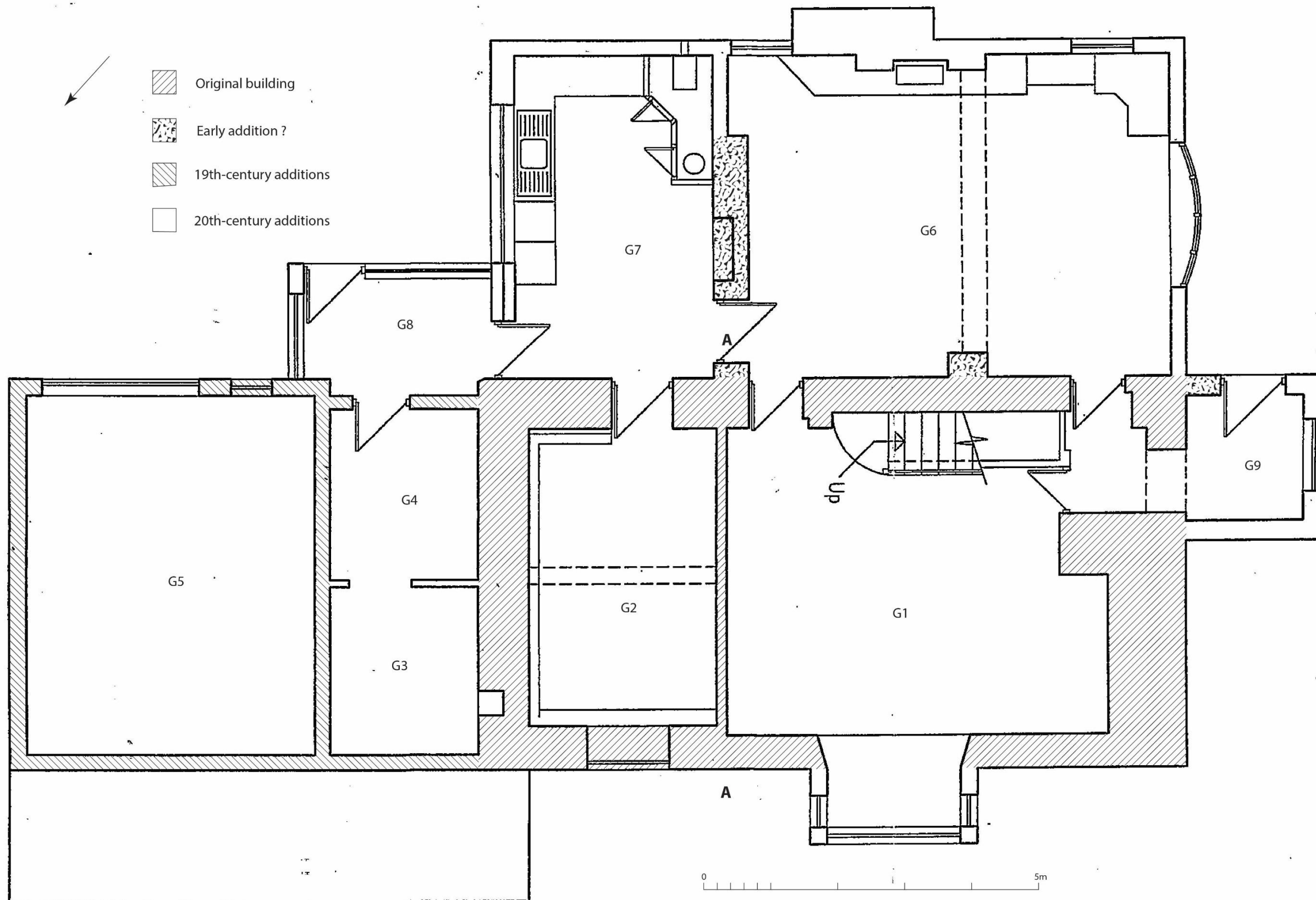


Fig. 12: Ground floor plan of Llidiart Fawr

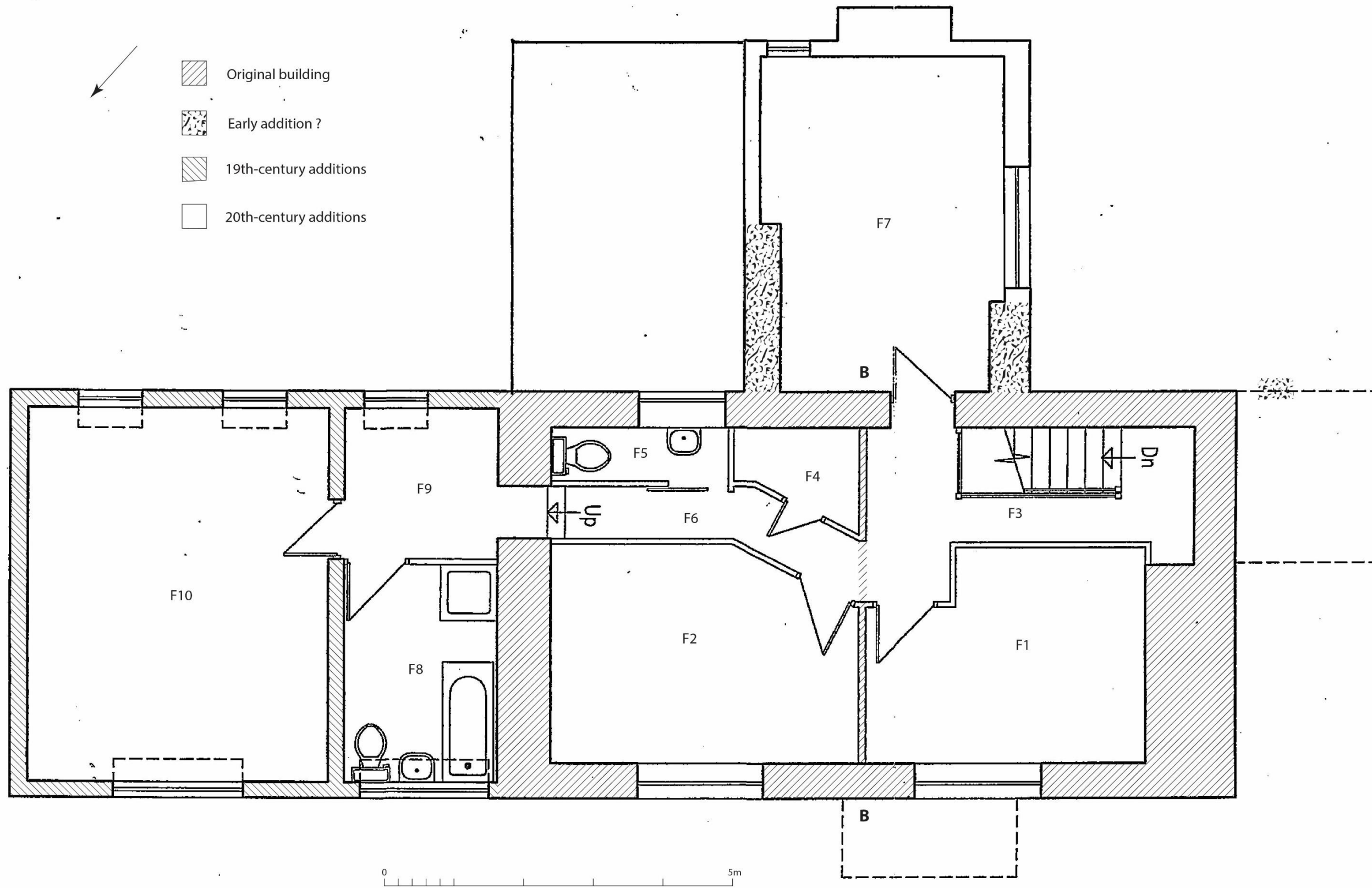


Fig. 13: First floor plan of Llidiart Fawr

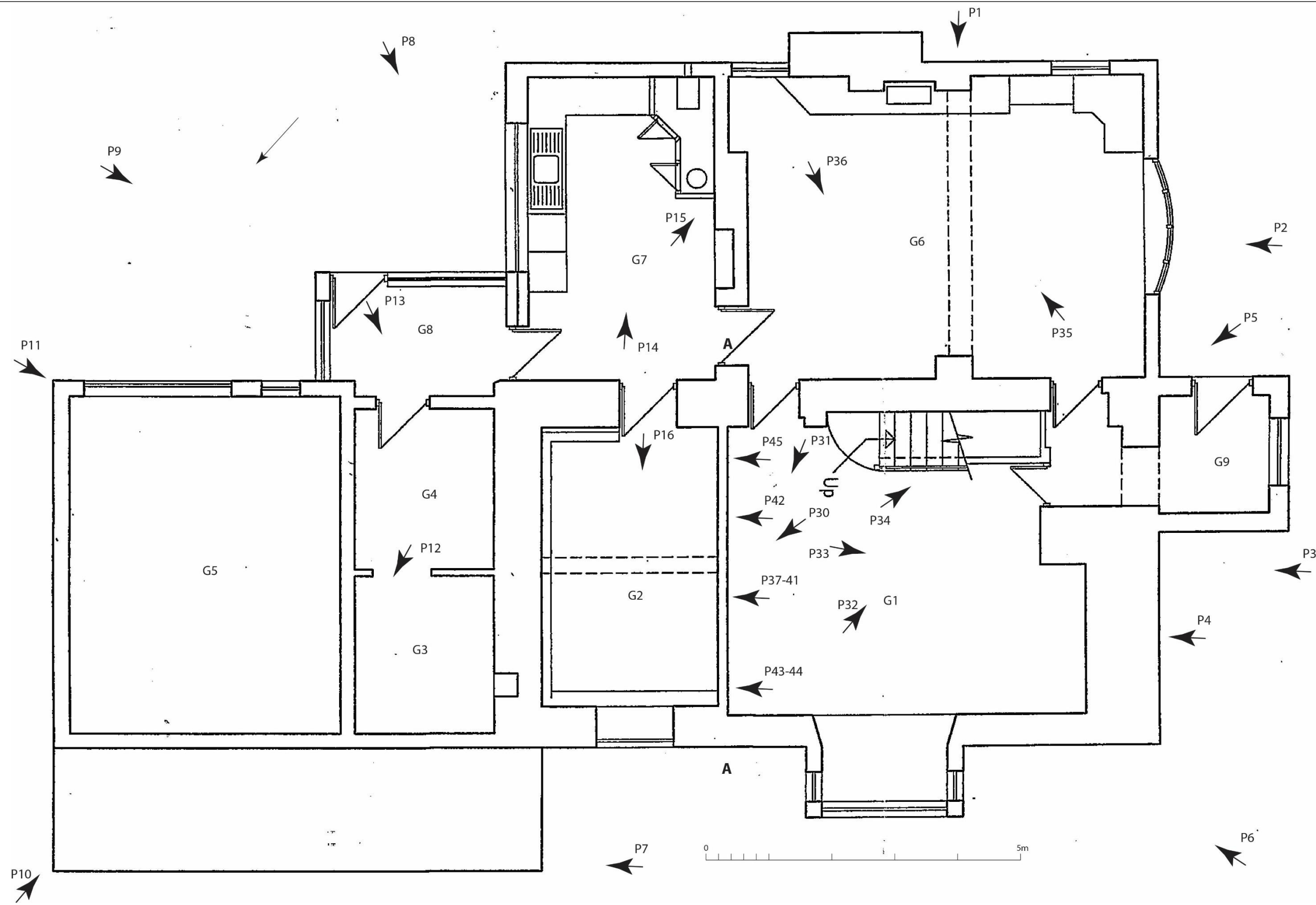


Fig. 14: Ground floor photograph locations

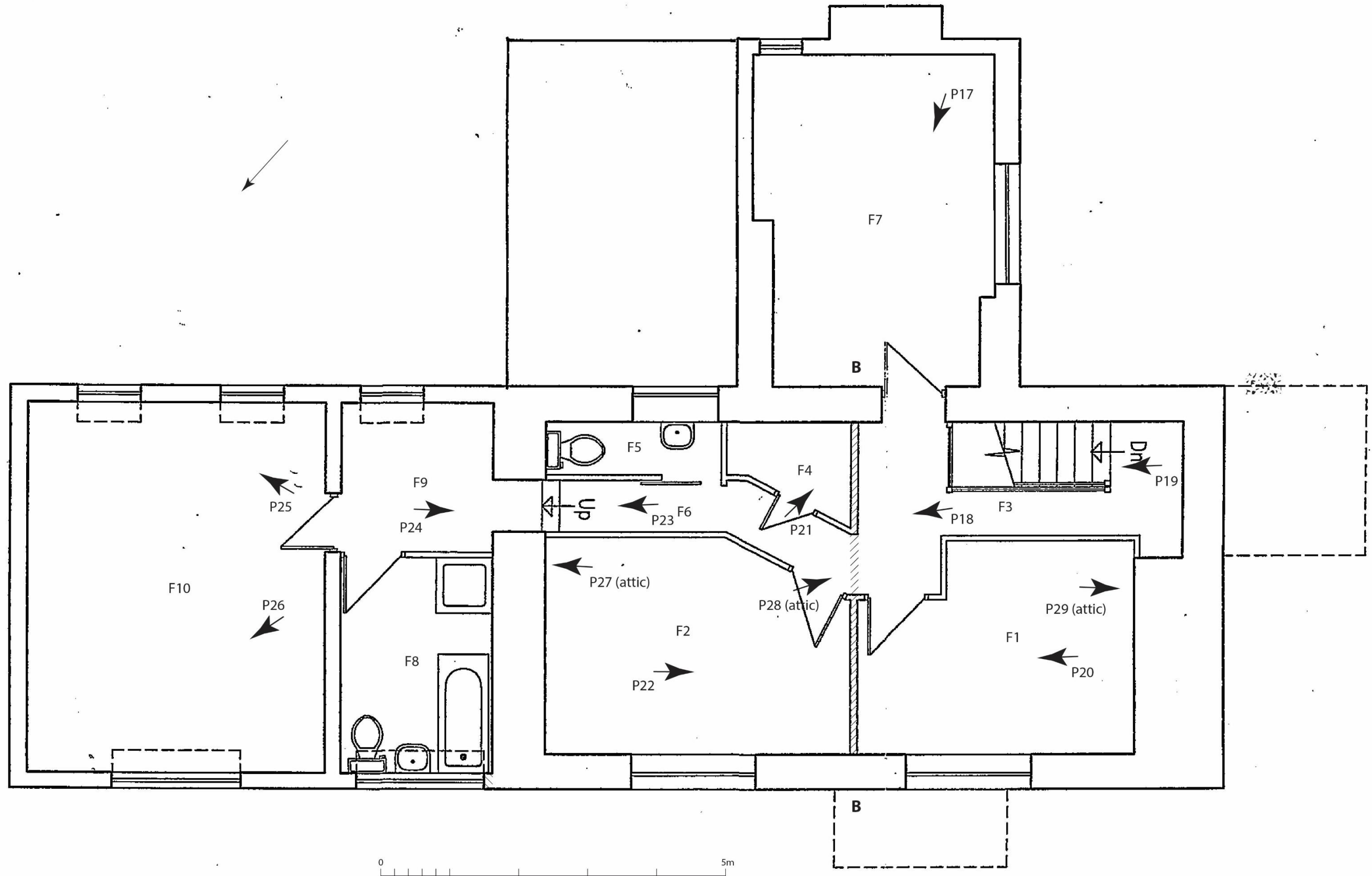


Fig. 15: First floor photograph locations