

CPAT Report No. 1664

Clydach County Primary School, Abergavenny




Building Survey



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CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Client name: Glyn Smith Architect
 CPAT Project No: 2382
 Project Name: Clydach County Primary School, Abergavenny
 Grid Reference: SO 2255 1293
 County/LPA: Monmouthshire/ Brecon Beacons National Park
 Planning Application: 16/13499/FUL
 CPAT Report No: 1664
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Cover Photo. The former infant school at Clydach viewed from the north-east.



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 with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

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Summary

In May 2019 the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) undertook a Level 3 Building Survey to record the former Clydach County Primary School, near Abergavenny, as a condition of planning consent for its conversion to holiday accommodation.

The school dates from the late 19th century and originally consisted of a single building which was extended and modernised during the mid-20th century. A separate building was later erected for the infant school which is first recorded by the Ordnance Survey in 1920, but is probably late 19th-century in date, while a third, pre-fabricated building, housed the dinner hall, which was constructed during the mid to late 20th century.

Crynodeb

Ym mis Mai 2019, bu Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys (CPAT) yn cynnal Arolwg Adeilad Lefel 3 i gofnodi cyn Ysgol Gynradd Clydach, ger y Fenni, fel amod o ganiatâd cynllunio i'w throsi'n llety gwyliau.

Mae'r ysgol yn dyddio o ddiwedd y 19^{eg} ganrif ac, yn wreiddiol, roedd yn cynnwys un adeilad a gafodd ei estyn a'i foderneiddio yng nghanol yr 20^{fed} ganrif. Codwyd adeilad ar wahân yn ddiweddarach ar gyfer ysgol y babanod a gofnodwyd gyntaf gan yr Arolwg Ordnans ym 1920, ond mae'n debygol ei fod yn dyddio o ddiwedd y 19^{eg}-ganrif, ac mewn trydydd adeilad parod roedd yr ystafell fwyta. Adeiladwyd hwn yn ystod canol i ddiwedd yr 20^{fed} ganrif.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. In May 2019 The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust carried out a programme of historic building recording in connection with the conversion of the disused Clydach County Primary School, Abergavenny, to holiday accommodation.
- 1.2. The site lies at the south-western end of the village of Clydach, immediately north-west of the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road (Fig. 1).



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018

Fig. 1 Location of Clydach County Primary School

- 1.1 Consent (16/13499/FUL) was granted by BBNPA in December 2017, with the inclusion of the following condition:

15 No development shall take place until a programme of buildings recording and analysis, equivalent to English Heritage Level 3 building survey, has been secured and implemented, in accordance with a brief issued by this Authority and Written Scheme of Investigation, which has been submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The building recording must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

in their Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures. A copy of the resulting report should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority. After approval by the Local Planning Authority, a copy should also be sent to Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the regional Historic Environment Record.

Reason: to allow a full analytical record of the building to be made, prior to alteration, to ensure that the buildings origins, use and development are understood and the main features, character and state of preservation are recorded.

2 Historical Background

- 2.1. The following is reproduced from the Historic Landscape Characterisation (Clydach North) carried out by the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust.
- 2.2. The historic landscape area of Clydach North (Cheltenham) formed part of the Duke of Beauforts' Estate and was associated with the development of the Clydach Ironworks and the surrounding limestone quarries from the late 18th century. This settlement, now generally known as Clydach, but formerly Cheltenham, essentially comprised a ribbon settlement of early 19th century short rows. These are mostly terraces of stone-built houses associated with the Brynmawr Coal & Iron Co. Ltd. The area also retains a number of non-conformist Chapels including Siloam Chapel and the English Wesleyan (both built in 1829) and the Ebenezer Welsh (built in 1828). The settlement is located at the junction of the Merthyr-Govilon turnpike road and the Clydach Railroad, built 1793-5, which ran from Rhyd-y-blew, connecting with ironworks at Beaufort, to a forge at Glangrwyney in the Usk valley.
- 2.3. During the late 18th century ironworking in the area had become industrialised following the construction of two blast furnaces, built in 1793 and 1797 on a site located on the Clydach River in the valley bottom, to the north-east of Clydach North. The power supply for the blast process was supplied by a waterwheel. The site was expanded with the construction of two further blast furnaces built in 1826 and 1842, which were powered by a steam engine. Production ceased in 1877 (Coflein, accessed 2019)
- 2.4. The major industry of the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the area was stone quarrying and the manufacture of lime for agricultural and building purposes. The first lime works had started production in 1795, at Blackrock, but numerous other quarries were opened throughout the next century. Llanelly Quarry supplied the Clydach Ironworks with limestone, and subsequently lime for farming and building mortars. It closed in 1962. Clydach Limeworks was built in 1877 to provide lime for building a railway viaduct for the Merthyr, Tredegar and Abergavenny Railway.
- 2.5. The main school building at Clydach (then referred to as Cheltenham) is first recorded on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1880 (Fig. 2) It is unclear exactly when it was constructed but it may have been as a result of the Elementary Education Act of 1870. The infant school to the south-east is not recorded on mapping until the Ordnance Survey Map of 1920 (Fig. 4). However, it is visible in a photograph of Clydach dated 1897 (Fig. 6).

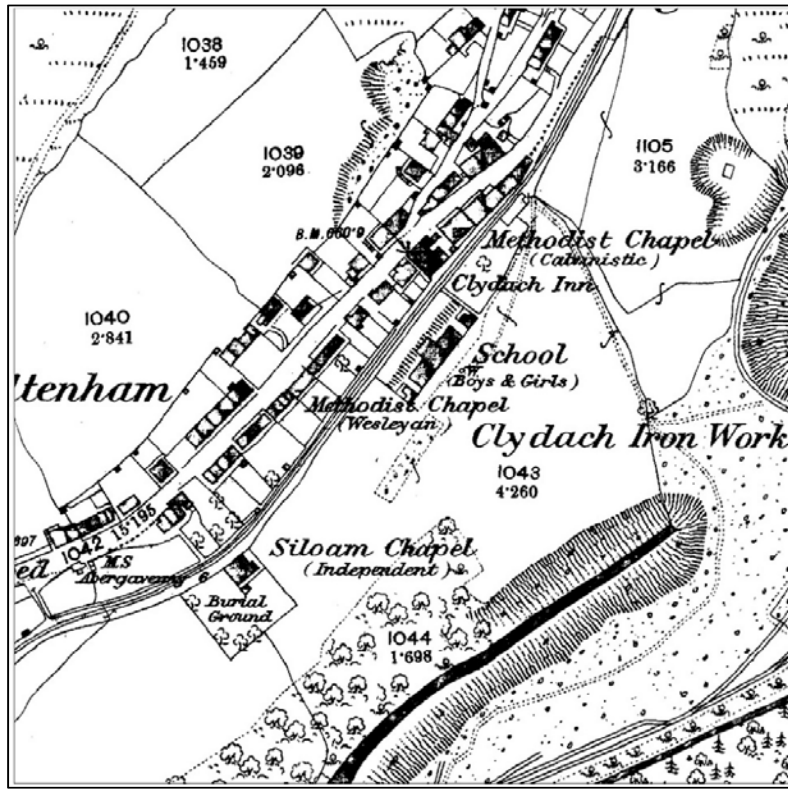


Fig. 2 Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 25" map of 1880

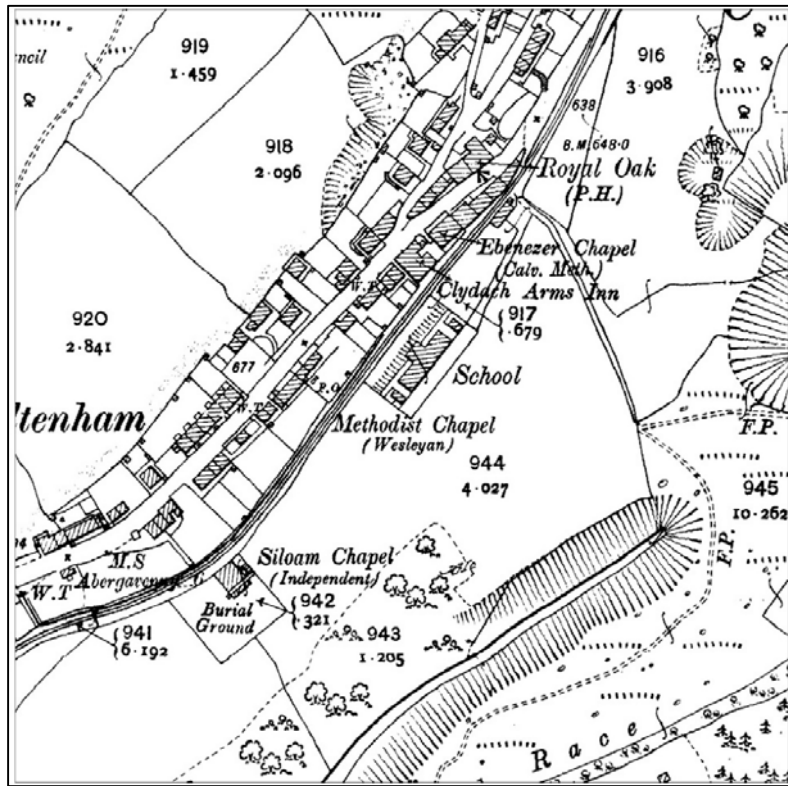


Fig. 3 Extract from the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 25" map of 1904

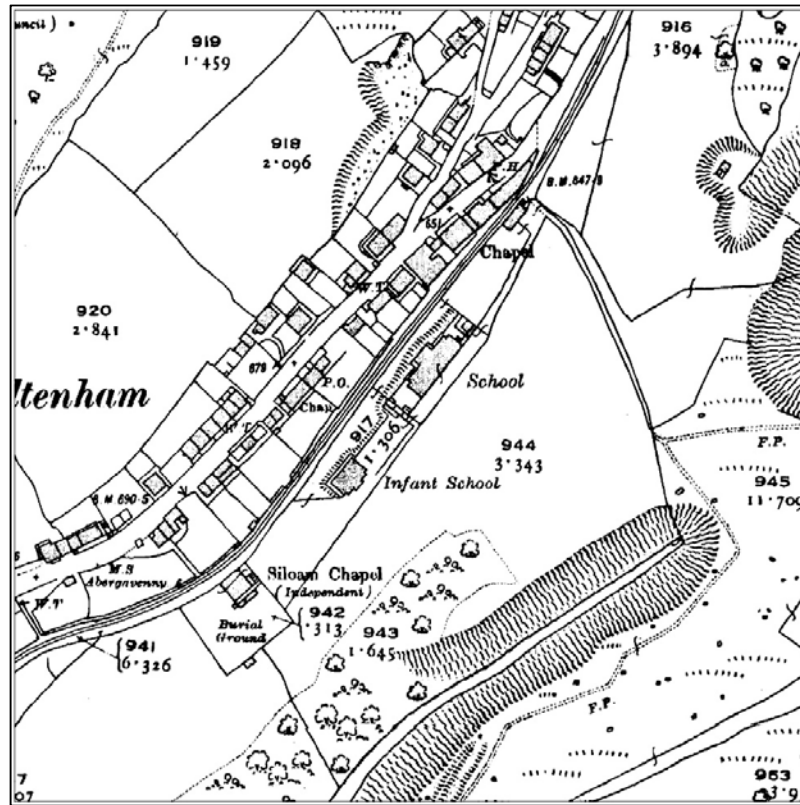


Fig. 4 Extract from the 3rd edition Ordnance Survey 25" map of 1920



Fig. 5 The south-east elevation of the primary school building photographed during the late 19th century



Fig. 6 Clydach North viewed from the south-east in 1897 (the primary school and infant school are visible in the bottom right hand corner)

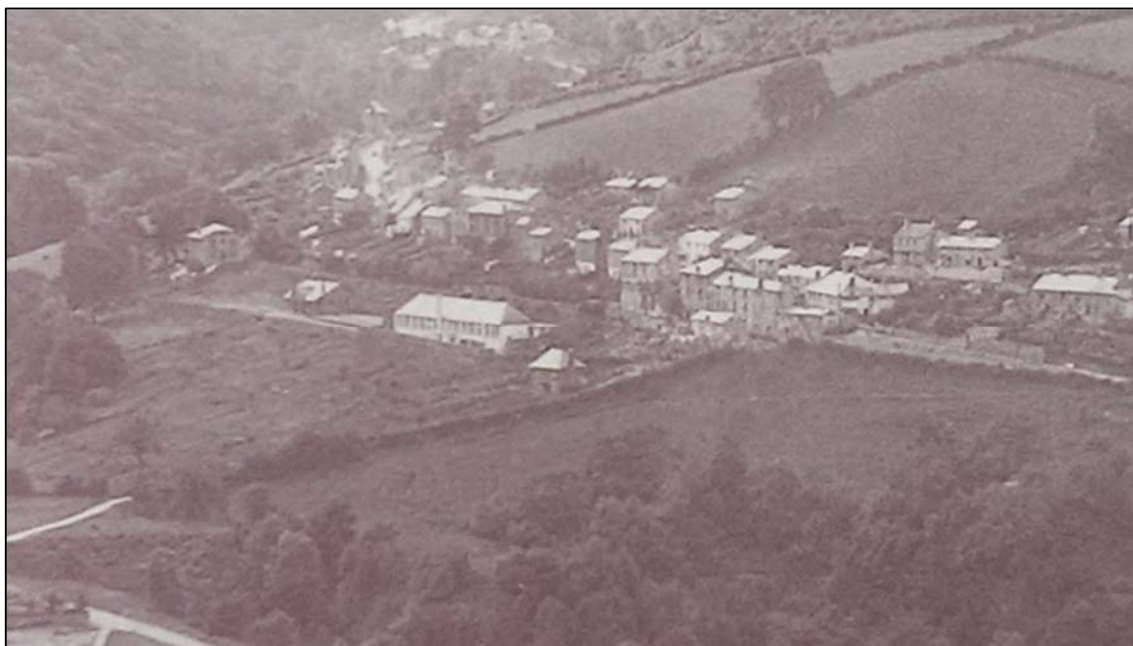


Fig. 7 Clydach viewed from the east during the mid-20th century, showing the primary school following rebuild and the infant school (to the left of centre)

3 Building Survey

- 3.1. The building survey was conducted on the 30 of September 2019 in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (Cifa) *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures*.
- 3.2. The school comprised three buildings, the layout of which is depicted in Fig. 17.

Primary school building (Building 1)

- 3.3. The former primary school building (Fig. 18) was located at the north-east extent of the school grounds. It comprised a single storey block constructed from rendered stone with brick edging, and a steeply pitched hipped slate roof. It comprised a large central hall or gymnasium, with two classrooms at either end. There were large window apertures on the south-east elevation fitted with UPVC windows. Windows on the north-west elevation were metal framed. A dormer skylight and ventilator ran along the central section of the north-west roof section.



Fig. 8 The main Primary School building (Building 1), viewed from the south-east. Photo CPAT 4650-005

- 3.4. The main block was accessed via a corridor running along the north-west elevation, forming part of a brick-built, flat-roofed extension with a toilet block, stores and offices to the north-west side. The windows within the extension were metal framed. The corridor was accessed via entrances located on the south-west and north-east elevations. A brick-built, flat-roofed boiler room was located on the south-east elevation.



Fig. 9 Interior of Classroom 1. Photo CPAT 4650-016

- 3.5. The central block of the building, consisting of the main hall and classrooms 2 and 3 was noted to have been constructed in an earlier phase than the outer two classrooms (1 and 4). The roof structure in both classrooms 1 and 4 was obscured by a suspended ceiling but there was no trace of the long ends of the roof beams visible in either room, as there was in the central 3 rooms.
- 3.6. A large blocked aperture in the wall separating Classroom 1 and 2 was the location of a window in the south-west elevation of the earlier school building. A similar blocked aperture was located in the wall between classrooms 3 and 4, for a window on the north-east elevation.



Fig. 10 Blocked window aperture between Classroom 3 and Classroom 4. Photo CPAT 4650-047

- 3.7. A blocked internal doorway between classroom 2 and the main hall was located in the north-west end of the dividing wall. A blocked doorway between the hall and classroom 3 was located in the corresponding position on the dividing wall between these two rooms.



Fig. 11 Former internal doorway between Classroom 2 and Hall. Photo CPAT 4650-028

- 3.8. The roof ventilator and skylight ran along the north-west side of the roof between classrooms 2 and 3, and was in good condition although the winding gear was no longer present. A large wall mounted roller blackboard frame was attached to the north-east wall of the hall.



Fig. 12 The interior of the main Primary School building (Building 1), showing the roof trusses and ventilator. Photo CPAT 4650-031

Infant school building (Building 2)

- 3.9. The infant school building was located centrally within the school grounds. It comprised a single-storey building constructed from brick. The window lintels and sills were made from detailed Portland stone. The main building consisted of a large open classroom with three long windows in each gable end and subdivided by a folding screen door (since removed). The classroom was accessed from the eastern side via a gabled porch, with internal and external double doors and window lights. The porch opened onto a corridor running along the east side of the building which led to toilets located at the northern end and stores at the southern end.
- 3.10. The roof frame and slates, the window frames and much of the interior of the building had been completely removed during ongoing renovation work.



Fig. 13 The Infant School building (Building 2), viewed from the north-east. Photo CPAT 4650-063



Fig. 14 The Infant School building (Building 2), viewed from the east. Photo CPAT 4650-063

Canteen building (Building 3)

- 3.11. The canteen building was a low single-storey, prefabricated building, constructed from concrete side and roof members, strengthened with steel cross members. The wall infills were constructed from brick, with an external render. The roof was sheeted with asbestos.
- 3.12. The building comprised a canteen area, with a utility room to the south of it, accessed via a screened entranceway. Kitchens, stores and a toilet were located at the north end of the building either side of the main entrance doorway.



Fig. 15 The canteen building (Building 3), viewed from the north. Photo CPAT 4650-081



Fig. 16 The interior of the canteen building (Building 3). Photo CPAT 4650-088

4 Conclusions

- 4.1. The original 19th-century school building comprised the central three rooms of the current arrangement, these being the hall, and classrooms 2 and 3 to either side of it (Fig. 18). The earlier roof design featured gable ends, the hipped ends being a later addition when the school was extended.

-
- 4.2. It is unclear where the external main entrance was originally as there was a porch and entranceway on the south-west elevation in 1897 (Fig. 6) but no porch in an earlier image (Fig. 5). The internal doorways between the three rooms were offset, although there is no indication that they ran through a separate corridor.
- 4.3. Photographic evidence indicates that the infant school building had already been constructed by 1897 (Fig. 6). The building was not recorded on the 1904 Ordnance Survey Map (Fig. 3). Most of the original fixtures and fittings had been removed, including the windows and roof frame. There was no evidence that the original designed layout of the building had been altered since it was constructed.
- 4.4. The canteen building was constructed during the mid to late 20th century. There was no evidence to suggest that the original layout had been altered since it was built.

5 Sources

Cartographic sources

- 1880 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1st edition Breconshire 47.04
- 1904 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 2nd edition Breconshire 47.04
- 1920 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 3rd edition Breconshire 47.04

6 Archive deposition Statement

- 6.1. The project archive has been prepared according to the CPAT Archive Policy and in line with the Cifa *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, Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust and the paper/drawn/digital archive with the National Monuments Record (RCAHMW).

Archive summary

108 digital photographs, CPAT film no 4650

Survey drawings (AI and JPG):

- 2382_site plan
- 2382_building1_plan
- 2382_building2_plan
- 2382_building3_plan

Appendix 1: CPAT WSI 2062

1 Introduction

- 1.2 The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust has been invited by Glyn Smith Architect to undertake a programme of historic building recording in connection with the conversion of the disused Clydach County Primary School, Abergavenny, to holiday accommodation. Consent (16/13499/FUL) was granted by BBNPA in December 2017, with the inclusion of the following condition:
- 1.1. 15 No development shall take place until a programme of buildings recording and analysis, equivalent to English Heritage Level 3 building survey, has been secured and implemented, in accordance with a brief issued by this Authority and Written Scheme of Investigation, which has been submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The building recording must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists in their Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures. A copy of the resulting report should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority. After approval by the Local Planning Authority, a copy should also be sent to Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the regional Historic Environment Record.
- 1.2. Reason: to allow a full analytical record of the building to be made, prior to alteration, 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 provide a basic descriptive archaeological record of the structure in its current condition, including an assessment of the form and phasing of the standing building, and to identify and record any features, fixtures and fittings relevant to the original and subsequent historic uses of the building
 - 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).

Building Survey

- 3.2. 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).
- 3.3. The survey will take the form of a Level 3 building survey as defined by Historic England *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (2016). 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
- 3.4. The drawn record will be based on existing architects plans, elevations and cross-sections, which will be checked and augmented as appropriate. 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
- 3.5. The photographic survey will be conducted using digital photography with a minimum resolution of 12 mega pixels to include:
- General views of elevations
 - General views of external appearance
 - Overall appearance of principal rooms
 - Internal and external structural detail
 - Fixtures, fittings, machinery, related contents

4 Report

- 4.1. 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
 - Historical Background
 - Summary description of the building
 - Past and present usage
 - Evidence for former existence of demolished structures, removed fittings etc
 - Conclusions
 - References
- 4.2. 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).

5 Site archive

- 5.1. 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).

- 5.2. 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.

6 Resources and programming

- 6.1. 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 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).
- 6.2. All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist(s) who conducted the fieldwork.
- 6.3. At present CPAT would be in a position to undertake the survey during April 2019.
- 6.4. Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 6.5. CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance, as well as as Professional Indemnity insurance to the values identified below (copies of certificates available on request):

Public liability insurance: £5,000,000

Employers liability insurance: £10,000,000

Professional indemnity insurance: £1,000,000

N W Jones

20 May 2019

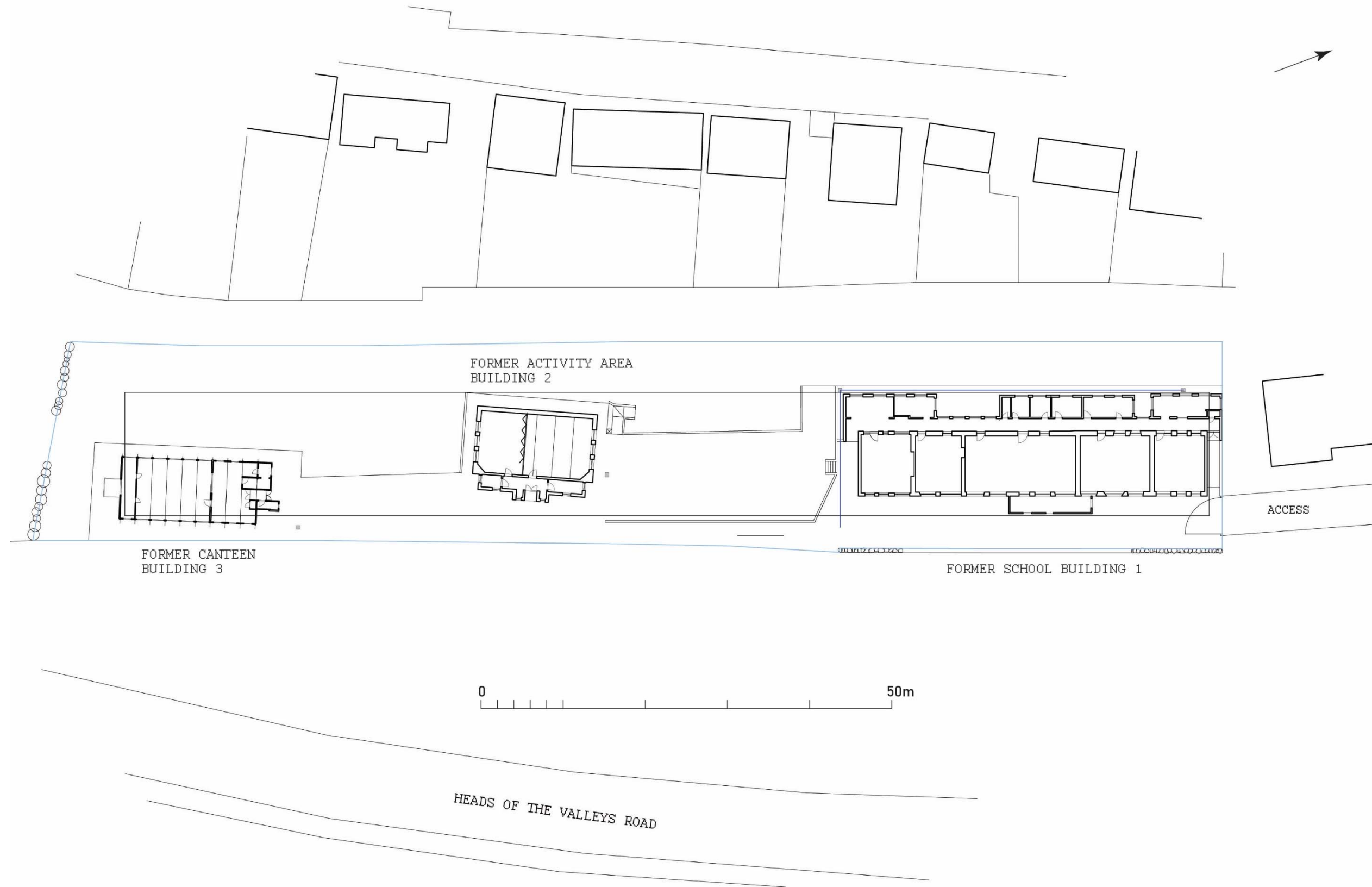


Fig. 17 The layout of the former Clydach Primary School (based on architect's plans, courtesy of Glyn Smith)

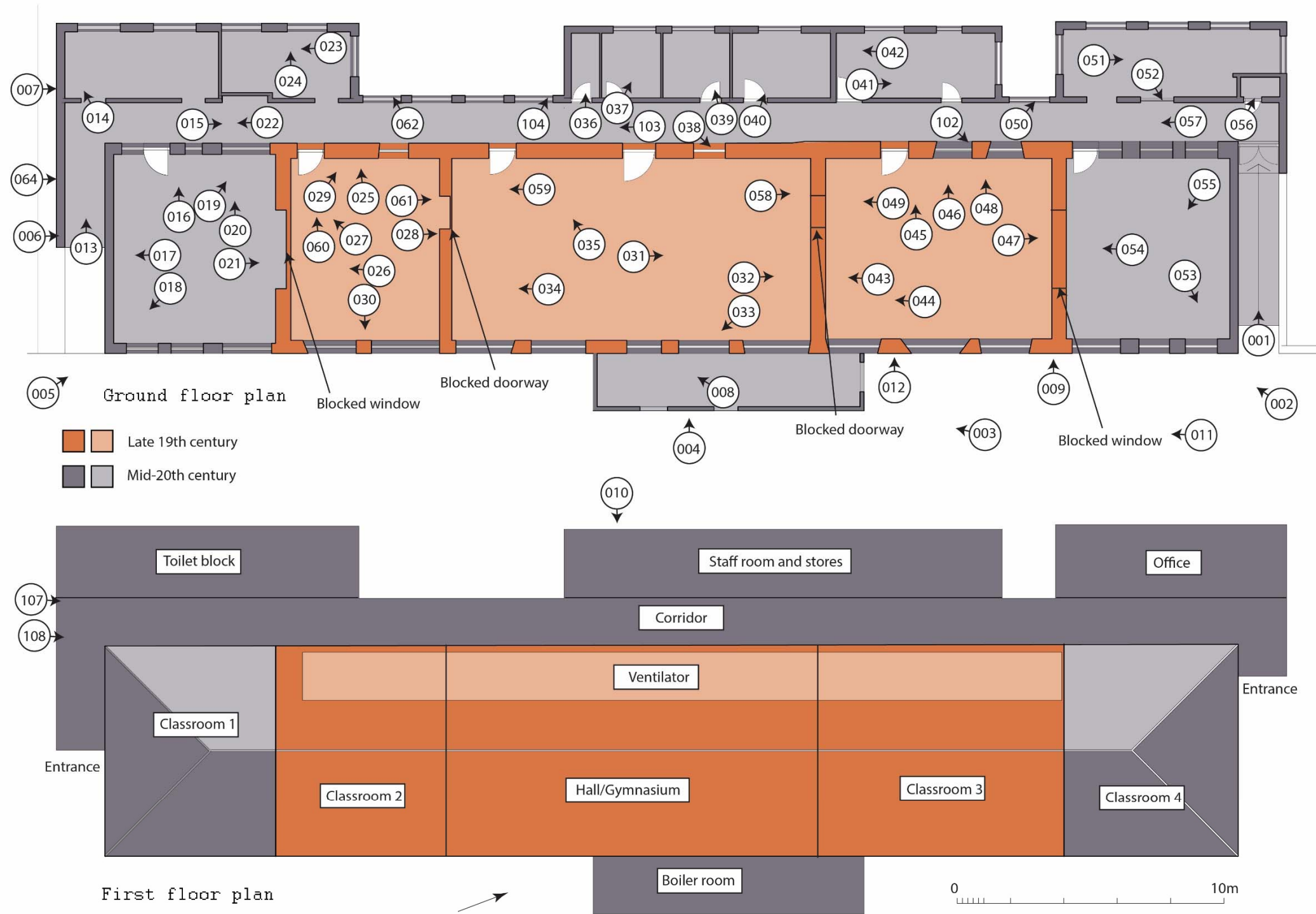


Fig. 18 Plan of primary school building showing earlier layout (orange), later extensions (grey) and photographic locations and orientations (based on architect's plans, courtesy of Glyn Smith)

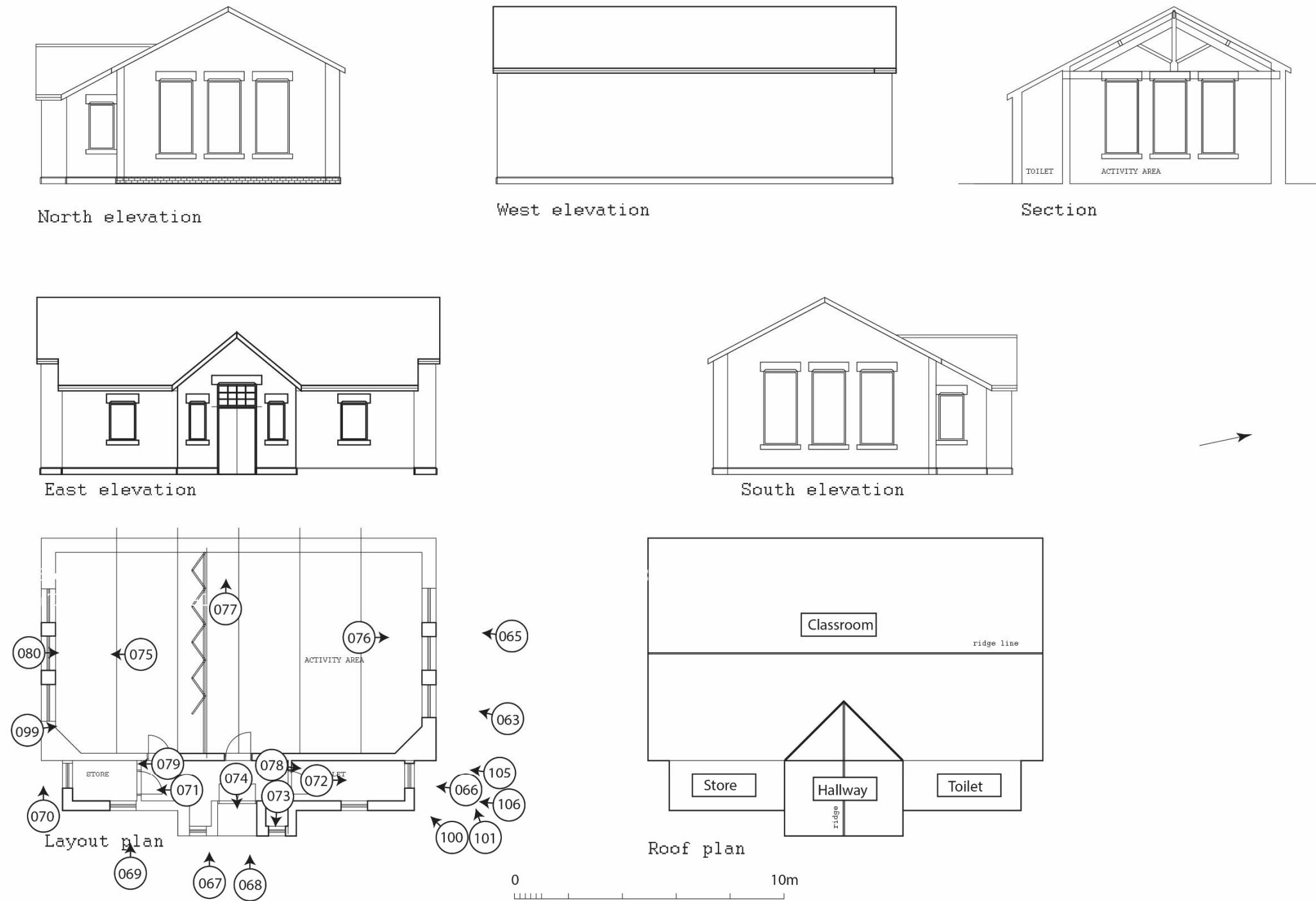


Fig. 19 Plans and elevations of infant school showing photographic locations and orientations (based on architect's plans, courtesy of Glyn Smith)

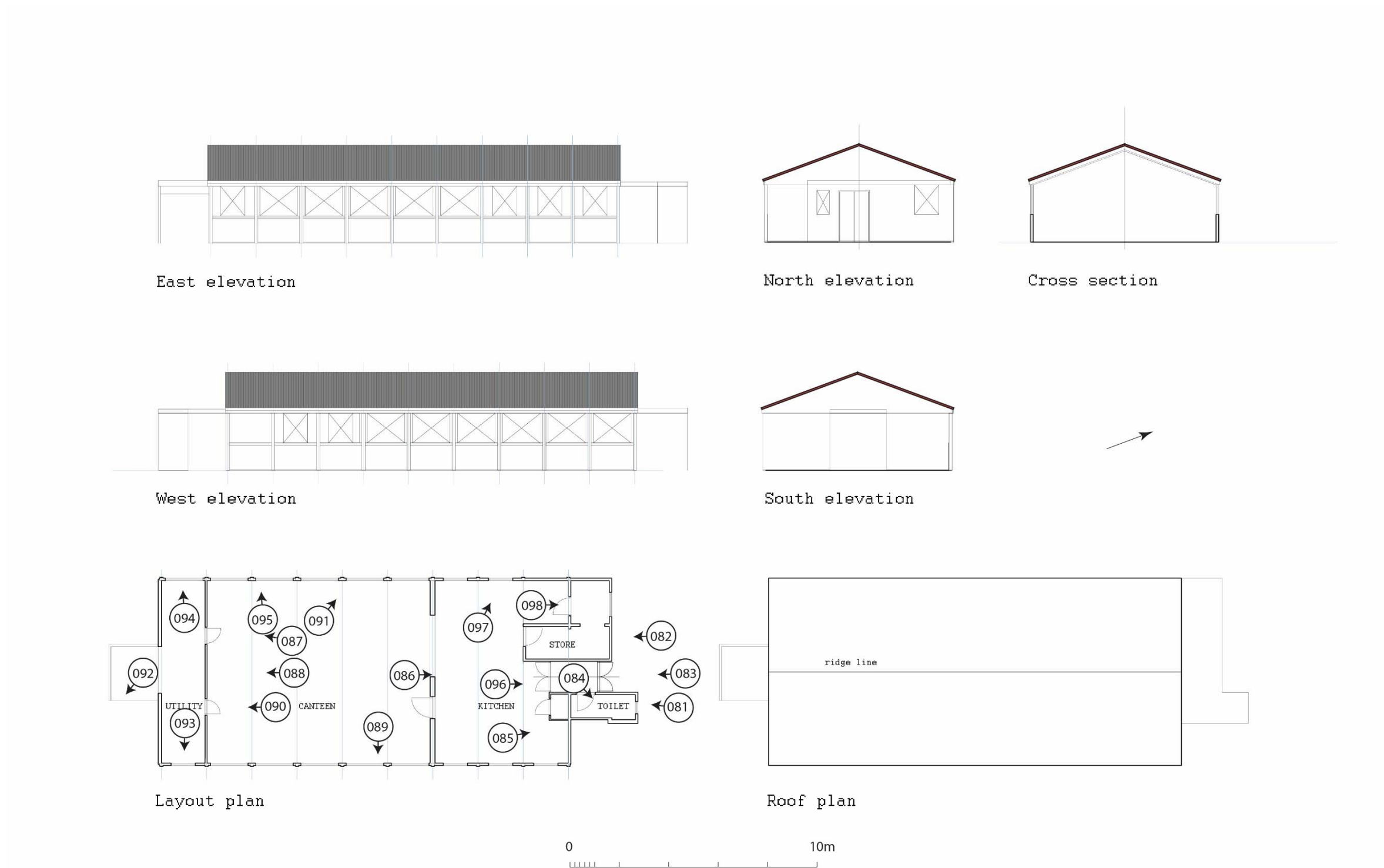


Fig. 20 Plans and elevations of the dinner hall/canteen showing photographic locations and orientations (based on architect's plans, courtesy of Glyn Smith)

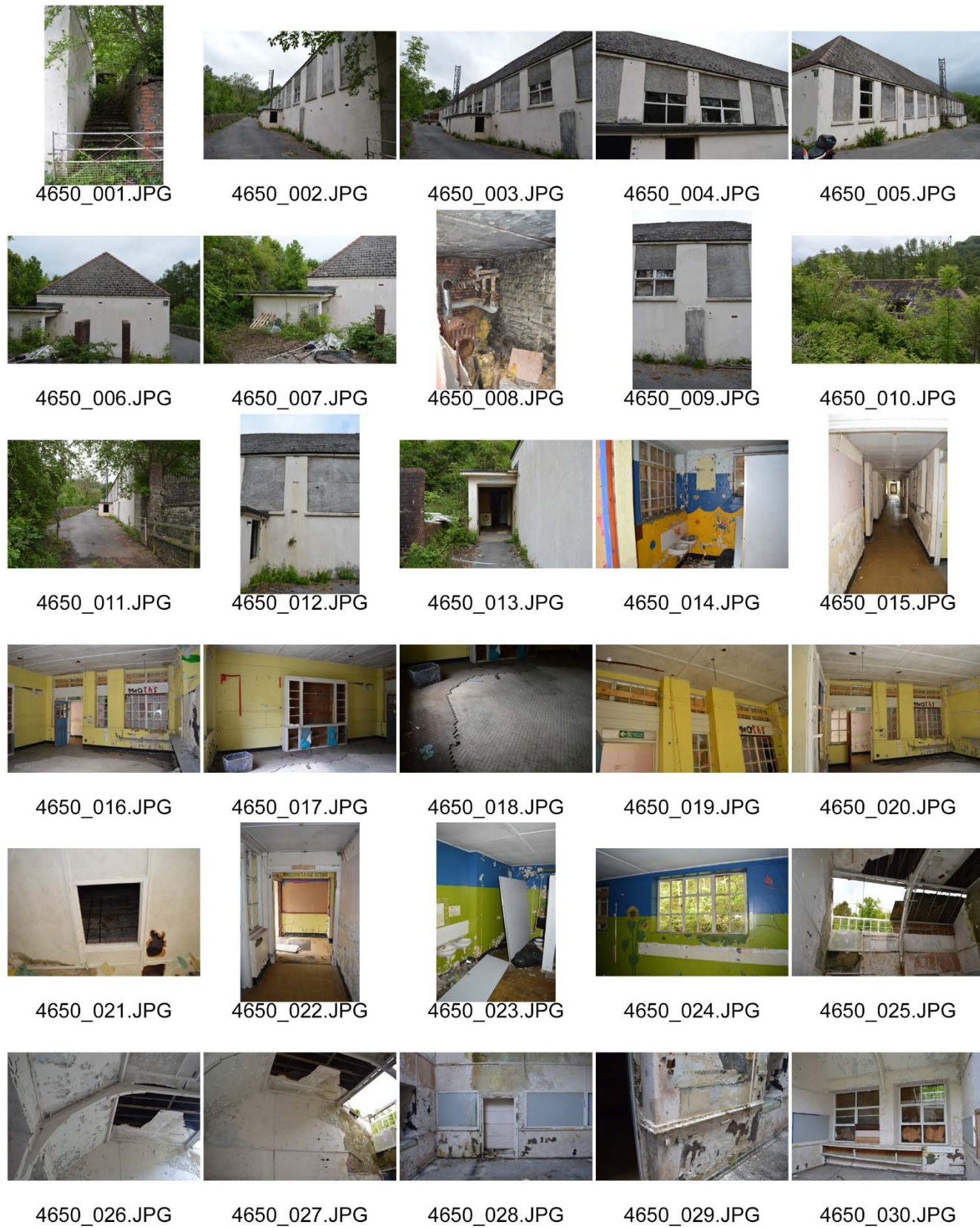


Fig. 21 Contact sheet 1



Fig. 22 Contact sheet 2

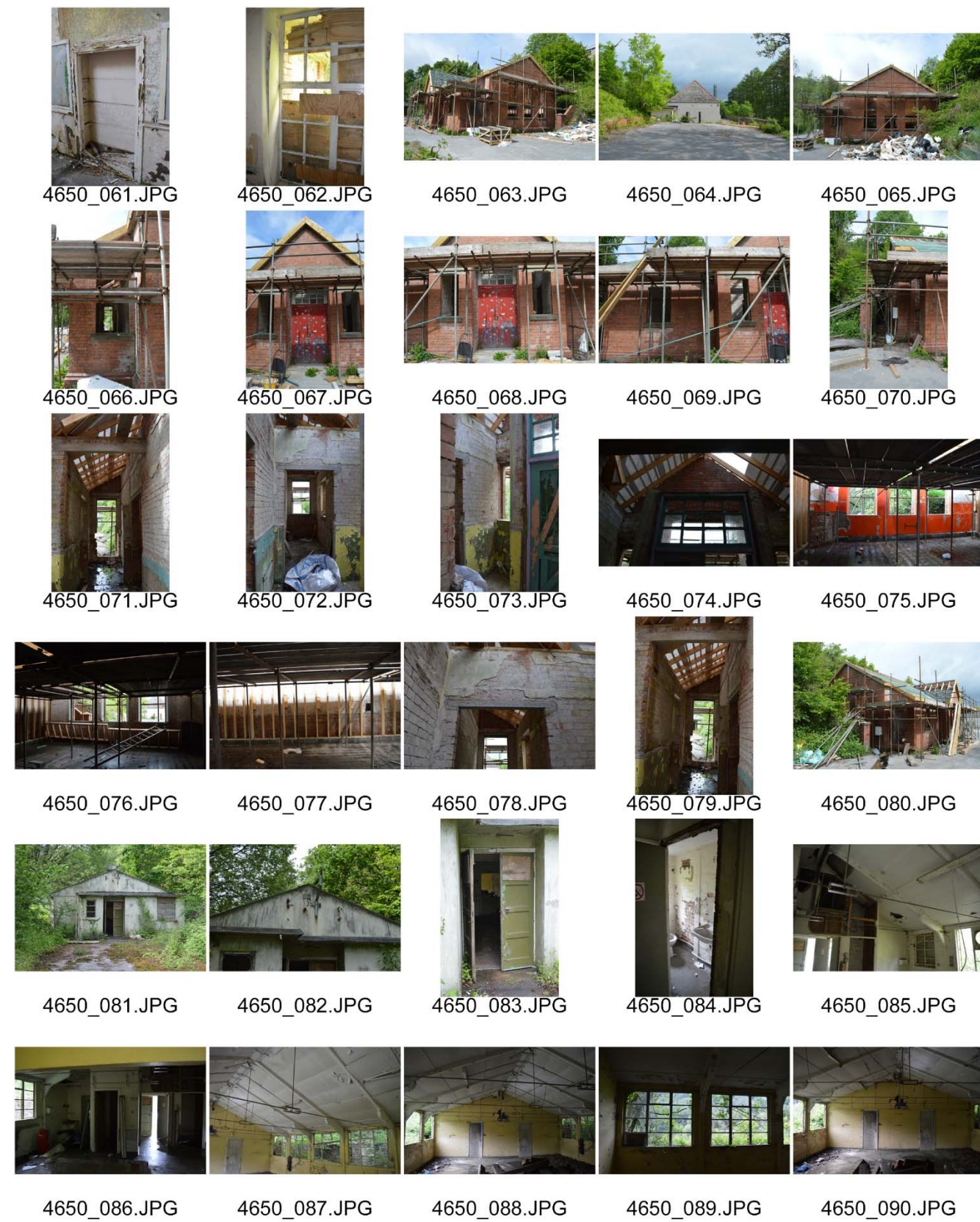


Fig. 23 Contact sheet 3



Fig. 24 Contact sheet 4