

CPAT Report No. 1761

Bryn Eglwys, Dylife, Powys




Building Survey



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS

CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Client name: Daniel White, Oander Limited
 CPAT Project No: 2498
 Project Name: Bryn Eglwys
 Grid Reference: SN 8617 9427
 County/LPA: Powys
 Planning Application: 20/1279/FUL
 CPAT Report No: 1761
 Event PRN: 140350
 Report status: Final

Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:
		
Nigel Jones Principal Archaeologist	Paul Belford Director	Paul Belford Director
23 November 2020	24 November 2020	24 November 2020

Bibliographic reference: Jones, N. W., 2020. *Bryn Eglwys, Dylife, Powys: Building Survey*. Unpublished report. CPAT Report No. 1761.



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS
 CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

The Offices, Coed y Dinas, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 8RP, United Kingdom

+44 (0) 1938 553 670

trust@cpat.org.uk

www.cpat.org.uk

©CPAT 2020



The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust is a Registered Organisation
 with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	ii
CRYNODEB.....	ii
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
2 OBJECTIVES	1
3 METHODOLOGY	2
4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	2
5 BUILDING SURVEY.....	5
6 SOURCES	6
7 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION STATEMENT	6
APPENDIX 1 – PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTACT SHEETS.....	7

Summary

A survey was conducted by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in November 2020 to record a building known as Bryn Eglwys, Dylife, in Powys. The survey was undertaken in connection with a planning application for the demolition of the building and its replacement with a new dwelling.

Bryn Eglwys dates from the mid-19th century, a time when the lead mining industry at Dylife was flourishing. The house has strong connections with lead mining as the early occupants worked in the industry.

Internally the house has seen little modification since its construction, the only structural change being the replacement of the original stairs. Externally, an attached byre has been partly rebuilt, while two small outbuildings and a barn are no longer standing.

Crynodeb

Bu Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys yn gwneud arolwg adeilad ym mis Tachwedd 2020, i gofnodi adeilad o'r enw Bryn Eglwys, Dylife, ym Mhowys. Roedd yr arolwg a wnaed yn gysylltiedig â chais cynllunio i ddymchwel yr adeilad a chodi annedd newydd yn ei le.

Mae Bryn Eglwys yn dyddio o ganol y 19^{eg} ganrif, sef amser pan roedd y diwydiant mwyngloddio plwm yn Nylife yn ffynnu. Mae gan y tŷ gysylltiadau cryf â mwyngloddio plwm gan fod ei drigolion cynnar yn gweithio yn y diwydiant.

Prin yw'r newidiadau i du mewn y tŷ ers ei adeiladu; gosod staer newydd yn lle'r staer gwreiddiol yw'r unig newid. Y tu allan, mae beudy sydd wedi'i atodi at y tŷ wedi'i ailadeiladu'n rhannol, ac mae dau adeilad allan bach ac ysgubor wedi adfeilio erbyn hyn.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust has been invited by Daniel White, Oander Limited, to undertake a programme of building recording in connection with proposals to demolish and replace a dwelling at Bryn Eglwys, Dylife (planning application 20/1279/FUL).
- 1.2. Bryn Eglwys is located 250m north of Dylife in Powys (Fig. 1; SN 8617 9427).



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018

Fig. 1 Location of Bryn Eglwys

2 Objectives

- 2.1. The objectives of the survey were:
 - to describe and record all of the key internal and external components of the building through measured survey, written description and photography;
 - 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 survey was conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2020) and *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (2017).
- 3.2. A rapid desk-based was conducted during a period of Covid restrictions, and therefore relied on readily available on-line resources.
- 3.3. The building survey took the form of a Level 3 building survey as defined by Historic England *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (2016).

4 Historical Background

- 4.1. Bryn Eglwys lies within the Clywedog Valley Registered Historic Landscape, in the Character Area of Dylife (HLCA 1187). The area is dominated by the remains of extensive metal mining. Early workings, possibly of Roman date, are thought to be represented by opencuts, levels, trials and shafts on the north-western slopes of Pen Dylife, while there are further early workings, possibly of Roman date, further south at Dyfngwm.
- 4.2. The main period of activity dates from around 1640, intermittently up to the 1930s and is represented by extensive a relict mining landscape scattered over an area of about 75 hectares, stretching from Dylife in the valley of the Nant Dropyns to the north, across the exposed upland ridge at Pen Dylife and on to the mines at Dyfngwm in the Clywedog valley to the south. The mines exploited three principal veins known as the Esgairgaled, Llechwedd Ddu and Dylife or Dyfngwm lodes which yielded lead, silver, zinc and copper ores.
- 4.3. The earliest workings at Dylife consist of opencuts, levels trials and shafts which were superseded by a series of five main shafts from which ore was transported by a number of trackways to processing areas within the valley bottoms of the Afon Twymyn and Nant Dropyns which continued in operation up to the 1920s. One of the shafts was eventually sunk to a depth of 167 fathoms, making it the deepest in mid Wales.
- 4.4. The earliest available mapping for the area is the 1833 Ordnance Survey Surveyors' Drawing (Fig. 2), which pre-dates the development of Dylife as a mining village and shows no evidence for the presence of a building in the area later occupied by Bryn Eglwys.



Fig. 2 Extract from the 1833 Ordnance Survey Surveyors' Drawing No. 335 showing the approximate position of Bryn Eglwys in red

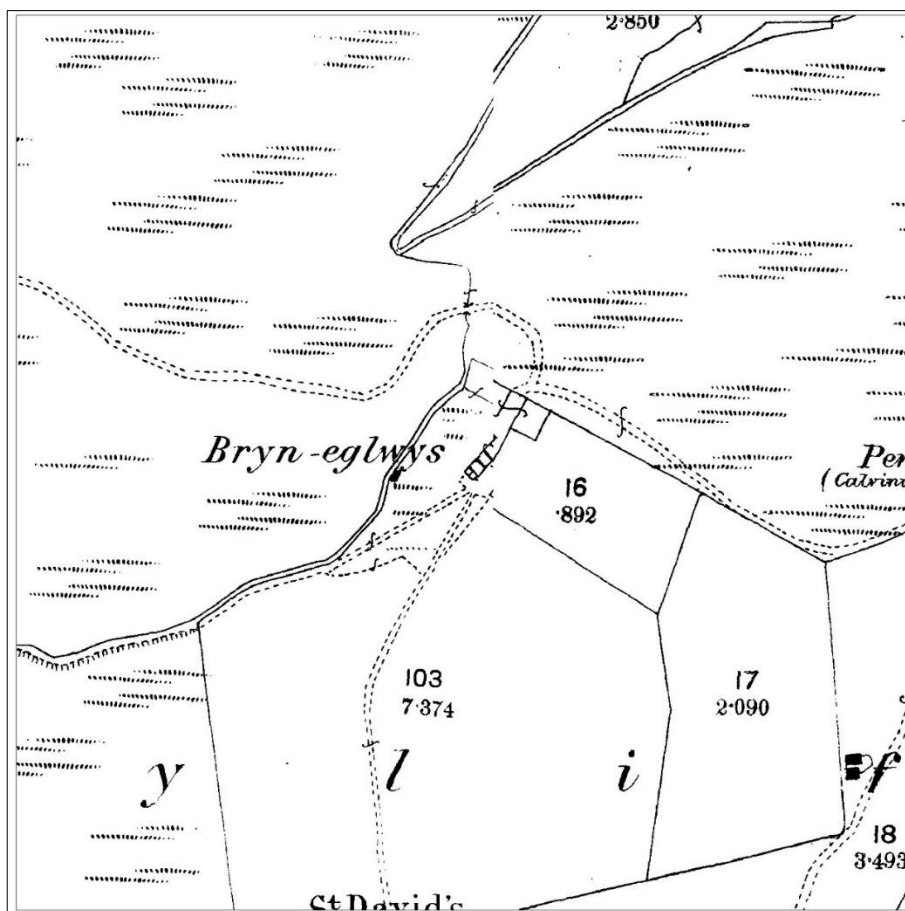


Fig. 3 Extract from the 1887 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map

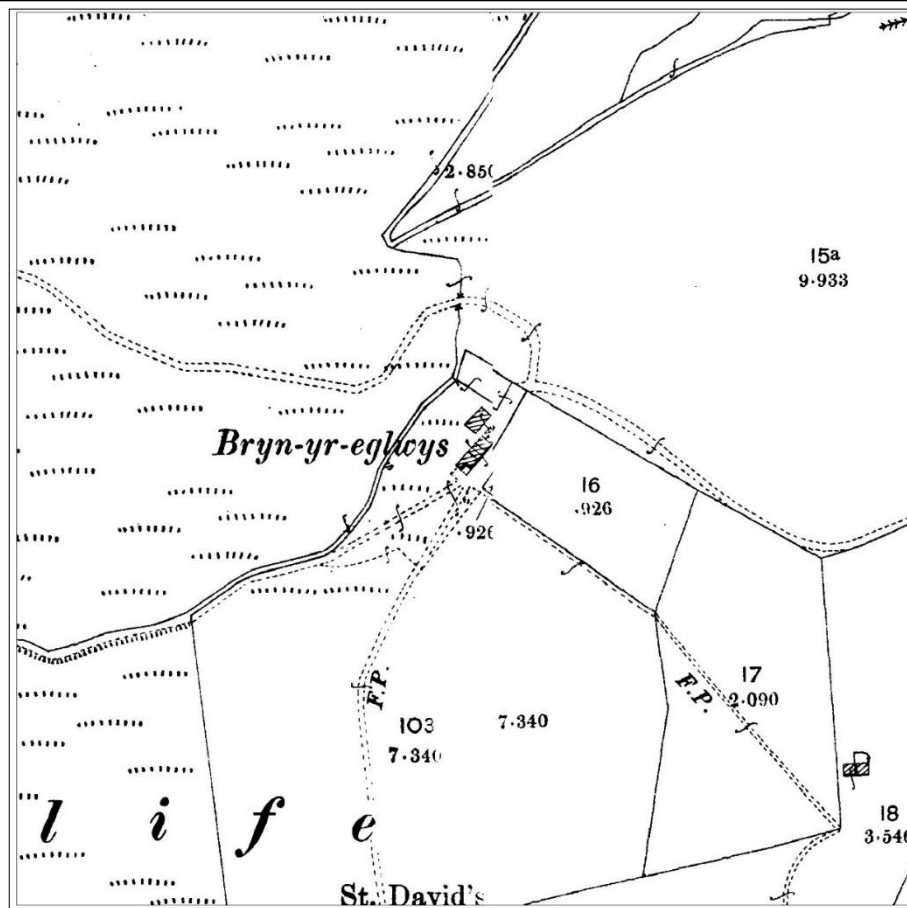


Fig. 4 Extract from the 1901 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 25" map

- 4.5. The Darowen tithe survey for 1846 parish shows the area later occupied by Bryn Eglwys as unenclosed mountain land. It is also not depicted on the Ordnance Survey Old Series mapping of 1837 or the revision in 1864. The earliest available depiction is the 1887 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map (Fig. 3), which shows Bryn Eglwys as a two unit house with a third unit, possibly a lean-to at the north-east end and a small outbuilding adjoining the south-west end. The 2nd edition map of 1901 (Fig. 4) shows the building in better detail, by which time a small outbuilding had been added at the north-east end and a larger building, perhaps a barn, to the north. The name is recorded as Bryn-eglwys on the 1st edition map and Bryn-yr-eglwys on the 2nd edition.
- 4.6. As the name suggests, the house lies on a hill overlooking the site of St David's Church, which was built in 1852-6 to the designs of David Brandon in order to service the needs of a growing population of lead miners and their families. A school was located next to it, but their fortunes declined with those of the metal mining industry during the later 19th century. Only small numbers of people continued living in Dylife after 1901 and the school was closed in 1925. The last marriage was solemnised at the church in 1915, the last christening in 1926. The church was finally demolished in 1962 though the graveyard continued in use.
- 4.7. The only information regarding Bryn Eglwys comes from the research of Michael Brown (2010, 132-3). He notes that Bryn Eglwys is likely to have been built shortly after the church, at a time when the mining industry was flourishing. The earliest known record is on the gravestone of Catherine Davies in the graveyard of the Baptist Chapel in Staylitttle. She died in 1861, aged 11, and her parents, David and Jane Davies, lived at Bryn Eglwys. The 1871 census indicates

that the Davies family were still in residence. David, then aged 40, worked as an ore dresser. They had two children, Mary and Sarah. Also recorded at the same address were a lead miner, Thomas Jones, and his wife Rebecca. By 1881 the house had new residents, Richard Morris and his family. He farmed nine acres with his wife Hannah and they had two children, Hannah, aged 16, who was a general servant, and Jane, aged 11, as well as a stepson, 25-year old Joseph Davies, a miner. The Morris family remained at Bryn Eglwys until at least 1901, although by 1908 it was occupied by the Williams family.

5 Building Survey

- 5.1. The survey was conducted in November 2020 utilising total station surveying and hand measurement. The results are presented at the end of this report, comprising a selection of photographs (Figs 5-22), plans (Figs 23-24), elevations and sections (Figs 25-26) and a plan locating the photographs (Fig. 27).
- 5.2. The standing buildings at Bryn Eglwys comprised the house and an adjoining single-storey byre. The site of two small outbuildings, one at either end of the range, could be identified although no details could be determined. There were no visible remains of a barn depicted by the Ordnance Survey in 1901, although the levelled platform on which it stood was apparent (Figs 8 and 23).

Exterior

- 5.3. The exterior of the house was in good repair, with rendered walls, slate roof and ceramic ridge tiles. The render masked any structural details. All of the windows were modern replacements, although the doors to the house and byre may be original (Figs 5-8).

Interior

Ground floor

- 5.4. The house was accessed through a central door in the south-east elevation which opened into a small entrance hall, a modern insertion created by partitioning the main hall (Fig. 11). A wooden coat rack, probably original was attached to the wall just inside the door.
- 5.5. The hall retained the original slate floor and part of the original cast-iron range, although the central section had been removed to insert a wood stove (Fig. 12). The original winding stairs had been replaced, although their position and form were apparent from scars in the plasterwork and the absence of slate flagstones from what would have been a cupboard beneath the stairs (Fig. 13).
- 5.6. Doorways in the partition at the north-east end of the hall gave access to a kitchen and pantry (Fig. 14). The kitchen (Fig. 15) was a later repurposing of a room which may previously have been a small sitting room, cooking having originally been done using the range in the hall. There was a projecting chimney breast in the kitchen with a central fireplace, now blocked.
- 5.7. The smaller room was at one time used as a pantry and retained a large slate slab to the north-west of the chimney breast (Fig. 16). The room had been subdivided by a modern partition to accommodate a shower cubical and a toilet.

First floor

- 5.8. The stairs from the hall led to a large landing bedroom which would originally have had a fireplace, now blocked (Figs 17-18). Two further bedrooms were accessed via doors in the timber and lath and plaster partition. The larger room would also have originally been heated (Fig. 19), although the smaller room was not. The later had exposed posts demonstrating the structure of the partitions (Fig. 20).

Roof

- 5.9. The roof space was not accessed in full, although could be viewed through two trap doors in the ceiling. The roof was supported on double purlins which rested on a roof truss incorporated into the partition dividing the main rooms (Figs 21-22). The truss had a collar below ceiling level, but no tie-beam (Fig. 26).

Byre

- 5.10. A small byre had been added to the south-west end of the house, with two doors, one for the stalls and the other for the feeding passage. Much of the original brick-paved floor survived (Fig. 10), although all of the stalls had been removed. The south-western wall had collapsed and been rebuilt using blockwork, while the roof timbers were modern, supporting corrugated iron.

6 Sources

Published sources

Brown, M., 2010. *A History of the Dylife Mines and Surrounding Area*. Aberystwyth: Cambrian Printers.

Cadw/CCW, 1998. *Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales*.

Cartographic sources

1833 Ordnance Survey Surveyors' Drawing No 335

1846 Tithe apportionment for Darowen Parish

1887 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1st edition Montgomeryshire 33.12 and 34.09

1901 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 2nd edition Montgomeryshire 33.12 and 34.09

7 Archive deposition Statement

- 7.1. 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 archive is entirely digital and will be deposited jointly with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and the National Monuments Record (RCAHMW).

Archive summary

CPAT Event PRN: 140350

46 digital photographs, CPAT film no 4800

Appendix 1 – Photographic contact sheets



4800-0001.JPG



4800-0002.JPG



4800-0003.JPG



4800-0004.JPG



4800-0005.JPG



4800-0006.JPG



4800-0007.JPG



4800-0008.JPG



4800-0009.JPG



4800-0010.JPG



4800-0011.JPG



4800-0012.JPG



4800-0013.JPG



4800-0014.JPG



4800-0015.JPG



4800-0016.JPG



4800-0017.JPG



4800-0018.JPG



4800-0019.JPG



4800-0020.JPG



4800-0021.JPG



4800-0022.JPG



4800-0023.JPG



4800-0024.JPG



4800-0025.JPG



4800-0026.JPG



4800-0027.JPG



4800-0028.JPG



4800-0029.JPG



4800-0030.JPG



4800-0031.JPG



4800-0032.JPG



4800-0033.JPG



4800-0034.JPG



4800-0035.JPG



4800-0036.JPG



4800-0037.JPG



4800-0038.JPG



4800-0039.JPG



4800-0040.JPG



4800-0041.JPG



4800-0042.JPG



4800-0043.JPG



4800-0044.JPG



4800-0045.JPG



4800-0046.JPG



Fig. 5 The south-eastern elevation



Fig. 6 The south-eastern elevation and byre



Fig. 7 The south-western end of the byre and site of outbuilding



Fig. 8 The north-western elevation



Fig. 9 The north-western elevation showing platform for barn



Fig. 10 Brick floor in the byre



Fig. 11 The hall showing entrance and kitchen door



Fig. 12 The hall



Fig. 13 The hall showing new stairs



Fig. 14 The hall showing doors to kitchen and pantry



Fig. 15 The kitchen



Fig. 16 Slate slab in the pantry



Fig. 17 Landing bedroom



Fig. 18 Landing bedroom



Fig. 19 Bedroom two showing chimney breast



Fig. 20 Bedroom three showing timber and lath and plaster partition



Fig. 21 Apex of roof



Fig. 22 Roof truss showing purlins

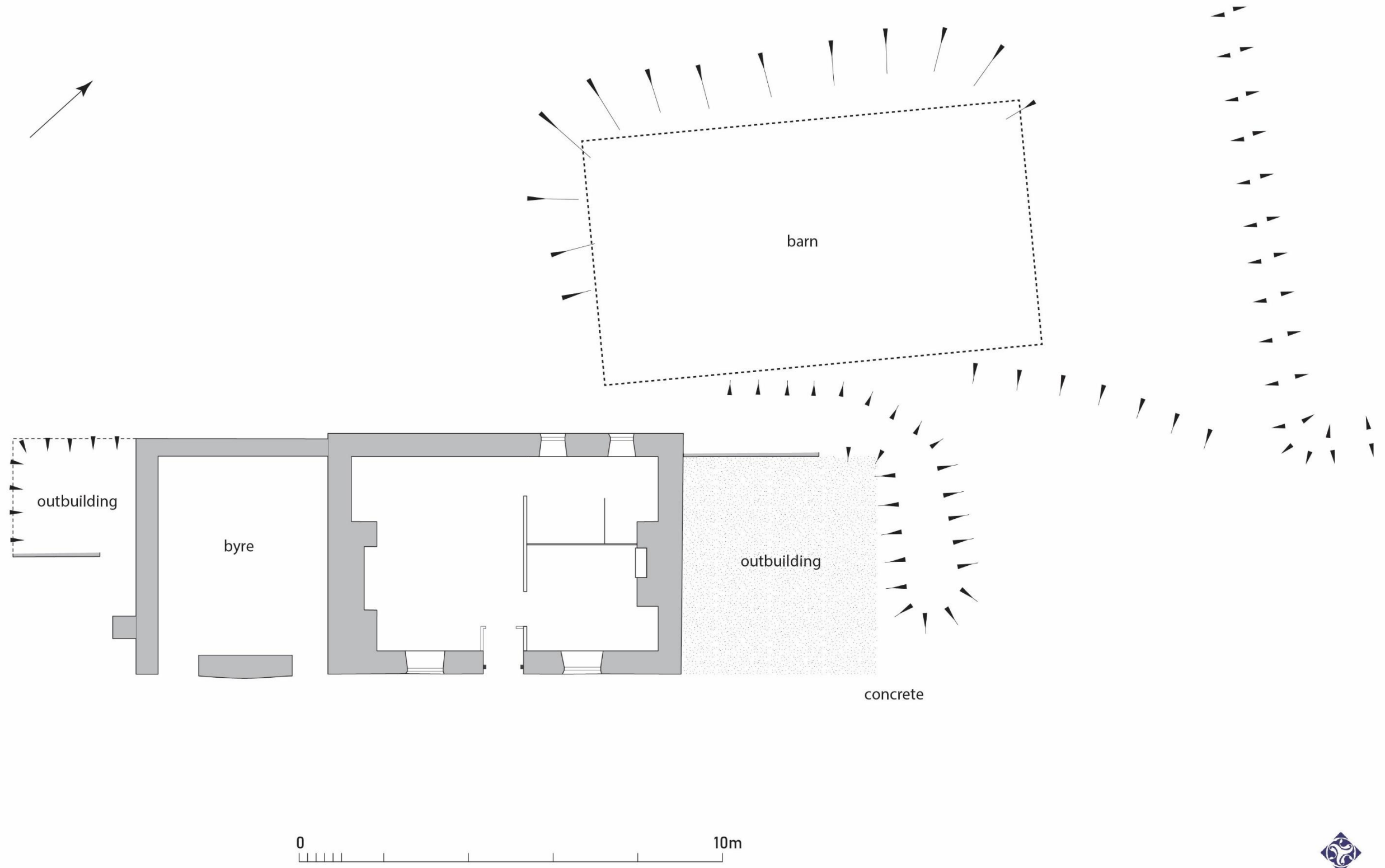


Fig. 23 Overall site plan showing earthworks of former structures

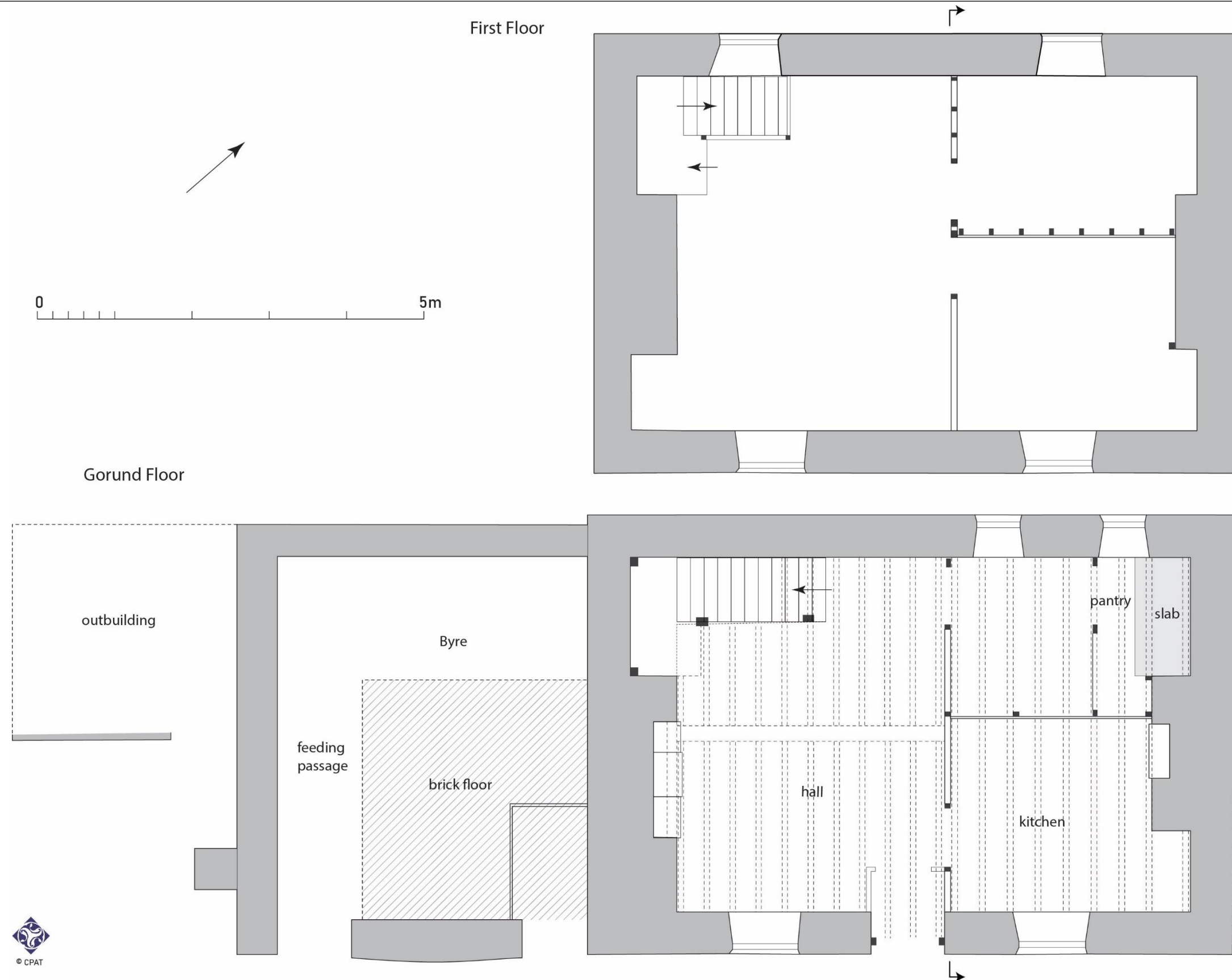


Fig. 24 Ground and First Floor plans



Fig. 25 Elevations

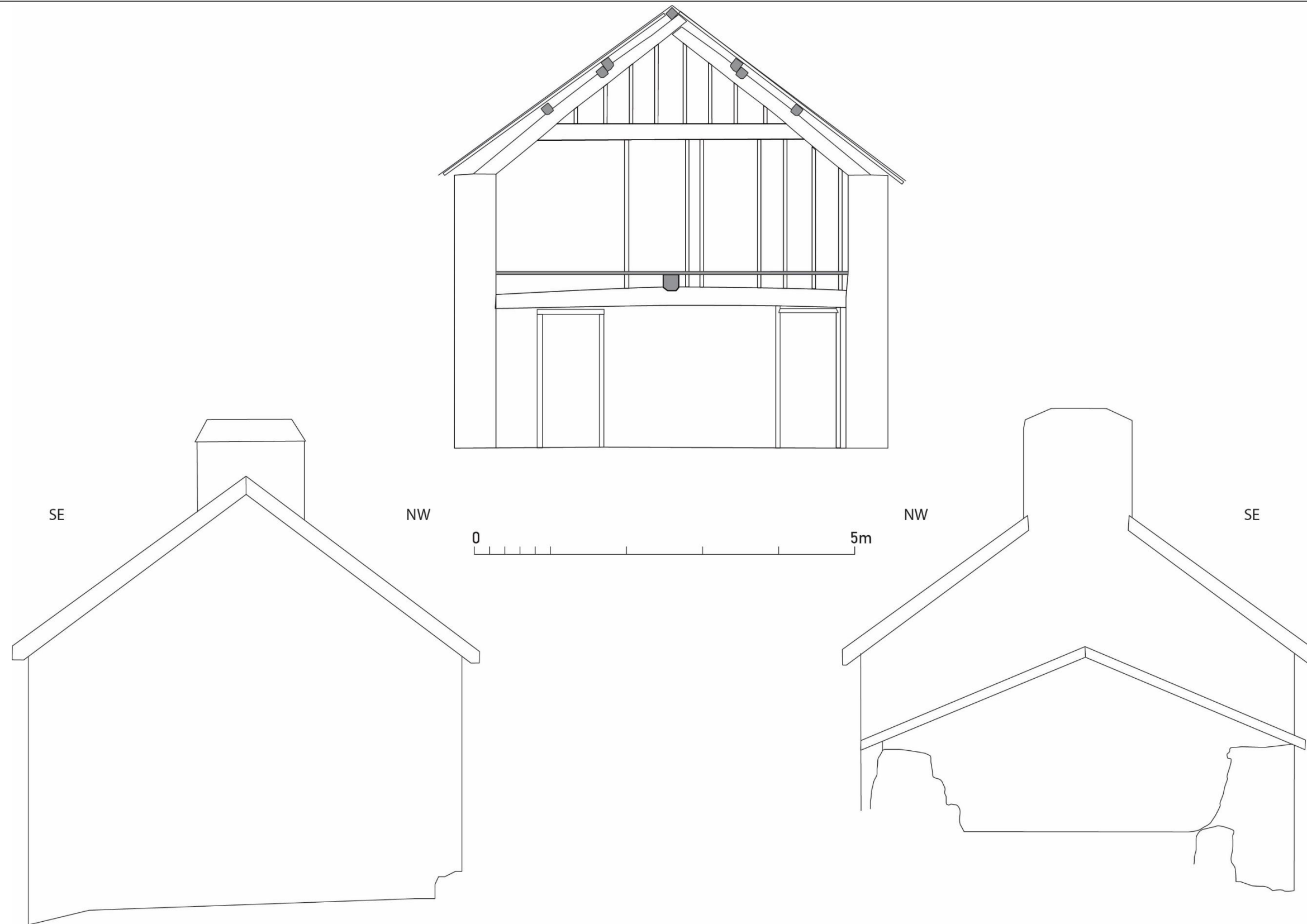


Fig. 26 Elevations and section

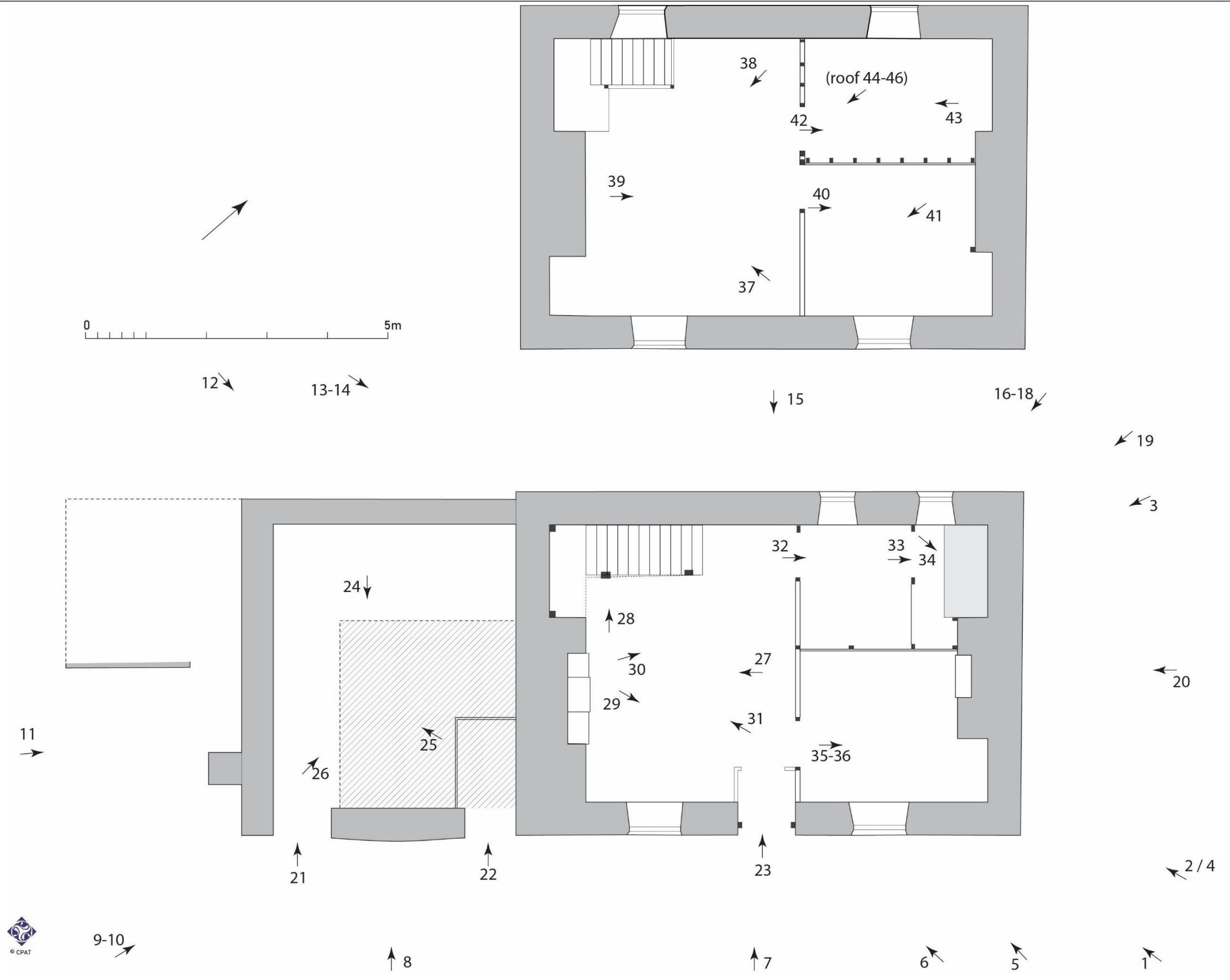


Fig. 27 Photographic locations and direction