

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Y Dolydd, Llanfyllin, Powys

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT



CPAT Report No 755

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F Grant, N Jones and R J Silvester
November 2005

Report for the Llanfyllin Dolydd Building Preservation Trust



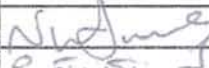
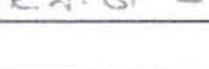
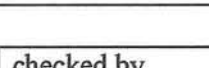
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2005 the Contracting Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) were approached by the Richard Keen Partnership, on behalf of the Llanfyllin Dolydd Building Preservation Trust, to prepare a costed proposal for undertaking a programme of archaeological recording at Llanfyllin Workhouse in northern Powys, in connection with the preparation of a Conservation Plan for the building.
- 1.2 The programme of archaeological study and assessment incorporated the following elements:
 - a) map regression analysis of the building in its immediate landscape;
 - b) a rectified photographic survey of the building as it exists at present;
 - c) aerial photography of the workhouse complex; and
 - d) trial excavation of selected areas.
- 1.3 Y Dolydd was built in 1838 as the Llanfyllin Union Workhouse, to the design of Thomas Penson, the County Surveyor for Montgomeryshire. The plan of the workhouse is characteristic of the new and distinctive building type established following the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834. Its detailed history and development have been the subject of a separate study by the Richard Keen Partnership, and are not considered further here, except where they have relevance to the archaeological and landscape recording described below.

2 MAP REGRESSION, LANDSCAPE AND SETTING

- 2.1 Map regression analysis has emerged in recent years as a useful tool in the landscape historian and archaeologist's range of techniques for studying the development of a particular area or tract of land. It relies on the close study of historic maps, commencing with the modern edition of the large-scale Ordnance Survey map, and then working backwards, checking earlier editions of both printed maps and manuscript maps to establish where features, buildings, boundaries and other elements have been added to or removed from the landscape, in an attempt to reconstruct what the landscape looked like in earlier centuries. Aerial photographs can be used to assist the process, but maps form the core source of information, and the procedure is thus dependent on the quality and age of the maps available for the area under study.
- 2.2 A programme of desk-based research was undertaken to explore the history and development of the site, taking into account the interaction of the workhouse with the surrounding area, its setting and any associated features outside the main complex. This involved the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, photographic and oral sources. Repositories consulted included the following: the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth; the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; and Powys County Archives, Llandrindod Wells.
- 2.3 For the Llanfyllin region it is unfortunate, but not surprising, that there are no known larger-scale maps before the mid-18th century. In this respect, Llanfyllin is little different from many other parts of rural Wales, where the tradition of compiling plans of the landholdings of medium and large-size estates did not develop until that time, in contrast to some parts of England where the requirements of the gentry to have their lands mapped produced excellent plans from the late 16th century onwards.

Analysis

- 2.4 The regression analysis for the area immediately around the workhouse is depicted in Fig. 1. Both the current Ordnance Survey and its late 19th-century predecessor reveal how the workhouse was inserted into a larger irregularly shaped field delimited by a sinuous boundary

provided by the small stream known as the Cadnant on the north, and the road to Welshpool on the south. This large field is now divided into two by a modern field boundary running on a north-east to south-west axis, just as it was in the middle years of the 19th century when the workhouse was built, except that then the alignment ran north-west to south-east. Pre-workhouse estate maps indicate that this was division reflects the situation that existed in the second half of the 18th century (Fig. 1). Part of the holding of Llwyn Farm, field in which was the workhouse was later built was known as Upper Meadow and the adjacent one as Lower Meadow. Given the relatively low-lying situation close to the river and beside a tributary stream, the fact that this ground was down to meadow is hardly surprising, and it is perhaps likely that this was always its function, back into the Middle Ages.

- 2.5 Thus the workhouse was inserted into a landscape, which underwent occasional modifications to its layout over the last two to three hundred years. These processes are more obvious on the south side of the road opposite the workhouse where the large field has undergone several changes in its layout in recent times, and what is now one field was at least five bounded areas in the 1770s. The name, Ffron Ddu, attributed to the large field in the mid-19th century was formerly applied only to the polygonal field in its north-western corner. The other parts were termed 'Ffridd', suggesting that they had been enclosed from the northern hill slopes of Allt y Garder, perhaps as late as the 17th century. There was a building, perhaps a barn at the entrance to the field immediately to the south of the polygonal field. Of the two smaller fields to the east, the more southerly was wooded and by about 1815 another map reveals that the wood had been extended to cover both fields, suggesting that it may even have been a deliberate plantation.
- 2.6 The impression from the earliest, Llwyn Estate, map, of fossilised open-field strips lying on a west to east axis, to the west of the fields considered above, is probably illusory. Certainly, several of the field boundaries follow on parallel courses, but they also follow the lie of the contours, and generally, open-field agriculture would have run across the slope at right angles to the contours to facilitate drainage.

3 BUILDING SURVEY

- 3.1 A programme of rectified photography was undertaken for all external elevations, based on existing digital plans. It was understood from initial discussions with the Richard Keen Partnership that these plans were of a sufficient level of accuracy for the purposes of the Conservation Plan, but that further additional surveying was required to allow the inclusion of further architectural detail such as indications of the changes to the fabric and structure.
- 3.2 A detailed photographic survey was undertaken in digital format, providing detailed images of all window and door openings, together with wider views of each elevation. In some areas the survey was hindered by the presence of small trees which necessitated the use of oblique views for certain sections and openings. The digital images were catalogued using a coding system developed by Mr Michael Goulden and a full set of images has been provided on a CD with this report.
- 3.3 The images were imported into Autodesk Map 2005 to allow the rectification and digitising of additional detail, using the existing drawn record as a base from which control points were derived. During this process it was soon realised that the existing drawings were often not of sufficient accuracy to permit incorporation of new information, and a substantial resurvey was undertaken using hand measurements and a laser tape-measure to check the position and size of each opening, in as far as these were accessible. Inevitably, it was not possible to check thoroughly the details of features at first- and second-floor level.
- 3.4 The resulting product consisted of a digital overlay of each elevation showing changes in the structure, fabric and architectural detail. These were provided to Mr Michael Goulden for incorporation into the general survey of the building.

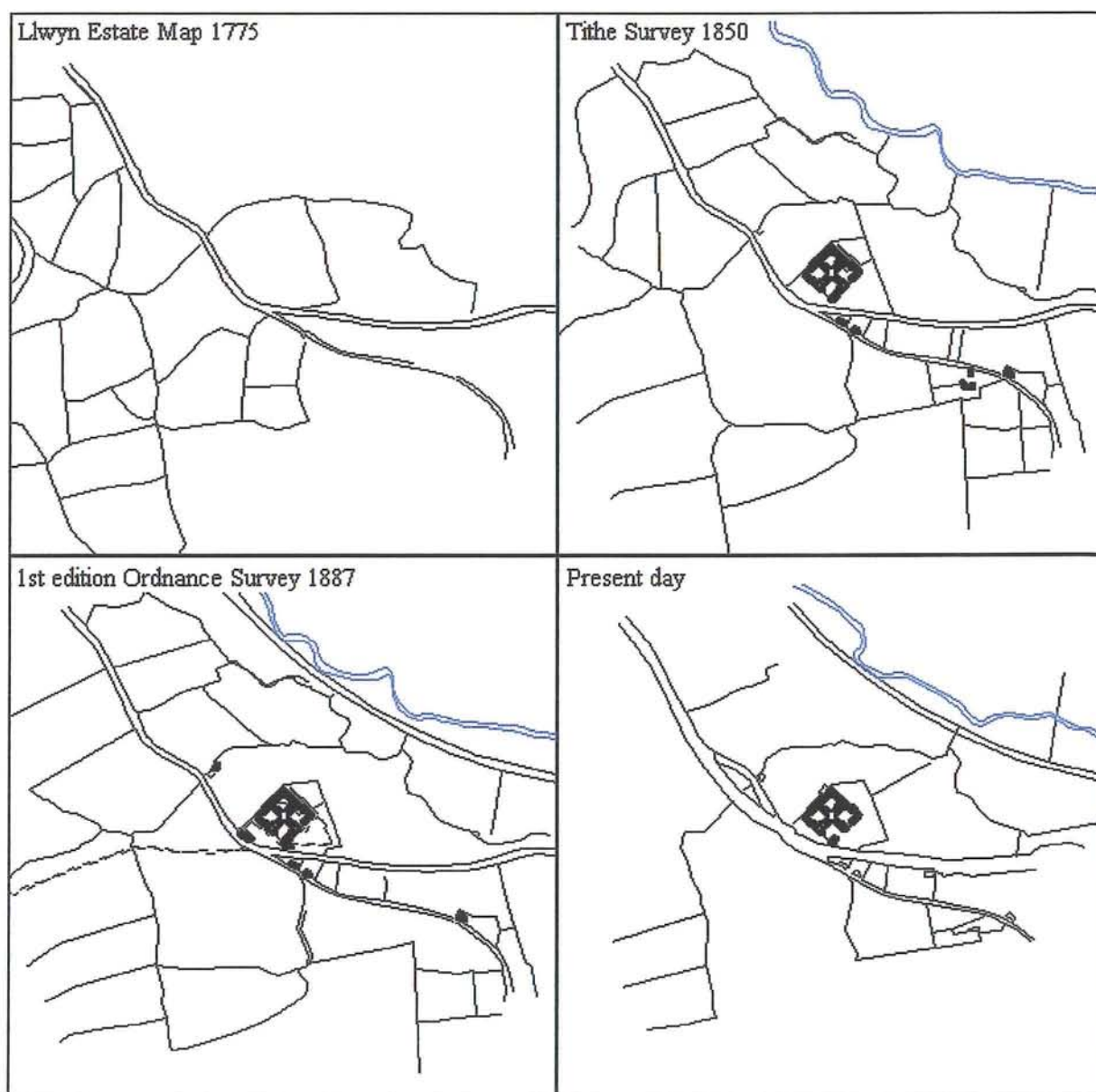


Fig. 1 Map regression

4 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

- 4.1 A series of oblique aerial photographs were taken on 4 November 2005 using 35mm colour slide format, including detailed low-level views, together with higher-level views to show the general setting. The slides were scanned at a resolution of 1200 pixels per inch and the both slides and scanned images have been provided to the client.

5 EVALUATION

- 5.1 The evaluation comprised one trench to investigate the demolished Vagrants' Wing of the workhouse and a second across the south-east wing, together with two test pits in each of the four courts, a total of ten trenches and pits.
- 5.2 The modern overburden in each trench was removed by machine under close archaeological supervision, with all subsequent cleaning and excavation being carried out by hand. The numbers in brackets in the text that follows refer to the individual contexts which were identified during the excavation. A drawn, written and photographic record was maintained throughout the duration of the evaluation and forms part of the site archive in addition to forming the basis of this report (see Appendix 1).

The Vagrants' Wing (Trench 1; Fig. 4, Plates 1-2)

- 5.3 The trench measured 8.8 by 1.5m and was located parallel to the south-west wing of the workhouse, across the recorded location of the former Vagrants' Wing. This had been built in the later 19th century to house vagrants, or 'casual paupers'. The wing comprised a series of working cells where the inmates were engaged in breaking rocks, and there were sleeping cells on the opposite side of a passage. A plan of the wing survives in the Public Record Office (Fig. 2; Hainsworth 2004, 26).

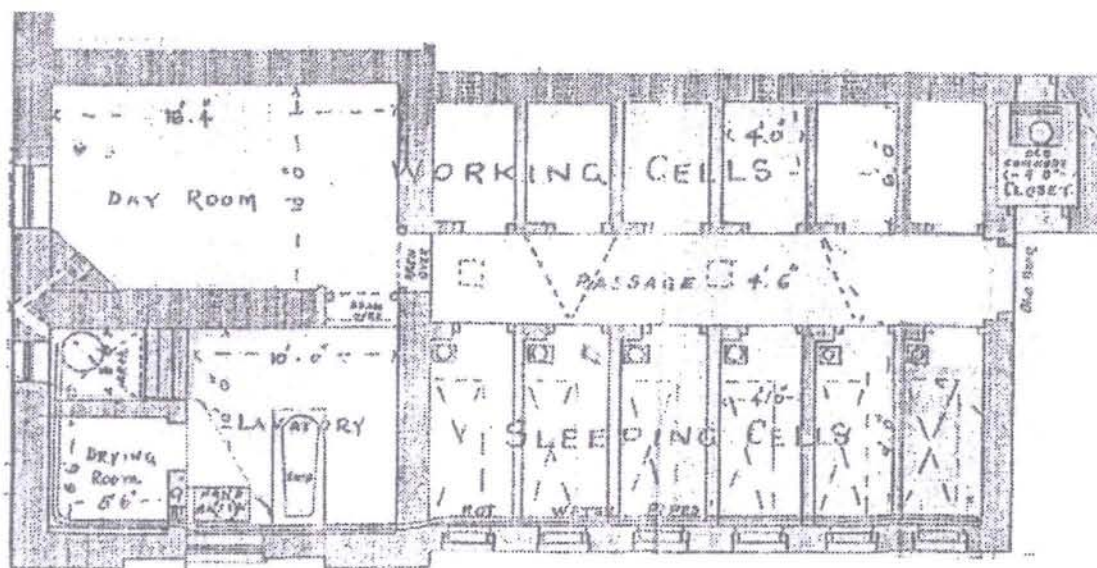


Fig. 2 Plan of the Vagrants' Wing as originally proposed (after Hainsworth 2004)

- 5.4 A layer of topsoil (01), comprising a soft, dark greyish-black clay loam, up to 0.3m thick, was removed by machine, revealing a spread of reddish-brown, cemented gravel (02) up to 0.2m thick which did not extend to the eastern end of the trench. Here a layer of mid-yellowish-brown clay loam (92), 0.14m thick, was revealed directly below the topsoil (01). At this stage the basal remains of a building became evident, which appeared to demonstrate at least two phases of construction.
- 5.5 The earliest phase of the building appears to be represented by the construction of a series of walls (04), built of random stone rubble with lime mortar bonding, each measuring around 0.5m in width. A long stretch of wall ran north-west to south-east along the length of the trench for about 5.3m. At right angles to this were the remains of three walls aligned north-east to south-west, and a further wall towards the far eastern end of the trench which was virtually robbed-out, aligned north-east to south-west. All of the walls extended beyond the extent of the

excavation. Each of the walls had roughly dressed stone on the inner and outer faces and random rubble infilling the core. No more than two courses of the walls survived, and in places they had been robbed out to construction level. The walls appeared to define a series of small rooms which were all surfaced with mid greyish-brown, trodden clay floors with frequent cinder flecks (09; 12; 90; 91).

- 5.6 The addition of brick-built structures to the original fabric appeared to form a second phase of construction. At the north-western end of the trench a line of nine plain, red bricks were mortared together end-to-end in a single course (88) which ran parallel, but were not physically bonded to, the main north-west to south-east stone wall (04). Similar bricks were laid side by side to form a single course (103) continuing beyond the extent of excavation to the north-east, in the central area of the trench. At the north-eastern end of the trench a stepped structure (102) had been formed from twelve bricks, again laid side by side, partially topped by a plinth of concrete 80mm thick. Only part of this structure was visible, the rest continuing in a north-easterly direction beyond the extent of the excavation.
- 5.7 Within the easternmost room was a drain (05), which took the form of a linear cut, aligned north-west to south-east, with near vertical sides cutting 0.43m into the natural subsoil (03) and with a relatively level base. Two associated stone slabs (07) remained *in situ* along the eastern edge of the cut. A level ledge revealed on the western edge of the drain implied that these slabs had once been more extensive and covered the entire drain forming an enclosed culvert. Later robbing of the slabs and back-filling (06) has distorted the generally contemporaneous nature of the relationship between the drain and the associated floor (12) and wall structures (04).
- 5.8 Beyond the robbed outer stone wall at the south-eastern end of the trench was a spread of firm, dark blackish-brown clay loam (11) with frequent coal or cinder fragments and small, angular stones (less than 10mm in diameter). This was overlain by a band of yellowish-brown clay loam (94), 0.55m wide, and with a maximum thickness of c. 60mm, which lay immediately adjacent to the line of the robbed-out outer wall. Above this was a cinder-rich layer (93), up to 80mm thick, which tipped downwards to the east, away from the wall, and, as with deposit 11, continuing beyond the limit of the excavation to the south-east.
- 5.9 Extending across much of the central and north-western area of the trench was a loose, greyish-white, mortar-rich demolition deposit (08), overlying much of the structural remains of the building. This varied in thickness from about 10mm to 18mm depending on the underlying structures. In the northern area of the trench this overlay a quantity of tumbled, partially white-washed, bricks (89), which in turn sat atop the clay floor (90).
- 5.10 A spread of tarmac (10) with an inset iron drain cover and associated drain bricks (104) was identified in the south-eastern area of the trench. The tarmac spread measured 0.8m north-east to south-west by 2.75m north-west to south-east, and continued beyond the extent of the excavation to the south-west. This deposit lay directly beneath the reddish-brown gravel (02), but apparently above the mortar-rich demolition deposit (08). Owing to the nature of the tarmac this material was left *in situ* and not excavated further.
- 5.11 Immediately prior to the laying of the reddish-brown gravel material (02) the stone slab covering (07) of the drain (05) had been partially robbed and the drain back-filled with a mixed, reddish-brown gravel and cinder-rich material (06).

South-East Wing (Trench 2; Fig. 5, Plates 3-4)

- 5.12 The trench measured 8.8m north-west to south-east by 1.5m north-east to south-west, and was positioned to investigate the remains of the former south-east wing of the workhouse. A plan of the workhouse from the 1950s (Fig. 3) by Montgomeryshire County Council shows the south-east wing before its demolition.

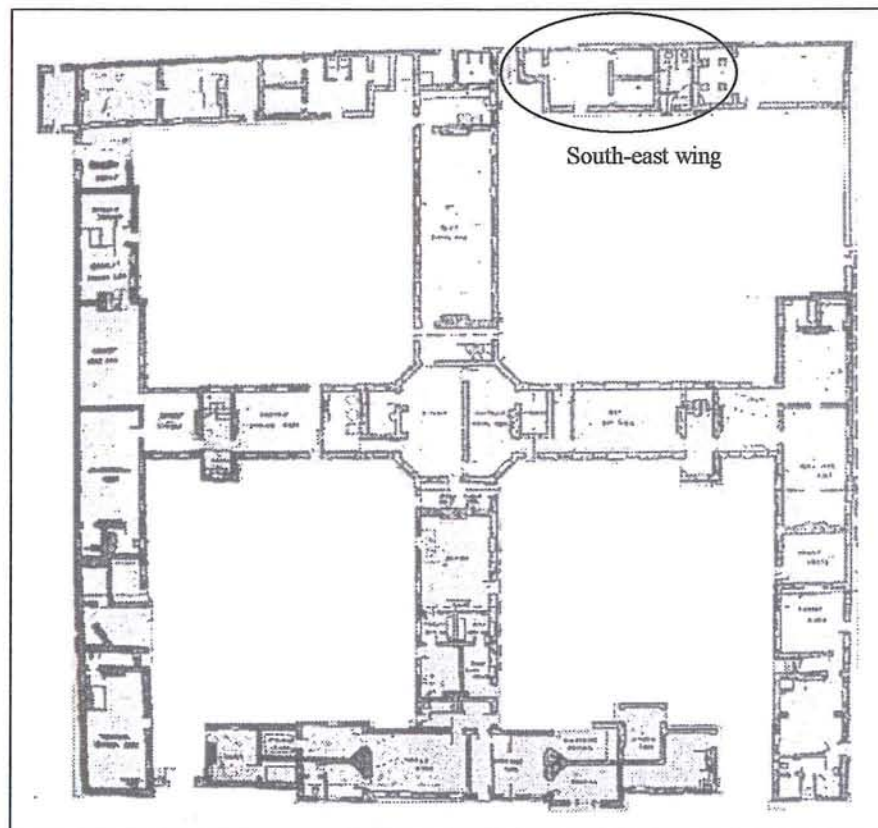


Fig. 3 1950s plan showing the south-east wing (after Hainsworth 2004)

- 5.13 During the mechanical excavation of the trench it became immediately apparent that the visible earthworks in this area were formed by two relatively modern concrete plinths (21 and 22), which lay just beneath the turf. The overlying topsoil consisted of a mid greyish-brown clay loam (13) with lenses of cinder and ash-rich material and occasional sub-angular gravels, although to the south-east of plinth 22 there was a distinctly darker brownish-black clay loam (14), with frequent inclusions of gravel, fragmented slate, mortar and brick. The removal of the topsoil revealed the uppermost remains of a building together with a sequence of overlying, later deposits.
- 5.14 The earliest phase of the building appeared to be the construction of a series of walls around 0.5m thick, constructed with facing stone, infilled with random rubble and bonded with lime mortar. No more than two courses of the walls appeared to remain, with extensive robbing having taken place, leaving little more than rubble and mortar waste in places. A long stretch of wall (33) ran north-west to south-east for c. 5.4m, with walls aligned north-east to south-west (30 and 36) at either end, both of which continued beyond the limits of the excavation. The junction of walls 30 and 33 formed a right-angle at the north-eastern corner of the building. A narrow, linear gully (38), 0.4m wide, formed by the construction of a further wall parallel but internal to the outer wall (36) continued north-eastwards beyond the extent of the excavation. Within the building two trodden earthen floor surfaces (31 and 39) were identified consisting of mid greyish-brown clay with frequent cinder flecks. In addition, a similar surface (37) was apparent in the base of gully 38.
- 5.15 At the north-western end of the trench was an area of gravel surfacing. The earliest observed surface (19) was a dark, fairly loose and cinder-rich gravelly material, topped in places by a layer of more compacted, sub-rounded grey stones (17). A shallow groove, less than 0.1m wide ran north-west to south-east across its surface. Repairs to the surface were apparent in the form of patching, consisting of an area of compacted pinkish-white sub-angular and angular stones (18) continuing southwards beyond the extent of the trench. At the opposite end of the trench a

deposit of dark, greyish-brown, cinder-rich clay loam with frequent rounded and sub-angular pebbles, extended eastwards beyond the outer wall (40).

- 5.16 A sequence of robbing, demolition and levelling deposits occupied much of the central area of the trench. The earliest of these involved the back-filling of gully (38) with a loose, dark blackish-grey, mortar and cinder-rich material (42). This contained quantities of animal bone, 19th-century ceramics and glass. Further west partial robbing of the wall (33) was followed by the dumping of tarmac-like material (28). Subsequently, in the same area, loose stone (34) was dumped, followed by rubble mixed with loose mortar (29) in the robber trench of the former wall, then a mixed yellowish-brown clay material (27). A spread of compact, mortar-rich material (35) to the north of wall (33) was mirrored to the south by a similar material (32). Across much of the central area of the trench was a thin (generally less than 0.1m thick, occasionally up to 0.20m) layer of loose, mortar-rich material (23) containing c. 20% cinder flecks, and occasional brick and slate fragments. Within this material, particularly in the southern area of the trench, were distinct dumps of broken roofing slates (20). To the north of wall (33), in all areas excepting the very south-eastern end of the trench, was an intermittent and thin deposit of loose, black cinders (15) up to 20mm thick. Stratigraphically equivalent to this but to the south of wall (33), was a spread of bright yellowish-grey, plastic clay up to 0.20m thick, containing occasional brick fragments.
- 5.17 Towards the north-western end of the trench was a linear trench (24), which cut through the demolition and levelling deposits, as well as the earlier gravel surfaces (17) and (19). This was aligned north-east to south-west and contained a ceramic sewer pipe (26) and associated back-fill (25).

West Courtyard

- 5.18 Trench 3 measured 1.9m north-west to south-east and 1.5m north-east to south-west. A dark greyish-black, clay loam topsoil (65) was removed by machine to reveal at least three phases of gravel surfacing. The lowest surface (68), beyond which excavation did not continue, consisted of firm, angular grey chippings. This was overlain by a 0.1m-thick layer of similar, but looser chippings (67). The uppermost surface comprised a 0.1m-thick layer of compacted angular and sub-angular grey chippings. All of the surfaces sloped slightly downhill to the east, with the uppermost (66) thinning out midway across the trench.
- 5.19 Trench 4 measured 1.6m north to south and 1.5m east to west. A dark greyish-black, clay loam topsoil (51) was removed by machine to reveal a layer of angular chippings in a grey clay matrix (52) with occasional coal, brick and ceramic fragments. The depth of this layer was tested and proved to be less than 0.1m thick, below which lay the natural, yellow clay subsoil (53).

North Courtyard

- 5.20 Trench 5 measured 1.5m north-west to south-east and 1.5m north-east to south-west. The 70mm-thick modern tarmac surface (78) was removed by machine to reveal the underlying deposits. The earliest deposit was a 40mm-thick layer of crushed red brick (82), sealed beneath a patchy deposit of yellowish clay (81), up to 50mm thick. This was overlain by a 70mm-thick layer of compressed greyish-brown gravel surfacing (80), (similar to (74) in Trench 6). The uppermost deposits consisted of a 0.15m thick band of loose grey chipping aggregate (79) directly beneath the current tarmac surface (78).
- 5.21 Trench 6 measured 1.6m north-west to south-east and 1.6m north-east to south-west. The 70mm-thick modern tarmac layer (69) was removed by machine to reveal the underlying deposits. Directly above the yellowish-grey clay natural subsoil (75) was a 60mm-thick layer of compressed greyish-brown gravel surfacing (74), containing occasional brick and coal fragments. This was sealed by a thin band (less than 10mm) of black cinders (73), overlain by a 80mm-thick layer of angular greyish chippings (72), above which was a 10mm-thick pinkish-brown gravel layer with a lens of black cinder at its base (71). The uppermost deposits consisted

of a 70mm-thick band of loose grey chipping aggregate (70) directly beneath the current tarmac surface (69).

East Courtyard

- 5.22 Trench 7 measured 2.0m north-west to south-east and 1.5m north-east to south-west. A dark greyish-black clay loam topsoil (76), 0.2m thick, was removed by machine to reveal a yellowish-brown compressed gravel surface (77), beyond which excavation did not continue. This contained slightly darker coloured, irregular patches of slightly worn, sub-angular chippings, with occasional brick fragments.
- 5.23 Trench 8 (Fig. 6) measured 2.35m north-east to south-west and 1.5m north-west to south-east. Machine stripping of the turf revealed a dark greyish-brown, soft clay loam (58), up to 0.20m thick, partially overlying a dark greyish-black clay loam (54), up to 0.30m thick, which tipped down towards the south-west. Removal of these soils revealed a lead water pipe (57), within a trench (55), running approximately east to west across the southern corner of the trench. A secondary cut (64) appeared to run parallel but further north, truncating a yellow and grey clay deposit (59), but overlain by a crushed red brick material (63) which concentrated in the eastern corner of the trench. A sondage was excavated along the south-east facing section of the trench to a maximum depth of 1.1m to explore the underlying deposits. This revealed the clay deposit (59) to be at least 0.65m thick, within which were bands of fragmented brick, cinder and angular stone material (61), and a mid greyish-brown clay (62). The full extent of cut (64) was not ascertained although it was at least 0.8m deep, with near vertical sides, and filled with a mixed material of fragmented brick and cinder within a dark greyish-brown clay matrix (60).

South Courtyard

- 5.24 Trench 9 measured 2.0m north-west to south-east and 1.6m north-east to south-west. A dark greyish-black clay loam topsoil (44), 0.15m thick, was removed by machine to reveal a compressed gravel surface (45) comprising angular chippings within a grey-brown clay loam matrix, truncated by a north to south aligned linear cut (46) across the western side of the trench. An exploratory slot was excavated along the south-east facing section of the trench which revealed the undisturbed yellow clay subsoil (50), overlain by a deposit (49) of relatively loose angular chippings within a yellowish-grey matrix with occasional brick and coal fragments. This lower gravel surface could also be seen at the south-eastern end of the trench where the overlying surface (45) sloped down slightly before ultimately petering out. The linear cut (46) contained a grey plastic drainage pipe, (48) 70mm in diameter, and associated backfill (47) of mixed yellow clay and darker material. The pipe lay 0.29m below the present ground surface and continued both northwards and southwards beyond the limits of the trench.
- 5.25 Trench 10 measured 2.2m north-east to south-west and 1.5m north-west to south-east. Machine removal of the turf revealed a 0.3m thick dump (84) of angular stone up to 0.25m in diameter, overlying a series of deposits. The earliest of these (87), beyond which excavation did not continue, consisted of a mixed greyish-brown clay and yellowish clay with frequent coal fragments. Above this was a 0.15m thick layer of firm greyish-brown gravel (86), overlain by a thin band, less than 0.10m thick, of gravel-rich, dark greyish-black material (85).

6 THE FINDS

- 6.1 A range of artefacts were retrieved from the excavations, predominantly consisting of pottery of late 18th- to 20th-century date, but also including glass, iron and copper alloy objects, along with some animal bones. The majority of finds appear to have been the result of the disposal of broken objects within the general rubbish of the workhouse, whilst others are probably best accounted for as chance losses (for instance, buttons and shoe fittings).

Post-medieval and modern pottery

- 6.2 A total of 141 sherds of pottery were recovered from the evaluation. A variety of vessel types and fabrics were recovered, generally dating to the 19th and early 20th centuries, but including

three sherds of Mottled ware, generally dated to the 17th to mid 18th centuries. Black glazed Coal Measure Red wares, predominantly in coarse forms, also among the more numerous vessels, probably emanated from the Buckley kilns near Mold in north-east Wales, or perhaps the Staffordshire potteries. Whitewares are perhaps the most common form, with a variety of decoration but mainly transfer printed with oriental scenes. Pearlwares, Creamwares, Yellow wares and Stonewares are also represented, as well as Bone China and refined red tea wares. Clay tobacco pipe stem fragments were retrieved from several contexts.

Glass

- 6.3 The majority of glass retrieved comprised fragments of green and colourless bottle glass. A variety of bottle forms were represented, including square section medicine bottles, and larger, thicker walled storage vessels. A single sherd of window glass was retrieved.

Metalwork

- 6.4 As well as iron nails, several iron shoe fittings were retrieved from the excavation. These included a segment from the front side of a clog or boot, a heel segment, and a piece of probable leather sole material with several hobnails still attached. A copper alloy button was also retrieved.

Animal Bone and Organic Remains

- 6.5 A range of animal bones was retrieved from the evaluation, almost entirely from the back-filled drain (42) in (38). cursory inspection identifies a predominance of cow bones, with a single, large fish vertebra (possibly salmon), and the remains of a small rodent (rat). Several of the cow bones display butchery marks, as well as evidence of gnawing by rodents.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The workhouse at Llanfyllin was constructed in 1838 on low-lying ground close to the Afon Cain and one of its tributaries, in fields which functioned primarily as meadowland. Map regression analysis allows landscape change to be established only as far back as the mid-18th century, but it is likely that the meadows had changed but little through the Middle Ages and later. On the slightly higher ground to the south of the workhouse, there were more tangible changes as fields were enclosed from the open ground of the hill, and then modified in terms of both form and use. The analysis flags up such changes even in the later 18th century, and it is likely that other changes, unrecorded, in earlier times.

- 7.2 The evaluation has demonstrated that that substantial sub-surface remains of the demolished wings of the Workhouse still remain, allowing an understanding of the construction, usage and abandonment phases of these areas of the building to be understood more fully. In addition, the excavations in the courtyards have demonstrated the nature and sequence of surfacing, as well as highlighting the presence of significant areas of disturbance. The finds allow an insight into the personal items utilised by the occupants and employees of the workhouse, such as kitchen wares, shoe and clothing fittings, tobacco pipes, and medicine bottles, as well as aspects of diet as suggested by the animal bone assemblage.

Vagrants' Wing

- 7.3 Comparison between the 1950s' plan of the Vagrants' Wing and the archaeological evidence indicates that the trench was located at the south-western end of the wing, including the end wall, along with part of the cells, passage, porch and a water closet. A suggested reconstruction of the wing is provided in Fig. 7, based on the excavated evidence and that provided by the 1950s plan of the wing.
- 7.4 The excavation demonstrated that the main walls of the block were constructed of stone, bonded with lime mortar, whilst sub-divisions, doorways etc., were constructed of white-washed red brick. The rooms, including the porch, appeared to have had beaten clay floors, whilst the closet

contained a culverted drain covered by stone slabs. Externally, to the south-east, was a cinder-rich deposit, probably resulting from dumped hearth waste utilised to create a path.

- 7.5 Based on the excavated evidence, the Vagrants' Wing appears to have extended 8.37m from the main building and was 7.22m wide, with a 1.3m wide passage along the centre. At the south-western end of the block was a porch 2.1m wide with an adjacent water closet 2.48m wide. The sleeping cells appear to have measured 2.8m by 1.2m internally, whilst the working cells were somewhat smaller being only 1.77m by 1.2m.
- 7.6 At some point a tarmac surface with inset drain was laid outside the wing to the west of the porch. This appears to pre-date demolition of the wing as the tarmac respects the wall layout, although it was not covered by demolition waste (08), possibly suggesting that the building had fallen into disrepair and had started to collapse internally before complete demolition took place.
- 7.7 Ultimately, the entire wing was demolished and the area levelled, possibly during the 1960s. This process involved the robbing of some stone and the back-filling of the drain, before a reddish-brown gravel material was laid down across the entire area, and compressed. A garden soil appears to have been deposited at the far south-eastern end of the trench at this time, implying the presence of an area of hard-standing adjacent to the current drive, with garden beyond. Abandonment of the area allowed a topsoil and turf to develop.

South-east wing

- 7.8 The excavation demonstrated the presence of a stone and lime mortar-bonded building which generally matches plan of the wing from the 1950s. A suggested reconstruction of the wing is provided in Fig. 8, based on the excavated evidence and that provided by the 1950s plan of the wing. The excavation revealed two external walls to the north-west and south-east which were linked by a cross wall. A further sub-dividing wall led north-eastwards from this to delineate a drain, possibly within a small side-room, as shown on the plan. The whole wing is shown to be 5.22m wide. Outside the wing on the north-west side was an area of surfacing within the south-east courtyard. A groove within the surfacing may be interpreted as a wheel rut implying the possibility of an unloading or loading area for goods in or out of the workhouse. As with the Vagrants' Wing, the area immediately outside the workhouse was roughly surfaced with cinder-rich hearth waste, probably forming a path around the outside of the building.
- 7.9 Prior to demolition the drain was back-filled with rubbish. Robbing of some of the stone walling occurred, and the whole area was levelled with dumps of miscellaneous material such as clay, waste stone and cinders. Slates within the demolition material demonstrate the roofing medium.
- 7.10 At some point post-dating the demolition and levelling, a sewer pipe was inserted, cutting through the former courtyard surfaces. The area formerly occupied by the building and yard was given over to gardens, with the addition of a topsoil confined to the area north-west of the outer wall of the wing. Externally to the south-east a different topsoil developed, containing more cinder waste and stone. As part of the garden scheme, concrete edgings or plinths were laid, possibly for a path or border, which fossilised the walls of the former wing. Abandonment of the gardens has led to the growth of turf across entire area.

Courtyard Surfaces

- 7.11 The exploratory test pits in each of the courtyards demonstrated a consistent scheme of surfacing formed from compressed gravel laid directly upon the natural clay, with no evidence of paving or cobbling. Where the contour necessitated a degree of levelling, or to assist in drainage (in particular the North Courtyard), additional material (crushed brick) was used. Repair was evident, both in the layering of several gravel surfaces (for example Trench 3), and in patching (Trench 2). Disturbance has been caused to many areas of the yard surfacing, both by animal burrowing (Trench 4) and by the insertion of later pipework (Trenches 2, 8 and 9).

- 7.12 The results from Trench 8, in the East Courtyard appeared to identify a large degree of disturbance in the form of the deposition of quantities of material, presumably to fill a large feature cut into the natural subsoil, possibly a well. The later insertion of pipes, one of which was a lead water pipe, adds possible credence to this interpretation. The full extent of this feature, both in plan and in section, was not ascertained as it extended beyond the limits of the test pit.

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c.1815 *NLW/Powis Castle/M283*
1850 *NLW/Llanfyllin Tithe Map and Apportionment*
1887 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map

APPENDIX 1 SITE ARCHIVE

Site archive

105 context record forms
2 A1 site plans / sections
Digital images
Photographic catalogue
Context Register
Drawings Register
4 levels record forms
Finds catalogues

FINDS CATALOGUES

Post medieval pottery catalogue

Trench	Context	Sherds	Comment
1	01	1	Industrial ware
1	01	4	Whiteware
1	01	4	Developed Whiteware
1	08	7	Developed Whiteware
1	08	3	Bone China
1	08	1	White salt-glazed ware
1	08	1	Coal Measures Red - Black glazed
1	08	1	Coal Measures Buff – Black glazed
1	08	1	Coarse yellow ware
2	13	1	Coal Measures Red – Black glazed
2	13	8	Developed Whiteware
2	13	1	Bone China
2	13	1	Ironstone ware
2	13	1	Clay tobacco pipe stem
2	14	1	Developed Whiteware
2	14	1	Grey Stoneware
2	14	4	Pale blue fabric, impressed and moulded decoration, clear glaze
2	28	1	Developed Whiteware
2	28	1	Grey Stoneware
2	28	1	Late Yellow ware
2	28	1	Coal Measures Red – Black glazed
2	28	1	Whiteware
2	28	3	Bone China
2	28	1	Terracotta
2	42	8	Developed Whiteware
2	42	2	Clay tobacco pipe stem
2	42	3	Slip decorated yellow ware
2	42	1	Grey Stoneware – brown glazed
2	42	4	Grey Stoneware
2	42	3	Coal Measures Red – Black glazed
3	65	1	Clay tobacco pipe stem
3	65	1	Grey Stoneware
3	65	1	Ironstone ware – green decoration
3	65	1	Whiteware – polychrome decoration

3	65	1	Pearlware
3	65	2	Whiteware
3	66	2	Coal Measures Red – Black glazed
3	66	1	Developed Whiteware
3	66	1	Grey Stoneware
3	66	1	Creamware
4	51	1	Developed Whiteware
4	51	2	Pearlware
4	52	2	Coal Measures Red – Black glazed
4	52	1	Pearlware
6	74	3	Clay tobacco pipe stems
6	74	5	Pearlware
6	74	1	Developed Whiteware
6	74	1	Ironstone ware
6	74	1	Bone China
6	74	1	Mottled ware
6	74	6	Coal Measures Red – Black glazed
7	76	1	Coal Measures Red – Black glazed
7	76	1	Developed Whiteware
8	54	1	Bone China
8	54	1	Developed Whiteware
8	54	2	Clay tobacco pipe stem
8	54	1	Whiteware – polychrome decoration
8	56	1	Bone China
8	56	1	Mottled ware
8	56	1	Creamware
8	58	1	Developed Whiteware
8	58	1	Fine cream fabric, yellowish glaze
8	60	1	Pearlware
8	62	2	Coal Measures Red – Black glazed
9	44	1	Industrial Slipware
9	44	1	Developed Whiteware
9	44	1	Coal Measures Red – Black glazed
9	45	2	Clay tobacco pipe stem
9	45	1	Coal Measures Buff – Brown glazed
9	45	1	Whiteware
9	45	1	Coal Measures Red
9	45	1	Midlands Yellow
9	45	1	Refined Redware
9	49	1	Clay tobacco pipe stem
9	49	1	Grey Stoneware – brown glazed
9	49	1	Developed Whiteware
10	85	1	Refined Redware
10	85	1	Developed Whiteware
10	86	1	Mottled ware
10	86	3	Coal Measures Red – Black glazed

Glass

Trench	Context	Number	Comment
2	28	1	Green bottle glass
2	13	1	Green bottle glass
2	13	2	Colourless bottle glass
2	42	3	Green bottle glass
2	42	26	Colourless bottle glass (several vessels)
3	66	1	Colourless window glass
3	65	1	Green bottle glass
4	52	1	Colourless bottle glass
6	74	1	Green bottle glass
8	62	1	Green bottle glass
9	49	1	Green bottle glass
10	85	1	Green bottle glass

Metalwork Catalogue

Trench	Context	Number	Comment
1	01	1	Iron nail
1	08	5	Iron nails
2	42	2/3	Iron shoe fittings – heel seg, sole fragment with attached hobnails
3	66	1	Iron boot / clog fitting
6	74	1	Copper alloy button
9	45	1	Copper alloy fitting
10	85	1	Iron object

Animal Bone catalogue

Trench	Context	Number	Comment
1	01	1	Rib?
2	42	5	Beef ribs (butchery and gnaw marks)
2	42	4	Rodent jaw, rib and limb (rat?)
2	42	1	Fish vertebrae (salmon?)
2	42	12	Miscellaneous large mammal (beef?) fragments

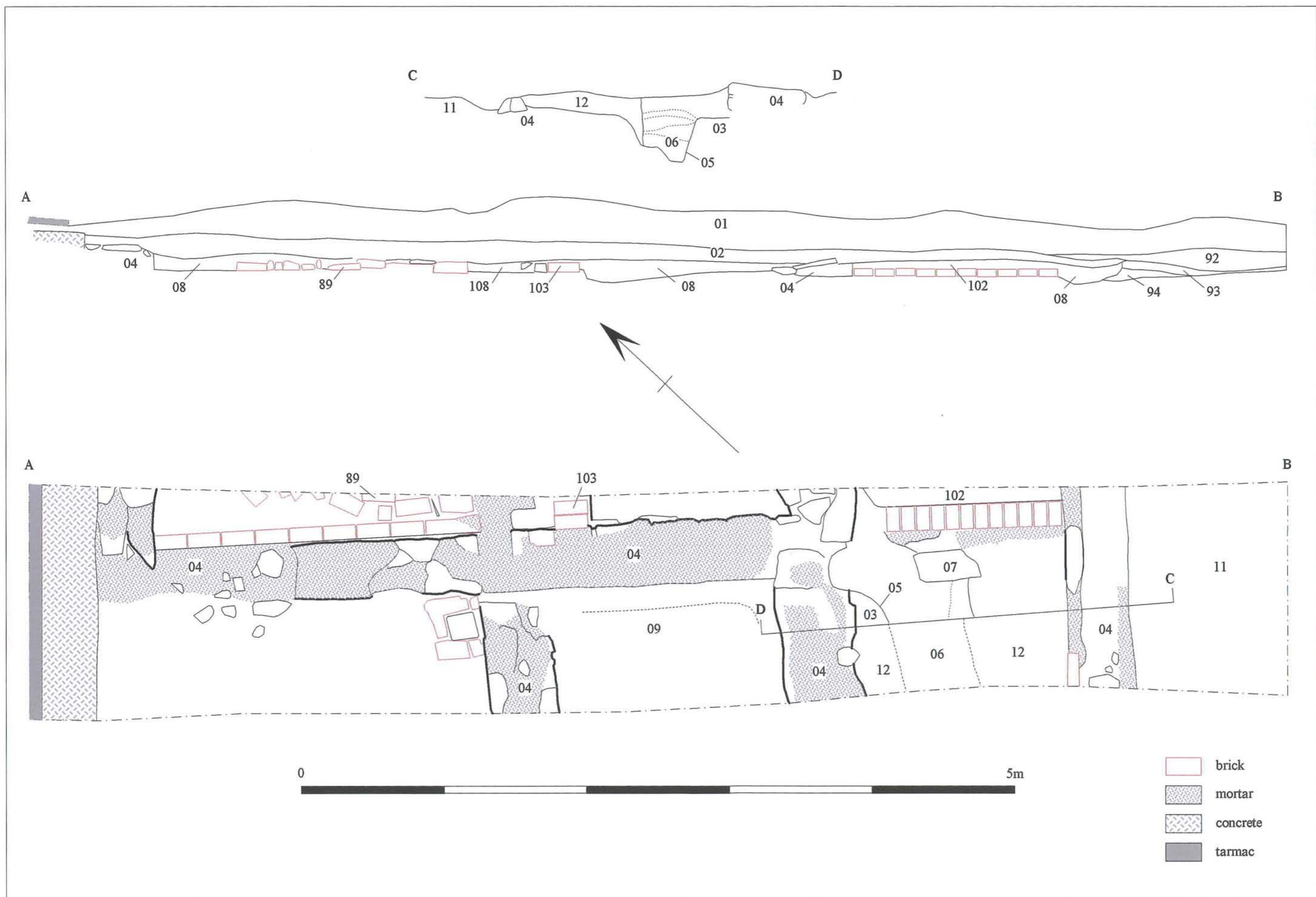


Fig. 4 Vagrant's Wing: trench 1 plan and sections

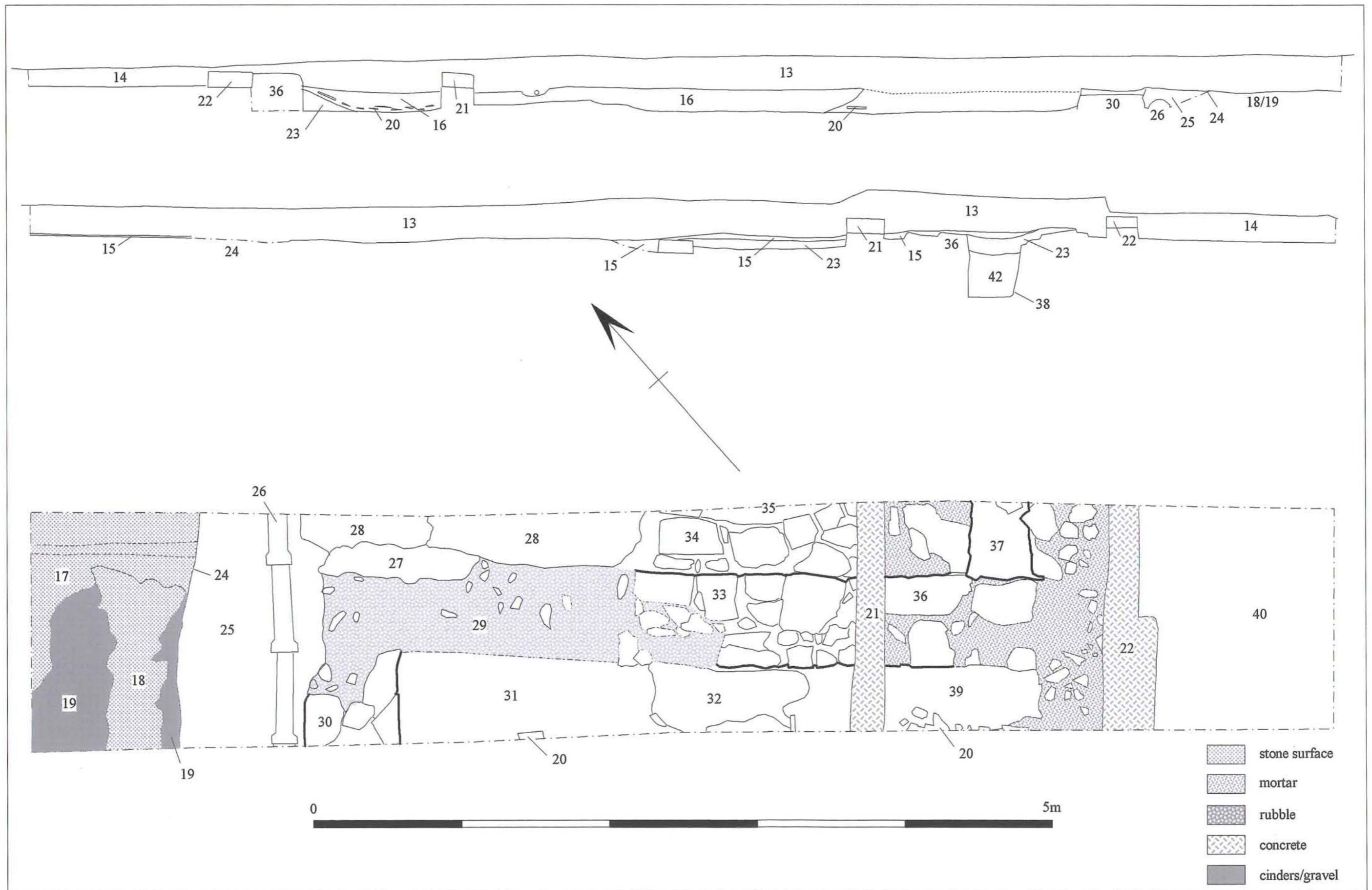


Fig. 5 South-east Wing: trench 2 plan and sections

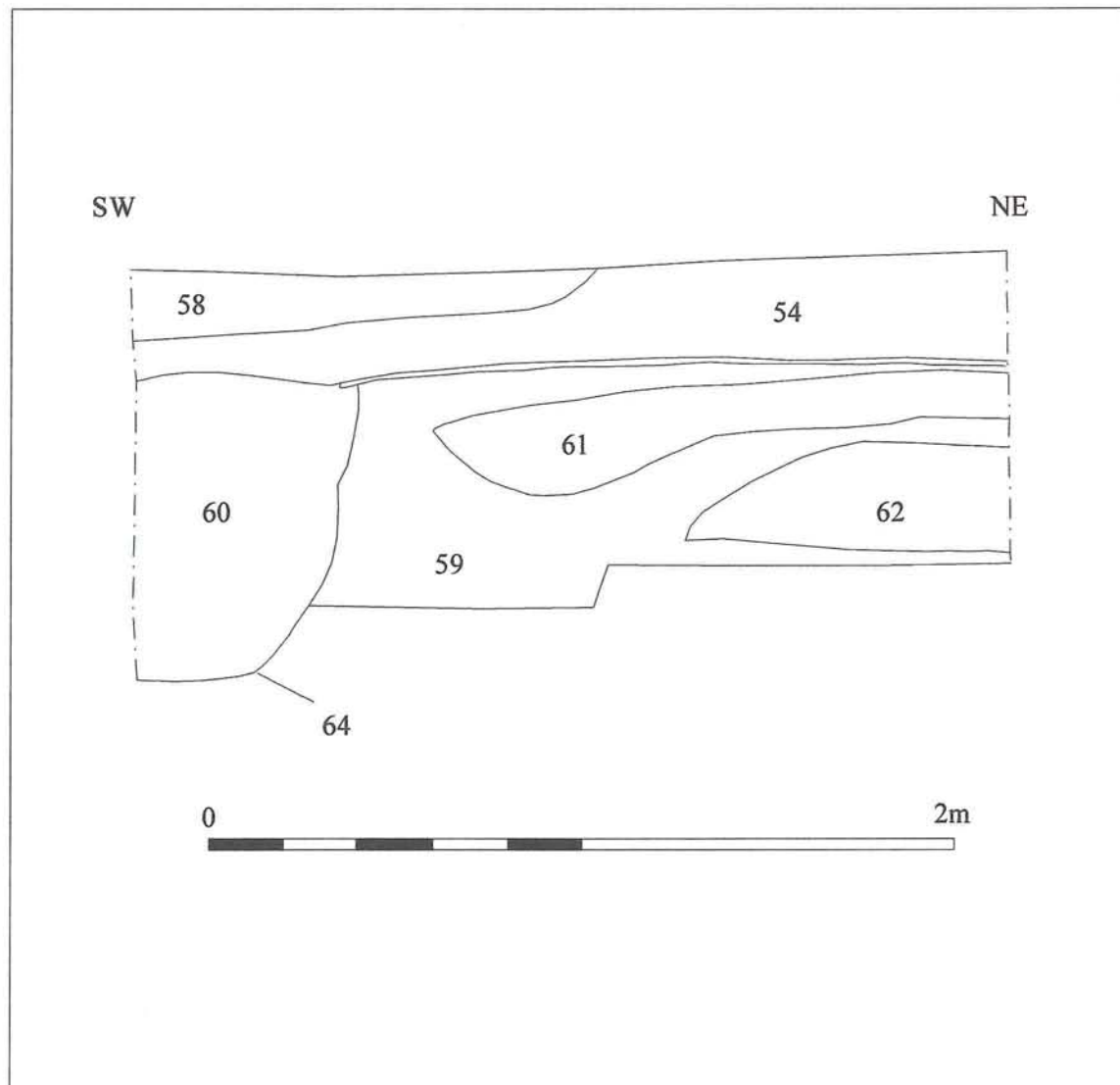


Fig. 6 East Courtyard, trench 8, north-west section

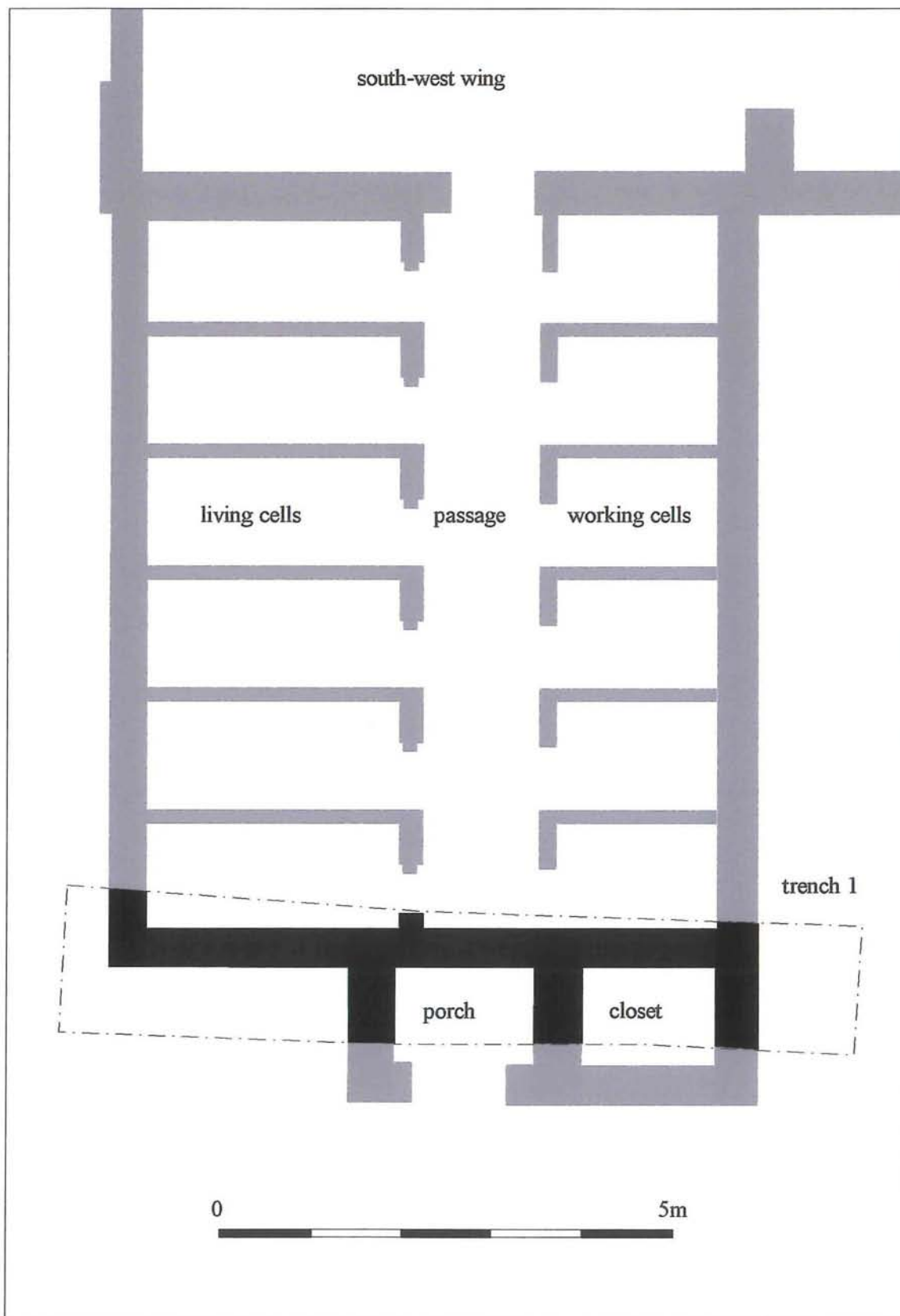


Fig. 7 Suggested plan of the Vagrant's Wing based on excavated evidence

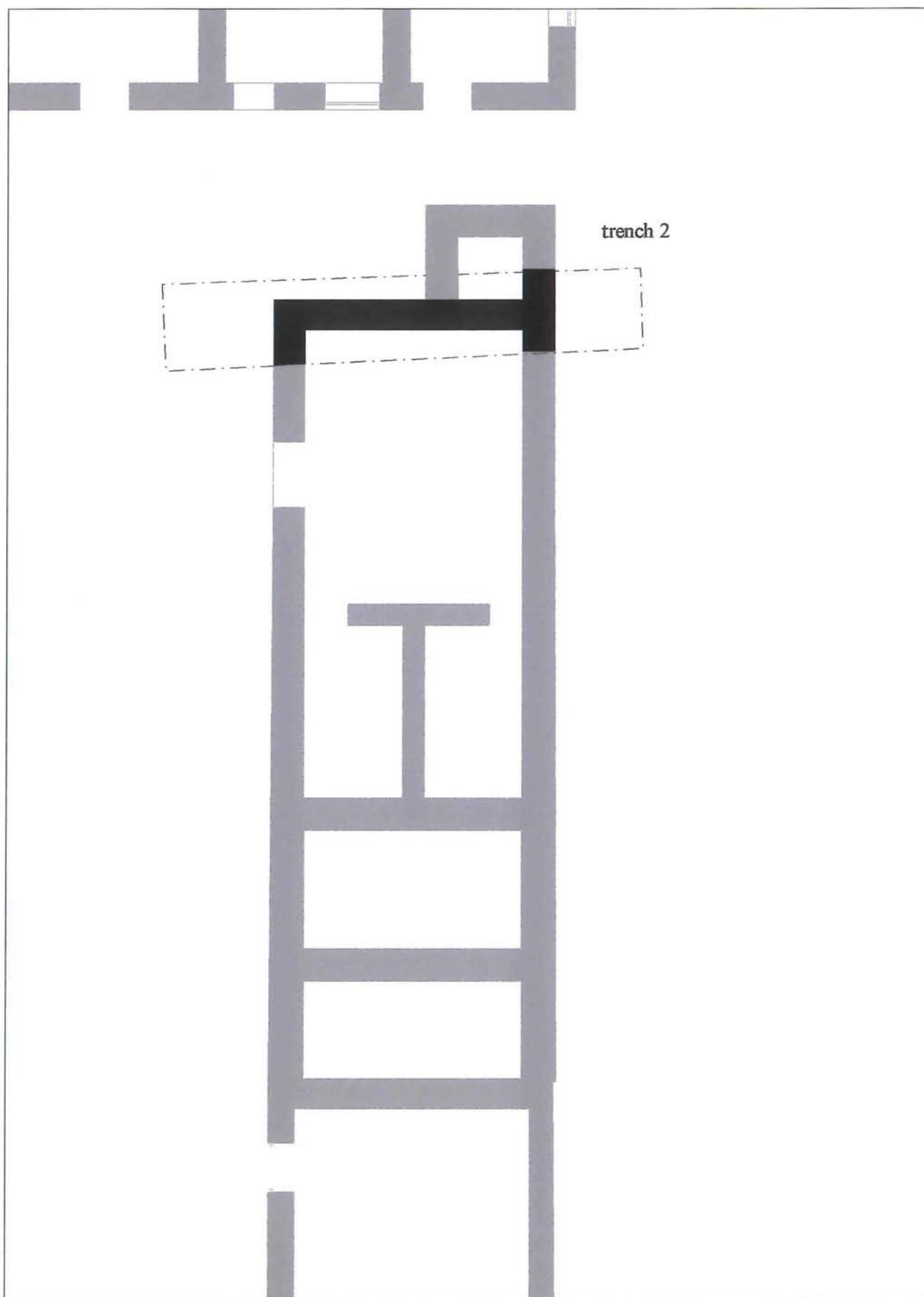


Fig. 8 Plan of the South-east Wing based on excavated evidence and a survey by Montgomeryshire County Council



Plate 1 Vagrants' wing, trench 1, from SE



Plate 2 Vagrants' wing, trench 1, from NW



Plate 3 South-east wing, trench 2, from NW



Plate 4 South-east wing, trench 2, from SE