

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

# ROUNDHOUSE FARM, NANTYGLO

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS



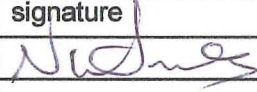
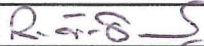
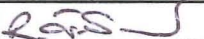
CPAT Report No 715

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**CPAT Report No 715**

# **ROUNDHOUSE FARM, NANTYGLO**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS**

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August 2005

Report for Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Contracting Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) have been approached by Mr Richard Ainsworth of Walfords, to prepare a costing proposal for undertaking a programme of archaeological recording at Roundhouse Farm, Nantyglo, Blaenau Gwent, in connection with the preparation of a Conservation Plan for the buildings.
- 1.2 The complex at Nantyglo dates from the later 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, forming a defended refuge built by the ironmasters of the Nantyglo Ironworks, Joseph and Crawshay Bailey. The main features consist of two defended round towers, a stable range and adjoining barns, together with more minor structures such as a piggery and bull pen. In addition, the proposed scheme includes the remains of Ty Mawr, the mansion associated with Nantyglo, which now only survive as foundations and cellars.

## 2 HISTORY OF ROUNDHOUSE FARM AND ITS ENVIRONS

- 2.1 A programme of desk-based research was undertaken to explore the history and development of the site. 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 Monmouthshire County Record Office, Cwmbran.

### *Introduction*

- 2.2 The Nantyglo round towers and agricultural range, otherwise known as Roundhouse Farm, are grade II\* listed buildings, representing what appears to be a unique survival of the Industrial Revolution era. It has been suggested by some that in effect this was the last private castle to be built in Britain, but the Welsh Royal Commission (RCAHMW) have been a little more cautious in suggesting that 'the round towers are two of the last private domestic structures built in Britain with a serious defensive purpose'.
- 2.3 The complex was constructed in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century by Joseph and Crawshay Bailey, the ironmasters of the Nantyglo Ironworks, as a defensible refuge in the event of any future insurgency by their workforce and other local people.
- 2.4 In this context they represent an integral part of a larger complex that includes the Nantyglo Ironworks and Nantyglo House and as such cannot be divorced from the other elements of the complex. An outline of the Nantyglo works follows in order to provide a context for the assessment of Roundhouse Farm. A fuller statement can be found in the Conservation Management Plan (Pritchard 2005), and the report prepared by John van Laun (2005).

### *Nantyglo Ironworks – a brief history*

- 2.5 Thomas Hill of Stourbridge and Blaenavon and his cousin Thomas Hopkins of Rugeley, Staffordshire, in partnership with Harford, Partridge and Co of Bristol, commenced the construction of the Nantyglo Ironworks in 1792, on land leased from Lord Abergavenny in 1789. In 1794 the works were ready to start production. However, this came to a halt in 1796 after disagreements between the partners. Activity resumed in 1802, when Hill formed a new partnership called the 'Nantyglo Company', but again disputes between the partners led to its closure in 1808.
- 2.6 In 1811, the works were sub-let by Hill and Hoskins to Joseph Bailey and Matthew Wayne, the former probably finding the capital out of money inherited from his uncle, Richard Crawshay, the Cyfarthfa ironmaster, in Merthyr Tydfil. Wayne had been employed at Cyfarthfa and undoubtedly supplied the technical expertise. However, Wayne left in 1820, to establish his own works at Gadlys, Aberdare, and his position at Nantyglo was taken by Bailey's brother, Crawshay Bailey. The works prospered, and in 1833 the brothers purchased the Beaufort Works for £45,000. The two works were then run as single concern, iron smelted at Beaufort being taken to Nantyglo to be processed (Rattenbury 1980, 47-8). According to Lloyd (1906)



the works were amongst the largest of their kind in south Wales, second only in importance and output to the Dowlais Works.

- 2.7 When the Lion Mill was completed in 1844, the Baileys had eight furnaces at Nantyglo, six at Beaufort and many acres were engulfed by the slag and other waste from the works. 'By this time, the Nantyglo Ironworks had a formidable reputation and was one of the most important iron-making sites in the world - supplying railway lines for the British Empire and American markets' (Blaenau Gwent CBC 2003).
- 2.8 Joseph Bailey left Nantyglo in 1830 and retired to the Glanusk estate near Crickhowell in Breconshire. He became MP for Worcester in 1835 and was eventually ennobled as Lord Glanusk. Crawshay Bailey continued to run the works until about 1850, when he retired to Llanfoist House, near Abergavenny, and followed his brother in becoming an MP, for Monmouth, in 1852. His nephews, Richard and Henry, successfully managed the works until 1871, when it was sold to the Nantyglo and Blaina Ironworks Company. Crawshay Bailey died in 1872.
- 2.9 By this time the ironworks were in decline and the Nantyglo and Blaina Ironworks Company were having financial problems. The Nantyglo Works were closed in 1874. They were dismantled in 1878, and the land was sold.

#### ***Roundhouse Farm***

- 2.10 The complex of buildings which later became known as Roundhouse Farm consisted, during the mid and late 19<sup>th</sup> century, of a main E-shaped range of buildings, facing east, a precinct wall with round towers at the north-east and south-west corners, and various ancillary buildings. The northern section of the main range and the original north wing, which stood adjacent to the present farmhouse, have both now disappeared.
- 2.11 The earliest part of the complex is generally considered to be the L-shaped building at the southern end of the complex which, it has been suggested, may have originated as part of Thomas Hill's development at Nantyglo in about 1795, before the Baileys became involved. The range formed a part of the ironworks and was used for storage and for stabling the ponies that were used to haul raw materials and finished goods along the many tramroads which served the works. Certainly the surviving structure reveals at least two phases of construction (see below), the older portion being to the south, and this would tend to favour the conventional view that an existing building was extended during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, this constructional phasing apart, there is no independent evidence to provide a precise date for the first building on the site.

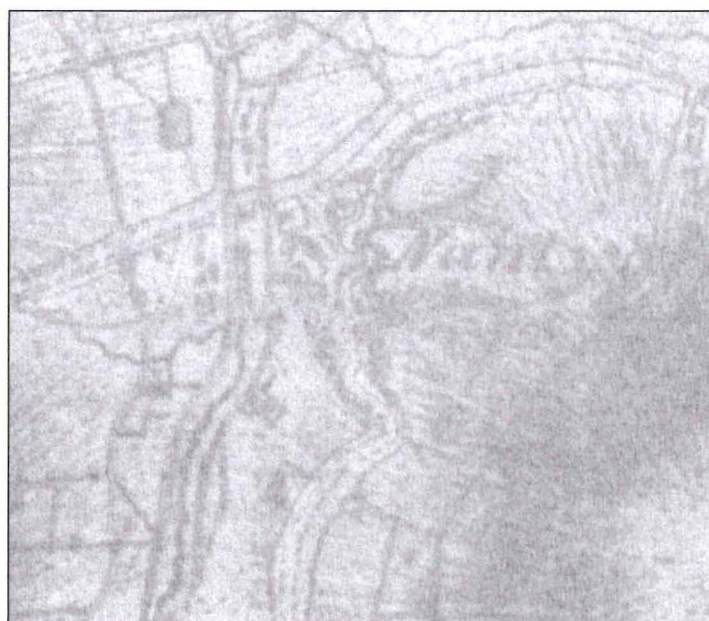


Fig. 1 Ordnance Survey Surveyors' Drawing, 1813



- 2.12 The earliest useful depiction of Nantyglo is the Ordnance Survey Surveyors' Drawing of 1813 (Fig. 1) which, although the quality is poor, appears to show one or more buildings in the area of Nantyglo House, but no indication of any buildings on the site of Roundhouse Farm. There is, too, a potential dating problem which arises from David Davies' estate map of 1821. Again the map depicts not the Roundhouse Farm complex, but one building only, a short distance away from where Nantyglo House was later to be erected (Fig. 2). It was definitely not where Roundhouse Farm was positioned. Taken at face value this might indicate that the complex was not then in existence, but the situation is complicated by the fact that this block of land was already in the ownership of Joseph Bailey, although completely surrounded by Lord Abergavenny's estate. Possibly, then, David Davies chose to ignore what was a farm building rather than a dwelling on someone else's land. Perhaps the best that can be said is that if in existence at this time the buildings of Roundhouse Farm were not considered of particular significance. Unfortunately, the map that might have verified the earlier origin of the stables, an 1813 map of Nantyglo Farm listed in the 2003 Conservation Statement, cannot now be traced in the Gwent Record Office.

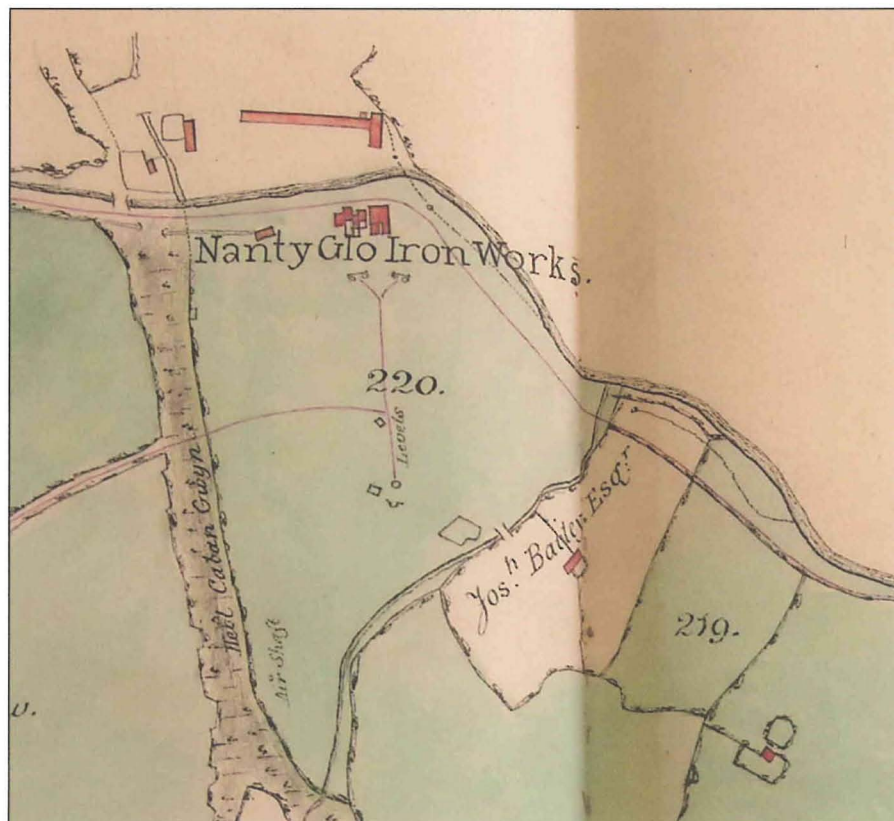


Fig. 2 1821 Survey of the Barony of Abergavenny by David Davies

- 2.13 It has been suggested that it was a riot in Nantyglo in 1816 that occasioned the development of Roundhouse Farm. Joseph Bailey threatened to reduce his workforce's wages and, though he later withdrew the threat, events obviously disturbed the ironmaster so much that he began building the round towers soon afterwards. It is generally assumed (on the basis of local traditions) that both towers and the extension to the agricultural range were added in the period from 1816 to 1820, but no corroborative documentary evidence for this has been encountered.
- 2.14 In 1822, a more serious riot broke out, caused by a reduction in miners' wages. Violence flared up when attempts were made to prevent coal from entering the iron furnaces. A band of workers led by Josiah Evans and Harry Lewis defeated local militiamen and a detachment of Scots Grays were deployed and billeted in the stables for nearly two weeks until peace was restored. It is uncertain, however, whether this story refers to the earlier stable block, or perhaps provides circumstantial evidence that the fortified complex was already in existence. It is this riot that might equally have led to the construction of the fortified enclosure. No documentation has been found which confirms either of these dates.
- 2.15 From the 1820s onwards, there is virtually no reference to Roundhouse Farm in surviving

records, although to some extent the development of the complex can be traced from cartographic sources, at least from the late 1820s. The Ordnance Survey Old Series, revised in 1829 and published in 1832 at a scale of 2 inches to one mile (Fig. 3), shows the E-shaped complex at Roundhouse Farm, along with Nantyglo House (named Great House), with a substantial building to the west, which may be its predecessor, Trosnant House.



Fig. 3 Ordnance Survey Old Series, revised 1829, published 1832

- 2.16 It is the Tithe Survey for Aberystroth Parish in 1841 (Fig. 4) which provides the earliest reliable depiction of the complex. The walled enclosure is shown with a single northern gate, the two round towers, and an E-shaped range of buildings in the centre. This range has a lean-to structure (now referred to as the bull house and sow house; see 3.5 below) at the southern end of the west wall and a single barn in the rick yard to the west (see 3.6 below). At the northern end of the complex the building which is now the farmhouse is also depicted. Nantyglo House is shown, with a range of buildings to the rear and several greenhouses to the west. Field names recorded by the Tithe survey, though difficult to read, are as follows:

Map no.	Name	Use
186	Tosnon T isha	Plantation
187	Trosnant Isha	Plantation
188	no name	Plantation
189	no name	Plantation
190	Stables and yard	
191	no name	Meadow
192	Homestead	
193	Cae hanc	Plantation
194	Wein Uzinog (?)	Meadow
195	no name	Wood
202	no name	Wood
203	no name	Meadow
204	no name	Wood
205	no name	Meadow
206	Gurlo ducha	Meadow



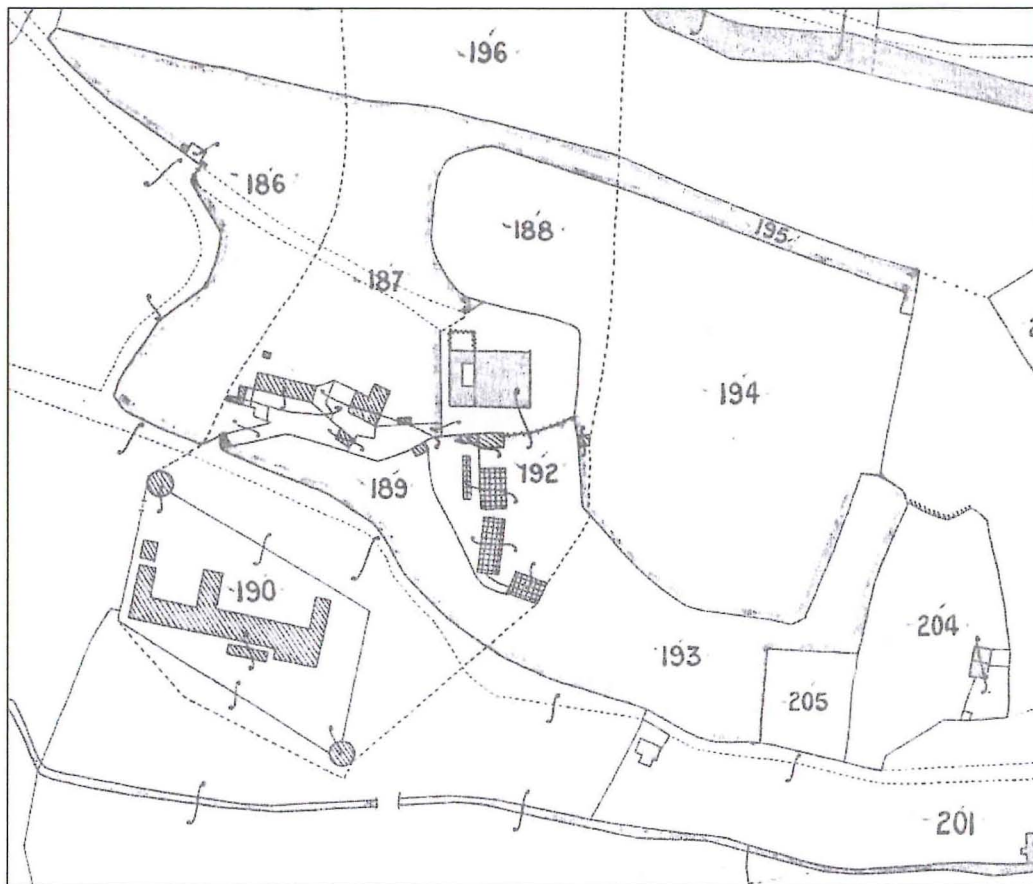


Fig. 4 Tithe Survey for Aberystroth Parish, 1841

- 2.17 The Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 First Edition map, published in 1881 (Fig. 5), shows the complex shortly after the closure of the ironworks. A number of lean-to structures have been added to the northern part of the main range, together with a second barn in the rick yard, what is now referred to as a piggery close to the south-west round tower with a small buildings in between, a polygonal structure in the farm yard (see 4.2 - 4.7 below), and two animal pens in the south-east corner. A tramway is also shown entering the enclosure through the northern gateway, although its absence from the Tithe Survey should not be taken as an indicator that it was not present at that date. The small building between the piggery and the round tower may be the structure which, according to a local man (Trevor Rowson, cited by Barber and Blackmore), functioned as a salt house. By this date the rear range of Nantyglo House appears to have undergone significant modification, if not rebuilding.



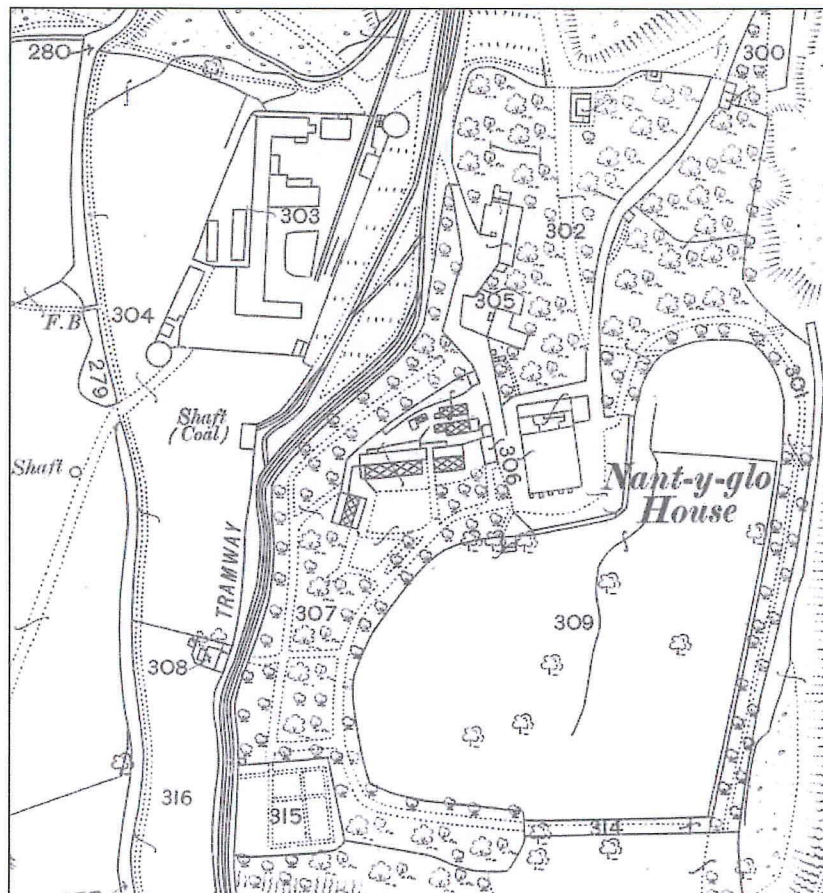


Fig. 5 Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1:2,500 map, 1881

- 2.18 The Ordnance Survey Second Edition map, published in 1901 (Fig. 6) shows a few minor changes. Within the enclosure the piggery is shown without a roof, the structure in the farmyard has been reduced in size, the tramway has been removed, and a narrow rectangular structure occupies part of its route, close to the eastern boundary. A number of changes are also evident to the lean-to structures against the northern part of the main range.
- 2.19 The Third Edition of 1920 (Fig. 7) shows further changes, with the northern part of the main range apparently disused and the present north wing, which was originally the centre wing of the larger E-shaped complex, divided into cottages, to the south of which a small rectangular structure in the farmyard has replaced the earlier polygonal structure (see para 4.4). Interestingly, the piggery is now shown as being roofed. The name Roundhouse Farm also appears for the first time.

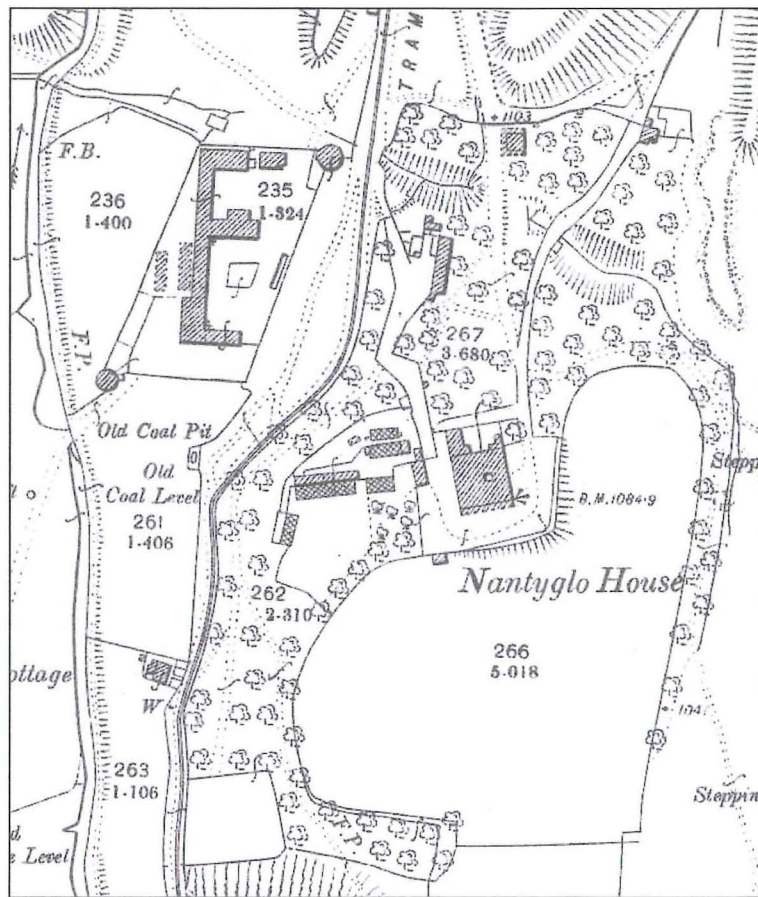


Fig. 6 Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 1:2,500 map, 1901

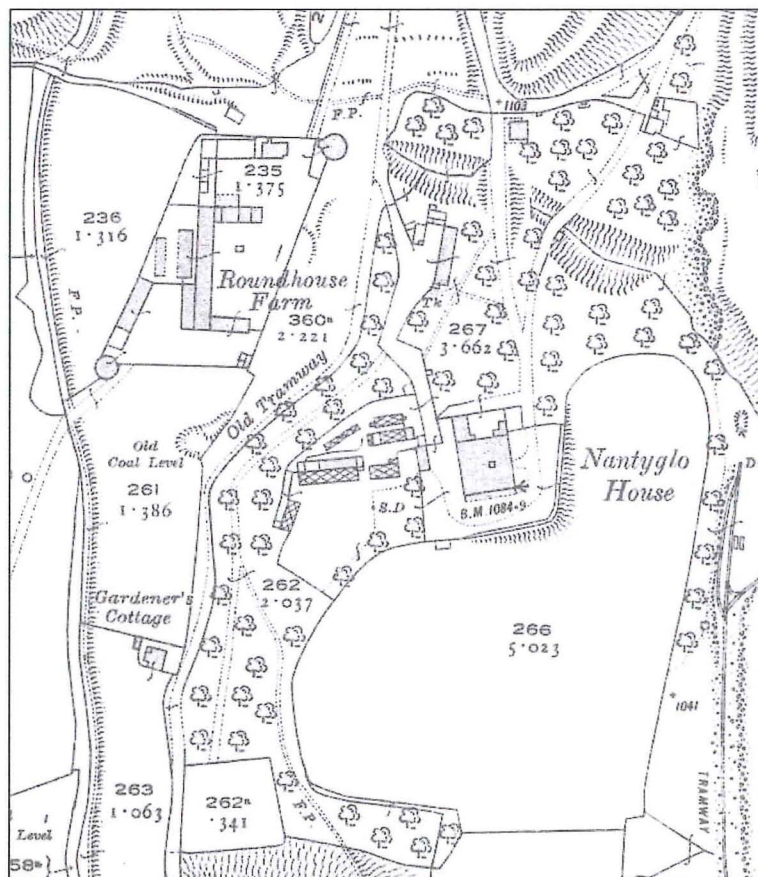


Fig. 7 Ordnance Survey 3<sup>rd</sup> edition 1:2,500 map, 1920



- 2.20 Although there is little specific contemporary information regarding the functions of the various buildings within the enclosure, rather more is known about the two round towers. The north-east tower was designed to shelter the ironmaster, his family and supporters in times of unrest, but only ever had two storeys. According to Chris Barber's informant the local militia were billeted here on at least five occasions.
- 2.21 In the 1840s, the top floor of the south-west round tower was used as a residence by the Baileys' private secretary, James Wells. Local legend insists that a tunnel once connected it to Nantyglo House, a type of tale more often associated with earlier high status buildings such as monasteries, churches and gentry homes. Nantyglo House and the round towers were occupied by the managers of the Nantyglo and Blaina Ironworks Company until 1885 when all the effects were sold by public auction.
- 2.22 The south-west tower continued to be occupied into the 1930s. Its roof, floor-joists, window-sills, frames and fireplaces were all originally of cast-iron, but much of this was removed with the use of explosives and sold as scrap in the years between 1942 and 1945 (but wrongly ascribed to the First World War by Barber and Blackmore). The third storey was still in existence in the 1950s, but has since disappeared.
- 2.23 In October 2000 the south-west tower suffered partial collapse. As a result, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council acted as agents in securing funding for and project managing a scheme of holding works to stabilise the structure. Funding was secured from Cadw and the WDA and the works were completed in November 2002.

### ***Nantyglo House***

- 2.24 In 1816, Joseph Bailey purchased a block of land which included Tros(s)nant House, the former dwelling of Richard Harford, one of Hill's original partners, which in 1801 had been acquired by Hill himself. In 1792 John Harford, Richard Harford's uncle, had lived at Nantyglo in the same row of cottages as his workers, but by 1799 Richard had built 'an agreeable house surrounded by meadows (Gray Jones 1970, 61). The house was visited by William Coxe in one of his tours through Monmouthshire in 1799 (Davies 1904, 215). On the land the Baileys erected a much more impressive structure, known usually as Nantyglo House; it has also been called Ty Mawr, or Great House as it is labelled by the Ordnance Survey in 1829 (see Fig. 3). The date of construction is uncertain although Lewis (1838) records it as 1816, while other sources have suggested that the new mansion was on the site of the earlier house and that it was not erected until 1826, but this has not been confirmed from independent records. The 1821 map by David Davies is not of a sufficiently large scale to be certain on this point. The 1829 depiction does, however, show a substantial building to the west of Nantyglo House which does not appear on later sources and it is therefore possible that this was Trosnant House.



Fig. 8 Ty Mawr, or Nantyglo House

- 2.25 The new house faced away from the ironworks and was surrounded by grounds to cut out the sights and sounds of the industrial activity in the vicinity. The gardens were completed with avenues of trees and a mountain stream. A stone bridge crossed this stream, carrying a coach



road from the lodge houses to the mansion through a tree-lined avenue. The mansion was built on raised ground, to give the occupants a panoramic view of the valley to the south.

- 2.26 Nantyglo House was fronted by a colonnade of six iron pillars (cast at the works) supporting a verandah canopy (Fig. 8), the base of which still exists. The visitor entered by a central arched doorway and was then faced by a marble staircase to the upper floor of the house. Three large cellars, complete with access steps to the courtyard and the kitchen areas, still remain. It has been claimed that the servants were housed in the nearby Trostant House – which would only have been possible if, contrary to what was stated in para 2.24, this house was still standing – and, at the rear of the Nantyglo House, a series of annex buildings enclosed a small coach yard.
- 2.27 After the death of the last occupant, Samuel Lancaster, in 1885 the house was put up for a sale. Whether or not it was allowed to fall into ruin is not clear, but it was apparently destroyed during the Second World War. In the 1980s, the site was excavated, with professional archaeological guidance, by pupils of Nantyglo Comprehensive School and then consolidated. Since then, the site has been neglected, and all that remains of Ty Mawr today are the excavated foundations.

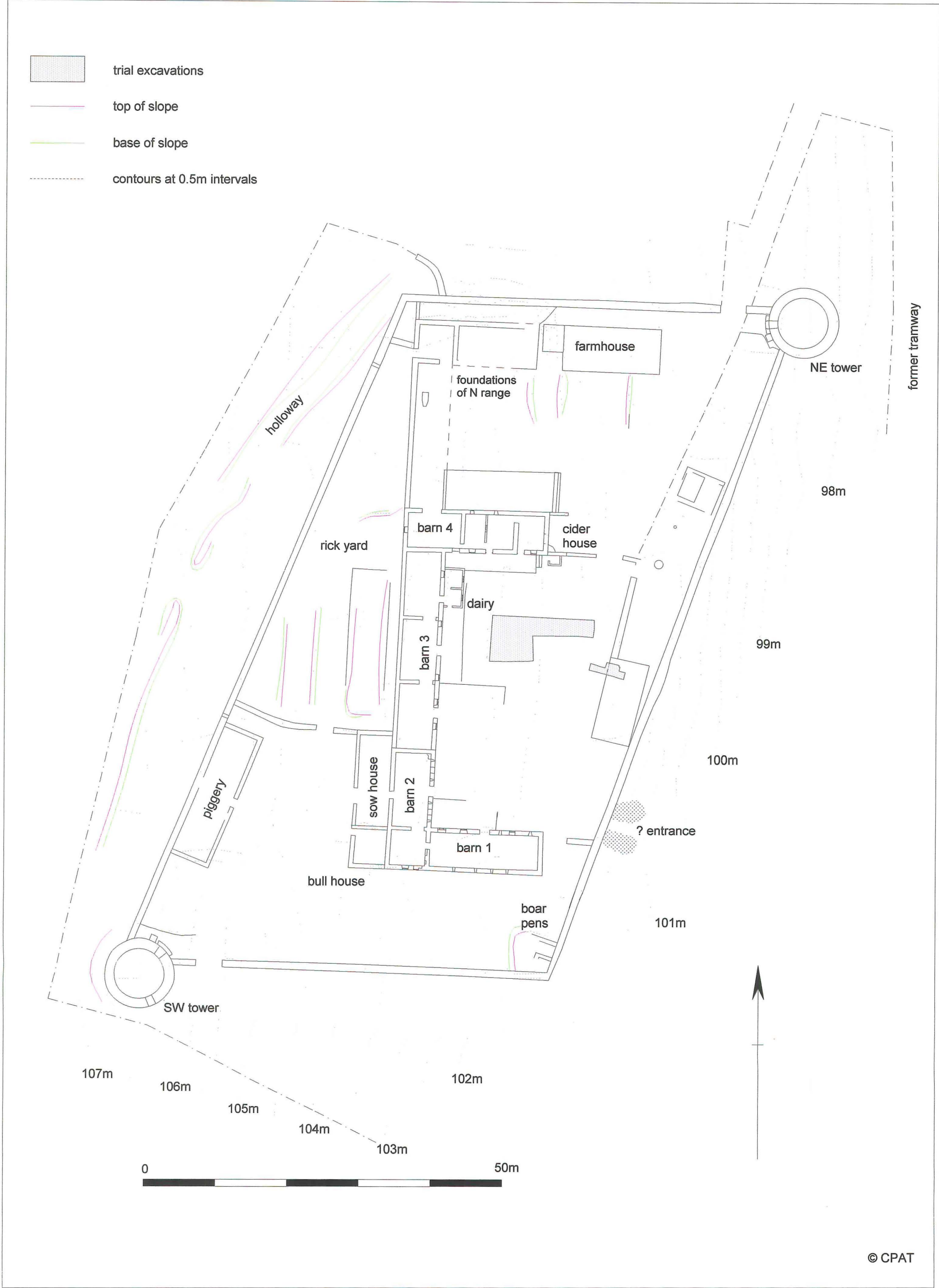


Fig. 9 Roundhouse Farm topographical survey and ground plan. Contours at 0.5m intervals to site datum.



### 3 TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY (Fig. 9)

- 3.1 The area of the farm complex was subject to a detailed topographic survey, recording the position of all extant buildings and structures, as well as earthworks and foundations of former buildings. The results were used to produce a detailed plan of the site, including contours, with levels reduced to fixed control points rather than to Ordnance Survey Datum.
- 3.2 The overall site layout is unusual in that although the main building complex is aligned north to south this is surrounded by a walled enclosure forming a parallelogram with the longer axis aligned north-north-east to south-south-west. The enclosure measures c. 55m east to west and 95m north to south, with a total area of 5,170m<sup>2</sup> (0.5ha). The enclosure wall, as with the rest of the buildings on the site, is constructed of roughly dressed Pennant Sandstone and has clearly seen significant periods of rebuilding such that much of the original walling has disappeared. There are entrances in the north and south walls alongside the defended round towers which occupy the south-west and north-east corners, projecting outward from the enclosure. Both gateways have cast iron plates for receiving the vertical hinge-rods of what were probably iron gates. There are also traces of a possible entrance on the east side, towards the south-east corner, where in situ masonry and spreads of rubble lie to either side of a hollow or track approaching the enclosure from the north-east.
- 3.3 The enclosure is constructed on a slope with the land falling gradually from the south-west to north-east, a height difference of around 7.5m. The surrounding landscape has been much improved although the earthworks of numerous colliery shafts and spoil tips survive, particularly to the north, but outside the survey area. The remains of a holloway which predates the enclosure are visible in the field immediately to the west, being most evident near the north-west corner of the enclosure.
- 3.4 The main complex of buildings lies in the centre of the enclosure with the earliest structures, Barns 1 and 2, at the southern end. Barns 3 and 4 were added at a later date, together with a further range of buildings to the north, of which only partial ruins now remain, including a polygonal sheep dip. A detailed description of the standing buildings is presented below. The present farmhouse lies at the northern end of the enclosure, incorporating at its eastern end a lean-to which was formerly the tack room for the stables in Barn 3.
- 3.5 Two buildings adjoin the western side of Barn 2, both of which are later additions. The more southerly was used as a bull house while the northern building was at one time a sow house, the tethering rings of which survive in the outer wall of Barn 2. Both buildings may have had cast iron roof structures and a single cast iron upright with arched brace survives in the west wall of the sow house. Further to the west are the remains of another piggery and in the south-east corner of the enclosure are the remains of two animal pens used at one time to house the boars. There is a small opening in the enclosure wall just to the north of the piggery, presumably to allow animals to forage on the adjacent common land, and a second, blocked opening towards the north-west corner of the enclosure.
- 3.6 To the north of the piggery was a triangular rick yard with two hay barns, the foundations of which can still be identified. The barns appear to have been raised on a stone plinth and were open-sided each with a cast iron roof structure supported on cast iron stanchions. Both barns were around 5.4 wide, with the eastern barn measuring 20.4 in length and the western barn about 15m.
- 3.7 Two modern corrugated iron lean-to buildings adjoin the northern side of Barn 4, with a similar building along the eastern side of the enclosure to the north of which is a former garden area which includes the brick foundations for a building, possibly a greenhouse.



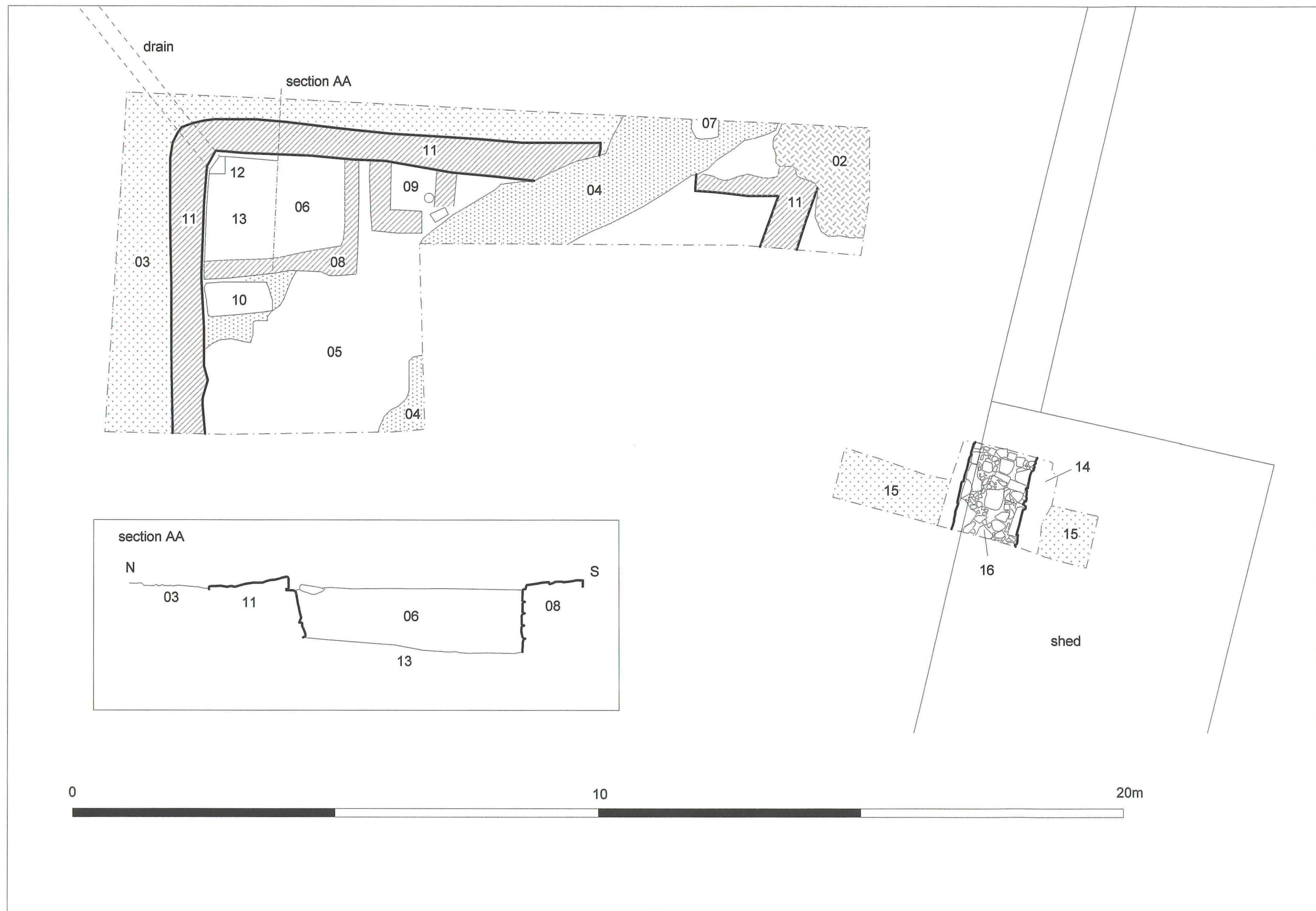


Fig. 10 Trial excavations within farm yard



#### 4 TRIAL EXCAVATION (Fig. 10)

- 4.1 Two areas within the main farm yard were subject to small-scale trial excavations to determine the nature and survival of a sub-rectangular structure and tramway recorded by the Ordnance Survey in 1881 (Fig. 5). Both areas were excavated by hand and reinstated on completion. Numbers in brackets in the following text refer to individual context numbers in the site archive.
- 4.2 The topographical survey had already identified part of the north-west corner of the sub-rectangular structure, where a short length of walling was just visible at ground level and a slight ridge indicated the position of the west wall. The removal of the topsoil revealed the basal remains of structure (11), which consisted of roughly lime-mortared stone walling up to 0.6m wide, outside which was the metallised farmyard, formed from compacted small angular stone (03).



Plate 1 North-west corner of the midden enclosure. Photo CPAT 1929-16

- 4.3 The structure had evidently been terraced into the slightly sloping ground, so that the interior of the west wall was 0.5m below the external yard surface, the internal wall facing being slightly battered. The ground surface inside the structure consisted of clay (13), with no indication of a metallised surface. In the north-west corner a drain (12) was identified cutting into the clay, with a culvert within the walling alongside. It would seem likely that this carried rain water from a downpipe in the corner of the barn complex.
- 4.4 The position and nature of the structure suggest that it was built as a midden enclosure in the centre of the farmyard. Manure from the stables and animal pens would have been barrowed into the enclosure for temporary storage. Evidence from the excavations, together with the Ordnance Survey mapping, suggest that the enclosure was around 17.5m long north to south, and tapered from 12.25m wide at the northern end to 10.5m at the southern end. It would appear that by 1900 the southern half of the enclosure had been removed and by 1920 the structure seems to have been levelled.



- 4.5 A small structure had been added in the north-west corner of the enclosure, measuring 2.87 x 1.32m externally, and constructed of stone walling (08) 0.37m thick, butting against the enclosure wall. The nature of the infill and the recollection of the present owner suggest that this was used to collect ash from the domestic quarters in Barn 4 and it is likely to be the small structure depicted by the Ordnance Survey in 1920. To the south of this structure was a large slab (10) surrounded by an area of rough cobbling just below the present ground level, the function of which is uncertain.



Plate 2 North-west corner of the midden enclosure after excavation showing the ash pit (08) and drain (12)

- 4.6 Alongside the ash pit was another small stone structure (09), measuring 1.6 x 1.3m, which also butted against the enclosure wall. The function of the structure remains uncertain, although there was a salt-glazed downpipe *in situ* in the south-east corner.
- 4.7 Some time during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, presumably after the enclosure fell into disuse, a rough cobbled path (04) was laid on top of the main yard surface, cutting through the north wall of the enclosure and extending into the interior. More recently, material (02) had been dumped by the present owner to level the area in the north-east corner of the evaluation.
- 4.8 The second trench was excavated across the front of the shed along the eastern side of the farmyard. Stone visible at ground level suggested that some structure might survive which related to the tramway depicted by the Ordnance Survey in 1881. The removal of the topsoil revealed the upper part of a stone wall (16) 1.2m wide with modern levelling material (15) butting against either side. This was removed along either wall face to reveal up to two courses of masonry standing to 0.2m in height.





Plate 3 Stone structure (16)

- 4.9 The function of the walling remains uncertain, although its position and alignment suggest that it may have been related to the tramway, of which no structural evidence was revealed during the excavation.



## 5 BUILDING SURVEY

- 5.1.1 A programme of detailed building recording was undertaken, generally following the prescription for a Level 3 Survey as identified in *Recording Historic Buildings: a descriptive specification* (RCHME 1996).
- 5.1.2 The building survey was undertaken using as a primary means of recording a reflectorless laser theodolite, or Electronic Distance Meter (EDM), in conjunction with Penmap survey software to record all external elevations, including architectural detail, differences in construction and phases, but excluding stone-for-stone recording. Where visual access was limited additional detail was recorded using conventional hand recording. The survey data was manipulated using AutoCAD software to produce two-dimensional plans, elevations and sections. A second element of the building survey was a photographic survey, undertaken using digital photography.
- 5.1.3 It was not possible to gain unrestricted access to the interiors of some of the structures, particularly the first floor areas, due to concerns over health and safety. Access to parts of the ground floor in Barns 1 and 2 was also hindered by the stabling of horses and the storage of fodder.
- 5.1.4 The building survey of the two round towers was conducted during February 2005, while the remaining buildings were surveyed in May 2005.



Plate 4 North-east tower

### North-east tower

- 5.2.1 The tower is of rubble stone construction with dressed stone around the openings, cast iron internal beams and joists, and a cast iron and brick roof. It is interesting to note that, as with other early cast iron structures, the joists are joined to the beams using carpentry-style dove-tail joints. The beams are T-sectioned, 22m thick and 115mm wide, tapering from 230mm deep in the centre to 165mm at either end. There are seven pairs of dove-tail joints set approximately 0.9m apart. The joists have an inverted L-shaped section, 22mm thick, 70mm wide and 135mm deep, with peg holes 12mm square set approximately 275mm apart.



Plate 5 Detail of cast iron dove-tail joint

- 5.2.2 The tower is approximately 9.5m in diameter at ground floor level, the base of the walls splaying as the ground level falls to the east, with walls approximately 1.1m thick at ground level, reducing to around 1.0-1.05m at first-floor level. The tower walls are surmounted by small crenellations.

*Cellar (Fig. 11)*

- 5.2.3 The cellar is approximately 6.75m in diameter and 1.7m deep, accessed by an internal, solid staircase against the west wall. At the base of the stairs is an air vent protected by iron bars which leads through the wall to a grated external opening at ground level. The cellar is divided into three main areas by substantial masonry walls, the northern part containing the stairs and the southern two further subdivided by short stub walls. The flooring is of yellow brick.



Plate 6 North-east tower, stairs to first floor

*Ground floor (Fig. 12)*



- 5.2.4 The ground floor is approximately 7.3m in diameter internally, with a single doorway to the west with an external stone porch with slated roof and iron door frame. The door survives *in situ*, constructed of riveted iron sections, secured by two large bolts and a single mortise lock. There are two gun loops with internal iron flaps around 1.25m above the base of the door. The doorway is plain with simple cast iron lintels internally and externally, and a stone-vaulted entrance passage.
- 5.2.5 The dressed stone, cantilever staircase rising to the first floor survives intact, with 19 steps, each of which has a socket for an iron spindle which would have supported a wooden balustrade. There are five lancet windows, all of which retain their iron window frames. The walling above each of the windows is supported on three cast iron plates, sloping down towards the outside of the windows. A mains water pipe enters the tower at the base of the north-west window.
- 5.2.6 The two cast iron beams supporting the floor survive *in situ*, as do most of the joists, although five are missing. The ground floor appears to have been divided into two rooms, each with its own fireplace.



Plate 7 North-east tower entrance

*First floor (Fig. 13)*

- 5.2.7 The first floor is approximately 7.3m in diameter internally, with five intact lancet windows. Again the floor was divided into two rooms, each with its own fireplace, the northern one preserving its original cast iron grate. Part of the timber partition wall, including the doorway, survives on the western side. A well-preserved dressed stone cantilever staircase rises to the roof, with 21 steps. The two cast iron beams and the joists supporting the floor all survive *in situ*.

*Roof (Fig. 14)*

- 5.2.8 The roof has an unusual construction, comprising a series of cast iron segments supported on the same arrangement of cast iron beams and joists as the ground and first floors. The centre of the roof is formed by a circular cast iron plate c. 1.8m in diameter with a small central hole. A ring of 20 segments surrounds this, with an outer diameter of c. 5.1m. There appears to have been a problem in the casting of these segments, with insufficient tolerance allowed for shrinkage as the metal cooled, so that three iron fillets were required to fill gaps in the circuit. The outer ring has an external diameter of c. 7.5m and comprises 31 complete segments, with different cast iron plates surrounding the roof hatch. The outer plates rested on a composite cast iron ring beam laid in segments on the inner wall capping. A layer of bricks was laid on top of the cast iron segments, originally sealed by a layer of pitch. Over the years the weight of the roof has led to the structural failure of the supporting beams and joists, with the result that the roof has dropped in the centre by perhaps 0.2m, also cracking several of the roof segments. The whole has been supported by scaffolding since the 1980s, the safety of which is uncertain.
- 5.2.9 The original level of the roof is uncertain, although it may have sloped slightly to the centre, as suggested by the central drain hole. There is, however, a small drain just to the south of the easternmost of three chimneys.



Plate 8 North-east tower, cast iron roof plates



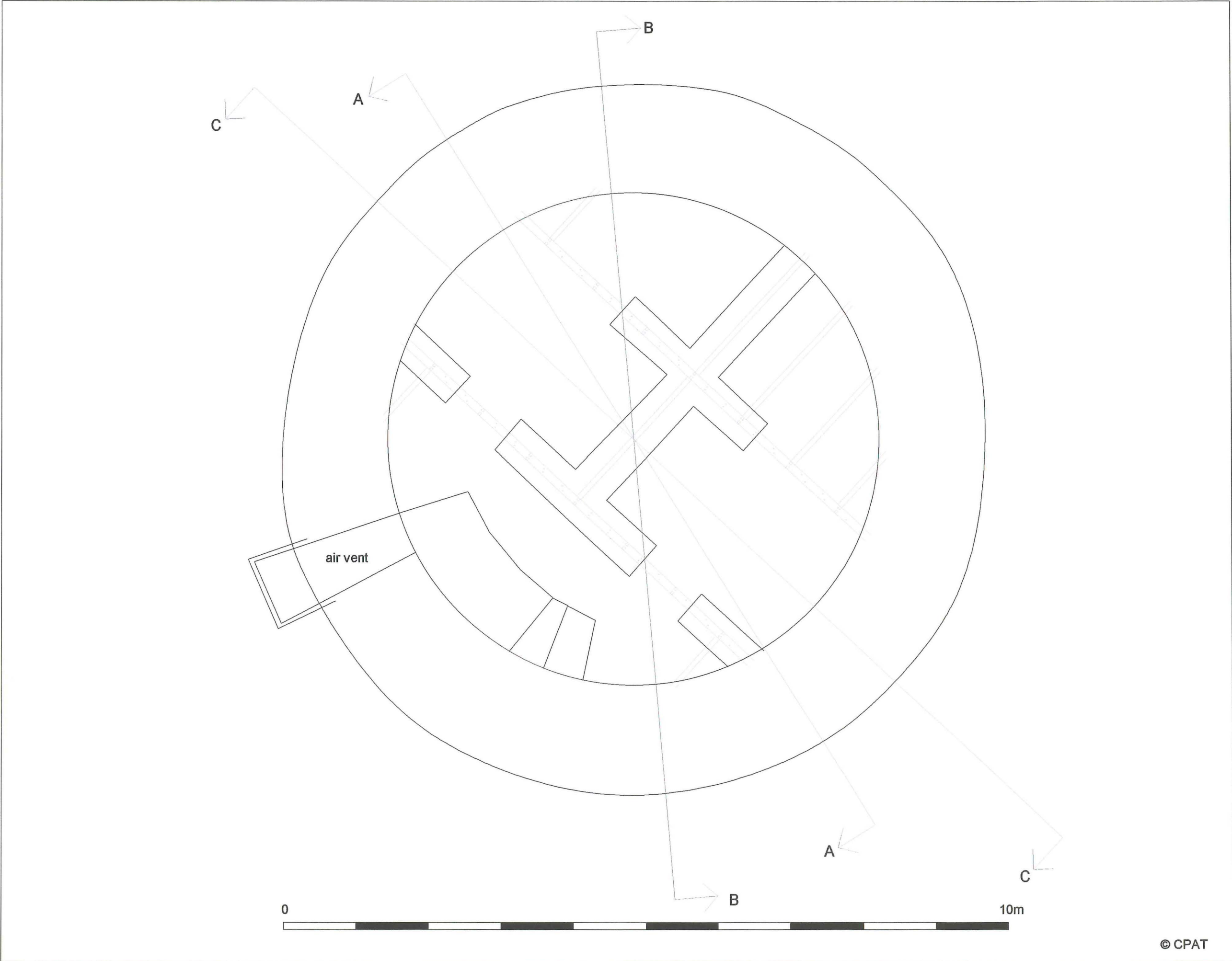


Fig. 11 Roundhouse Farm north-east tower, cellar plan

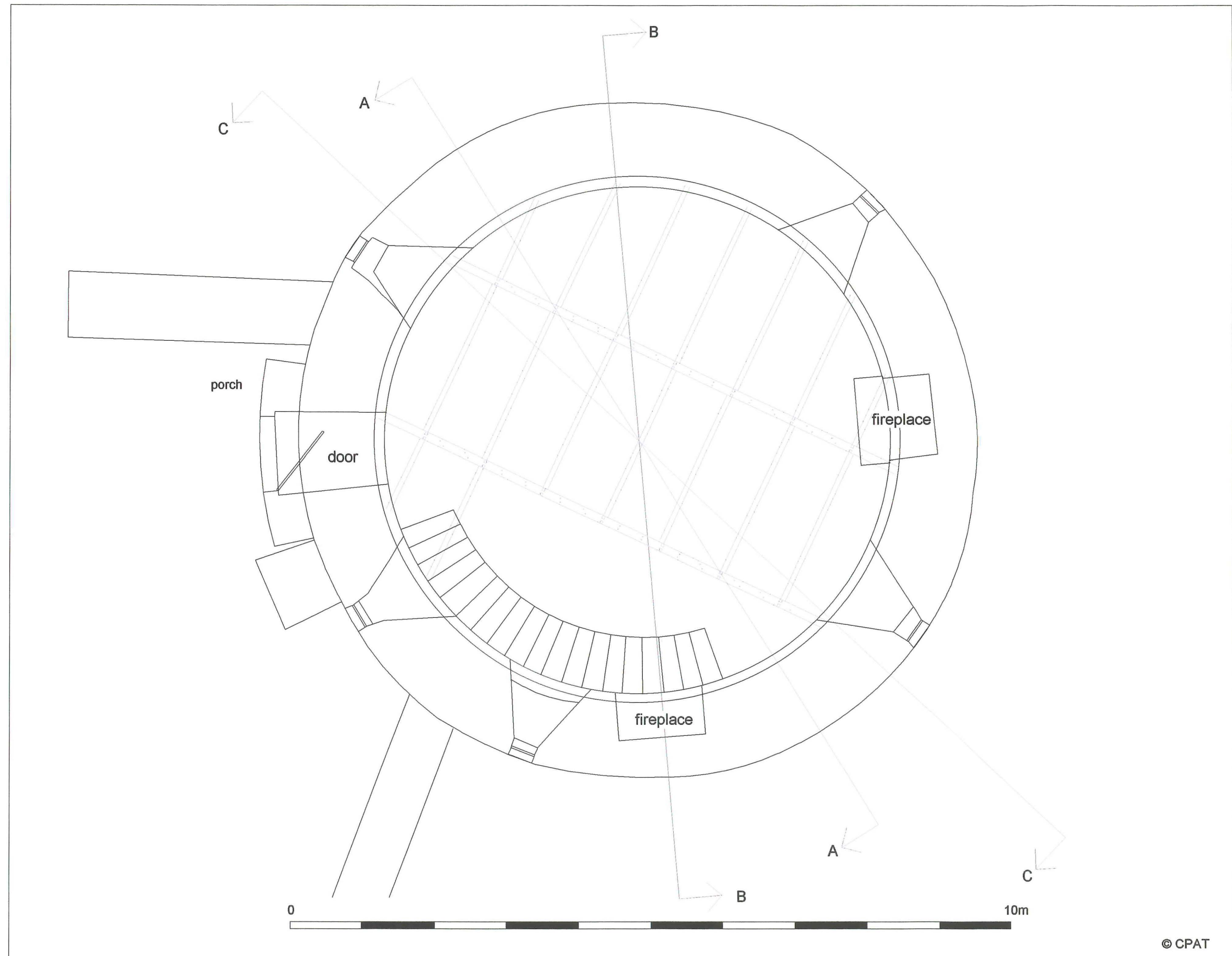


Fig. 12 Roundhouse Farm north-east tower, ground floor plan



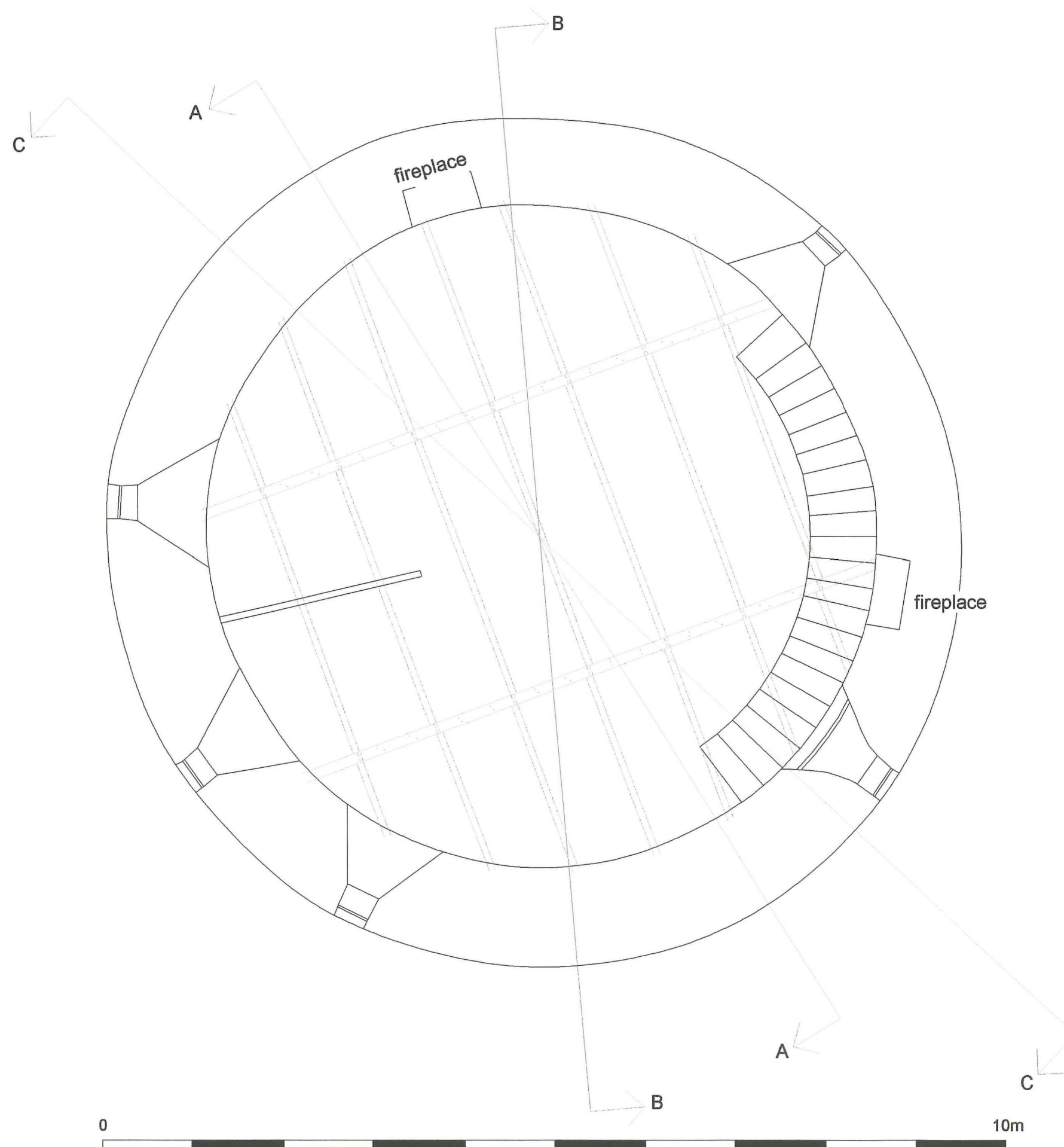


Fig. 13 Roundhouse Farm north-east tower, first floor plan showing roof beams

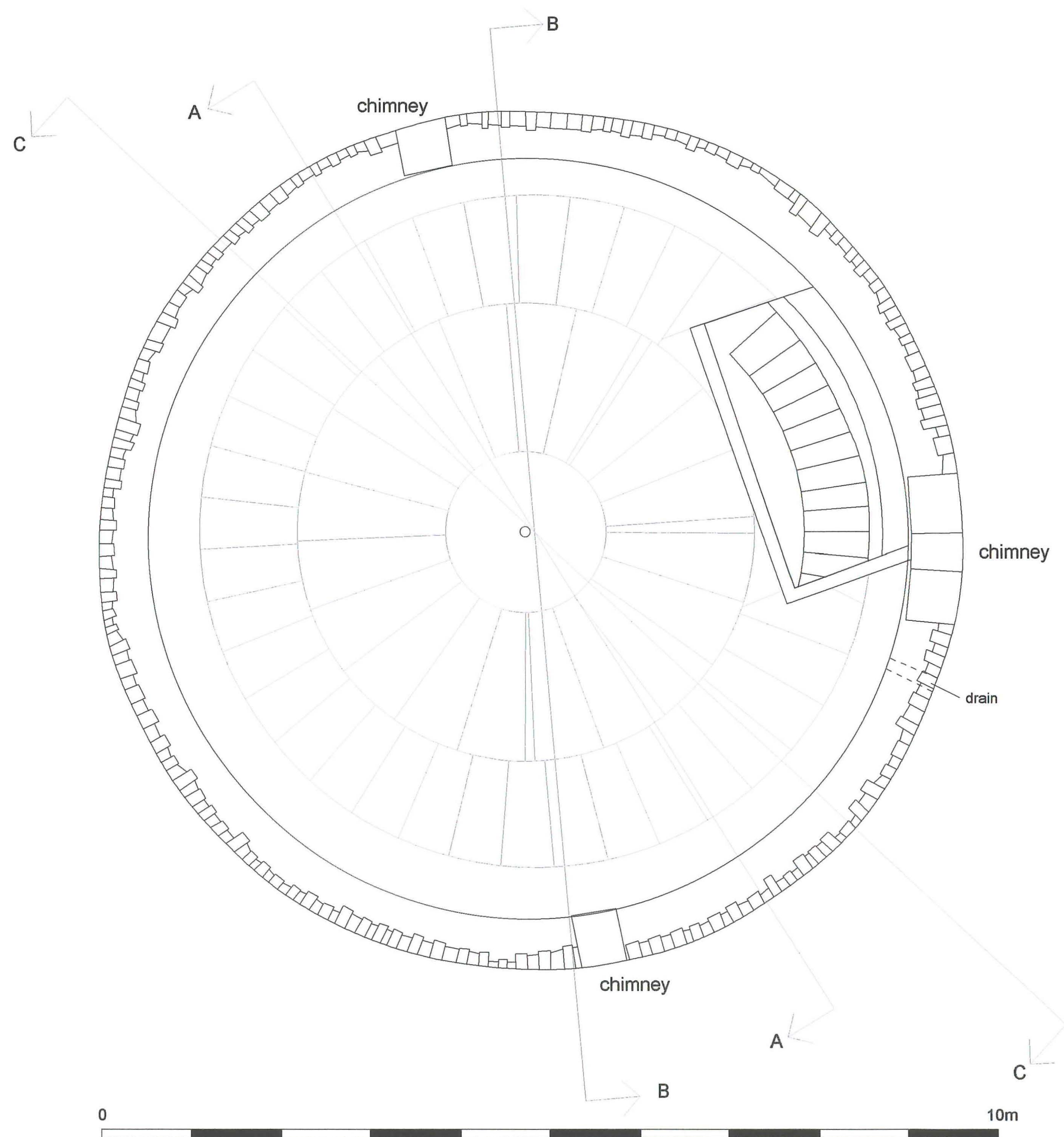


Fig. 14 Roundhouse Farm north-east tower, roof plan showing segmented construction



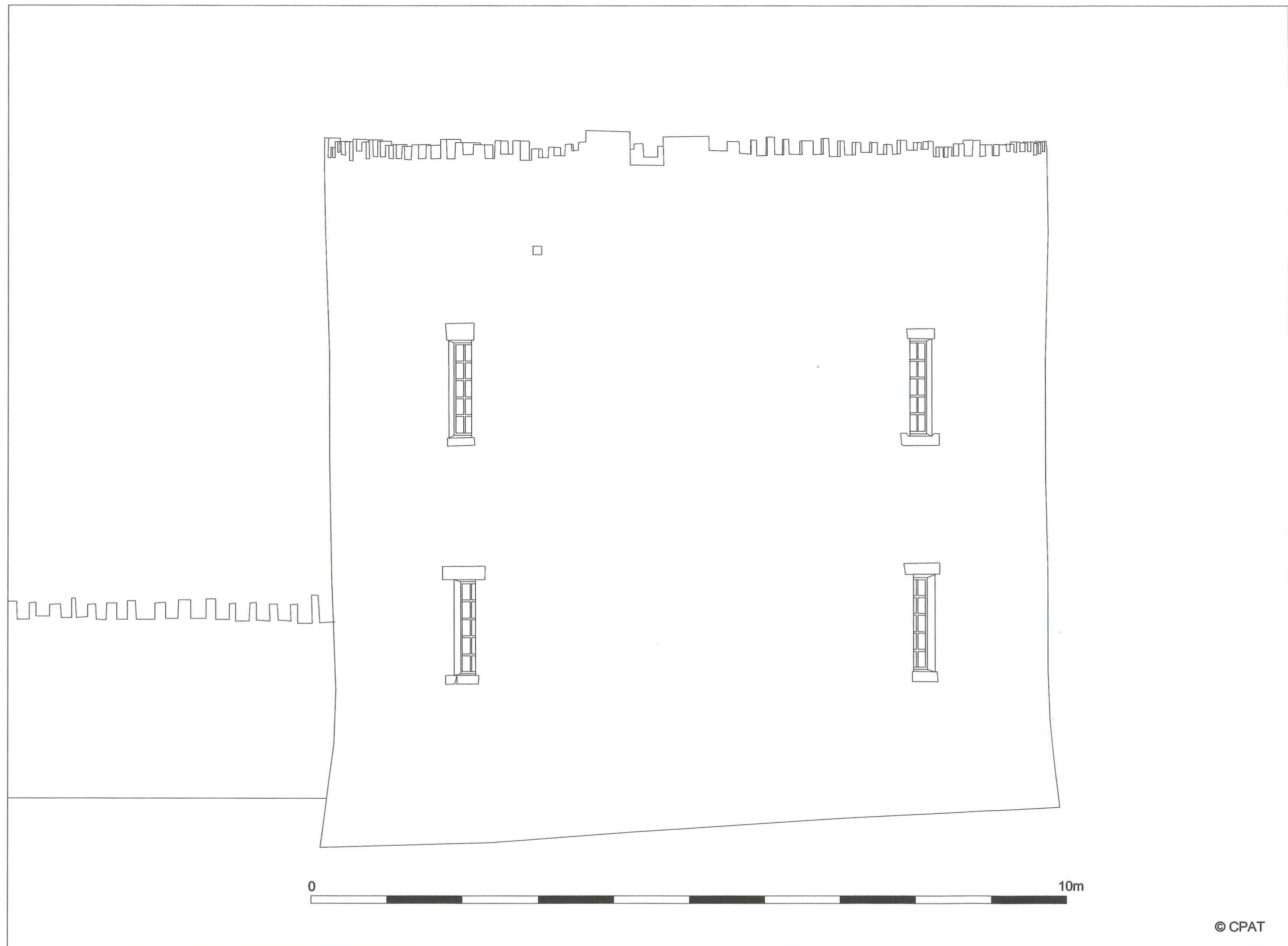


Fig. 15 Roundhouse Farm north-east tower, east elevation (B-B)

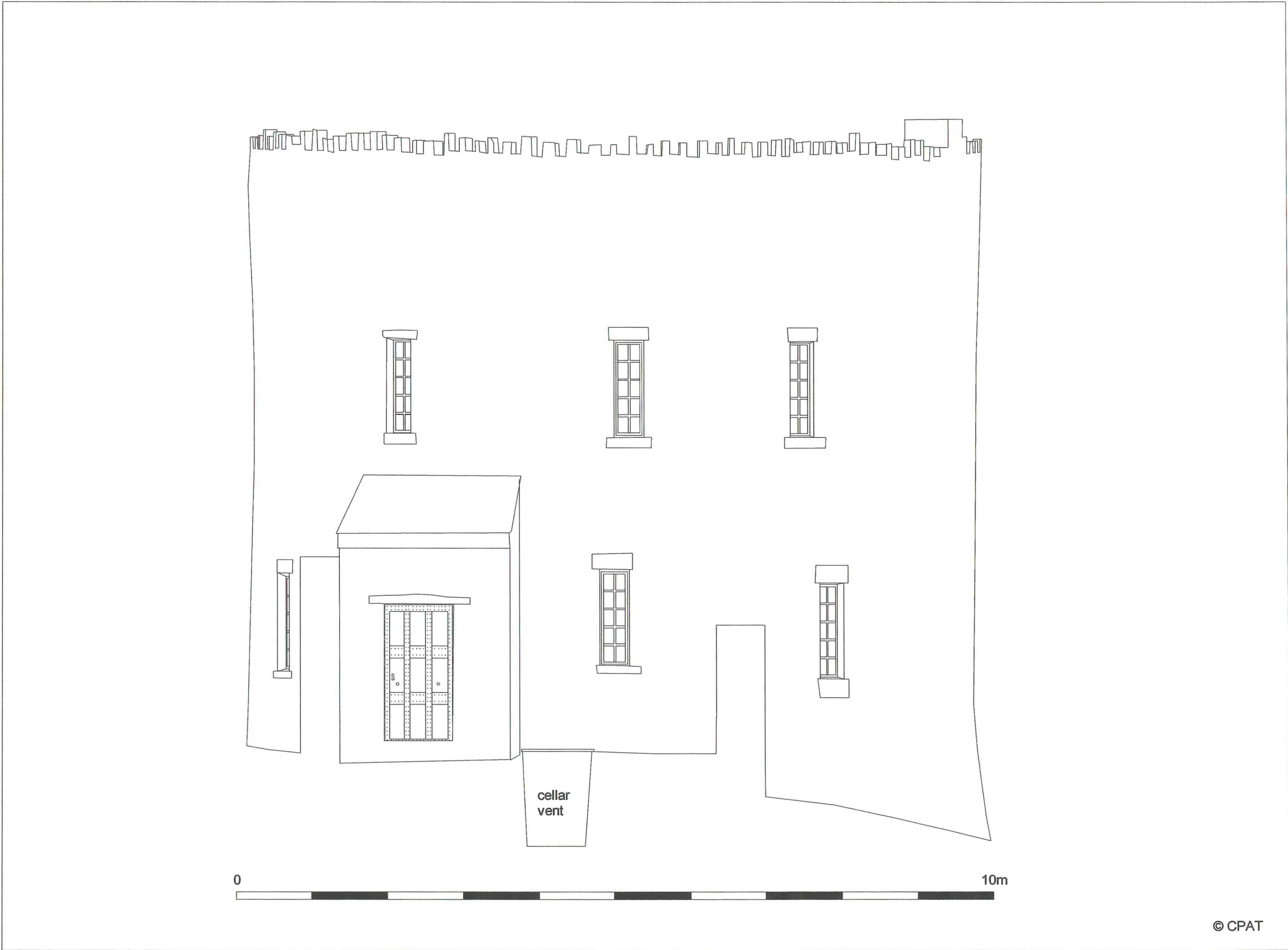


Fig. 16 Roundhouse Farm north-east tower, west elevation (A-A)



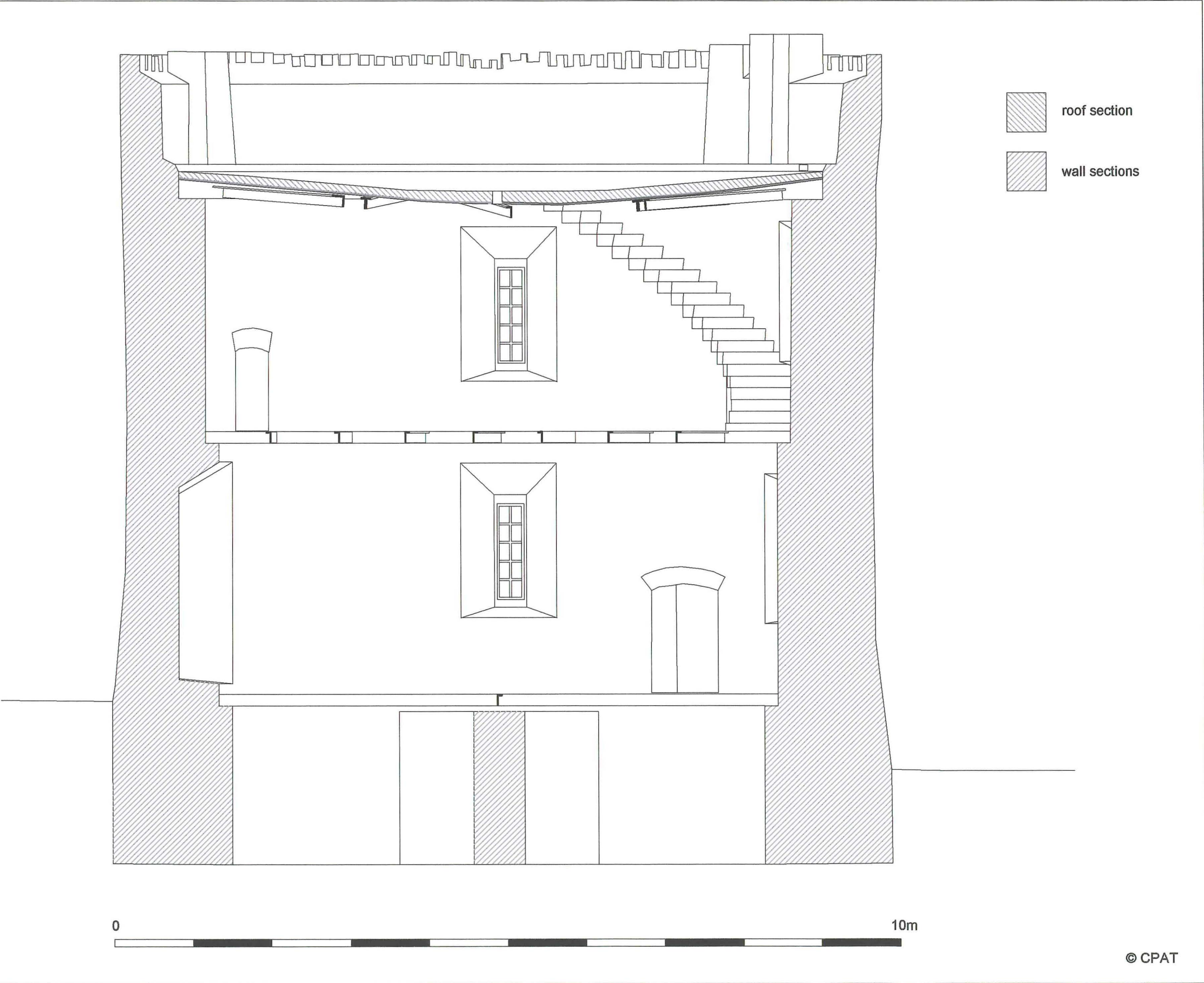


Fig. 17 Roundhouse Farm north-east tower, internal section (C-C)



**South-west tower**

- 5.3.1 The south-west tower was substantially damaged during the 1940s when it was partly demolished in order to remove the majority of the cast iron structure. Although originally a three-storey building, little masonry now survives of the second floor, and the western part of the first floor has also been largely removed. Significant structure detail does survive, however, sufficient to determine that although the tower is superficially of the same design as the north-east tower, there are a number of differences. Apart from the addition of an extra floor, the main differences are the inclusion of a second door on the south-east side, opening outside the defended farm yard, and the use of iron window sills, rather than the plain masonry of the other tower.
- 5.3.2 The tower is approximately 9.55m in diameter, of rubble stone construction with dressed stone around the openings. The walls are approximately 1.25-1.3m thick at ground level, reducing with each floor to around 1.1-1.15m at first-floor level and perhaps 0.95m thick in what remains of the second floor.



Plate 9 South-west tower

**Cellar (Fig. 18)**

- 5.3.3 The cellar is approximately 6.7m in diameter and 1.7m deep, accessed by an internal, solid staircase against the northern wall. At the base of the stairs is an air vent protected by iron bars which leads through the wall to a grated external opening at ground level. The cellar is divided into three main areas by substantial masonry walls, the northern part containing the stairs and the southern two further subdivided by short stub walls.

**Ground floor (Fig. 19)**

- 5.3.4 The ground floor is approximately 7m in diameter internally, with doorways to the north-east and south-east. The former has a segmental arch above, both internally and externally and leads to the farmyard, with a curved step outside. The south-east doorway is plain with simple cast iron lintels, the internal one extending to the north-east of the door to span a straight vertical joint in the masonry 0.8m from the door jamb. The doorhead slopes down towards the outside and is formed from several cast iron beams.



- 5.3.5 The remains of a dressed stone, cantilever staircase rises to the first floor, with seven surviving steps. There are five lancet windows, all but the northern of which retain their iron window sills. The walling above each of the windows is supported on three cast iron plates, sloping down towards the outside of the windows. The windows all extend to floor level internally, with the exception of the northern window, which is above the stairs. The ground floor appears to have been divided into two rooms, each with its own fireplace.



Plate 10 South-west tower interior

*First floor (Fig. 20)*

- 5.3.6 The first floor is approximately 7.3m in diameter internally, with four intact lancet windows and the remains of a further two on the west and north sides. Again the floor appears to have been divided into two rooms, each with its own fireplace. A well-preserved, dressed stone, cantilever staircase rises to the second floor, with 14 surviving steps.

*Second floor*

- 5.3.7 Little now survives of the uppermost floor, with the only remains consisting of the interior ledge on which the floor beams were supported, above which the wall rises around 1.0m around the south-eastern side. An old photograph (Abertillery and District Museum Society Ref GTJ01149) shows the tower after partial demolition, but with more of the second floor surviving, indicating windows on the east and north-east.

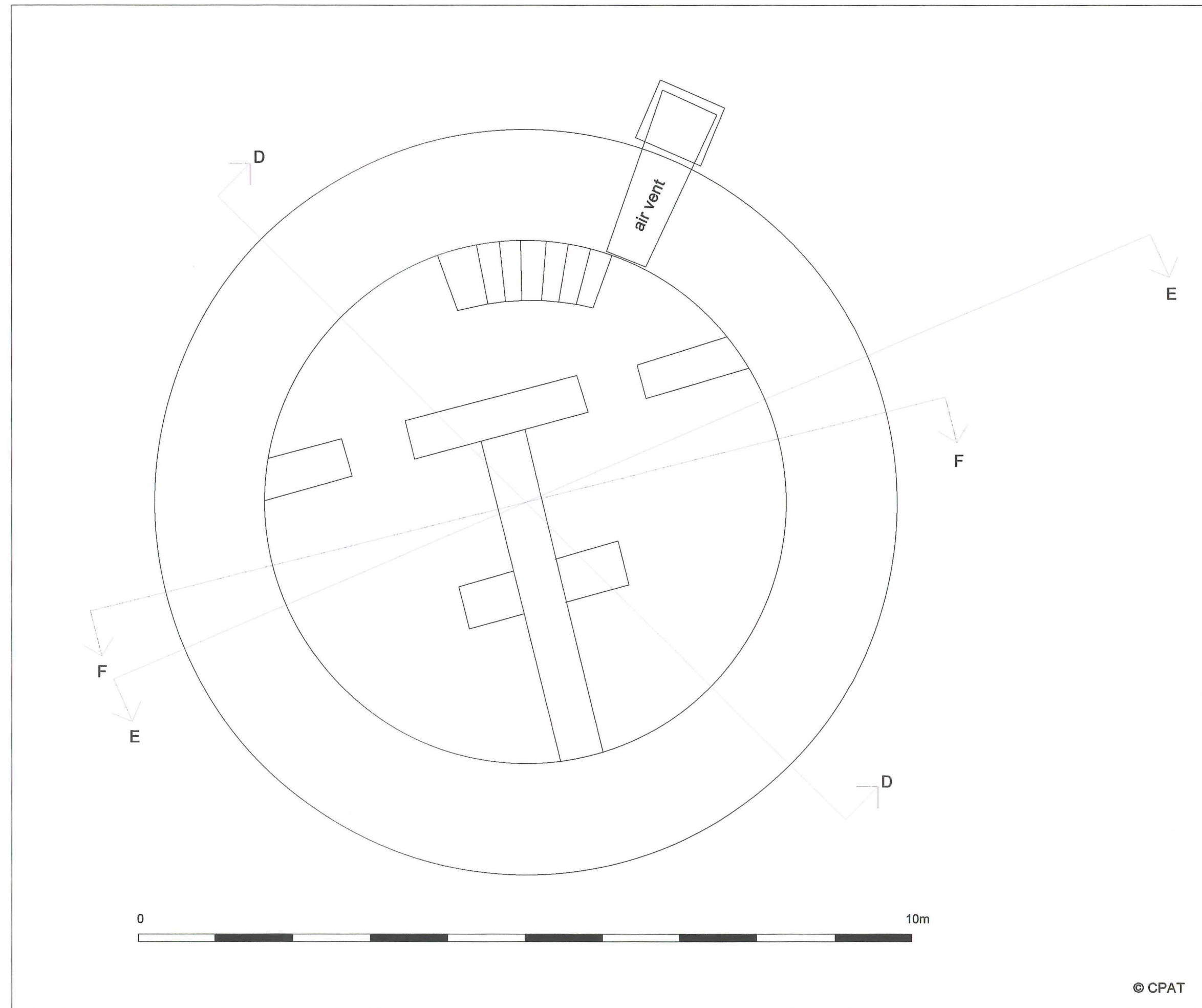


Fig. 18 Roundhouse Farm south-west tower, cellar plan



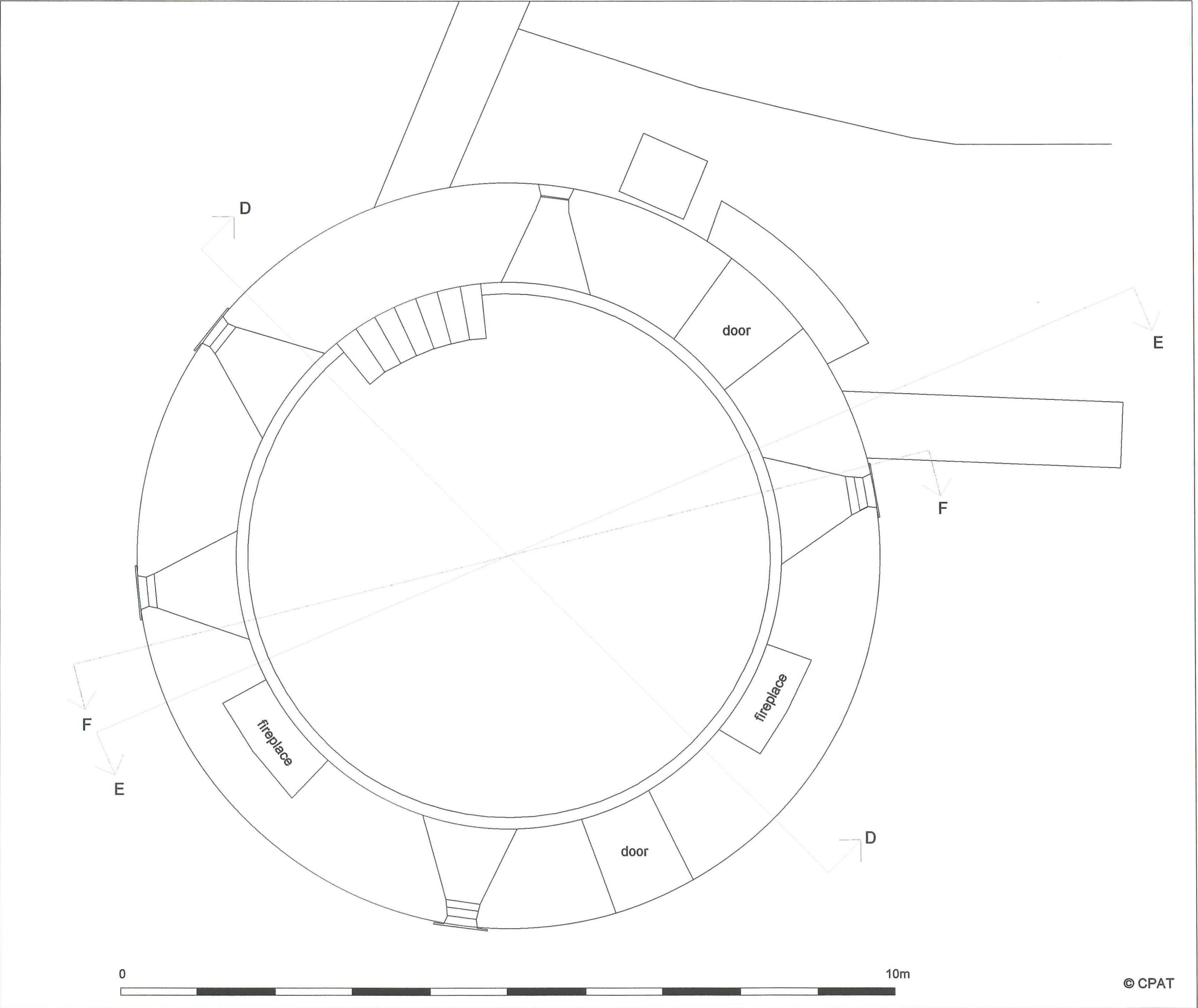


Fig. 19 Roundhouse Farm south-west tower, ground floor plan

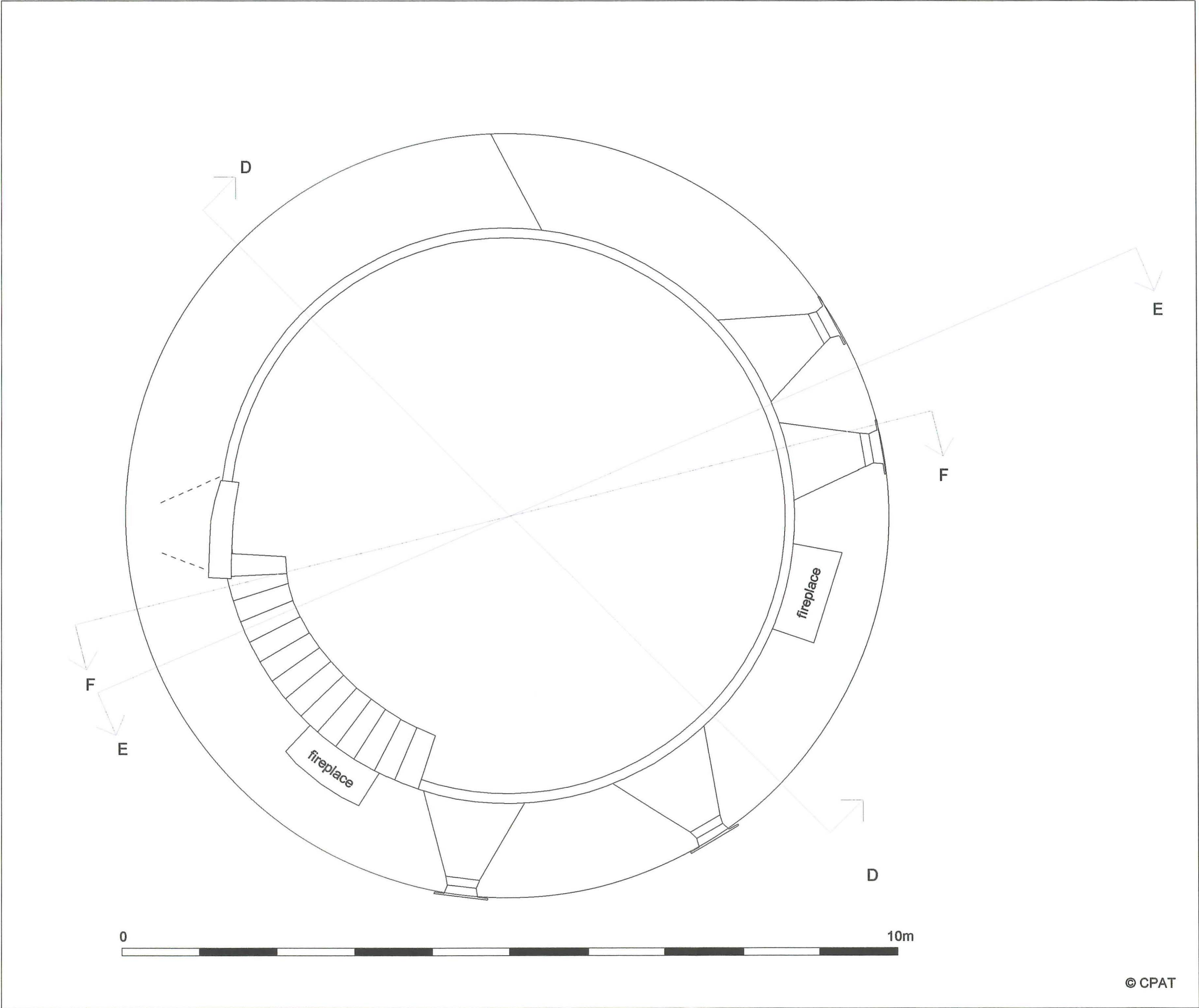


Fig. 20 Roundhouse Farm south-west tower, first floor plan



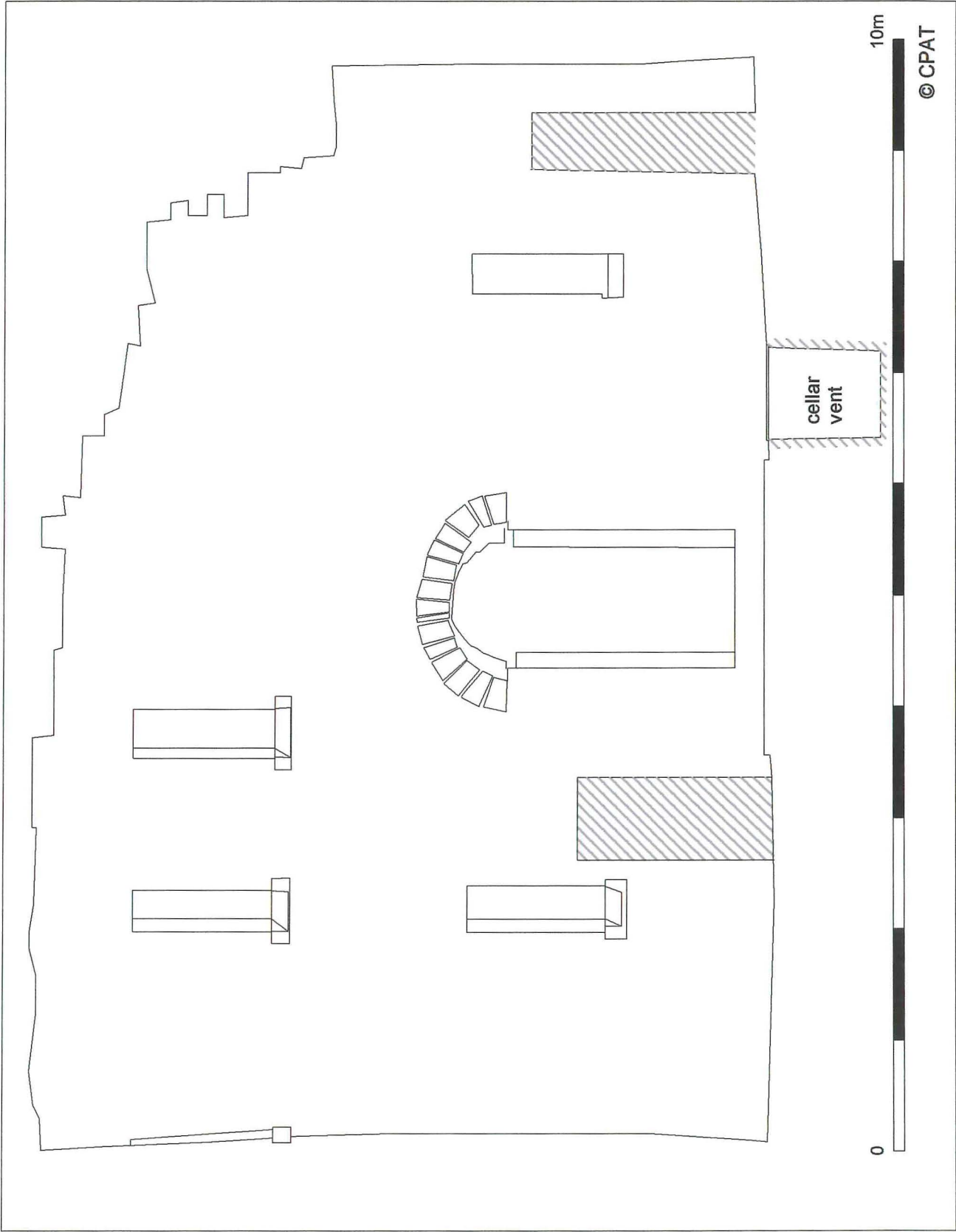


Fig. 21 Roundhouse Farm south-west tower, north-east elevation (D-D)

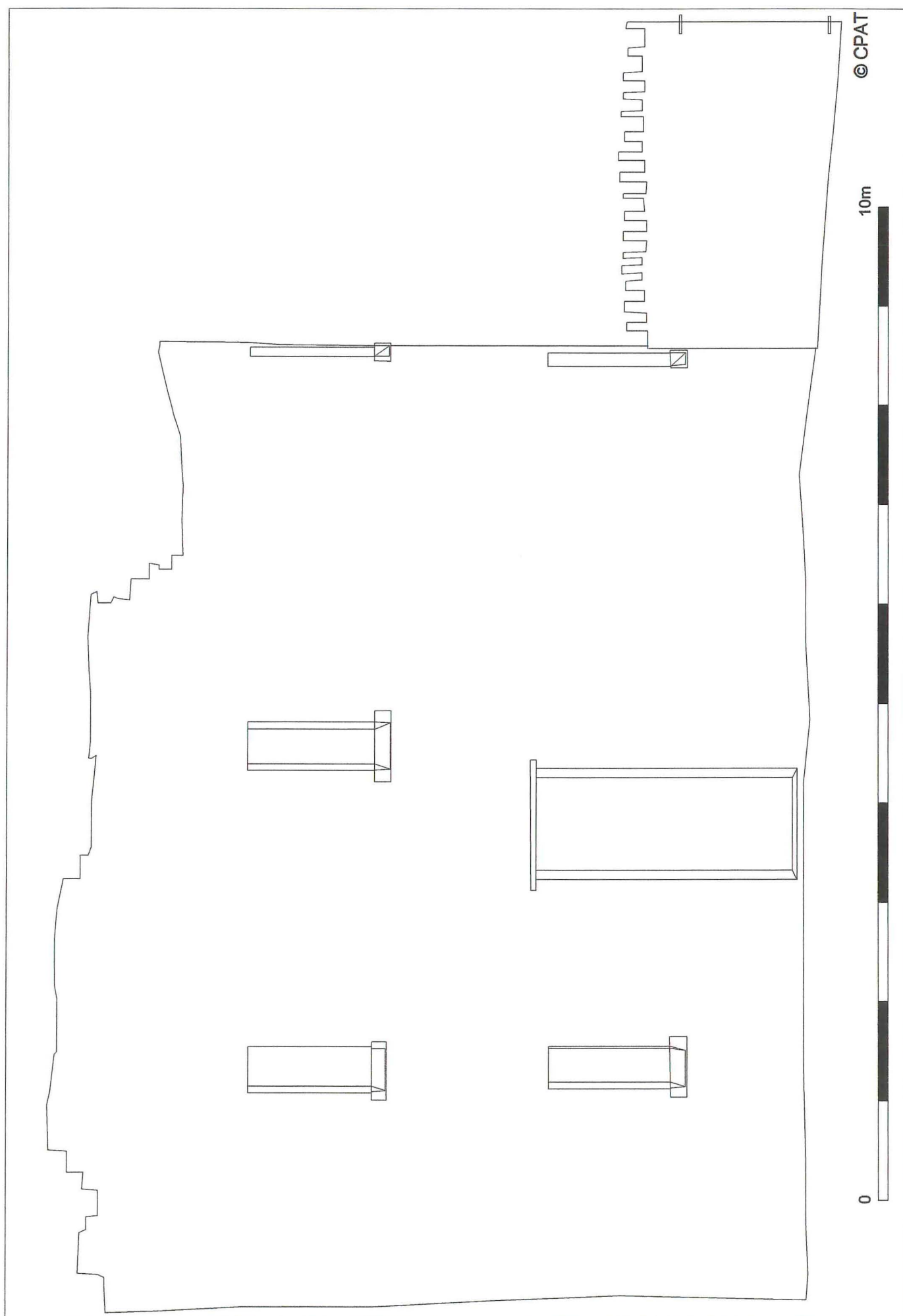


Fig. 22 Roundhouse Farm south-west tower, south-east elevation (E-E)



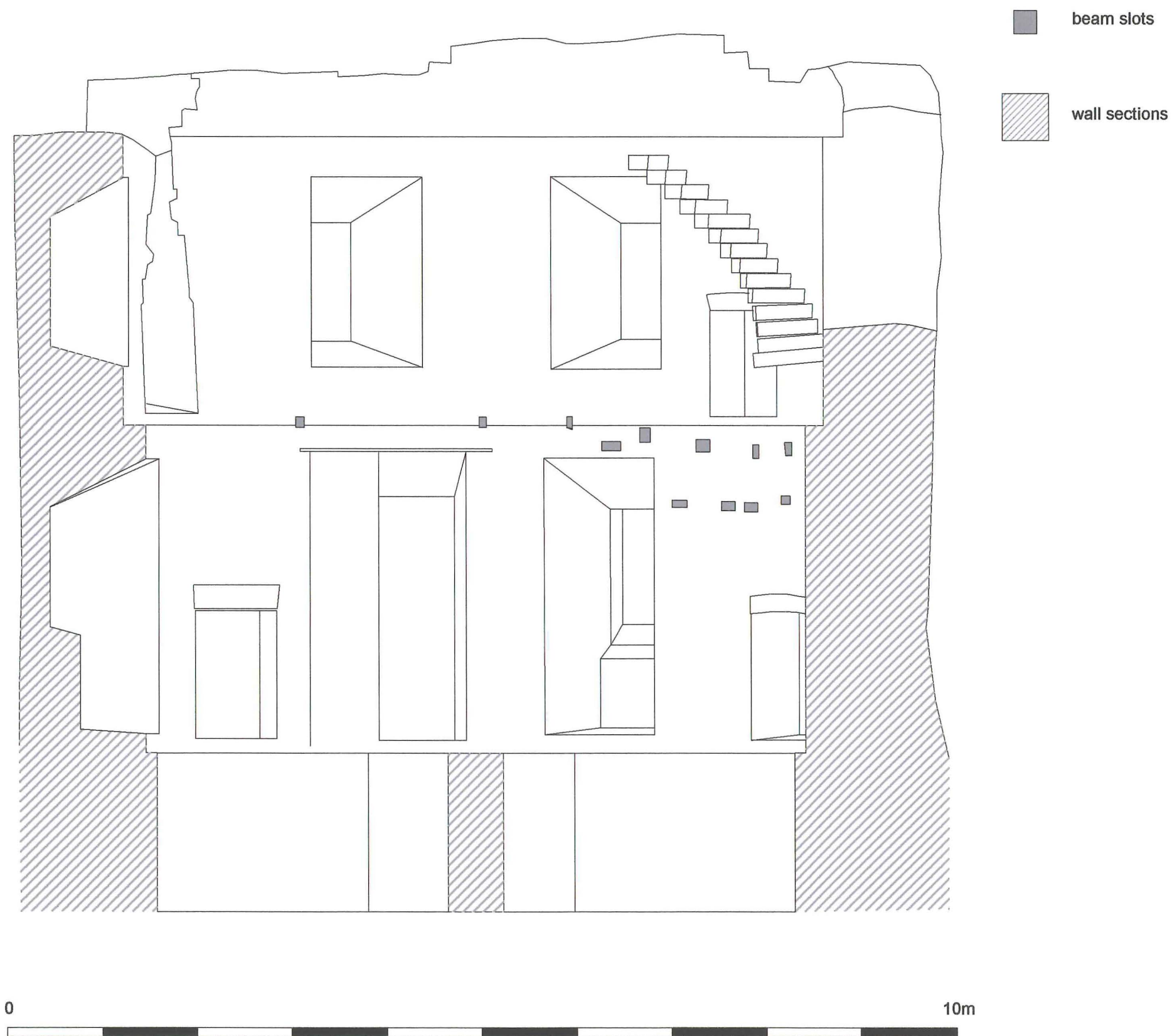


Fig. 23 Roundhouse Farm south-west tower, internal section (F-F)

**Barns 1 and 2**

- 5.4.1 The earliest surviving buildings on the site lie at the southern end of the complex. Barns 1 and 2 form an L-shape c. 6m in width with Barn 2 aligned north to south, 16.8m in length, and Barn 1 aligned east to west, extending 15.7m from Barn 1. Later additions include a bull house and sow house along the west wall of Barn 2.



Plate 11 West side of barn complex showing bull house

*Ground floor*

- 5.4.2 The ground floor of Barn 1 was originally open in plan with a feeding trough along the southern wall, although the eastern end has now been partitioned for stabling. Externally, there is a plinth along the south and north walls and the north-east corner is chamfered. There are five ventilation slits along the southern wall and a further two towards the eastern end of the north wall, all of which have been blocked externally. The north wall also has a central doorway flanked by two windows with cast iron frames, both openings having been modified, the more easterly retaining its stone voussoir. At the western end there is a doorway which has been infilled around an inserted window. The west wall has a doorway into Barn 2.
- 5.4.3 In Barn 2, now a stable, the ground floor is divided into two by a masonry partition wall with an arched opening, the southern room having two windows in the south wall, one of which was formerly a doorway, and a door on the east side into Barn 2. The northern room has a main entrance in the east wall flanked on either side by a window with stone voussoir and two blocked ventilation slits, a blocked doorway in the west wall and an inserted brick chimney in the north-east corner, presumably for a boiler.
- 5.4.4 Both barns have cast iron beams supporting the first floors, those in Barn 1 being more closely spaced than in Barn 2. The spacing of the joists at the northern end of Barn 2, and the inclusion of a short longitudinal joist, suggest a possible stair.

*First floor*

- 5.4.5 The first floor of Barn 1 is open in plan with a central doorway in the north wall as well as a loading door in the north-west corner leading out on to a cast iron platform by which it is connected to Barn 1 through a similar door. The platform has an iron access ladder leant against it, which may be original. There are also blocked windows at either end, the western



not readily apparent externally, as well as a blocked ventilation slit east of the central door. There is a loading crane in the north-east corner which originally swung out through the off-centre doorway in the end wall, although this was later reduced in width. The southern wall has three windows and a ventilation slit, all of which have been externally blocked, the western window now showing no obvious external evidence. The second floor loft is supported on cast iron joists with the addition of a timber joist and framing at the western end for a stairway, the scar of which is apparent on the western wall.



Plate 12 Loading crane, Barn 1 first floor

- 5.4.6 In Barn 2 the first floor has now been partitioned at the southern end, although it is likely that the space was originally open. A door in the east wall leads onto the loading platform noted above, to the north of which are three windows, the central one externally blocked and the other two retaining their cast iron frames. The southern wall has two windows, the western of which is externally blocked while the other retains its cast iron frame. The western wall has a central doorway, now externally blocked, flanked by small, simple windows with cast iron frames, both of which are blocked on the interior. The second floor loft is supported on cast iron joists which are now unevenly spaced in the northern part of the building suggesting that a number have been removed.

*Second floor and roof*

- 5.4.7 The open plan lofts in both barns no longer have any flooring. There are a number of externally blocked ventilation slits in both of the barns, many of which are not readily apparent in the external elevations. The only surviving opening is a small window at the eastern end of the north wall in Barn 1.
- 5.4.8 Barns 1 and 2 have the same type of roof trusses, each comprising principal rafters with chiseled assembly marks joined at the apex by a pegged mortise and tenon joint, with a tie beam which is attached by iron bolts, and pairs of through purlins. There is no obvious sign of a wall plate although close inspection was not possible during the survey. The slate roof is hung on lathes supported by four rafters between each truss. At the eastern end of Barn 1 the roof is hipped, while in Barn 2 at the junction of the two roof lines there is a diagonal truss forming a valley on the north-east side.



Plate 13 Barn 2 roof showing truss and hipped east end



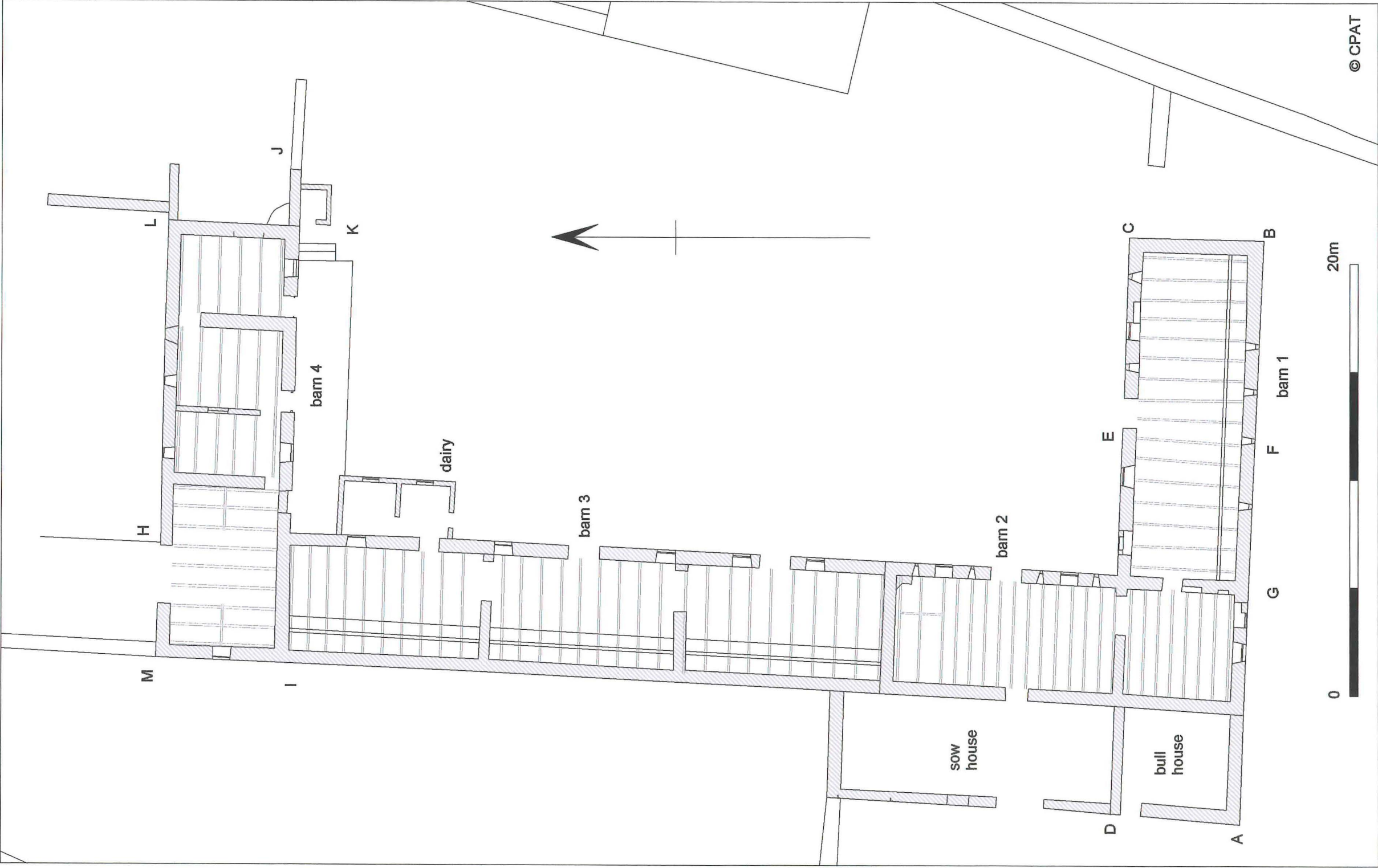


Fig. 24 Roundhouse Farm barn complex, ground floor plan

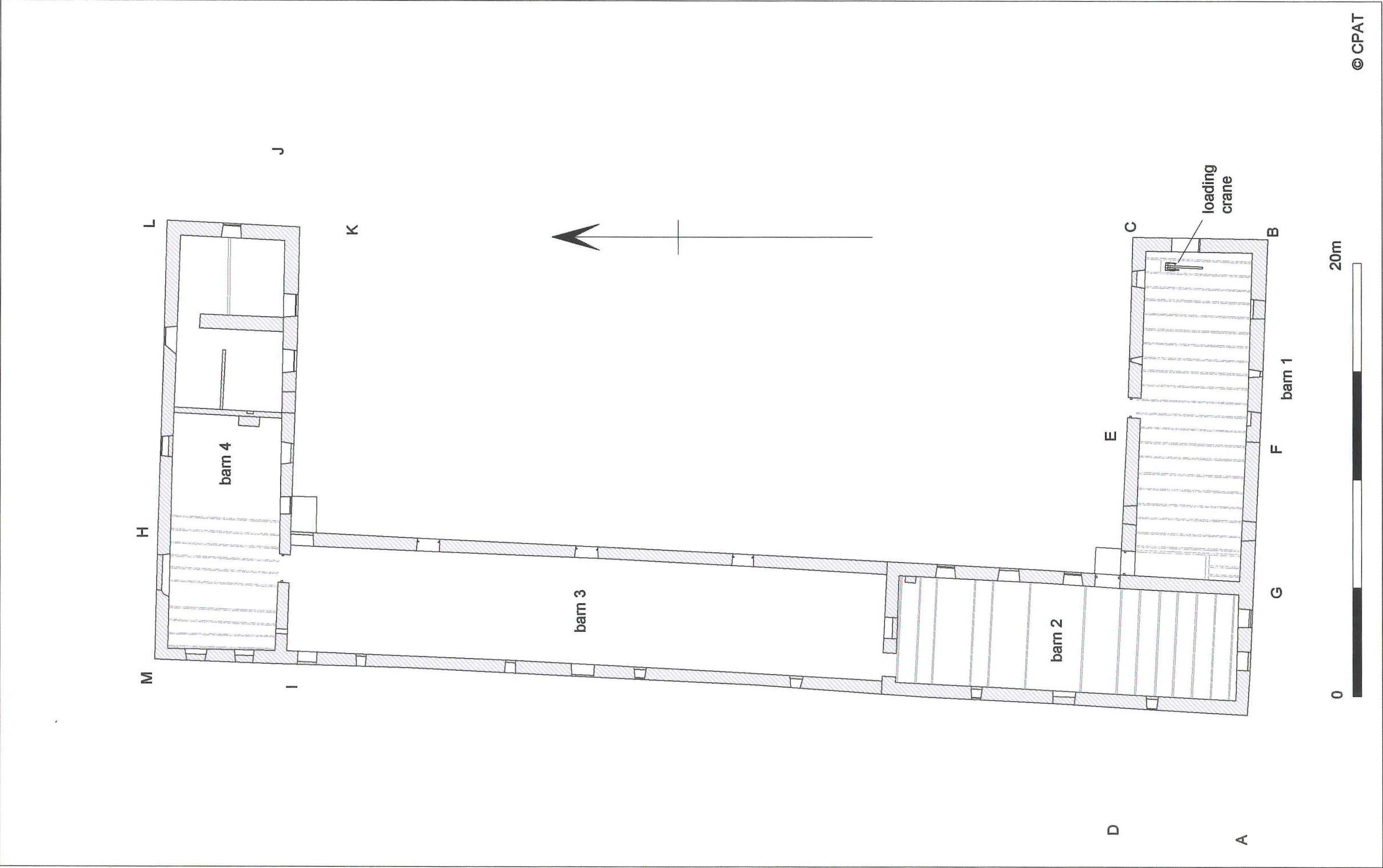


Fig. 25 Roundhouse Farm barn complex, first floor plan



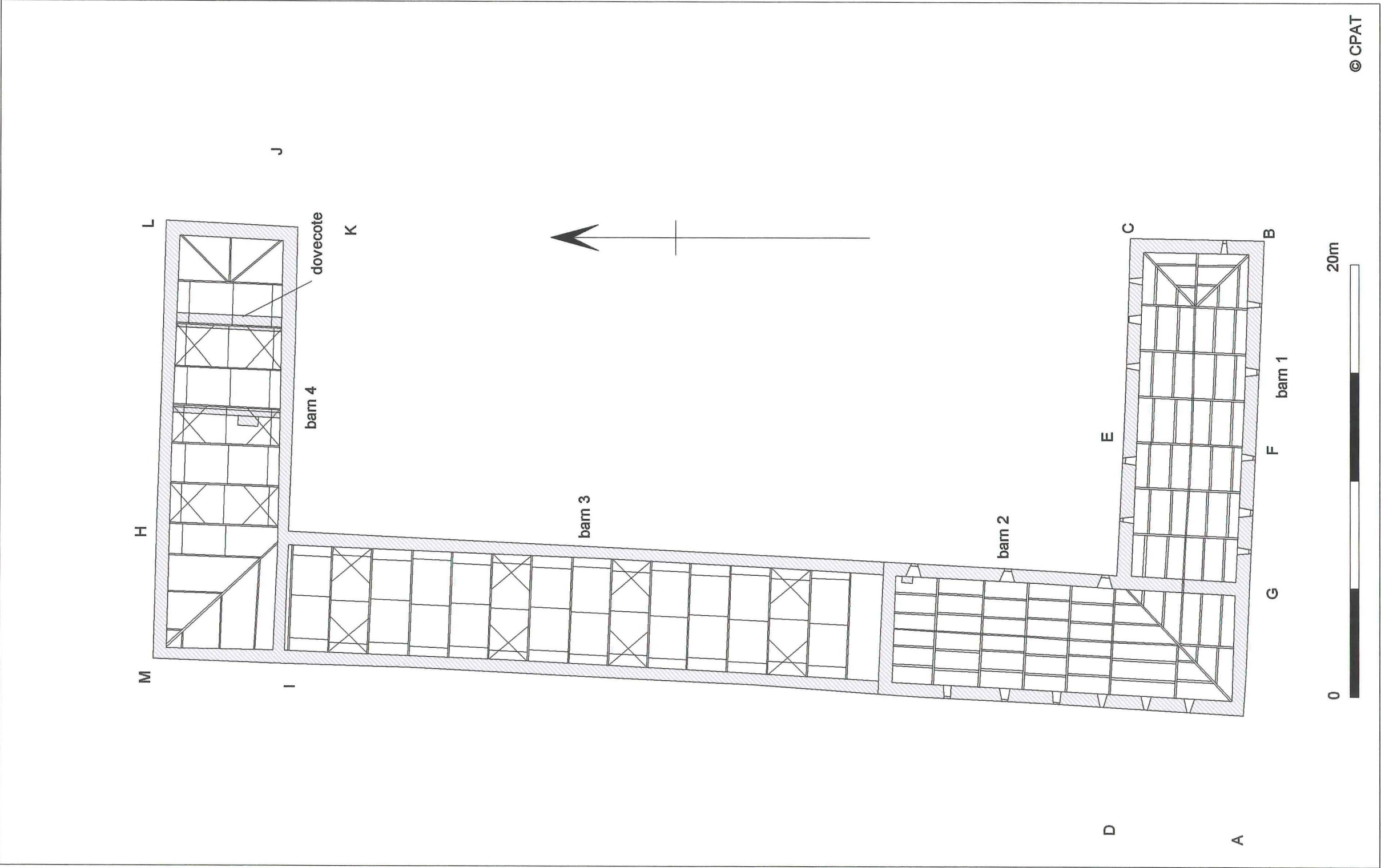


Fig. 26 Roundhouse Farm barn complex, loft plan and roof structure

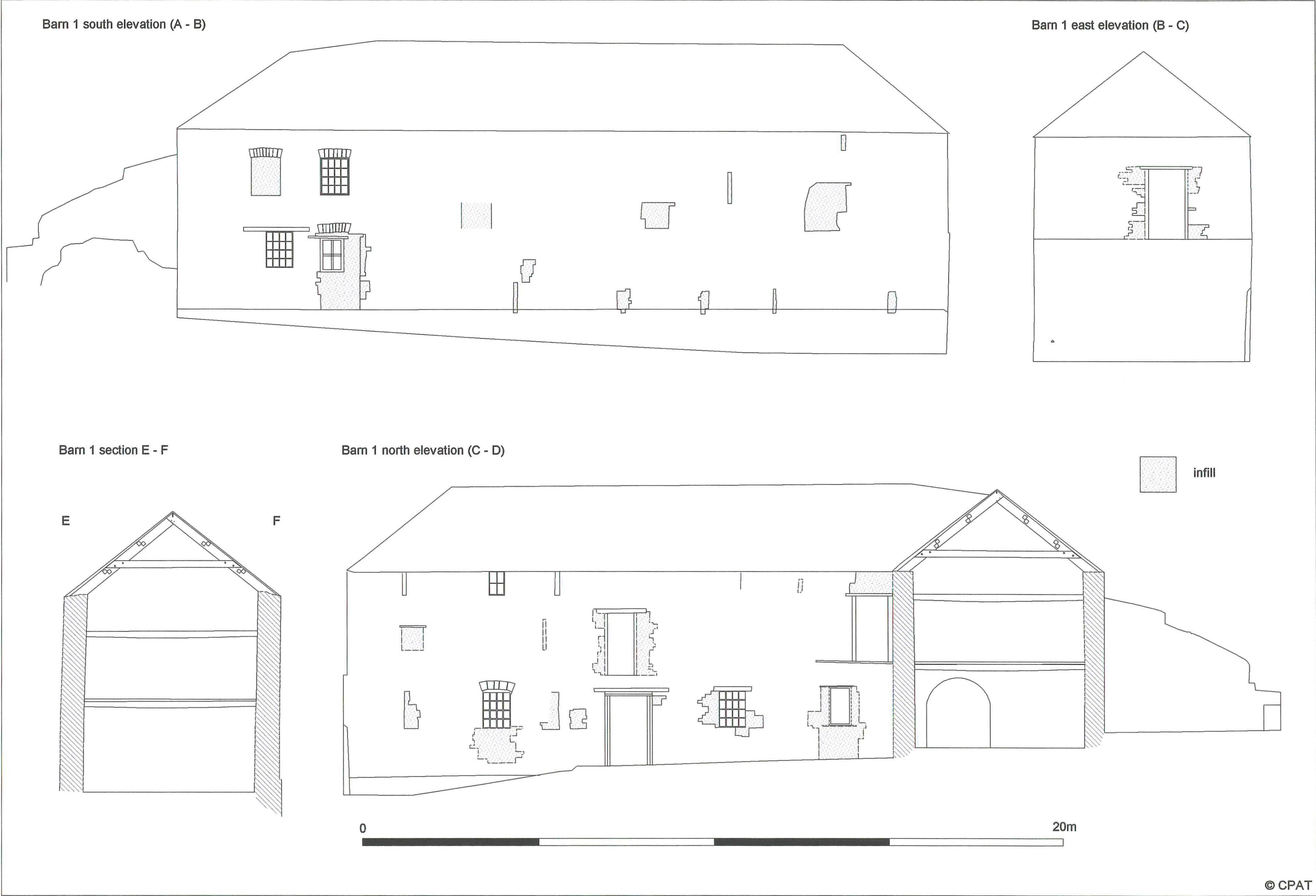


Fig. 27 Roundhouse Farm Barn 1 elevations



**Barn 3**

- 5.5.1 Barns 3 and 4 represent a later addition to the complex, as evidenced by the toothed joint at the northern end of Barn 2 (see Figs 27 and 28). Barn 3 is aligned north to south, 27.5m in length and 6.1m wide.



Plate 14 Barn 3 east elevation

*Ground floor*

- 5.5.2 The ground floor is divided into three units by masonry walls with arched openings, each unit having an external doorway in the east wall, which also has a total of five windows, all with cast iron frames and stone voussoirs. There are four wrought iron tie rods with cast iron face plates held in place by iron pegs, spaced in pairs in the end two units. The flooring is of blue brick stable blocks and there are feeding troughs running the length of the building along the western wall, indicating the former use as a stables.

- 5.5.3 A small two-roomed dairy in red brick has been added as a lean-to against the northern end of the east wall.

*First floor*

- 5.5.4 The first floor is open in plan with a timber floor supported on cast iron joists. There are three loading doors with cast iron frames placed roughly equidistantly along the east wall, with a fourth, blocked door at the north end which formerly led out onto a cast iron platform with the remains of an iron railing, similar to that in the angle between Barns 1 and 2. There are also two blocked loading doors in the west wall which would have opened onto the rick yard, together with four small blocked windows, two of which retain their cast iron frames. The hay barn alongside the west wall of Barn 2 was evidently tied to the main structure by a number of wrought iron bars, only one of which remains.

*Roof*

- 5.5.5 The roof structure is the same in Barns 3 and 4, comprising cast iron flanged trusses with obvious air bubbling on one side, indicating that they were cast in open moulds (see section I - J, Fig. 31). The trusses are braced by a series of wrought iron rods which run longitudinally between each truss, with additional cross-bracing at irregular intervals. The slate roof, which is intact on the western side of Barn 2, is hung on a series of horizontal iron rods by means of copper nails or pins.



Plate 14 Barn 3 cast iron roof truss





Fig. 28 Roundhouse Farm Bams 2 and 3 east elevation (section G-H)

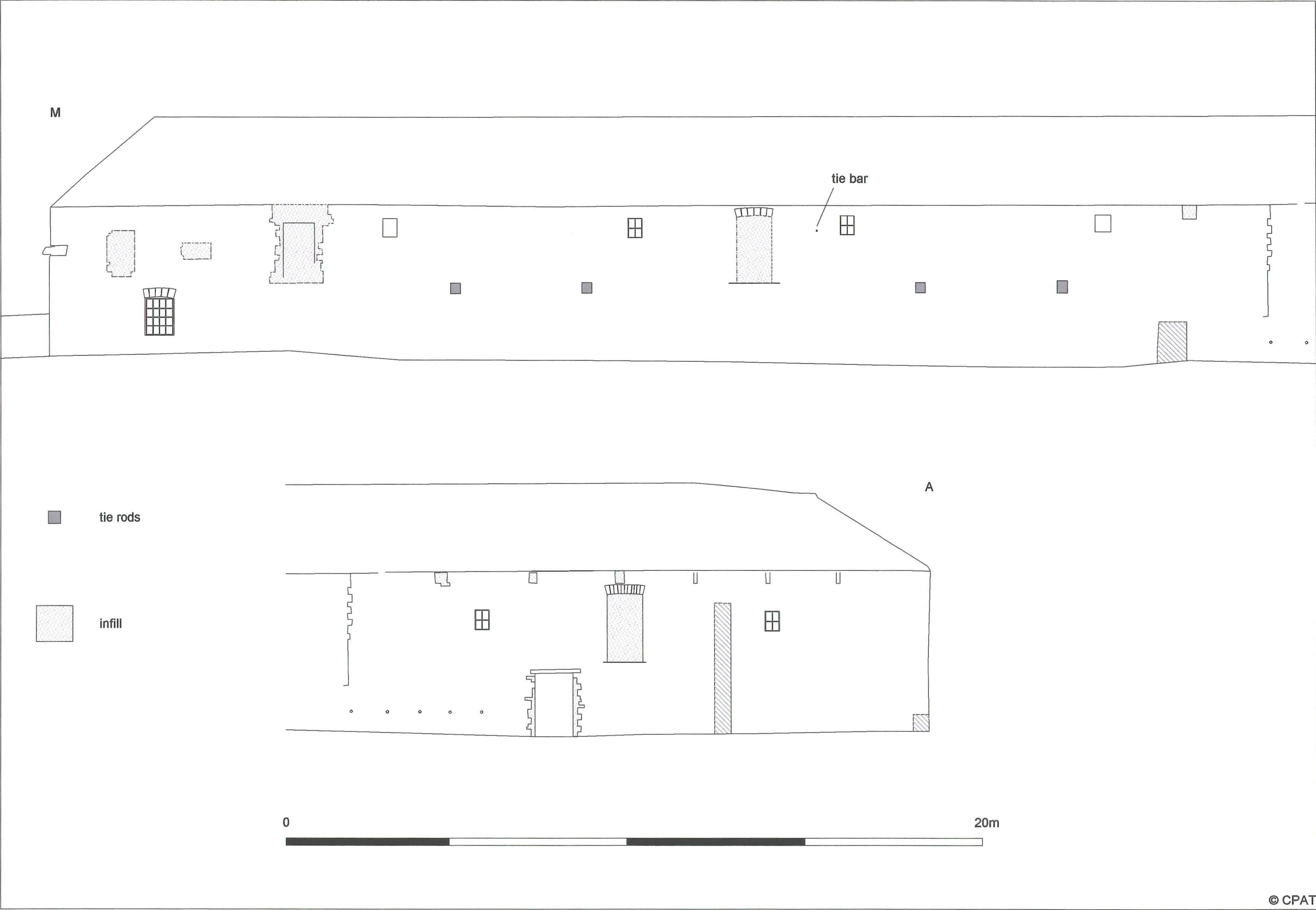


Fig. 29 Roundhouse Farm Barns 2 and 3 west elevation (section M - A)



**Barn 4**

- 5.6.1 Barn 4 is aligned west to east, 20.2m in length and 6.1m wide, and was built on a plinth on all but the western end. Later additions include an extension at the east end, now ruinous, but which was once used as a cider house, and a range of lean-to structures along the north wall of Barn 4, of which a single standing wall remains at the east end within one of two recent corrugated iron lean-tos. A more northerly range of buildings depicted on the Tithe Survey of 1841, of which only fragmentary ruins survive, appears to have been a largely independent structure tied into Barn 4 at a single point on the north-west corner.



Plate 16 Barn 4 south elevation

- 5.6.2 The barn is divided into three bays, the eastern two having been workers' dwellings, while the western bay was agricultural.

*Ground floor*

- 5.6.3 The western bay has a double door in the north wall which has been inserted, possibly enlarging an earlier opening, a blocked door in the south-east corner and a single window in the west wall. The bay has recently been used as a workshop, although its original use is unknown. A crude doorway has been cut through the east wall of the bay in the south-east corner, leading through to the central bay. There are nine evenly spaced, transverse, cast iron joists supporting the first floor, the three at either end having additional support in the form of two branching stanchions (Fig. 30).
- 5.6.4 The central bay is divided into two rooms with an external door and a single window in the south wall and three windows in the north wall, one of which is now blocked. The partition has a blocked doorway and a door leads through the east wall in the north-east corner, into the end bay. There are signs of a longitudinal partition on the north side of the room, possibly for a staircase rising to the first floor which is supported on longitudinal cast iron joists.
- 5.6.5 The eastern bay has a single room with an external door in the south wall and a window alongside. The east wall has a blocked fireplace. As in the central bay, the first floor is supported on longitudinal cast iron joists.

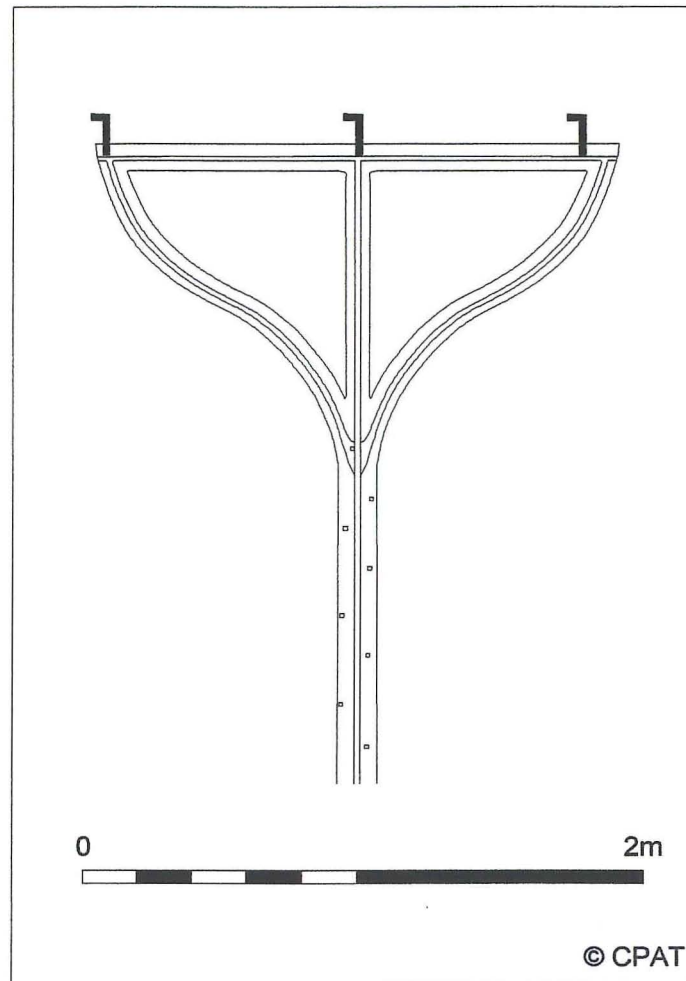


Fig. 30 Barn 4 stanchion

*First floor*

- 5.6.6 At first floor level the western bay extends as far east as the partition in the central bay. In the south wall there is a doorway into Barn 3 and a second door, now blocked and reduced to a window, leading onto the loading platform in the angle between the two barns, with a blocked window alongside. The north wall has an extant window along with a blocked window above the double doors in an area where some collapse has occurred, and there are two blocked windows in the west wall.
- 5.6.7 The first floor of the central bay comprises a stair-well with a window on the north side and single room to the south with a fireplace in the partition wall and two windows in the south wall, one of which is now blocked. A timber and plaster ceiling has been added.
- 5.6.8 The eastern bay, as on the ground floor, has a single first-floor room entered from the stair-well by a door in the north-west corner, with a single window in the south and east walls. The room has timber and plaster ceiling which is not original (see below).

*Loft and roof*

- 5.6.9 The western half of the western bay has a second floor loft supported on cast iron joists, one of which is now missing.
- 5.6.10 The roof has the same cast iron structure as Barn 2, although with an additional diagonal truss at the western end, forming the valley with the adjoining barn, and a hipped roof at the eastern end.
- 5.6.11 The brick partition wall between the central and eastern bays has what appears to be a dove-cote on the eastern side. This comprises a series of nesting boxes built into the wall in tiers, with 4 boxes in the middle flanked by two groups of 14 boxes. The first floor ceiling has evidently been inserted at a later date as it obscures the lower tier of boxes.



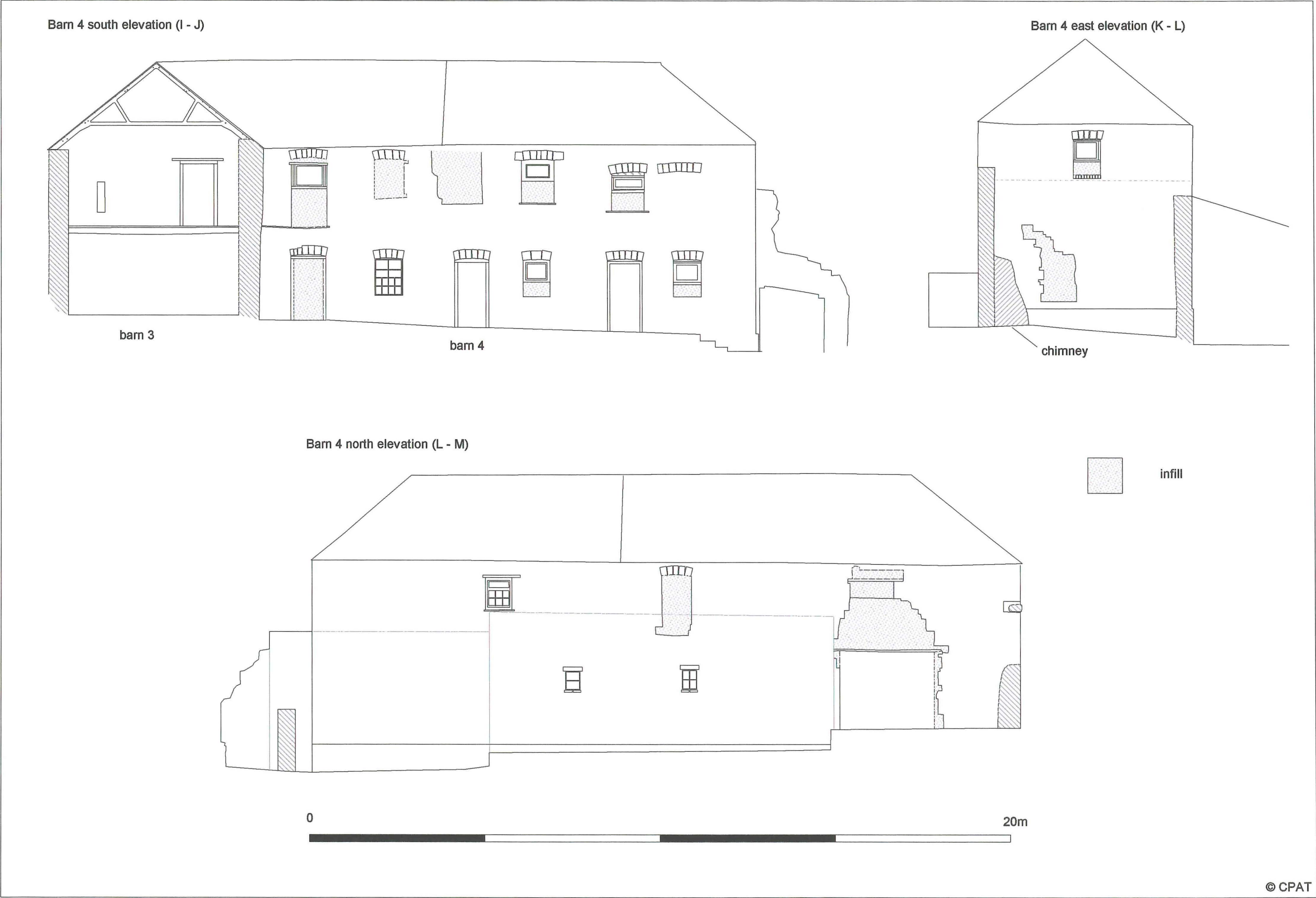


Fig. 31 Roundhouse Farm Barn 4 elevations

**Piggery (Fig. 32)**

- 5.7 Although the piggery is now in a ruinous condition the eastern elevation retains interesting architectural detail in the form of two intact windows and the remains of the door opening. The walling now only survives to a maximum height of 3.5m, with the north-east corner being the best preserved section. Both window openings are 1.23m wide and 1.15m high with brick vousoirs and cast iron window frames. The present owner has indicated that the building had a timber, rather than cast iron roof.



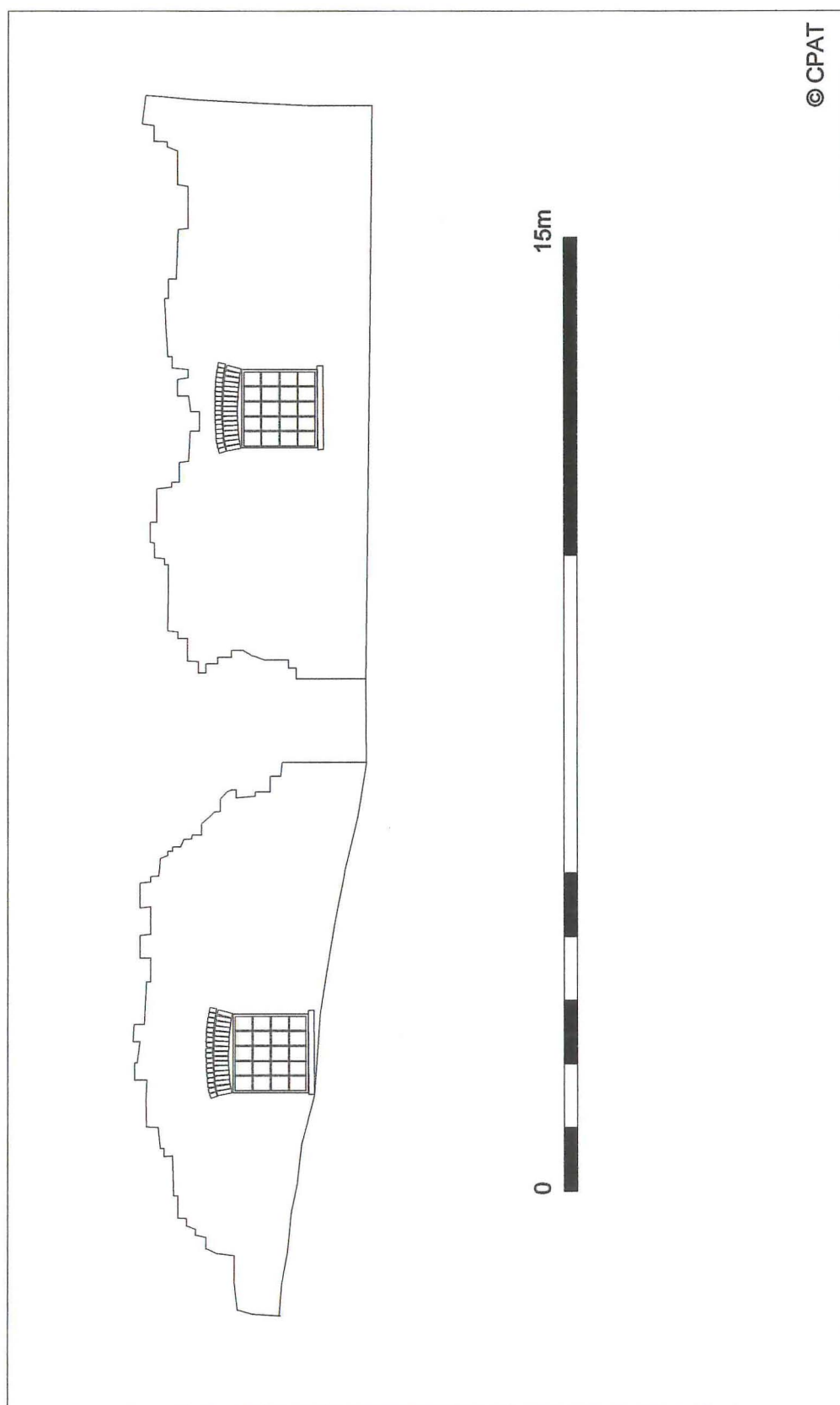


Fig. 32 Roundhouse Farm piggery, east elevation

**6 TY MAWR SURVEY (Fig. 33)**

- 6.1 The remains of Ty Mawr, or Nantyglo House, were subject to a total station survey, recording the position of all visible walls. The results were used to produce a ground plan of the site as well as section across the cellars.
- 6.2 The visible remains of Ty Mawr were exposed during excavation and clearance work undertaken by the Local Authority during the 1980s as part of a Manpower Services Commission employment scheme. Subsequent collapse, vandalism and vegetation regrowth have prevented production of a complete plan, although the survey was able to record the majority of the ground plan.
- 6.3 The house appears to have been approximately 21.5m square, with a northern service wing adjoining, extending for a further 10.6m. The main aspect of the house faced south, away from the ironworks, and was fronted by a verandah.



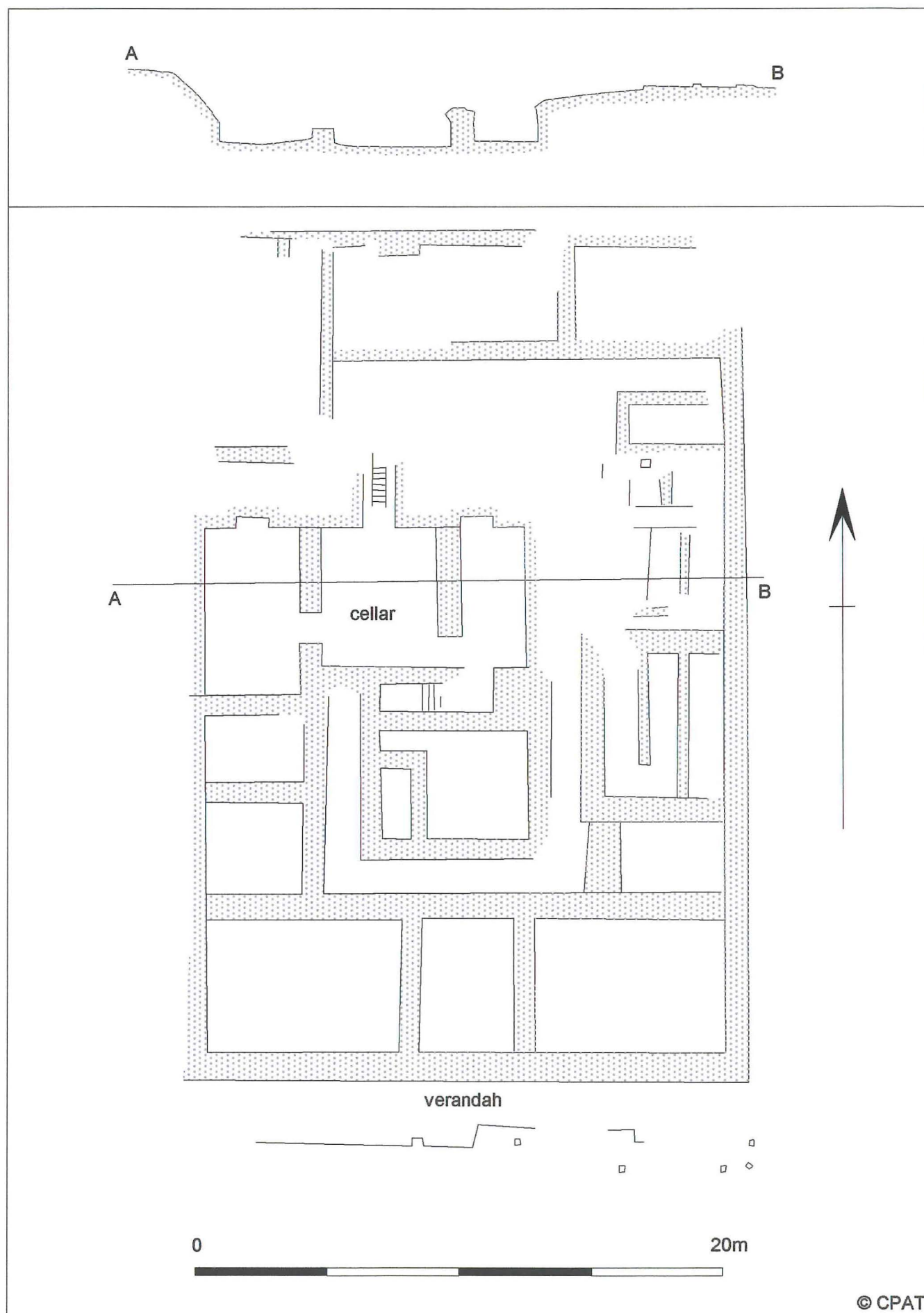


Fig. 33 Ty Mawr (Nantyglo House) ground plan and section

## 7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 There can be little doubt that the complex of buildings at Roundhouse Farm represent a unique survival, their importance to architectural, industrial and social history elevating their status to that of national importance, not just within Wales, but Britain as a whole.
- 7.2 The programme of archaeological research and investigation has enabled a greater understanding of how the complex developed, and has provided, for the first time, a detailed record of the fabric and structure of the main buildings. The results contained within this report do not, however, present the full picture and a full understanding of the significance and development of the wider area of Nantyglo can only be achieved through the examination of two further reports which provide a detailed account of the ironworks (van Laun 2005) and the social and industrial history of Nantyglo (Pritchard 2005).
- 7.3 Despite a thorough search of the obvious repositories it has not been possible to provide any secure dating for the construction and phasing of the complex. That said, however, a clearer picture has emerged of the development and function of the site. From the available evidence it would seem that Nantyglo House was constructed some time after 1813 as a replacement to Trosnant House, which may have been situated further to the west and could have survived until at least 1829, although not until 1841.
- 7.4 The earliest building at Roundhouse Farm is the southern stable range and although there remains the possibility that this was constructed in the later 18<sup>th</sup> century, the cartographic evidence suggests a date after 1813. The relationship of this building to the defended enclosure is also uncertain, although it is perhaps more likely that the stables represent the earliest phase of construction on the site (Fig. 34). This may be supported by the presence of what appears to be a holloway flanked by dry-stone walling to the east of the stables, outside the enclosure wall and apparently predating it, which may have been the original access for the stables.
- 7.5 The date of the main complex remains uncertain and it is first depicted as late as 1829. It is possible that construction was prompted by the 1822 uprising, although an earlier date cannot be ruled out, and may therefore tie in with the general programme of expansion at the ironworks after Crawshay Bailey arrived in 1820. The enlargement of the ironworks would certainly have required additional horse-power, which would in turn have created a need for additional stabling.
- 7.6 Despite its present name the complex at Roundhouse Farm was not designed as a farm in the conventional sense. There can be little doubt that it was designed to be defensive, with a high curtain wall and imposing round towers, although without a significant garrison its effectiveness would perhaps have been limited to the short term. It is also likely, however, that it was built as a statement of the wealth and power of the Baileys. The complex essentially fulfilled two roles, as a part of the ironworks, providing stabling and other facilities, as well as functioning as the home farm for the Baileys at Nantyglo House.
- 7.7 The shape of the enclosure is curious and is not readily explained. Under normal circumstances one might expect such an enclosure to be aligned with the main range of buildings, which is not the case at Roundhouse Farm. The shape may in part have been determined by the existence of the tramway to the east and the boundary of the leasehold to the west, although other factors may also have influenced the plan. It is interesting to note that the sides of the enclosure are parallel with the tramway which entered the enclosure through the northern gateway although it is uncertain which came first. It is possible that the tramway was associated with the earlier stables, although it may be more likely that it formed part of the second phase and could have been constructed to transport building materials on to site, particularly the large quantities of cast iron and building stone.
- 7.8 The enclosure was constructed with substantial defensive round towers at the south-west and north-east corners. These would have acted as places of refuge for the Baileys and their staff in case of unrest, and may well have also provided a means of safe storage for important documents, and possibly also money, as at this time the nearest bank was in Abergavenny. The two towers were of similar construction, although the south-west tower had an additional storey. The substantial stone walls had narrow lancet windows with well-defended iron doors at ground level. The cellars would have provided storage space for provisions, while the upper



floors were all divided as living accommodation. With the exception of the flooring and partitions the internal fixtures and fittings were of cast iron, including the main beams, joists and segmental roof. It is this use of iron as a building material which adds greatly to the significance of the structures.

- 7.9 The main complex of buildings, extending from the original stables, appears to have been added in one phase, forming a E-shaped range of buildings, but with later additions. A new three-bay stable block with storage above was added, with a transverse wing on its northern end. The original function of this wing is uncertain - divided into three bays on the ground floor, the western bay has two interesting stanchions providing additional support for the first floor. The eastern two bays were later converted into cottages, possibly during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, although the first floor of the end bay appears to have been originally constructed as a dovecote. As with the round towers, this range of buildings was constructed using cast iron instead of timber, not only for the joists and roof trusses, but also the door and window frames.
- 7.10 The northern range of buildings, forming the upper part of the E-shape, has now largely been lost, although the basal remains of walling do survive in part. Consequently, the form and function of the range cannot now be determined. The lack of any substantial tie into the fabric of the surviving building may suggest that at least the north-south element of the range was less substantial and may have been little more than an open-sided barn. The foundations of the transverse wing suggest that this, at least, was a more substantial structure and could have been of similar appearance to the surviving buildings to the south. A separate building to the east of the northern wing, which is now the farmhouse, also appears to be contemporary, although whether it was originally built as a house is uncertain.
- 7.11 A number of ancillary buildings were included as part of the complex, including the addition of a bull house and sow house to the west wall of the original stables and a hay barn in the rick yard to the west of the later stables. Sometime after 1841 a second hay barn was added, as well as a piggery against the west wall of the enclosure. The yard to the east of the stables contained a polygonal midden enclosure which was certainly in place by 1881, although it may be contemporary with the development of the complex as a whole.

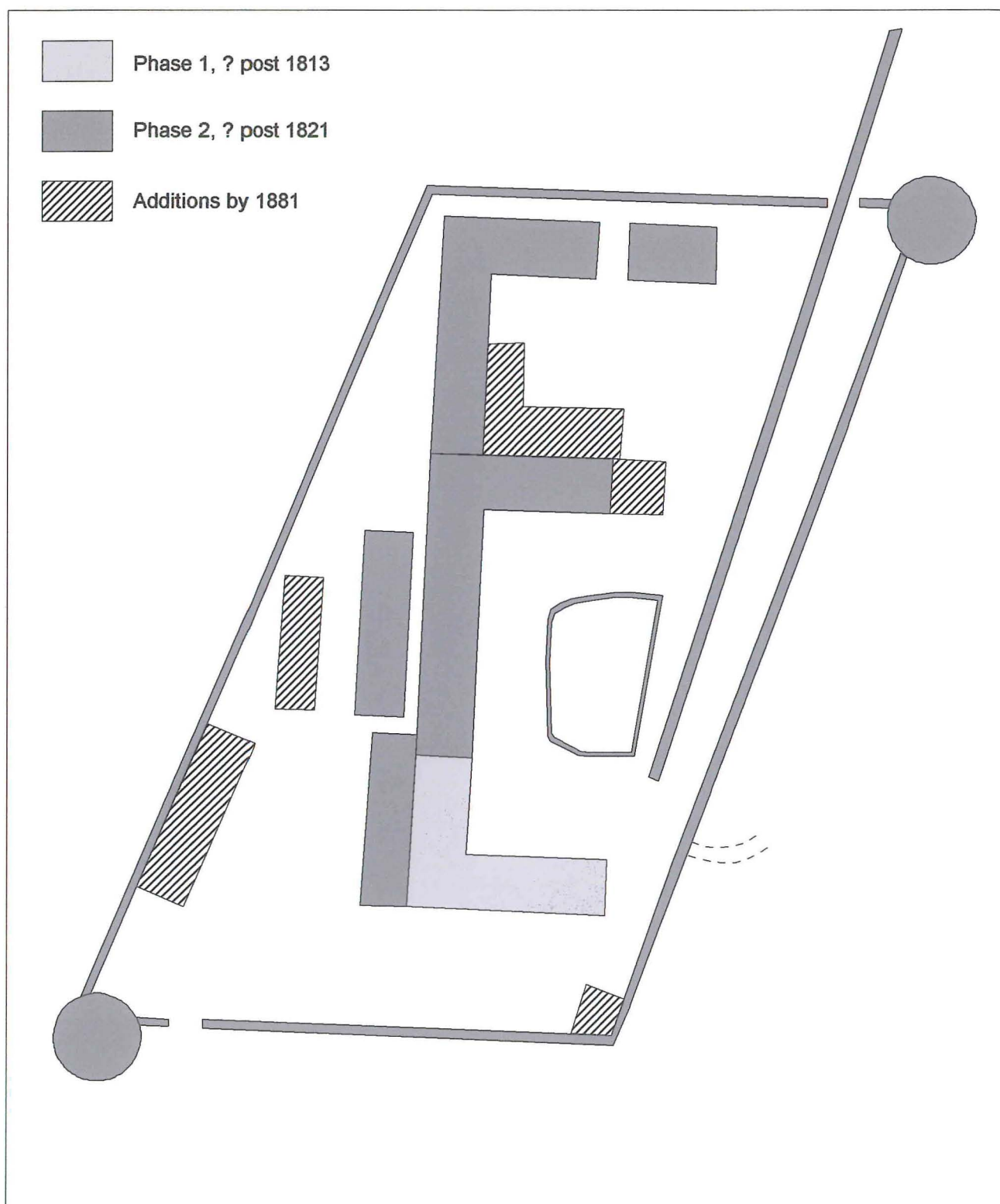


Fig. 34 Roundhouse Farm, suggested phasing



## **8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND MANAGEMENT**

- 8.1 Although the main interest in the complex is focused on the surviving buildings, consideration should also be given to the archaeological potential of the enclosure and Ty Mawr. The results from the present study have demonstrated that there is significant potential for buried archaeological deposits relating to a number of features within the enclosure, as well as at Ty Mawr, and any future programme of works will need to take this into account. Any significant groundworks have the potential for disturbing archaeological deposits and appropriate monitoring of such works should be considered in the form of an archaeological watching brief. Beyond this, however, there are a number of areas where further archaeological investigation could assist with the interpretation and display of the complex as a whole.
- 8.2 Within the enclosure there are two main areas of archaeological potential, relating to the now lost north range and the midden enclosure in the centre of the modern farmyard. Although the recent survey was restricted by vegetation and debris, it is clear that the basal courses survive for at least the transverse wing, and further foundations and floor levels may also be preserved. Consideration should therefore be given to a programme of clearance and excavation to confirm the ground plan of the range, a process which may also yield information about its function.
- 8.3 The recent excavations have demonstrated good survival of the midden enclosure, buried beneath the modern yard surface. Depending on the nature of the proposals for the yard area, it may be considered appropriate to undertake further excavations which could be either limited to confirming the overall plan, or be extended to excavate fully the structure with a view to its eventual reconstruction.
- 8.4 Further small-scale excavations could also be considered to reveal additional detail regarding the ancillary buildings, such as the piggery, sow house, bull house, boar pens and hay barns, again with regard to furthering our understanding of the structures and assisting with any proposals for display or reconstruction.
- 8.5 It is considered unlikely that any significant remains will survive relating to the tramway which entered the complex from the north, although further excavation could reveal more about the structure identified during the evaluation, which may be that depicted by the Ordnance Survey in 1901.
- 8.6 With regard to Ty Mawr, the recent survey was able to record a significant proportion of the ground plan, although damage and vegetation growth since the original clearance of the site in the 1980s limited the results in some areas, most notably the rear wing. It would appear that this area included a coach house and yard, although this is not evident from the visible remains. A programme of further excavation could therefore be considered to investigate the area to the rear of the main house.
- 8.7 Depending on the nature of any further archaeological excavation, the opportunity may well exist to involve the local community, particularly in the actual on-site work.

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- 9.1 The project was undertaken by the following members of CPAT's staff: the building survey was undertaken by the author, with assistance from Wendy Owen and Ian Grant; the topographical survey was undertaken by the author, with assistance from Wendy Owen; the survey of Ty Mawr was undertaken by the author, with assistance from Ian Grant; the excavation was undertaken by Ian Grant and Richard Hankinson; and the historic research was undertaken by Bob Silvester. In addition to the above mentioned thanks are also due to the following for their assistance during the project: Frank Olding, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council; Mr Glyn Jones, owner of Roundhouse Farm; Richard Ainsworth, Walfords; the staff of the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; the staff of the National Monuments Record, in the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales at Aberystwyth; Stephen Hughes, also of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales for access to his unpublished report on Roundhouse Farm; and the staff of the Gwent (Monmouthshire) Record Office at Cwmbran.

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- RCAHMW 1996, Roundhouses Farm, Nantyglo (Internal report by Mr S Hughes)

### Primary Sources

#### *National Library of Wales*

Maybery 3814.

#### *Public Record Office*

Monmouthshire Canal Co. Committee Minutes



***Gwent Record Office***

Note: these records have been consulted but not all have provided information relevant to this study

*Documents*

Collection D.397: relates to the acquisition of lands by the Baileys but the activities of the Nantyglo and Blaina Co. Ltd. are also recorded.

Collection D.7 - Lord Abergavenny's MSS (especially D.7.12-17, 185, 213, 257, 259)

Collection D.591: Gabb Deposit

Item: 1871 Conveyance and plan (GRO/D.591.23.14)

Items: GRO/D.591.30.59/60, 64/65 – Leases on Ironworks, 1801

Item: GRO/D.751/328 – Lease

*Maps and Plans*

1798/9 Plan of Nant y glo (reproduced in Lloyd 1906).

1813 Plan of Nantyglo Farm from Mr Davies' map (GRO/D.397.1597)

1819 Lands near Nantyglo surveyed by William Llewellyn GRO/D.397.1611)

1821 Survey of the Barony of Abergavenny by David Davies (GRO/ D.1583.188, nos 39-40)

Early 19<sup>th</sup> cent tracing, perhaps in part from 1821 survey (GRO/D.591.19.224)

1824 Nantyglo Railway and Tramroad (GRO/Man/A/2/0278)

1836 Monmouthshire by J & C Walker, published by Longman et al, London

1841 Tithe Map for Aberystroth parish : National Library of Wales

1844 Plan of Nantyglo Liberty (GRO/Man/A/2/0280)

1871 Nant-y-glo property (GRO/D7.255 and further copies as D.1089.4 and others)

1881 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 25" map, Monmouth 11.07

1901 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 25" map, Monmouth 11.07

1920 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 25" map, Monmouth 11.07

n.d. Plan of Nantyglo (GRO/D.397.1610)

*Original Prints and Drawings*

None identified

**APPENDIX 1****DIGITAL ARCHIVE REGISTER**

Drawings are in AutoCAD13 format with the exception of original surveys, which are in Penmap3, with equivalent AutoCAD drawings.

**Topographical survey**

02MCONT	Topographical survey 0.2m contour
05MCONT	Topographical survey 0.5m contour
TOPO	Topographical
Toposurv	Penmap survey drawing

**Barn survey**

0JOIST	Barns ground floor ceiling joists
1JOIST	Barns first floor ceiling joists
1PLAN	Barns first floor plan
2PLAN	Barns second floor/loft plan
B1E	Barn 1 east elevation
B1N	Barn 1 north elevation
B1S	Barn 1 south elevation
B2E	Barn 2 east elevation
B2W	Barn 2 west elevation
B3E	Barn 3 east elevation
B3N	Barn 3 north elevation
B3S	Barn 3 south elevation
Barns	Overall survey drawing
GROUND	Barns ground floor plan
PIGGERY	Piggery south-east elevation
ROOF	Barns roof plan
STANCHION	Barn 4 stanchion
T1	Barn 1 roof truss
T2	Barn 2 roof truss
T3	Barn 3 roof truss

**Ty Mawr survey**

TYMAWR	Ty Mawr survey
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**NE Tower survey**

Netower	Overall survey
Rt1cellar	Cellar plan
Rt1cbeam	Cellar beams plan
Rt1fbeam	First floor beams plan
Rt1first	First floor plan
Rt1gbeam	Ground floor beams plan
Rt1ground	Ground floor plan
Rt1roof	Roof plan
Rt1rplat	Roof plates plan
Rt1surv	Raw survey data
Rt1welev	West elevation
Rt1eelev	East elevation
Rt1section	Section drawing
Tower1	Penmap survey drawing



**SW Tower survey**

Rt21st	First floor plan
Rt2cellar	Cellar plan
Rt2ground	Ground floor plan
Rt2ne	North-east elevation
Rt2se	South-east elevation
Rt2section	Section drawing
Rt2surv	Raw survey data
Swtower	Overall plan
Tower2	Penmap survey drawing