

Tynycoedcae Farm, Merthyr Tydfil

Historic building survey

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A report for Ray Gee Construction
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Summary

The Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd (Projects) were commissioned by Ray Gee Construction to carry out a building survey prior to planned demolition of buildings at Tynycoedcae Farm, Merthyr Tydfil. The survey was carried out to Level II building recording standard and according to an approved WSI.

Tynycoedcae Farm is a mostly 19th century farmhouse of a type well known in Wales (the Welsh Longhouse) which was subject to extensive re-modelling between 1850 and 1875. There is a possibility that the core of the farmstead, comprising the barn and the remains of an annexe projecting to the west, may have an early post-medieval or even earlier origin.

The re-modelling included the construction of two more annexes adjoining the west elevation of the barn, and conversion of the southern portion of the barn to a cottage. The roof of the barn has also been raised, probably during the period of remodelling but the cottage retains the original roofline of the earlier, single structure.

It is quite likely that features relating to the earlier occupation of the cottage lie hidden behind relatively modern rendering, and will be exposed during demolition of the cottage.

A small agricultural building known as the hen house was also built between 1850 and 1875 and whilst it was extended in the 20th century, it retains much of its character.

The archaeological work was carried out to the professional standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Crynodeb

Comisiynwyd Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Morgannwg-Gwent Cyf (Prosiectau) gan Ray Gee Construction i gynnal arolwg o adeilad cyn i adeiladau yn Fferm Tynycoedcae, Merthyr Tudful gael eu dymchwel. Cynhaliwyd yr arolwg i safon cofnodi adeilad Lefel II, ac yn unol â Chynllun Ymchwilio Ysgrifenedig (WSI) cymeradwy.

Ffermdy o'r 19eg ganrif yw Fferm Tynycoedcae yn bennaf, a hynny o fath adnabyddus yng Nghymru (sef y Tŷ Hir Cymreig), a chafodd ei ailfodelu'n helaeth rhwng 1850 ac 1875. Mae yna bosibilrwydd y gallai craidd y fferm, sy'n cynnwys yr ysgubor ac olion anecs sy'n estyn i'r gorllewin, fod â tharddiad ôl-ganoloesol cynnar neu hyd yn oed cynharach.

Roedd yr ailfodelu wedi cynnwys adeiladu dau anecs arall i ffinio â rhan orllewinol yr ysgubor, ac addasu rhan ddeheuol yr ysgubor i fod yn fwthyn. Cafodd to'r ysgubor hefyd ei godi, a hynny'n ystod y cyfnod ailfodelu, mae'n debyg, ond mae'r bwthyn yn cadw llinell do wreiddiol yr adeilad sengl cynharach.

Mae'n eithaf tebygol bod nodweddion sy'n perthyn i gyfnod cynharaf y bwthyn fel annedd wedi cael eu cuddio y tu ôl i rendrad cymharol fodern, ac y byddant yn dod i'r amlwg wrth ddymchwel y bwthyn.

Codwyd adeilad amaethyddol bach a elwid yn gwt ieir rhwng 1850 a 1875 hefyd, ac er iddo gael ei ymestyn yn yr 20fed ganrif, mae wedi cadw llawer o'i gymeriad.

Gwnaed y gwaith archaeolegol yn unol â'r safonau proffesiynol a bennir gan Sefydliad Siartredig yr Archaeolegwyr.

Acknowledgements

The project was managed by Martin Tuck MCIfA (Senior Project Manager). The fieldwork was undertaken by Johnny Crawford BSc MA MCIfA (Assistant Project Manager) and Issica Baron (Project Archaeologist) of the GGAT projects department. The report was by Johnny Crawford and illustrations were prepared by Paul Jones, Senior Illustrator GGAT.

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Abbreviations

AOD – Above Ordnance Datum

GGAT – Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust

GPS – Global Positioning System

HER – Historic Environment Record

ICON – Institute of Conservation

LB – Listed Buildings Grade I, II and II* (Cadw)

LPA – Local Planning Authority

NGR – National Grid Reference

NMR – National Monuments Record

NPRN – National Primary Record Number (in NMR)

OS – Ordnance Survey

PRN – Primary Record Number (in HER) i.e. PRN 02122m

1. Introduction

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 The proposed works to the Tynycoedcae Farm for a replacement dwelling with detached garage, comprise the demolition of the existing dwelling, attached stone barn and detached stone barn and construction of a detached replacement dwelling with a detached double garage (Application no. P/18/0132).
- 1.1.2 Condition number 8 to the Planning Consent states that:
- 1.1.3 ‘No works to which this consent relates shall commence until an appropriate programme of historic building recording and analysis has been secured and implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority’.
- 1.1.4 The Local Planning Authority recommended that the works will take the form of Level 2 survey as set out in ‘Understanding historic Buildings: A guide to Good Recording Practice’ (no. MTY0090/JBHD).
- 1.1.5 The Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd (Projects) were commissioned by Ray Gee Construction to carry out the building survey the results of which form the subject of the current report. The work was undertaken to the framework set out in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation GGAT Report No. 2019/032 (Dabal 2019). The survey was carried out to Level II standards (Historic England ‘*Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*’ 2016).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 Tynycoedcae Farm is located to the north of Heads of the Valleys Road (centred approximately SO 01457 07480, Figure 1). The site comprises the historic core of the farm (the buildings to be surveyed) and a large modern agricultural barn and static caravan home to the east. The original farmhouse with a rear projection is ostensibly attached to a large redundant agricultural stone barn (which itself has been extended to the rear) to its northern elevation. A stream runs along the rear of the existing dwelling and attached stone barn, which flows into the Nant Ffrwd River to the north. The proposed development lies in the open countryside and it is surrounded by farm fields and woodland which stretches along the river.
- 1.2.2 The superficial geology consists of Til, Devensian (Diamiction) and bedrock of South Wales Lower Coal Measures Formation and Bishpston Mudstone Formation (Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone) (BGS 2019).

1.3 Site Specific Background

- 1.3.1 A search of the regional HER helped to inform on the nature and extent of the known archaeological resource of the area (HER Reference 6076). The site is not located within a Historic Landscape Character Area. There are no known prehistoric sites within the nearest vicinity of the proposed development area. The nearest known site of the period is located the southwest and southeast from the Tynycoedcae Farm; all date to the Bronze Age. The nearest examples include Bedd Y Gwyddel (00448m), Bryn Y Gwyddel ring cairn (05110m), Dynevor Arms (Baverstock Hotel) Settlement and Cairnfield (00447m), Cairn Y Frwdyr (00444m) and a site of former cairn (00446m) (HER data accessed 28th of June

2019).

- 1.3.2 There are no records of Roman and Medieval activity in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development.
- 1.3.3 Until the advent of the industrial development of the Merthyr Tydfil, the surrounding area is likely to have been utilised for upland agriculture, however there is a lack of definitive evidence.
- 1.3.4 By the 18th century the landscape was mostly rural, characterised by irregular field pattern and areas of woodland.
- 1.3.5 Ty'n y-coedcae farm is shown on the 1850 Tithe map of Merthyr Tydfil as a rectangular building with a projection from the centre of the west elevation. A rectangular enclosure is shown running diagonally to the north east from the north gable of the farm and a probable boundary wall is shown running parallel to the west elevation of the main building. The land is described as being in the ownership of Lord Dynefor and the representatives of the late John Richards, but the tenant is named as Lewis Jenkins. The property itself is named on the Tithe map apportionment as 'Ty yn y coed cae' translating as the house in the wooded field. The surrounding fields are all either meadow or pasture, suggesting that the trees that gave the property its name were no longer extant. The farm is next shown on the 1st Edition map dating to 1875. The farm comprises of a long rectangular building on roughly north-south alignment and smaller rectangular structure to the northeast (1st ed.1:2500 OS map 1875). Aerial photography suggests that this form was retained essentially unchanged until sometime between 2008 and 2010, when demolition of an apparent Dutch barn adjoining the north of the current barn took place, together with creation of a new access road and creation of a large area of hardstanding with a modern barn was undertaken. This latter layout, is the farmstead form that existed at the time of the survey.
- 1.3.6 Approximately 900m to the east of Tyncoedcae farm is large Post-Medieval farmstead Coed Meurig Farm (03159m) is characterised by buildings and structures including a Lofted Cow Shed(03188m), a sheepfold Drystone Walled Landscape And Sheep Pen (03190m) and a Drystone Walled Landscape, (03229m). Whilst these sites may be continuations of an earlier pattern of occupation, this is largely unconfirmed. Tyncoedcae Farm was contemporary with Coed Meurig Farm and almost certainly forms part of an essentially pre-industrial landscape in the area.
- 1.3.7 Other sites of Post-Medieval date associated with the industrial history of Merthyr Tydfil are known in the vicinity. All of these features, which are located approximately 500m south west of Tyncoedcae Farm, relate to the development of the coal and ironstone workings, which took place from the second half of the 18th century. These sites include the colliery at Winch Fawr (03065m, 03066m) and Ironstone Mine at Winch Fawr (03069m and 03070m). Large and small-scale coal mining sites associated with the development of the 'steam coal' trade were operating directly to the south-west, of the proposed development site.
- 1.3.8 During the 19th century the area to the south of the proposed development was greatly transformed by the growth of tramways and railways associated with colliery and ironstone mine at Winch Fawr.

1.4 Previous Investigations

- 1.4.1 There are known five archaeological events recorded on the Regional HER within the local vicinity, although none have any relevance for Tyncoedcae Farm.
- 1.4.2 E00533 – Field Survey which took place in 1961 (HER).
- 1.4.3 E001138 - Field visit was undertaken as part of GGAT 72 Prehistoric funerary and ritual sites project. During the survey visit to nearby Bronze Age sites was conducted to assess a state of their preservation in order to ensure its continued preservation.
- 1.4.4 E002283 – in 1997 GGAT carry out The Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust undertake an Archaeological Assessment at Bryn-y-Gwyddel. GGAT undertook a review of map evidence and information provided by RCAHMW, and a site visit (Locock 1997).
- 1.4.5 E002663 - Environment Statement for Winch Fawr West covered Archaeology and Archaeological Setting was undertaken in 2000. It described the nature of the landscape and provided a list of the principal archaeological features, together with an assessment of their individual archaeological values and the effects of the proposed scheme (Lawler 2000).
- 1.4.6 E005383 - The Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust was commissioned to carry out a Historic Landscape Assessment. The work was carried out at Winch Fawr West, on the northwest side of Merthyr Tydfil (Roberts 2004).

Tyncoedcae Farm, Merthyr Tydfil: historic building survey

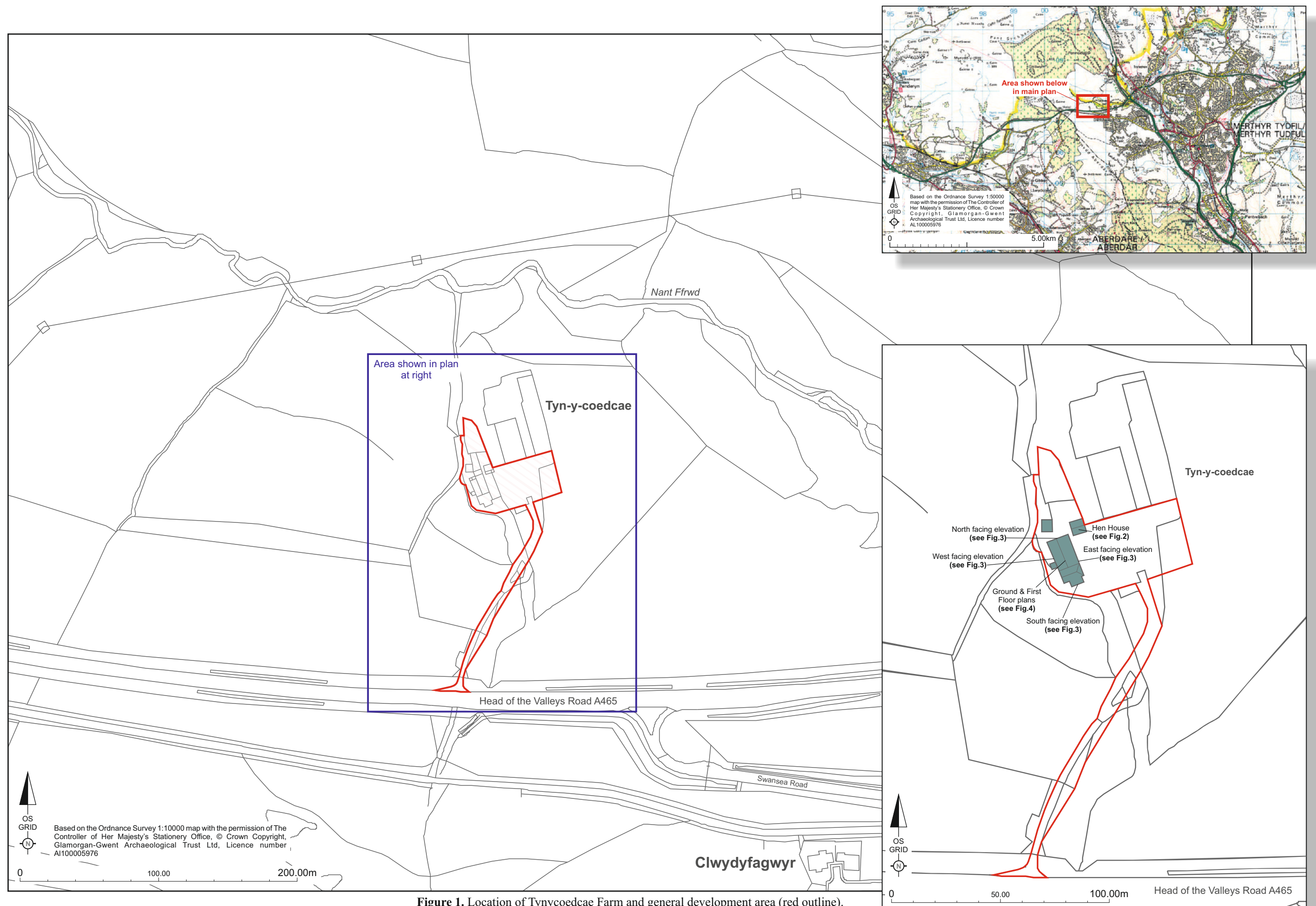


Figure 1. Location of Tyncoedcae Farm and general development area (red outline).

2. Methodology

The methodology for the survey followed that set out by Historic England's *Understanding Historic Buildings, A guide to good recording practice* (2016) to Level 2 specification and the ClfA's *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2014).

The survey entailed the recording of all exterior elevations of the farm, attached barn and hen house. Notes were made of any particularly interesting features identified. Measurements were taken using a Leica Disto laser measuring device, as well as using conventional measuring tapes. All elevations and features were photographed digitally at a resolution of not less than 10 megapixels.

Relevant photographs taken during the survey have been included in Appendix I. Scale on the photos is shown in 0.5m divisions.

The survey took place on 15th July 2019 in dry and sunny conditions.

3. Survey Results

3.1 Introduction

Tyncoedcae Farm is situated on ground that slopes gently down to the north within a slight hollow where several water collects meet before flowing down hill into the Nant Ffrwd (NGR SO 01460 07478, Figure 1). The Nant Ffrwd, located 130m to the north, marks the historical boundary between the Parishes of Merthyr Tydfil and Penderyn. The complex was surrounded on three sides by open fields (north, east and south) and by mixed deciduous and coniferous woodland to the west, which provides a windbreak for the farm buildings, but which is of itself of no great age. The farm is currently unoccupied, although the current owners use the surrounding area for both accommodation (a static caravan) and business. A large, modern agricultural building is located north east of the original farm complex.

The farm complex recorded consists of two separate buildings, one being a hen house, and the other being a barn with adjoining farmhouse. The following text should be read in conjunction with Figures 2 to 4 in order to establish the location and direction from which the photographs were taken.

3.2 'Hen House' (Plates 1-8, Fig. 2)

General description

It is unclear as to whether the building known as the 'hen house' was originally intended to be such but it is referred to as such by the owners and it will be referred to as such in this report. The hen house consisted of a rectangular planned building showing two phases of construction. The initial phase, visible as areas of un-rendered stone wall in the gable ends (west and east elevations), consisted of a stone built structure on a square plan, made of un-coursed local stone. At least three phases of pointing concealed the method of bonding the stone but white lime mortar appeared to be the original bonding medium for the walls, with concrete being used subsequently. The roof was not original, consisting at the time of the survey of concrete bonded asbestos corrugated sheets with dark ceramic ridge tiles. The first phase appeared to have been square in plan, with an entrance doorway in the north elevation. The angle of the roofline, as seen in the gable, was steeper to the south and was originally symmetrical in appearance. A cobble floor was noted outside the entrance, forming the original farmyard surface outside the first phase building. Internally, the first phase consisted of a probable stone paved floor (now covered by a concrete screed) raised on either side of the entrance to form a rectangular sunken passage. Evidence for internal partitions was present in the form of two post settings, one in each of the raised floors, together with a surviving vertically mounted beam set into the west wall. The first phase gable ends were visible on the internal walls as un-rendered but whitewashed stone. A single rectangular window was located in the centre of the east elevation.

The second phase of the hen house consisted of a probable brick extension of the plan of the building to the south although the actual nature of the construction was hidden externally by extensive pebble dashed concrete render and by lime based whitewash internally. The extension served to make the roof asymmetrical and extended the available space within the building by almost 6m². A second extension had been created to the north by taking advantage of the presence of a stone boundary wall to anchor a red brick partition approximately 3m from the original entrance, effectively enclosing

the cobble surface outside the original doorway within the structure. The west elevation of this extension was open ended, consisting simply of a farm gate mounted on large timber uprights. The brick partition contained a rectangular window and the east elevation was formed from the boundary wall. This northern extension was roofed with corrugated iron sheeting set at a more shallow angle than the main roof.

External south elevation (Plate 1)



Plate 1. South elevation of the hen house. Scale 2m.

The south elevation consisted of a pebble dash rendered wall measuring 6m in length by 2.3m in height, containing a wooden door flanked by rectangular windows. The door frame was of timber construction, as were the slats and frame for the windows. The door mechanism consisted of a simple modern bolt. A modern plastic guttering system fed into an old bath concreted into a platform next to the door in order to capture rainwater into the improvised drinking trough. A mounting post for a modern farm gate was located adjacent to the bath. The doorway measured 1.17m wide by 2m in height; both windows measured 0.65m wide by 0.46m in height. The ceramic ridge tiles are visible in the photograph, as is a section of corrugated iron covering what was probably once a ventilation louvre or similar.

External west elevation (Plate 2)

Photography of the west elevation was difficult due to the proximity of several caravans and it has been necessary to use an oblique photograph for this elevation. This elevation consisted of an asymmetric gable with evidence of two separate phases of construction. The elevation measured 10.1m in length and measured 3.45m from ground to roof apex. The first phase consisted of un-coursed local stone (sandstone and limestone) bonded with lime mortar. A possible blocked window was noted in the centre of the first phase elevation but this was not particularly clear. At least three phases of consolidation appeared to have taken place consisting of three different varieties of concrete pointing

to the stone. No trace of the original roofing method was visible but the ends of two timber purlins were visible, which were likely to be original. The second phase extension to the south was visible as an obvious separate construction, flat faced and rendered with concrete and fine pebble dash. Iron hinges were affixed to the south end of the second phase elevation for mounting a farm gate; reciprocal mounting points were noted on the north east corner of the barn for the other side of the gate. An open ended extension was present to the north of the first phase, being visible on the photograph as a red brick partition wall and two vertical timbers for mounting a farm gate. The ground outside the elevation was surfaced with worn tarmac.



Plate 2. West elevation oblique view showing first phase construction (stone) second phase (pebble dash render) and open sided extension to the north. Scale 2m.

External north elevation (Plates 3 to 5)



Plate 3. North elevation, scale 2m.

The north elevation consisted of a red brick partition wall, bonded with concrete, with its eastern end resting on an old boundary wall (left of the picture). It measured approximately 1.75m in height by 6m in width and was furnished with a rectangular window 1.5m wide by 0.8m in height. The window was of the same slatted wood style as the others in the building. The north elevation of the first phase of the building was concealed by the extension but consisted of a stone built wall covered in whitewash render. A single timber framed, stepped doorway in the centre led into the building, probably forming the original entrance into the structure.



Plate 4. Oblique view of the original first phase north elevation, now contained within a later extension. Note reinforced concrete render to reverse of the old boundary wall. Scale 2m.



Plate 5. Cobbled surface immediately outside the original first phase north elevation. This is likely to be the original farmyard surface in the immediate vicinity. Scale rods 1m.

External east elevation (Plate 6)



Plate 6. East elevation. Note the extension to the right of the image that shows how the old boundary wall has been utilised.

Difficulties were experienced in photographing the east elevation due to the presence of stored construction items. Nevertheless, this elevation displayed the same characteristics as the western elevation in that two phases of construction were visible, together with a length of old boundary wall that had been utilised as part of the north extension to the hen house. This boundary wall survived to 1.35m in height, approximately 3m in length and was 0.5m in width as constructed. The east elevation contained a single rectangular window measuring 0.9m in width by 0.8m in height and exhibited the same wooden slatted construction noted previously. The window sill consisted of yellow refractory bricks laid edge on at a slightly downward angle to allow for water run-off.

Internal (Plates 7 and 8)

The interior of the building was relatively bare, with few visible fixtures or fittings. The first phase floor contained two timber post settings, possibly to support a partition or similar, with the remains of a vertically mounted timber affixed to the west wall. The second phase extension was clearly visible within the internal elevations and the original floor line had been used as the foundation for a breeze block partition which had been subsequently demolished. None of the roofing materials were original.



Plate 7. Interior view of the hen house towards the north, looking towards the original doorway. Note the raised floor levels. Scale 2m.



Plate 8. Internal view of the east elevation showing the construction of the second phase extension. Note the remains of a breeze block partition to the left of the blue box. Scale 2m

Hen house conclusion

The building known as the hen house is absent from the Tithe map of 1850 but is shown on the First Edition OS map of 1875, as is the boundary wall used as part of the later northern extension. The first phase of the hen house is likely to date, therefore, to between 1850 and no later than 1875. The boundary wall depicted was originally much longer but the hen house incorporates the only surviving section shown on the First

Edition map; this wall is unlikely to be the same one as depicted on the Tithe as it is clear that extensive re-modelling of the farm occurred between 1850 and 1875, including a change in the layout of the boundary walls. It is unknown as to whether the building has always been used as a hen house. No small entrances for poultry, common to hen houses, were visible during the survey but they may have been lost from the original south elevation, which was removed to create the second phase extension. No obvious original fixtures or fittings from the first phase were noted although the timber post slots may be a vestigial feature.

The date of the second phase is somewhat more difficult to identify from the cartographic sources. However, the similarity in the form of the wooden slatted windows suggests that both north and south extensions date to a similar period, probably around the mid-20th century but possibly earlier. No significant fixtures or fittings dating to the second phase were noted with the exception of the remains of the internal partitions. It is obvious however that the hen house was built as an integral part of the farmstead's re-modelling in the third quarter of the 19th century and although subject to alteration, it retains its character in terms of an historic building.

3.3 Barn and farmhouse

General description

The main farmstead buildings consisted of an adjoining barn and farmhouse cottage. The barn is rectangular in plan, stone built and roofed with slate tiles placed directly onto timber rafters, with no visible underlay present; parts of the slate covering were missing, leaving the interior of the barn open to the elements. The cottage is also rectangular, although aligned on a different axis, and together with the barn forms an 'L' shaped complex with the cottage projecting to the west. The ground upon which the two buildings are constructed slopes down to the west, resulting in an elevation difference in height of perhaps as much as 1m. In its last iteration, the barn was used as stabling or as a byre and the cottage as a dwelling. The barn is the earliest structure, being depicted on the Tithe map of 1850 as a rectangular structure with a wing projecting from just off centre of the west elevation. The cottage appears to have been added by the date of publication of the First Edition OS map in 1875, and was probably created as part of the general re-modelling of the property. The mapping is somewhat indistinct as some elements of the west elevation of the complex are depicted without roof cover. Whether these indicate the presence of small enclosures (unlikely) or whether the building was actually being modified at the time of the OS survey is unknown; the footprint of the annexes shown on the OS map is the same as that which is currently visible for the complex. The basic ground plan for the barn and cottages was therefore extant by 1875 with little fundamental change until the present day.

3.4 The barn (Plates 9-30, Figs. 3 and 4)

The barn is the earlier of the two linked structures consisting of a rectangular plan built in stone bonded with lime based mortar. Some re-pointing with concrete has occurred but this is inconsistent, being noted generally near window openings. The remains of a whitewash render are visible on the external surfaces. The interior was also extensively whitewashed and this has survived to a greater extent, being protected from the weather. Two main phases of construction are evident in the barn's construction, the initial build followed by subsequent raising of the roof to a greater height (raised by approximately

0.5m-0.6m). It is highly likely the roof was raised at the time of the re-modelling of the complex prior to 1875.

External barn east elevation (Plates 9 to 12)

The east elevation measures 16m in length by approximately 4m in height, with the roof adding perhaps an additional 2m in height. The elevation was pierced by two doors on the ground floor and five windows. Three windows were positioned to illuminate the lower ground and two are positioned just under the roof line to illuminate the upper level inside the barn. A blocked doorway was present at the southern end of the elevation, together with another at the northern end. Each of these doorways was 0.9m wide by 1.7m in height and was furnished with an arched lintel of yellow refractory bricks. Window and door frames were all of wood and in a relatively poor state of repair; it was unclear as to whether these were original fittings but they were obviously of some age. The former roof line was not particularly obvious from this elevation but the two upper windows appear to have been added after the raising of the roof. The northernmost window appeared to have been created by partially blocking an earlier window or doorway. The southern upper window appeared to have been a completely new addition and was furnished with a sill of yellow refractory bricks. The roof was furnished with a timber soffit and a relatively modern metal gutter. The remains of a cobbled surface were noted fronting the east elevation, similar to numerous agricultural farmyards of the 19th century.



Plate 9. General view of the east elevations of both the barn (right) and cottage. Scale 2m.



Plate 10. Southern end of the barn showing the blocked doorway. Scale 2m.



Plate 11. The northernmost upper window created by partially blocking a previous window or doorway, probably when the roofline was raised. Scale 2m.



Plate 12. Blocked doorway at the north of the east elevation. Unlike the blocked doorway to the south, this was converted to a window. Scale 2m.

External barn north elevation (Plates 13 to 15)

Views of the north elevation were limited by the presence of two caravans which occupied much of the space outside the north of the barn. However, distinctive elements within the north gable end of the barn were visible, and photographed obliquely.

The elevation was pierced by a doorway on the west side measuring 2m in height by 1m wide. It is possible that this doorway was a later feature although a wooden lintel inside the building suggests that the doorway had been present for some time. The external elements of the doorway had certainly been remodelled in the relatively recent past as breeze block, brick and concrete elements were present. Of note was the absence of timber framing for a door, which supports the suggestion that it was a rather rough and ready later addition to the building.

Blocking was visible in two discrete areas in the elevation. The first was at ground level, where the remains of a timber lintel marked the upper edge of a window in the centre of the gable end. The blocking consisted of local stone and yellow refractory brick and had been pointed with concrete. The blocking measured approximately 2m in width by 0.5m in height. At an upper level, a possible window had been blocked with stone and yellow refractory brick elements.



Plate 13. General picture of the doorway set into the north elevation of the barn. Note the breeze block and brick elements and the fact that there is no framing for a doorway. Scale 1m.



Plate 14. General oblique view of blocking of a window at the lower level of the north elevation of the barn. Note the timber lintel.

The most interesting feature noted in the north elevation was a series of triangular stones marking the original roof line for the barn. These had been retained and incorporated into the raised roof and provided the most compelling evidence that the roof level had been indeed been raised. The feature was too high to measure but is shown on elevation drawings.



Plate 15. The former roofline was visible in the north gable of the barn. Note the remains of two slates nailed to the end roof joist as a weather board.

External barn south elevation

The south elevation was entirely invisible being concealed by the cottage. A small area of the southern gable could be seen from a distance where it overtopped the cottage roof.

External barn west elevation

Views of the west elevation of the barn were obscured by both vegetation and the annexes that had been built abutting the barn itself and therefore individual elements and annexes have been recorded as part of this elevation.

The west elevation of the barn appeared to be of a similar construction as the east although there were important distinctions in the style and appearance of the masonry. In general a combination of woodland and the annexes had conspired to reduce light to this elevation, resulting in the walls becoming covered in a thin covering of moss. The elevation was covered in multiple coats of whitewash which were more intact due to the greater protection from the elements. Three annexes had been created by building partition walls abutting the west elevation to enclose spaces to be used as rooms. For the purposes of this report, they have been allocated numbers 1-3 (Figure 4). The roof of each annexe had originally been of lean-to type but the roof of annexe 2, comprised of slate and timber supports, had collapsed into the building.

Annexe 1 (Plates 16 to 18)

This enclosed space measuring 4m x 3.7m had been created by building an 'L' shaped wall to enclose the angle between the barn and cottage. The room was furnished with two doors and two windows although brick blocking in the north wall of the cottage may have marked the position of a third window. The window facing west had been blocked with brick as part of the creation of a small outbuilding abutting the west of the annexe. The third window was located higher up the north wall of the annexe, with one side of the opening being formed by the barn wall.

The roofline itself had been raised by approximately 0.2m, as was visible in an original line of stonework with the extant roof consisting of corrugated iron sheets nailed to timbers. Crucially the cottage wall was not keyed into the barn wall, supporting the assertion that the cottage itself was a later addition. The external door was edged with yellow refractory brick and contained the remnants of a wooden door frame. The annexe enclosed an area of raised brick floor in the north west corner measuring 2m x 2.5m. The function of this raised area is unclear.



Plate 16. North west corner of Annexe 1 showing the blocked window and raised floor. Just visible is the modern corrugated iron roof. Scale 2m.

An internal doorway leading to the interior of the barn was present in the north east corner of the annexe. This had a highly unusual appearance, being set within a curving section of wall and being provided with two semi circular and two square stone steps up into the barn. The doorway was relatively small at 0.9m in width and 1.3m high but possessed no door. The final feature of note was a deliberately engineered recess, 1.6m above the floor level, in the west elevation just south of the door into the barn and at the same level as the top of the doorway. The recess measured 0.7m x 0.3m and had an approximate depth of 0.3m. A photograph of the interior of the recess revealed the presence of timber at the top and bottom and the rubble core of the barn wall but little else that might be useful for identifying it.



Plate 17. South wall of Annexe 1 showing possible blocked window and old roof line. This wall, which forms part of the north wall of the cottage, was not keyed into the barn wall. Scale 2m.



Plate 18. West elevation of the barn inside Annexe 1 showing the access doorway into the barn interior and the engineered recess in the wall. Note the line of stones at the top of the image indicating the line of the former roof of the barn prior to its level being raised. Scale 2m.

A line of stonework was visible in the west elevation of the wall indicating the height of the original first phase barn roof. This was measured at 3.5m above floor level with the modern roof being perhaps 1m higher.

Annexe 2 (Plates 19 to 23)

Annexe 2 enclosed a space of approximately 5.2m x 3.7m and comprised the north wall of Annexe 1, the west elevation of the barn and a stone and brick wall that formed the west wall of the annexe. The roof, which had been of timber and slate construction, had collapsed into the interior of the room, and small trees were flourishing in the space.



Plate 19. Interior view of annexe 2 showing the west wall and damaged window on the right as well as trees growing in the interior space. Scale 2m.

The north wall was of note as it had been built of yellow refractory brick and revealed the method of construction for the upper portion to have been timber framing with brick infill. The annexe was furnished with two doors and two windows. The external door was of similar construction and appearance as that for Annexe 1 although it lacked some of the brick surround. The internal door leading to the barn interior was different to that for Annexe 1 in that it had the appearance of having been punched through the barn wall without the sides being neatened. Some yellow refractory brick and a timber lintel had been provided but several stones projected into the doorway, although the passage of the doorway itself had been rendered with concrete to make it smooth. Several steep steps led up into the barn and a timber door, with the framing on the inside of the barn, was present.

Of the two windows, the one in the west wall was edged with yellow refractory brick and badly damaged, whilst the other was intact high in the adjoining wall of Annex 1.



Plate 20. North wall of Annexe 2 showing timber frame and brick infill construction of the upper part of the wall. Note the metal fixings which may have been for hanging implements.



Plate 21. Interior door from Annexe 2 to the barn showing the step and doorway. Scale 1m.

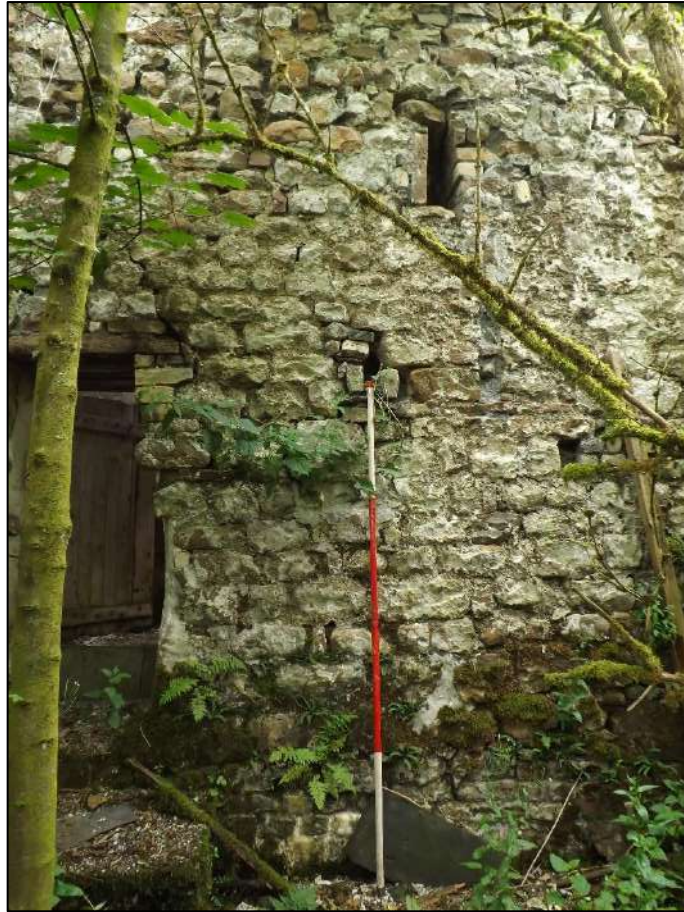


Plate 22. Detail of the west elevation on the barn showing possible air vent and possible scaffolding hole. Scale 2m.

The west elevation of the barn featured a possible ventilation window edged with stone and yellow refractory brick, together with a possible scaffolding hole. The ventilation window was of note as this was the only feature of this nature to be noted and there is therefore a possibility that the slot may have served as a socket for a roof timber. Unfortunately the feature was located too high to closely inspect.



Plate 23. North elevation of Annexe 1 which also formed the south wall of Annexe 2. Note the window with surviving framing. Scale 2m.

Annexe 3 (Plates 24 and 25)

This was the smallest of the three annexes, measuring 2m by 4m and had been built by utilising the north wall of Annexe 2, the west elevation of the barn and building an 'L' shaped wall to enclose the room. The annexe featured a combination of brick and stone in the construction but stone predominated. The interior was whitewashed and featured a brick and cobble floor. The doorway had originally been wider, perhaps being 1.6m wide but had been partially blocked with brick and stone to narrow the entrance and create a window. The roof was intact, consisting of slates supported by timber joists.

Annexe 3 appeared to have been used as a store room or similar but may have initially been built as a small animal pen. The floor sloped to the west possibly to aid drainage, and the wide door as was initially constructed would aid the passage of animals or larger equipment.

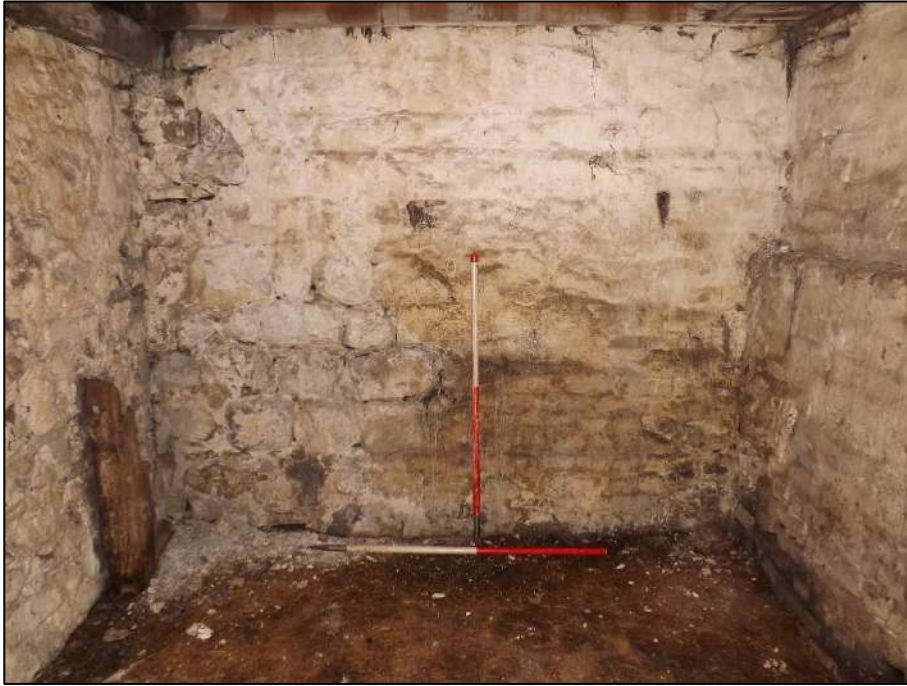


Plate 24. West elevation of barn as seen from inside Annexe 3. Scale 1m.



Plate 25. Brick and cobble floor of Annexe 3. Scale 1m.

Outhouse and platforms

Several brick, and stone platforms had been built to the west of the annexes in order to accommodate the drop in elevation to the west. One, to the rear of the cottage, was built of red brick and relatively modern in date. The remainder featured a combination of stone and brick but were heavily overgrown with brambles, nettles and shrubs at the time of the survey, making it impossible to gauge the full extent and nature of the features. A small yellow refractory brick built outhouse had been erected abutting the west of

Annexe 1. The outhouse may have been used as a washroom or perhaps an outside toilet at one stage although it was devoid of any real features except shelving.



Plate 26. Outhouse abutting Annexe 1. The only visible interior features were shelving. Scale 2m.

Barn interior (Plates 27 to 30)

The interior of the barn had been converted to serve as a byre or stable through the construction of five relatively modern brick and concrete stalls that occupied the western half of the building. Sufficient space had been left behind the stalls for a passage which provided access to the doorways in the west wall and the doorway in the north wall. The eastern half of the interior was devoid of features with the exception of a drainage channel in the concrete screed floor. The concrete render for the stalls extended around walls of the barn interior, obscuring any detail within from ground level up to a height of approximately 1.4m. The walls above this line were covered in whitewash render, which had fallen off in a number of places to reveal a possible area of blocking in the west wall and the original window sill interior of the raised upper level window in the east elevation. Very few fixtures or fittings were noted within the interior; electrical cabling had been applied to the east wall but otherwise nothing of note had been added to the interior.

The original roof line of the barn was visible in the walls as a linear break in the stonework, particularly within the western wall. The extant roof was likely to have been the one built following the raising of the roof, consisting of timber joists and purlins with the slates directly attached to timber slats.

Although it was possible to see where the roof line had been raised, there was no evidence to suggest that the barn had ever possessed an upper floor.



Plate 27. Interior of the south wall showing stored farm items and part of the byre. Scale 2m.



Plate 28. North wall of the barn interior. Note the blocked window in the upper level of the gable and the concrete render that extended round from the byre. Scale 1m.



Plate 29. Oblique view of the north east interior of the barn. Note the original sill for the partially blocked upper window and the former doorway in the corner that had been converted into a window. Scale 2m.



Plate 30. Detail of the roof construction of the barn interior. Note the slates have been affixed directly onto the timber. It is unclear as to whether this is the original roof but it is certainly of some age and may date to the re-modelling of the farm before 1875.

3.5 The cottage (Plates 31-46, Fig 3 and 4)

The cottage adjoining the barn was rectangular in plan and spread over two floors. The ground floor was divided into three rooms and the upper floor was divided into five. The cottage was completely rendered within and without so that none of the original construction materials were visible and it is quite likely that original features relating to the cottage survive behind the interior render. Two brick built chimneys were visible on the roof although neither related to a visible fireplace inside the building.

External cottage east elevation (Plate 31)

The east elevation formed the main entrance into the cottage and was furnished with two windows on the ground floor, each located either side of the front door and two dormer type windows to the first floor. The roof line was situated at the same height as the original roof line for the barn and there is a possibility that the cottage was built to incorporate the south end of the barn. This is supported by the similarity of the arch over the cottage front door to those over the barn doors. The entire elevation was rendered with concrete and the cottage possessed a roof made of ceramic tiles. The roof was furnished with lead flashing, wooden soffits and a modern gutter system.



Plate 31. Oblique view of the east elevation of the cottage. No scale but the doorway measured 2m in height by 1m in width.

External cottage south elevation (Plate 32)

The south elevation was partly obscured by trees but was, in any case rendered with concrete. A single window for the first floor bathroom was located to the west of the chimney stack. Little else can be said regarding the elevation.



Plate 32. South elevation of the cottage. Scale 2m.

External cottage west elevation (Plate 33)

It was not possible to obtain a satisfactory photograph of the cottage west elevation due to the presence of trees. However, the elevation was pierced by four modern windows, two on the ground floor and two on the first floor. The northernmost ground floor window was somewhat recessed and may once have been a doorway that had been converted to a window for the ground floor bathroom.



Plate 33. Ground floor kitchen window in the west elevation of the cottage. Scale 2m.

Cottage interior (Plates 34 to 47)

The ground floor of the cottage was divided into three rooms, in a split level configuration. The first floor had been divided into five rooms through the use of partitions. These rooms comprised one bathroom and four bedrooms.

Ground floor

The kitchen and a ground floor bathroom were on a lower level than the living room, which had to be reached by climbing three wooden stairs through a 1m wide doorway. The bathroom had been created by erecting a partition wall across one third of the kitchen area. A rectangular recess was built into the east wall of the kitchen, to the right of the stairs, and although the purpose of this feature is unclear, it is possible that it was in fact a blocked doorway that once led into the barn.

Fittings in the kitchen included a modern sink unit, with the bathroom being an unremarkable modern example.

The kitchen area floor was a concrete screed and that of the living room was overlain by a wood effect material. The ceiling in the kitchen area was rendered and that of the living area had exposed but heavily painted beams. The appearance and therefore relative age of these beams was obscured by the paint.



Plate 34. North east corner of the kitchen showing the steps into the living room and doorway (closed) into the bathroom. Scale 2m.



Plate 35. Rectangular recess in the south east corner of the kitchen. This was almost certainly a blocked doorway that once led into the barn that was repurposed for storage.



Plate 36. Modern bathroom on the ground floor. Scale to the left of the toilet 2m.

Living room

The living room was essentially square in plan and was largely devoid of features. A modern full length internal porch had been built using partition walling and a relatively modern looking fireplace occupied the centre of the southern wall of the living room. A distinctive line in the render of the surround of the fireplace suggested that this feature had been re-modelled; one of the chimneys was located above the fireplace on the roof. More partitioning had been used to create a storage area beneath the stairs, which were located in the north west corner of the room.

An unusual semi-circular recess, measuring 1m in width by 0.5m in depth was noted in the south east corner which had no apparent function. It was initially thought that this recess was another blocked doorway but as the feature extended to the first floor bedroom above (see below). It is possible that the feature was simply a niche but some thought must be given to the idea of the feature being part of a circular stairway.



Plate 37. South east corner of the living room. Scale 2m.



Plate 38. Internal porch and exposed ceiling beams in the living room. Scale 2m.



Plate 39. The fireplace in the living room. This is a later addition as fractures in the render and the gaps in the skirting board indicate the presence of an earlier fireplace behind the grate. Scale 1m.



Plate 40. View of the stairwell leading to the first floor. Scale 2m.

First floor

Access to the first floor was gained by an 'L' shaped staircase that wound to the left. This led to a small landing off which opened five doors to separate rooms consisting of four bedrooms and one bathroom. None of these rooms was remarkable in form with the exception of the largest of the bedrooms, situated above the living room, which contained visible painted roof beams and wooded floor boards which were partially rotted in places. The floor plan of the main bedroom included a semi-circular recessed

area measuring 1m x 0.5m that respected the semi-circular recess directly below in the living room. The floor boards in this area also had the appearance of being different, with an obvious cut line being obvious. The purpose of the recess is not clear but, as mentioned above, it was repeated in the upper floor, it is possible that it once housed a circular stairway adjacent to the fireplace.

Of the remaining bedrooms, only the south west corner bedroom, above the kitchen, was carpeted with the walls consisting of plasterboard. A boiler cupboard housing a cylindrical water boiler was also present in this room. Ceilings were also of plasterboard construction, cut to accommodate the dormer windows.



Plate 41. Semi-circular feature in the south east corner of the main bedroom. Note the cut line in the floorboards. This feature may be the vestigial remains of a stairwell. Scale 2m.

The only evidence of personalisation throughout the entire cottage consisted of childrens' stickers applied to the door of the cupboard containing the boiler.



Plate 42. Heavily painted roof beams in the south east bedroom. The beams were tied with metal bolts but although hidden under layers of paint, they are likely to be original beams dating to creation of the cottage. Scale 2m.



Plate 43. Plasterboard boiler cupboard within the south west bedroom. Note the childrens' stickers on the door, the only sign of personalisation within the entire cottage. Scale 2m.



Plate 44. View into the north west bedroom. Rotten floorboards prevented entry into the room.



Plate 45. View into the north east bedroom showing dormer window arrangement and plasterboard ceilings.



Plate 46. View along the landing towards the stairwell. Scale 2m.

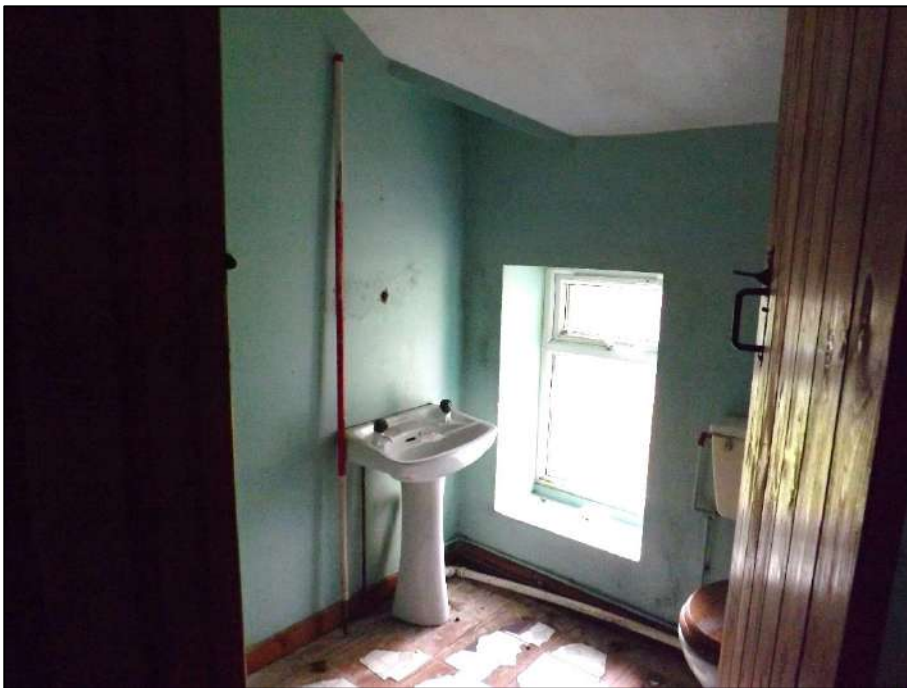


Plate 47. General view of the upstairs toilet and sink. Scale 2m.

3.6 General access to the property (Plates 48-49)

The farm was originally accessed by a roadway from the south with low stone embankments on either side. This access road appears to have become redundant following construction of the large barn between 2008 and 2010 and the roadway and embankments are now overgrown with grass.



Plate 48. The overgrown original access road to the farm looking south. The low stone banks either side are only partly visible Scale 2m.



Plate 49. General view of Tynycoedcae Farm from the original access track.

4. Survey Conclusions

The Tynycoedcae farm complex has been subject to recording to Level 2 standard, as required by the planning condition. This level of recording does not specify significant historical research on the property and is largely a descriptive record of the buildings. As such, no extensive historical research has been undertaken for the purposes of this survey. However, the following points of interest have been highlighted by the survey work.

The core of the Tynycoedcae complex consists of the stone barn. This is the original building on site and conforms to the character of a typical Welsh Longhouse, a type of dwelling that combined living space for a family with stabling for animals (Peate 1944). Whilst the barn has certainly been present since the early 19th century, there are indicators, such as curving sections of wall and the curving doorway into the west elevation of the barn from Annexe 1 that hint at an older possibly early-post medieval phase. The nature of the masonry in this area of the barn is also reminiscent of an earlier date, although there is a lack of artefactual evidence to support this. It is possible that historical research into the Dynevor Estate might be able to achieve greater resolution on dating of the barn.

The complex was significantly re-modelled between 1850 and 1875, a process that involved construction of the extensions to the rear (west) elevation. The original extension to the west shown on the Tithe map was retained as part of the re-modelling; the stone construction and general aged appearance, together with the curved doorway strongly suggest that this is Annexe 1. The remaining Annexes almost certainly date to the period of re-modelling but have been successively re-roofed over the years. The re-modelling also involved extension of the southern section of the barn to the west in order to create a larger cottage dwelling and although this extension was subsequently hidden by modern render and the floor covered by a concrete screed, there are probably earlier materials hidden beneath. Indeed the cottage appears to have been altered probably several times, with the removal of a possible original spiral staircase in the south east corner and division of the first floor using partition walling. An earlier fireplace almost certainly survives behind the existing fireplace behind the render.

The roof of the barn was raised by approximately 0.5m, probably during the re-modelling period although for some reason, the cottage retains the original longhouse roof line. This has resulted in limited headspace being available in the bedrooms but it is therefore possible that the roof beams are original to the period of remodelling. There is also likely to be an original fireplace behind the grate in the living room.

The agricultural building known as the hen house dates to the period of re-modelling, and despite being subsequently extended in the 20th century, it retains much of its original character.

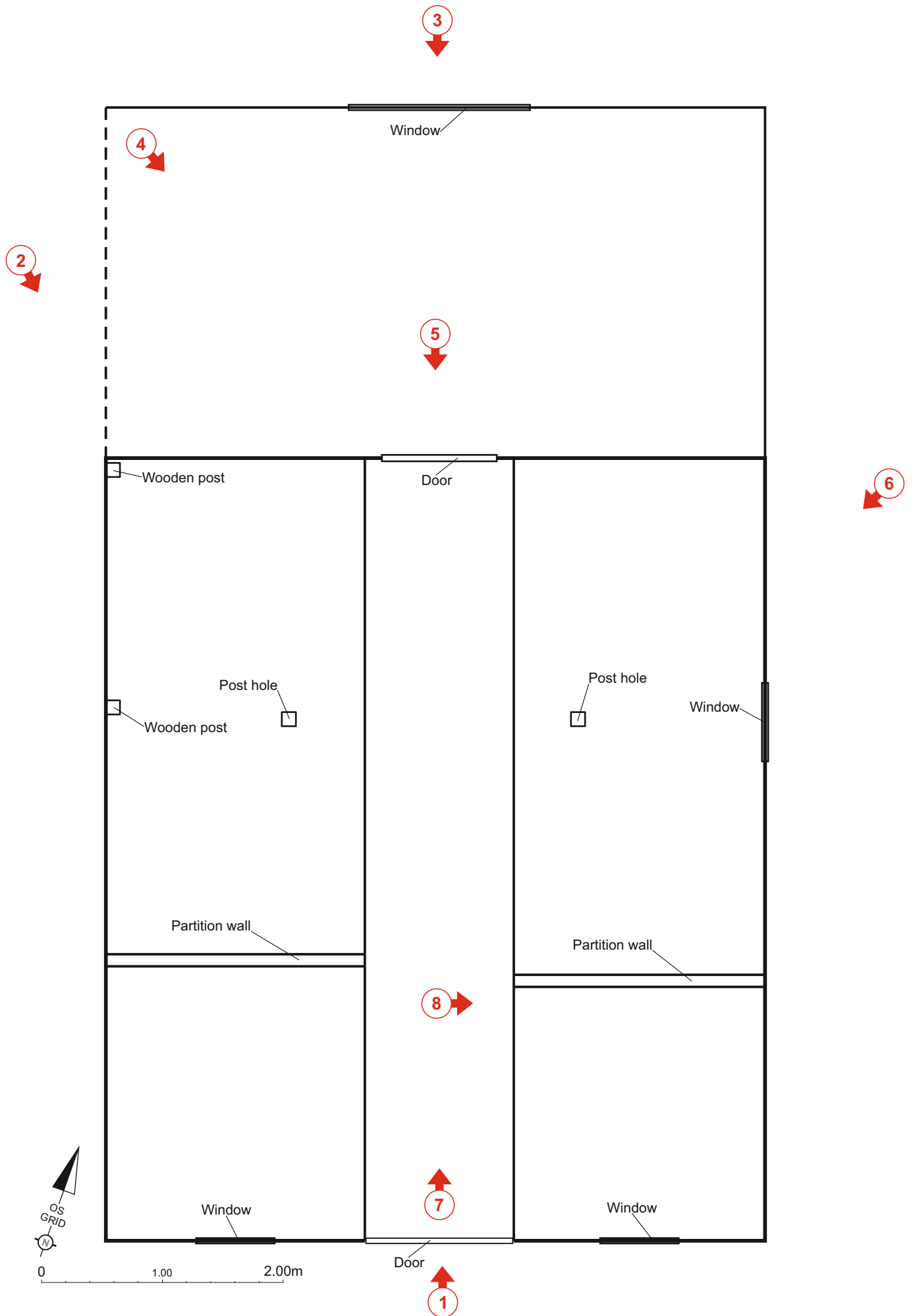
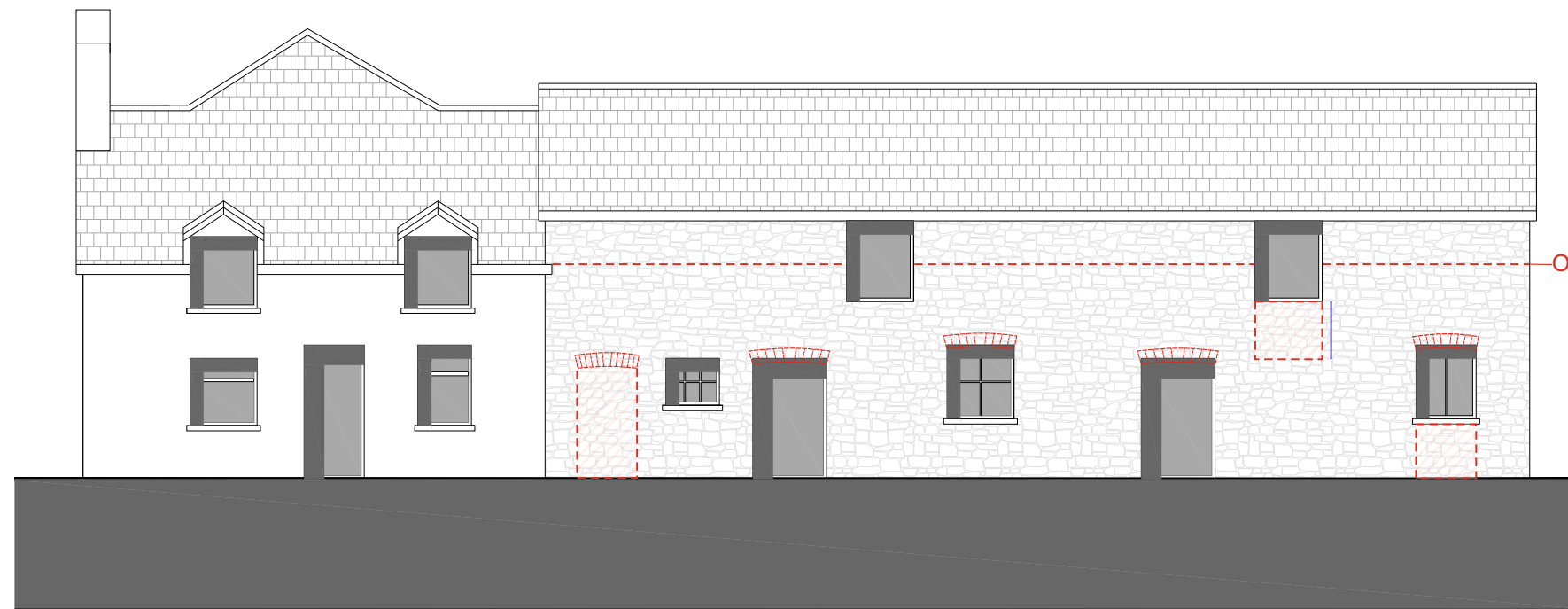
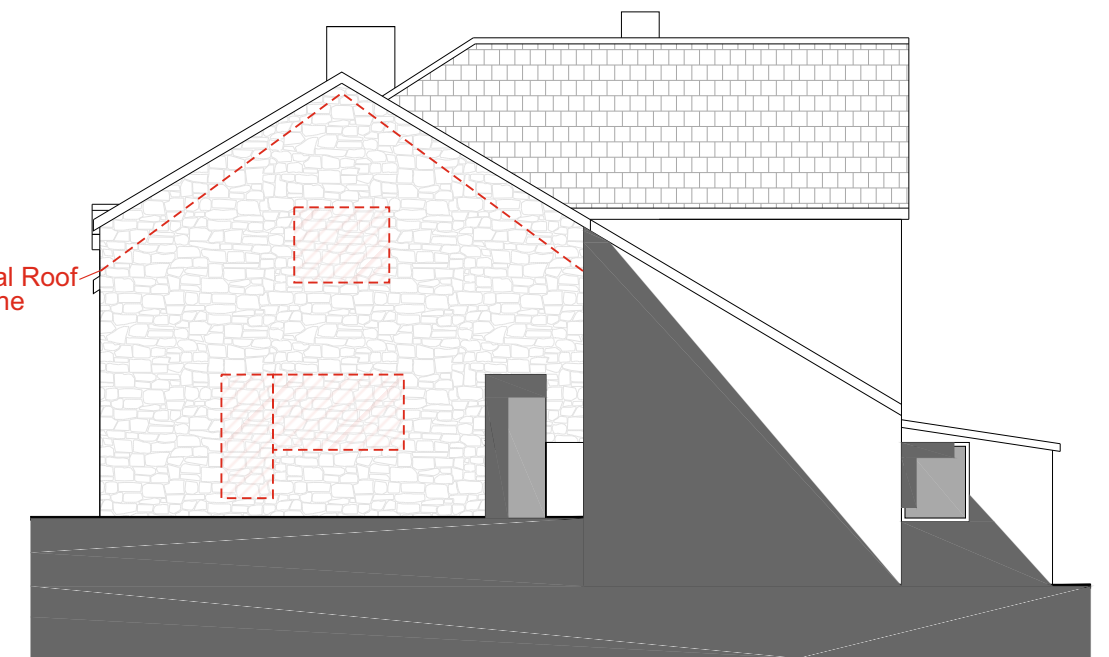


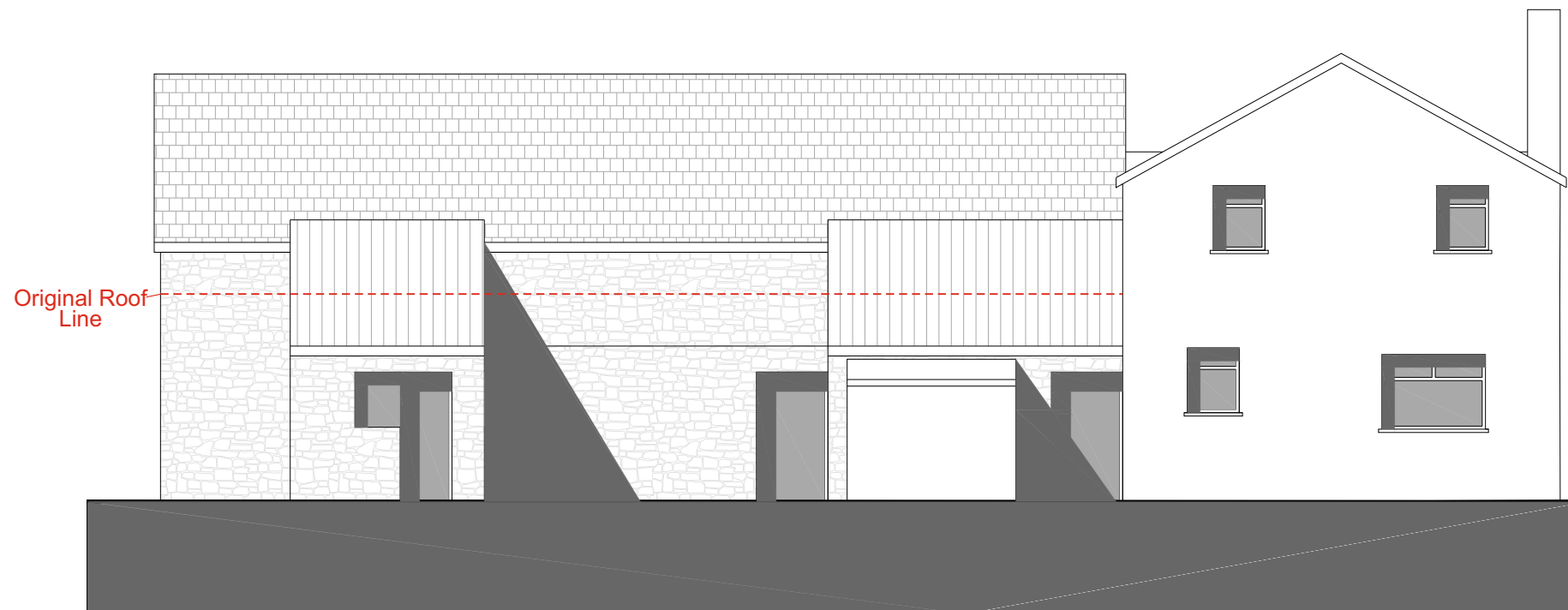
Figure 2. Plan of the Hen House with photograph index numbers and viewpoint orientation shown (red).



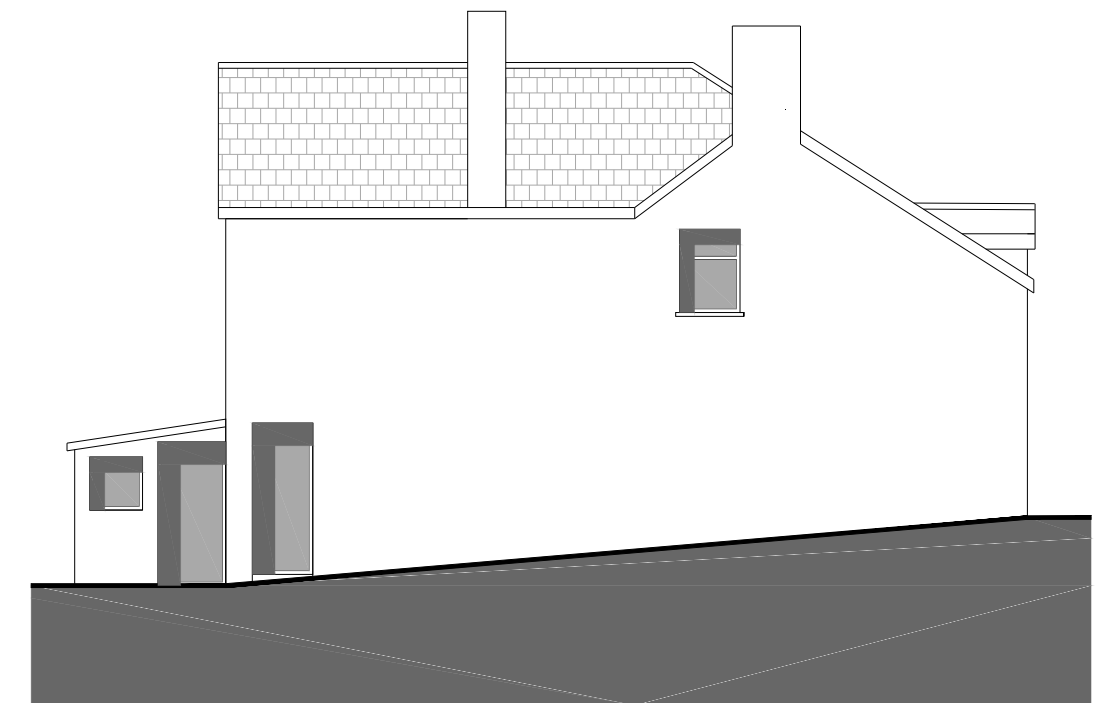
Front Elevation (East Facing)



Side Elevation (North Facing)



Rear Elevation (West Facing)



Side Elevation (South Facing)



Figure 3. Elevations of Tynycoedcae Farmhouse with archaeological surveyed results shown in red.



Figure 4. Plans of the ground and first floor of Tynycoedcae Farmhouse and barn with photograph index numbers showing plate numbers and viewpoint orientation (red).

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**Glamorgan-Gwent
Archaeological Trust Ltd
(Projects Department)**



QUALITY CONTROL

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Report Date: August 2019

Report Number: 2019/039

Report prepared by: Johnny Crawford

Position: Assistant Project Manager
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Date: 05/08/2019

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Date: 02/08/2019

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may wish to make on the content or presentation of this report.

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