

CPAT Report No. 1691




The Granary Barn, Penishapentre, Llanspyddid, Powys

Building Survey



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Client name: Stephen Davies
 CPAT Project No: 2407
 Project Name: The Granary Barn, Penishapentre
 Grid Reference: SO 0152 2842
 County/LPA: Powys
 Planning Application: 19/17271/FUL
 CPAT Report No: 1691
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Summary

In September 2019 the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust undertook a Level 1 Building Survey to record a former granary at Penishapentre, near Llanspyddid in Powys, prior to its conversion into holiday accommodation.

The granary comprised a two-storey building with a grain storage area on the upper floor and a working area and storage below.

The granary appeared to have been constructed in the early 19th century, as an addition to the south-western end of an existing range. It was rebuilt following a fire in 1877 and continued to be used as a granary until the modern era, when it fell out of use, owing to its unsuitability for modern farming practices.

Crynodeb

Ym mis Medi 2019, bu Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys yn cynnal Arolwg Adeilad Lefel 1 i gofnodi granar gynt yn fferm Penishapentre, ger Llanspyddid ym Mhowys, cyn ei drosi'n llety gwyliau.

Adeilad deulawr oedd y granar, gydag ardal storio grawn ar y llawr uchaf ac ardal gweithio a storio oddi tanodd.

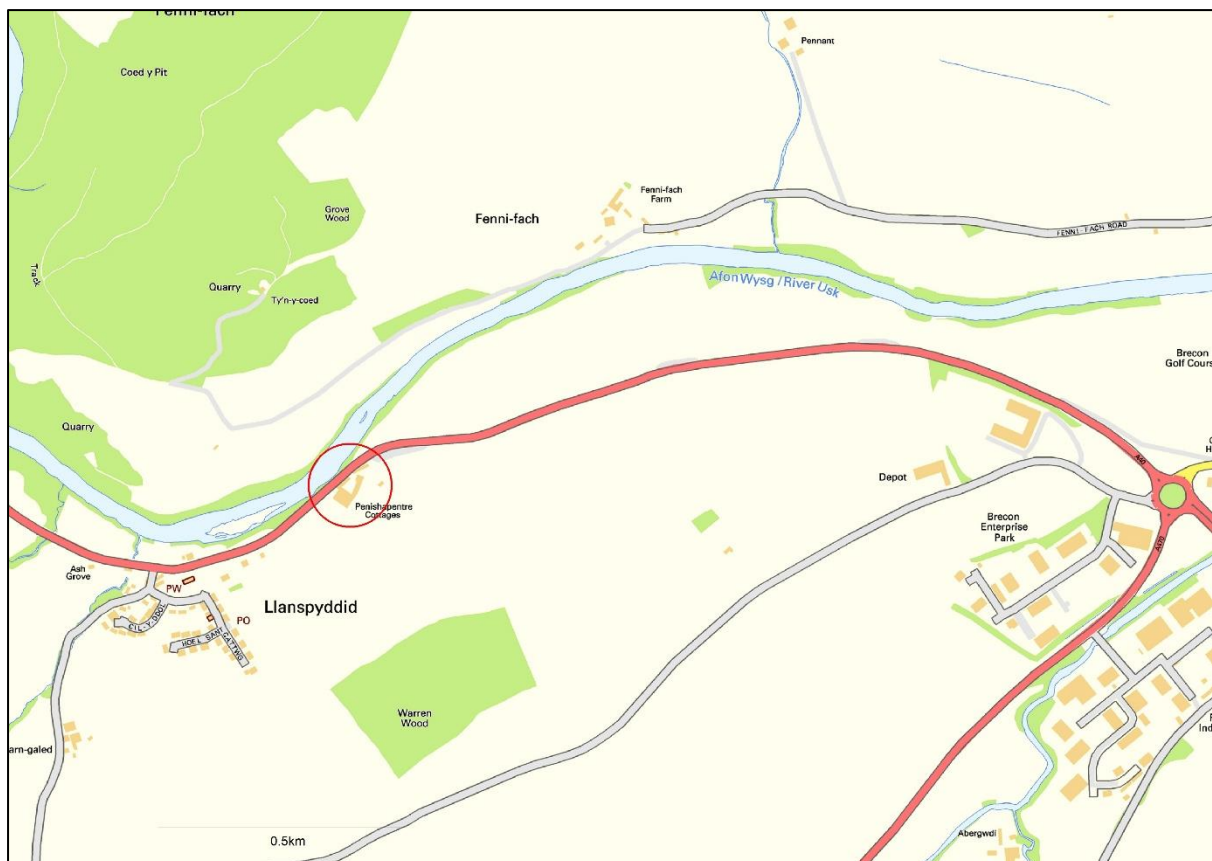
I bob golwg, cafodd y granar ei adeiladu ar ddechrau'r 19^{eg} ganrif, fel ychwanegiad at ben de-orllewinol rhesaid o adeiladau a oedd eisoes yn bodoli. Ailadeiladwyd ef ar ôl tân ym 1877, a pharhawyd i'w ddefnyddio fel granar tan yr oes fodern, pan ddaeth yn segur oherwydd ei fod yn anaddas ar gyfer arferion ffermio modern.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was invited by Stephen Davies to undertake a building survey in connection with the conversion of the Granary Barn at Penishapentre, Llanspyddid (Fig. 1; SO 0152 2842), into holiday accommodation.
- 1.2. Planning consent (19/17271/FUL) was granted by Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA) in August 2019, with the inclusion of the following condition:

17 No further development shall take place until an appropriate programme of buildings recording and analysis (equivalent to a HE Level 1 Buildings survey) has been secured and implemented, in accordance with advice provided by the Local Planning Authority. A copy of the resulting report and digital photographs shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority National Park Archaeologist for approval. Following approval, copies of the report and photographs will be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the local Welsh Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER)..

REASON: To allow a basic record of the main features and state of preservation of a building of historical and archaeological interest and significance affected by the proposed development to be made.



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018

Fig. 1 Location of Penishapentre (circled in red)

2 Historical Background

- 2.1. Little is known of the history of Llanspyddid village, which developed on the southern bank of the River Usk, presumably centred on St Cattwg's Church. The origins and early history of the settlement are likely to be closely linked with the church, and an early medieval foundation would therefore seem probable.
- 2.2. If there was a St Ysbyddydd he (or she) is otherwise unknown in early literature, although the recent authoritative volume on Welsh place-names does point out that a giant with the name Ysbyddaden appears in a medieval Welsh tale. Lannspitit is referenced as early as 1100, and even earlier from the 11th century could be Lanespetit though this the document in which it appears is later, from c. 1200. Lamdespidic is given in 1127. Tradition has it that Llanspyddid was the burial place of Anlach, Brychan's father.
- 2.3. Earthwork platforms have in the past been identified in the field to the south-west of the church, and lynchets resulting from cultivation and one such platform were built over in 1992. The tithe map of c.1839 and aerial photography hint at a slightly more complex picture that may or may not have some bearing on the nature of the structure of the earlier settlement here. To the east of the churchyard narrow but short enclosures on the south side of the road could be residual open-field strips of medieval date and these were certainly present further to the east beyond Penishapentre (Silvester et al. 2013).
- 2.4. Penishapentre, referred to as Pen-isa r-pentre on 19th century mapping is, as the name suggests, located at the lower easternmost extent of the settlement on the southern side of the trunk road between Brecon and Camarthen (the modern A40).

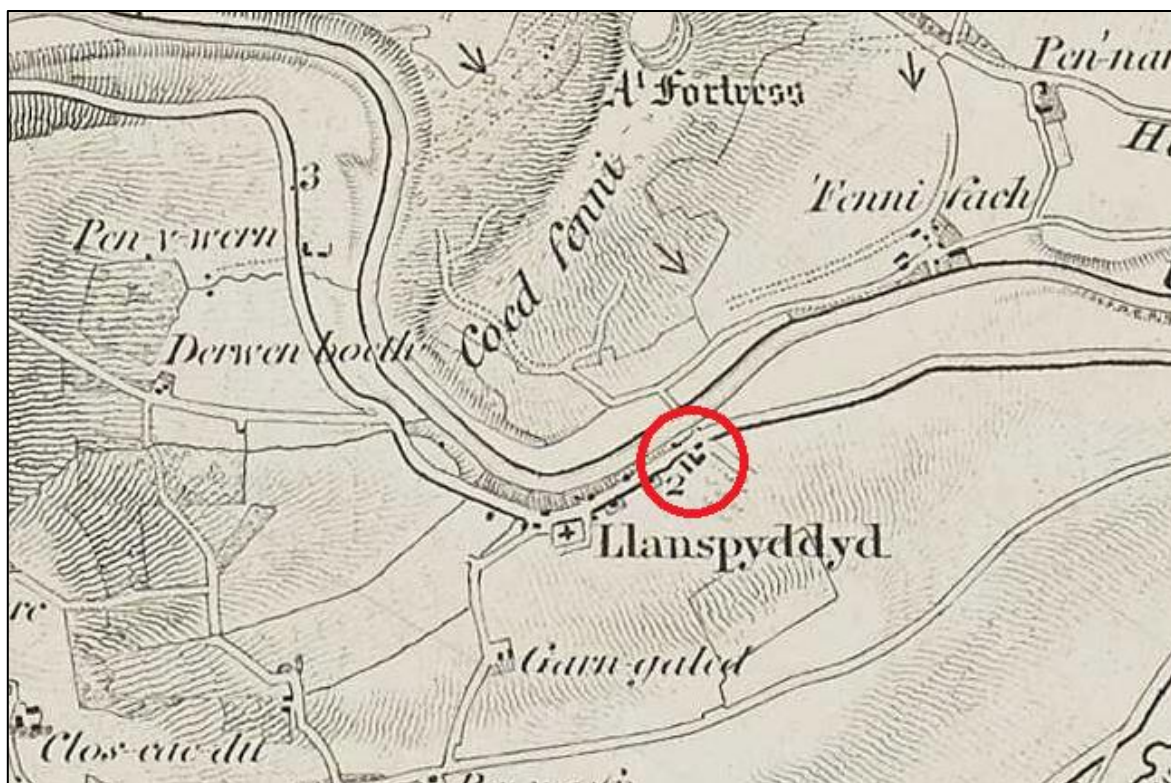


Fig. 2 Extract from the Ordnance Survey Old Series mapping of 1832

- 2.5. The farm is centred upon the main house, comprising a derivative form of longhouse built in the late 16th or early 17th century. The byre had been removed, and a parlour wing added during the 17th or early 18th century. A second house with outbuildings was added to the 18th century.

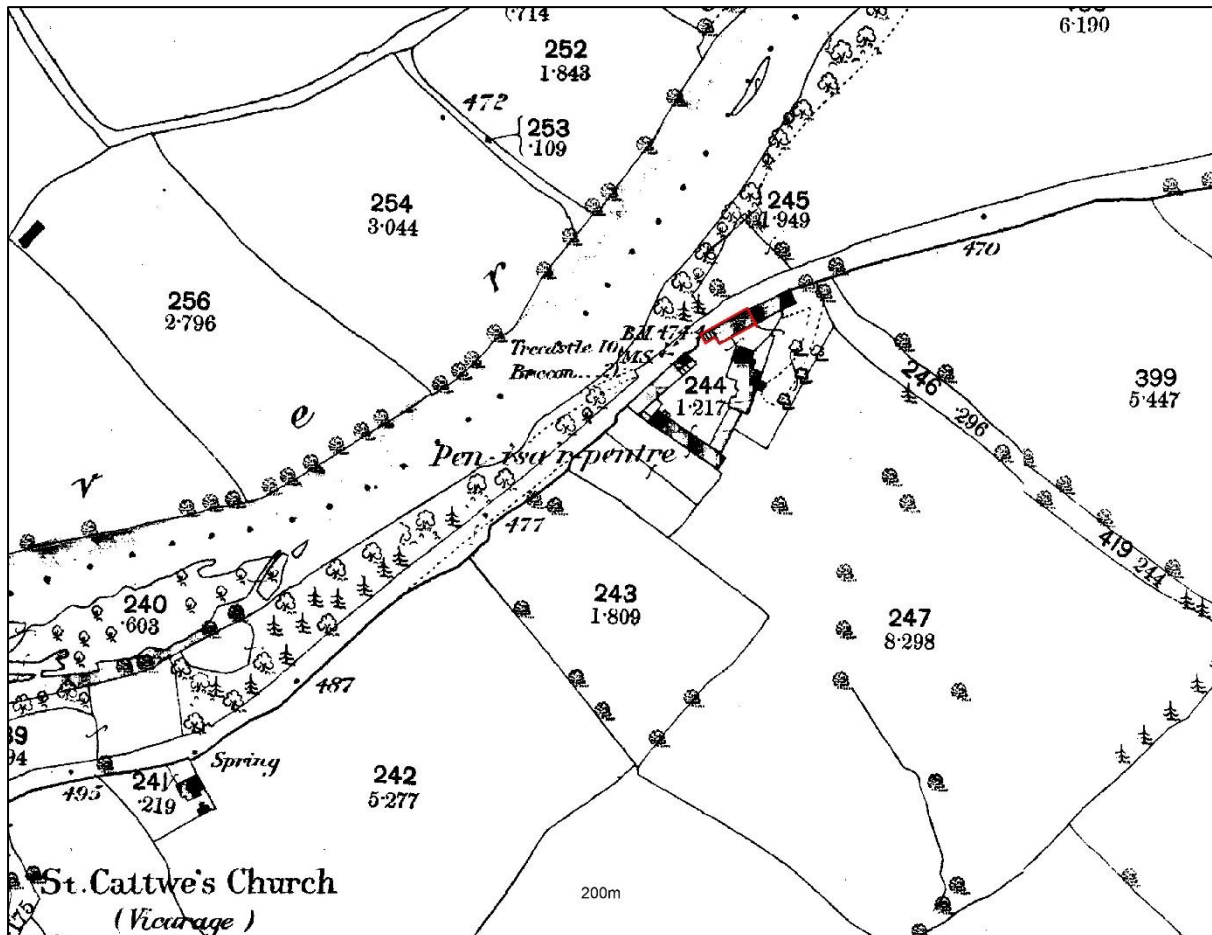


Fig. 3 Extract from 1889 Ordnance Survey 25' mapping. The granary barn is outlined in red

- 2.6. A range to the north of the house was constructed in the 17th or 18th century, and was formerly a cartshed and possibly a stables or byre. This may have been broadly contemporary with the removal of the byre from the house, as domestic occupation began to become separate from livestock during this period, especially on wealthier or well-to-do farms.
- 2.7. The granary was constructed on the south-west end of this range, probably during the early 19th century. It is not depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1832 (Fig. 2) although the positioning of the buildings on the map is quite vague. The granary is depicted on the Tithe map of 1839, when the farm was owned by a John Powell and occupied by David Williams. The South Wales Daily News records that the granary, then in the possession of a Mr Cornish burnt to the ground on Friday the 2nd of April 1877, with the loss of 20 acres of barley.
- 2.8. A threshing barn, and animal shed built around a farmyard to the west of the house appear to be early 19th century in date and possibly contemporary with the granary, although some of the outbuildings are later 19th century in date.

3 Building Survey

- 3.1. The building survey was conducted on 12 September 2019 in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (2014)*.
- 3.2. The building measured 21m in length (excluding the external staircase) and 6.8m in width, with the distance from ground level to the roof apex of 7.4m. It was constructed from random uncoursed lime mortared grey sandstone blocks, limewashed on the exterior and rendered internally. The roof was slate tiled with modern roof windows. The roof was slate tiled with modern roof windows.
- 3.3. The north-west facing elevation of the granary faced onto the modern A40 road. There were no windows or other apertures visible in this elevation, a typical design feature of this type of building.



Fig. 4 North-west elevation of the granary Photo CPAT 4691-04

- 3.4. The south-west elevation of the granary faced onto the farmyard. It comprised an open gable end, with a wide low entrance on the ground floor to allow access for carts and trailers. The upper floor was clad with weatherboarding, which was accessed by a doorway, via a stone staircase. There was also an access hatch for a grain auger or elevator. The staircase partially obstructed the ground floor entrance and was a later addition.



Fig. 5 South-west elevation Photo CPAT 4691-06

- 3.5. The south-east elevation had been considerably modified when the lower floor of the granary was converted into a workshop. Four windows had been inserted into the existing wall fabric. Railway track had been inserted through holes made in the wall fabric along this elevation to act as additional joists to support the upper granary floor. It was unclear exactly when these alterations were made but the owner suggested that the track, manufactured by GKN for the Great Western Railway circa 1929, was acquired following the closure of the northern extent of the Neath and Brecon Line in about 1969.



Fig. 6 South-east elevation viewed from the east Photo CPAT 4691-14



Fig. 7 Original doorway and mullion window in the south-east elevation Photo CPAT 4691-13

- 3.6. A ground floor doorway and an older mullion type window were located in the north-east end of the elevation, these were original features of the building. An access hatch to the upper floor was a later feature.



Fig. 8 Internal view of the mullion window in the south-east elevation Photo CPAT 4691-25

- 3.7. The ground floor of the granary comprised a single room with no evidence of subdivision. A modern grist mill on a blockwork plinth was located on the north-west elevation. There were three niches incorporated into the masonry of the north-west elevation for lamps or candles.



Fig. 9 Ground floor of the granary, viewed from the south-west Photo CPAT 4691-38



Fig. 10 Niche in north-west elevation Photo CPAT 4691-29

- 3.8. A series of five small, irregularly-spaced holes were visible in the stonework of the south-east elevation, at a height of 1.7m above floor level. These may have supported an internal structure such as shelves or racking. A niche for a light source was located close to the entrance at the south-west end.



Fig. 11 One of a series of holes in the south-east elevation wall fabric Photo CPAT 4691-37

- 3.9. There were a series of eight niches subdivided by bricks located in the north-east elevation, each measuring 0.4m in height, 0.3m in width and 0.3m deep. These were interpreted as bee boles of the type which were constructed inside buildings in order to store bee skeps during the winter months. The lintel over the niches was noted to have been reused, probably from part of a roof timber and there was charring on the inner beam, which suggests that the boles had been present when the building had been damaged by fire in 1877.



Fig. 12 Bee boles in the north-east elevation Photo CPAT 4691-28

- 3.10. The upper floor of the granary was a single undivided space. It had been largely stripped of interior fittings, although the characteristic tightly fitted floor boards were still largely intact. The skirting around the edges of the room, which was necessary to avoid access by vermin but also to prevent grain escaping, had been removed except for a section in the south-east corner.



Fig. 13 Winnower and flooring on the upper floor of the granary including remnant skirting boards behind it Photo CPAT 4691-53



Fig. 14 Roof frame viewed from the south-west Photo CPAT 4691-57



Fig. 15 Cruciform plinth to support the base of the rafter and boarding enclosing the eaves, viewed from the south Photo CPAT 4691-51

- 3.11. The roof timbers had been exposed revealing the trusses, which were of the common rafter type with collar ties. The common rafters were seated on cruciform plinths rather than a continuous wall plate. The eaves had been boarded over to prevent access to the stored grain by birds.

4 Conclusions

- 4.1. The earliest phase of the building, based on the mapping evidence, appears to date from the 1830s. The building is not depicted on the 1832 map (Fig. 2), which does record the older buildings to the north-east end of the range, but is depicted on the Tithe Map of Llanspyddid from 1839. This original building appeared to have been a windowless structure, with the exception of a single mullioned window located on the south-east elevation. It seems likely that the original building had an internal staircase, possibly located at the north-east end of the building and accessed via the ground floor doorway in this location.
- 4.2. A series of bee boles were identified within the building which could be original features, although the use of brick is unusual within the building and suggests that they may have been added later. They were certainly present before a fire in 1877 since the original lintels were badly burnt and one lintel had been subsequently replaced with reused timber.
- 4.3. A stone-built external staircase may have been constructed in the same broad period as the bee boles, although it could date from the post-fire rebuild of the granary.
- 4.4. The damage caused to the granary by the 1877 fire was not easy to determine, although the main roof trusses appeared to be undamaged and in very good condition, suggesting that

roof was either not affected by the fire or had been completely rebuilt subsequently. Likewise the floor was essentially in good condition, except for a few weakened areas caused by rot.

- 4.5. In the mid to late 20th century, the ground floor of the granary, which was still being used for its intended purpose was converted into a workshop, with the additional of four windows on the south-east elevation. An access hatch to the upper floor on this elevation also dated from this period. The reinforcement of the floor with joists made from railway track is likely to have been carried out 1969 when the track for the uppermost stretch of the Neath and Brecon railway was taken up.

5 Sources

Published sources

Brunskill, R. W., 1999. *Traditional Farm Buildings of Britain and their conservation*. London: Victor Gollancz

Unpublished sources

Silvester, R. J., Martin, C. H. R. and Watson, S. E., 2013. *Historic Settlements in the Brecon Beacons National Park*. CPAT Report. 1200

Cartographic sources

1832 Ordnance Survey Old Series Sheet 42 NW Brecon

1839 Tithe survey for Llanspyddid Parish

1889 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1st edition Brecon Sheet 27:16

6 Archive deposition Statement

- 6.1. The project archive has been prepared according to the CPAT Archive Policy and in line with the CIfA *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives guidance* (2014). The digital archive only will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and the paper/drawn/digital archive with the National Monuments Record (RCAHMW).

Archive summary

CPAT Event PRN: 140313

63 digital photographs, CPAT film no 4691

Appendix 1: CPAT WSI 2057

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust has been invited by Stephen Davies to submit a proposal for undertaking a building survey in connection with the conversion of the Granary Barn at Penishapentre, Llanspyddid, into holiday accommodation.
- 1.2 Planning consent (19/17271/FUL) was granted by Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA) in August 2019, with the inclusion of the following condition:

17 No further development shall take place until an appropriate programme of buildings recording and analysis (equivalent to a HE Level 1 Buildings survey) has been secured and implemented, in accordance with advice provided by the Local Planning Authority. A copy of the resulting report and digital photographs shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority National Park Archaeologist for approval. Following approval, copies of the report and photographs will be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the local Welsh Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER)..

REASON: To allow a basic record of the main features and state of preservation of a building of historical and archaeological interest and significance affected by the proposed development to be made.

- 1.3 Penishapentre Farm, Llanspyddid (Fig. 1; SO 0152 2842), represents an historic farm complex of local historic interest. CPAT HER record the farmhouse as an example of a dual house in one yard. The main house represents a derivative form of longhouse of late 16th/early 17th century date, with a removed byre, and a parlour wing added in the late 17th/early 18th century. The second house is 18th century with outbuildings attached (CPAT HER 6499).

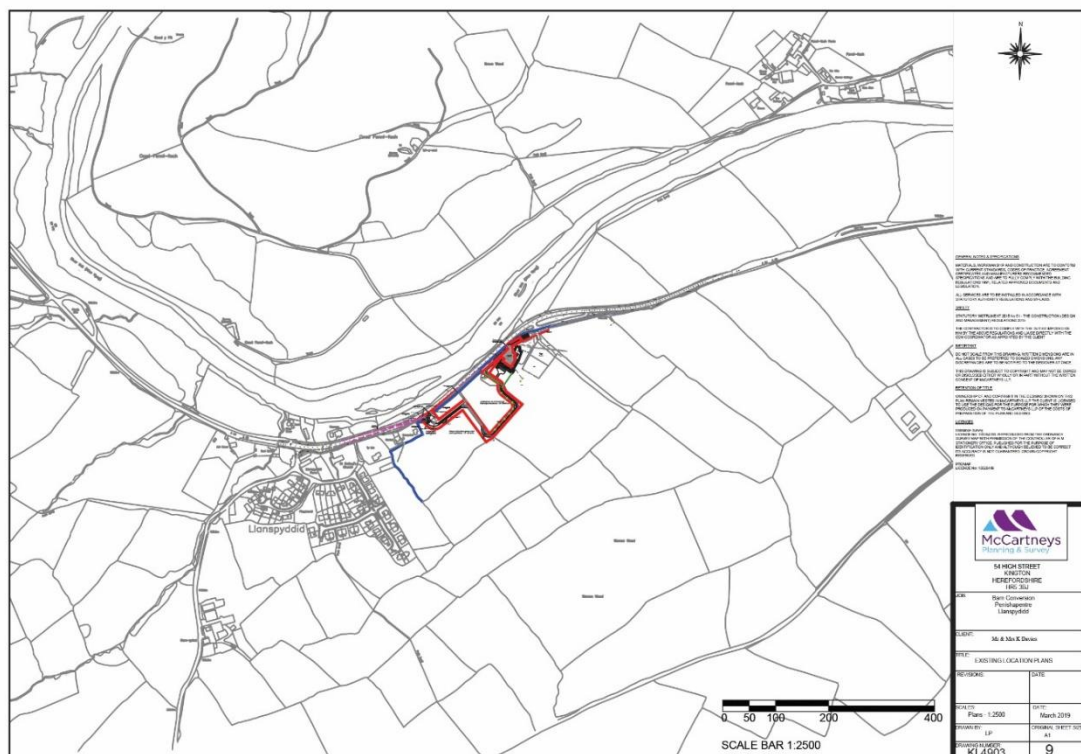


Fig. 1 Location of Penishapentre Farm

- 1.4 Historic cartography depicts the wider historic farm complex, located to the east of the historic settlement of Llanspyddid. The granary represents a stone built barn aligning the A40, and is shown on the earliest historic maps consulted, including the Llanspyddid Tithe. The barn is therefore of early 19th century date at least.

2 Objectives

- 2.1. The objectives of the survey are:
- to describe and record all of the key internal and external components of the surviving outbuilding complex so that a permanent record survives prior to alterations commencing. This will be completed by means of a desktop study and Historic England Level 1 building survey;
 - to prepare a report outlining the results of the survey;
 - to prepare a final publication of the results in an appropriate regional or national journal, depending on the nature and significance of any archaeology.

3 Methodology

- 3.1. The archaeological works will be conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2014), *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (2014).
- 3.2. The survey will take the form of a Level 1 building survey as defined by Historic England *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (2016). This level of survey is intended to create a basic visual record of the building, supplemented by the minimum of information needed to identify the building's location, age and type and will include:
- Description and photographic record of the exterior and the interior
 - Conclusions regarding the building's development and use, but without discussing in detail the evidence on which these conclusions are based
 - A plan or plans of the building, based on existing architect's drawings, but the drawn record will normally not be comprehensive.
- 3.3. The drawn record will be created which it has been assumed can be based on existing drawings. These will be checked and annotated/amended as appropriate using conventional measured survey. The end result will include:
- Ground floor plan, including the position of structural or architectural detail and fixtures and fittings
 - Phase plans showing the development of the structure
- 3.4. The photographic survey will be conducted using digital photography with a minimum resolution of 12 mega pixels to include:
- general views
 - external appearance
 - internal views
 - overall appearance

4 Report

- 4.1. Following the on-site work an illustrated report will be prepared containing conventional sections to include:
 - Non-technical summary
 - Location and NGR
 - Date of record, recorder and archive deposition
 - Introduction
 - Site location
 - Methodology
 - Summary of the form, function, date and development of the building
 - Summary description of the building
 - Conclusions
 - References
- 4.2. The report summary will be provided in English and Welsh, in accordance with the *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) V1* (July 2018).

5 Site archive

- 5.1. The overall archive will conform to guidelines described in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Historic England 2015, the CIfA (2014) *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* and *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales* (NPAAW, 2017) and *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) V1* (July 2018).
- 5.2. The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record (NMR), RCAHMW, including a copy of the final report. This archive will include all written, drawn, survey and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. NMR Digital archives will follow the standard required by the RCAHMW (RCAHMW 2015). A copy of the digital archive only will also be lodged with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust.

6 Resources and programming

- 6.1. The assessment will be undertaken by a team of skilled archaeologists under the overall supervision of Nigel Jones, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). CPAT is also a CIfA Registered Organisation and as such agrees to abide by their *Code of Conduct* (2014) and the *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (2014).
- 6.2. All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist(s) who conducted the fieldwork.
- 6.3. At present CPAT would be in a position to undertake the survey during September 2019, subject to the receipt of sufficient advanced notice from the client.
- 6.4. Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT staff.
- 6.5. CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance.

N W Jones

26 August 2019

Appendix 2; Contact Sheets

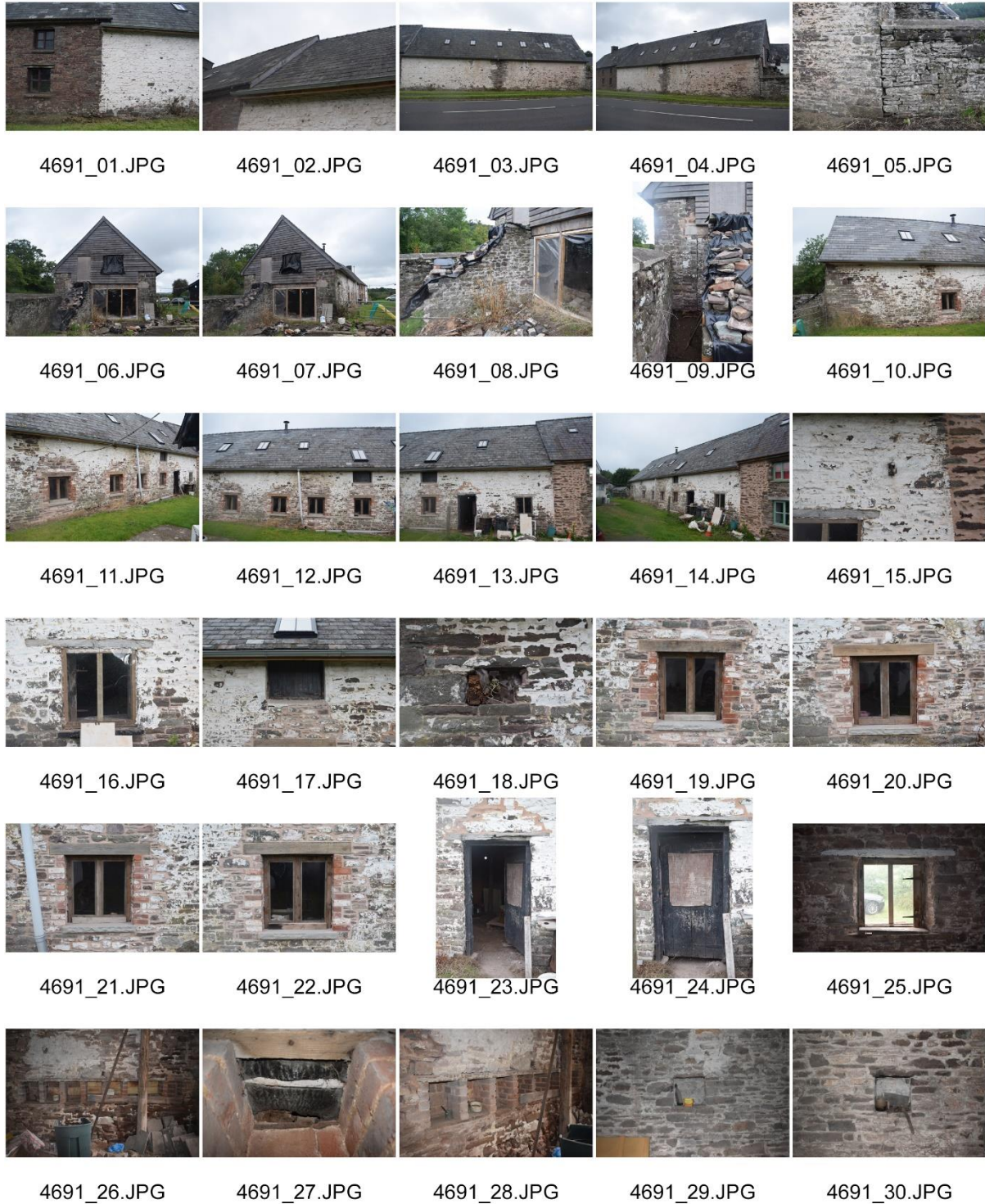


Fig. 16 Contact sheet 1

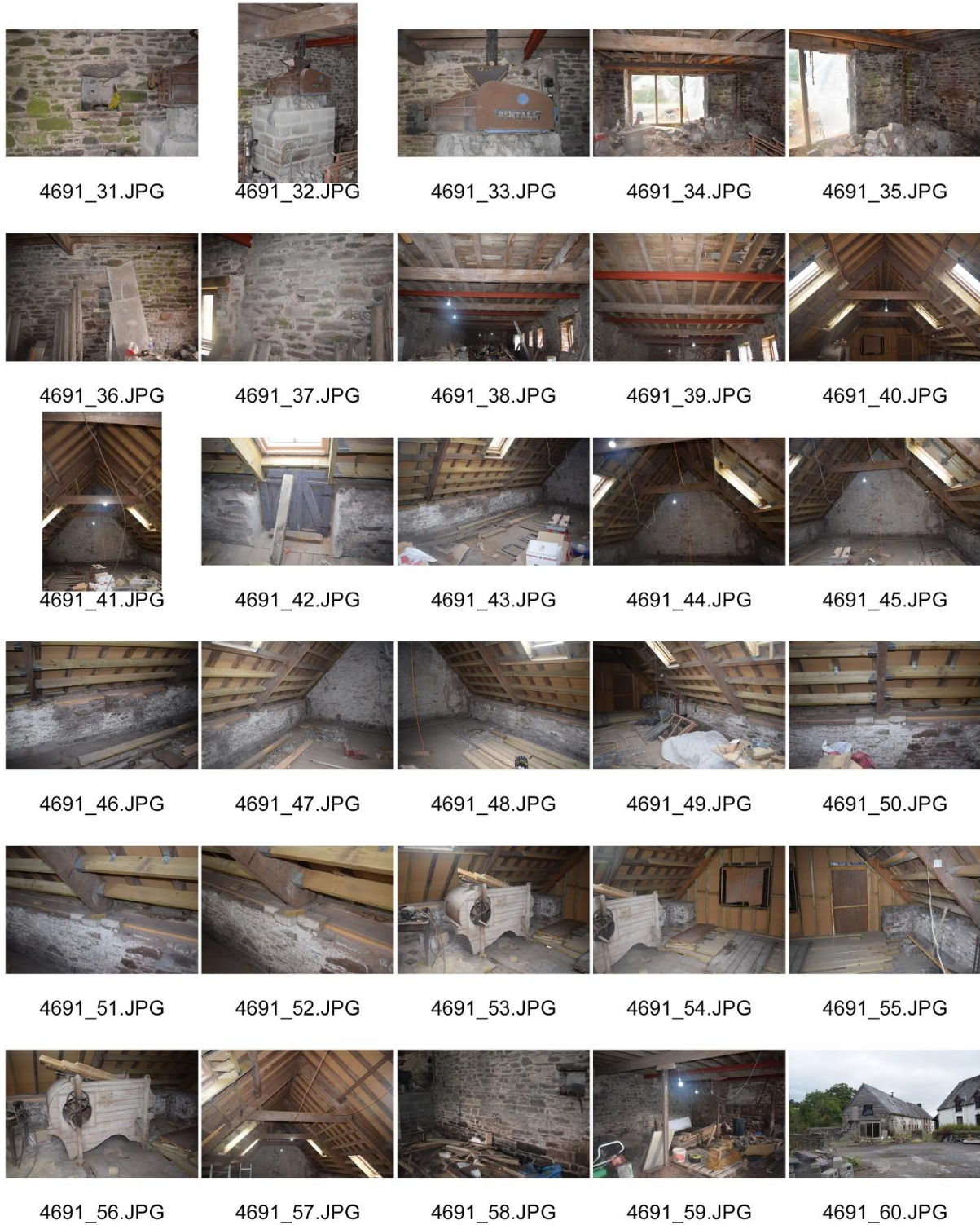


Fig. 17 Contact Sheet 2



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Fig. 18 Contact sheet 3

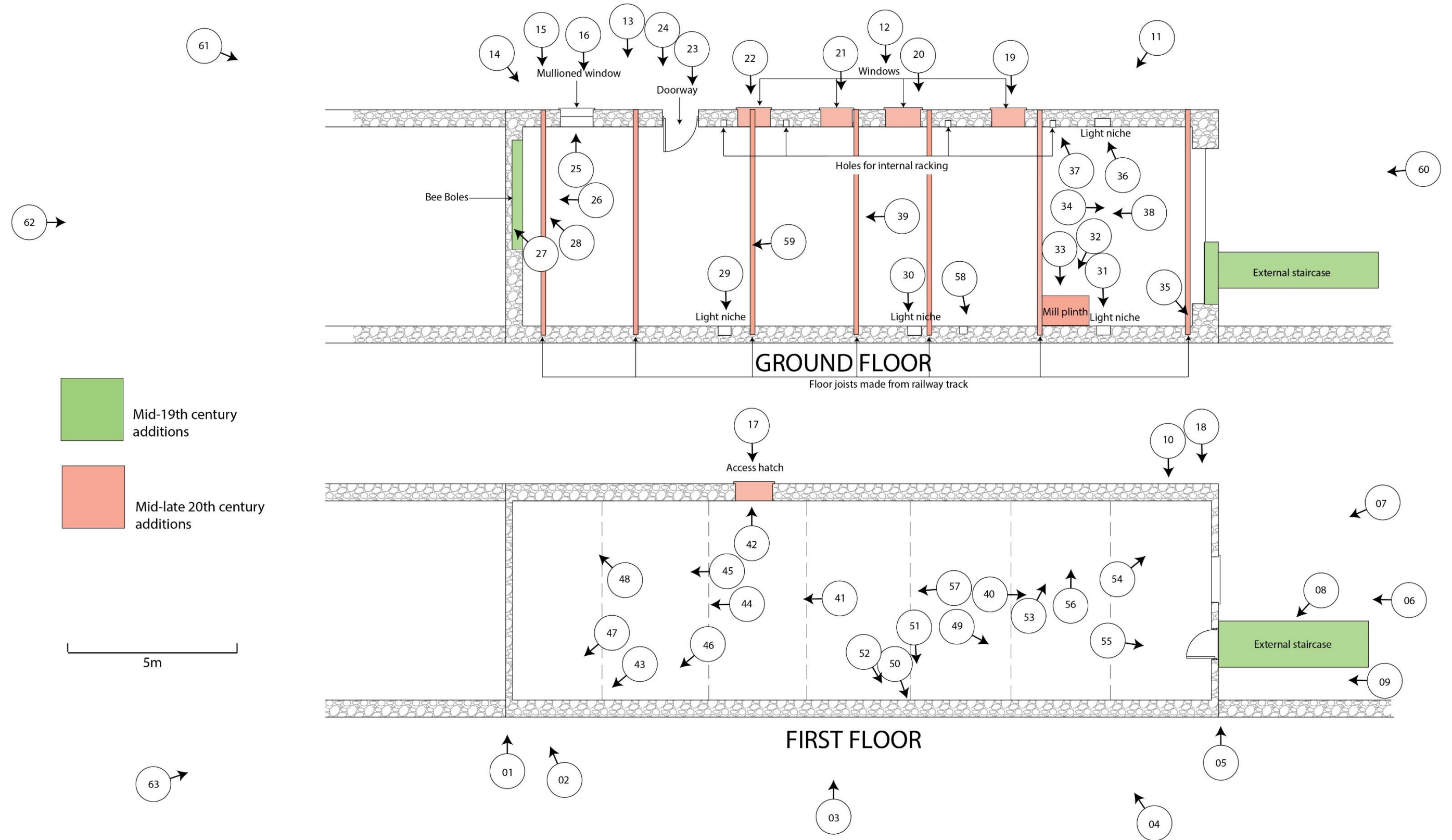


Fig. 19 Plan showing photo locations (circled) and additions to the original fabric (reproduced courtesy of McCartneys Planning and Survey)

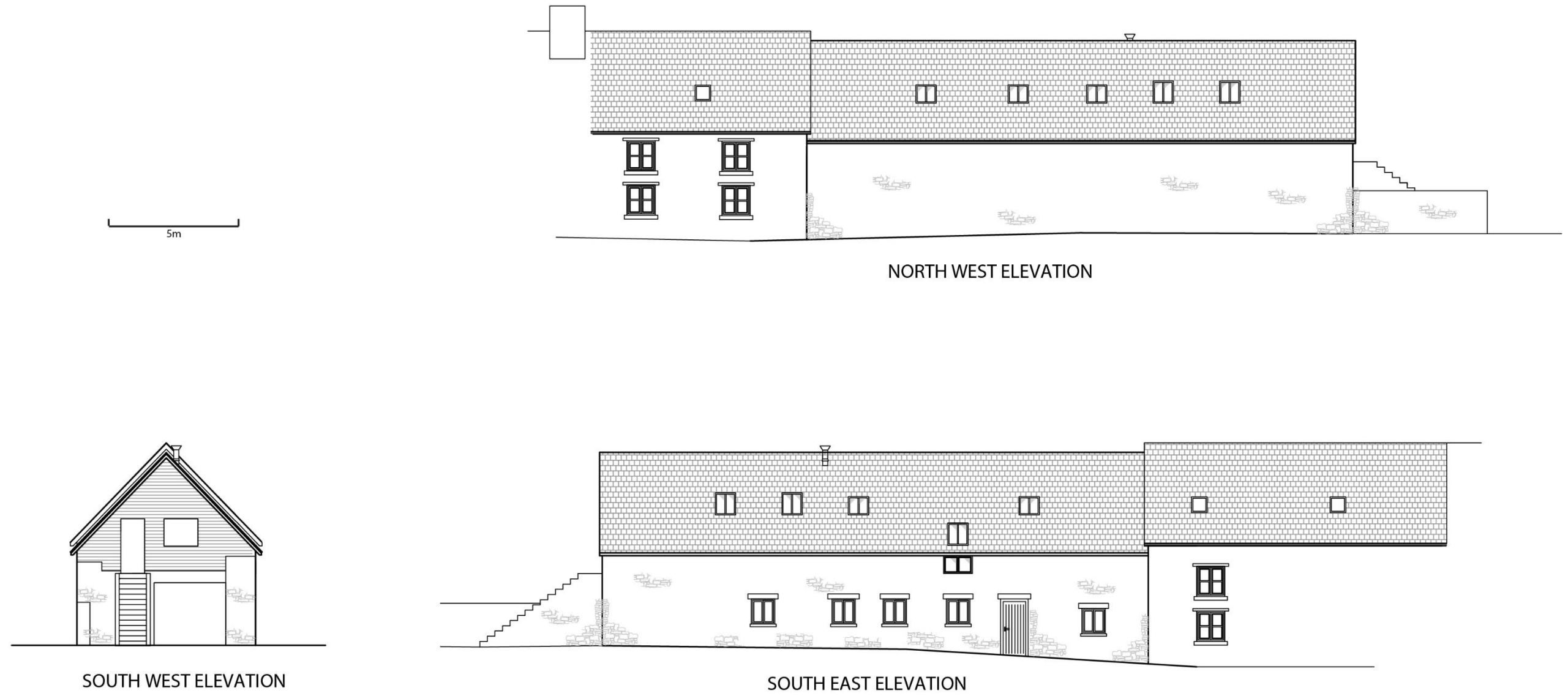


Fig. 20 Elevations of the granary (reproduced courtesy of McCartneys Planning and Survey)