

PINGLEY CAMP, BRIGG, LINCOLNSHIRE

PHOTOGRAPHIC BUILDING SURVEY



Report prepared for Barford Builders by S. A. Savage

December 2008

Site Code: PPCB 08
Planning ref: 119946
NGR: TA 0178 0680
LCNCC acc. no. 2008.189
PCA job no.:08-515

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
47, Manor Road
Saxilby
Lincoln
LN1 2HX
Tel. 01522 703 800
Fax 01522 703 656
e-mail info@pre-construct.co.uk



Summary

- A programme of building survey was undertaken on a group of buildings at Pingley Farm Camp, Bigby Road, Brigg, for Barford Builders.
- Documentary research undertaken for this report has demonstrated that the camp was constructed during the Second World War to house approximately 750 Italian prisoners of war. It is of a standard type, and acted as a central point of organisation for several 'hostels' where prisoners lived while working in the local agriculture.
- The buildings at Pingley fall into two groups, those which housed the guards in the northern part of the area, and the prisoner accommodations in the southern part.
- The camp contains several examples of art, in the form of cartoon characters, landscapes and sketches, which are probably attributable to the prisoners of war.
- It has been possible to identify the original functions of all of the buildings on the site, and provide a photographic record of the site, its setting, and the buildings themselves.

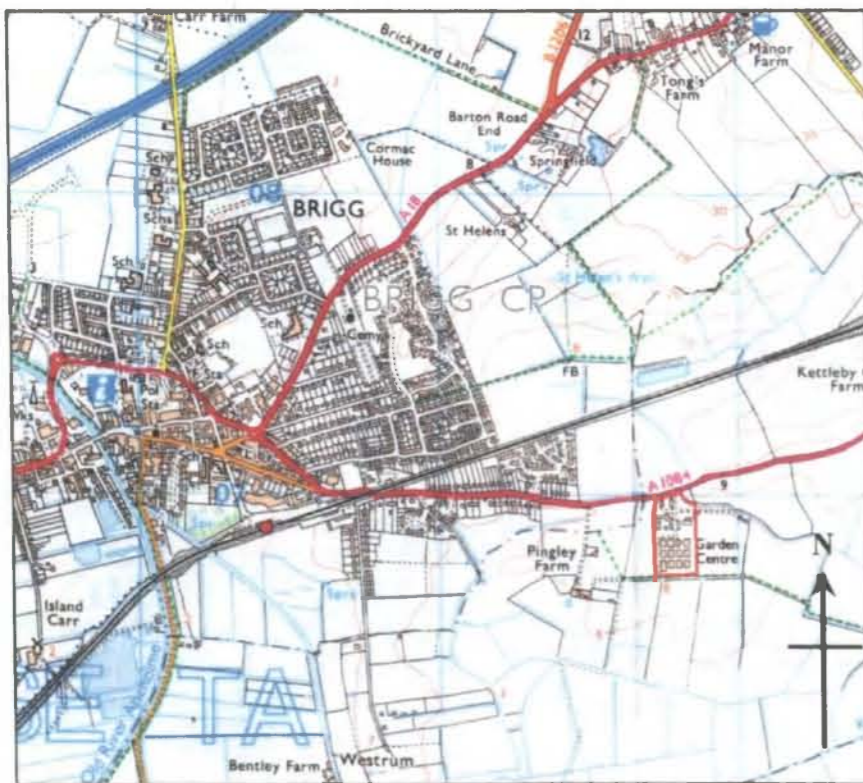


Fig. 1: Location map at scale 1: 25 000.
The development site is marked in red.
O.S. copyright licence no. AL 515 21 A0001

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) has been commissioned by Barford Builders Ltd. to undertake a scheme of building recording at Pingley Farm Camp, Bigby High Road, Brigg, prior to the demolition of these buildings in advance of a proposed mixed housing development. The proposed development will alter, damage or obscure elements of the historic building fabric that are important to the understanding of the nature and function of the individual elements and the overall complex; this project will mitigate its impact.

This approach complies with the recommendations of *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment*, Dept. of Environment (1991); *Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification (3rd Edition)*, RCHME (1996), and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures*, IFA (1996), and has been agreed by the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record, advising Lincolnshire County Council.

Copies of this report will be deposited with the client, Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record and Lincolnshire County Council. Reports will also be deposited at the Collection, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for long-term storage and curation.

2.0 Site location and description (figs. 1 and 2)

Pingley Farm Camp is located in the parish of Bigby, within the county of Lincolnshire. It lies close to the county boundary with North Lincolnshire, directly to the south-east of the market town of Brigg.

The proposed development site lies on the south side of the A1084 (Bigby High Road), from which it is accessed. Also fronting on to the A1084 to the east of the site is a large garden centre, whose curtilage includes a single specimen of the camp buildings. The site is otherwise surrounded by open agricultural land. It comprises the remains of two compounds of prefabricated huts and other buildings, one for prisoners of war and one for guards. Some of the huts are currently in agricultural use, but many are derelict or have been demolished. The site is on fairly level ground, at a height of approximately 10 metres above Ordnance Datum.

Central National Grid Reference: TA 0178 0680.

3.0 Planning background

Full planning permission has been granted to demolish the buildings of the prison camp and construct a mixed housing development. The permission is subject to a planning condition for a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken prior to the commencement of work on the site (Planning Ref No: 119946) comprising a photographic building survey of the prison camp complex, as well as the formulation of a conservation strategy for any surviving PoW art within the buildings.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

During the early years of the Second World War, prisoner-of-war camps were built on an ad hoc basis, with no standard design: during this period, relatively few enemy personnel were taken prisoner, and the camps were principally required to house them during interrogation, after which they were normally transferred to permanent camps in Canada, where they were unlikely to be rescued. Standardised, purpose-built camps first appeared in the British Isles in 1942-43, when the success of the North African Campaign against the Italian army resulted in a far greater number of prisoners of war than had previously been taken. The camps were built from prefabricated building sections to a standard pattern, and the building work was quite often carried out by the prisoners themselves. The most usual type of prefabricated building was the 18' 6" span Ministry of War Production (MoWP) standard hut, although other types appear at a number of sites: sectional timber, Laing timber-framed, 16' and 24' span Nissen, British Concrete Federation and Orlit huts have all been recorded. Geographical variations in the type of hut used have been identified: Laing and Nissen huts were more common in the south-east of the country than in the north (Thomas, 2003).

Pingley Camp, which appears as Camp 81 in the official lists of the time, is a typical example of a 'Standard Camp'. It consisted of a guards' compound and a prisoners' compound, with an additional section for tented accommodation, and also included a recreation ground, garden plots for the prisoners, and its own sewage disposal works. Camps where the prisoners were classified as 'low risk', as they were at Pingley, were not routinely furnished with guard towers: Pingley Camp was fortified with an outer plain wire and an inner barbed-wire fence. The buildings of the guards' compound included administration offices, quarters and sanitary facilities for the soldiers, officers' quarters and mess, a detention block, a fuel store and a water tower. As well as the accommodation huts, the prisoners' compound contained a cookhouse, grocery and produce store, two dining huts, two recreation huts, a drying room, showers, two blocks of sanitary facilities, a carpenter's workshop and the camp reception station (CRS). This last was the largest single structure within the compound, constructed from three interlinked huts – a CRS building, also known as the hospital, sick bay or Red Cross building, forms part of almost all PoW camps, but was not always built to the same pattern (Thomas, 2003).

Pingley Camp was built to house some 750 prisoners of war; the first inmates were Italians, as is shown by the Italian labels observed on the doors of the CRS by an English Heritage survey, but it was recorded as a 'German working camp' in 1945. In the last stages of the war, following the surrender of Germany and the return of those prisoners who had been interned in Canada and the USA, the Standard Camps were overwhelmed: in May 1946, Camp 81 was recorded as having 1862 inmates. The accommodation problem was partially solved by setting up bell tents within the prisoners' compound, although PoWs were not supposed to be forced to live under canvas during the winter. The addition of a tented compound to Pingley Camp brought the on-site accommodation up to 984, while the remainder were billeted off-site, either privately on the farms on which they worked, or at one of four hostels at Elsham Hall, Elsham Manor, Elsham Mount or Scawby (Thomas, 2003).

Many of these camps feature Italian graffiti, which usually seems to have been associated with the initial construction of the buildings, as it appears in pencil on base coats of paint, lining paper and plasterboard surfaces, and includes setting-out marks and translations of construction terms. Artwork intended to be on permanent display is also a feature of many camps, and can be found in almost any hut in a prisoners' compound (Thomas, 2003). Art in PoW camps displays trends according to the nationality of the prisoners held there, and the styles of art current in their countries at the time. The paintings of Italian

prisoners during the Second World War typically include devotional subjects, gentle, flattering images of women, and cartoon characters; landscapes are more normally a feature of camps where German soldiers were held, along with images of heroic women and Nazi-themed iconography (Cocroft *et al.*, 2006, p.15). Buildings with communal functions, such as recreation rooms, theatres and chapels, might also be painted with mock architectural features or furnishings such as curtains. Chapels might have austere interiors, particularly if the hut served a dual purpose, but where decorated interiors have been recorded in huts dedicated solely to religious purposes, the decoration could be very elaborate, ranging from Gothic to Baroque in style, often featuring religious furniture made by the prisoners. No furnished chapels have been recorded in situ in England, although examples survive in Scotland and Wales (Thomas, 2003). Surviving war art from 20th century PoW camps is now rare, as many of these sites are in a poor state of preservation (English Heritage, 2004).

The majority of PoW camps continued in use until 1948. While many were then demolished during the processes of post-war reconstruction and the reclamation of agricultural land, a large number, particularly the Standard Camps, were handed over to county agricultural committees, and were run as hostels for farm workers. In many cases, the farm workers in question were the original inmates, who had elected to remain in Britain after the war. These hostels often remained in civilian use into the 1960s and 1970s. Some were subsequently converted into hostels for foreign students, and continued in use even later: Pingley Camp, under the name Concordia Camp, was occupied into the 1980s. Once the camp sites were abandoned, they were normally used for agricultural purposes, and maintenance generally ceased (Thomas, 2003).

5.0 Methodology

The primary photographic fabric record was undertaken between 25th November and 8th December 2008. Photography was undertaken on 35mm colour slide film (using Fuji Sensia ISO 200 filmstock) for archival purposes supplemented with digital colour photography (using a 10.4 Mpixel format). The fabric record included detailed photographs of all elevations of the buildings and the room arrangements within them, with constructional details such as door and window openings, fixtures and fittings. General shots of the site were also taken. Weather conditions during the survey were generally bright but with occasional light showers, which necessitated the use of flash in nearly all interior situations.

The photography was complemented by detailed written descriptions of all of the structures, measured sketches, and scale and analytical drawings where possible.



Fig. 2: Site Layout Plan of the development Site at Pingley Farm Camp, showing the building numbers used in this report. The Buildings of the Guards' Compound are shown in red, while those of the prison camp are shown in blue. Scale 1: 1000,

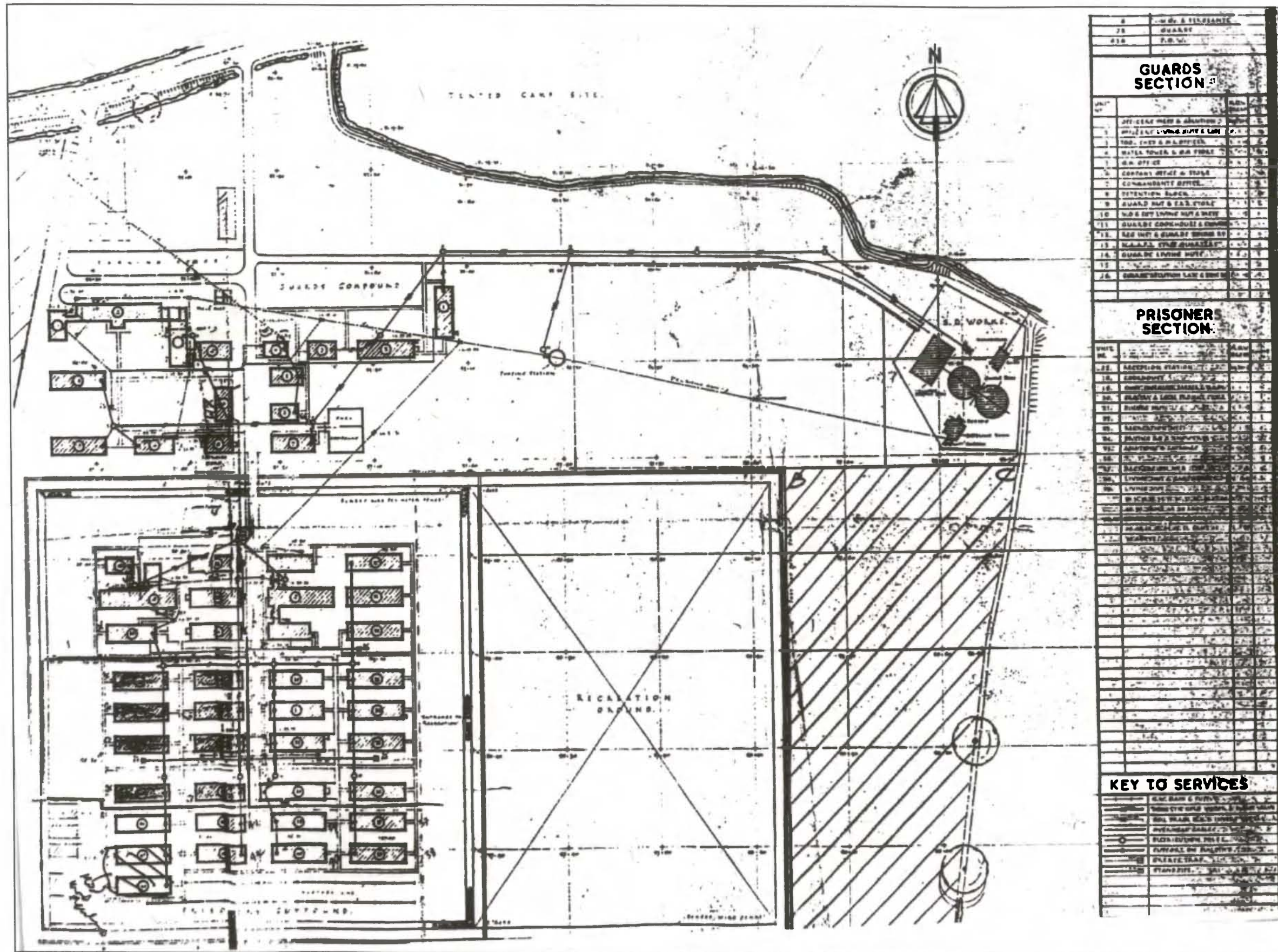


Figure 3: Plan of Pingley Camp from the wartime period, during its use as a prisoner of war camp (not to scale).

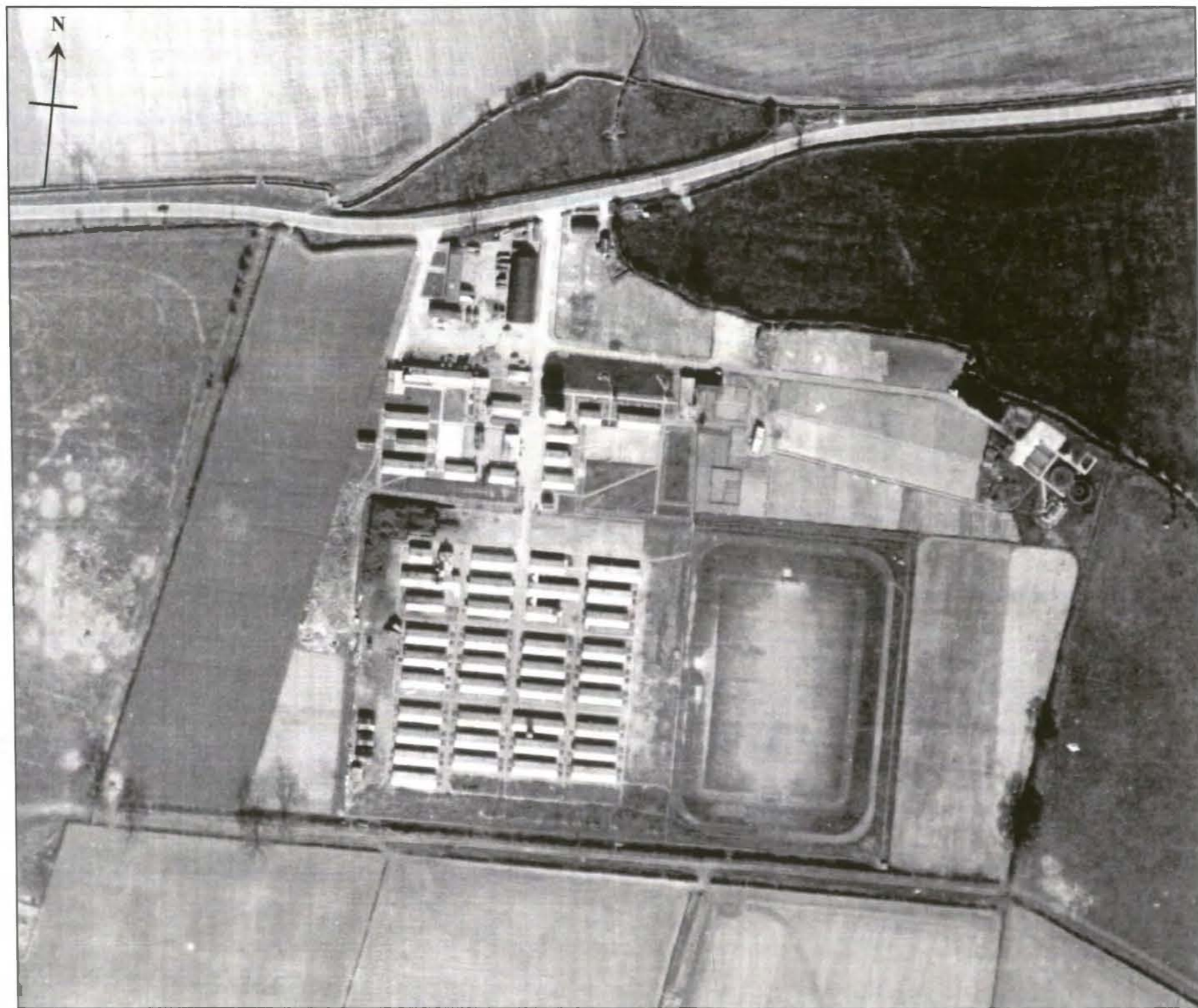


Figure 4: Aerial photograph showing Pingley Camp in May 1948. Bigby High Road runs east to west across the top of the picture. To the east of the guards' compound, the prisoners' garden plots can be seen, with the sewage works further to the east; the tented camping area has gone out of use. (Copyright: National Monument Record)

6.0 Photographic Building Record

Site Setting

The site lies within open agricultural land on the south side of the A1084 (Bigby High Road), which connects Brigg and Caistor. The surrounding land is low-lying, with many of the field boundaries formed by drains; the site occupies a very shallow rise, with the highest point, slightly above 10m over Ordnance Datum, in the southern half of the site, while the northern side slopes gradually down to the road (the road itself is raised slightly above surrounding ground level). The site is currently accessed at the north-western corner, although access was originally via a single-track spine road that bisected the camp centrally from north to south (Thomas, 2003). A grown-out hedge along the northern site boundary largely conceals the site from the road.



General view, looking east along Bigby High Road: the entrance to the camp is in the middle distance.



Panoramic view of the camp, from the bridleway to the west, looking east.



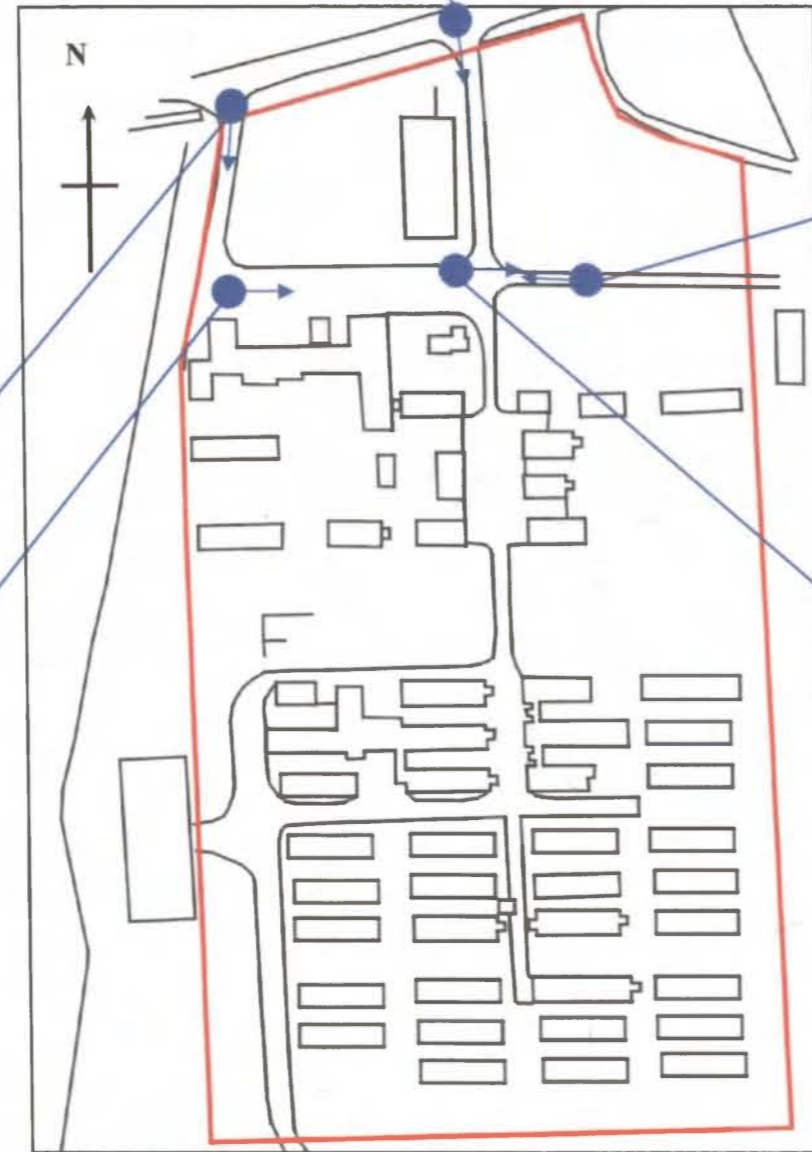
General view of the camp looking northeast from the bridleway junction.



Panoramic view of the camp, looking northwest.

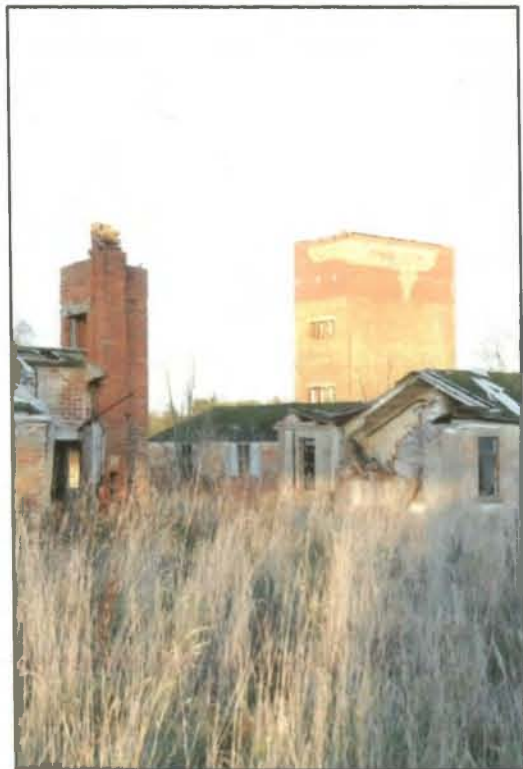
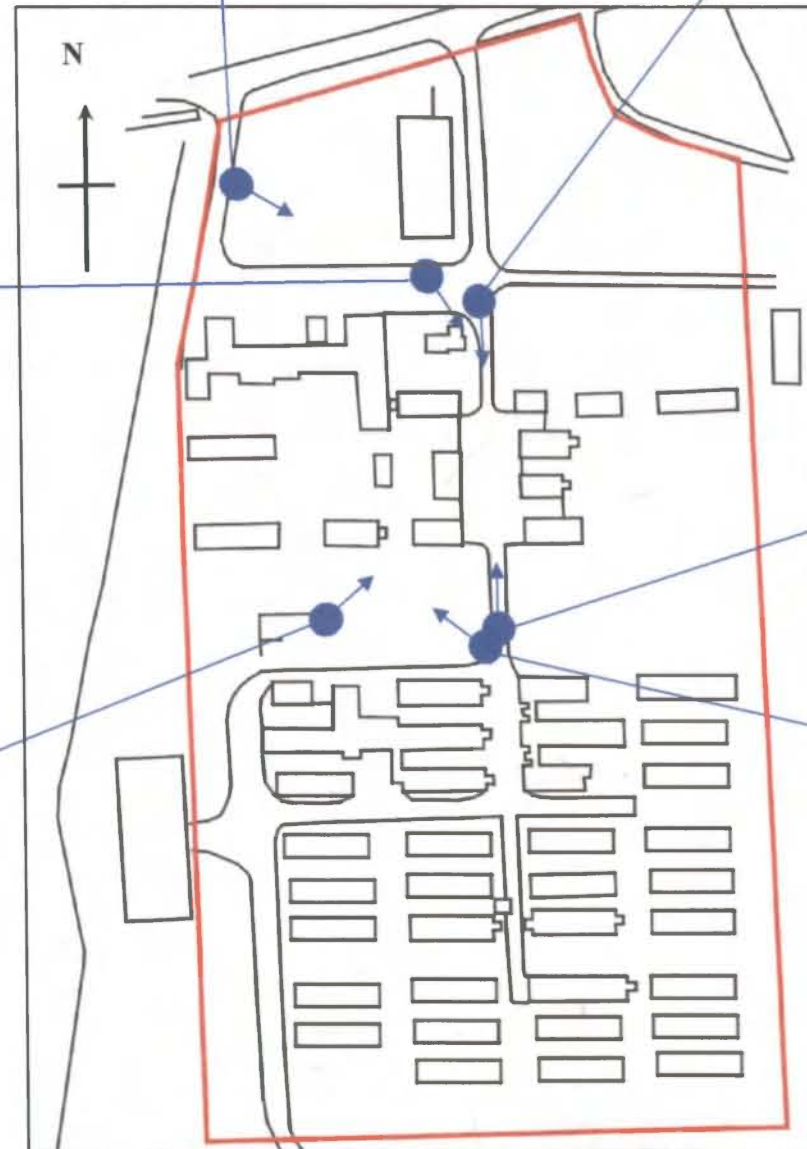
General Site Arrangement

The camp was originally divided on an east-west axis. The northern section was the guards' compound; the buildings occupied the southern part of this section, with open land to the north. This area included a brick water tower, the only one of the camp buildings that can be seen from any distance. The prisoners' compound lay to the south, with regular rows of huts either side of the central spine road; the prisoners' recreation field, directly to the east of the compound, has been returned to agricultural use, while the tented camp site, to the north-east of the guards' compound, and the camp sewage works, at some distance to the east, are now occupied by a garden centre. The site is heavily overgrown, and the structures are either in agricultural use or disused and becoming derelict.



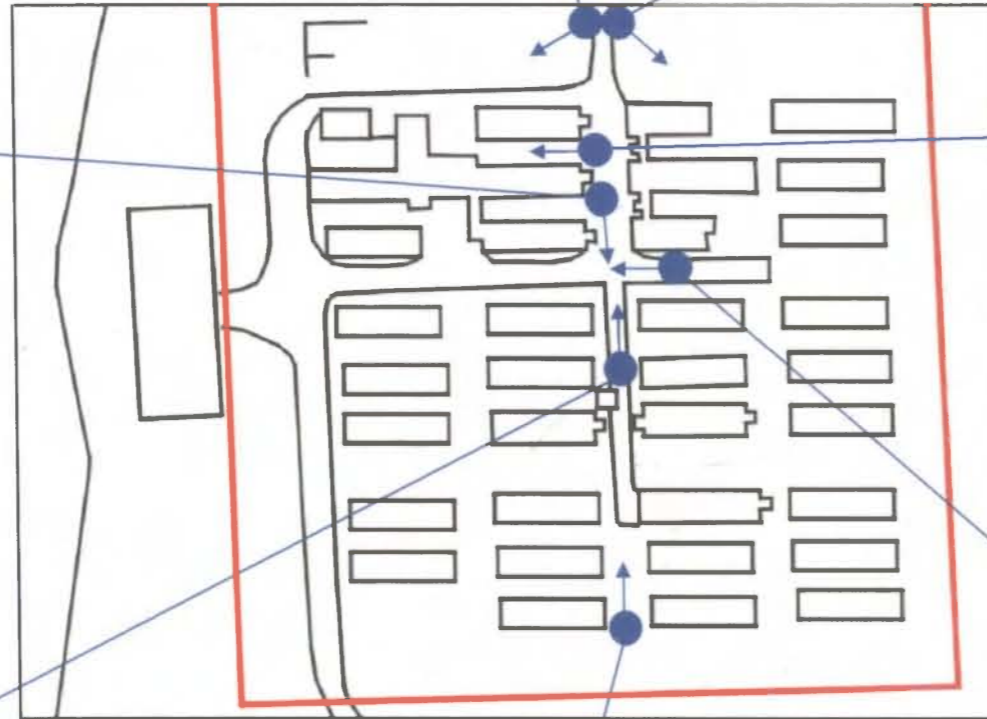
Guards' Compound

The layout of the guards' compound was more irregular than that of the prisoners' compound, although it was also bisected north-south by the central spine road. The buildings here included the administration offices, the guards' quarters and ablutions, the officers' quarters and mess, the fuel store and a detention block, with the water tower near the centre. The most easterly of these buildings, the officers' mess, now lies outside the development site, within the curtilage of the adjoining garden centre.



PoW Compound

The prisoners' compound was originally six acres in area, and consisted of four N-S aligned rows of huts, two either side of the spine road. The twenty-three accommodation huts, with the prisoners' washing and latrine facilities, occupied the southernmost part of the site, while the majority of the communal buildings – the cookhouse, grocery and produce store, the dining and recreation huts, the Camp Reception Station (medical centre) and the chapel – lay to the north. The attached recreation ground, to the east, does not form part of the present development site.



Building Types

The buildings at Pingley Camp fall into four categories: 18' 6" span Ministry of War Production (MoWP) standard huts with a reinforced concrete frame (of two types, one with hollow brick infill and one where the infill is of concrete panels), Laing timber-framed huts, a single 'Romney' Hut and purpose-built structures.

The commonest form of building used at this site was the MoWP standard hut, and these were used for a variety of purposes, although the commonest building on the site was of ten bays, and used for accommodation.



Although both of the MoWP type huts have the same prefabricated reinforced concrete frame, the type used for accommodation had prefabricated concrete panels filling the concrete frame. These concrete infill panels were 68" in length, 15" high and 5" in thickness. Six were used to create blind bays, while three were used in those with windows.

Most of the huts of this type were 60ft or ten bays in length.



The MoWP type huts which were not of the above category used hollow bricks as infill within the concrete frame. These bricks were 11½" x 8¾" x 4" in size. This type of construction was generally used for communal buildings at the site, within both the guards' compound and the prison area. It is not clear exactly why these structures employed these materials; however, it is the case that many of these buildings were subdivided into rooms and corridors, and in many cases, the hollow bricks were also used in the construction of the partitions within these buildings. Although this design allowed for partition walls to have bonded corners, the rare occurrence of partition walls occurring in the middle of infill panels, rather than at the uprights of the concrete framing, where it only abuts the vertical concrete members, does not appear to justify the use of this considerably more labour-intensive construction method.



As mentioned above, all of the huts of the hollow brick infill type were used in the more specialised, communal buildings. This type of building differed from those of the concrete panel infill type in other details also. The infill between the doors in the gable walls was executed in conventional brickwork, rather than the studwork found in the concrete panel type.

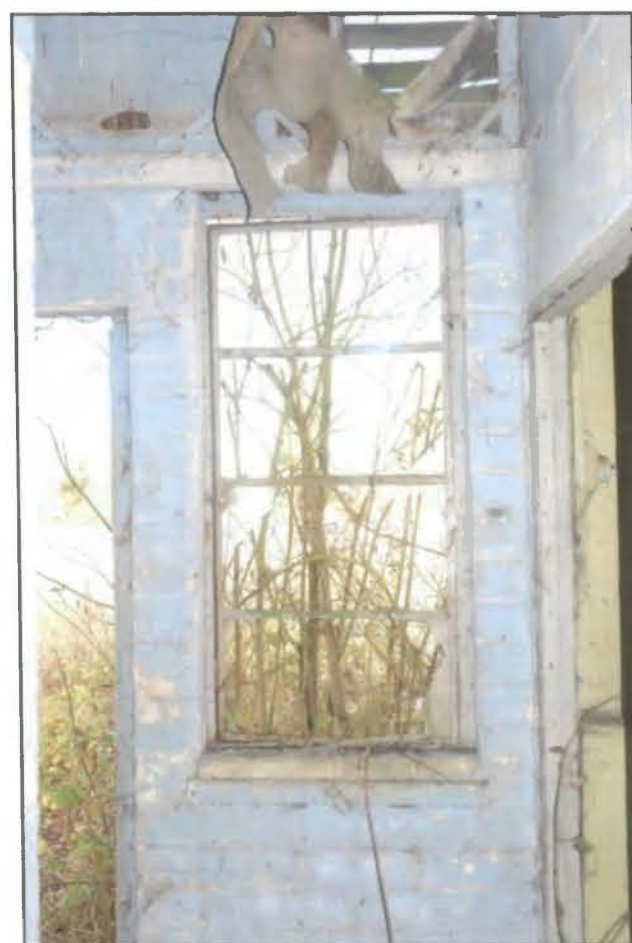


The buildings of this type comprised all of the MoWP huts in the guards compound, with the exception of the guards' sleeping huts (G14 and 15) and the communal buildings in the prison area (the CRS, the cookhouse, the local produce stall, the tailor's shop, the recreation huts, the ablutions and shower blocks).

The glaring exception is the detention block in the guards' compound, which was entirely constructed of conventional brickwork within the MoWP concrete frame.

Window types

The MoWP huts (of both types) generally employed a standard window type, whereby the entire length of the bay was framed out in 2¼" x ¾" timber, with a 30" x 43" four-light window constructed in the middle, with a top-hung casement in its upper half. This window construction was present in all of the MoWP type huts, regardless of function, with the exception of some windows in the cookhouse, in which the entire length of the bay was glazed, and the detention block and camp reception station, where metal-framed windows were used.



Metal-Framed Windows

Within the guards' compound, metal-framed windows were occasionally employed. These were 23" x 46½" and comprised ¾" metal frames and glazing bars and were to be found in Hut G9B, Hut G9D and the detention block. Similar windows also occurred within the Camp Reception Station.

Exterior Doors

Where original exterior doors were still present, they comprised ledged and diagonally braced 3½" chamfer-edged plank doors, hinged to open outwards.

Many of the huts exhibited a brick porch structure, either on the exterior, where it sometimes had a flat concrete roof, but also occasionally on the interior. The most likely interpretation for these structures was as light baffles, to prevent light escaping from the huts during the blackout.



Interior Doors

Several types of interior doors were encountered, the most prevalent being a four-panel door.

However, two-panel doors were also present within the detention block, and smaller ledged and diagonally braced 4" plank doors were used on the cubicles in the guards' latrine/ablutions hut (G12).



Gable Ventilators

A further difference noted between the MoWP hut types was in the forms of the ventilators employed in the gables of the huts. The hollow brick infill type hut generally employed six airbricks; these were often concealed behind a corrugated asbestos panel.

The concrete infill type huts more often employed timber slatted panels, generally four in number.



Laing Type Huts

Initially the huts of this type were clad in weatherboard, which has since been replaced in corrugated metal sheeting and treated with a bituminised paint. They were ten bays (60ft) in length and had five windows in each side, which are 46" in height and 23" wide; these were of four lights, the upper pair forming a top-hung casement. The windows in the sides of the hut occupied alternating bays, but were offset from the centre of the bays.

The corrugated asbestos sheet pitched roofs were supported by composite timber roof trusses. These were of 2 3/4" x 7/8" timber, doubled up in most of the truss, using 2" x 2" spacers, with 1/4" plywood reinforcement at the joints.

The Laing huts also had a distinctive slatted gable ventilator composed of three panels.



The Romney Hut and the purpose-built structures will be dealt with individually within the site gazetteer.

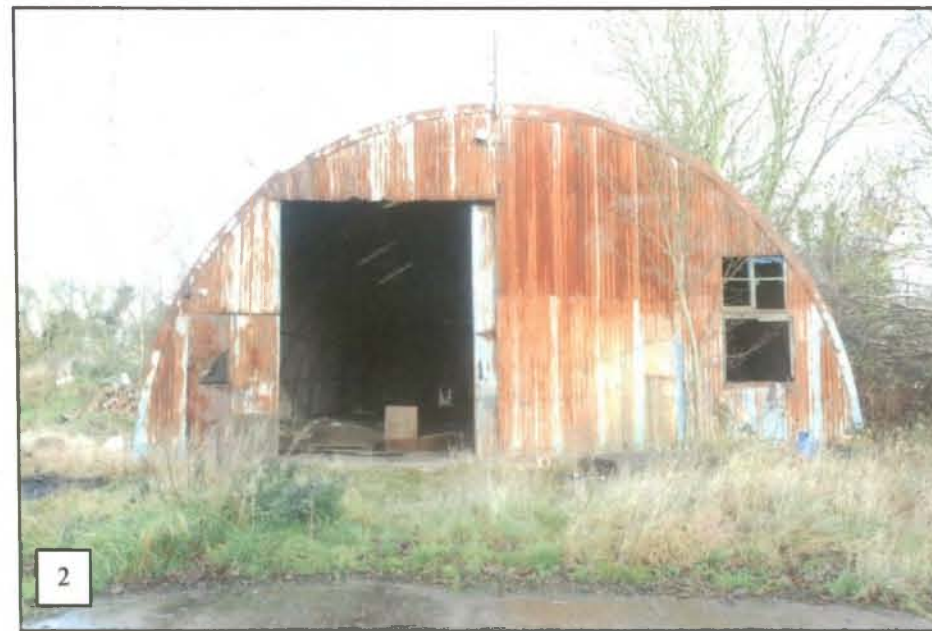
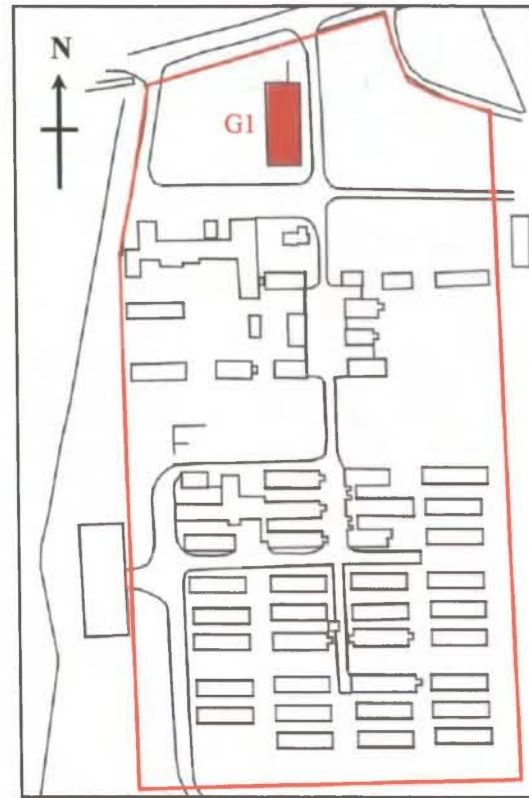
Site Gazetteer - Building G1

This structure occupied a position at the northern end of the guards' compound, to the west of the central spine road.

It was a large 'Romney' type hut, huts of this type being constructed from about 1942 onwards.

It was roofed with curved corrugated asbestos sheets, with eight transparent corrugated sheets providing light to the interior.

The southern gable was constructed of corrugated metal sheeting and was dominated by a large opening in the west half of the gable. This could be closed with a large sliding door, also of corrugated metal, on a 2" angle-iron cross-braced frame. To the west a smaller door for personnel access was present: this was of two plain metal sheets on a 1½" angle-iron frame.



In the eastern part of the south gable, a window was present. This window was constructed in 3" x 1¼" timber and the upper half comprised a pair of side-hung casements, each of two panes. The lower half of this window was missing.



Interior.

The floor of this building was of large poured concrete panels. Immediately inside the southern entrance a 12' x 46" inspection pit was present. The depth of this pit could not be ascertained, as it was flooded and partially infilled with refuse.

The north gable also had a large opening in the western side, here occupied by a pair of conventionally opening doors, also of corrugated metal sheets on a diagonally-braced 2" angle-iron framework.



The structure of the building was clearly visible on the interior. This comprised a series of metal arches made up of four prefabricated sections of curved 3" diameter steel pipe sections with flanges to which the horizontal 1 3/4" angle-iron frame was attached. The corrugated asbestos cladding was attached to the angle-iron framework on threaded brackets, which hooked over the horizontal angle-iron frame on the inside.

The northeastern corner of the building had been more recently altered. A large grain-blower had been constructed here, on a breeze block base, with a grain hopper occupying the north east corner itself, with a pair of timber plank doors inserted in a brick extension giving access to the hopper.

Further changes had been affected in the roof where a corrugated asbestos clerestory had been inserted in the third bay from the north and a large bore pipe had been inserted two bays further south.

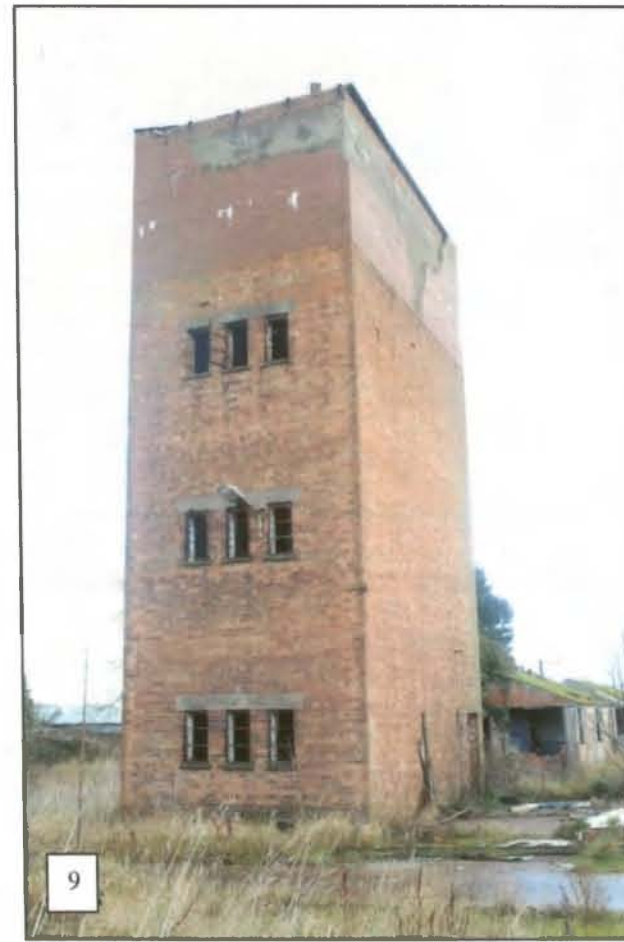
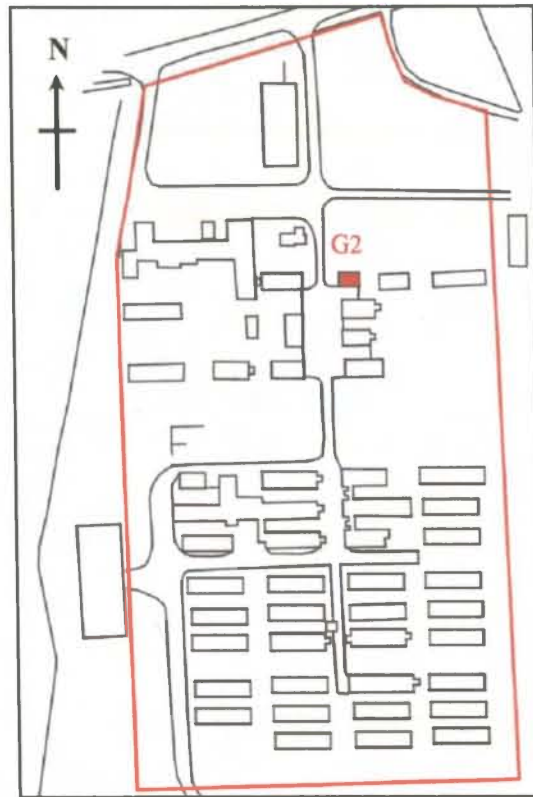
The Romney huts were designed to be used as mechanical workshops, and this appears to have been the case here, as the camp probably had a fleet of vehicles to ferry the prisoners of war to their various agricultural work locations. The modern debris present within this structure attests to its more recent use as a vehicle workshop.



Building G2 – Water Tower

This was the most imposing structure on the site. It comprised a four-storey building of brick, with the concrete water tank occupying the fourth floor.

It was constructed of brick (9" x 4¼" x 2¾") in English bond, the walls being 13¾" in thickness. Each floor below the water tank had a group of three metal-framed windows in the east and west elevations, with a common concrete lintel and concrete sills. The floors within the structure were all of poured concrete. Access was provided to the first and second floors up a metal ladder in the northeast corner; at second floor level, access to the roof comprised a reinforced concrete platform on the north side of the building and an exterior metal ladder.



The concrete water tank was clad in a single skin of glazed bricks, giving it a redder colour than the rest of the brickwork. This brick skin had partially fallen away on the south and west sides of the building, but some remedial work had been undertaken in cement to prevent further water penetration.





For safety reasons, only the ground floor of the water tower was accessed. The building was accessed through a door opening at the east corner of the south side. The interior was completely whitewashed. It was dominated by three vertical steel pipes: in the northwest and northeast corners these were 3 1/2 " in diameter and did not reach the ground, while the pipe in the southwest corner was 6 1/2 " in diameter and had the words 'Release Valve' painted on it with a downward pointing arrow.



On the north wall a row of metal wire coat hooks was present and the numbers 1 to 100 were painted in two rows above and below these hooks, suggesting that equipment had been stored here in a very ordered way. The numbers ran from 1-50 in the upper row from right to left, while the lower row comprised the numbers 51-100 from left to right.

Apart from the opening through the first and second floors in the northeast corner to permit access up the metal ladder, these floors also had an opening in the southeast corner, with a safety rail of 1 1/2" pipe. This opening was located immediately inside the exterior door and would have allowed equipment to be hoisted onto these floors for storage.



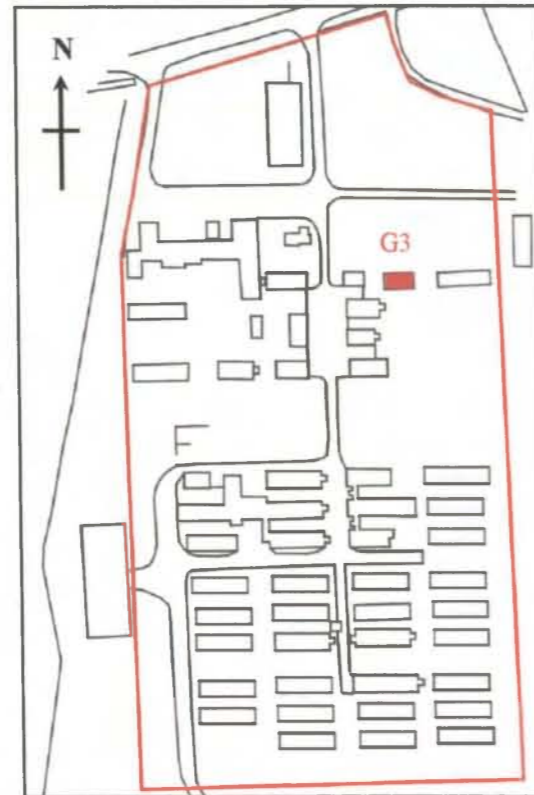
Hut G3

This building was located immediately to the east of the water tower, and comprised a MoWP type hut, with a concrete frame of five bays, infilled with hollow bricks. The interior was divided into four rooms with hollow brick partition walls.

The room in the northeast corner was only accessible through the exterior door in the east gable, while the other three rooms were interconnected and accessed through the west gable door. The room division was suggestive of office space with the separate room being storage. This hut had airbrick type gable vents, and retained an original exterior door in the east gable, and two four-panel interior doors. The door into the room in the southwest corner had lettering 'CAMP ...'

A small hatch was also present between the two rooms on the south side.

The building was decorated with light blue lower walls, with the upper part white, and blue windows. This paint scheme appeared to be peeling off an earlier scheme with dark blue lower walls, which in a few places was peeling to reveal an original colour scheme of light green lower walls, with cream upper walls. The division between the colours was at window sill level.



This was clearly an administration building, and is described on the wartime plan of the camp as 'Tool shed and M A Officer'. No likely interpretation for the abbreviation 'M A' could be found.

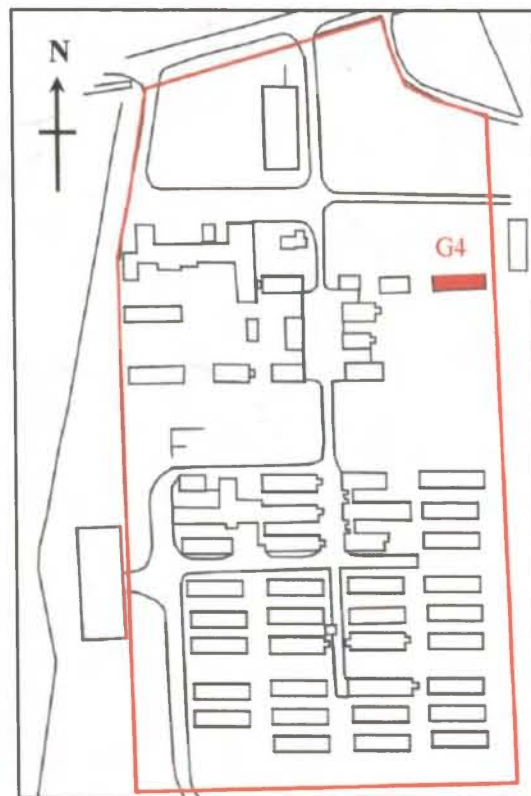


Hut G4

This building was located to the east of Hut G3, and comprised a MoWP type hut, oriented east-west, with a concrete frame of ten bays, infilled with pre-cast concrete panels. The roof and gables were of corrugated asbestos panels and the gable ventilators were of four slatted panels, covered by sheets of plain asbestos.

The interior was divided with hollow brick partition walls and comprised a central corridor flanked on each side by three rooms, each three bays in length. At the east end the corridor opened up to the full width of the central bay, and the eastern bay was occupied by two toilet cubicles on the north side and a bathroom to the south.

This building was an accommodation block, and is described on the wartime plan of the camp as 'Officers' living huts and latrines'.





It was mostly decorated in a lower mid-blue/upper white colour scheme, with the dividing line at windowsill level; however, it had clearly been occupied more recently and some rooms displayed a more modern colour scheme, including light green and mauve.

The toilet cisterns and baths appeared original and although the exterior doors were missing, some interior four-panel doors were present, and some rooms retained furniture possibly of a wartime date.

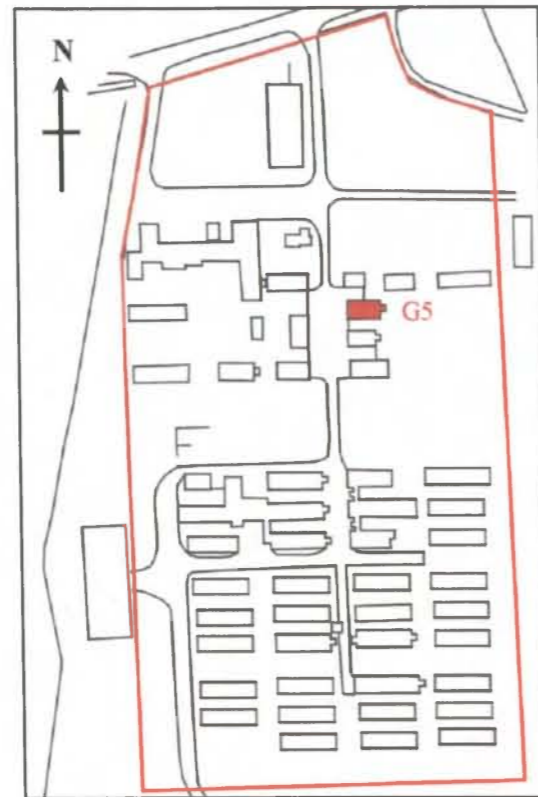
The eastern four rooms each had a stovepipe exit near to the eaves in the roof, indicative of pot-bellied stoves, although these holes were not present in the eastern two rooms.



Hut G5

This building was located immediately to the south of the water tower, and comprised a MoWP type hut, oriented east-west, with a concrete frame of six bays, infilled with conventional brickwork. The roof was of corrugated asbestos panels and the gable ventilators were of airbricks concealed behind a corrugated asbestos sheet.

The interior was divided into five rooms with conventional brick partition walls. A single room, accessed through the west gable door via an interior porch, occupied the western two bays, while a corridor led off to the eastern gable door, flanked to north and south by two rooms, each two bays in length. The room occupying the southeast corner had been a bathroom/toilet. A further brick porch structure was present on the exterior of the building at the east end.



This hut was partially demolished, with the western two bays damaged; the interior had been stripped and the eastern porch structure was also demolished.



The building had clearly been recently occupied, as the rooms to the east had been lined in panelling effect hardboard, while the western room had been wallpapered and a 5" chamfered skirting was present here and in the central corridor.

The wartime plan of the camp records this building as the 'Q.M. [Quartermaster's] Office'.

Hut G6

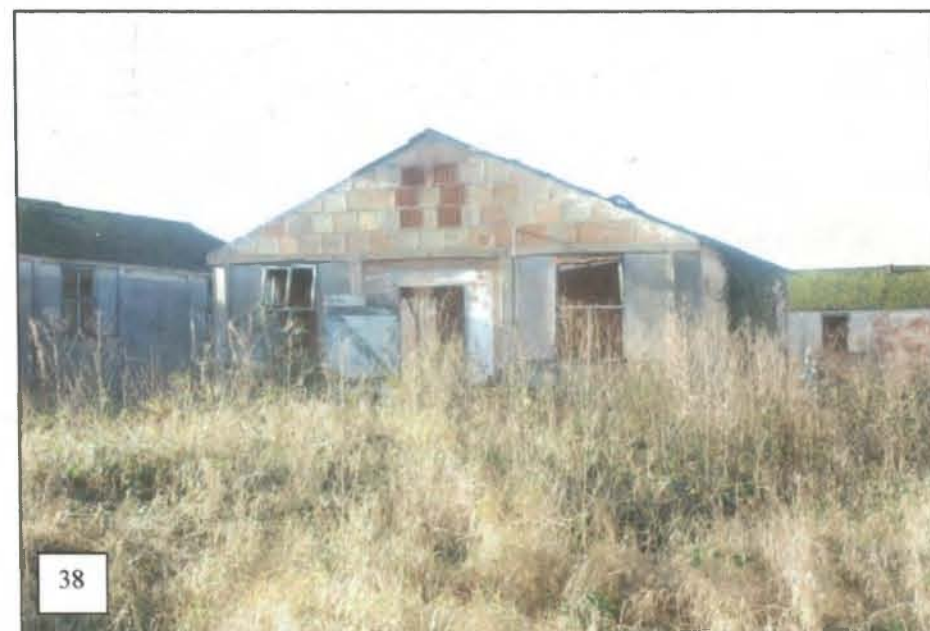
This hut was located immediately to the south of Hut G5, and comprised a MoWP type hut, oriented east-west, with a concrete frame of five bays, infilled with hollow bricks. The roof was of corrugated asbestos panels and the gable ventilators were of airbricks.

The interior was divided into two rooms with a conventional brick partition wall, with a connecting door opening on the south side, and a communicating hatch on the north side. A stovepipe exit was present to the south of the ridge near to the partition wall in the eastern room.

The western room was of three bays, decorated in a lower mid-blue/upper white colour scheme, while the eastern room had been entirely repainted in pink.

The west two bays of the structure had been completely demolished, but the eastern gable remained intact and retained an original exterior door.

The wartime plan of the camp records this building as the 'Company Office and Store'.

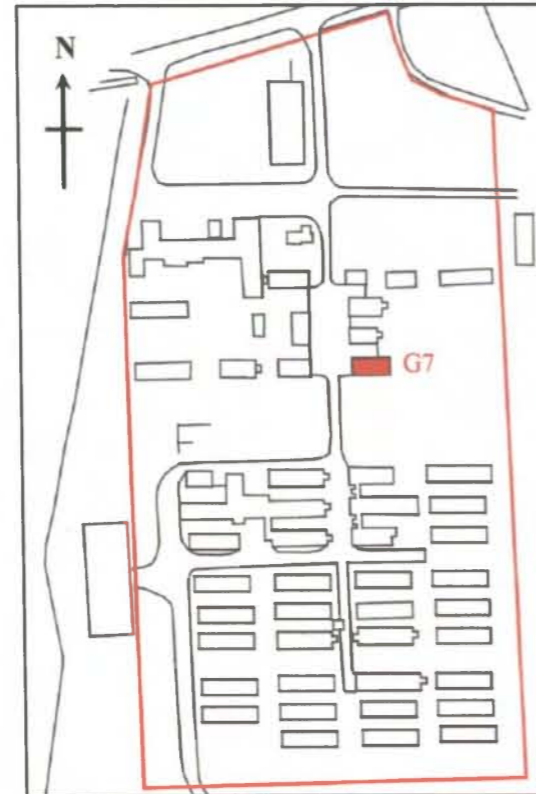


Hut G7

This building was located to the south of Hut G6, and comprised a MoWP type hut, oriented east-west, with a concrete frame of seven bays, infilled with pre-cast concrete panels. The roof and gables were of corrugated asbestos panels and the gable ventilators were of four slatted panels, covered by sheets of plain asbestos. It had four windows in the south side, and three in the north side.

The interior comprised a single room, and was decorated with lower mid-blue/upper white walls. Some marks on the floor may indicate that the building was once sub-divided, and the location of the stovepipe exits (with two near the eaves in the second bay from the east, and a single one near the ridge in the third bay from the west) tends to support this.

Although its most recent use was clearly as light agricultural storage, it is recorded on the original wartime plan of the camp as the 'Commandant's Office'.



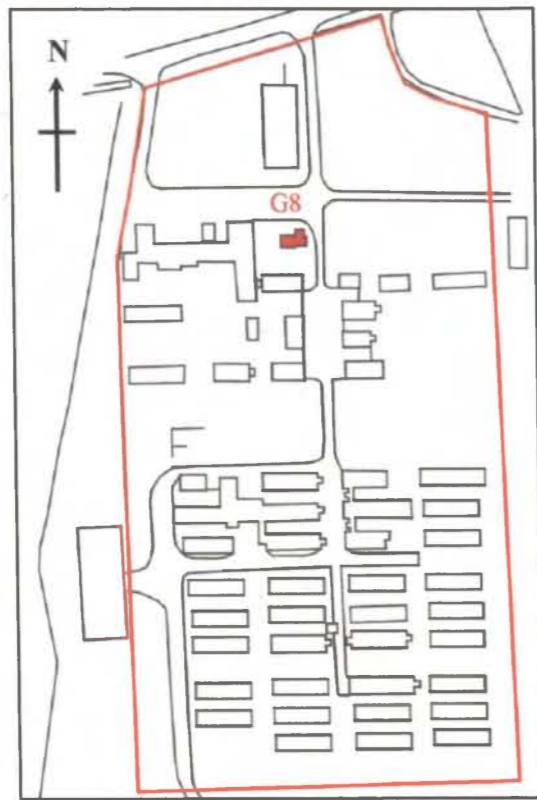
Building G8 - Guardroom

This building represented a purpose-built structure and occupied a position to the west of the spine road, at the entrance to the guards' compound.

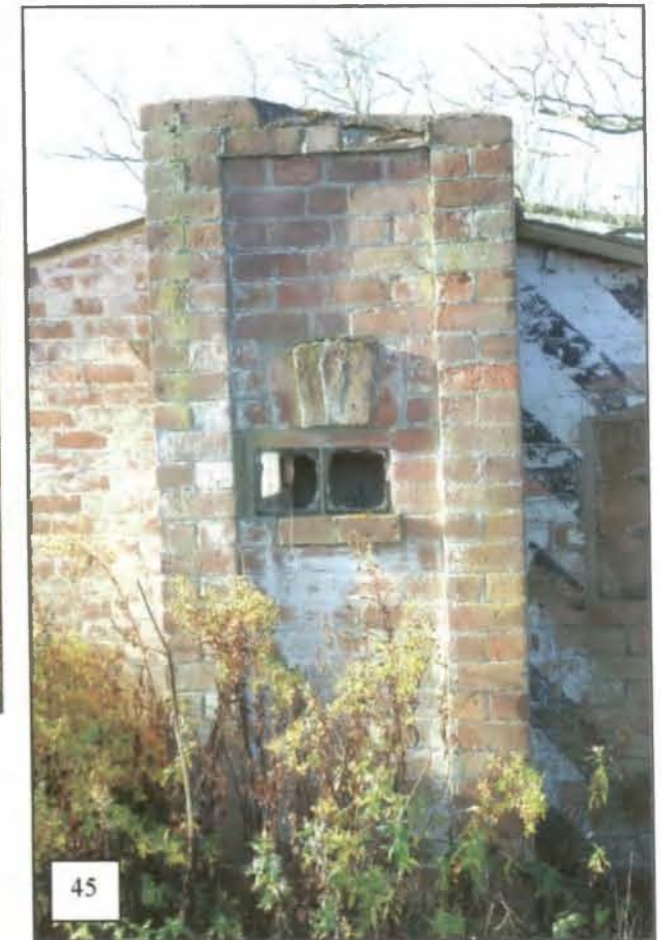
It was again oriented east-west and was constructed in 9" wide conventional brickwork, with a pitched corrugated asbestos panel roof and originally comprised four rooms, the western one of which has been demolished.

The eastern part of the structure comprised a small sentry post, with windows of glass brick, and retained part of its original exterior paint scheme of diagonal black and white stripes. The south wall of this part of the structure also retained the angle-iron brackets for barbed wire fencing.

The room to the west of the sentry post had been extensively altered and extended in concrete blocks to make a garage structure.



The room to the west of this retained an original exterior door in its southwest corner, with a four-light window to the east.



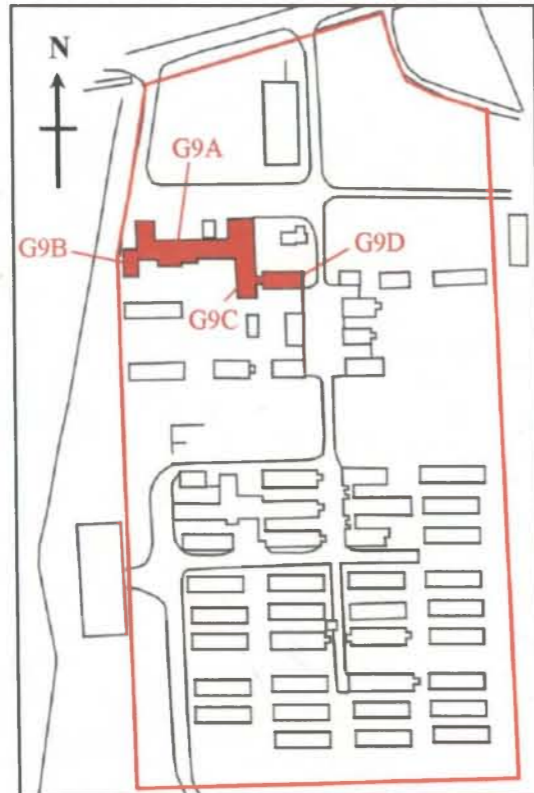
The interior of the building was entirely whitewashed. The sentry post retained an original fitted desk in the northern bay, and had its original framed, ledged and diagonally braced exterior door of 4½" chamfered planks.



Complex G9

This complex of buildings occupied a position in the northwest part of the guards' compound and comprised several interconnecting elements, derived from MoWP huts.

According to the wartime plan, when constructed this complex comprised four separate elements, apparently linked by external corridors, but later additions have amalgamated them into a single complex.



Hut G9A

The main part of this complex comprised a MoWP type hut, oriented east-west, with a concrete frame of twelve bays, infilled in hollow brick. The roof was of corrugated asbestos panels.

The north side of the building had a window in each bay, while windows conformed to the normal alternating bays on the south side. The building was accessed through double doors in a conventional brick porch structure with a concrete roof on the south side.



The interior appears not to have been subdivided, but a recent fire has heavily damaged the western two-thirds of the structure, making closer observation hazardous.

The building appeared to have been a mechanical workshop in its most recent use, and retained very few original fixtures, apart from the original four-panel double doors in the south wall, the uppermost panel of which was glazed. Corrugated Perspex panels had been inserted into the roof to allow more light into the interior, and modern striplights had been installed throughout.

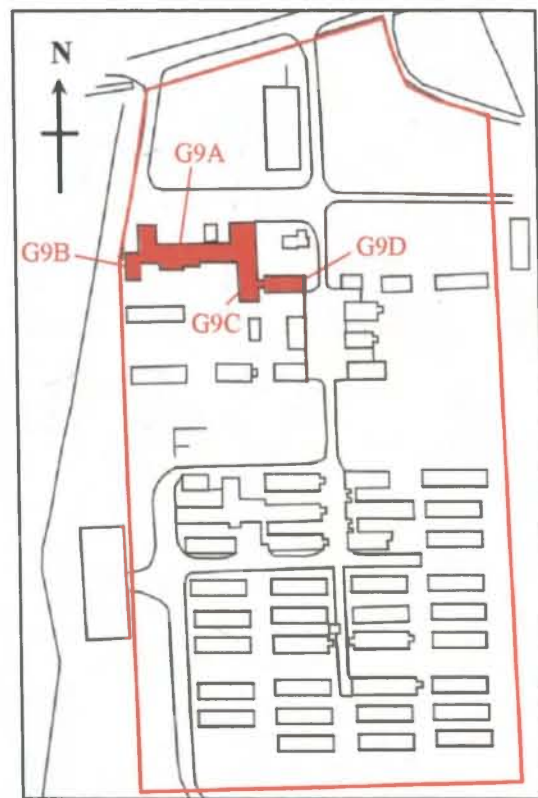
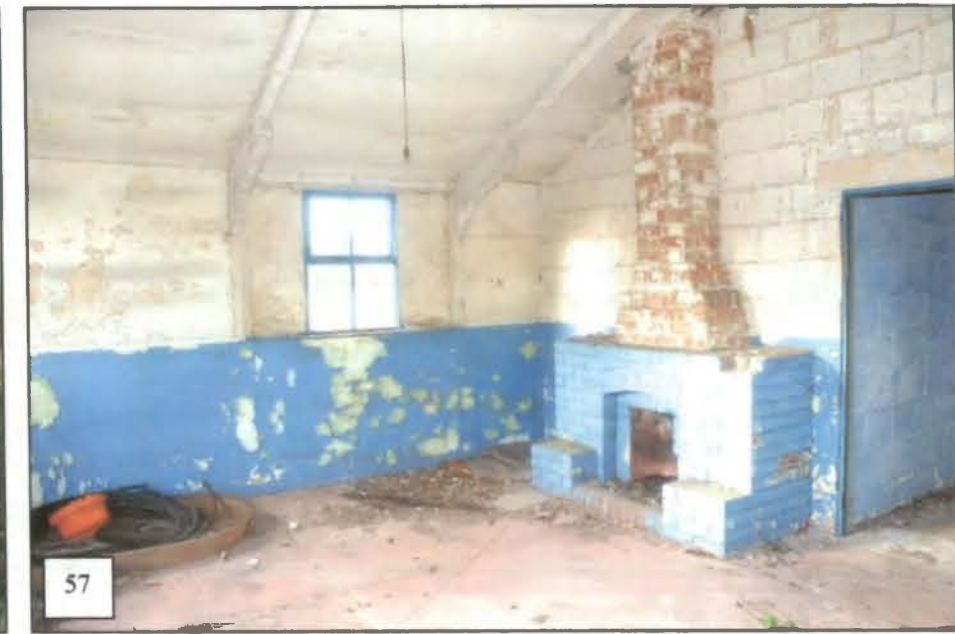
On the wartime plan of the camp, this building is recorded as 'Reg Inst [Regimental Institute] and Guards Dining Rm'.



Hut G9B

This building was located immediately to the west of Hut G9A, and comprised a MoWP type hut, oriented north-south, with a concrete frame of five bays, infilled with pre-cast concrete panels. The roof and gables were of corrugated asbestos panels and the gable ventilators were of four panels of timber slats, covered by sheets of plain asbestos. It had two windows in the east and west sides, unusually occurring within the same bays.

The interior was divided into six rooms with hollow brick partition walls. A single room, accessed through the north gable door, occupied the northern 2½ bays, while a corridor led off to the southern gable door flanked to east and west by two rooms, each two bays in length. The rooms occupying the northeast and northwest corners were toilet cubicles.



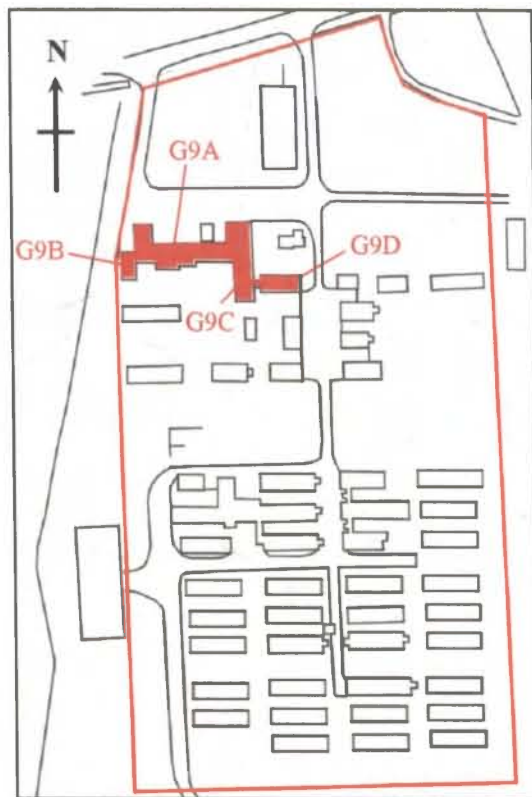
The northern room had a brick fireplace and chimney, apparently a later addition, and a small storeroom was accessed through a door in the north wall. The remaining two rooms, accessed from the central corridor, were unremarkable, having been repainted, and contained no original fixtures.

On the wartime plan of the camp, this building is recorded as 'NAAFI staff quarters'.

Hut G9C

This building was located immediately to the west of Hut G9A, and comprised a MoWP type hut, oriented north-south, with a concrete frame of eight bays, infilled in hollow brick. The roof was of corrugated asbestos panels and the gable ventilators were of airbricks. It had three windows in the east side, three windows in the southern gable and six windows in its west wall, the central two of which were metal-framed.

The interior was divided into seven rooms with hollow brick partition walls. The southern part of the hut was occupied by a toilet to the east and washroom to the west with a shower, while the room to the southwest of the linking corridor to the neighbouring hut, Hut G9D, housed a boiler. A single room occupied the central three bays of this building, and probably originally housed cooking facilities (large metal-framed windows are found in this context elsewhere in the camp). The rooms occupying the northern part of the hut were probably storage.



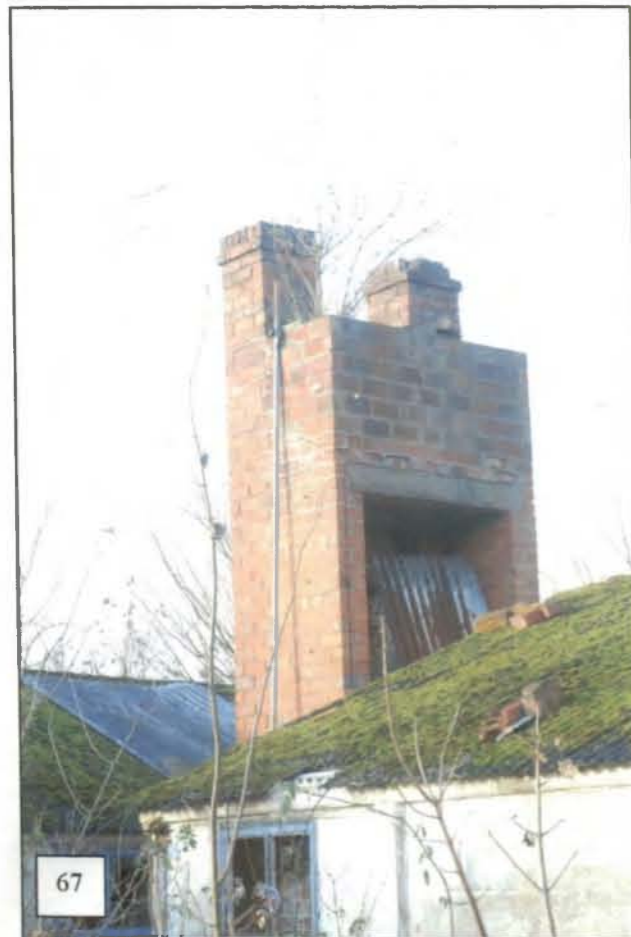
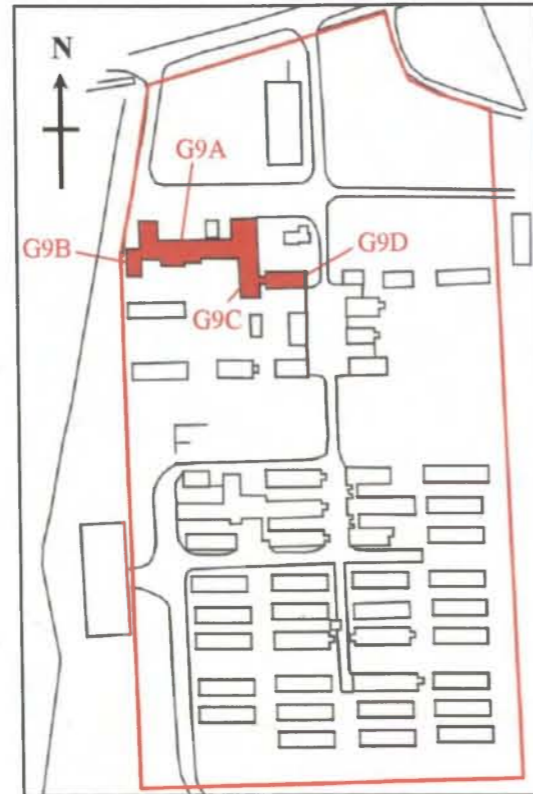
This building was recently occupied and generally had a modern pale pink colour scheme; however, the room to the north of the washroom retained its original decoration, with the lower walls painted mid green while the upper walls were cream.

On the wartime plan of the camp, this building is recorded as 'Guards' Cookhouse and Showers'.

Hut G9D

This building was located immediately to the east of Hut G9C, and comprised a MoWP type hut, oriented east-west, with a concrete frame of seven bays, infilled with pre-cast concrete panels. It had four windows in the south wall and three in the north wall. The roof and eastern gable were of corrugated asbestos panels and the gable ventilators were of four panels of timber slats, covered by sheets of plain asbestos.

The interior was originally divided into three rooms with a mixture of hollow brick and conventional brick partition walls. A single room, which originally occupied the eastern four bays of the hut, had been recently partitioned in modern studwork, to provide two rooms on the south side accessed from a corridor to the north. These modern rooms were decorated in modern emulsion paint, while the northern corridor had the now familiar lower mid blue/upper white colour scheme.



The original central door opening in the east gable had been blocked with breeze blocks and a new exterior door opening had been forced through the east gable on the line of the new northern corridor. The western part of the hut was subdivided with an east-west partition in hollow brick, with a central communicating door opening.

The western access to the neighbouring hut, Hut G9C, was through a corridor leading from the western gable door below the supporting walls of an elevated water tank, which also accommodated the flue from the boiler room in Hut G9C.

On the wartime plan of the camp, this building is recorded as 'W.O and SGTs [Warrant Officer's and Sergeants'] Living Hut and Mess'.

Two brick garage-type structures were more recently constructed on the north side of the complex. The western of these structures was more intact, with a single shallow-pitched roof of asbestos panels. It was of conventional brick, with 9" thick walls generally of stretcher bond, but with two header strings, eighteen courses apart.

This building was constructed in the space between Hut G9A and Hut G9B, the gable wall of Hut G9A being removed, and with a communicating window from Hut G9B present in the southern part of the west wall.

It had a pair of large ledged and diagonally braced doors on the north side, only the western of which remained, and was badly fire damaged.



The eastern of the garage structures was partially demolished, and occupied the area to the north of Hut G9C, at the east end of Hut G9A. It appeared of similar construction to the western garage building, but had a pitched roof, while the large door opening on the north side was occupied by a roller shutter door.



On the north side of Hut G9A, a free-standing timber shed of two rooms had been constructed. It was of shiplap panels with modern casement windows. It had almost completely collapsed, but probably acted as a reception building when the camp was being used as foreign student accommodation.

Hut G10

This hut was located to the south of Hut G9D, immediately to the west of the central spine road, and comprised a MoWP type hut, oriented north-south, with a concrete frame of six bays, infilled with hollow bricks. The roof was of corrugated asbestos panels and the gable ventilators were of airbricks, the northern ventilator retained its corrugated asbestos cover.

The interior was divided into two rooms by a central hollow brick partition wall, with no communicating door. The northern room was of three bays, decorated in a lower light green/upper cream colour scheme, while the southern had a lower mid blue/upper white colour scheme. The northern room had a modern brick fireplace and chimney in the middle of the partition wall, with a slate mantel. The southeast corner of this hut was occupied by a antiquated electrical switchgear

The wartime plan of the camp records this building as the 'Guard Hut and S.A.A. [Small Arms and Ammunition] Store'.



Hut G11

This building was located to the south of Hut G10, and comprised a MoWP type hut, oriented east-west, with a concrete frame of six bays, infilled with conventional brickwork. The roof was of corrugated asbestos panels and the gable ventilators were of airbricks, with a corrugated asbestos cover. The window openings had concrete lintels and sills, and the exterior was cement rendered.

The interior was divided with conventional brick partition walls and comprised a central corridor flanked on each side by three rooms, each 1½ bays in length. At the west end the corridor opened up to the full width of the central bay, and the southwestern bay was occupied by a boiler room, while a toilet cubicle and urinal occupied the bay on the opposite side.



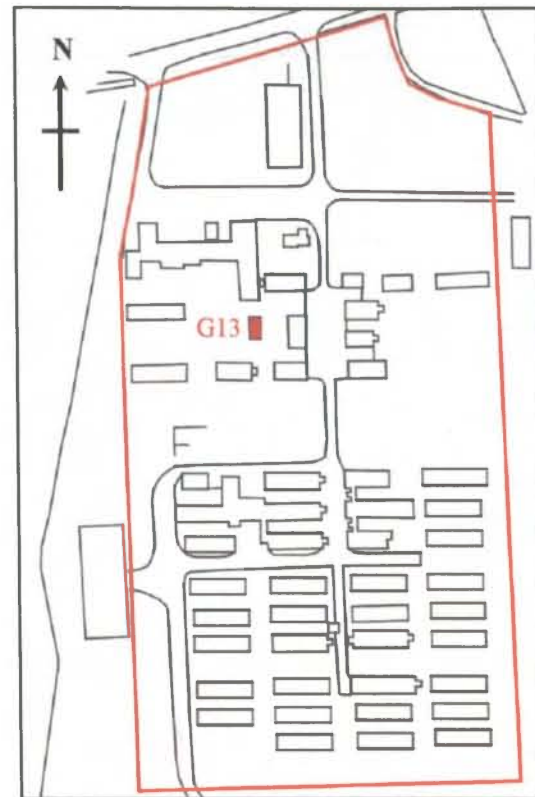
All of the windows in this building were metal framed, of four lights, the uppermost a top-hung casement. The rooms retained their doors, each of which was of two-panel construction; these originally had a small observation window in the upper panel, all of which have since been covered. The door to the boiler room was of the four-panel type seen elsewhere throughout the camp. The western bay of the building was partially demolished.

The wartime plan of the camp describes this building as the 'Detention Block'.

Building G13

Nothing remains of this structure except its poured concrete floor, which is located to the south of Hut G9C.

Its purpose is unclear, and it does not appear on the wartime plan of the camp.

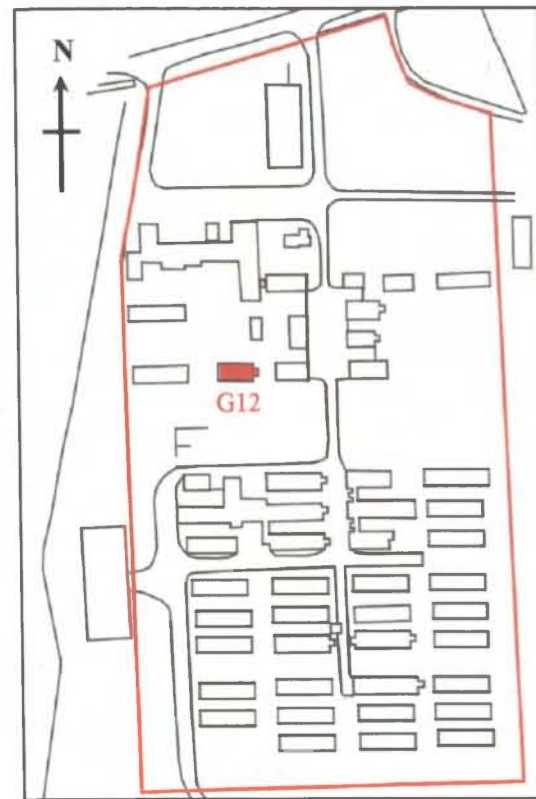


Hut G12

This hut was located immediately to the west of Hut G11, and comprised a MoWP type hut, oriented east-west, with a concrete frame of six bays, infilled with hollow bricks. It had three windows in both the north and south walls. The roof was of corrugated asbestos panels and the gable ventilators were of airbricks.

The eastern gable was dominated by an elevated water tank supported on 9" brick pillars, which also formed the flue for the adjacent boiler room. The eastern gable door was accessed between the walls of this structure.

The interior was divided into five rooms with conventional brick partition walls. As mentioned above, the southeast corner was occupied by a boiler room, with a coal hatch in the south wall.





The eastern part of the building was a large open room, with four shower cubicles built against the partition wall from the boiler room. Opposite the shower cubicles, a bench of timber slats was located on the north wall, supported on 9" brick piers. The western part of this area was dominated by a communal sink, composed of a central asbestos trough flanked with plain asbestos sheet drainers, supported on a mixture of 9" and 4" brick piers, which continued above the level of the sink to support the pipes for the taps and a central raised sheet asbestos shelf.

The western part of the hut was occupied with a row of toilet cubicles, which retained their ledged and diagonally braced 3½" chamfered plank doors, built against the western partition wall. In the northwest corner a urinal was present, while the room in the southwest corner of the hut was a drying room, occupied by a metal framework of drying rails which retained many of their heavy wire clothes hooks.

The wartime plan of the camp describes this building as the 'Guards' Ablution, Latrine and Drying Rm'.



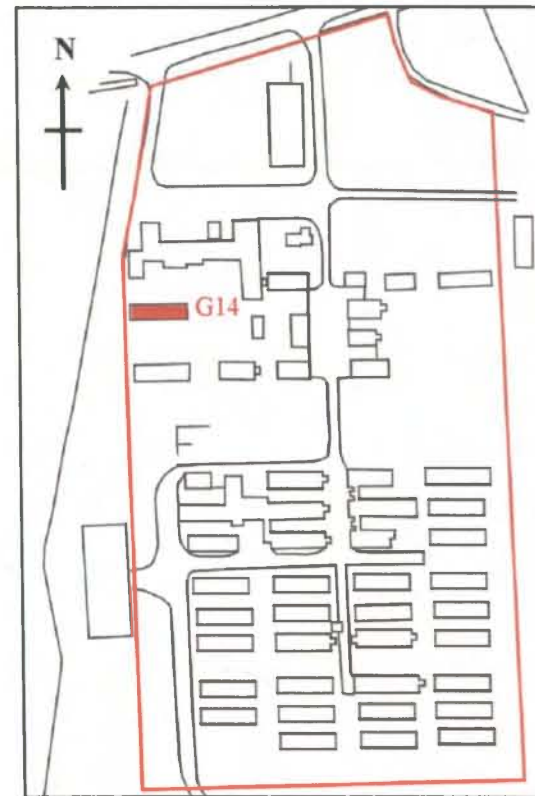
Hut G14

This building was located between Hut G9B to the north and Hut G15 to the south, close to the western perimeter of the camp. It comprised a MoWP type hut, oriented east-west, with a concrete frame of ten bays, infilled with pre-cast concrete panels. The roof and gables were of corrugated asbestos panels and the gable ventilators were of four slatted panels, covered by sheets of plain asbestos.

This hut was not subdivided and was decorated in the lower mid blue/upper white colour scheme familiar from many of the buildings already encountered. This was locally peeling off to reveal the original colour scheme, with the lower walls an orange brown and the upper walls cream.

A single stovepipe exit was present to the north of the ridge in the fourth bay from the eastern gable. The eastern gable itself had been removed.

The wartime plan of the camp describes this building with Hut G15 to the south as the 'Guards' Living Huts'.

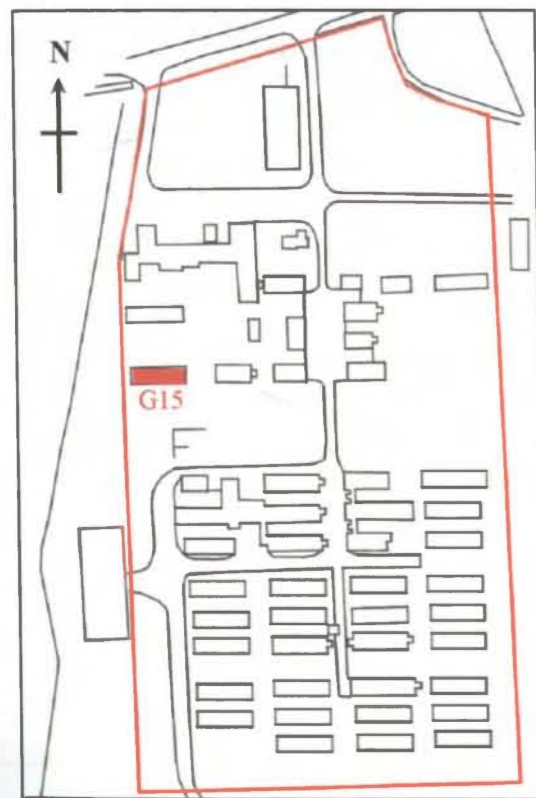


Hut G15

This building was located to the south of Hut G14, in the southwest corner of the guards' compound. It comprised a MoWP type hut, oriented east-west, with a concrete frame of ten bays, infilled with pre-cast concrete panels. The roof and gables were of corrugated asbestos panels and the gable ventilators were of four slatted panels, covered by sheets of plain asbestos.

The western two bays were separated from the rest of the hut with a 4" conventional brick partition wall with a central door opening which retained its original ledged and diagonally braced plank door. The main room was decorated in the lower light blue/upper white colour scheme, while the blue in the smaller room was darker.

In the main room, a single stovepipe exit was present to the north of the ridge in the fourth bay from the eastern gable.



A shelf was present between the windows on both sides of the main room, while the western room had a central stovepipe exit, and retained some furniture, including two lockers which may have been original.

The wartime plan of the camp describes this building with Hut G14 to the north as the 'Guards' Living Huts'. It seems likely that the smaller room in this hut housed one or two NCOs.



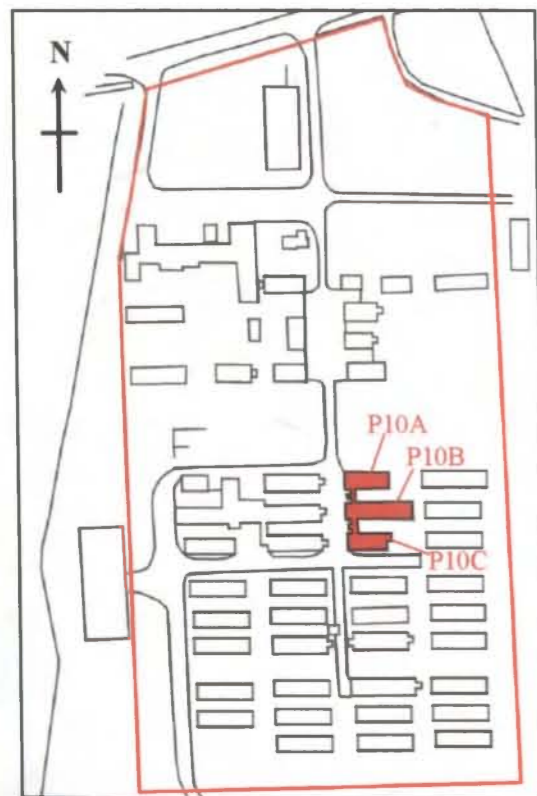
Prisoners' Compound

The buildings in the prisoners' compound have been dealt with thematically, taking the communal buildings first and considering the relatively uniform accommodation huts as a group.

Complex P10 – Camp Reception Station (CRS)

This complex of buildings comprised three MoWP huts joined by a brick-built corridor. It occupied the northernmost block of three huts, to the east of the central spine road. It functioned as the camp medical facility.

The linking corridor was constructed of hollow bricks, with a shallow single-pitched roof of corrugated asbestos panels. It comprised two sections, the northern one linking Huts P10a and P10b, while the southern one connected Huts P10b and P10c. Each of these sections had a central porch, of conventional bricks, with a flat concrete roof.



Within each of these porch structures, a pair of double doors (no longer extant) gave access to the linking corridor. On the opposite side of the corridor, a group of three metal-framed four-light windows, the uppermost a top-hung casement, lit the corridor.

Hut P10A

This was the northernmost of the three interlinked huts. It comprised a MoWP type hut, with a concrete frame of seven bays, infilled with hollow bricks. The gable ventilators were airbricks.

The interior was divided into nine rooms with hollow brick partition walls. The building had been stripped, and the function of the rooms was in many cases not immediately apparent. However, this building was visited in 2006 by Roger Thomas of English Heritage and at this time, the rooms retained their doors on which their function was written in Italian.



The southern room in the west gable was the orderly room, while the room to the north was the medical officer's office. Working east down the north side of the corridor, this was followed by the medical officer's store and the dental surgery. The large room occupying the eastern gable was the medical orderly's quarters. This had a hatch into the corridor, and so probably doubled as a dispensary.

The rooms along the south side of the corridor in Hut P10A were (from east to west) a shower room, a lavatory and a store.

The rooms throughout the CRS were decorated with the lower parts of the walls mid or dark blue; in the dental surgery this was only a band 20" high, and the upper walls were white.



Although this hut had conventional four-pane timber-framed windows, metal-framed windows were present in the third and fourth bays from the west in both the north and south walls.

The entire CRS had central heating, and in some cases the mounting points of the radiators and associated pipes were present.



Hut P10B

This was the central of the three interlinked huts. It again comprised a MoWP type hut, with a concrete frame of twelve bays, infilled with hollow bricks. The gable ventilators were airbricks.

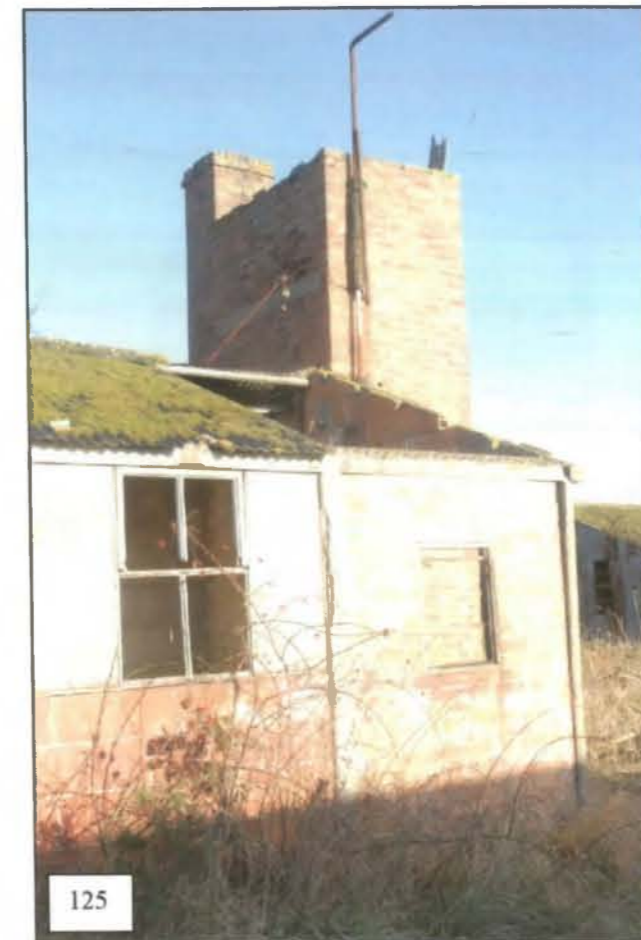
The northern of the two rooms in the west gable was a bathroom; the southern room's function was unclear. To the east of the linking corridor, a central corridor led east past an isolation ward to the north and a patients' lavatory to the south. The eastern 7½ bays of this hut comprised the main ward of the medical centre.



Building P10C

This was the southern of the three interlinked huts. It comprised a MoWP type hut, with a concrete frame of seven bays, infilled with hollow bricks. The gable ventilators were airbricks.

The western two bays of this hut were occupied by the boiler room, which had an elevated water tank/chimney structure at the east end.



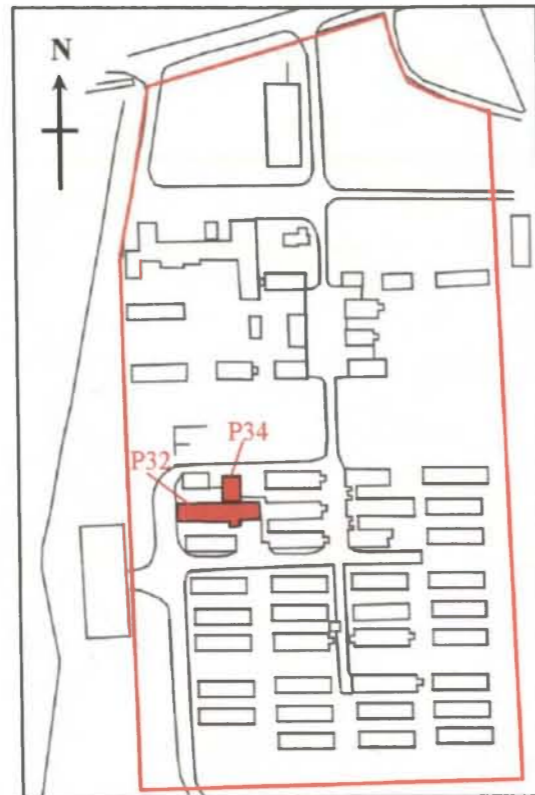
The southern of the two rooms in the west gable was the medical officer's quarters, while the northern room had collapsed. The room occupying the remainder of the south side of the hut was the kitchen, with storage rooms at the east end. On the north side, the medical officer's lavatory was present, followed by a room labelled 'sluice', beyond which a door in the north wall gave exterior access.

Huts P32 & P34 – Cookhouse

This complex of buildings, occupying the northwest block of the camp contained huts devoted to communal activities such as food preparation and dining, food storage, recreation etc.

On the wartime plan of the camp these buildings were separate; they were later linked with a servery area.

Hut P32 was a MoWP type hut, on an east-west alignment with a concrete frame of fourteen bays, infilled with hollow bricks. The gable ventilators were airbricks, but these were supplemented by slatted timber clerestories.



The main entrance to Hut P32 was at the eastern end of the southern wall of the building where an exterior porch of conventional 4" brick with a flat concrete roof gave access through two doors either into the easternmost room, where food was probably served, or the central room, where the cooking took place.

The easternmost room of Hut P32 occupied the eastern three bays of the building and was probably where food was served during the wartime period. It has since been extensively altered: the central panel of the gable has been blocked and a serving hatch installed, while a further serving hatch has been inserted in the lower part of the southern gable window. The window on the north side is of eight lights, and a door opposite the one in the south wall gave further access.



The central five bays of this hut comprised the kitchen itself, where a large pile of rust in the middle of the floor coupled with two large stovepipes in the roof (between the clerestory ventilators) gave evidence for the location of the cookers. This room also had eight-light windows, on both north and south sides, in front of which brick supports and drainage gullies in the floor attest to the presence of at least two sinks on each side.

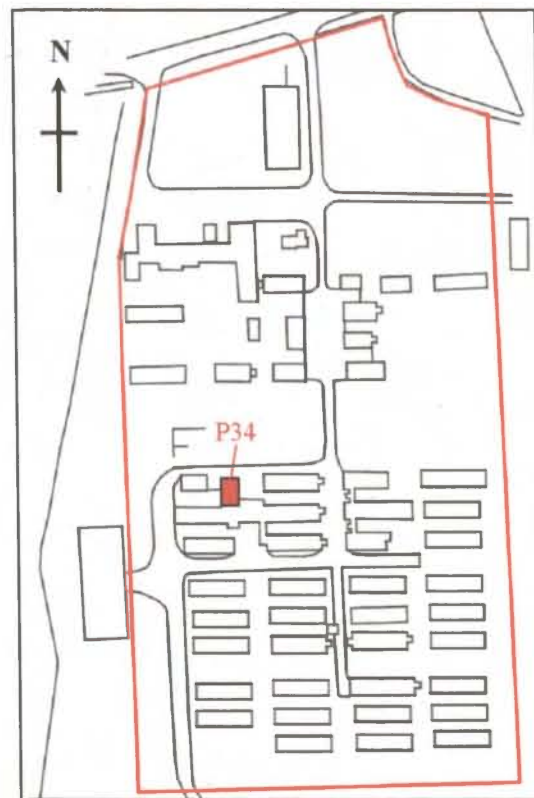


The western five bays of this hut were divided into four rooms; in the northwest corner a coal store and boiler room were present, while the two rooms along the south side appeared to represent storage, as the scars from shelving were evident on the walls. The larger room had two eight-light windows in the north wall, and similar evidence to that seen in the central room for sinks was also present here. The central and eastern rooms of the building were decorated with dark blue lower/white upper walls, while in the western rooms, the blue was a lighter shade.

Hut P34 – cookhouse extension.

This hut probably represented the bakery part of the cookhouse, attested by the large chimney in the northern gable; however, it had almost completely collapsed. It comprised a MoWP type hut, on a north-south alignment with a concrete frame of four bays, infilled with hollow bricks. The gable ventilators were airbricks: three on each side of the chimney stack.

The roof was of asbestos panels and had a clerestory ventilator which ran the length of the building.



This building had been decorated with dark green lower walls and white upper walls, although the window frames were painted mid-blue.

Two examples of graffiti were evident in the northeast corner of the structure. Both of the panels flanking the east window in the north gable had graffiti, but only the eastern panel could be clearly made out. Graffiti here comprised a large bird head, a figure, geometric shapes and some indecipherable writing.

Further graffiti was evident on the brick panel to the north of the northern window in the east side. This comprised a further bird-like figure with a swastika and some writing on the concrete frame separating the two panels. The graffiti appears to have been executed in a very soft pencil or crayon. It is highly unlikely that this represents art from the wartime period, as the brick infill panel is a later repair to the structure; also, the swastika is not the Nazi-style reversed swastika, but a clockwise-rotating 'fylfot' type, indicating that the artist was ignorant of the difference.



Hut P19 – Dining Hut

This building was located immediately to the east of the cookhouse (Hut P32), and comprised a MoWP type hut, oriented east-west, with a concrete frame of ten bays, infilled with pre-cast concrete panels. The roof and gables were of corrugated asbestos panels and the gable ventilators were of four slatted panels, covered by sheets of plain asbestos. It had a brick porch structure at its east end and retained its exterior doors.

The interior of this hut was a single room, decorated below windowsill level in dark blue, and white above. The walls above sill level had been wallpapered in a brown 1970s style paper. Stovepipe exits were present in the roof to the north of the ridge in the fourth bay from the west and to the south of the ridge in the fourth bay from the east. A radio speaker was also present on the western gable wall.

This hut was recorded on the wartime plan as a 'dining hut', which purpose it appears to have served until the end of the 'Concordia' period, when the camp accommodated foreign students.

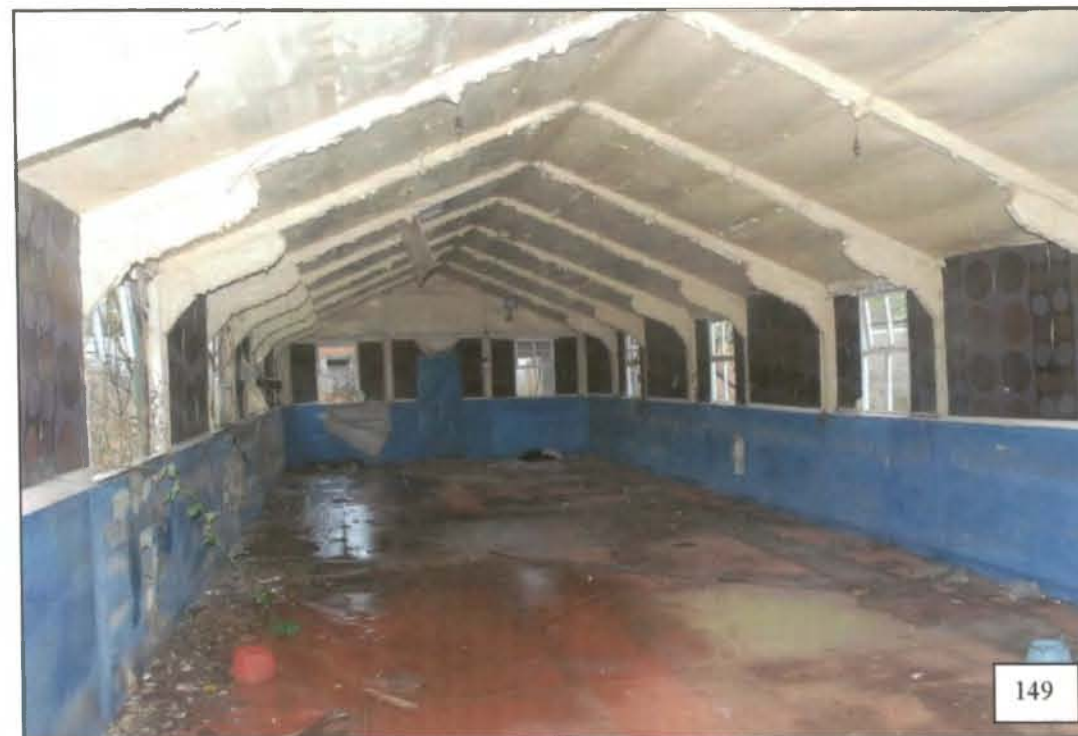


Hut P20 – Dining Hut

This building was located immediately to the south of dining hut P19. It comprised a MoWP type hut, oriented east-west, with a concrete frame of ten bays, infilled with pre-cast concrete panels. The roof and gables were of corrugated asbestos panels and the gable ventilators were of four slatted panels, covered by sheets of plain asbestos.

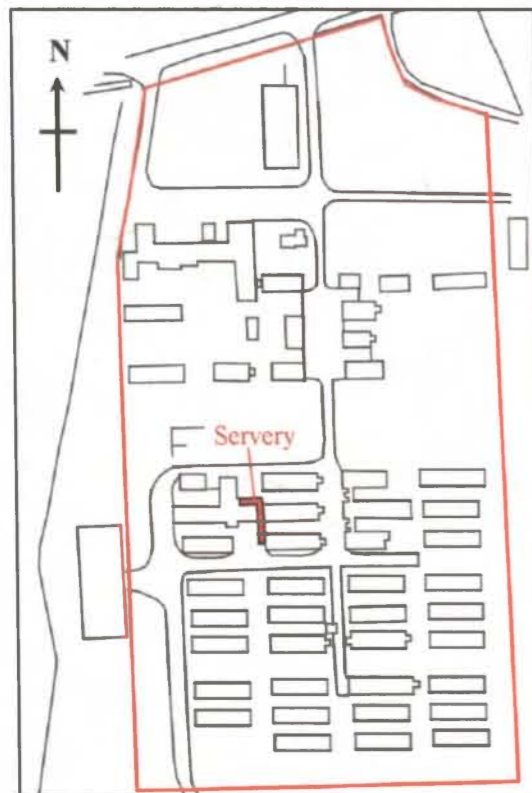
The interior of this hut was a single room, decorated below windowsill level in dark blue, and white above. The walls above sill level had been wallpapered in a purple 1970s style paper. Stovepipe exits were present in the roof to the north of the ridge in the fourth bay from the west and to the south of the ridge in the fourth bay from the east.

This hut was also recorded on the wartime plan as a 'dining hut', and like Hut P19, it continued in this function until the end of the 'Concordia' period, when the camp accommodated foreign students.



Servery

The area between the dining huts (Huts P19 and P20) and the cookhouse (Hut P32) was enclosed with a roof of corrugated asbestos panels, supported on a central 4" brick wall which extended to the south as far as the west gable door of Hut P20. This area represented the conversion of this space into a servery – serving hatches were let into the gable of the cookhouse – and allowed meals to be transported to the dining huts protected from the elements.

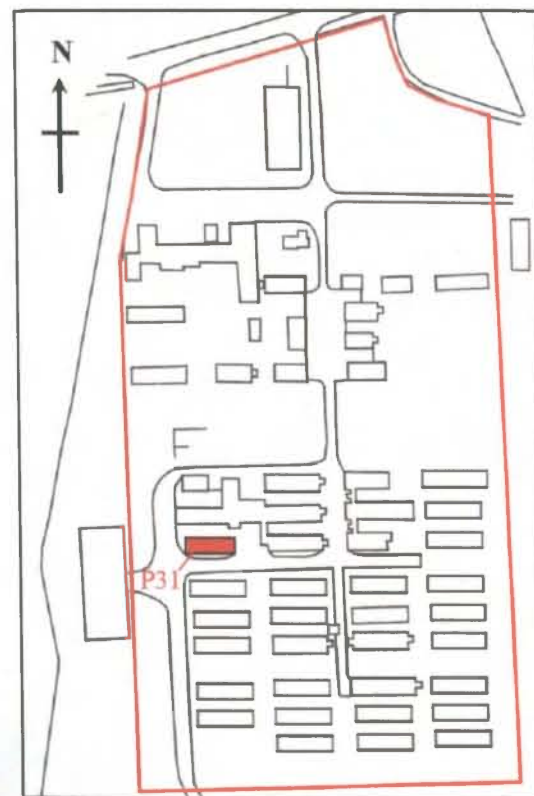


This structure is not shown on the wartime plan of the camp, which demonstrates that it is not an original feature: it was probably added while the camp was in use as an agricultural hostel, rather than during its wartime use as a PoW camp.

Hut P31 – Grocery and Local Produce Store

This building was located immediately to the south of the cookhouse (Hut P32), and comprised a MoWP type hut, aligned east-west, with a concrete frame of nine bays, infilled with hollow bricks. The roof was of corrugated asbestos panels and the gable ventilators were of airbricks, the western ventilator retained its corrugated asbestos cover.

The interior was divided into five rooms with a mixture of hollow brick and conventional brick 4" partition walls. A large room occupied the western four bays of this building; this in turn contained a smaller room of two bays in length in its north eastern corner. A communicating hatch was present between this and the central part of the building.



The rooms in the western part of the building were decorated with a 10" high dark green band at the base of the walls; the lower part of the walls was light green and the upper part white.



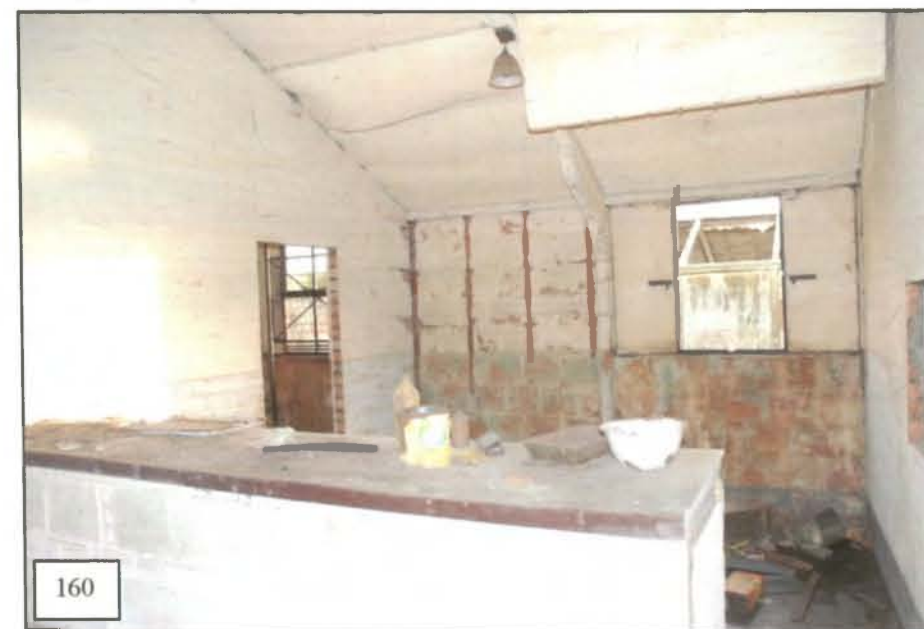
In the eastern part of the hut, the eastern two bays were divided from the central section and contained a large refrigerator, which may have been an original fixture. A central opening in the partition wall gave access to the central three bays of the building.

The central part of the building was again subdivided, with a 42" high x 28" wide counter with an asbestos sheet surface and shelving below. Behind this counter, the area had contained shelving and a door gave access to a storage room in the southeast corner of the area. This storage room contained rails for hanging meat.

An exterior door was present in the third bay from the east, protected behind a brick porch structure.

This room had a similar decorative scheme to that seen in the west part, but the band at floor level was black, and the colour division on the walls was marked with a red pinstripe.

This building is marked on the wartime plan of the camp as 'Grocery & Local Produce Store'.

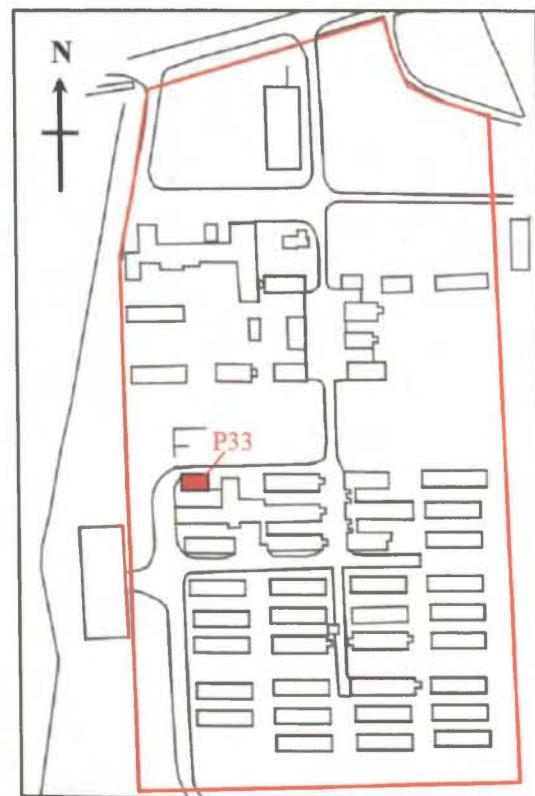


Hut P33 – Tradesmen’s Shops

This building was located immediately to the north of the cookhouse (Hut P32) in the northwest corner of the prison compound. It comprised a MoWP type hut, aligned east-west, with a concrete frame of five bays, infilled with hollow bricks. The roof was of corrugated asbestos panels and the gable ventilators were of airbricks.

The interior was divided into three rooms with hollow brick partition walls.

A large room occupied the western two bays, and the windows of this room had been replaced with modern metal casements. This room was also largely undecorated.



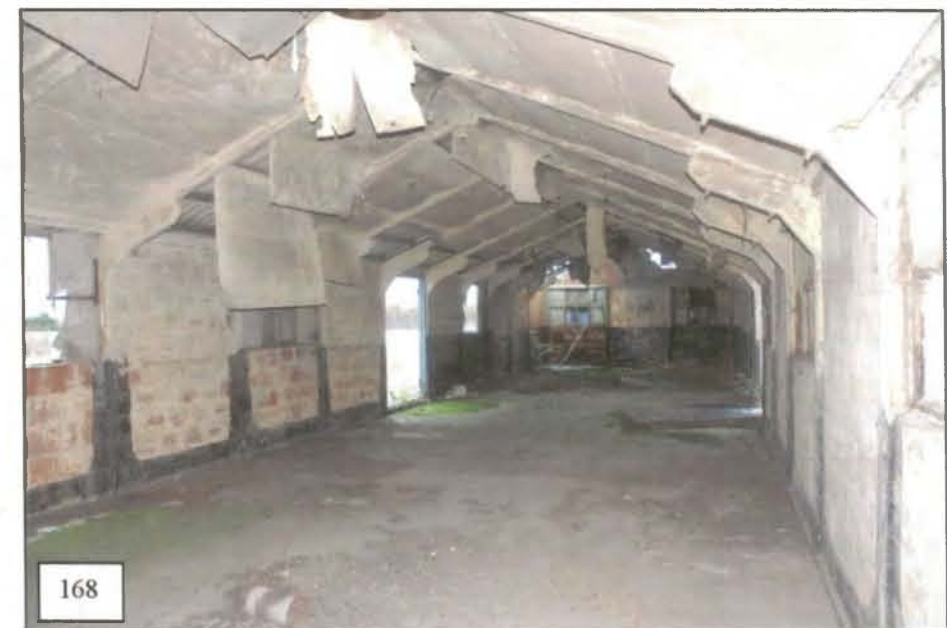
Two smaller rooms divided along the ridgeline of the building occupied the eastern part of the hut. This hut had been recently occupied and decorated.

The wartime plan of the camp records this building as 'Shops: Shoemaker, Barber, Tailor'.

Hut P1 - Chapel

This building was located to the east of CRS, in the northeast corner of the prison compound. It comprised a MoWP type hut, east-west aligned, with a concrete frame of twelve bays, infilled with hollow bricks. It had a roof of corrugated asbestos panels and the gable ventilators were of airbricks. This was the prison chapel.

It had the usual west gable door, but the east end was entirely closed, and the sixth bay from the east end was open in both the north and south walls of the structure. On the north side a concrete step outside the open bay suggested that it had contained double-doors.



A small pile of bricks at the apex of the west gable probably indicated the former position of a cross.



The interior was entirely open, and the walls retained the trace of a decorative paint scheme seen nowhere else at the camp. The western part of the building had a repeated geometric pattern in the lower part of each bay, separated by vertical black elements at each concrete upright of the frame. A 10" high black skirting band was also present. Above the geometric pattern at windowsill level, the walls were painted cream, but the concrete members of the frame were unpainted.



The east end was painted black to windowsill level, although no windows were present in the eastern three bays. An ornate shelf bracket still survived in the second bay from the east on the north wall.

Interestingly, the wartime plan of the camp lists this hut as 'Recreation No.2', which perhaps means that the building doubled as a recreation hut, perhaps a theatre.



Hut P21

This building was located to the south of Dining Hut P20, and comprised a MoWP type hut, oriented east-west, with a concrete frame of ten bays, infilled with pre-cast concrete panels. The roof and gables were of corrugated asbestos panels and the gable ventilators were of four panels of timber slats.

The interior was divided into four rooms with hollow brick and conventional brick partition walls. The east gable door gave access onto a short corridor, two bays in length and flanked by a room to north and south. The corridor led into a central room three bays in length, which was separated from the western room by a further partition wall with a central door.



The two small rooms at the east end, the corridor and the room at the west side all shared the same decorative scheme, with the lower part of the walls painted light green and the upper part painted cream. The central room was painted in a darker shade of green with a black pinstripe separating this from the cream colour above.



The western room in Hut P21 contained painted panels, probably landscapes, which had almost completely washed out. These landscape panels had a pink border, and were titled in German *Fraktur* script. The landscape panel on the north wall was located in the third bay from the west end of the hut, the subject was indiscernible, but it was titled 'Ostpreussen Niedersee' which translates as 'the Niedersee (lower lake) in East Prussia'.



The landscape panel on the south wall was located in the second bay from the west end of the hut. Although the subject was unclear, it appeared to be of a castle, and bore the title 'Hornberg am Neckar', a place name on the Neckar River in Baden-Wurttemberg.

A further panel, located in the northeast bay of this room, had a pink border, but showed no sign of a painting or a title.

This hut had a modern brick arcade against the east wall, and two low herringbone brick walls had clearly been pushed over at the eastern side of the room. It seems likely that its most recent use was as some sort of bar.

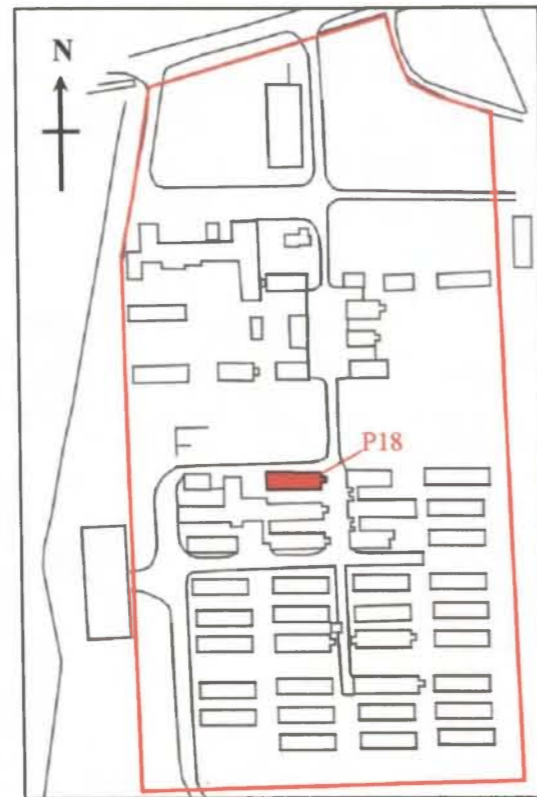
Unfortunately the number of this hut cannot be made out on the copy of the original wartime camp plan, but when a visit was made by R Thomas in 2004, he noted that a door in this hut was marked 'Camp Leader' (R JC Thomas *pers. comm.*)



Hut P18

This building was located immediately to the north of Dining Hut P19, and comprised a MoWP type hut, oriented north-south, with a concrete frame of ten bays, infilled with pre-cast concrete panels. The roof and gables were of corrugated asbestos panels and the gable ventilators were of four panels of timber slats, covered by sheets of plain asbestos.

The interior was divided into three rooms with hollow brick partition walls. Two of these rooms occupied the eastern bay of the hut, and could only be accessed through the eastern gable door. These rooms appeared to be storage of some kind as they both contained the remains of built-in shelving.



This building is listed on the wartime plan of the camp as 'Recreation No.1'.

The remainder of Hut P18 was a single room, decorated with the lower walls painted dark blue, the upper walls white.

The hut had lost its western gable and westernmost bay, probably to allow vehicular access for agricultural storage.

A landscape painting was present on the north side of the building, in the fifth bay from the eastern partition wall. The subject of this painting was a lakeside scene, with a tree.

A further landscape painting was present on the south side of the building, in the fourth bay from the eastern partition wall. The subject of this painting was an alpine scene, with clearly discernible timber-framed chalet-style buildings in the background.

Both of these paintings were executed in bright colours, although the paint was peeling badly from the panels.

A missing panel to the east of the southern landscape attests to the removal of a further painting.



Hut P13 Lavatory and ablutions block

This building was located immediately to the south of accommodation hut P12, and comprised a MoWP type hut, on an east-west alignment, with a concrete frame of ten bays, infilled with hollow bricks. The roof was of corrugated asbestos panels and the gable ventilators were of airbricks. The eastern gable had a door in the northern bay, while the west gable had a brick porch structure.

Apart from whitewashed walls with a black band at floor level, the building was completely undecorated, lacking even a roof lining.



The interior was divided into two rooms with a conventional brick partition. The western room, of 4½ bays, had functioned as a latrine. Urinals were still present on the north and south walls; however, the double row of brick toilet cubicles, which had occupied the centre of this room, was almost completely demolished.

The eastern room was occupied by four of the communal sinks, similar to those seen previously in Hut G12; these were not so well preserved however, lacking the brick and asbestos superstructure seen in Hut G12. A large water tank remained attached to the partition wall near to the roof.



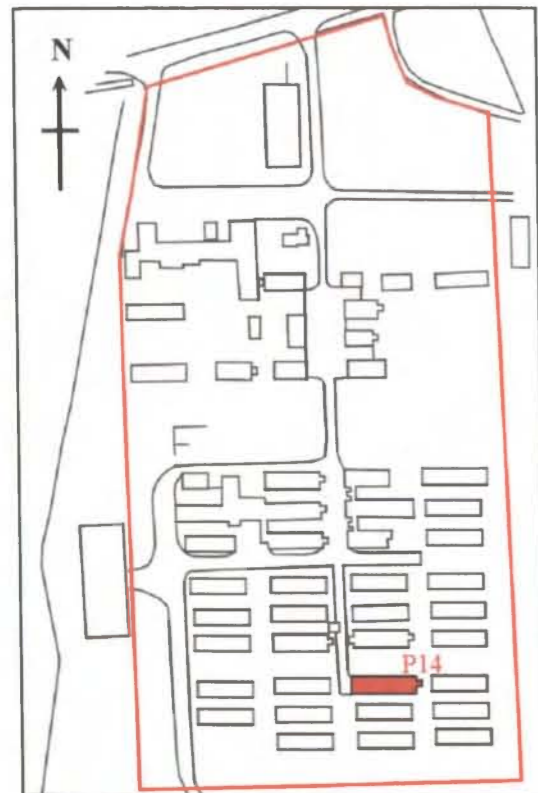
Hut P23 - Lavatory and ablutions block
It was clear from the debris that a second ablutions and toilet block had occupied the position on the opposite side of the spine road from Hut G13, with a shared boiler room immediately to the northeast; however, this building had been demolished.



Hut P14 - Shower and Drying Room

This building was located to the south of Hut P13, and comprised a MoWP type hut, on an east-west alignment, with a concrete frame of twelve bays, infilled with hollow bricks. The roof was of corrugated asbestos panels and the gable ventilators were of airbricks. The eastern gable had a brick porch structure, which had retained its concrete roof.

Like Hut P13, apart from whitewashed walls with a black band at floor level, the building was completely undecorated, lacking even a roof lining.



The hut was divided in half with a hollow brick partition, and the western half housed a double row of nine back-to-back shower cubicles; these were painted green and ran down the centre of the room. Along the sides, the black-painted brick supports of changing benches similar to that seen in Hut G12 were also present. The western room was empty, but had clearly functioned as a drying room, as the mounting points of six radiators were present below the windows. The western room was further subdivided, as the boiler room occupied the central two bays on the south side of the building, with a large elevated water tank/flue structure abutting the south side of the hut to the east. As the neighbouring hut had collapsed, it was not possible to gain access to this room.

The Accommodation Huts

As mentioned previously, the accommodation huts were of an almost uniform construction: the two examples given at the beginning of this section are typical examples of their type. The remaining huts are included here in a summary form.

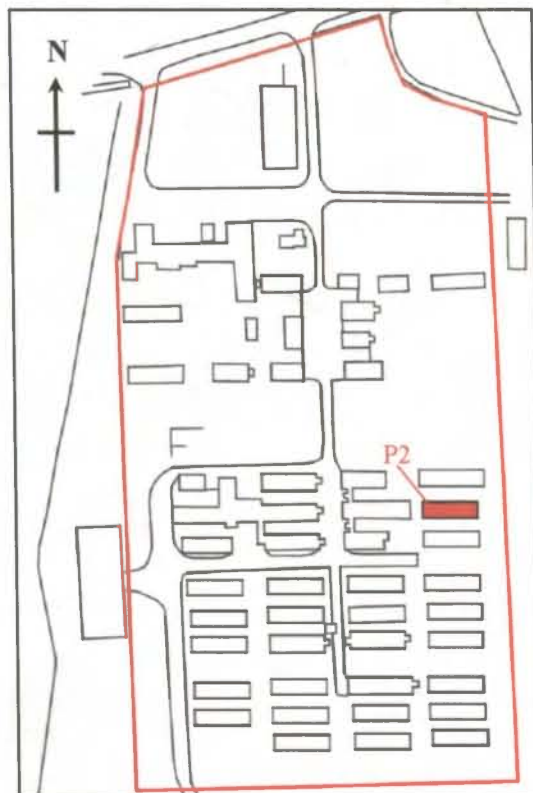
Hut P2

This hut was located to the south of the chapel, Hut P1. It was of Laing timber-framed construction, with a pitched roof of corrugated sheet asbestos. Initially the huts of this type were clad in weatherboard, which has since been replaced in corrugated metal sheeting and treated with a bituminised paint. It had five windows in each side, which are 46" in height and 23" wide; they were of four lights, the upper pair forming a top-hung casement. The windows in the sides of the hut occupied alternating bays, and were offset from the centre of the bays.

The interior of this hut comprised a single room, dominated by the exposed composite timber roof trusses. These were of 2 3/4" x 7/8" timber, doubled up in most of the truss, using 2" x 2" spacers, with 1/4" plywood reinforcement at the joints.



The floor was of poured concrete panels, and the walls were lined with plasterboard, with a lining paper applied to the interior and then whitewashed. The lower part of the walls may have originally been painted brown. This hut had a single exit in the roof for the stovepipe of a pot-bellied stove; this was situated near to the eaves on the south side of the hut, in the fourth bay from the east gable.



Hut P3

This hut was located to the south of Hut P2; it was a typical MoWP accommodation block, oriented east-west, with a concrete frame of ten bays, infilled with pre-cast concrete panels. The roof and gables were of corrugated asbestos panels and the gable ventilators were of four panels of timber slats, covered by sheets of plain asbestos.

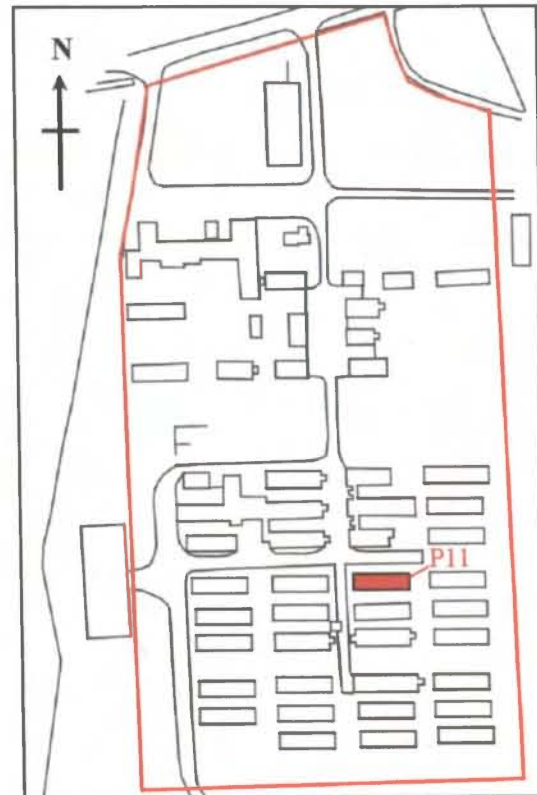
The interior comprised a single room, the walls and roof were lined in a cardboard ply, and this building retained a few of its original light fittings. It also retained the concrete bases of two pot-bellied stoves.



Hut P11

This was a typical MoWP accommodation hut, located to the immediate south of the CRS Hut 10C.

It had lost its eastern gable wall, and the easternmost bay, probably to allow vehicular access for agricultural storage.



This hut contained several pieces of graffiti, which although probably not of wartime date, certainly predated the 1970s wallpaper from behind which portions of it could be seen. A coloured face could be made out behind the wallpaper on the western flanking panel of the easternmost window in the south wall. Behind the wallpaper of the blind panel adjacent to this, the feet and lower legs of a cartoon of a man could be made out in a patch of peeled wallpaper.



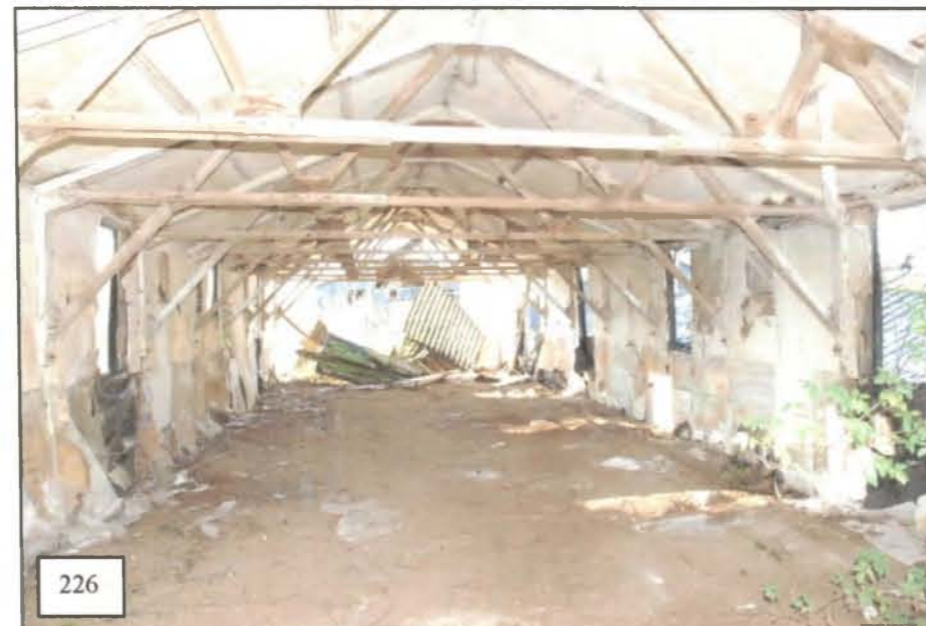
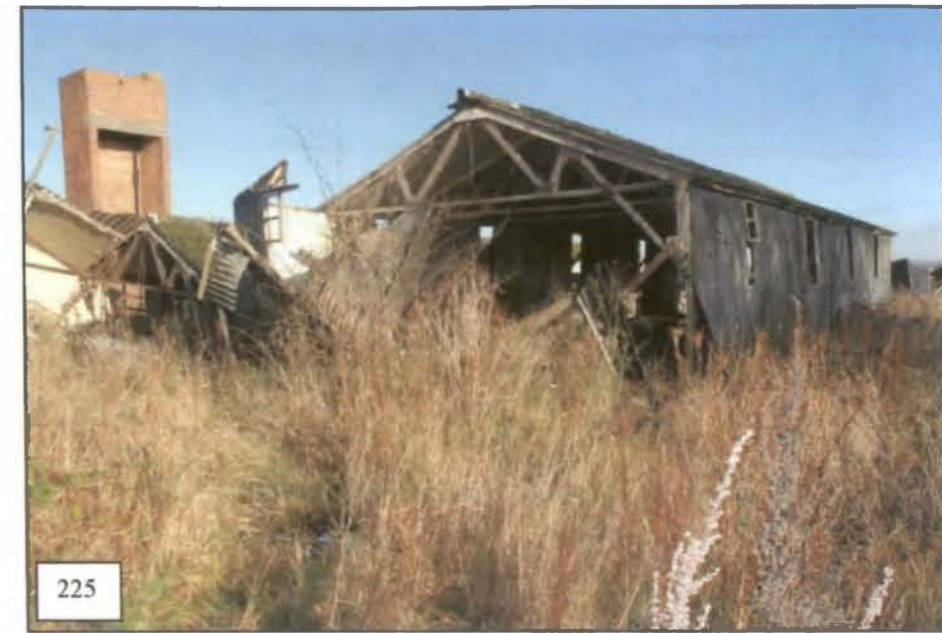
A ribald poem and a monogram were also present on the eastern flanking panel of the westernmost window on the south side. Although initially discounted as being recent, closer inspection proved that this too lay beneath the wallpaper.

Hut P16

This was a typical Laing timber-framed accommodation hut, located in the southernmost row of huts, immediately to the east of the spine road.

This hut was in a precarious state, and the western gable had already collapsed.

This hut has proved to be the location of a quantity of prisoner-of war art: this is witnessed by the many pieces of missing plasterboard on its walls.





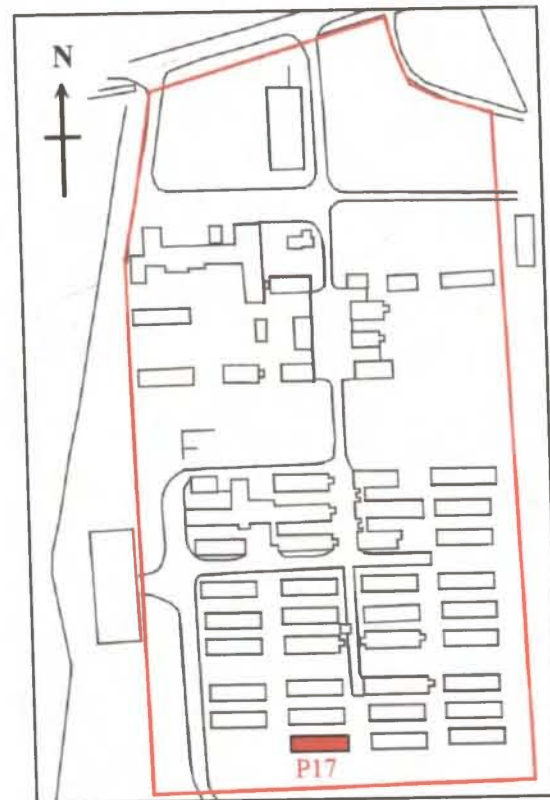
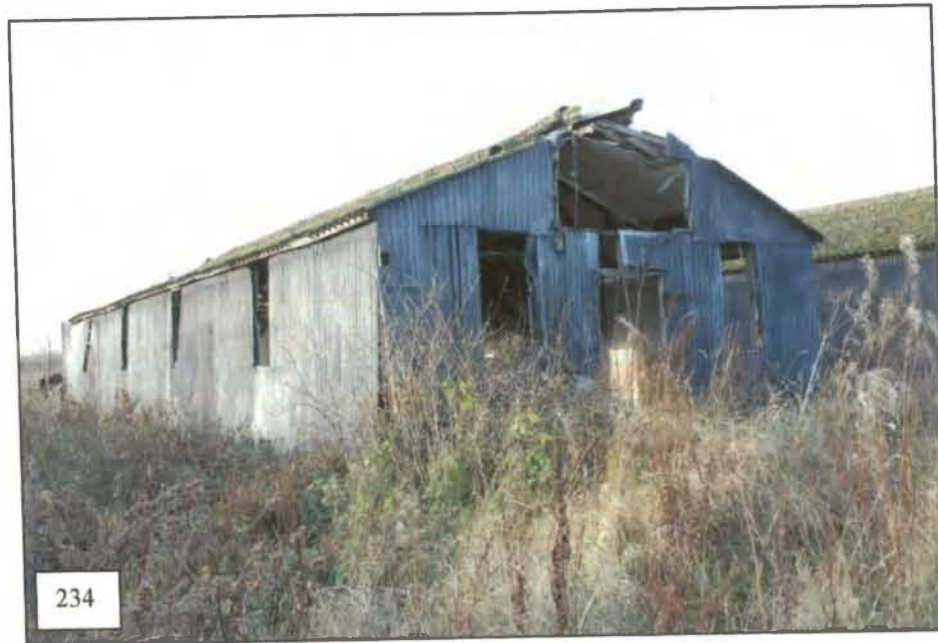
Only two pieces of art are now recognisable in this hut. On the north wall, in the fifth bay from the west end of the hut, a drawing of the Walt Disney cartoon character 'Goofy' was present. Unfortunately, this is now badly damaged and barely recognisable.



At the west end of the hut, on the south side, two small cartoons of Mickey and Minnie Mouse are present on the last intact wall panel. These figures are very small, only 70mm in height. They are drawn in wax pencil on the surface of the lining paper, and are only visible because the whitewash, which had been painted over them, has flaked off in the increasingly damp conditions.

Hut P17

This was a typical Laing timber-framed accommodation hut, located in the southernmost row of huts, immediately to the west of the spine road.





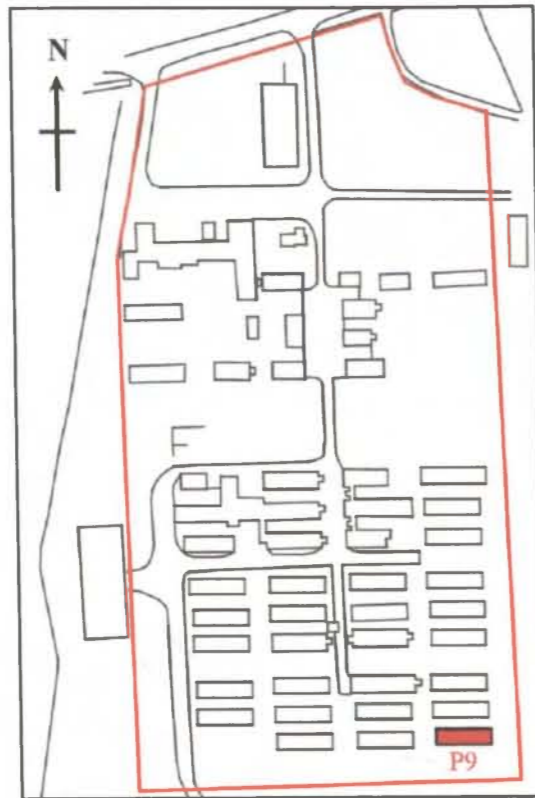
Lying on the floor of this hut, apparently torn from the wall, a piece of the lining paper with a pencil drawing of three female figures, and a man in a suit and hat was discovered.

Matching the torn edges proved that this had been removed from the south wall of the hut.

Hut P9

This was a prisoners' living hut located to the south of Hut P4 and had also been demolished.

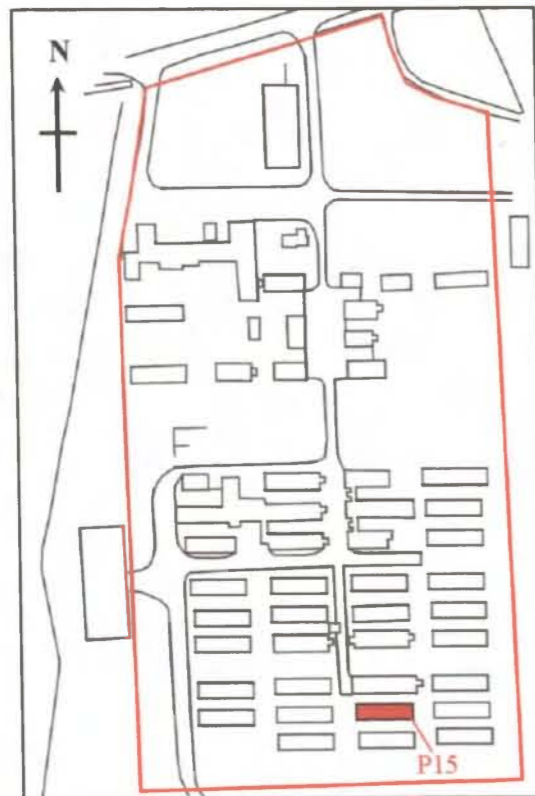
It comprised a Laing timber-framed type hut of ten bays, oriented east-west. The roof and gables were of corrugated asbestos panels. It had been clad in corrugated metal panels and lined with plasterboard.



Hut P15

This was a prisoners' living hut located to the south of Hut P14 and had collapsed.

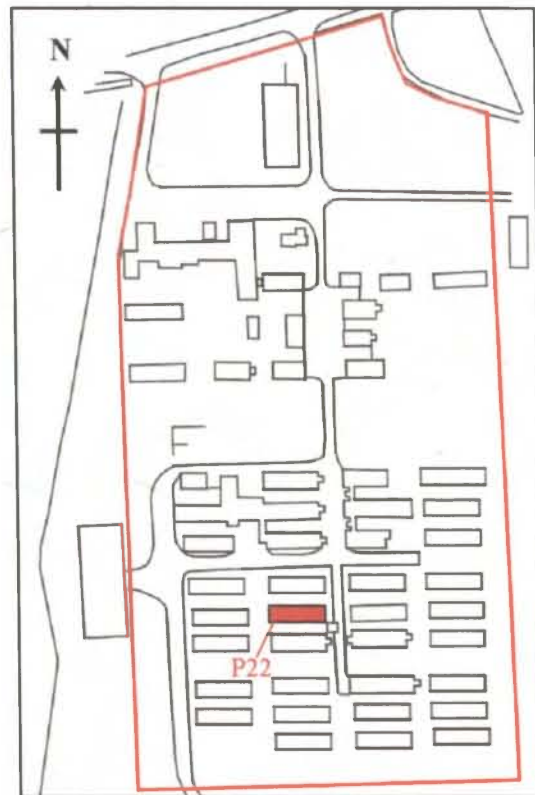
It comprised a Laing timber-framed type hut of ten bays, oriented east-west. The roof and gables were of corrugated asbestos panels. It had been clad in corrugated metal panels and lined with plasterboard.



Hut P22

Hut P22 was a typical hut of the MoWP Type, located to the immediate south of the Camp Leader's Hut P21.

It was a fairly complete example of its type, unusually with the stovepipe exits from pot-bellied stoves exiting through the walls rather than the roof. It had most recently been used as a feed store for the chickens housed in huts P16, P17 and P25.



Hut P25

This was a typical Laing timber-framed accommodation hut, located to the immediate north of Hut P17, immediately to the west of the spine road. Like Huts 16, 17 and 25, this hut had most recently housed chickens, as witnessed by the egg records pinned to the wall.

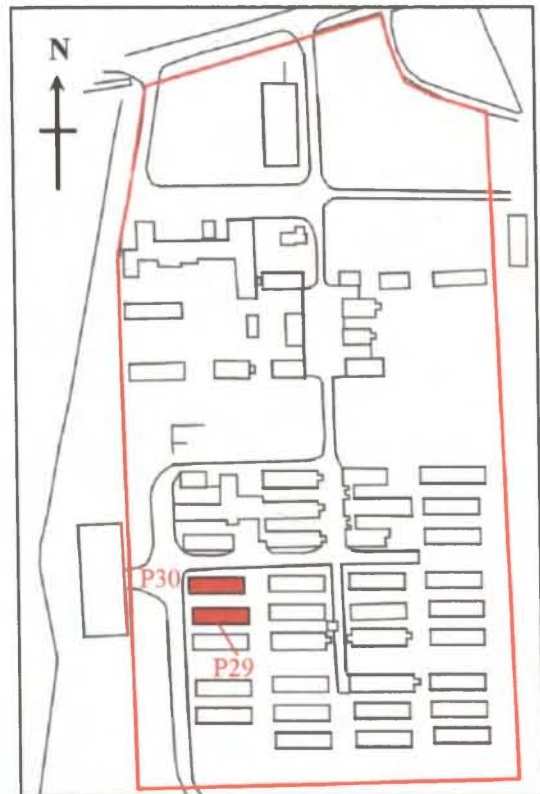
This hut also had the most complete example of the three slatted panel gable ventilator employed in this type of hut.



Huts P29 & P30

These were originally prisoners' living huts located to the south of Hut P31 and had been most recently converted to a garage function.

They both comprised MoWP type huts, oriented east-west, with concrete frames of ten bays, infilled with pre-cast concrete panels. They retained their original roof and eastern gable, which were of corrugated asbestos panels and the east gables retained their four panel slatted timber ventilators.



The recent conversion into a garage/storage function has completely altered the appearance of these structures.

The west gable of Hut 29 was altered in re-used modern brick and breezeblocks to produce a large door opening with a heavy I-beam steel lintel. All of the original windowed bays in the sides of the building were filled in with re-used 4" brickwork and had small two-light windows constructed below the eaves. In the eastern gable, the window panels were completely bricked up and the central panel was entirely blocked in breezeblocks.

Hut P30 had been converted in exactly the same fashion as Hut P29, but it has since been fire damaged and retained little of its roof, while the western end had partially collapsed.

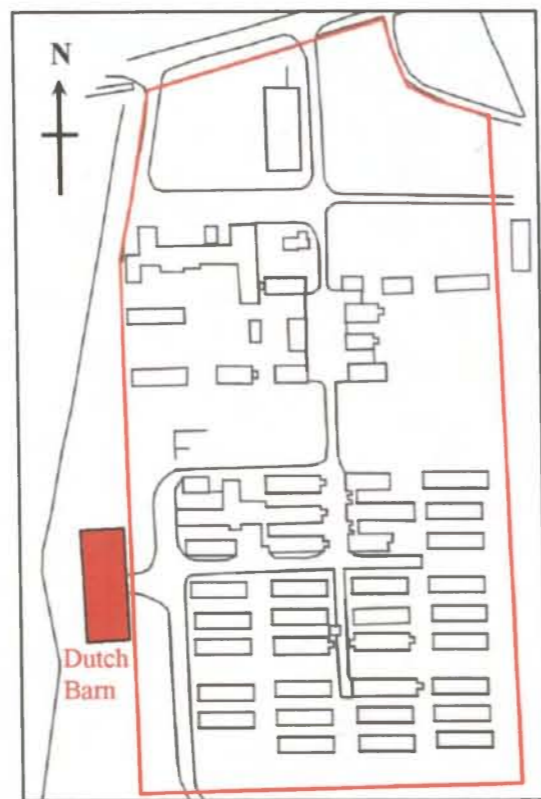
SW Corner

The hut in the southwest corner of the prisoner compound was demolished and a new building was constructed here. This building has also now gone, leaving behind only the poured concrete floor slab.



Dutch Barn

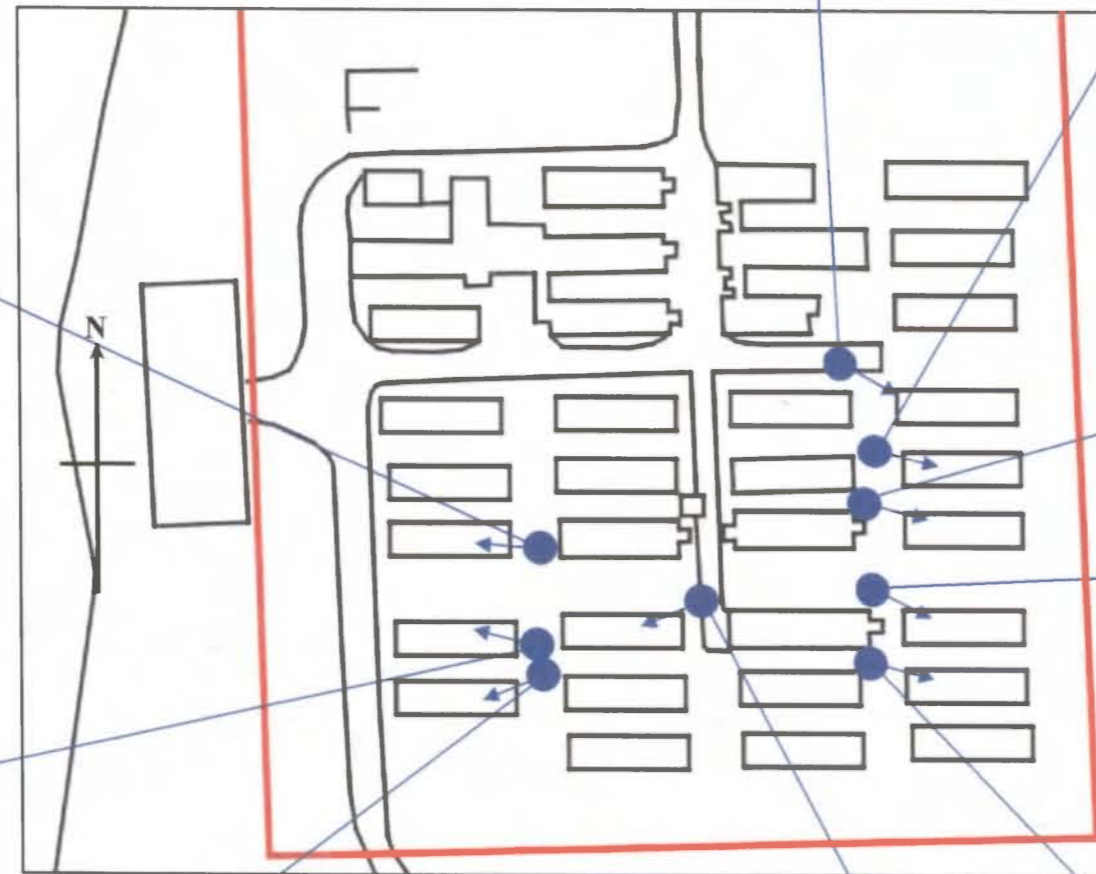
This structure lies to the immediate west of the proposed development area, and dominates the site. It is not considered contemporary with the prisoner of war camp; it is more likely to be associated with the use of the site as a hostel for agricultural workers.



Damaged and demolished living huts – MoWP type

Several of the living huts have been heavily damaged or demolished.

These were MoWP type huts, all were oriented east-west, with a concrete frame of ten bays, infilled with pre-cast concrete panels. Their roofs and gables were of corrugated asbestos panels.



7.0 Conservation Mitigation Strategy

Although Pingley Farm POW camp has a reputation for prisoner of war art, the art that now survives at Pingley presents problems, not only in terms of its present condition and its conservation, but also in the location of a suitable recipient who would be able to display the art. The art at Pingley cannot be preserved in situ as planning permission has already been granted to redevelop the site. Initial identification and appraisal has been carried out as part of this survey:

The graffiti in the northeast corner of the cookhouse extension (Hut P34) is not considered of significance, in that it does not appear to date to the prisoner of war occupation period of the camp, it is of poor quality, and has been adequately recorded as part of this photographic survey.

The alpine landscapes in Hut P18 pose particular problems as the paint is now peeling from the background panel. The significance of these paintings is somewhat moot, as English Heritage recorded in an internal document that the former owner of the site believed them to have been undertaken by a visiting foreign student – the brightness of the pigment may support this.

The landscape panels in Hut P21 appear to be genuine, in that they have titles executed in *Fraktur* script and the subjects can be identified. One recognisably depicts the Hornberg castle in the valley of the River Neckar, which now lies in the state of Baden-Württemberg (Wikipedia Germany), while the other, labelled 'Ostpreußen Niedersee', depicts a lake which, since the redrawing of Germany's national boundaries at the end of the Second World War, is now the Nidzkie lake in Poland (Ostpreussen.net). These paintings can, therefore, be attributed with reasonable confidence to German prisoners of war. However, the condition of these landscapes, whereby they have faded to the point of virtual invisibility in one case, and only a small area is recognisable in the case of the other, suggests that they would not, even after conservation, be suitable for public display. In this case, the remaining option is for photographic recording, which has been undertaken as part of this survey.

The graffiti behind the wallpaper in Hut 11, which does not date to the period of the site's use as a prisoner of war camp, is damaged in one case, fragmentary in another and obscene in the case of the third. It is proposed that this too, has been adequately recorded as part of this survey.

In the case of the pencil drawings of three female figures and a man in a suit and hat, which were lying on the floor of Hut 17, further assessment into the condition of the piece by an expert conservator is necessary to determine its condition and conservation requirements.

The remaining art comprises the Walt Disney cartoon characters in Hut P16. The 'Goofy' character on the north wall is so badly damaged that it is no longer recognisable. The small Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse cartoons on the south wall of Hut P16 are of some quality of execution, are small, and could be detached from their location. These may represent articles which could be conserved and displayed.

English Heritage, in its publication on Military Wall Art (English Heritage, 2006) lists the key stages for dealing with military wall art. This photographic building survey constitutes the identification and initial appraisal stage of the strategy. The next step is to consult a conservation specialist to assess the initial conservation requirements of these pieces and any requirements for long-term maintenance. A management strategy also needs to be formulated to ensure the future maintenance of the pieces, and to

secure a site where they might be preserved and perhaps, displayed.

8.0 Discussion and Conclusions

Documentary research undertaken for this report has demonstrated that the camp was constructed during the Second World War to house approximately 750 Italian prisoners of war. It is of a standard type, and acted as a central point of organisation for several 'hostels' where prisoners lived while working in local agriculture.

The buildings at Pingley fall into two groups: those which housed the guards in the northern part of the area, and the prisoner accommodations in the southern part. It has been possible to identify the original functions of all of the buildings on the site, and provide a photographic record of the site, its setting, and the buildings themselves.

The buildings at Pingley Farm camp represent a rapidly diminishing resource. The prisoner of war camp was constructed as a solution to a temporary problem, and consequently most of the structures were rapidly erected with materials with a finite lifespan. Few of these camps have survived as long as this one, and those which have survived have often already been changed beyond recognition.

8.0 Archive

A copy of this report will be placed with the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record, a publicly accessible resource. The archive will be placed with The Collection, Lincoln.

The archive will comprise the following:

10no Colour Slide films, totalling c.360 exposures
1 file of digital images, totalling 380 images
with accompanying index sheets and plans
showing the position and direction of photos

5no General Account Sheets
54no Building Record Sheets

This Report

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Barford Builders for this commission and for their co-operation during the photographic survey. Thanks are also due to Roger J C Thomas and Keith Buck of English Heritage for providing information and invaluable assistance with the historical research for this project.

9.0 References

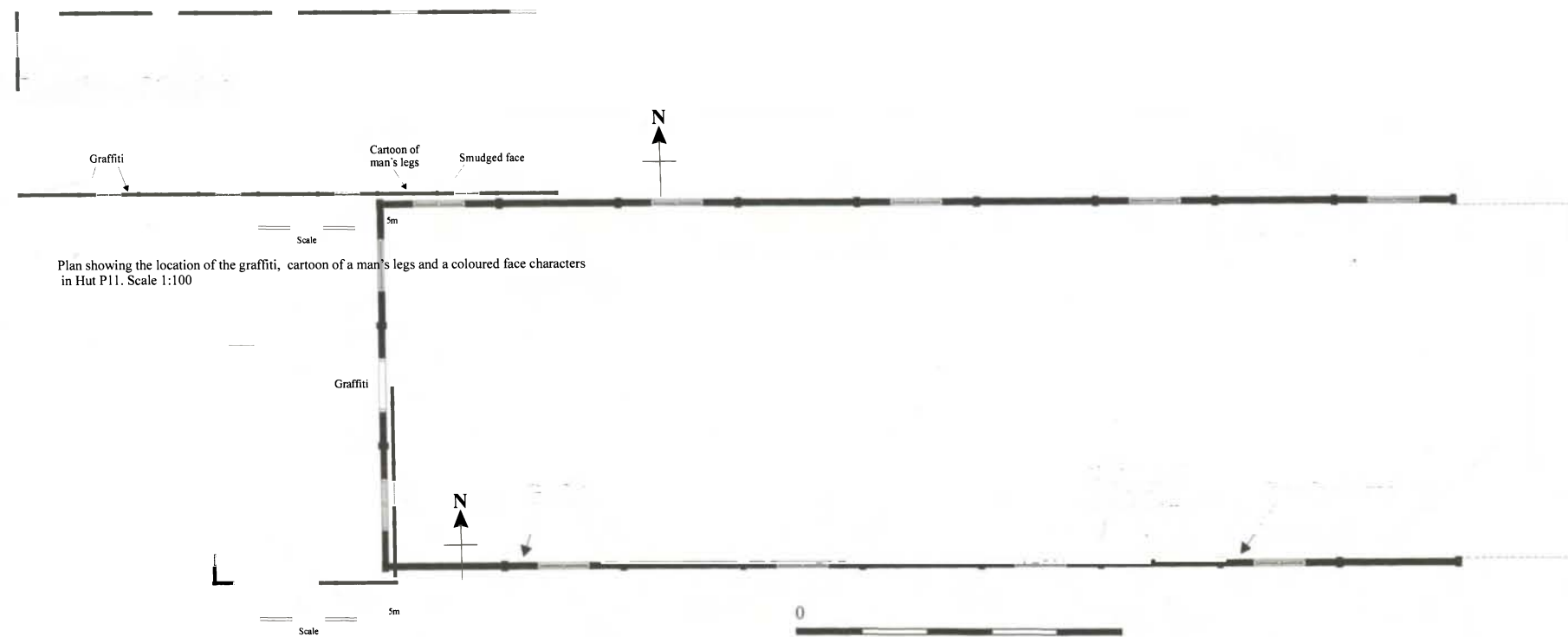
Cocroft, W.D., Devlin, D., Schofield, J. and Thomas, R.J.C., 2006, *War Art: murals and graffiti – military life, power and subversion*. CBA Research Report 147, Council for British Archaeology, York.

English Heritage, 2004, *Military Wall Art: Guidelines on its significance, conservation and management*.

Ostpreussen.net consulted 17th December 2008 at
http://www.ostpreussen.net/index.php?seite_id=12&kreis=12&stadt=10

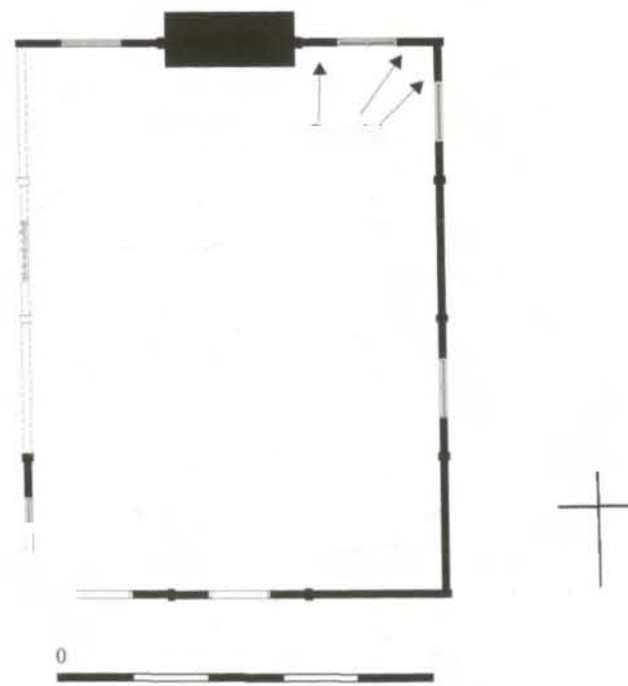
Thomas, R.J.C., 2003, *Prisoner of War Camps (1939-1948): Project Report*. National Monuments Record, Swindon.

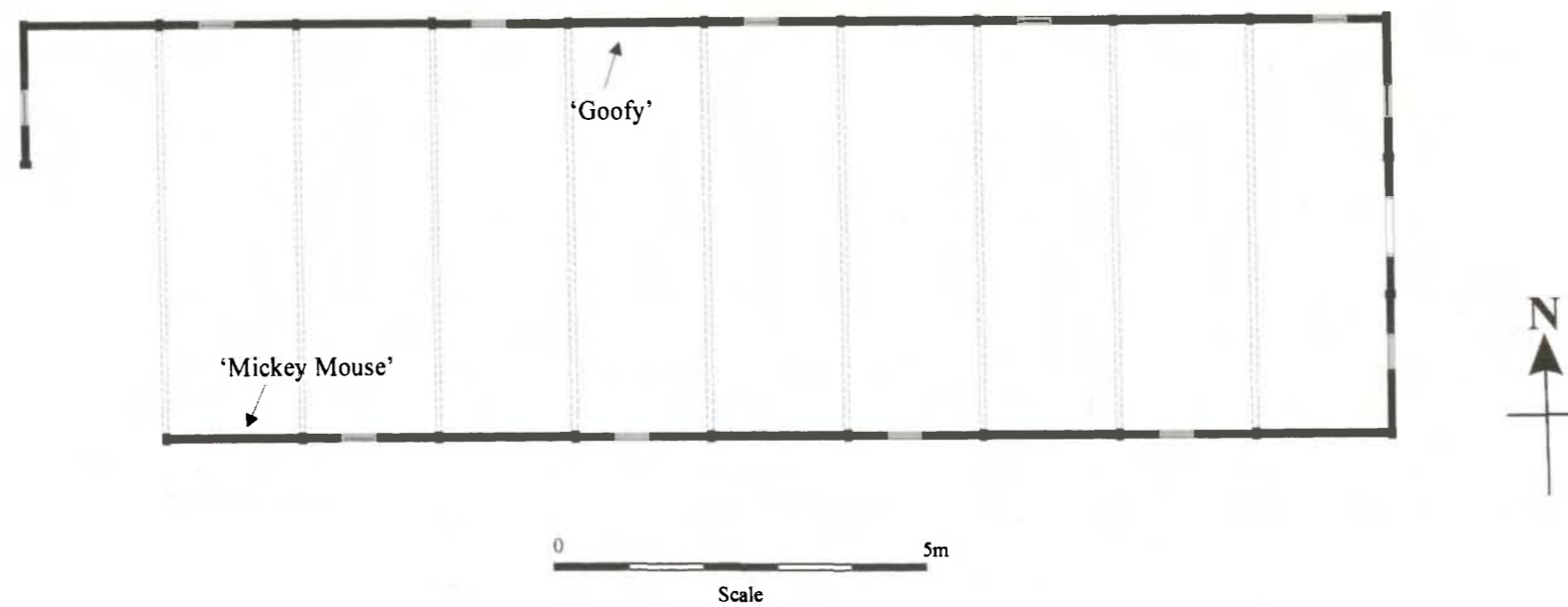
Wikipedia Germany consulted 17th December 2008 at http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burg_Hornberg



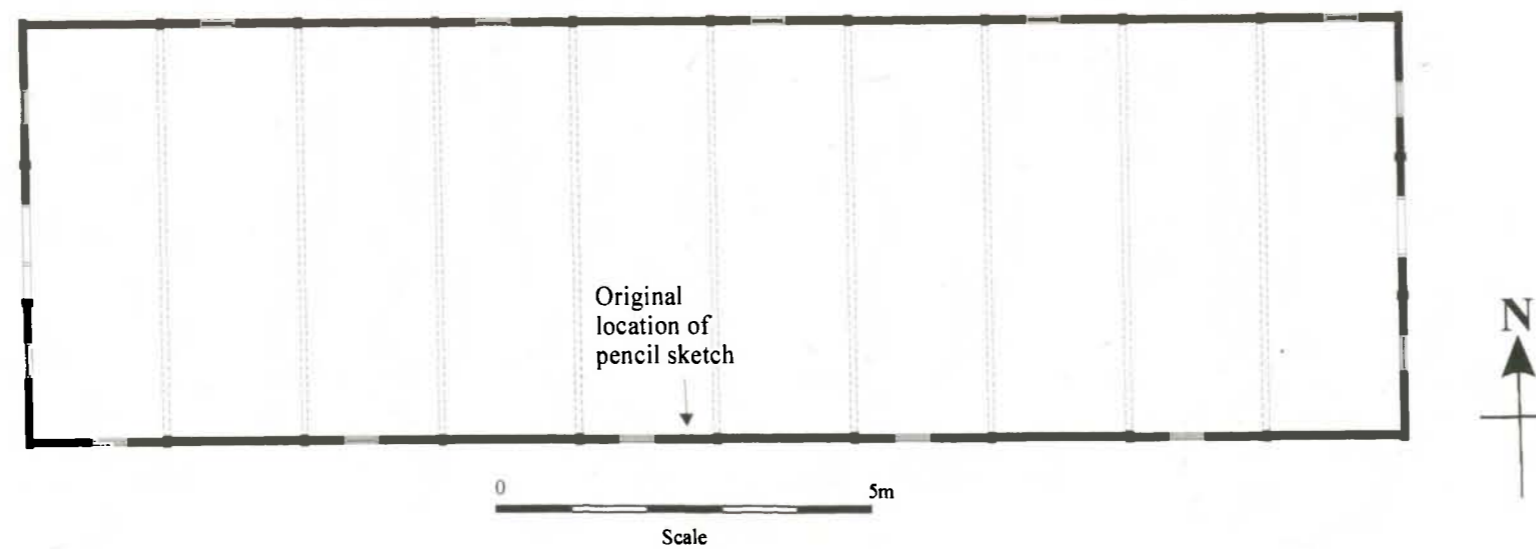
Plan showing the location of the graffiti, cartoon of a man's legs and a coloured face characters in Hut P11. Scale 1:100

Plan showing the location of the graffiti in Hut P34. Scale 1:100

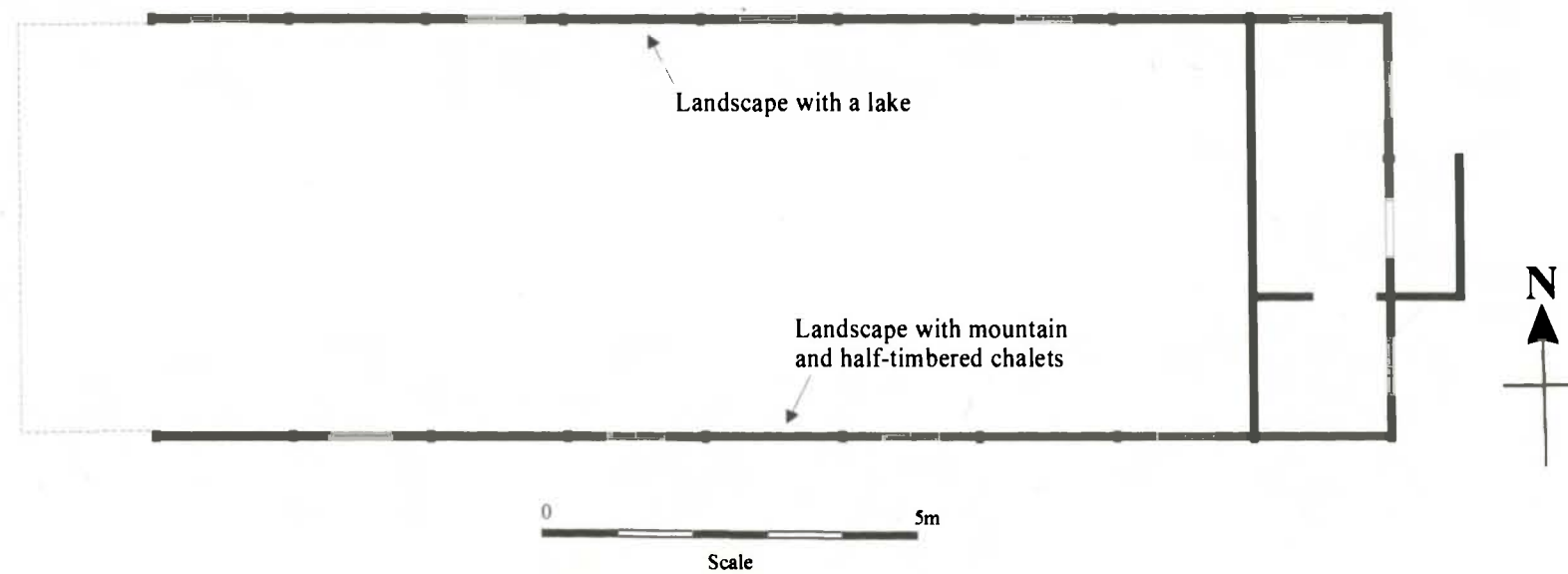




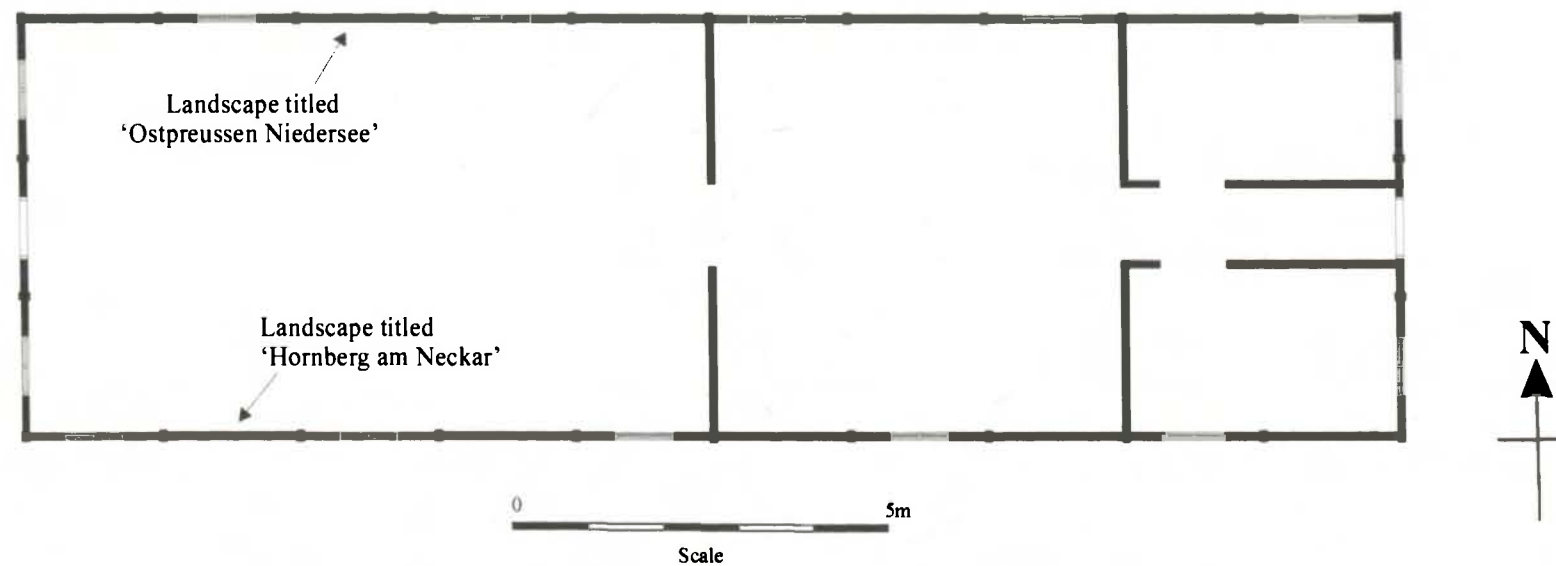
Plan showing the location of the Walt Disney cartoon characters in Hut P16. Scale 1:100



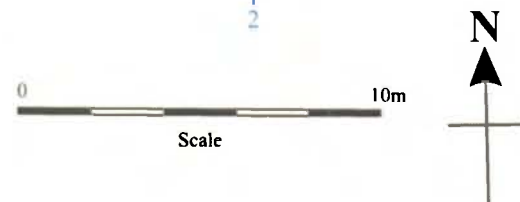
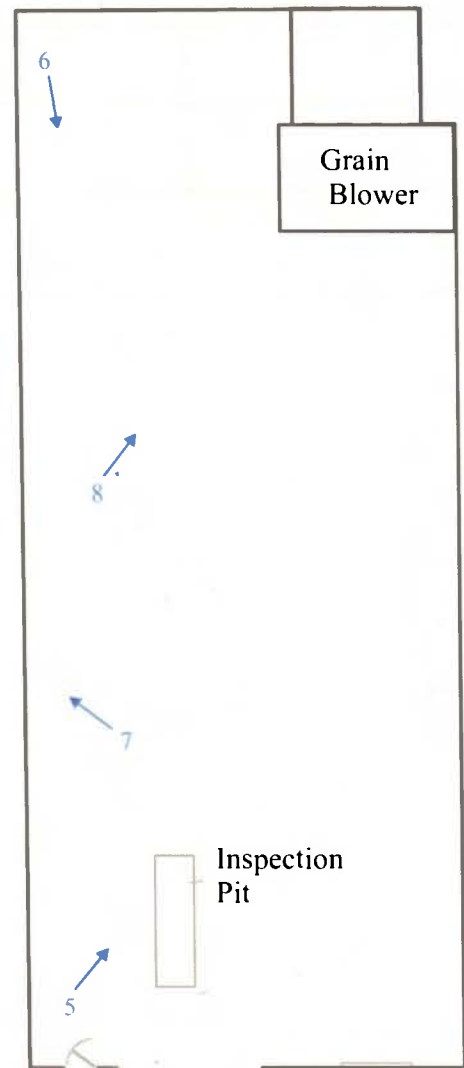
Plan showing the original location of the pencil sketch of three female figures and a man in a suit and hat in Hut P17. Scale 1:100



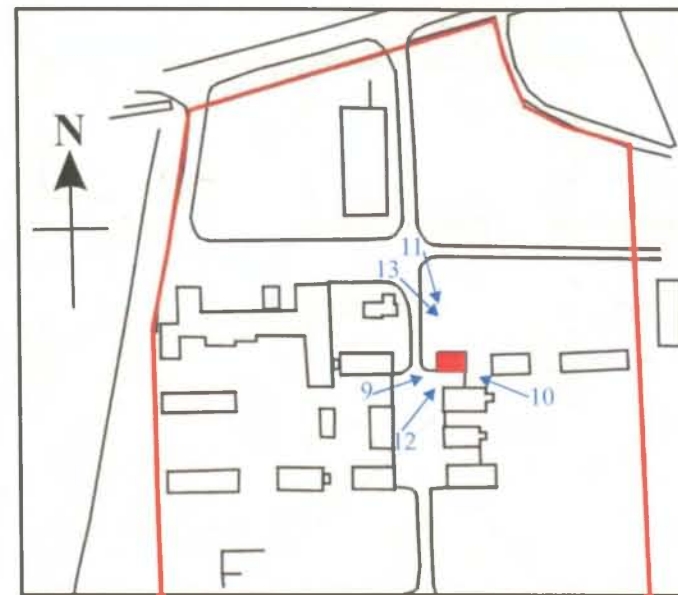
Plan showing the location of the landscape panels in Hut P18. Scale 1:100



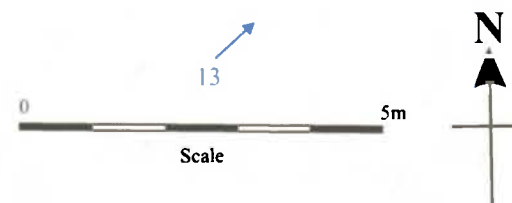
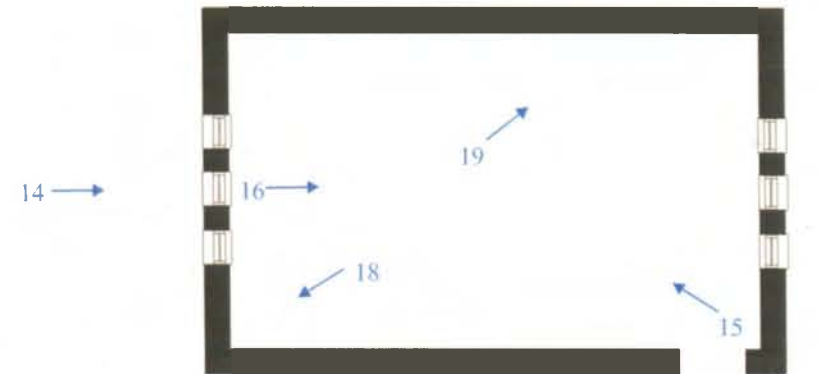
Plan showing the location of the faint landscape panels in Hut P21. Scale 1:100



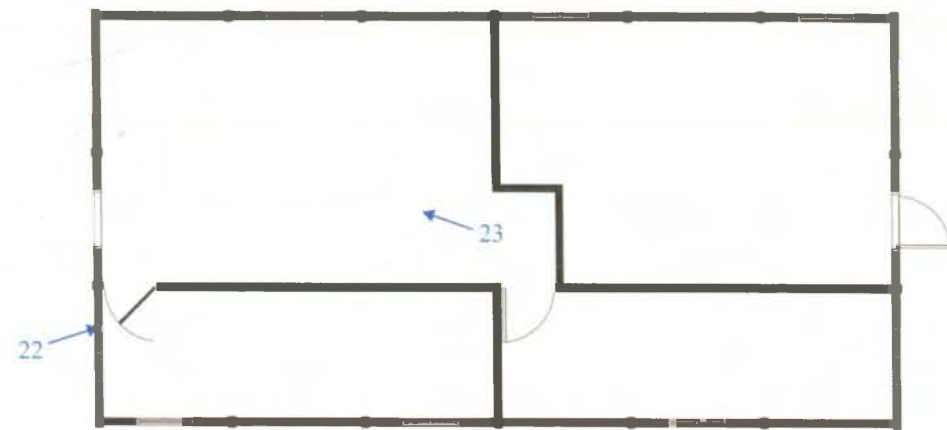
Plan showing the locations and directions of photographs taken of Building G1, the Romney Hut, Scale 1:200.



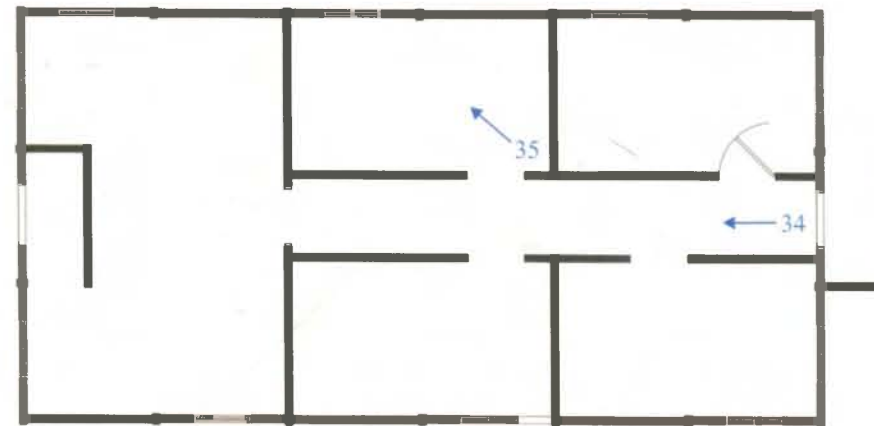
Plan showing the locations and directions of photographs taken of Building G2, the water tower, NTS.



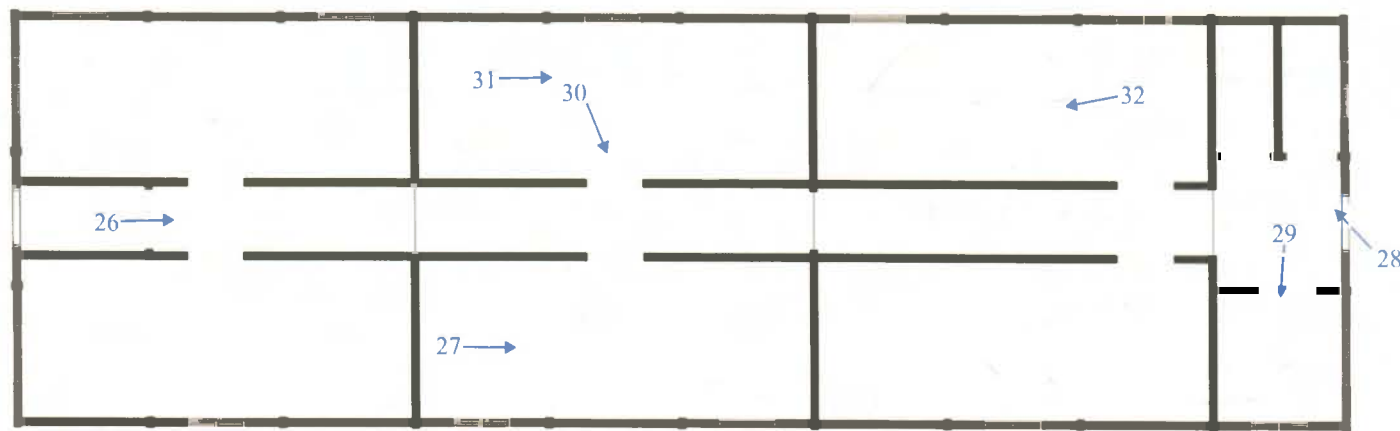
Plan showing the locations and directions of photographs taken of Building G2, the water tower. Scale 1:100.



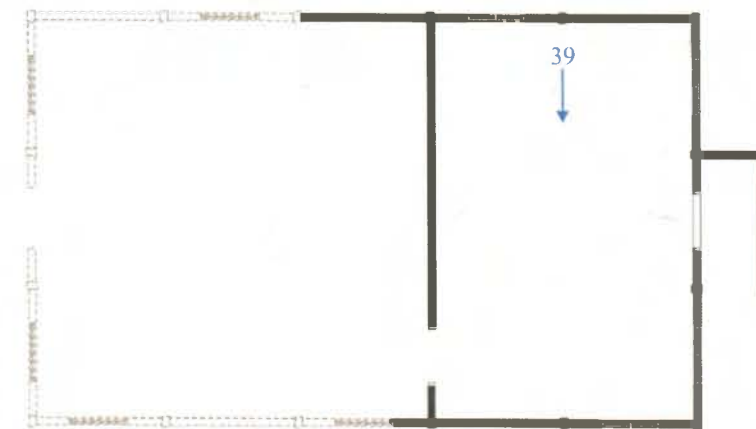
HUT G3



HUT G6



HUT G4



HUT G7

Plans showing the locations and directions of photographs taken of Huts G3 - G6. Scale 1:100.



Plan showing the locations and directions of photographs taken of Hut G7(left). Scale 1:100.

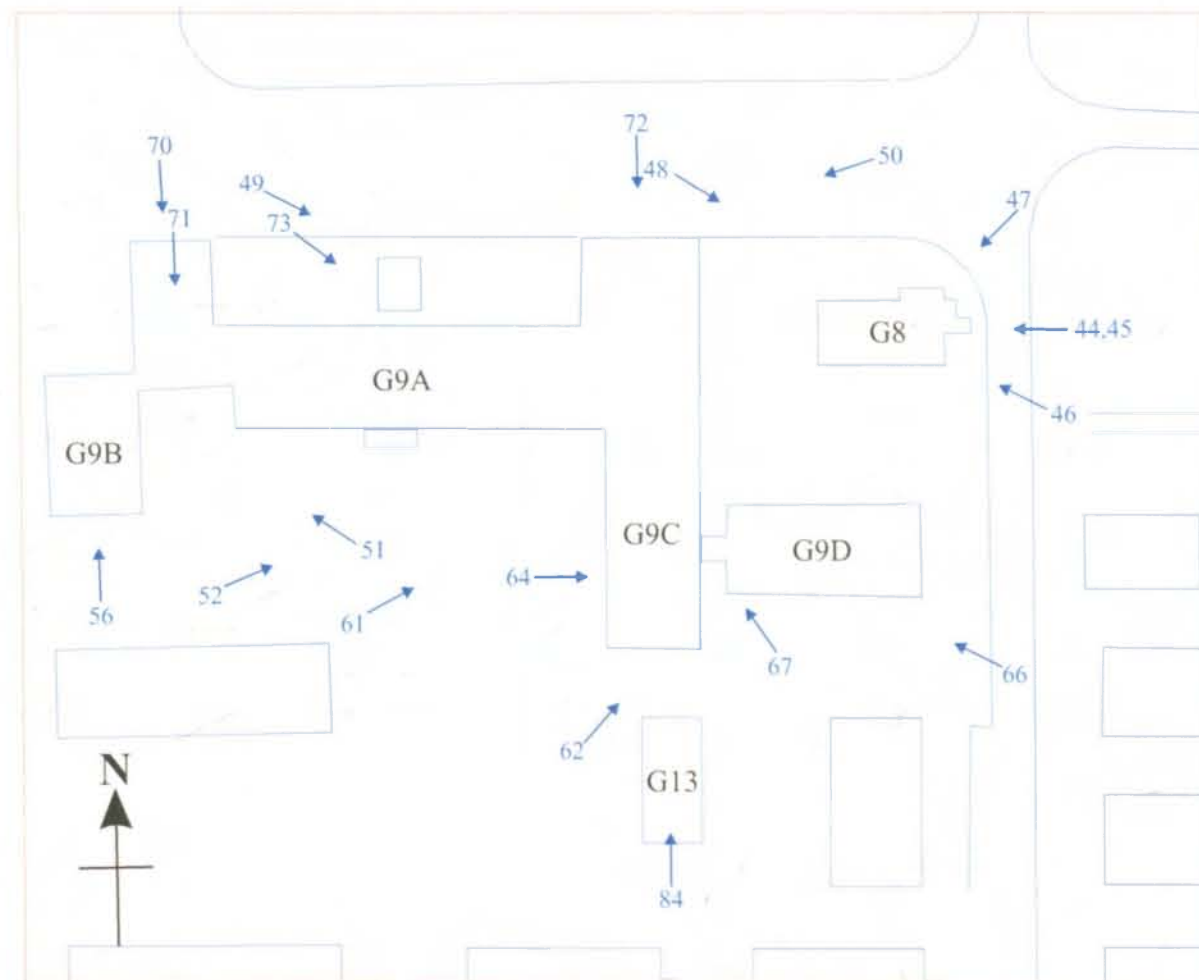
Plan showing the locations and directions of exterior photographs taken of Buildings G8, G9A-D and G13(below). Scale 1:500.

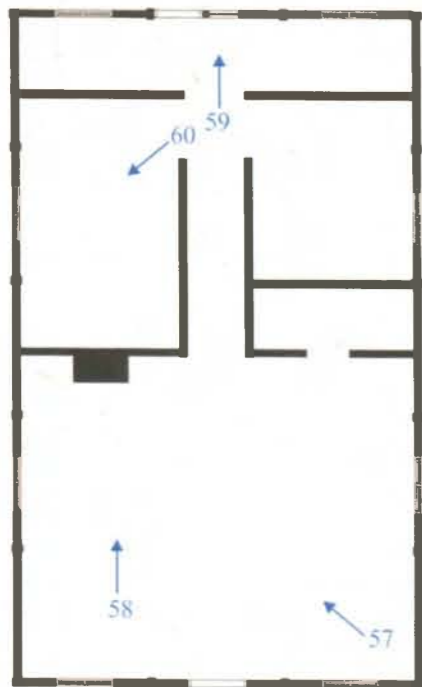
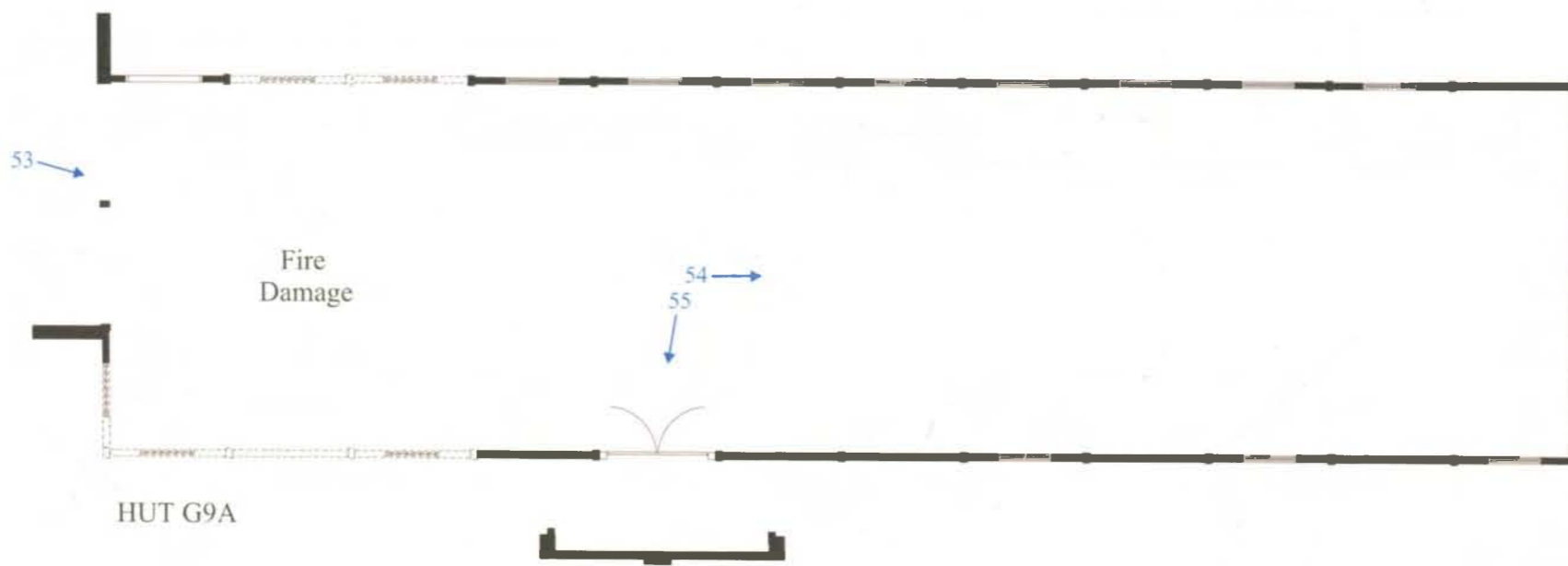
HUT G7

40

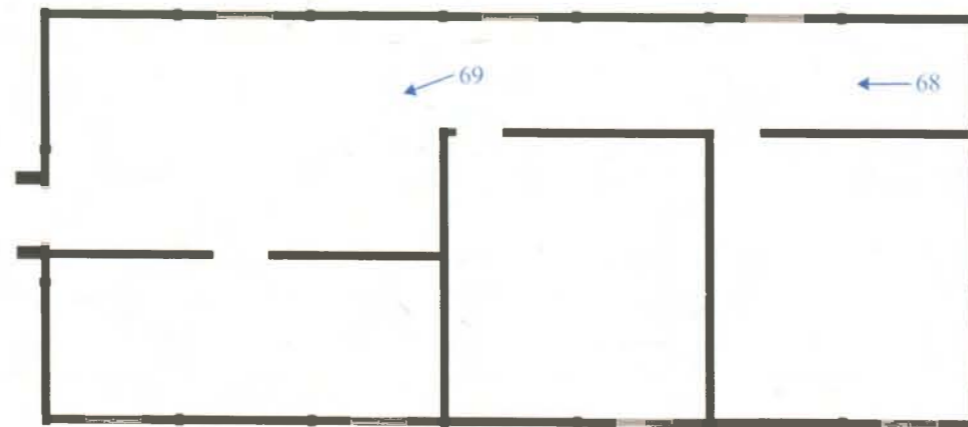


41

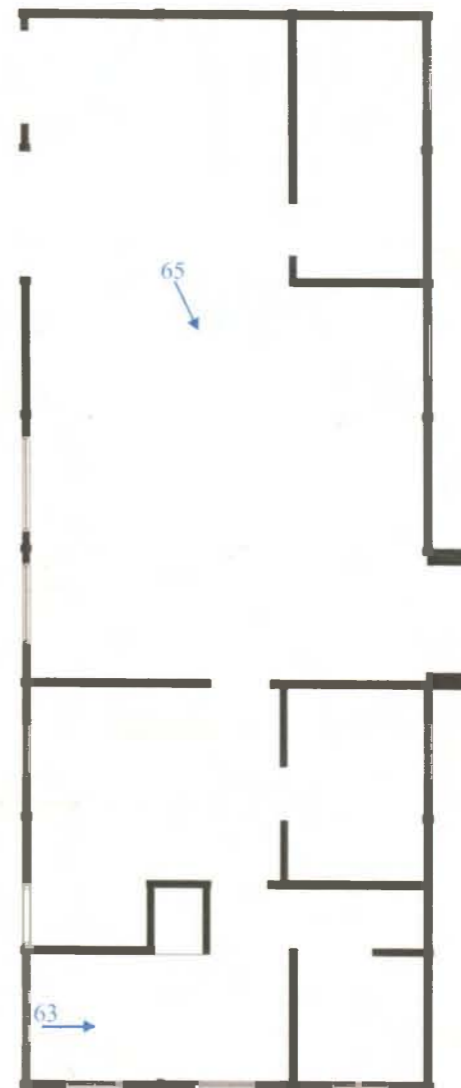




HUT G9B

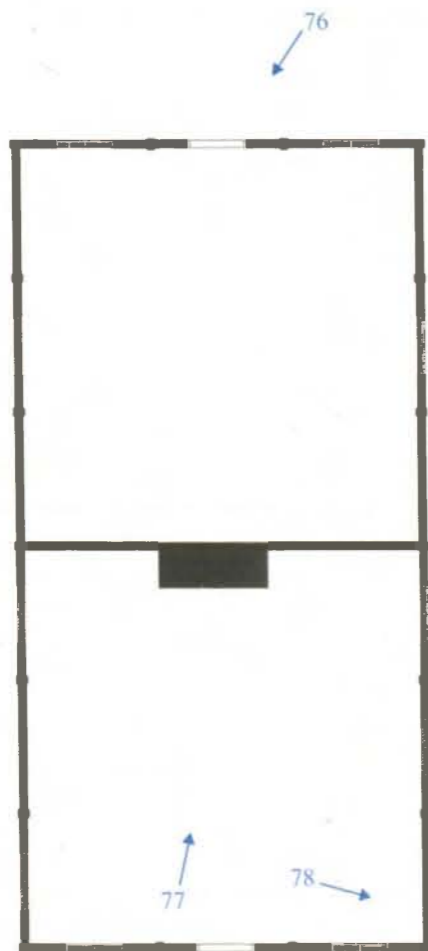


HUT G9D

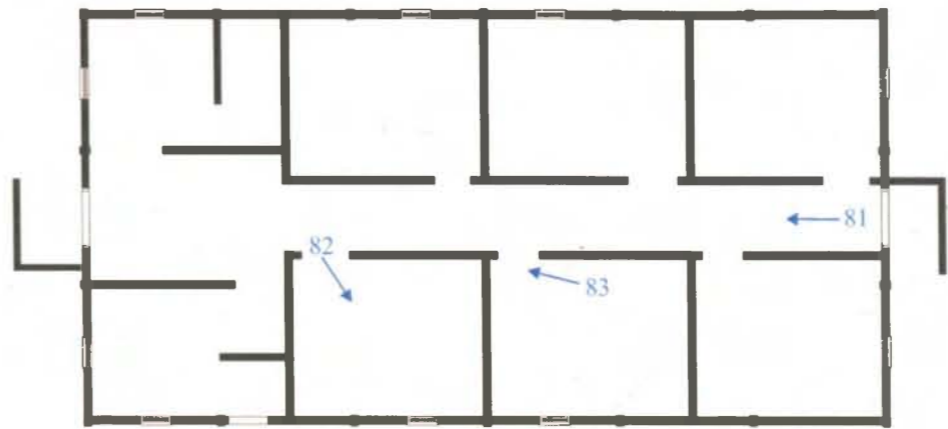


HUT G9C

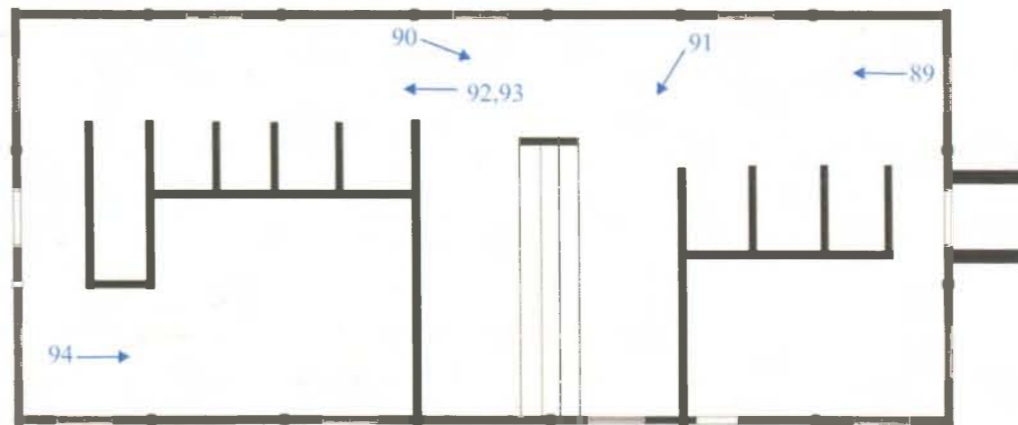
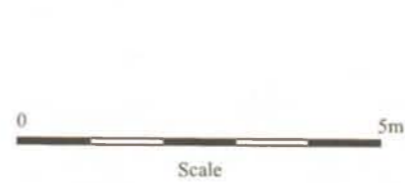
Plans showing the locations and directions of interior photographs taken of Huts G9A - D. Scale 1:100.



HUT G10



HUT G11

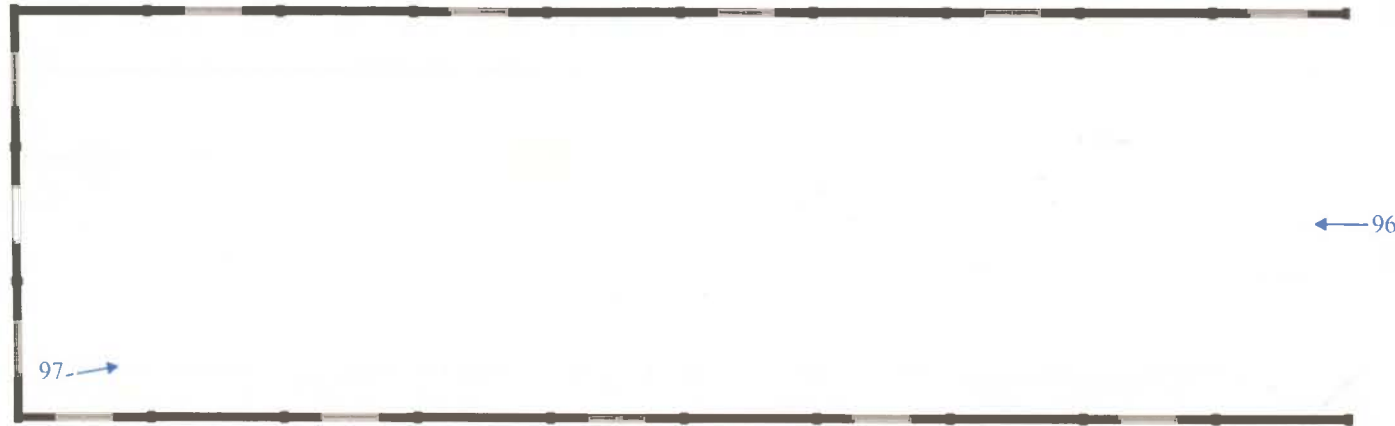


HUT G12

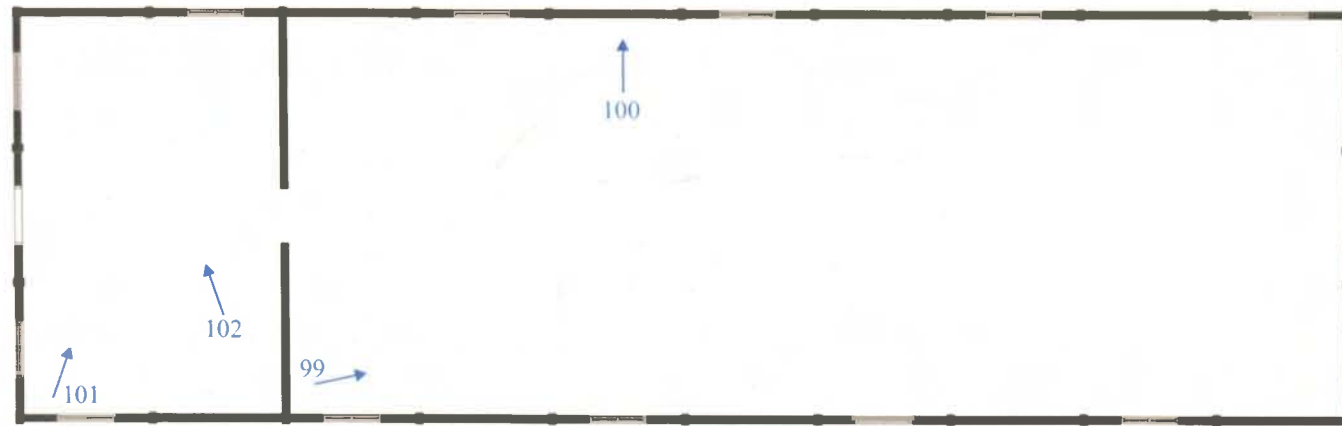
Plans showing the locations and directions of photographs taken of Huts G10, G11 and G12. Scale 1:100.



Plan showing the locations and directions of photographs taken of Huts P10A - C (CRS). Scale 1:100.

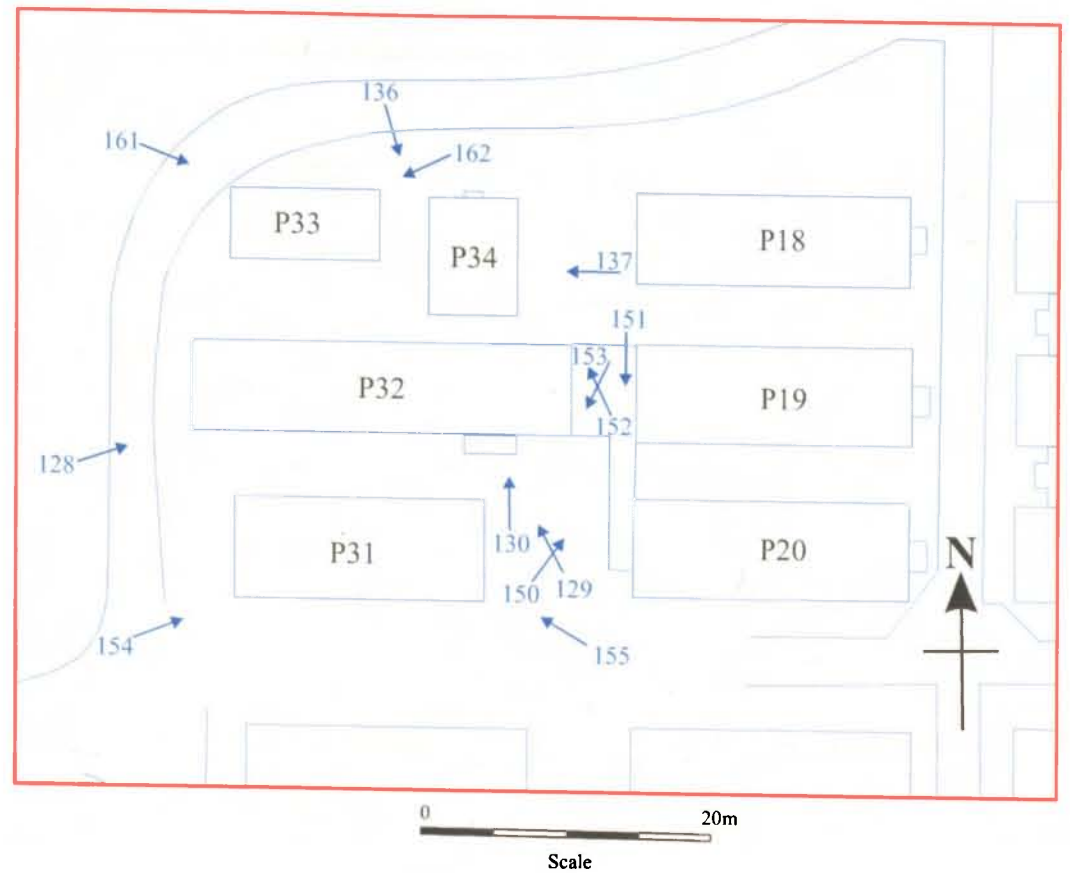


HUT G14

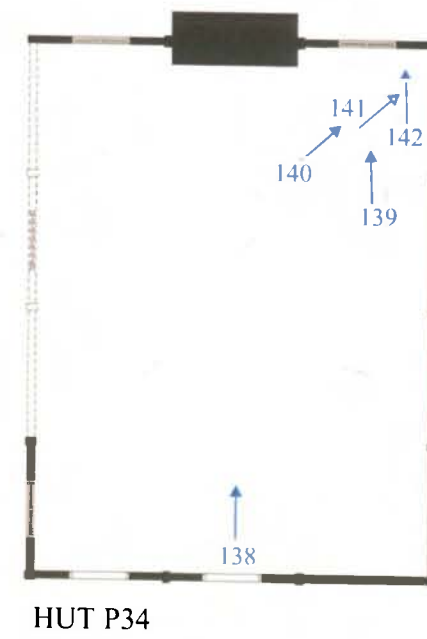
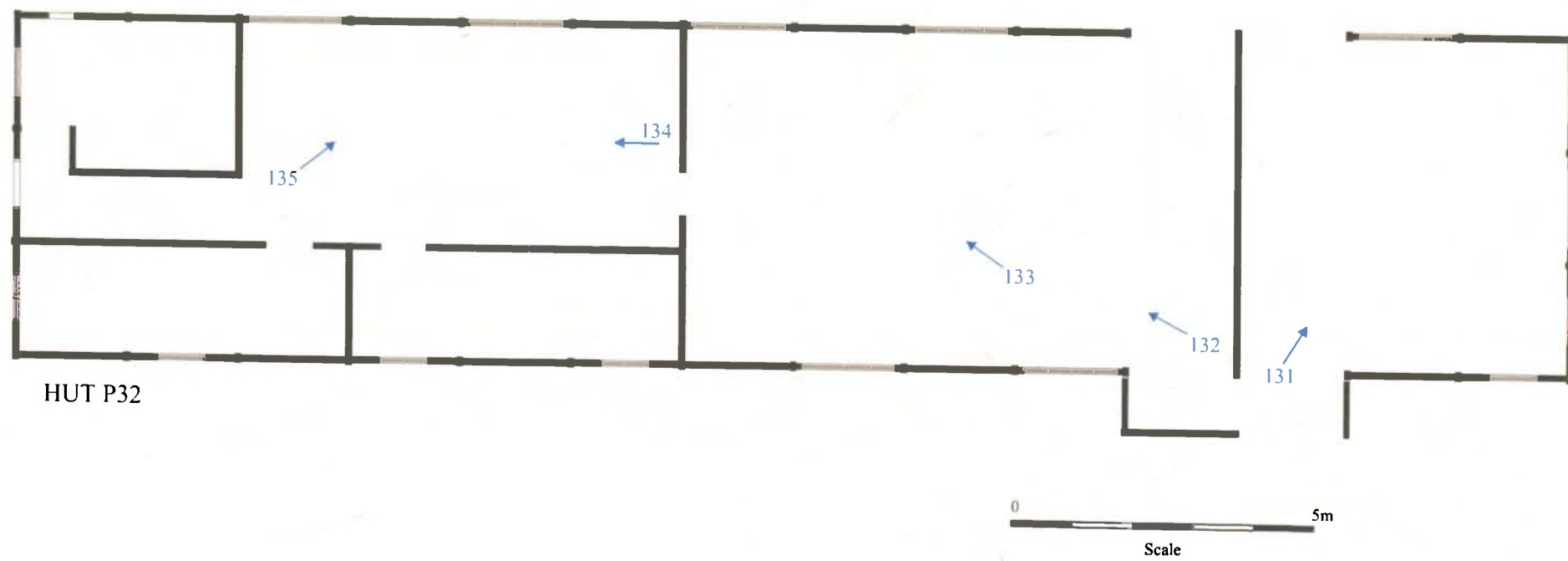


HUT G15

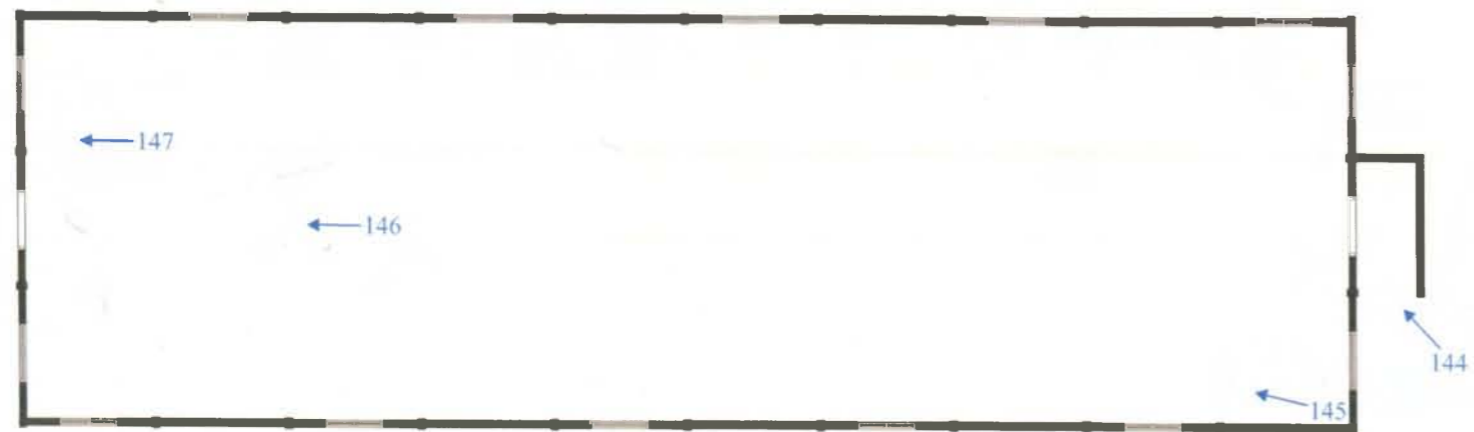
Plans showing the locations and directions of photographs taken of Huts G14 and G15. Scale 1:100.



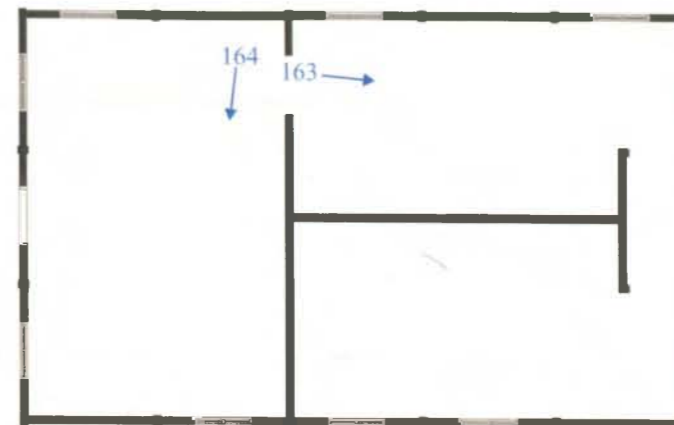
Plan showing the locations and directions of exterior photographs taken of Huts P31, P32, P33 and P34(left). Scale 1:500.



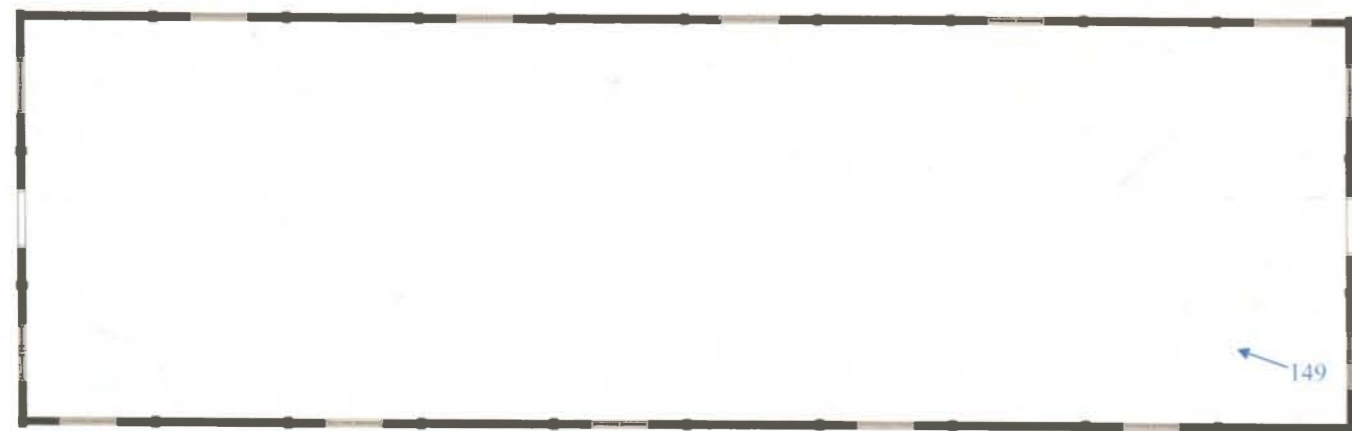
Plans showing the locations and directions of interior photographs taken of Huts P32 and P34. Scale 1:100.



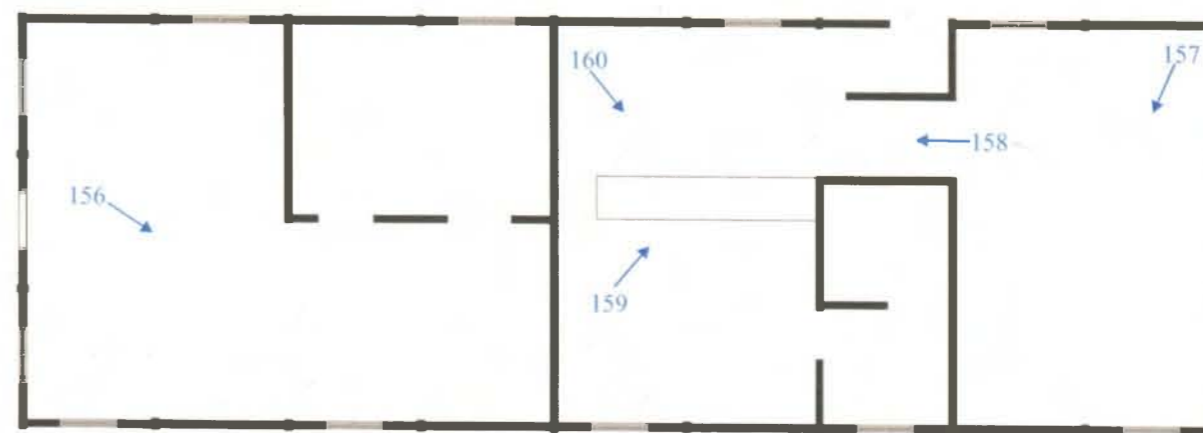
HUT P19



HUT P33



HUT P20

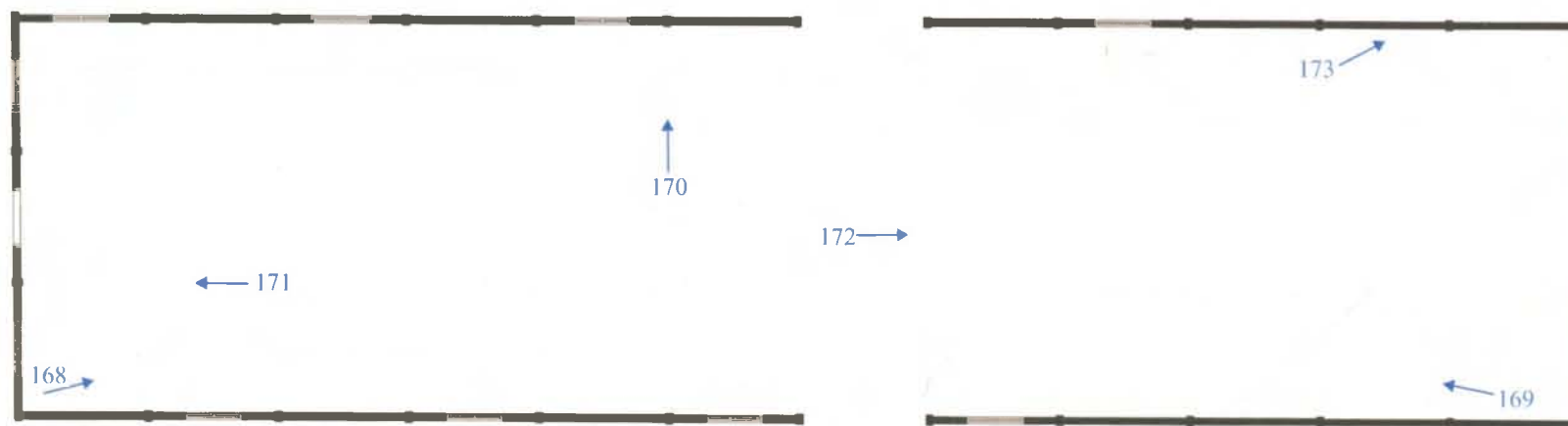


HUT P31

Plans showing the locations and directions of photographs taken of Huts P19, P20, P31 and P33. Scale 1:100.

165,166

167



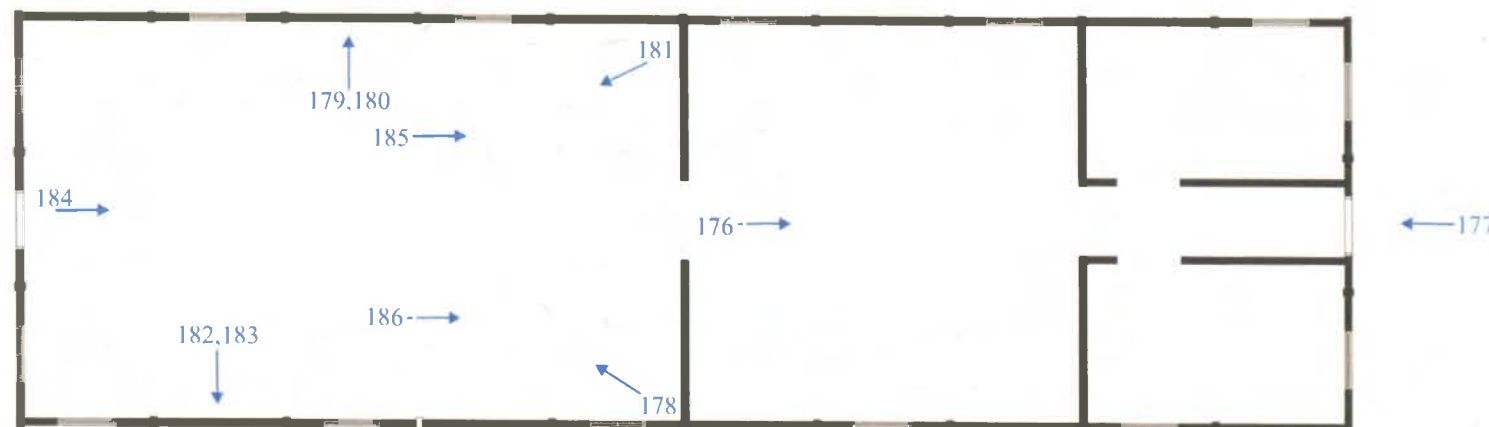
HUT P1



0 5m
Scale

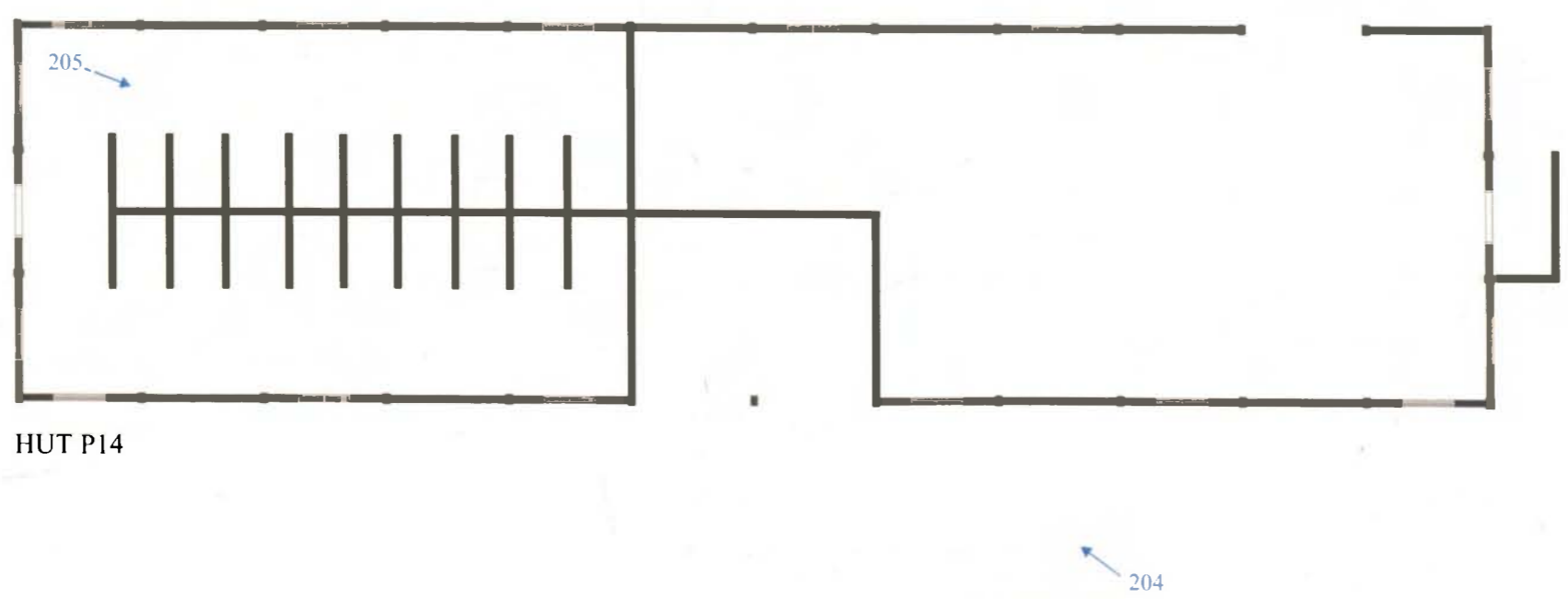
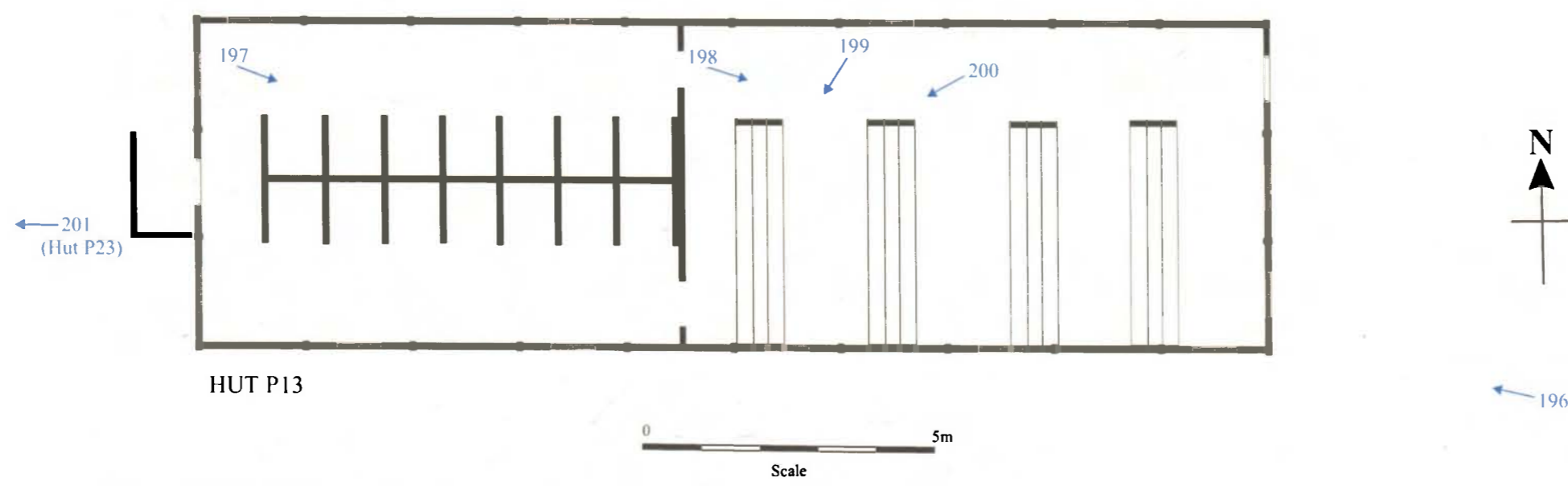
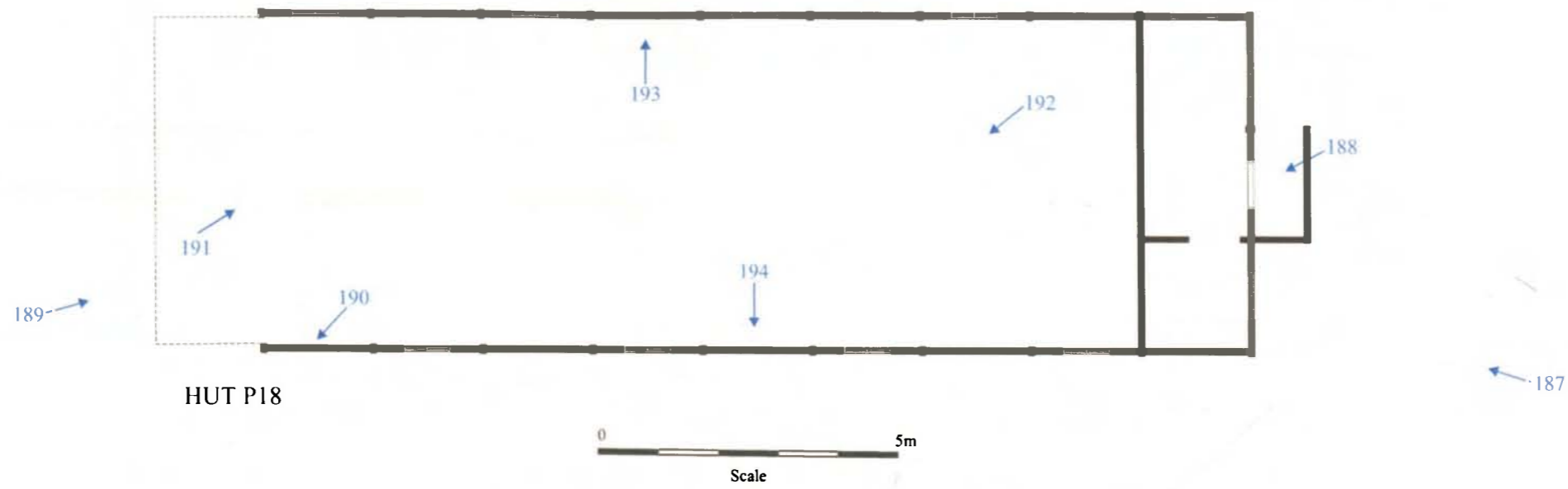
175

174



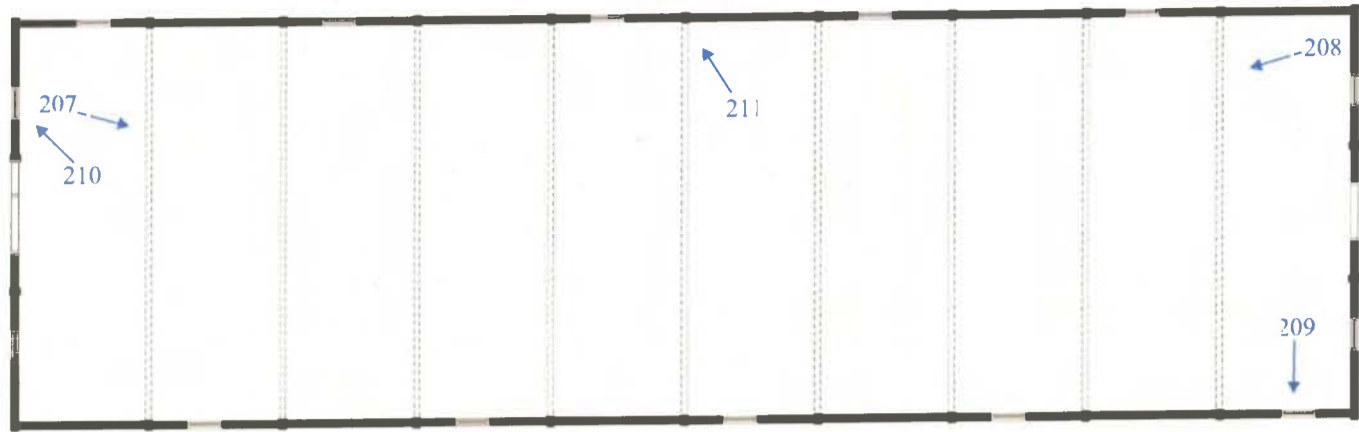
HUT P21

Plans showing the locations and directions of photographs taken of Huts P1 and P21. Scale 1:100.



Plans showing the locations and directions of photographs taken of Huts P18, P13, P14. Scale 1:100.

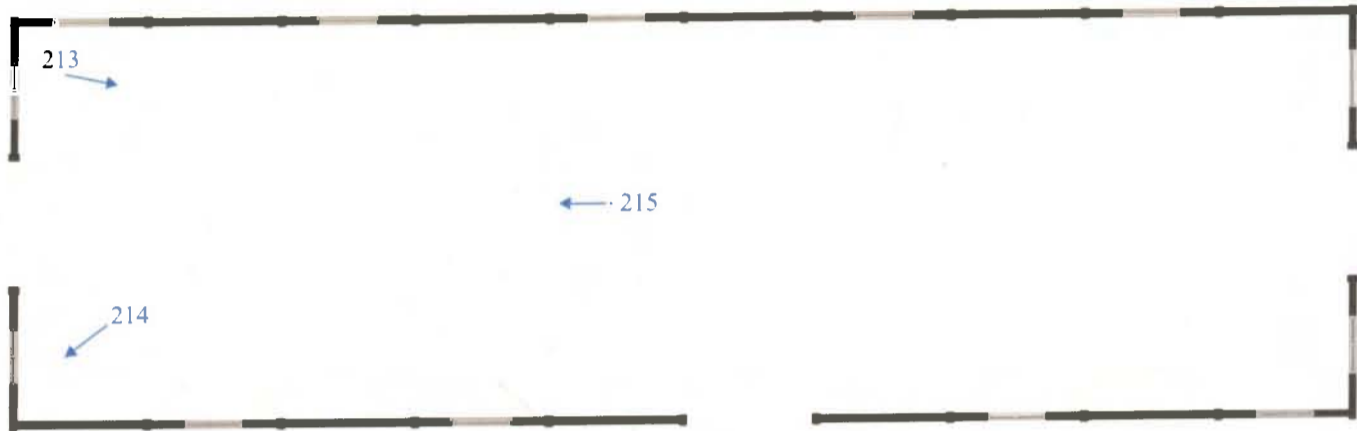
206



HUT P2



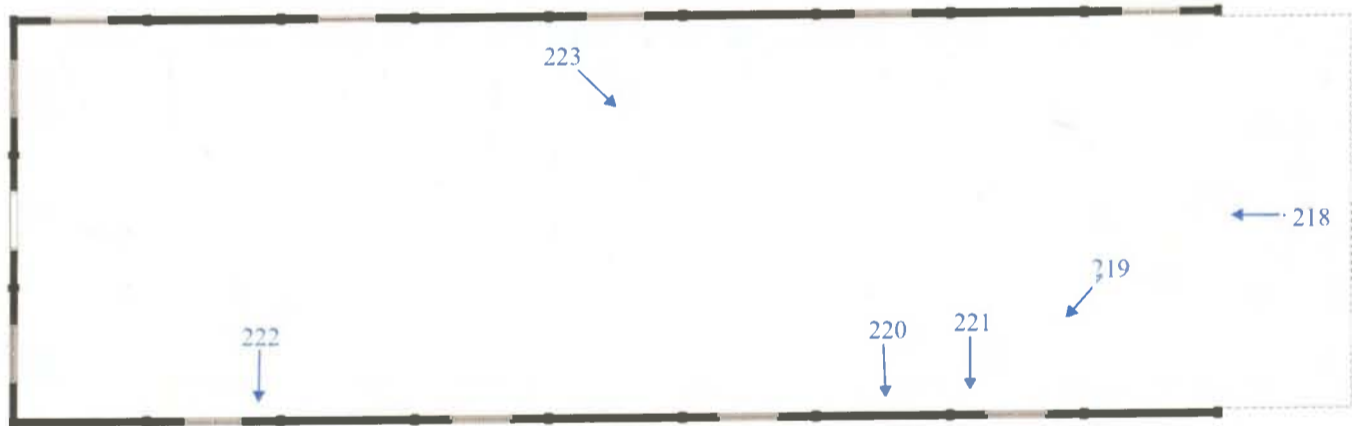
212



HUT P3



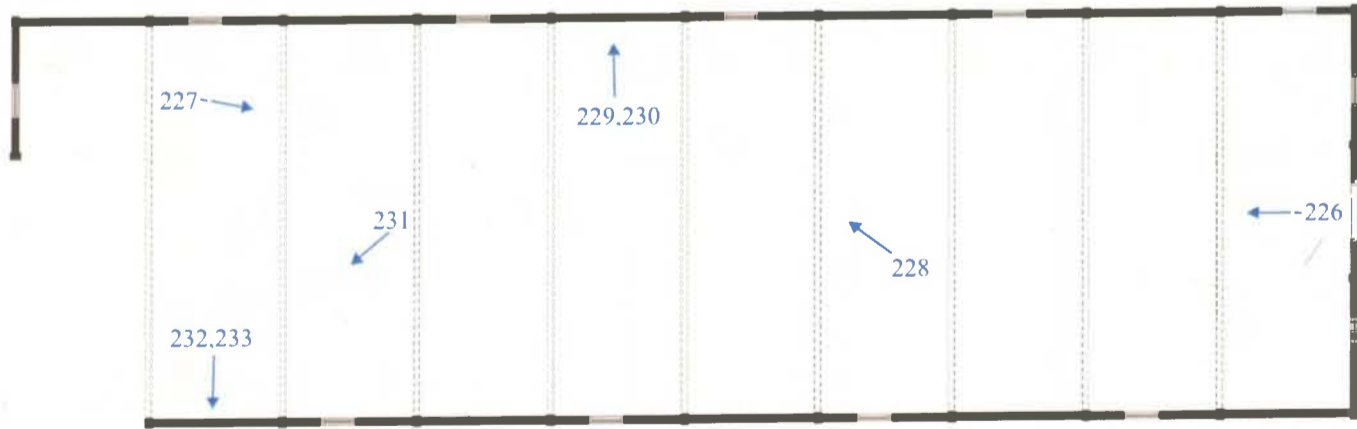
216



HUT P11



217

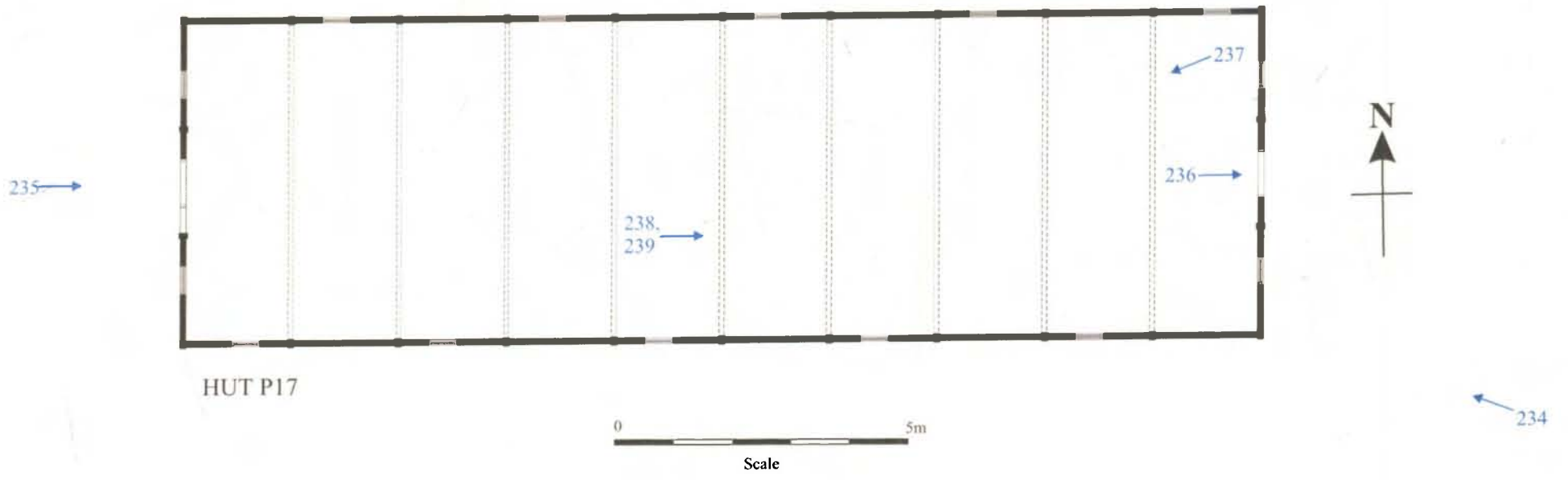


HUT P16

225

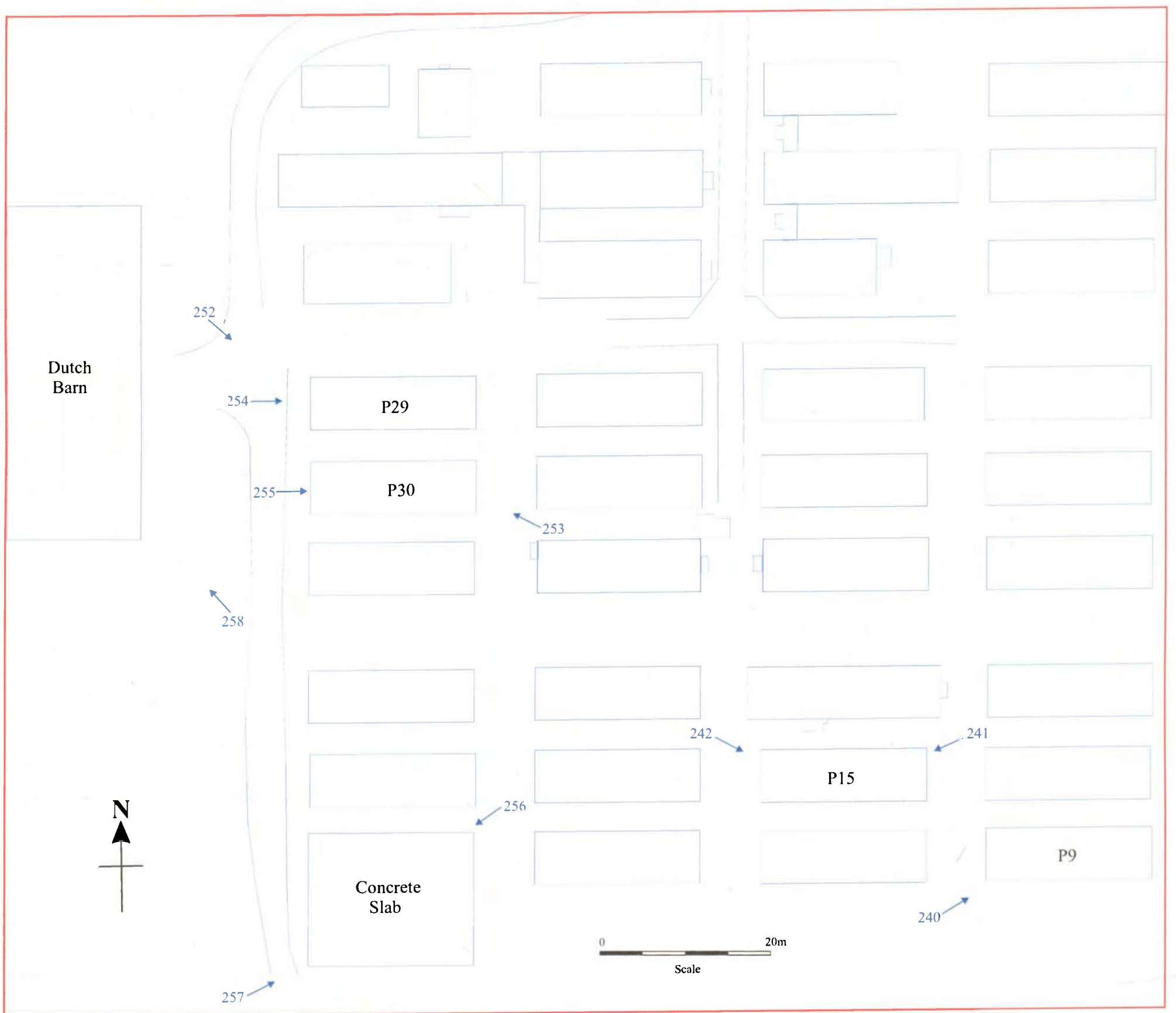
224

Plans showing the locations and directions of photographs taken of Huts P2, P3, P11 and P16. Scale 1:100.



HUT P17

Plan showing the locations and directions of photographs taken of Hut P17. Scale 1:100.



Plan showing the locations and directions of exterior photographs taken of Huts P9, P15, P29 and P30. Scale 1:500.



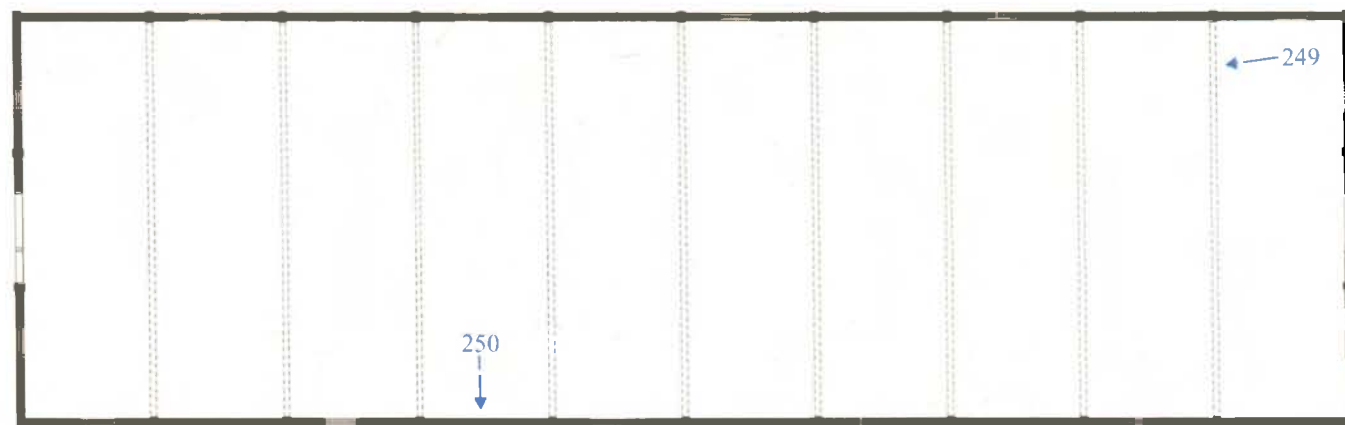
HUT P22

244 →



← 243

← 248



HUT P25

→ 251

↓ 250

← 249

Plans showing the locations and directions of photographs taken of Huts P22 and P25. Scale 1:100.



Front Cover Photographs (l-r): Guardroom and sentry box; View west towards the Cookhouse; Laing timber-framed accommodation hut.

Back Cover Photograph: View towards the water tower from the cookhouse.