



Lambessow barn, St Clement, Cornwall

Historic Building Record



Report No

2011R079

Report Name

Lambessow barn, St Clement, Cornwall,
Historic Building Record

Report Author

Jo Sturgess

Event Type

Historic building
record

Client Organisation

Jessica Mann and Charles
Thomas

Client Contact

Monuments (MonUID)

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Fieldwork dates (From) (To)

20/6/11

(Created By)

Jo Sturgess

(Create Date)

22/6/11-
4/7/11

Location (postal address; or general location and parish)

Lambessow, St Clement, Truro

(Town - for urban sites)

Truro

(Postcode)

TR1 1TB

(Easting) X co-ord

SW 84260

(Northing) Y co-ord

44920

List of Figures

Fig 1: Site location

Fig 2: Location of barn

Fig 3: OS Surveyors' Drawing of c1809

Fig 4: First Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1880

Fig 5: Second Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1907

Fig 6: South-east elevation of the west range

Fig 7: South-east elevation of the east range

Fig 8: North-west elevation looking south

Fig 9: Door openings in north-west elevation

Fig 10: South-west half of north-west elevation

Fig 11: South-west elevation of east range

Fig 12: South-west end elevation of west range

Fig 13: Section of north-east elevation of east range showing opening for horse-engine drive shaft

Fig 14: Cobbled floor inside former stables in the west range

- Fig 15: North-east end of ground floor in west range (former cow-house) showing machine bearing/fireplace recess*
- Fig 16: Ground floor in west range (former cow-house) showing granite flooring*
- Fig 17: Ground floor in east range (former milking parlour/cow-house) showing stalls and feeding troughs*
- Fig 18: First floor in west range (former hayloft) looking north-east*
- Fig 19: First floor in west range (former hayloft) phase 3 shutters in window*
- Fig 20: First floor in east range (former threshing barn) phase 3 extension*
- Fig 21: First floor in east range (former threshing barn) showing belt drive wheel for threshing machine/ chaff cutter*
- Fig 22: First floor in east range (former threshing barn) showing belt drive opening in north-east wall*
- Fig 23: 'Safety lever power driven chaff cutter' found outside the east range*
- Fig 24: Annotated Ground floor plan showing construction phases*
- Fig 25: Annotated first floor plan showing construction phases*
- Fig 26: Annotated south-east elevation and north-west elevation*
- Fig 27: Annotated south-west elevation and north-east elevation*



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Summary

Lambessow is located immediately outside Truro approximately 0.5km to the east of the city (at NGR SW 84260 44920). Planning permission with conditions has been granted for the conversion of a barn at Lambessow to form a workshop, office and dwelling. One of the conditions required the completion of an historic building record of the building prior to the development.

The settlement of Lambessow is first recorded in 1200 (Cornwall HER). It was once a seat of the Lambesso family and also the location of the Duchy prison for the manor of Moresk (Hitchins and Drew 1824). The farmhouse is a Grade II listed building dating from the 17th century and earlier (Listed building description). The barn is not a listed building but is shown on the First Edition OS map of c1880 and certainly has earlier origins. It is an L-shaped building which lies 50m to the south-east of the house.

The barn appears to be first shown on the OS Surveyor's Drawing of c1809 (Fig 3). Lambessow is not depicted on the Tithe map of c1840 because it was exempt from tithes, being part of the Duchy. The first reliable depiction of the barn is on the First Edition OS 25 inch scale map of c1880 (Fig 4) on which it is shown as the L-shaped building that exists today with the addition of a horse engine house adjoining the north-east elevation. It is shown again on the Second Edition OS 25 Inch scale map of c1907 (Fig 5) by which time the horse-engine house had been demolished. Both the First and Second Edition OS maps indicate that the remains of a Duchy prison were present at Lambessow in the late 19th and early 20th centuries but do not indicate the precise location. It is possible the prison existed in a wing of the house (since demolished) but also possible that it existed on or close to the site of the barn. It is possible (although unproven) that some of the earlier fabric of the existing barn may be associated with the prison.

This study has shown that the barn comprises at least three major construction phases. Remains of the earliest (phase 1) building exist as exposed footings seen on the south-east elevation of the west range and the ground floor north-west wall of this range (in which there is a partially blocked wide door opening). The second phase comprised a smaller two-storey building located in the northern half of the west range and the northern end of the east range. At this date (phase 2) the building incorporated a small threshing barn on the first floor and probably a cow-house on the ground floor. In the 19th century (pre-1880- phase 3) both the east and the west ranges of the phase 2 building were extended as two-storey buildings and the existing building (phase 2) converted as part of the remodelling. During phase 3 a horse-engine house was added to the north-east along with the buttresses and ramp on the north-west elevation. It seems likely, as part of the remodelling, that the land to the north-west and north-east of the building was built-up whilst the farmyard to the south was reduced in level. The extended east range functioned as a cow-house/milking parlour on the ground floor with a threshing barn (with horse powered threshing machine) and fodder preparation area on the first floor. The west range phase 2 building was converted as part of the phase 3 remodelling to accommodate a cow-house on the ground floor with threshing and storage area on the first floor. The southern extension of the west range comprised stables on the ground floor with a hay loft on the first floor. Between 1880 and 1907 the horse-engine house was demolished and replaced by a coal or oil powered engine which would have powered the threshing machine/chaff cutter and any other machinery in the barn.

The building has only been used for occasional storage in the last forty years (Charles Thomas pers comm.) and remains largely unchanged since it was last used as a farm building.

Project background

Planning Permission has been granted by Cornwall Council for the conversion of a barn at Lambessow to form a workshop, office and dwelling (ref. C1/PA29/0005/09/R). Planning Condition 11 states:

No development shall take place within the site until a programme of archaeological work setting out a written scheme of investigation including a

detailed photographic record of the barn (both interior and exterior) has been submitted to and agreed in writing by the local planning authority. Thereafter, the archaeological investigation shall take place in accordance with the agreed scheme.

Reason: To ensure that an appropriate archaeological record is made of the vernacular rural building in accordance with the aims and intentions of saved Policy 4T of the Carrick District Wide Local Plan 1998.

Historic Environment Projects was subsequently contacted by Jessica Mann and an estimate of costs was prepared and agreed. After the completion of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved by Dan Ratcliffe (Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer) the building record was undertaken. The results of the work are presented in this report.

The site lies within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Historic Background

The settlement of Lambessow is first recorded in 1200 (Gover1948). The name is Cornish and contains the elements lann, 'enclosed cemetery', and bedewen, 'birch tree' in the plural (Padel, 1985). The element lann, indicative of an early ecclesiastical site (PRN: 18956), implies a settlement of early medieval origin. According to Lake, Lambessow was a seat of a family of that name. It then passed by marriage to the Tredenham family, then the King family (Duchy tenants) and in the 17th century to the Foote family under Charles II (Hitchins and Drew, 1824). The settlement is likely to have become part of the Duchy during the 14th century and a Duchy prison is said to have stood at or near this site (PRN: 18957). The prison is said to have been for offenders in the Manor of Moresk of which Lambessow was part.

The house is likely to retain some medieval elements but was largely rebuilt in the 17th century and has later additions and alterations. The barn is extensively a mid-late 19th century remodelling of an earlier barn, which in turn replaced an earlier building of unknown function. The c1809 OS Surveyor's Drawing shows 'Lambessa' with its house and a second building which is possibly the phase 2 barn (Fig 3). Lambessow is not shown on the Tithe map for the parish of St Clement because Duchy properties were exempt from paying tithes. It is shown in detail for the first time on the First Edition OS map of c1880 (Fig 4) where the plan and extent of the building are depicted just as they are now. At this date there was a horse-engine house attached to the north-east side of the building to power a threshing machine on the first floor. The Second Edition OS map of c1907 (Fig 5) indicates that by this date the horse-engine house had been demolished but that the L-shaped building had not altered in plan. Both the First and Second Edition OS maps (Figs 4 and 5) indicate that there were surviving remains of the Barton and Duchy prison but do not show an exact location.

A 14 year lease for Lambessow dated 1856, at that time occupied by Thomas Williams, states that there was a threshing machine within the property at this date and gives details of threshing and stabling within the property (CRO ref. TLP/115).

A newspaper article dated 14 August 1840 gives the following description of the wheat grown at Lambessow:

The best field of wheat we have heard of in the neighbourhood of Truro, is one that was cut last week by Mr. Whitford, of Lambessow, in the parish of St. Clement. The wheat is called the blue prolific, and the produce is considered to be upwards of twenty Cornish bushels, or sixty imperial bushels to the acre. We counted about 100 grains in one ear. Such a field of wheat for seed must be particularly valuable.

(<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com>)

Aims and objectives

The principal aim of the study was to gain a better understanding of the historic development and function of the building. The objectives were to obtain an archaeological record of the site prior to alterations.

Working methods

The fieldwork was undertaken to be equivalent to an English Heritage Level 2 survey (see English Heritage 2006). It comprised a walk-over, photographic survey and the production of brief building descriptions.

Desk-based research

Before the site visit was undertaken, readily available historic material was consulted, including the Historic Environment Record, historic maps, and the listed building description for Lambessow house.

The main sources consulted were as follows:

- Cornwall HER
- Early maps (see Section 10)
- Listed building description

Fieldwork

Analysis of the building fabric was undertaken on site (recorded as notes). Measured information and detail, as appropriate, was added to copies of existing measured drawings (supplied to HE by Stratton and Holborow).

The photographic record comprised:

- general views
- internal and external elevations
- examples of structural and architectural detail

The principal photographic record comprised black and white photographs taken using a 35mm camera on fine grain archive quality film.

Supporting colour photographs were taken with a digital camera for illustrative use.

A metric scale was included in all shots where possible.

Post-fieldwork

All project materials were prepared for long term storage. This report was prepared to summarise the results of the study.

Results

General description

The barn at Lambessow is a two-storey L-shaped building comprising east and west ranges with hipped roofs. It was extended from two earlier phases of building in the mid to late 19th century (phase 3) to form the building that exists today with an enclosed farmyard to the south. The present building was designed to serve several purposes with a milking parlour/cow-house on the ground floor of the east range, a cow-house and stable on the ground floor of the west range and threshing barn and storage area on the first floor above the milking parlour/cow houses and hay loft on the first floor above the stables. During the 19th century a horse-engine house adjoined the north-east side of the building; this had been demolished by 1907 and replaced with an external steam or oil powered engine. Both sources of power were installed to drive an internal threshing machine and chaff cutter etc.

This L-shaped structure superseded an earlier, smaller two-storey threshing barn (phase 2) located in the northern half of the existing west range and northern end of the existing east range. The smaller, phase 2 barn was constructed on the ground floor level

remains of an earlier building of unknown date and function. This (phase 1) building probably occupied the full extent of the present west range but may only have been single storey.

The surviving L-shaped, two-storey building comprises an east range aligned north-west south-east and an adjoining west range aligned north-east south-west. The walls are constructed from randomly coursed slate rubble bonded with lime mortar. Openings associated with the phase 3 mid/late 19th century remodelling have brick jambs and arches and the quoins of the extensions of this date are constructed using brick and granite. Earlier openings have slate rubble jambs and timber lintels. Internally the building is divided into three rooms on the ground floor and two rooms on the first floor. The ground floor interior partition walls (phase 3) are constructed from slate rubble bonded with lime mortar whilst the floors in all three rooms are cobbled (slate and granite) and belong to the phase 3 remodelling of the building. On the first floor the timber stud partition wall dividing the hayloft from the threshing barn is a 20th century replacement of the original. The roof structure is mid/late 19th century; also part of the phase 3 remodelling. It comprises simple nailed timber A-frame trusses with a phase 3 slate covering surviving in parts of the east range. The remainder of the roof covering is modern corrugated iron or slate.

The building certainly pre-dates the 1880 OS map and appears to be shown on the c1809 OS Surveyor's drawing (see Figs 3 and 4). The present building (phase 3 remodelling) was designed as a multi-purpose farm building (chall barn). In the past forty years the building has been used for storage only.

South-east elevation

See Figs 6, 7 and 26

This includes the south-east wall of the west range and south-east hip end wall of the east range. Both walls are constructed from slate rubble bonded with lime mortar.

South-east wall of the west range (Figs 6 and 26)

The north-eastern half of this wall is part of the earlier phase 2 barn which is separated by a straight joint from the south-western half, a phase 3 extension and part of the mid/late 19th century remodelling. Also along the base of the wall earlier phase 1 masonry survives indicated by the base of the straight joint not reaching the base of the wall but stopping approximately 0.7m from the base of the exposed footings. The north-eastern (phase 2) half of the wall has a threshing door at ground floor level, a rebuilt or possibly inserted door at ground floor level and a small original window at first floor level. The south-western phase 3 extension is the stables on the ground floor with hayloft over. There is a central blocked door opening to the yard on the ground floor with a window opening either side (all of which have brick arches), and another two window openings on the first floor. Three of the original, phase 3 window frames survive along with their internal timber shutters. The roof covering is a modern slate replacement.

South-east wall of the east range (Figs 7 and 26)

This is the hipped end wall of the phase 3 mid/late 19th century extension of the east range. It is constructed from slate rubble bonded with lime mortar and has granite quoins up to approximately 2m high and then brick jambs to the eaves. There are no openings or alterations in this elevation

North-west elevation

See Figs 8, 9, 10 and 26

The north-west wall is constructed from slate rubble bonded with lime mortar. The south-west half of the wall relates to the phase 3 stable on the ground floor and the hay loft on the first floor. In this part of the wall there is a single first floor loading door opening containing an inserted sash window. There also appear to be two phases of walling at this end, the lower half appearing to relate to phase 1 and the upper part containing the loading door relating to phase 3.

The north-eastern half of the wall in general terms appears to be phase 1 at ground floor level and phase 2 at first floor level with phase 3 and phase 4 insertions. Internally at ground floor level here there is a phase 3 cow-house (earlier functions are unknown) and

at first floor level a phase 2 and 3 threshing barn. At ground floor level in the wall there is a wide partially blocked phase 1 door opening with a partially blocked phase 1 window to the south-west of it and a further blocked opening to the north-east of it. The window opening at the far north-east end of the ground floor has been inserted at a later date. At first floor level in the north-eastern half of the wall is a phase 2 threshing door opening containing a mid/late 19th century door and an inserted phase 3 window to the north-east of it. The three buttresses and ramp up to the first floor threshing door are later additions and likely to have been added for stability as part of the phase 3 remodelling. The buttresses and ramp are constructed from slate rubble bonded with lime mortar.

Immediately in front of this elevation is a gully which appears to have been formed during either phase 2 or 3 by a build-up of earth deposited along the elevation possibly to create easier access to the first floor.

South-west elevation

See Figs 11, 12 and 27

This includes the south-west wall of the east range and south-west hip end wall of the west range. Both walls are constructed from slate rubble bonded with lime mortar.

South-west wall of the east range (Figs 11 and 27)

The north-western end of this wall is part of the earlier phase 2 barn demonstrated by the north-west jamb of the ground floor door opening which is constructed from slate rubble whilst the south-east jamb of this door opening is brick-built and part of the phase 3 mid/late 19th century extension. The whole structure to the south-east of the north-west jamb of the door opening was built anew as part of the phase 3 remodelling. All the openings in this part of the elevation have brick jambs. Those on the ground floor have brick arches and those on the first floor, timber lintels. At first floor level there is a threshing door opening (with original timber planked door) with a window either side of it. Both windows retain their original frames and shutters. At ground floor level serving the cow-house and possible cart house (at the south-east end) is the door opening to the north-west with two windows to the south-east of it. Much of the elevation is obscured by thick ivy. The roof covering is 19th century slate which is badly damaged.

South-east wall of the east range (Figs 12 and 27)

This is the hipped end wall of the phase 3 mid/late 19th century remodelling of the west range. It is constructed from slate rubble bonded with lime mortar. It contains a single door opening at ground floor level giving access to the stables and on the lower half of the north-west quoin there is a scar showing the former location of a now demolished yard wall which would have created an enclosed yard for horses separate to the main farmyard. The fact that the quoins and jambs of the door opening are constructed from slate rubble suggests that at least some of this wall may survive from phase 1 although any rebuilt sections were not visible due to extensive ivy coverage.

North-east elevation

See Figs 13 and 27

The north-east wall is constructed from slate rubble bonded with lime mortar. The south-east half of the wall relates to the phase 3 extension of the east range and the north-west section to the northern end of the west range (phases 1, 2 and 3). At the time of the survey the wall was covered in thick ivy and only small sections were visible. The exterior ground level in front of the north-western half of this elevation where there was once an adjoining 19th century horse-engine house had been built up to approximately first floor level. In this part of the wall there are several blocked square openings and recesses associated with the horse-engine mechanisms and structure including a drive shaft opening towards the top of the wall. A larger rectangular blocked opening is probably a belt drive opening associated with a steam or diesel powered engine post-dating the horse-engine. A cement rendered tank with associated external vertical pipe has been inserted here at ground floor level and appears to be associated with the internal machine bearing recess/fireplace on the interior face of the wall. In the south-east (phase 3) half of the wall there is a wide double door opening on the ground floor at

the south-east end. This is likely to have been an opening to a former cart shed at this end of the building. It has a timber lintel and the jambs are slate and granite rubble and there is the base of a staddle stone reused in the north-west jamb. At first floor level there is a threshing door with timber lintel, brick jambs and an original timber planked door.

West range interior ground floor stable and cow-house

See Figs 14, 15, 16 and 24

Stable (Figs 14 and 24)

The floor in the stables is part of the phase 3 remodelling and comprises slate and granite cobbles with integral drainage gullies. The sockets to support the original stalls (now removed) can be seen in the floor and would have formed three stalls with a loose box at the north-east end of the room. The floor above the area of the stalls has since been removed and 20th century timber supports inserted. A cement rendered trough has also been inserted in the 20th century along the north-west wall after the removal of the stalls. The walls in the stable are white-washed. The two window openings and door opening in the south-east wall have reused moulded timber lintels.

Cow-house

This room contains some of the oldest fabric of the building. Much of the walling is phase 1 with some rebuilding of the yard-side wall and other alterations during phase 2. Its latest (phase 3) use was as a cow-house, with a feeding passage along the north-west wall adjacent to the troughs with granite lintel fronts and slate divisions but later covered with a cement render. The stalls themselves have been removed and it is now difficult to say how many there were. The floor within most of the room is slate and granite cobbles with a drainage gully running along the back of the stalls, but there is also a patch of granite setts and another of granite lintels in the south-eastern part of the room. It is unclear whether these sections of floor post-date or pre-date the cobbles. The partition wall at the south-west end is a phase 3 insertion, but just to the north-east of it is a stone capped culvert running the width of the room and presumably draining the north-west side of the building. The door opening in the north-west wall was reduced in width during phase two to accommodate a threshing door on the first floor. During phase 1 this door opening was twice the width suggesting that it was used for cart access and that the bank immediately outside was not present during phase 1. In the north-east wall there is a large, inserted recess with iron fittings either for machine bearings or possibly used as a fireplace. The feeding passage also continues along this wall and through a door opening in the phase 3 partition wall into the east range. The walls are white-washed.

East range interior ground floor cow-house

See Figs 17 and 24

The floor is slate and granite cobbles. Its use was as a cow-house, probably with a cart shed at the south-east end. A feeding passage runs along the north-east wall adjacent to the troughs with granite lintel fronts and slate divisions but later covered with a cement render. Part of one of the stalls at the north-west end survives and the original positions of the stalls can be seen (five in total). The walling to the north-west of the farmyard door opening is part of the phase 2 building, and directly opposite it the north-east wall becomes narrower at this point to the south-east, suggesting that this was the extent of the phase 2 building.

West range interior first floor - hay loft and threshing barn

See Figs 18, 19 and 25

Hayloft

This room is located over the stable at the south-west end of the range. It is set at a slightly higher level than the rest of the first floor to allow more head room for the horses below. The floor joists and the room itself is part of the mid/late 19th century phase 3 remodelling although the boards are probably 20th century replacements. There

is a blocked hatch in the north-east corner of the room and a large part of the western half of the floor has been removed with a safety rail inserted at some point during the 20th century, and is now open to the ground floor. There is an original loading door in the north-west wall and the windows in the south-east wall retain their original frames and internal shutters. The timber planked partition wall dividing this room from the threshing floor to the north-east is a 20th century replacement of the original stud wall.

Threshing barn

Although described as a separate room there are no internal divisions separating the room-space from the first floor of the east range. This area in the north-east half of the west range was designed as a threshing floor during phase 2 and probably continued to be used for winnowing and possibly storage as well during phase 3. There are two opposing threshing doors but the original threshing floor has been replaced with 20th century boards (now badly water damaged). Some of the original threshing boards have been used to patch the floor in places and there is a large hole at the north-east end where the floor has collapsed. In the north-east wall are some blocked openings relating to the external horse-engine and later steam/diesel engine bringing power into the barn to drive a threshing machine and chaff cutter.

East range interior first floor - threshing barn

See Figs 20, 21, 22 and 25

This room-space (phase 3) is open to the north-eastern half of the west range at first floor level. There are two opposing threshing doors with original timber planked doors towards the south-east end but the original threshing boards have been replaced with 20th century floor boards. At the south-east end of the room the drive shaft with belt drive wheels to power the threshing machine/chaff cutter remains *in situ* attached to the joists. The windows in the yard-side wall have original phase 3 frames and shutters.

Roof

The surviving roof structure was installed during the phase 3 mid/late 19th century remodelling of the building. It is a hipped roof with simple nailed timber A-frame trusses. Some of the original slate covering survives on the south-east elevations of the east and west ranges and the south-west elevation of the east range and there are original ceramic ridge tiles on both ranges. Internally the original slates have been rendered and white-washed.

References

Primary Sources

- Ordnance Survey, c1880. *25 Inch Map* First Edition (licensed digital copy at HE)
- Ordnance Survey, c1907. *25 Inch Map* Second Edition (licensed digital copy at HE)
- Ordnance Survey, 2007. *Mastermap Digital Mapping*
- OS Surveyors Drawing c1809 (licensed digital copy at HE)
- Tithe Map and Apportionment, c1840. *Parish of St Clement* (digital copy at HE)

Publications

- English Heritage, 2006. *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*. Swindon
- Gover, JEB, 1948. *Place-Names of Cornwall* (typescript at RCM, Truro)
- Hitchins and Drew, 1824. *The History of Cornwall*

Websites

- <http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk/> English Heritage's online database of Listed Buildings

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wbritonad/cornwall/1840/misc/aug.html>

Project archive

The HE project number is **2011055**

The project's documentary, photographic and drawn archive is housed at the offices of Historic Environment, Cornwall Council, Kennall Building, Old County Hall, Station Road, Truro, TR1 3AY. The contents of this archive are as listed below:

1. A project file containing site records and notes, project correspondence and administration.
2. Electronic drawings stored in the directory ..\CAD ARCHIVE\Sites L\Lambessow barn HBR 2011055
3. Black and white photographs archived under the following index numbers: GBP 2194-2195
4. Digital photographs stored in the directory ..\Images\Sites I-L\ Lambessow barn 2011055
5. English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-104622

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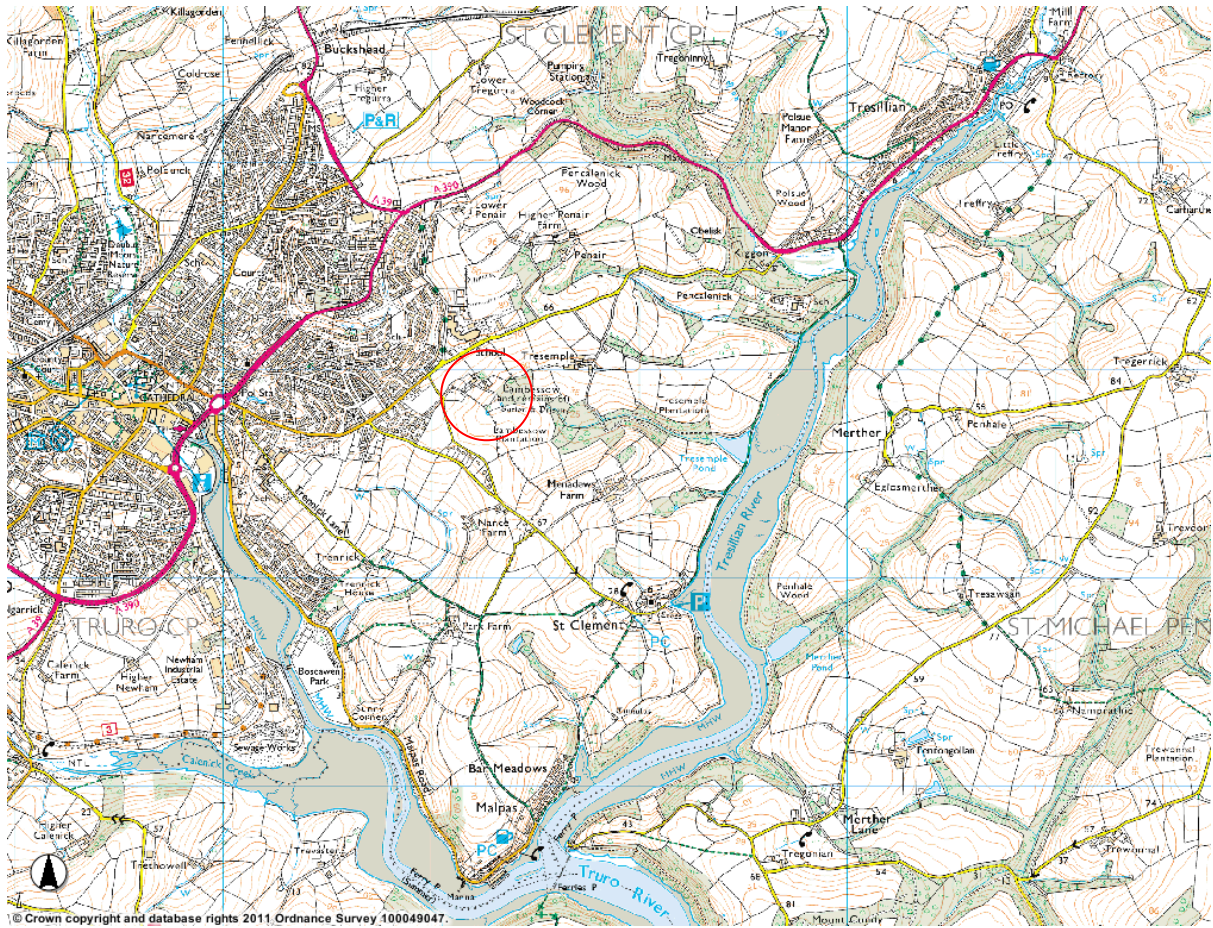


Fig 1: Site location

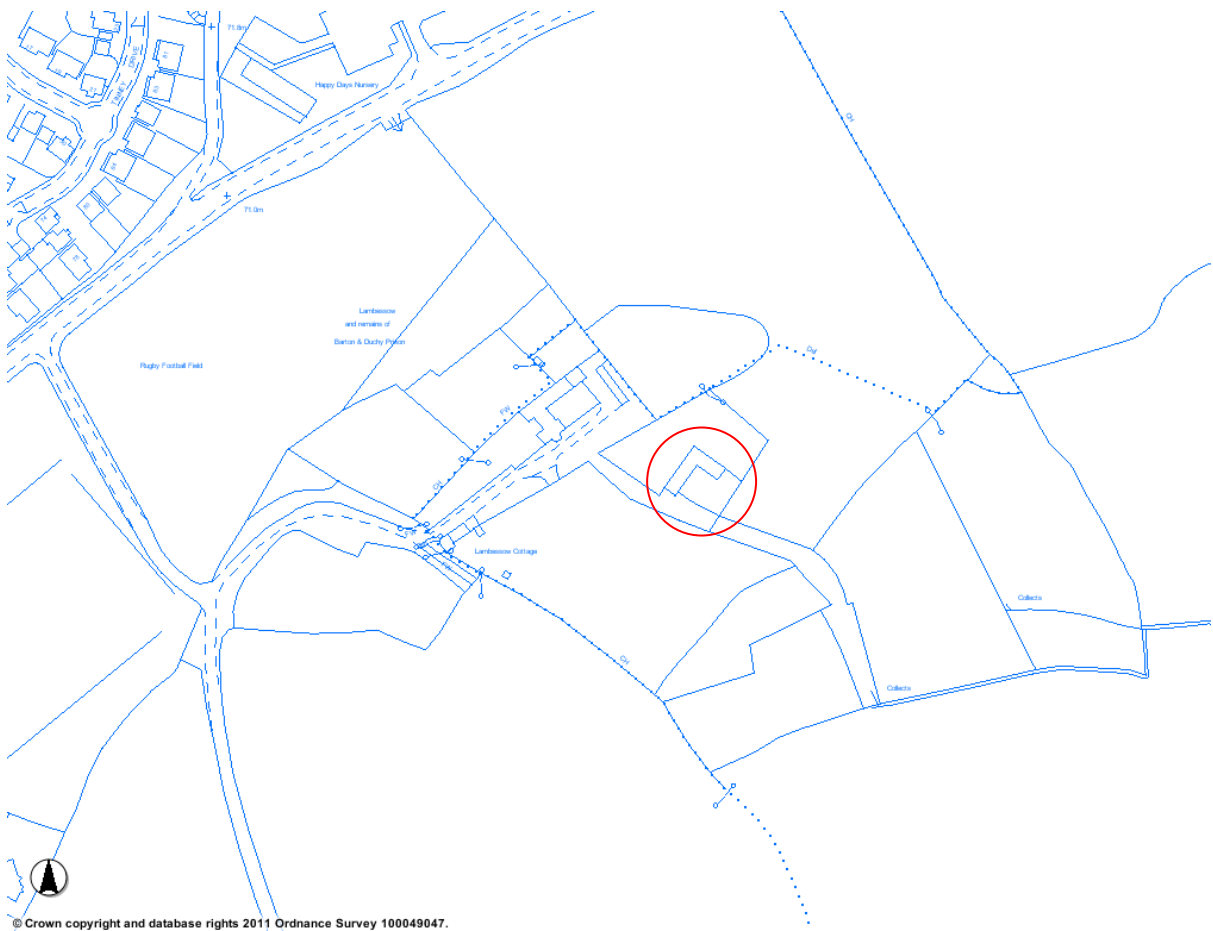


Fig 2: Location of barn



Fig 3: OS Surveyors' Drawing of c1809

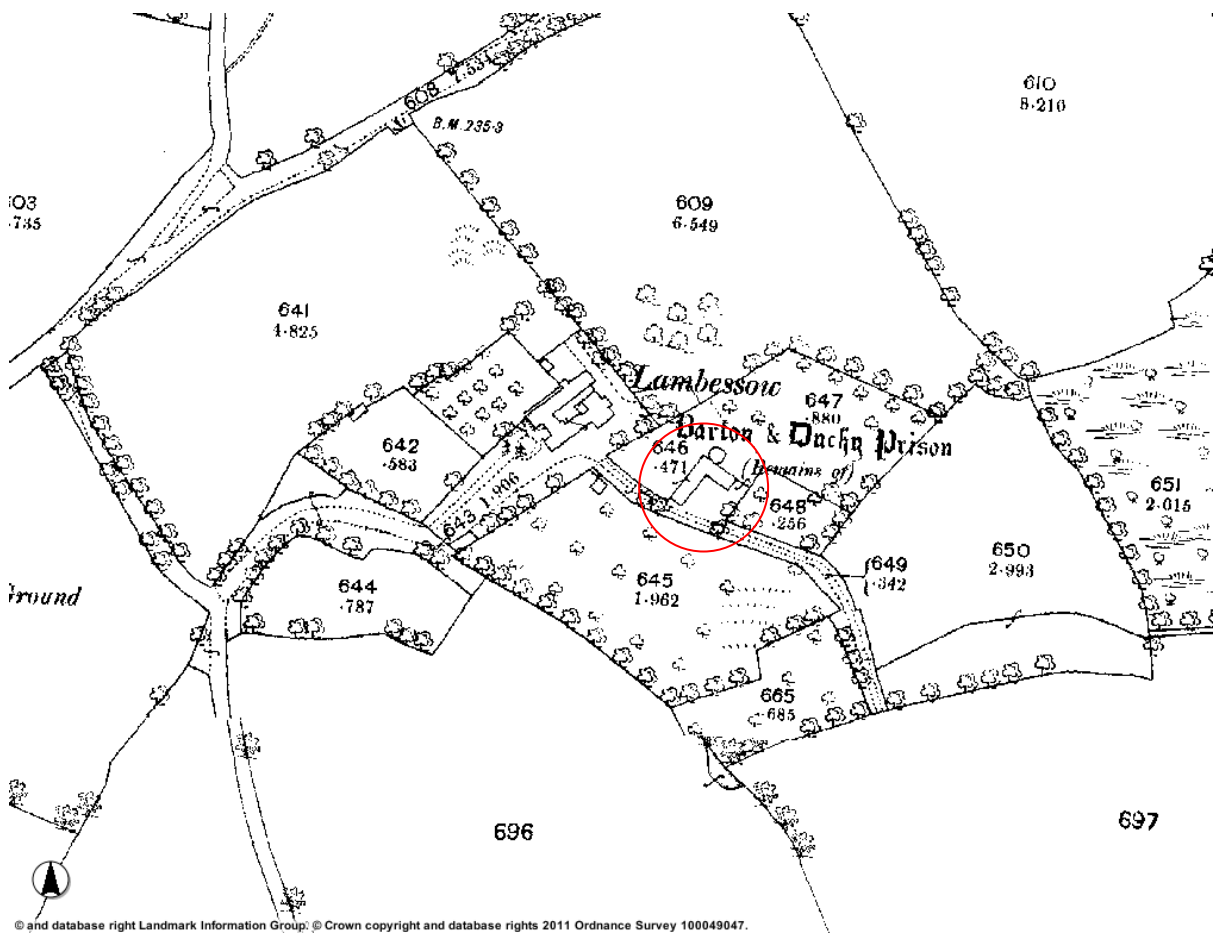
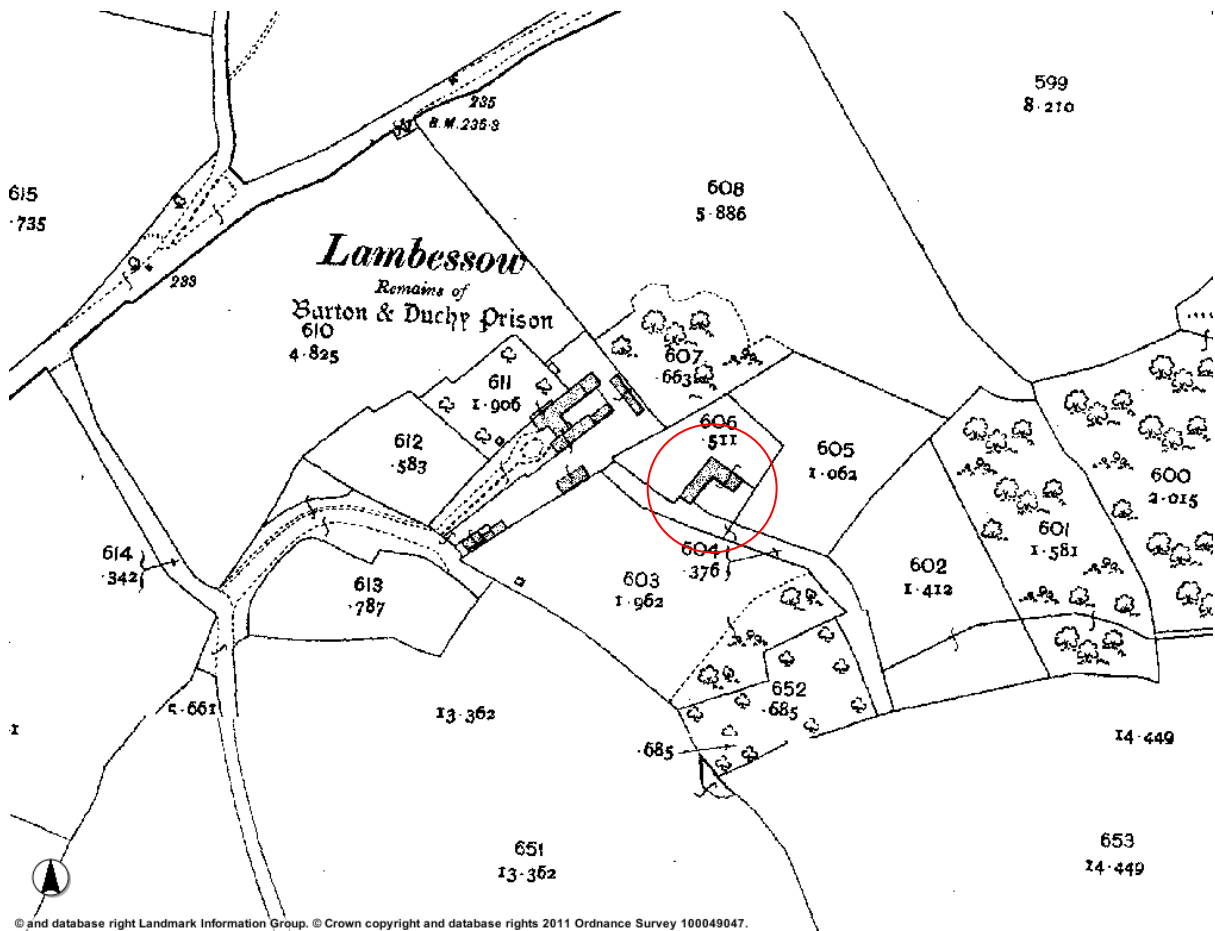


Fig 4: First Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1880



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 Fig 5: Second Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1907



Fig 6: South-east elevation of the west range



Fig 7: South-east elevation of the east range



Fig 8: North-west elevation looking south



Fig 9: Door openings in north-west elevation



Fig 10: South-west half of north-west elevation



Fig 11: South-west elevation of east range



Fig 12: South-west end elevation of west range



Fig 13: Section of north-east elevation of east range showing opening for horse-engine drive shaft



Fig 14: Cobbled floor inside former stables in the west range



Fig 15: North-east end of ground floor in west range (former cow-house) showing machine bearing/fireplace recess



Fig 16: Ground floor in west range (former cow-house) showing granite flooring



Fig 17: Ground floor in east range (former milking parlour/cow-house) showing stalls and feeding troughs



Fig 18: First floor in west range (former hayloft) looking north-east



Fig 19: First floor in west range (former hayloft) phase 3 shutters in window



Fig 20: First floor in east range (former threshing barn) phase 3 extension



Fig 21: First floor in east range (former threshing barn) showing belt drive wheel for threshing machine/ chaff cutter



Fig 22: First floor in east range (former threshing barn) showing belt drive opening in north-east wall



Fig 23: 'Safety lever power driven chaff cutter' found outside the east range

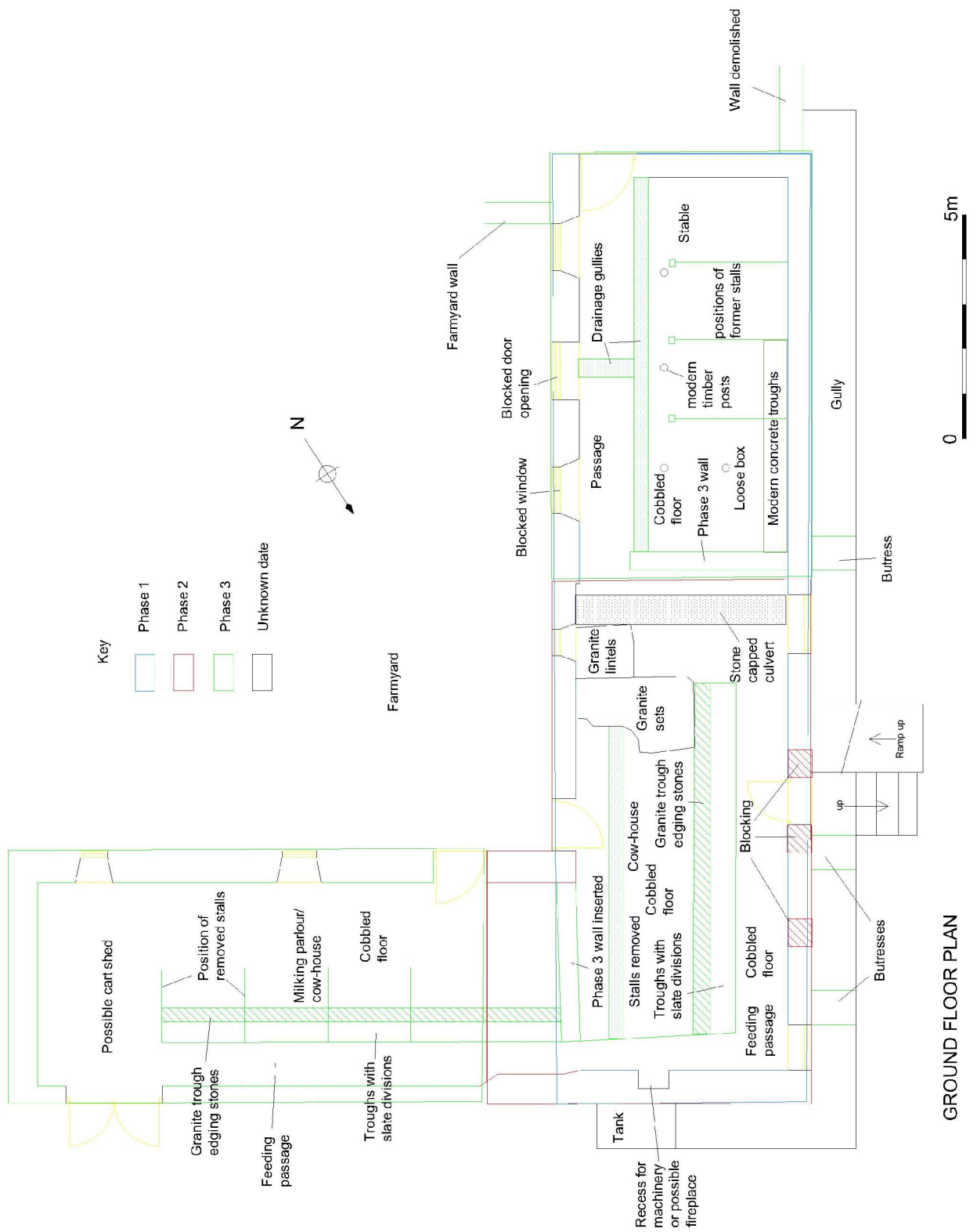


Fig 24: Annotated Ground floor plan showing construction phases

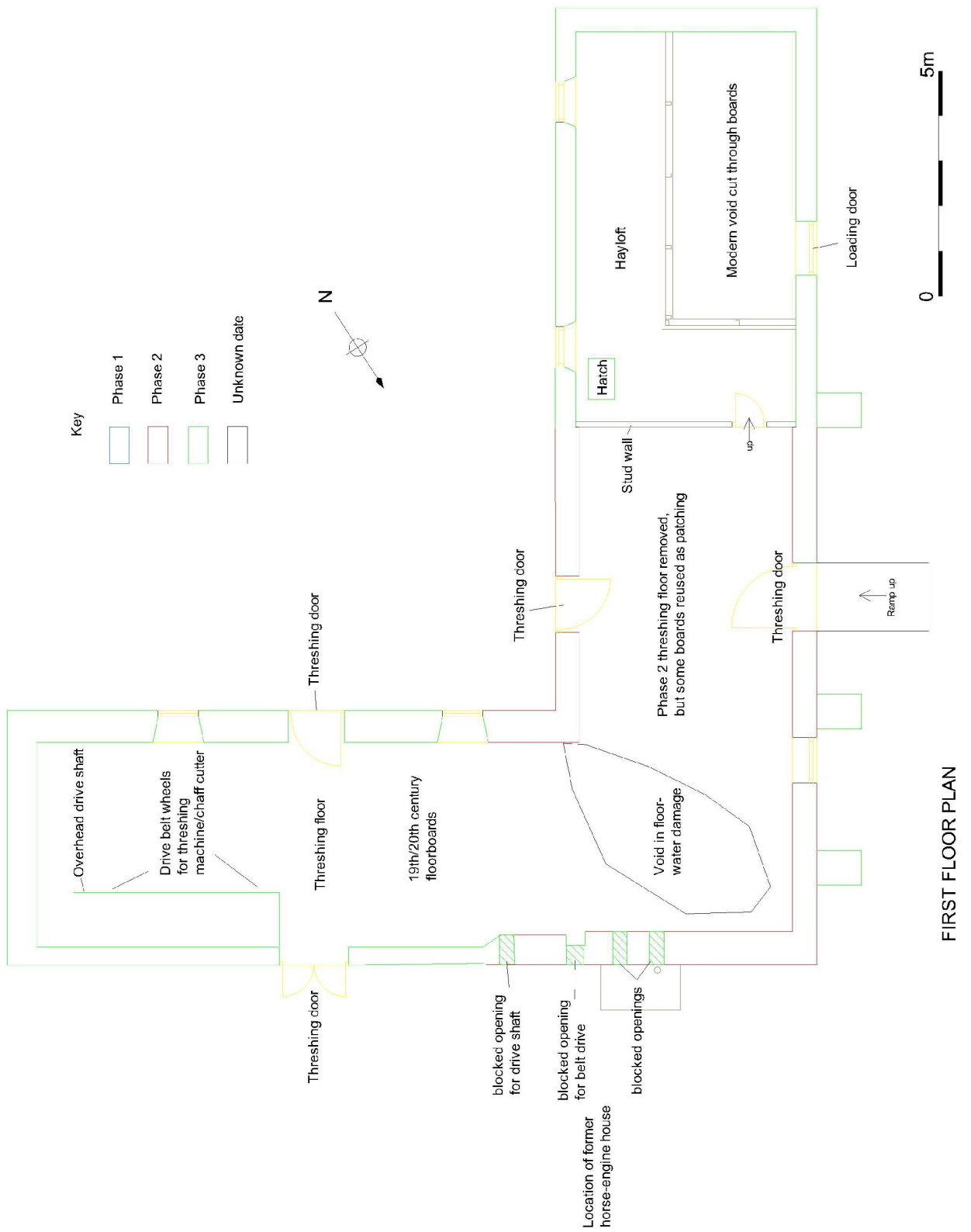


Fig 25: Annotated first floor plan showing construction phases

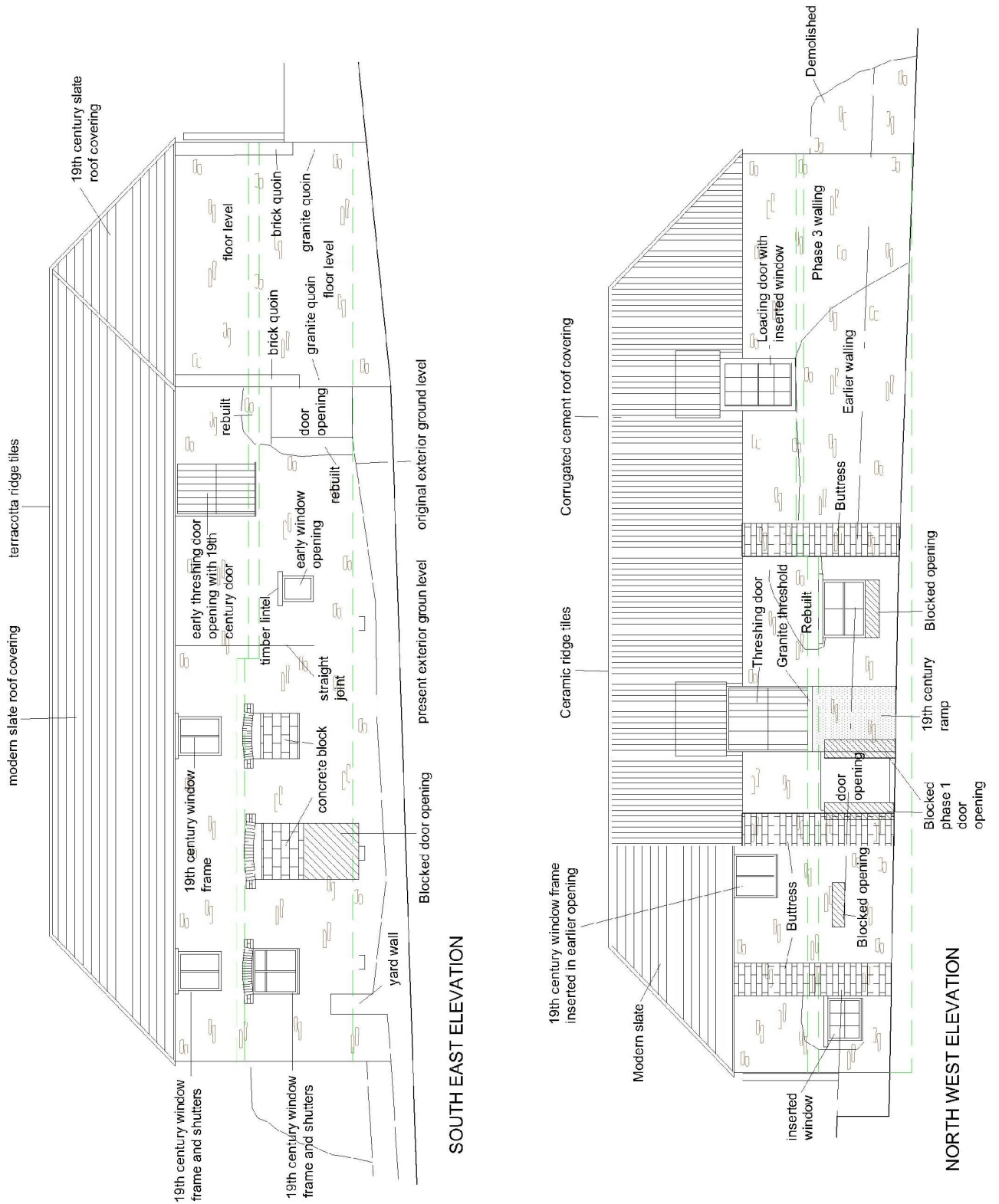


Fig 26: Annotated south-east elevation and north-west elevation

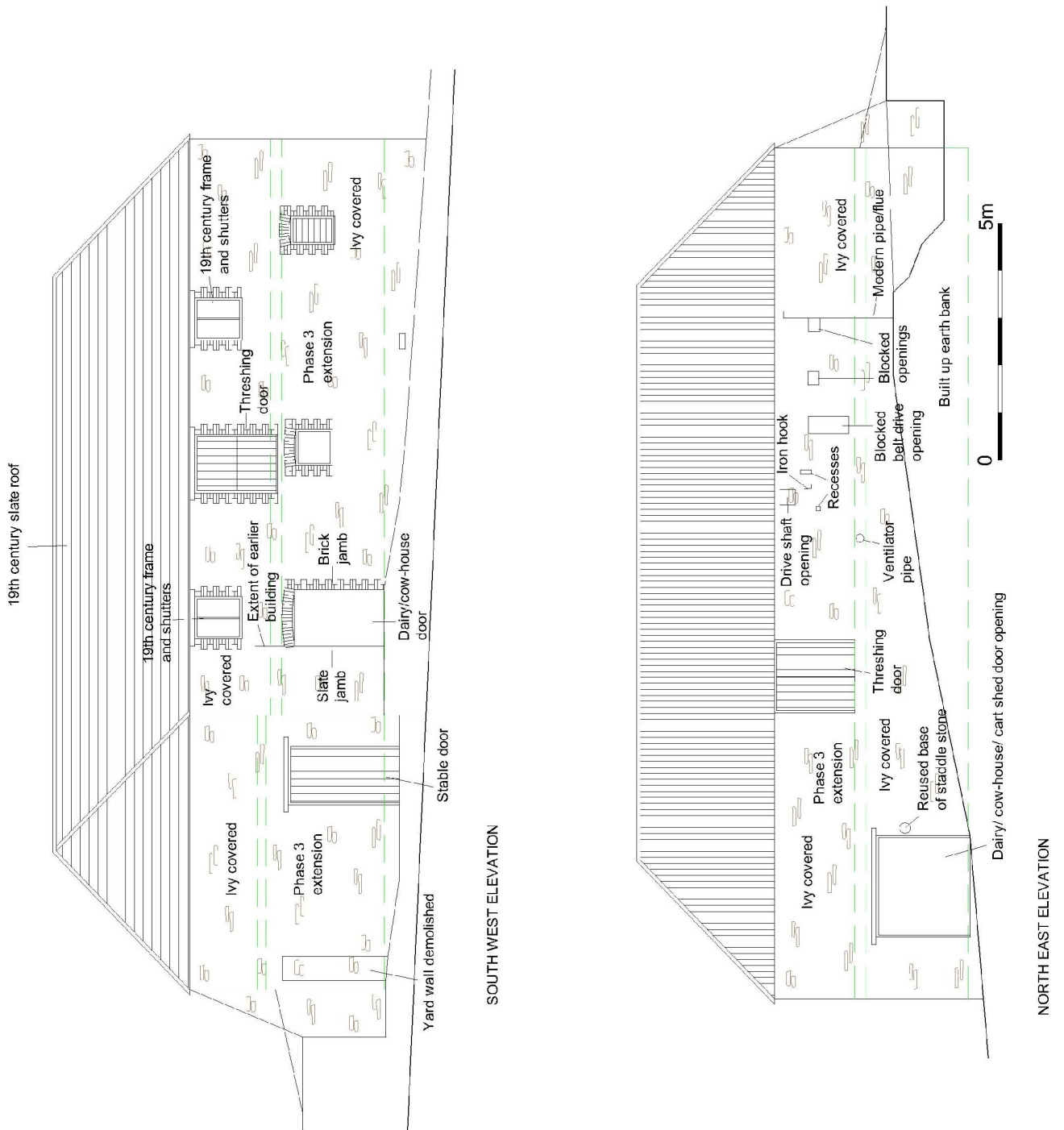


Fig 27: Annotated south-west elevation and north-east elevation