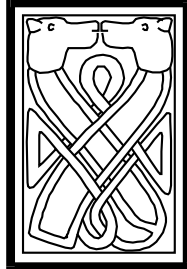


BAMBURGH RESEARCH PROJECT



MIDDLETON CHURCH, HARTBURN, NORTHUMBERLAND

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

Compiled for Mr Colin Snowball by The Bamburgh Research Project: Commercial Projects Section

BRP 13/05b

October 2013

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SUMMARY

This document has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project for Mr Colin Snowball, during October 2013, and sets out the results of the building recording of the post-medieval church in Middleton, Northumberland. The work has been undertaken in accordance with the brief issued by the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team and the Written Scheme of Investigation compiled by the BRP in September 2013 (Appendix I). The Northumberland Listed Building Consent number is: CM/20100249.

The church lies on the east side of the small hamlet of Middleton on the north side of the unclassified road between Wallington and Hartburn. Middleton lies some 11km to the west of Mitford, which itself is 4km to the west of the County Town of Morpeth, Northumberland (NGR NZ 0615 4061) (Figures 1 and 2).

The standing building assessment was undertaken by Graeme Young on the 9th October 2013. The structure is constructed throughout from sandstone, in what appears to be a single build, with more finely dressed stone blocks forming the front facade. There is no evidence for any major structural alterations to the fabric and its internal features appear to have been little altered since it ceased to be used as a church (Figure 3).

The building is rectangular, measuring 14.5m north-north-east to south-south-west by 9m west-north-west to east-south-east. The building lies on a distinct slope, such that the southern end of the building is sufficiently raised above ground level, compared to the north, that a small cellar is present. The main floor space is lit by seven tall narrow windows, 0.68m wide and c. 2.0 to 2.3m tall, depending on their lintel styles. Two such windows, with pronounced Gothic points, are present in each of the short walls, along with two small circular windows, located centrally and high in the wall. The remaining three windows penetrate the west wall and display modest points in their top lintels.

Internally the main room, cross-divided by a simple timber partition, is plaster rendered and displays few decorative features beyond the raised dais in the floor and a simple decorative panel at the north end of the building. These features clearly indicate the location of the church's altar, presumably removed when the church ceased its designed function.

The church at Middleton, being a Congregational church was constructed as part of the nonconformist movement, explaining its idiosyncratic orientation. It appears to represent a modestly decorated example of the dissenting Gothic style of 19th century neo-Gothic architecture and as such represents part of a wider building tradition common in the later 19th century.

THE CHURCH, MIDDLETON, NORTHUMBERLAND

REPORT ON THE RECORDING OF THE STANDING BUILDING

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 This document has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project for Mr Colin Snowball, during October 2013, and sets out the results of the recording of the post-medieval church at Middleton, near Hartburn, Northumberland.
- 1.0.2 The work has been undertaken in accordance with the brief issued by the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team, and the Written Scheme of Investigation compiled by the BRP in September 2013 (Appendix I) and undertaken as part of the mitigation of the modest alteration of the original fabric. The Northumberland Listed Building Consent number is: CM/20100249. and the OASIS number is: bamburgh1-161266.

1.1 Location

- 1.1.1 The church lies on the east side of the small hamlet of Middleton on the north side of the unclassified road between Wallington and Hartburn. Middleton lies some 11km to the west of Mitford, which itself is 4km to the west of the County Town of Morpeth, Northumberland (NGR NZ 0615 4061) (Figures 1 and 2).

2.0 THE SITE

2.1 Description

- 2.1.1 The church is a modest building extending 14.5m by 9m and orientated near north to south, offset slightly to the north east. It comprises a two room ground floor with the altar formerly at the north end of the north room and a modest cellar, measuring 15m east to west by 4m north to south, beneath the south end of the building. The building is set back some 21m from the road, up a modest gradient. It is an attached structure with a short range of buildings to its east.(Figure 2).

3.0 METHODOLOGY

- 3.0.1 As specified by the brief issued by the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team the building recording of the church was undertaken conforming with Section 3 of the English Heritage Guidelines (EH 2006).
- 3.0.2 All work was carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) (IFA 2000) and followed the IFA Standard and Guidance for for

building recording (IFA 1994) as well as that of English Heritage, *Understanding Historic Buildings, A guide to good recording practice* (EH 2006).

3.1 Building Assessment

3.1.1 The building recording will evaluate the archaeological potential and significance of the buildings based on information derived from:

- 4 A written account.
 - Precise details of the location of the building, by name or street number, civil parish or town.
 - The National Grid reference of the building and details of listing or scheduling
 - The date when the record was made and the name of the recorder
 - A summary of the building's plan, type and purpose, materials used in construction and so far as is possible, the date of construction
 - The names of architects, builders, patrons and owners (if known)

- 5 Drawn Record
 - A scale plan of all floors as existing, showing the form and location of any structural features of historic significance (including blocked windows and doors, former fireplace openings, masonry joints, changes in internal levels, internal fixtures and fittings)

- 6 Photographic Record
 - General views of the exterior of the building, from all angles
 - The overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas
 - Detailed photography of internal and external fixtures and fittings

2.1.2 The buildings will be assessed using historic maps, photographs and records in order to establish the historic significance of the standing and formerly standing buildings.

2.2 General Standards

2.2.1 All staff will be suitably qualified and experienced and a brief CV will be included in this WSI and will be familiar with the archaeological background to the site. In addition they will be aware of the work to be undertaken.

2.2.2 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) should be made for all work, using pro forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate scale plans and section drawings should be drawn at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate.

2.2.3 The recorded buildings should be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area.

2.2.4 A photographic record should be taken in colour transparency and black and white

print and should include a clearly visible metric scale in each frame.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.0.1 Middleton is a small hamlet, part of the township called North Middleton in the medieval records. It lies in the parish of Hartburn and along with with Todrig township it comprised an area of 1,128 acres. It contained 88 inhabitants in 1801, which had risen to 104 by 1851. A church, recorded as a small Chapel, belonging to the United Secession Church of Scotland was erected, in 1815, on a site given by William Coull, Esq. The present building is recorded as having been constructed in 1877 and was Grade II listed in 1986.

5.0 RECORDING OF THE STANDING BUILDINGS

5.0.1 The standing building assessment was undertaken by Graeme Young on the 9th October 2013. The structure is constructed throughout from sandstone, in what appears to be a single build, though with more finely dressed stone blocks forming the front facade. There is no evidence for any major structural alterations to the fabric and its internal features appear to have been little altered since it ceased to be used as a church (Figure 3).

5.0.2 The building is rectangular, measuring 14.5m north-north-east to south-south-west by 9m west-north-west to east-south-east. It was constructed as part of a single range, along with with the adjoining house to its immediate east. The building lies on a distinct slope, such that the southern end of the building is sufficiently raised above ground level, compared to the north, that a small cellar is present. A modest scarsement in the west wall marks the level of the main floor (Plate 3). It has a simple pitched slate roof, oriented with the long wall of the building and is lit by seven tall narrow windows, 0.68m wide and *c.* 2.0 to 2.3m tall, depending on their lintel styles and two small circular windows. Two rectangular windows, with pronounced Gothic points, are present in each of the short walls, along with two small circular windows, located centrally and high in the wall (Plates 1 and 2). The remaining three windows penetrate the west wall and display very modest points in their lintels. Each of the windows contain leadlights, formed from small glass panes and supporting comes. Some stained glass panes show colouration and the comes are arranged to create a modest decorative display. The two small round windows, in the end walls, are decorated with simple crosses (Plate 6). The masonry comprises, randomly coursed, roughly squared blocks from 0.45m by 0.3m down to 0.16m by 0.9m. The blocks are dressed with a square ended chisel with those of the front facade representing a finer finish than those on the other sides.

5.0.3 The cellar is reached by a short flight of steps that descend parallel to the external south wall. A simple square-headed door leads into the room, which is undecorated plain masonry (Plate 4). A boiler, presumably an original feature to heat the church, is reported to have stood at the east end. The cellar is lit by two small rectangular windows, in the south and west walls. The main floor is reached by a short flight of straight steps through a simple rectangular door set in the middle of the south wall. The lintel displays a modest decoration.

5.0.4 Internally the main room, cross divided by a simple timber partition, is plaster rendered and displays few decorative features beyond the raised dais in the floor and simple decorative panel at the north end of the building (Plate 7). These features clearly indicate the location of the church's altar; presumably removed when the building ceased its original function.

6.0 IMPORTANCE OF THE STANDING BUILDINGS

6.0.1 The stone church at Middleton represents a modest chapel entirely consistent with the small hamlet in which it stands. The nonconformist orientation being its only unusual feature. Its build is entirely consistent with the reported late 19th century construction date. The building is likely representative of a late post-medieval, Gothic revival, building tradition not uncommon within Northumberland (Rosman 2003).

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

7.0.1 The church at Middleton, being a Congregational church was constructed as part of the nonconformist movement, explaining its idiosyncratic orientation. It appears to represent a modestly decorated example of the dissenting Gothic style of 19th century neo-Gothic architecture and as such represents part of a wider building tradition, common in the later 19th century.

Text: Graeme Young
BRP 13/05b

October 2013

REFERENCES

Published and unpublished sources

- English Heritage *Archaeology Division Research Agenda*, 1997.
English Heritage *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*, 2006.
English Heritage *Understanding Historic Buildings. A guide to good recording practice* (EH product code 51125) 2006.
IFA 2008 *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Building or Structures*.
IFA 2008 *Code of Conduct*
Rosman, Doreen 2003 *The Evolution of the English Churches, 1500-2000*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

<http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/en-238442-congregational-church-wallington-demesne>

Armstrong's map of 1769

Fryer's map of 1820

Greenwood's map of 1828

1st Edition Ordnance Survey, 25 inch to the mile

2nd Edition Ordnance Survey, 25 inch to the mile

3rd Edition Ordnance Survey, 25 inch to the mile

APPENDIX I

THE CHURCH, MIDDLETON, NORTHUMBERLAND

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR THE RECORDING OF THE STANDING BUILDING

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 This document has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project for Mr Colin Snowball during September 2013. The document sets out the written scheme of investigation for the building recording of the church at Middleton, near Hartburn, Northumberland.
- 1.0.2 The written scheme of investigation details the proposed scheme of work to be undertaken as part of the mitigation prior to the alteration of the building in line with the brief issued by the County Council Conservation Team. The Listed Building Consent number is: CM/20100249

1.1 Location

- 1.1.1 The church lies on the east side of the small hamlet of Middleton on the north side of the unclassified road between Wallington and Hartburn. Middleton lies some 11km to the west of Mitford, which itself is 4km to the west of the County Town of Morpeth, Northumberland (NGR NZ 0615 4061) (Figures 1 and 2).

2.0 METHODOLOGY

- 2.0.1 As specified by the brief issued by the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team the evaluation of the standing building will be undertaken including the compilation of a photographic and written record of the standing structure. The building recording will conform with Section 3 of the English Heritage Guidelines and include particular reference to the character and setting of the building its fixtures and fitting and the identification of any special features.
- 2.0.2 All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) (IFA 2000) and will follow the IFA Standard and Guidance for building recording (IFA 1994) as well as that of English Heritage, Understanding Historic Buildings, A guide to good recording practice (EH 2006).

2.1 Building assessment

- 2.1.1 The building recording will evaluate the archaeological potential and significance of the buildings based on information derived from:

A written account.

- Precise details of the location of the building, by name or street number, civil parish or town.
- The National Grid reference of the building and details of listing or scheduling
- The date when the record was made and the name of the recorder
- A summary of the building's plan, type and purpose, materials used in construction and so far as is possible, the date of construction
- The names of architects, builders, patrons and owners (if known)

Drawn Record

- A scale plan of all floors as existing, showing the form and location of any structural features of historic significance (including blocked windows and doors, former fireplace openings, masonry joints, changes in internal levels, internal fixtures and fittings)

Photographic Record

- General views of the exterior of the building, from all angles
- The overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas
- Detailed photography of internal and external fixtures and fittings

2.1.2 The buildings will be assessed using historic maps, photographs and records in order to establish the historic significance of the standing and formerly standing buildings.

2.2 General Standards

2.2.1 All staff will be suitably qualified and experienced and a brief CV will be included in this WSI and will be familiar with the archaeological background to the site. In addition they will be aware of the work to be undertaken.

2.2.2 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) should be made for all work, using pro forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate scale plans and section drawings should be drawn at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate.

2.2.3 The recorded buildings should be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area.

2.2.4 A photographic record should be taken in colour transparency and black and white print and should include a clearly visible metric scale in each frame.

3.0 REPORT COMPILATION

3.0.1 The report will be compiled in accordance with English Heritage MoRPHE guidelines (English Heritage 2008).

The report will include:

Northumberland County Council Conservation Team reference, OASIS reference number and an 8 figure grid reference

Description of the results of the Standing Building Recording

An assessment of the importance of the standing buildings individually and as a group of buildings

Where possible an assessment of the impact on the visual setting of Scheduled Monuments, Listed buildings, Historic Parks and Gardens and Historic battlefields and unscheduled archaeological sites of national or regional importance

3.1 Illustrations

- A location plan of the site at an appropriate scale of at least 1:10 000 will be included
- A location plan of the extent of the proposed development area at a recognisable planning scale, and located with reference to the national grid
- Copies of all maps described in the text with the extent of the proposed development area marked on each map. Where copyright prevents the inclusion of a map in the report, a hand-drawn copy will be provided. Where possible historic maps will be transcribed either by hand or digitally, as an overlay on to the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey to allow details to be assessed in relation to recent features.
- A plan with the extent of the proposed development area and showing the location of all archaeological sites, Scheduled Monuments, Listed buildings, Historic Parks and Gardens and Historic battlefields in the proposed development area and the wider study area will be included
- Plans, Drawings and photographs appropriate to the building recording required

3.2 Site archive

- 3.2.1 An archive containing a copy of the report and original illustrations and tracings that are not included in the report and digital copies of the report and illustrations will be deposited in the appropriate local museum within 6 months of the completion of the post excavation work.
- 3.2.2 An online OASIS form will be completed for the project as part of the post-excavation assessment process.
- 3.2.3 The site archive will be deposited with the appropriate museum within six months of the completion of the report.
- 3.2.4 A summary of the recording report will be submitted to the County Council Conservation Team for inclusion in 'Archaeology in Northumberland' by December 2009.

4.0 PERSONNEL

- 4.0.1 The designated project manager Graeme Young, is one of the five directors of the Bamburgh Research Project. A graduate of Newcastle University, with 25 years of experience in field archaeology including directing a number of excavations of urban medieval sites in Newcastle and Durham. He is an Associate Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 4.0.3 Additional field staff, with appropriate archaeological experience, will be engaged as required.

5.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 5.0.1 The Bamburgh Research Project complies with the 1974 Health and Safety Act and its subsequent amendments in all its operations. The SCAUM manual and the Bamburgh Research Project Health and Safety Policy Document is followed for all site works. A designated and appropriately trained first aider is present at all times during working hours. A First Aid kit, Accident Book and telephone are provided for each project. Safety footwear is mandatory on all excavation sites. Where required safety helmets and reflective jackets are provided.
- 5.0.2 All staff undergo a safety induction prior to commencing work on site. A written risk assessment is undertaken specific for each site. The safety assessment is reviewed on a daily basis and changes to the working conditions monitored continually during adverse weather conditions.



Figure 1 Location plan

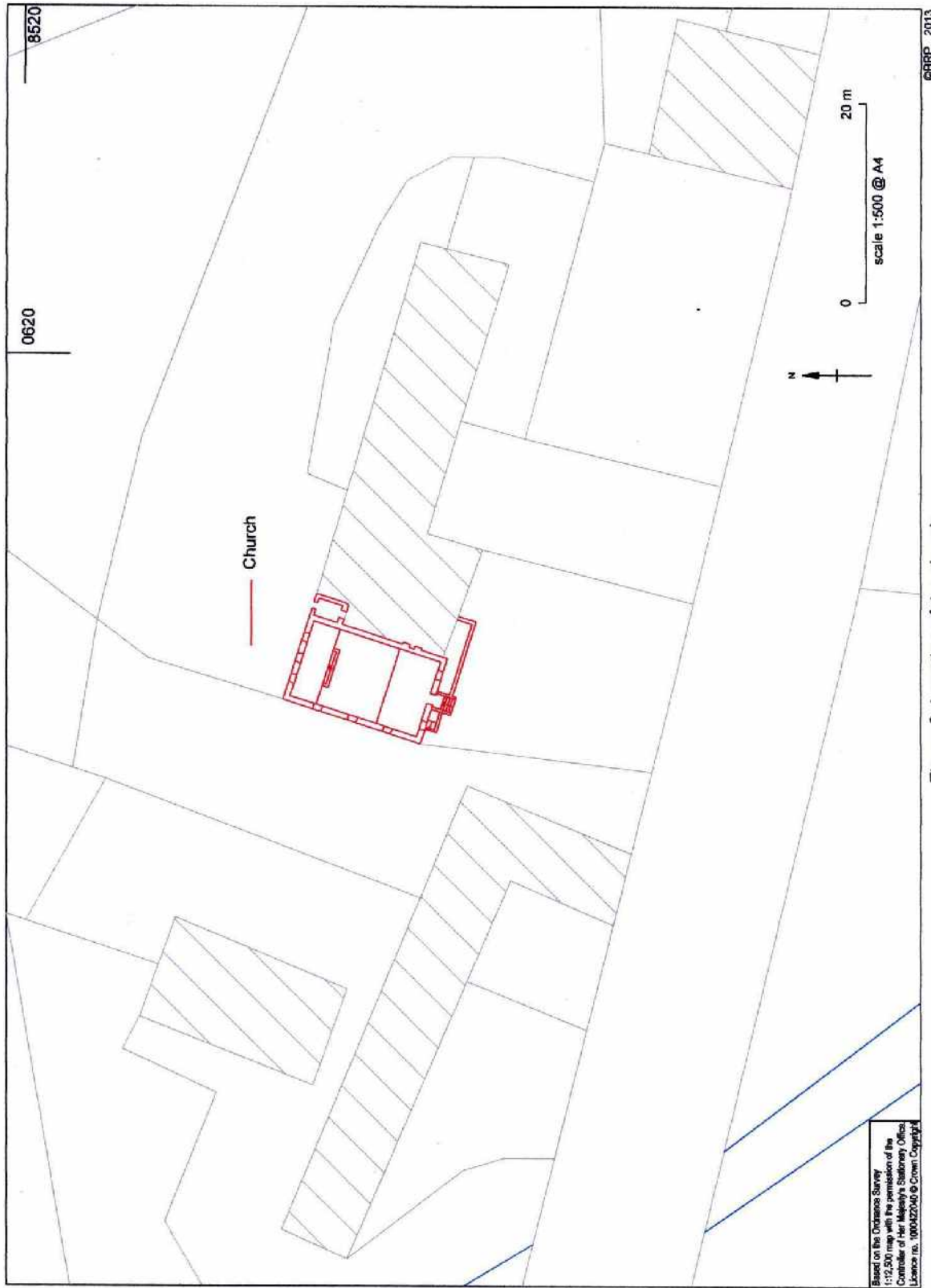


Figure 2 Location of the church

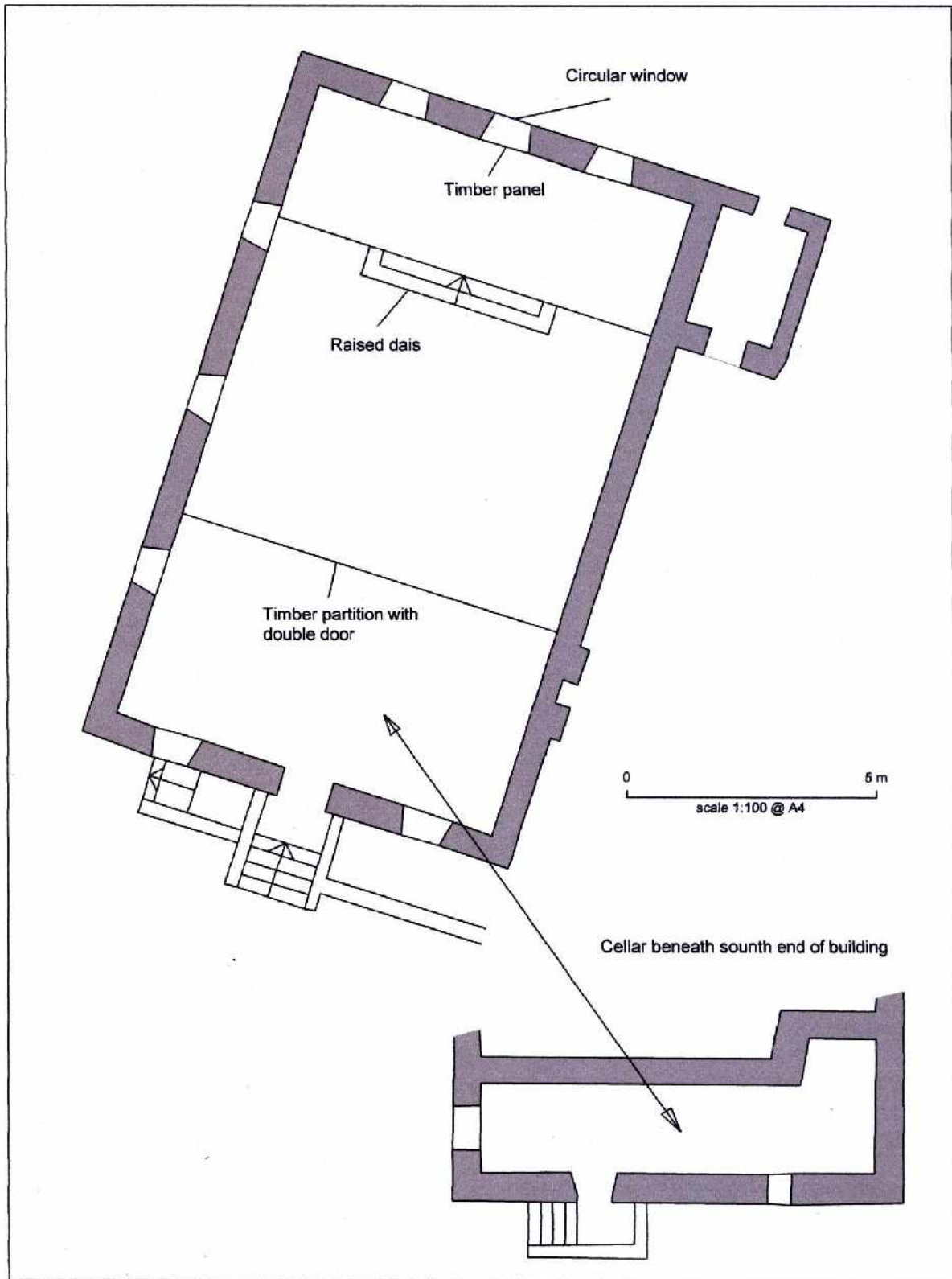


Figure 3 Standing Building

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Plate 1: North facing external elevation



Plate 2: Close-up of windows in the north facing elevation



Plate 3: West facing elevation



Plate 4: Internal view of the small cellar, facing east



Plate 5: South facing, front elevation from the south-east



Plate 6: Internal view of north wall, facing north



Plate 7: Internal view of north wall, showing dais end of the hall and the timber panelling