

**Land to Rear of Dolgaer Houses,
Pontsticill, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 2UH
PL/AP/18/16081/FUL**

Archaeological Watching Brief



**Prepared
for**

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Summary

Comisiynwyd Archeoleg Mynydd Du Cyf gan Mr a Mrs Cox o 2 Lôn Penfyddlwyn, Bryn Llanelly, Y Fenni, NP7 OLE i gwblhau cofnod adeiladu hanesyddol a briff gwylio archeolegol yn ystod gwrthgloddiau a chloddio pyllau prawf sy'n gysylltiedig â chodi annedd newydd ac adeiladu dau le parcio ar y tir y tu ôl l'r dai Dolgaer, Pontsticill, Merthyr Tudful, CF48 2UH (PL/AP/18/16081/FUL).

Datgelodd cloddiau olion tŷ o ganol y 19^{eg} ganrif, y nodwyd ei bresenoldeb ar fapio hanesyddol a ffotograffau o'r ardal leol. Goroesodd yr olion hyn i uchder y llawr cyntaf ac roeddent yn cynnwys wal flaen a chefn, pâr o waliau talcen, pâr o waliau rhaniad mewnol a sawl nodwedd in situ sy'n diffinio llawr gwaelod yr adeilad. Dangoswyd bod y rhan hon o'r tŷ yn cynrychioli'r chwarter gwasanaeth gwreiddiol. Darganfuwyd hefyd mewn cysylltiad â'r talcen gogleddol simnai gyfan a grisiau troellog, tra dadorchuddiwyd wal gynnal, a oedd yn diffinio iard i'r de o'r tŷ, a phalmant patio allanol.

Dangosodd ymchwiliadau, cyn ei ddymchwel, fod meddiannaeth y tŷ wedi ymestyn i ddiwedd yr 20^{fed} ganrif. Datgelodd y cloddiau hefyd fod lefelau is yr adeilad wedi'u diffinio gan o leiaf bedwar cam adeiladu ac adnewyddu, a oedd yn cynnwys adeiladu'r tŷ a'r iard allanol; codi wal raniad ganolog; mewnlenwi cornel dde-orllewinol y llawr cyntaf, a oedd o bosibl yn caniatáu i lawr carreg fedd gael ei gynnal ar lefel ail lawr; ac ailaddurno'r llawr gwaelod yng nghanol canol diwedd yr 20^{fed} ganrif.

Mae'r adroddiad presennol yn nodi canlyniadau'r cofnod adeiladu hanesyddol a'r briff gwylio archeolegol yn unol â Safon a Chanllawiau ar gyfer Ymchwilio Archeolegol a Chofnodi Adeiladau neu Strwythurau Sefydlog (2014) a Safon a Chanllawiau ar gyfer Briff Gwylio Archeolegol (2014) gan y Sefydliad Siartredig Archeolegwyr a Deall Adeiladau Hanesyddol: Canllaw i Arfer Cofnodi Da (2016) gan Lloegr Hanesyddol.

Black Mountains Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Mr and Mrs Cox of 2 Penfyddlwyn Lane, Llanelly Hill, Abergavenny, NP7 OLE to carry out an archaeological watching brief during ground works and test pitting associated with the erection of a new dwelling and the construction of two parking spaces at Land to Rear of Dolgaer Houses, Pontsticill, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 2UH (PL/AP/18/16081/FUL).

The investigations uncovered the remains of a mid-19th century house, the presence of which was indicated on historic mapping and historic photographs of the local area. These remains survived to first storey height and included the front and rear walls, gable end walls, internal partition walls and several in situ features defining the ground floor of the building. The surviving ground floor area of the house represented the original service quarters. Also discovered in association with the northern gable was an intact chimney and spiral staircase, while a retaining wall, which defined a yard to the south of the house, and exterior flagstone paving were uncovered.

The investigations demonstrated that, prior to its demolition, occupation of the house extended into the mid-20th century and was locally known as Bryn Teg. The excavations also revealed that the lower levels of the building were defined by at least four phases of construction and renovation, which included the building of the house and exterior yard; the erection of a central partition wall; the infilling of the ground floor's southwestern corner,

which possibly allowed for a flagstone floor to be supported at first floor level; and the redecoration of the ground floor during the mid–20th century.

The present report sets out the results of the archaeological watching brief in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2014) and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation. The programme of photogrammetric building recording was implemented according to the standards set out in Historic England's Photogrammetric Applications for Cultural Heritage Guidance for Good Practice (Published 2017). The aerial (drone) survey was undertaken in accordance with the rules and regulations contained within Air Navigation Order 2016 and its 2018 and 2019 amendments.

Copyright and Acknowledgements

The project was managed by Richard Lewis BA MCIfA. The fieldwork was undertaken by Richard Lewis, Dr Rhys Morgan PhD and Abbi Wootten-Brooks. The report was written by Dr Rhys Morgan. The illustrations were prepared by Richard Lewis and Dr Rhys Morgan. The photogrammetric models were prepared by Richard Lewis. The author would like to thank Mr and Mrs Cox for their support throughout the project. The author would also like to thank Mr Graham Williams and Mr Mike Burns who provided information on the structure and habitation of Bryn Teg during the mid–late twentieth century.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Black Mountains Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Mr and Mrs Cox of 2 Penyffyddlwyn Lane, Llanelly Hill, Abergavenny, NP7 0LE to carry out an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the erection of a new dwelling and the construction of two parking spaces at Land to Rear of Dolgaer Houses, Pontsticill, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 2UH (PL/AP/18/16081/FUL).
- 1.1.2 Planning permission was granted by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority on 4th October 2018 (PL/AP/18/16081/FUL) in accordance with the requirements set out in Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Condition 6 of the approved planning consent required a programme of work in the form of an archaeological watching brief.
- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was previously prepared by Black Mountains Archaeology Ltd (Morgan 2021), which indicated the potential to encounter Post-medieval settlement and agricultural activity, particularly that related a series of structures indicated on the historic mapping of the local area.
- 1.1.4 During the archaeological watching brief, the remains of a 19th century house were uncovered, which survived to first storey level. These remains married well with one the buildings noted on the historic Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping of Pontsticill, particularly the 1884 edition. The remains of the 19th century house was subjected to a full preservation by record.
- 1.1.5 The present report sets out the results of the archaeological watching brief in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014) and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation* (2014). The programme of photogrammetric building recording was implemented according to the standards set out in Historic England's *Photogrammetric Applications for Cultural Heritage Guidance for Good Practice* (Published 2017). The aerial (drone) survey was undertaken in accordance with the rules and regulations contained within *Air Navigation Order 2016* and its 2018 and 2019 amendments.

1.2 Objectives

- 1.2.1 The *definition* of an archaeological **Watching Brief** as set out by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists* (CIfA) is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.
- 1.2.2 The *purpose* of an archaeological watching brief (as defined CIfA 2014) is:
 - to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.

- to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.
- 1.2.3 A watching brief is not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.
- 1.2.4 The objective of a watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on a site.
- 1.2.5 (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief, published 2014).
- 1.2.6 The *definition* of archaeological **Excavation** as set out by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists* (CIfA) is a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design.
- 1.2.7 The *purpose* of excavation is to examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives, to seek a better understanding of and compile a lasting record of that resource, to analyse and interpret the results, and disseminate them.
- 1.2.8 (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation published 2014).

1.3 Legislative Framework

- 1.3.1 Planning legislation is set out in the *Town and Country Planning Act 1990*. *Planning Policy Wales (PPW 11th Edition)* sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. Chapter 6 sets out the Welsh Government's policy towards the historic environment. It states "*The planning system must take into account the Welsh Government's objectives to protect, conserve, promote and enhance the historic environment as a resource for the general well-being of present and future generations. The historic environment is a finite, non-renewable and shared resource and a vital and integral part of the historical and cultural identity of Wales. It contributes to economic vitality and culture, civic pride, local distinctiveness and the quality of Welsh life. The historic environment can only be maintained as a resource for future generations if the individual historic assets are protected and conserved. Cadw's published Conservation Principles highlights the need to base decisions on an understanding of the impact a proposal may have on the significance of an historic asset.*" (PPW 2021, 126).
- 1.3.2 Underpinning PPW are a series of legislative powers and TANs. The *Planning (Wales) Act 2015* sets out a series of legislative changes to deliver reform of the planning system in Wales, to ensure that it is fair, resilient and enables development. The 2015 Act also introduces a mandatory requirement to undertake pre-application

consultation for certain types of development. The *Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2016* defines in *Schedule 4(l)* the parameters and definitions for the requirement of pre-application consultation by Welsh Ministers, particularly in response to the effect of statutory designated monuments, buildings, and parks and gardens.

- 1.3.3 Advice on archaeology and buildings in the planning process was contained in Welsh Office Circular 60/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology and Welsh Office Circular 1/98 Planning and the Historic Environment, which updated Welsh Office Circular 61/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas following the Shimizu (U.K.) Ltd. v. Westminster City Council Judgement (February 1997). Detailed advice on Environmental Impact Assessment is contained within Welsh Office Circular 11/99 Environmental Impact Assessment. Following adoption of the TAN 24 Historic Environment on 31st May 2017, Welsh Office Circulars 60/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology; 61/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas; and 1/98 Planning and the Historic Environment have been cancelled.
- 1.3.4 Any works affecting an ancient monument and its setting are protected through implementation of the *Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*. In Wales the 1979 Act has been strengthened by *The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016*. The 2016 Act makes important improvements for the protection and management of the Welsh historic environment. It also stands at the centre of an integrated package of secondary legislation (Annexes 1-6), new and updated planning policy and advice, and best-practice guidance on a wide range of topics (*TAN 24 Historic Environment*). Taken together, these support and promote the careful management of change in the historic environment in accordance with current conservation philosophy and practice.
- 1.3.5 The *Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act 1979* and *The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016* sets out a presumption in favour of preservation *in-situ* concerning sites and monuments of national importance (scheduled/listed), and there exists in the current *Planning Policy Wales (Chapter 6)* a presumption in favour of preservation *in-situ* of all types of heritage assets.

1.4 Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.4.1 The proposed development (Figure 1) is centred on NGR SO 05688 11221 and is located in the village of Pontsticill, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 2UH. The proposed development lies to the east of Main Road which runs NE/SW through the centre of the village. It is located immediately south of the Dolgaer Houses, and immediately the northwest of Ivy Cottage. The area is bounded to the east by open pasture. The nearest church to the development area is St Gwynno, located approximately 1.4km to the southwest in Vaynor.
- 1.4.2 The superficial geological deposits within the proposed development comprise peat and glacial till (in the form of Devensian Diamicton) formed up to 3 million years ago during the Quaternary period. The glacial till also contains Millstone Grit sandstone boulders, which were displaced from the surrounding uplands via glacial activity. These superficial deposits overlie bedrock comprising sandstone and argillaceous

rocks of the Brownstones Formation, which formed between 393–418 million years ago during the Devonian period (British Geological Survey 2021).

1.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 1.5.1 The village of Pontsticill forms part of the community of Vaynor within the county borough of Merthyr Tydfil. It is situated within the Taf Fechan valley on the southern perimeter of the Brecon Beacons National Park. The village is bounded along its eastern edge by the Taf Fechan tributary, which feeds into the River Taff further south. Also situated to the east of the village is regenerated Ancient Woodland. The name 'Pontsticill' is composed of the Welsh words 'pont', meaning 'bridge', and 'sticill', likely meaning 'stile'. However, Pontsticill has been recorded in the 17th and 18th centuries as 'Pont Stucketh' (RR 1741). A 1675 road map detailing the journey from Chester to South Wales (*West Chester to Llanbadr Vunneth*) also makes reference to 'Pont Stucketh'.
- 1.5.2 In the wider area, a Bronze Age cairnfield (SAMGm569/GGAT01357m) comprising four cairns is located to the west of Pontsticill village. Three of these cairns were recorded as unstructured, although the Scheduled Cairn 4 was recorded as constituting a ring cairn as it was surrounded by a turf-covered ring-shaped bank (Evans and Lewis 2003, 15, 36-41). Also within the vicinity of Pontsticill, is a possible prehistoric field system comprising a collection of low banks constructed from limestone blocks and boulders, now covered in soil and turf (Egloff 2009).
- 1.5.3 During the Roman period, the area surrounding Pontsticill and Vaynor represented an important travel route, as evidenced by the presence of Castell Collen Roman road. This road lead from the fort at Cardiff in the south to Brecon in the north via the forts at Caerphilly and Penydarren in between. Another Roman road may have run E/W through the local area, which possibly extended east to the fort at Abergavenny (*Gobannium*) and west to the fort at Coelbren.
- 1.5.4 The local area during the medieval period was defined primarily by dispersed agricultural settlement. The medieval parish of Vaynor, to which present day Pontsticill belongs, was entirely rural. Morlais Castle to the south of Pontsticill is a major medieval landmark, constructed by Gilbert de Clare, the 7th Earl of Gloucester, towards the end of the 13th century. In 1294, the castle was captured by Madog ap Llywelyn, one of the leaders of the Welsh Revolt. Although the castle was temporarily retained by the English Crown in 1295 (Kenyon 2010, 126), due to constant pressure from local militias and its remote location the castle never became a full place of residence and its construction was likely never completed. Morlais Castle was also associated with the Battle of Maesvaynor, which took place in 1291, possibly due to local Welsh populations contesting the construction of the castle itself. Also situated on the southern outskirts of Pontsticill are the remains of medieval motte, known as Cae Burdydd or 'Butcher's Field'.
- 1.5.5 The Pontsticill Reservoir situated approximately 3.2km northeast of the village, is an important landmark within the local area, constructed between 1923–7 in order to provide a water supply to Merthyr Tydfil. This reservoir was constructed on the southern edge of the pre-existed Pentwyn Reservoir, built in 1858. The Pontsticill Reservoir incorporates a dam on its south side, comprising a clay bund with a pitched stone revetment and stone parapet. It is also connected to a filter house with

associated water treatment works and compensation basin. The construction of this reservoir was accompanied by seven other reservoirs belonging to the 19th and 20th centuries, all situated just north of Merthyr Tydfil. On the eastern edge of the Pontsticill Reservoir is the site of a former arched railway bridge, of sneaked masonry construction, which formed part of the Brecon, Newport and Merthyr Railway, constructed in the 1860s but closed in the 1960s. This railway eventually leads to the Pontsarn viaduct, situated to the southwest of Vaynor, which is another important landmark, built in 1866. One of the primary purposes of this railway was to transport limestone to Dowlais Ironworks from the quarries around Morlais Castle and on Merthyr Common, and the line that passes through Pontsticill was opened in 1864 (Hopwood 1918). However, this railway was preceded by a far older tramroad that supplied Dowlais Ironworks with limestone from the nearby Twynau Gwynion quarry (Lewis 1975). Many other tramroads were constructed during this period for the purposes of transporting limestone from the quarries surrounding Pontsticill to elsewhere (Roberts and Jones 2006). One of these tramroads formed part of passenger service, which linked Pontsticill to Merthyr Tydfil.

- 1.5.6 The Gurnos Quarry Leat is another feature of significant archaeological importance that defines the local landscape. Constructed in 1825, this leat was fed by the Taf Fechan tributary and extended c1.6km southward towards Cyfarthfa. Initially, this leat was constructed in order to provide a water source to the ornamental lake at Cyfarthfa Castle (home of the Crawshay family) but was later used to provide water and hydraulic power to the Cyfarthfa Ironworks.
- 1.5.7 The nearest surviving church to Pontsticill is St Gwynno, located approximately 1.4km to the southwest in Vaynor. Construction of St Gwynno was completed in 1870 and it was designed by the architect G.E. Robinson of Cardiff at the behest of the Merthyr Tydfil-based ironmaster Richard Thompson Crawshay. The church was elaborately designed with multi-coloured 'cray paving' stonework, red pantile tiles on its roof, and features sizable buttresses on its south side (Newman 1995, 643). The churchyard of St Gwynno, which was built on a slope, faces the remains of an older church or chapel to the west, likely medieval in date. Hy Brasail, an Italianate villa constructed within Vaynor in 1912 and named after the mythical phantom island of Irish legend, is also of interest. The villa was constructed around a pre-existing late 19th century farmhouse, and includes some distinctive Italian-style features, including a pair of sizable belvederes.
- 1.5.8 **Registered landscapes, parks and gardens**
- 1.5.9 The village of Pontsticill is situated on the outskirts of the Merthyr Tydfil Historic Landscape to the south, included on the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (HLW (MGL) 2). This area is characterised primarily by its late 18th and 19th century industrial sites and features, namely its collieries, ironworks, tramroads, early terraced housing, as well as Cyfarthfa Castle, constructed by and for the Crawshay family in 1824. The ironworks are of particular historical significance, which include the Dowlais, Cyfarthfa (and Ynysfach), Plymouth and Penydarren Ironworks, all founded in the late 18th century. The Dowlais Ironworks was central to the development of the Bessemer process of converting pig and cast iron into steel, as these ironworks were the first business in Britain to license this process in 1865 (Franks *et al.* 2003, 19). The Dowlais Ironworks was important to the development of

the rail industry in particular, as it was here, through implementing the Bessemer process, that the first steel railway tracks were manufactured (Wilkins 1903, 294). The mining and transport of steam coal was also essential to this landscape's history, as demonstrated mainly by the Clyn-Mil and Wernlas opencast mines, but also by the Glamorganshire canal, via which coal and other materials could be transported to the docks at Cardiff Bay and Barry in the south. Beyond its industrial significance, the Merthyr Tydfil Historic Landscape was also an important religious, commercial and administrative centre during the pre-industrial periods of the 17th and 18th centuries.

1.5.10 Cartographic and photographic evidence

- 1.5.11 According to the 1885 OS map (*Brecknockshire XLVI.NW*) a Roman road runs along the east edge of Pontsticill, which also respects the eastern edge of the Taf Fechan tributary. No evidence of an agger or other earthwork has been identified so this route, a spur from the Cardiff to Castell Collen road (RR621), remains hypothetical (Burnham and Davies 2010, 325–6). The medieval chapel of Capel Taf Fechan has been recorded as occupying the west bank of the Taf Fechan tributary, which was later flooded during the construction of the Pontsticill Reservoir (Silvester *et al.* 2011). No trace of the chapel survives, and its precise date and structure is unknown. From at least the medieval period, Pontsticill and its immediate environs was occupied by small farming communities (hafodau). By the time of the 1885 OS map (*Brecknockshire XLVI.NW*), Pontsticill had developed into a village proper, with its own school, public house and post office, while small-scale industry is also present in the form of a corn mill and a lime kiln to the south.
- 1.5.12 The 1842 Tithe Map (*Plan of the Parish of Vaynor in the County of Brecon*) records the development area as being occupied by a pair of small rectangular houses, now demolished, and associated gardens. These buildings were situated within Land Parcel 582, which is recorded in the 1842 apportionment as being a meadow belonging to William Jenkins and Phillip Watkins. The northernmost house was situated in an area now occupied by the Dolgaer Houses, which first appear on the 1884 Ordnance Survey (OS) Map (*Brecknockshire XLVI.NW*). However, the southernmost house appears to fall directly within the development area. The appearance of Dolgaer Houses on the 1884 OS map coincides with the disappearance of the two houses originally located within Land Parcel 582. In their place are two new buildings, one sub-rectangular in form, situated in the north-west corner of Land Parcel 582, the other broadly square in form but much smaller, situated in the north-east corner of Land Parcel 582. By the time of the publication of the 1901 OS map (*Glamorgan VI.NW*), the small square building has gone, leaving only the sub-rectangular building in place. This sub-rectangular building is still present in this location in the 1953 OS map (*Brecknockshire XLVI.NW*) but the building had gone by the publication of the 1978 OS Map.
- 1.5.13 A 1948 aerial photograph of the Pontsticill (Figure 2) shows that a sizeable rectangular shaped house occupied the western edge of the proposed development at this time. The front of this house is seen to face the NE/SW running track that passes the western edge of Dolgaer Houses and which eventually curves eastwards, leading to Cwm Farm to the southeast. This track is still intact today. The 1948 photograph also shows that the house was accompanied by a small yard, roughly square in plan, situated on the southern exterior of the house. The 1953 aerial photograph of Pontsticill (Figure 3) is far clearer. Within this photograph the house still occupied the present proposed

development area and is seen to have a pair of chimney stacks protruding from its southern and northern gable end walls. The 1972 aerial photograph of Pontsticill (Figure 4) shows that by this time the house had been demolished.

- 1.5.14 A photograph provided by a local resident also gives some indication as to the position and form of the house in the years prior to its demolition (Figure 5). A precise date for this photograph could not be determined. However, in the photograph the small field situated to the east of Dolgaer Houses is being used for cultivation, which marries well with the 1972 aerial photograph (Figure 4). Prior to this date, this field was being used as a paddock, or is at least uncultivated, as indicated by both the 1948 and 1953 aerial photographs (Figures 2 and 3). Further to this, a small box-shaped structure can be seen on the photograph, possibly constituting a shed or other such ancillary building, which also appears on the 1972 aerial photograph but not on the 1953 or 1948 aerial photographs. Therefore, this photograph must date between 1953 and 1972. Within the photograph, it is possible to observe that both gable-ends of the house incorporated within them a chimney stack each. It is also possible to observe that the house was constructed with a Palladian or symmetrical frontage, which is typical of 19th century houses of this type and size, and that the house was composed of three storeys. Written on the photograph in pen is the word 'Bryn', which serves as another indication that the house was known during the mid-20th century as 'Bryn Teg'.
- 1.5.15 According to two local residents of Pontsticill (Graham Williams and Mike Burns, the latter of which used to deliver newspapers to the house as a child), this house was known as 'Bryn Teg' during the mid-late 20th century. They also stated that during the mid-20th century the house was being rented by a roofer named Jack Andrews, who came to Pontsticill from East London. Also living at Bryn Teg was Jack's wife, as well as his son John and three daughters: Joan, Barbara and Pamela.

2 Methodology

- 2.1.1 The investigation comprised an archaeological watching brief during ground works and test pitting within the proposed development and the excavation of a 19th century house uncovered during the watching brief. Upon discovery of the house's rear (east) wall, a photogrammetric record of its surviving elevation was made. The remainder of the house was then excavated, partly by machine and partly by hand, in advance of a full photogrammetric record being conducted on all of the house's surviving elevations and internal features. These included the front (west) retaining wall; the southern gable end wall; the northern gable end wall, which included an *in-situ* chimney and spiral staircase; the rear (east) wall; and a pair of internal partition walls; and an external revetment wall, which supported an upper yard attached to the south side of the property.
- 2.1.2 The machine excavation of five test pits was also observed during the watching brief. Test Pits 1–2, situated towards the eastern half of the proposed development, were devoid of archaeological features, deposits and artefacts. Test Pit 3 contained a deposit of possible demolition material, likely associated with the demolition of the 19th century house. Test Pit 4 contained a thick deposit of garden soil and a cobbled surface associated with the exterior yard attached to the south of the 19th century house. Test Pit 5, situated towards the inside of the house' front (western) wall contained a thick deposit of demolition material associated with the later infilling of the house's ground floor. The basal deposits within all five test pits comprised a glacial deposits of Millstone Grit sandstone and reddish-brown silty clay.
- 2.1.3 Investigations of the house's interior identified at least four distinct phases of construction and renovation. The first comprised the construction of the house proper along with an exterior yard and flagstone floor, which occurred during the mid–late 19th century. The second comprised the erection of a central partition wall. The third comprised the erection of a secondary partition wall and the infilling of around one third of the house's ground floor with demolition material. This episode of infilling possibly occurred in order to facilitate the laying of an internal flagstone floor at first floor level. Although difficult to date precisely, phases two and three possibly also occurred during the mid–late 19th century. The fourth phase comprised the redecoration of the ground floor during the mid–late 20th century, which included, most notably, the laying of linoleum over the original flagstone flooring.
- 2.1.4 The archaeological recording techniques conformed to the best industry standard. All areas were excavated by machine followed by cleaned by hand. All deposits were recorded using a single continuous context numbering system pro forma (summarised in Appendix III). All contexts were drawn where necessary in section at a scale of 1:10 and in plan at a scale of 1:20. All contexts were photographed in digital using a Fujifilm FinePix S4800 super wide (30x) 24-720mm camera at 16mp with suitable scales. Both the interior and area immediately to the exterior of the house (and associated spoil) were surveyed with a Garrett Ace 200i metal detector with a 16.5 x 23cm PROformance search coil.
- 2.1.5 Aerial survey was carried out by UAV (drone) equipped with a Hasselblad 35mm equivalent 20mp, 1" sensor, 4k UHD camera. The ground investigations and aerial

survey were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum using an EMLID Reach GN55/ Glonass (GPS) Receiver and data logger with a 10mm tolerance. All 3D models were produced using proprietary photogrammetry software and aligned using known ground control points (GCPs). Dimensional control was then applied to each model and then reprocessed using the new parameters and optimised cameras to create dense point cloud of over 31 million points and high face count meshes with a mean RMS error of 0.7cm. Models were then exported to OBJ format. Five GCPs were used with a sub-20mm error margin to OSGB36 (National Grid) and a Ground Sampling Distance (GSD) of 0.15cm/pixel. High resolution orthographic renders (orthoplanes and orthomosaics) were exported and scaled in georeferenced raster (TIFF and JPEG) format.

- 2.1.6 The full photogrammetric model of the 19th century house can be viewed here: <https://p3d.in/UBYkb>.
- 2.1.7 All classes of finds have been retained (cleaned and catalogued) in appropriate conditions until arrangements for final deposition have been made, in line with the requirements of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (2014). When substantial quantities of undiagnostic, residual or modern material were recovered, an on-site recording and discard policy for these classes of find was employed. However, sufficient material was retained to understand the nature, date and function of the deposit from which it was recovered. Ownership will be retained by Mr and Mrs Cox. No items were recovered that are subject to *The Treasure Act 1996* (2003 as amended).
- 2.1.8 No deposits were encountered that were suitable for environmental recording and sampling according to the principles of Historic England's *Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology* (2011).
- 2.1.9 A digital copy of the report and archive will be supplied to the regional HER, the LPA and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. Submission of photogrammetric images acquired by drone to the RCAHMW will follow RCAHMW Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Policy.

3 Results

3.1 Stratigraphic Evidence

- 3.1.1 The investigations comprised the full excavation and preservation by record of Bryn Teg, formally a 19th century three storey house, and five site investigation test pits (Figures 5-8). The 19th century house was recorded with a blend of RTK GPS survey, photogrammetry (derived from both aerial and terrestrial cameras) and a descriptive account and phasing of the visible internal and external elevations, as well as its flooring and associated internal features. The remains of the 19th century house included the front (west) retaining wall; the southern gable end wall; the northern gable end wall, which included an *in situ* chimney breast and spiral staircase; the rear (east) wall; and a pair of internal partition walls. The north-facing elevation of an exterior retaining wall, which supported a rear yard to the south of the house, was also examined.
- 3.1.2 During the archaeological watching brief a series of deposits were recorded (Figure 7), which overlay the surviving structural features associated with the 19th century house. The first deposit encountered during the uncovering of the house was demolition deposit (001), which infilled the interior of the house's ground floor and was also seen to bank up against its eastern rear wall and southern gable end wall. This deposit comprised dark-brown silty clay with frequent demolition material throughout, including bricks, masonry, pottery sherds (19th–20th century in date), as well as other domestic items including watering cans and tin baths. This deposit may have derived from the demolition of the house itself, although it may also have come from elsewhere. Deposit (002) infilled the space between the two partition walls on the west side of the house's interior. This was deliberately deposited, possibly in order to support the weight of a flagstone floor at second-storey level (see below). It remains possible that the demolition material situated in between the southern gable end wall and the exterior retaining wall also constituted deposit (002) (also see below). In terms of composition deposit (002) was identical to (001) but with an absence of any finds, which were abundant in (001). Above the northern gable end wall, in line with the fireplace below, was a small stretch of roughly coursed masonry [003] comprising rustic sandstone blocks. This stretch of masonry was heavily disturbed and was surrounded by black humic soil suggestive of root damage. Above [003] was a small section of drystone walling [004], also comprising rustic sandstone blocks. This section of masonry originally formed part of the northern gable's outer face, which faced onto the back garden associated with Dolgaer Houses.
- 3.1.3 **The 19th century house**
- 3.1.4 In total, four phases of construction and refurbishment were recorded within the house. The first phase comprised the construction of the house and exterior yard (Figure 6). The second phase comprised the partitioning of the lower storey via the erection of a N/S running partition wall. The third phase comprised the infilling of the first storey's southwestern corner, which possibly allowed for a flagstone floor to be supported at second storey level. This episode of infilling was also accompanied by the erection of a second E/W running partition wall, which served to close off the newly infilled area from the rest of the ground floor. The fourth phase consisted of the redecoration of the ground floor, which included, most noticeably, the laying of

linoleum flooring over the original flagstone floor. At some point during the house's use, some later stretches of walling were added onto the northwest corner of the house, which formed the eastern boundary of the bridle path running N/S along the western edge of the house's frontage.

3.1.5 **Phase 1 (circa mid-late 19th century) (Figure 6-9, Plates 1-28)**

3.1.6 The initial phase of construction involved the erection of the house proper, a four walled rectangular structure with two gables located to the north and south respectively, a western fronted retaining wall and an eastern rear wall. Each of these walls was constructed using irregularly coursed sandstone masonry and bonded with grey lime mortar. The sandstone was local and may have been sourced from naturally rounded fluvial stones quarried from the Taff River Valley to the east or from glacial deposits found on-site. The interior faces of each of the walls were covered with white lime plaster and limewash. A retaining wall was erected to the south of the south gable at this time, which supported a yard to the south of the property. The retaining wall contained a thick deposit of garden soil (402), which underlay a much later cobbled surface (401), as observed in Test Pit 4 (see below).

3.1.7 **Front wall (Figure 6-9, Plates 1 and 24)**

3.1.8 The western front retaining wall was seen to be constructed directly above a series of naturally deposited Millstone Grit boulders. The wall was constructed to retain the N/S aligned bridle path. The retaining wall survived to 1.76m in height, the upper extent corresponding to the existing floor level of the bridle path. The wall also measured 6.61m in length x 0.52m in width. However, within Test Pit 5 the foundation of the wall was found to extend a further 0.09m below the ground floor level. The lower courses of a clearly defined threshold measuring c1.18m in width was observed in the centre of the wall, which likely demarcated the position of the principal doorway of the house. This principal doorway was accessed from the exterior bridle path.

3.1.9 **Rear wall (Figure 6-9, Plates 5, 7-12 and 27)**

3.1.10 The rear wall of the property measured c7.22m in length x 0.50m in width and had a maximum surviving height of 1.36m. A rear doorway was incorporated into the centre of this wall, measuring 0.83m in width. The maximum surviving height of this doorway was 0.87m. The northern reveal of this doorway had a discrete line of lime render applied to it, while aligned directly with this render on the opposing reveal was a small stone notch that protruded from the base of the reveal. Together, these features likely demarcated the position of the doorjamb's originally attached to the doorway's reveals. A total of three windows were also incorporated into this wall, two on the northern side of the rear doorway and one on the southern side, each measuring 0.6m wide. These windows were splayed. As the inner sills of these windows were notably deep, each measuring c0.2m in depth, forming a light well and they may have also acted as window seats. The outer sills of the two northernmost windows survived *in situ*, which comprised sandstone slabs measuring roughly 0.7m long x 0.18m wide x 0.1m thick. Three sizeable quoin stones were observed on the southern exterior edge of this rear wall, which were keyed into the masonry defining the eastern edge of the southern gable end wall. The quoin stones on the northern corner of this elevation were obscured by an ash tree.

3.1.11 Northern gable end wall (Figures 6–9, Plates 2, 4, 20, 21, 26 and 28)

3.1.12 The northern gable end wall of the house measured 4.7m in length x 1.8–2.2m in width and had a maximum surviving height of c2.8m. The exterior of the northern gable end wall defined the southern edge of the back garden attached to Dolgaer Houses. Here, the exterior façade was constructed using masonry, originally bonded with mortar (which was completely degraded upon excavation), that was covered in vegetation and rooting. At ground floor level, the preservation of this wall was notably high. It was seen to incorporate a chimney and associated fireplace. The surround of the fireplace comprised a sandstone lintel, measuring 1.02m in length, along with a pair of jambs constructed from coursed masonry. Between the outer edges of these jambs a hearthstone was observed, measuring c1.03m x 0.41m in plan, which comprised a flat sandstone slab. The distance from the base of the fireplace's lintel to the top of its hearth was 1.09m. The distance between its jambs was 0.7m. Its opening had a maximum depth of c0.35m. Within the opening of the fireplace was a small cast iron range cooker, which stood on a small plinth composed of coursed sandstone masonry. This range cooker was markedly simple in form and comprised a small oven and hot plate with an intact hinged door, heavily rusted, and a fire grate. The range was either coal- or wood-fired (or both). On the eastern side of the oven below the grate was a removable fret for the collection of ash. While the maker of the range could not be made out due to corrosion the range has parallels with similar range cookers located in the Stackhouse Square houses at the Blaeavon Ironworks. The range is likely to be contemporary with the construction of the house.

3.1.13 Attached to the western edge of the chimney breast and recessed directly into the north-western corner of the house was a spiral chimney staircase, which would have given access to the first floor of the house from the lower kitchen level. A total of eight steps survived *in situ*, which led upwards in clockwise fashion. These steps were formed of coursed masonry and were topped with treads comprising flat sandstone slabs. The recess within which this spiral staircase was constructed measured c1.9m x 1.4m in plan.

3.1.14 Southern gable end wall (Figures 6–9, Plates 13, 14, 16 and 25)

3.1.15 The southern gable end wall was only partially uncovered (eastern half) and measured c5m long x 0.6m wide. This wall had a surviving height of 1.17m. The remaining western portion was not excavated due to fears this would destabilise the bridleway. A side doorway was incorporated into this wall, measuring 0.7m wide x 0.5m deep, which had a maximum surviving height of 1.16m. Much like the doorway leading into the rear of the property, the reveals of this side doorway were bare, comprising coursed masonry. However, a pair of iron nails were observed penetrating the masonry of each reveal, perhaps indicating the point where a timber doorframe had been attached to them.

3.1.16 Interior of house (Figures 6–9, Plates 4, 5, 19, 20, 22 and 23)

3.1.17 The entirety of the surviving ground floor was laid with a series of sizeable interlocking flagstones. However, a small area directly on the inside of the rear (east) doorway measuring c1.1m x 0.4m in plan comprised coursed masonry, which directly abutted this flagstone flooring on its western side. This area of masonry likely demarcated the position of a small threshold. Directly underlying the flagstone floor was a thick

deposit of limecrete, which contained small lumps of unslaked lime and fragments of coal or clinker throughout. This limecrete deposit was observed as a result of heavy root damage that occurred near the rear doorway's threshold, which raised and displaced some of the flagstones in this area. A small split level was also observed towards the western edge of the fireplace, which was demarcated by a shallow step comprising a thin sandstone slab set on edge. This step effectively created a small, raised area, roughly rectangular in plan, which led onto the spiral staircase running up the western side of the chimney breast. All interior wall faces belonging to this phase were covered in a thin layer of white limewash, which contained small lumps of unslaked lime and fragments of fly ash. Around one-third of the ground floor could not be analysed due to the later erection of a pair of partition walls and the infilling of the space in between them with a large deposit of rubble and soil (002). This rubble and soil deposit was kept in place in order to support the partition walls that it abutted, which were at the time of excavation very unstable.

3.1.18 Exterior of house (Figures 6–9, Plates 8, 11, 12 and 14–18)

3.1.19 Beyond the rear doorway leading into the ground floor of the property and wrapping around its eastern and southern sides was a series of paving stones forming a flagstone floor. Towards the exterior of the eastern rear wall, the floor extended to c0.55m in width. Also incorporated into the floor on this side was an elongated flowerbed measuring 1.9m x 0.44m in plan. This flowerbed was framed by small sandstone slabs set on edge, which abutted the paving stones comprising the exterior floor. Towards the exterior of the southern gable end wall, this floor extended to c0.6m in width before terminating at a sizeable retaining wall that was seen to run E/W along the southern exterior of the house. This retaining wall was constructed from drystone masonry. Towards the side doorway leading into the ground floor of the house, this wall curved southward at a roughly 90-degree angle, before continuing beyond the limit of the safe excavation area. This retaining wall had a surviving height of 1.4m and its visible length (before curving southward) was c3m. Above this retaining wall was a mass of garden soil and overlying cobbled surface (as observed in Test Pit 4), which formed a small yard attached to the southern edge of the house. Towards the southern edge of the western reveal associated with the side doorway, a very large sandstone block was observed. The purpose of this block remains unknown, although given its size and weight, it was clearly deliberately placed above the flagstone floor running along the southern edge of the house, perhaps providing a toe for a more informal wall retaining the bridleway to the west.

3.1.20 Discussion

3.1.21 All surviving structural remains described above belonged to the ground floor of the house. The floor of the house was open in plan and represented the service quarters of the building, within which the kitchen, pantry or larder, scullery, dairy and coal or wood store may have been located. These are the kinds of rooms normally associated with a mid-19th century service quarters of the kind discovered here (York 2011, 29–31). The kitchen, or at least the main cooking area, was situated directly in front of the fireplace. The position of the pantry and other rooms were more difficult to determine. This determination was made all the more difficult by the fact that a large portion of the ground floor had been infilled with rubble at a later date. The main living quarters of the house was situated on the floor above the service quarters and could be

accessed from this level via the spiral staircase to the western side of the chimney breast. It was this upper floor that the principal doorway of the house opened into. Based on photographic evidence (Figure 2–5), it is apparent that the house incorporated a third storey above the living quarters – the sleeping quarters. A three-storey house of this size would have represented a fairly affluent building during the 19th century. In being constructed from locally sourced sandstone, this house represented a piece of vernacular architecture and was likely built by a contractor local to the area. However, in terms of its layout the house appears no different to those mid–late 19th century terraced or semi-detached houses situated in more urban areas (York 2011). It is apparent from excavations that this house was also built in a symmetrical Palladian style, which was very much in-keeping with the prevailing architectural styles of Victorian Britain.

3.1.22 Phase 2 (*circa* mid/late 19th–early 20th century)

3.1.23 Central partition wall (Figure 6, Plates 3, 6 and 13)

3.1.24 The second phase of activity is defined by the erection of a cN/S aligned partition wall measuring 4.2m long x 0.24m wide, which ran through the centre of the ground floor. The wall had a maximum surviving height of 1.3m. The erection of the partition wall subdivided the ground floor into an eastern and western half. However, as this wall terminated c1.2m to the south of the northern gable end wall, the ground floor of the house must have remained semi-open in plan. The alignment of this wall was offset by c10 degrees in relation to the front and rear walls of the property, meaning that the eastern half of the ground floor splayed slightly outwards to the north. This wall abutted (and was not keyed into) the inside of the southern gable end wall, near the eastern reveal of the ground floor's side (southern) doorway. The bond between this partition wall and the southern gable end wall was notably weak and some significant cracking was observed at the juncture between the two walls. White limewash had been applied to the western face of the partition wall. The erection of this partition wall likely derived from a desire by the occupants of the house to create a physical divide between the activities being performed within the service quarters. More specifically, it seems possible that this division demarcated a cold area within the ground of the house within which a larder could have been situated. It also seems possible that this division resulted in the creation of a storeroom that could be accessed from the exterior of the house, via the side (southern) doorway.

3.1.25 Phase 3 (*circa* mid/late 19th–early 20th century)

3.1.26 Secondary partition wall (Figure 6, Plates 1, 3, 6, and 24)

3.1.27 The third phase of activity associated with the ground floor of the house involved the erection of a second partition wall measuring 2.26m long x c0.58m wide, which was aligned E/W. It also had a surviving height of 1.25m. This wall abutted (and was not keyed into) the inner (eastern) face of the western front retaining wall. It also abutted the western face of the central partition wall towards its northern limit. However, this second partition wall failed to precisely line up with the northern return face of the central partition wall. As a result, a small section of masonry belonging to the latter wall, measuring c 0.07m deep, protruded beyond the western edge of the former wall. In conjunction with the central partition wall, the erection of this second partition wall effectively boxed off a large portion of the ground floor, which measured c2.3m x 3.3m

in plan. The entire area between these partition walls was infilled with rubble deposit (002).

- 3.1.28 This episode of infilling not only put an end to the use of this part of the ground floor, but it also rendered the side (southern) doorway useless. The excavations revealed that the southern face of the second partition wall comprised unfaced masonry, confirming that this side of the wall was never intended to be seen by the house's inhabitants. This discovery also confirmed that the area south of this partition wall was infilled as the wall was being constructed. Moreover, the unfaced masonry on this partition wall indicated that it belonged to a later phase than the central partition wall, whose western face was both faced and limewashed. Although difficult to prove conclusively, it is possible that this area of the ground floor was infilled in order to support the weight of flagstone flooring at first floor level. The room above this area of infilling was in line with the principal entrance of the house and likely comprised a parlour or sitting room area. The laying of a new flagstone flooring in this particular part of the house would therefore have been entirely consistent with the inhabitants' desire to make the parlour as impressive as possible. The heightening of the parlour's impressiveness in this way was very common during the Victorian period (Logan 2001, 27), perhaps implying that this phase of activity can be situated within the 19th as opposed to the 20th century.
- 3.1.29 A thin coat of pink paint was observed overlying the original limewash of the interior walls comprising the ground floor (including both partition walls), which possibly relate to this third phase of activity also.
- 3.1.30 It is noteworthy that the segregation of the southwestern part of the ground floor was not accompanied by the blocking up of the house's rear doorway. The blocking of this doorway would have been essential during this third phase of activity, as it would have prevented demolition infill (002) from encroaching beyond the southern gable end wall. However, a possible explanation as to why this doorway was not blocked up is presented by the possibility that the space between the southern gable end wall and exterior retaining wall was also infilled at this time. This would have meant that the southern end of the house was, at this time, completely concealed.
- 3.1.31 **Phase 4 (mid-late 20th century) (Figure 6 and 7, Plates 19, 20, 22 and 23)**
- 3.1.32 The fourth and final phase identified during investigations consisted of the renovation of the ground floor's interior. This renovation comprised the laying of brightly coloured linoleum over the original flagstone flooring, which was secured in place with a thin spread of bitumen. At this time, the exposed stonework below the treads of the spiral staircase were also covered with linoleum and bitumen. At least three layers of linoleum were observed covering the floor, the earliest of which was green in colour, while the other two were red and orange. A small section of white wallpaper embellished with a coloured floral pattern was also observed on the window seat attached to the northernmost window. During this period, the walls were also redecorated with mustard or yellowy brown coloured paint. Below this coat of paint, and overlying the original limewash layers, was another coat of paint, pink in colour. It is possible that this pink coat of paint was applied during the twentieth century also, although this remains impossible to prove. It was also noted that the house's inhabitants kept the original coal- or wood-fired range cooker in place, rather than

replacing it with a gas-powered cooker. Historic accounts from the late 19th and early 20th centuries reveal this to be common amongst contemporary households, partly because gas-powered cookers were less aesthetically pleasing, but also due to the perception that the use of gas cookers could lead to gas leaks (Broomfield 2007, 142). The faint remains of a fireguard were detected surrounding the entirety of the fireplace's surround, the erection of which may belong this phase as well.

3.1.33 Test Pits (Figure 6, Plates 29–33)

3.1.34 A total of five test pits were dug within the proposed development in order to test the stability of the underlying geology. Test Pits 1–3, situated towards the eastern half of the proposed developments, were devoid of archaeological features, deposits and artefacts. Test Pit 4 contained a thick deposit of garden soil associated with the exterior yard attached to the south of the 19th century house. Test Pit 5, situated towards the inside of the house' front (western) wall contained a thick deposit of demolition material associated with the later infilling of the house's ground floor. The basal deposits within all five test pits comprised a glacial deposits of Millstone Grit sandstone and reddish-brown silty clay.

3.1.35 Test Pit 1

3.1.36 Level of present ground surface = 332.136mOD. Test Pit 1 was dug towards the southern edge of the fence separating the proposed development from the rear gardens of Dolgaer Houses to the north. The test pit was rectangular in plan, measuring 0.9m x 1.8m, and had a maximum depth of c1.7m (330.348mOD in the base of the test pit).

3.1.37 Within Test Pit 1 an upper topsoil deposit (101) was encountered measuring 0–0.2m in depth. Below this was a subsoil deposit (102) comprising mid-brown silty loam, 0.2–0.8m deep, followed by a glacial deposit of grey silt with angular stones (Millstone Grit) throughout (103), 0.8–1.5m deep. The lowermost deposit encountered within Test Pit 1 was another glacial deposit comprising reddish brown silty clay (104), 1.5–1.7m+ deep.

3.1.38 Test Pit 2

3.1.39 Level of present ground surface = 331.325mOD. Test Pit 2 was dug immediately to the east of Test Pit 1. The test pit was rectangular in plan, measuring 3.45m x 0.9m, and had a maximum depth of c1.6m (329.703mOD in the base of the test pit).

3.1.40 Within Test Pit 2 an upper topsoil deposit (201) was encountered measuring 0–0.2m in depth. Below this was a subsoil deposit (202) comprising mid-brown silty loam, 0.2–0.8m deep, followed by a glacial deposit of grey silt with angular stones (Millstone Grit) throughout (203), 0.8–1.5m deep. The lowermost deposit encountered within Test Pit 2 was another glacial deposit comprising reddish brown silty clay (204), 1.5–1.6m+ deep.

3.1.41 Test Pit 3

3.1.42 Level of present ground surface = 331.276mOD. Test Pit 3 was dug towards the eastern edge of the proposed development. The test pit was rectangular in plan, measuring 2.4m x 0.9m, and had a maximum depth of c1.4m (329.810mOD in the base of the test pit).

3.1.43 Within Test Pit 3 an upper topsoil and vegetation deposit (301) was encountered measuring 0–0.1m in depth. Below this was a subsoil deposit (302) comprising a humic silty loam, 0.1–0.5m deep, followed by a possible demolition deposit (303) comprising silty brown clay with frequent fragments of mortar throughout, 0.5–0.7m deep. The lowermost deposit encountered within Test Pit 3 was a glacial deposit of reddish brown silty clay with frequent Millstone Grit cobbles throughout (304), 0.7–1.4m+ deep.

3.1.44 Test Pit 4

3.1.45 Level of present ground surface = 331.656mOD. Test Pit 4 was dug just beyond the southeast corner of the 19th century house. The test pit was rectangular in plan, measuring 1.7m x 0.6m, and had a maximum depth of c0.85m (330.640mOD in the base of the test pit).

3.1.46 Within Test Pit 4 an upper deposit of sandstone cobbles in a dark brown silty clay matrix (401) was observed, measuring 0–0.32m in depth, which originally comprised the cobbled surface of the yard attached to the southern side of the 19th century house. Below this was a garden soil deposit (402), comprising dark brown silty clay, measuring 0.32–0.83m in depth. The lowermost deposit encountered within Test Pit 4 was a glacial deposit of reddish-brown silty clay with frequent Millstone Grit cobbles throughout (403), 0.83–0.85m+ deep.

3.1.47 Test Pit 5

3.1.48 Level of present ground surface = 332.258m OD. Test Pit 5 was dug towards the inside face of the house's western front wall, within an area enclosed by the two later partition walls that was infilled with demolition material. The test pit was rectangular in plan, measuring 1.7m x 0.8m, and had a maximum depth of c1.8m (330.426mOD in the base of the test pit).

3.1.49 Within the west-facing section of Test Pit 5 an upper deposit of demolition material (501), identical to (002), was encountered, measuring 0–1.85m in depth. Below this was a deposit of Millstone Grit boulders (502), glacial in origin, measuring 1.85–1.87m+ in depth. Within the east-facing section of Test Pit 5 the western front wall of the 19th century house [503] was observed, measuring 0–1.85m deep. Below this was deposit (502), measuring 1.85–1.87m+ deep. No traces of flagstone flooring were observed within Test Pit 5, which was destroyed prior to excavation, likely during the infilling of the southwestern part of the house's ground floor.

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 The finds collected during excavations all derived from deposit (001). This deposit consisted of demolition possibly comprising material from the original 19th century house, however it is equally likely that it derived from another building entirely imported onto the site.

3.2.2 Pottery (Plates 34–38)

3.2.3 Post-medieval and modern pottery was recovered from deposit (001), which derived exclusively from the interior of the 19th century house, primarily towards the rear (eastern) doorway.

- 3.2.4 This pottery assemblage included 29 sherds of 19th century red earthenware, weighing 9191g, all belonging to the same vessel. This vessel was large in size (being around a foot in height) and had a circular flat base, a sloping body, rounded bulbous shoulders and a thick rounded gallery. This vessel was also glazed on the inside with mid-brown slip and was decorated on the outside with a thin layer of coarse white limewash. On the body of the jar the remains of an iron rivet were observed, showing that the jar was repaired at some point during its use.
- 3.2.5 A total of 18 sherds of possible Staffordshire pearlware was collected, weighing 1577g, all belonging to a single platter with scalloped edges. This platter had an ultramarine Chinoiserie design transferred onto its inside, which was embellished with hand painted curves along its outer edges. This design incorporated a series of traditional Chinese temples with flying eaves and waving branches belonging to a probable willow tree. This willow tree design was very common amongst Staffordshire pearlware crockery from the 18th and 19th centuries (Copeland 1980, 86). The ultramarine rather than pale blue design of this platter suggests late 18th rather than 19th century date. One of the sherds had the remains of an iron rivet incorporated into it, deriving from later repair work.
- 3.2.6 A complete salt glazed stoneware preserve jar was recovered, weighing 1577g and dating the late-19th century. This jar had a circular and slightly everted base, a steep-sided body, sharp edged shoulders and rounded gallery. The space between the shoulders and gallery was also carinated. From the shoulders upwards the jar was decorated with a mid-brown salt glaze. The shoulders were also embellished with an embossed dotted pattern. The height of this jar was 173mm in height and the diameter of its base and rim was 142mm and 131mm respectively.
- 3.2.7 A complete early 20th century match striker was collected, weighing 970g. This match striker was made from white earthenware covered in a buff-coloured glaze. A rim sherd and base belonging to a 18th or 19th century china bowl was also collected, weighing 244g. The base sherd had the words 'Made in England' imprinted on it.
- 3.2.8 **Glass (Plates 39–40)**
- 3.2.9 The glass finds recovered from deposit (001) weighed 413g and consisted of two glass bottles and a small section of windowpane, all belonging to the mid–late 20th century. Both bottles had screw tops and had seams running from base to top indicating that they were manufactured in two sections. One was miniature in form, measuring 127mm in height, while the other was larger, measuring 190mm in height, and incorporated fluting along one side of its body. Both bottles were likely associated with alcoholic spirits. The small section windowpane measured 715mm x 133mm x 3mm in thickness.
- 3.2.10 **Metal (Plates 41–45)**
- 3.2.11 Two ferrous objects were collected from deposit (001). The first comprised a complete 19th century wrought iron horseshoe measuring 170mm long x 143mm wide, with a surviving right-side calkin and front toe clip. The horseshoe also incorporated a strap running through its centre, which may have supported a foot or leg injury associated with its wearer. Considering its size and shape, the breed of horse that this shoe belonged to was either a Cob, Shire or Suffolk Punch. The second ferrous object

comprised the small corner section of a 19th or 20th century window frame, constructed from wrought iron, weighing 352g. This frame was square in section.

- 3.2.12 A small teaspoon, a coin and a possible zip tag were recovered from (001). The teaspoon was made from an alloy comprising chrome, nickel and silver, and dated to the early–mid 20th century. The coin was made from copper alloy and was heavily corroded. Its dimensions (20.2mm in diameter) and it comprised a 1919 George V farthing. The zip tag was also made from copper alloy and was broadly triangular in form. On one side it had the number 50 imprinted on it, while on the other side it had a depiction of an Native American motif (with tradition Native American headdress) with illegible wording beneath.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1.1 The investigation comprised an archaeological watching brief during machine stripping and test pitting within the proposed development. During the watching brief, the remains of a 19th century house were uncovered, which survived to first storey level. Once uncovered and cleaned, the surviving structural elements of this house were recorded photogrammetrically, together with a note on the building's phasing.
- 4.1.2 The 19th century house discovered within the proposed development matched well with the sub-rectangular building observed on the 1884 OS map. Moreover, the house also matched well with the building observed on the 1948 and 1953 aerial photographs of Pontsticill (Figures 2 and 3), known at this time as 'Bryn Teg'. The house does not appear on the Tithe Map and therefore provides the construction of the house with a *terminus post quem* of 1842. The OS mapping evidence provides the construction of the house with a *terminus ante quem* of 1884. The most recent aerial photograph of Pontsticill (Figure 4) also provides the demolition of the house with a *terminus ante quem* of 1972. The archaeological evidence obtained during the archaeological watching brief fully supports the cartographic and photographic sources, as the style of the building entirely in-keeping with the mid-19th century, while the final phase of decoration associated with the interior of the ground floor is in-keeping with mid-late 20th century. The 1953 aerial photograph (Figure 3) of the house shows that it incorporated two chimney stacks (one on the northern gable and one on the southern gable), only the northern example was identified during the investigation. Another undated historic aerial photograph (Figure 5) also shows the chimneys and the full east three storey elevation. This photograph must be dated between 1953 and 1972. The south chimney likely served the first floor, rather than the ground floor, and therefore did not survive the demolition of the house.
- 4.1.3 With reference to the house's name, we were fortunate to several local residents who remembered the house was known as Bryn Teg during the mid-late 20th century. The name of the house in the 19th century, if different, is not known.
- 4.1.4 Although vernacular in build, when constructed during the mid-19th century, the house would have been a fairly affluent building, as demonstrated by the fact that it incorporated three storeys, with service quarters at ground floor level. The investigations identified that the house was defined by at least four phases of construction and refurbishment, which included the building of the house proper, along with an exterior yard and retaining wall to the south; the erection of a central partition wall; the infilling of the first storey's southwestern corner, which likely allowed for a flagstone floor to be supported at second storey level; and the redecoration of the ground floor during the mid-late twentieth century. Although difficult to date conclusively, it has been suggested here that phases 1-3 fell between the mid-late 19th century, while the phase 4 fell between the mid-late 20th century.

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6 Appendices

6.1 Appendix I: Figures

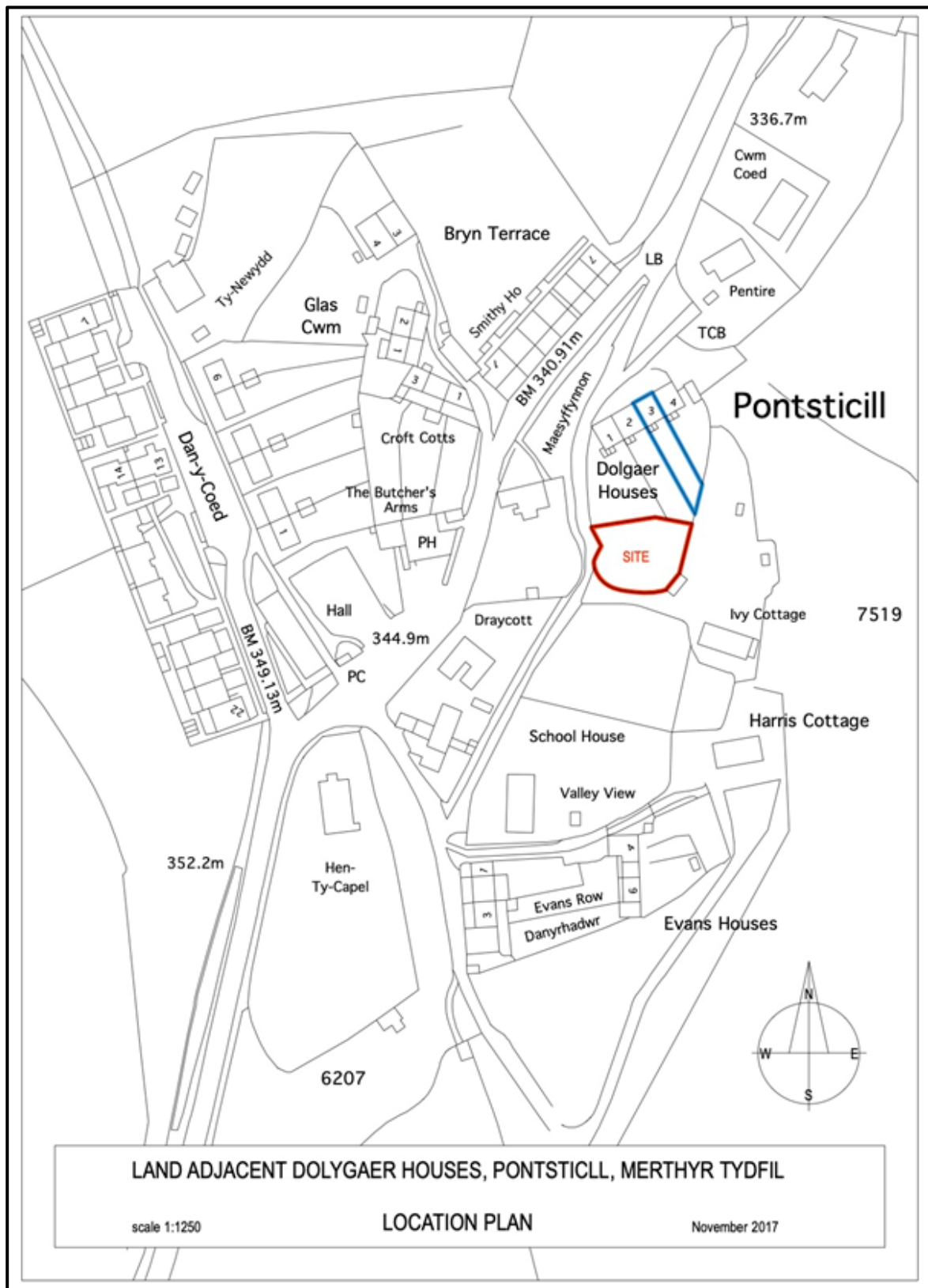


Figure 1. Location plan of proposed development (red)



Figure 2. 1948 aerial photograph of Pontsticill with location of 19th house within proposed development (red) (© CUCAP)



Figure 3. 1953 aerial photograph of Pontsticill with location of 19th house within proposed development (red) (© CUCAP)



Figure 4. 1972 aerial photograph of Pontsticill within location of proposed development now devoid of the 19th century house (red) (© CUCAP)



Figure 5. Aerial photograph of Pontsticill within location of proposed development, provided by local resident, likely dating between 1953 and 1972

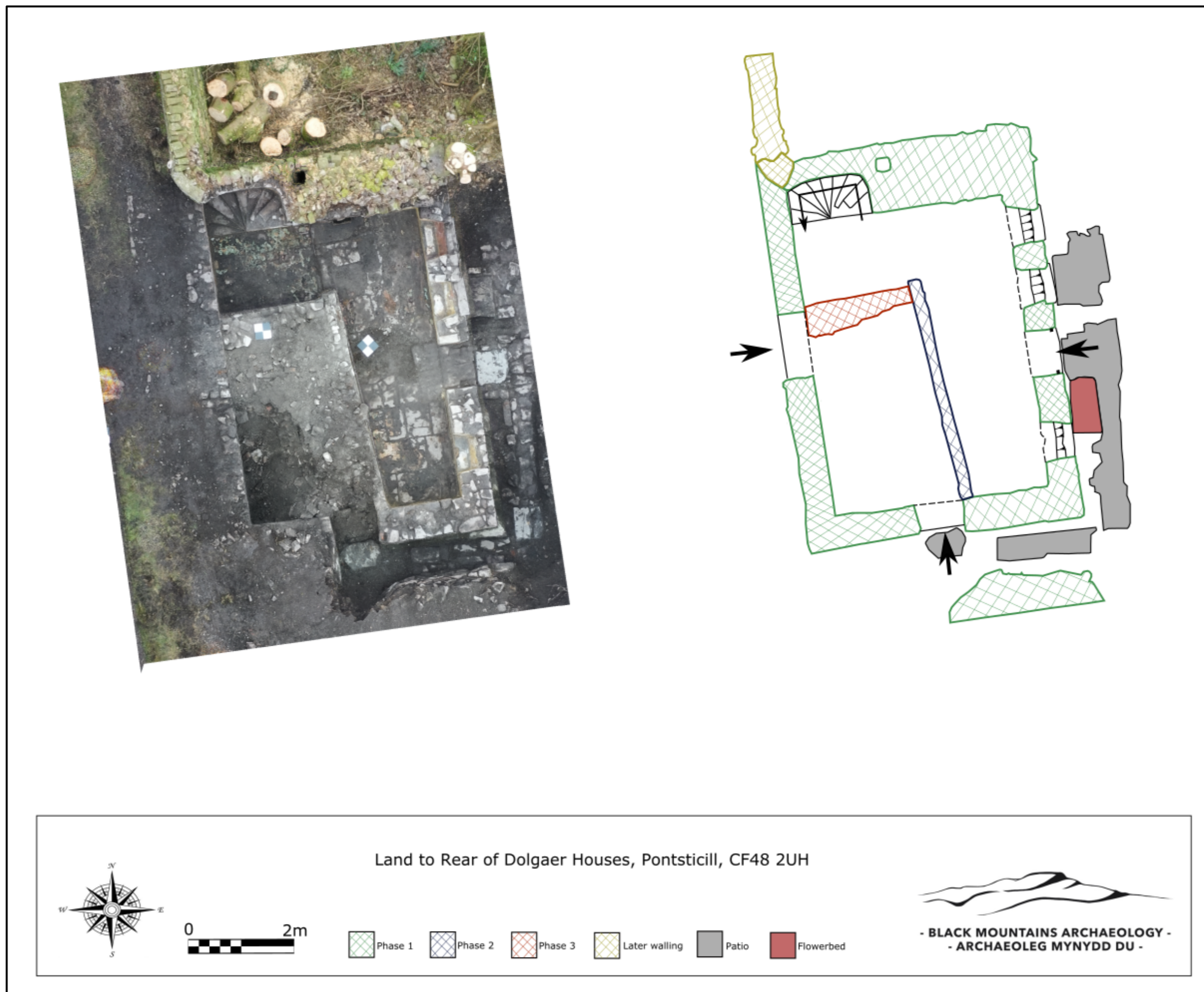


Figure 6. Photogrammetric still of house after excavation (left) with plan of house showing internal phasing (right)

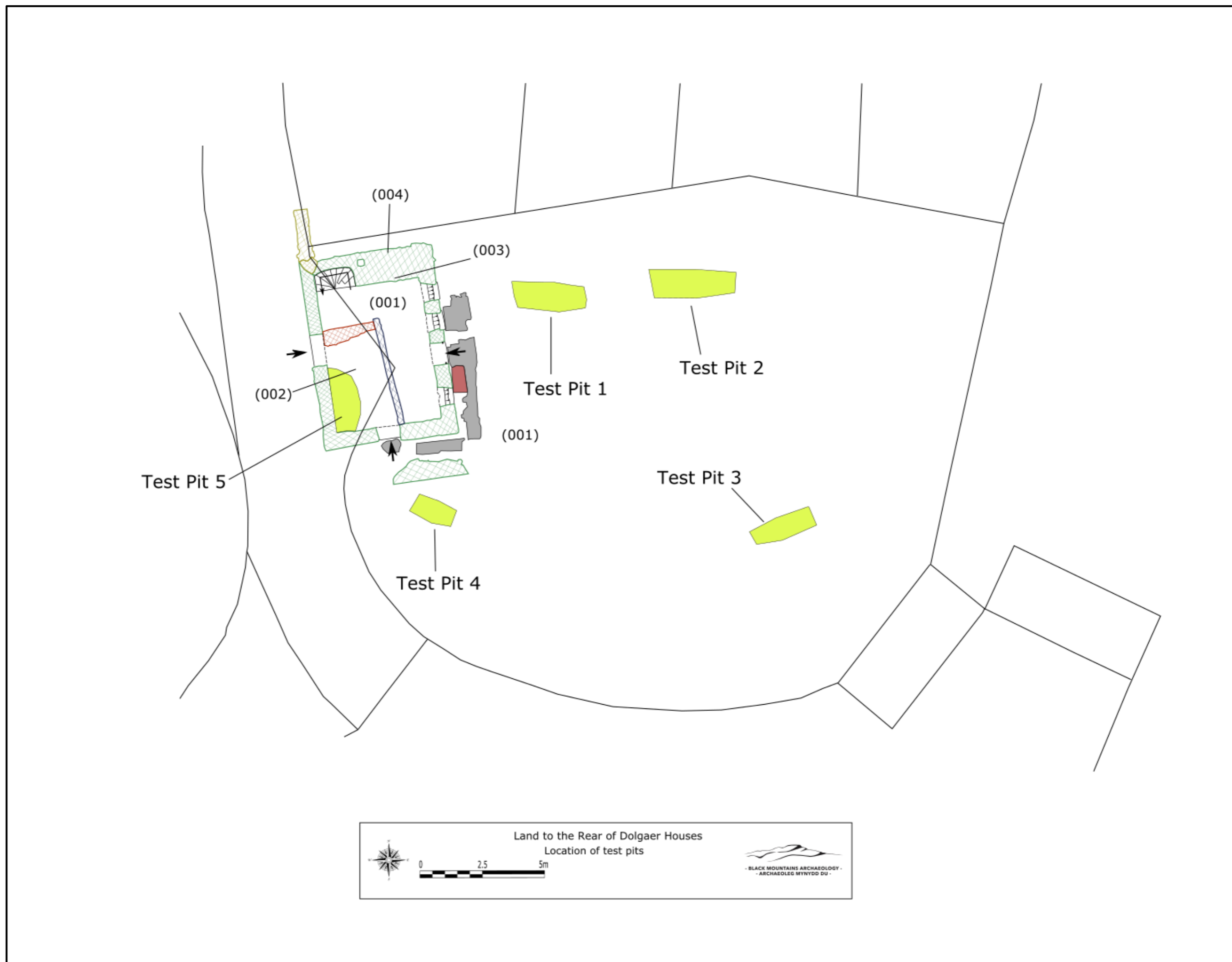


Figure 7. Location of test pits within proposed development.

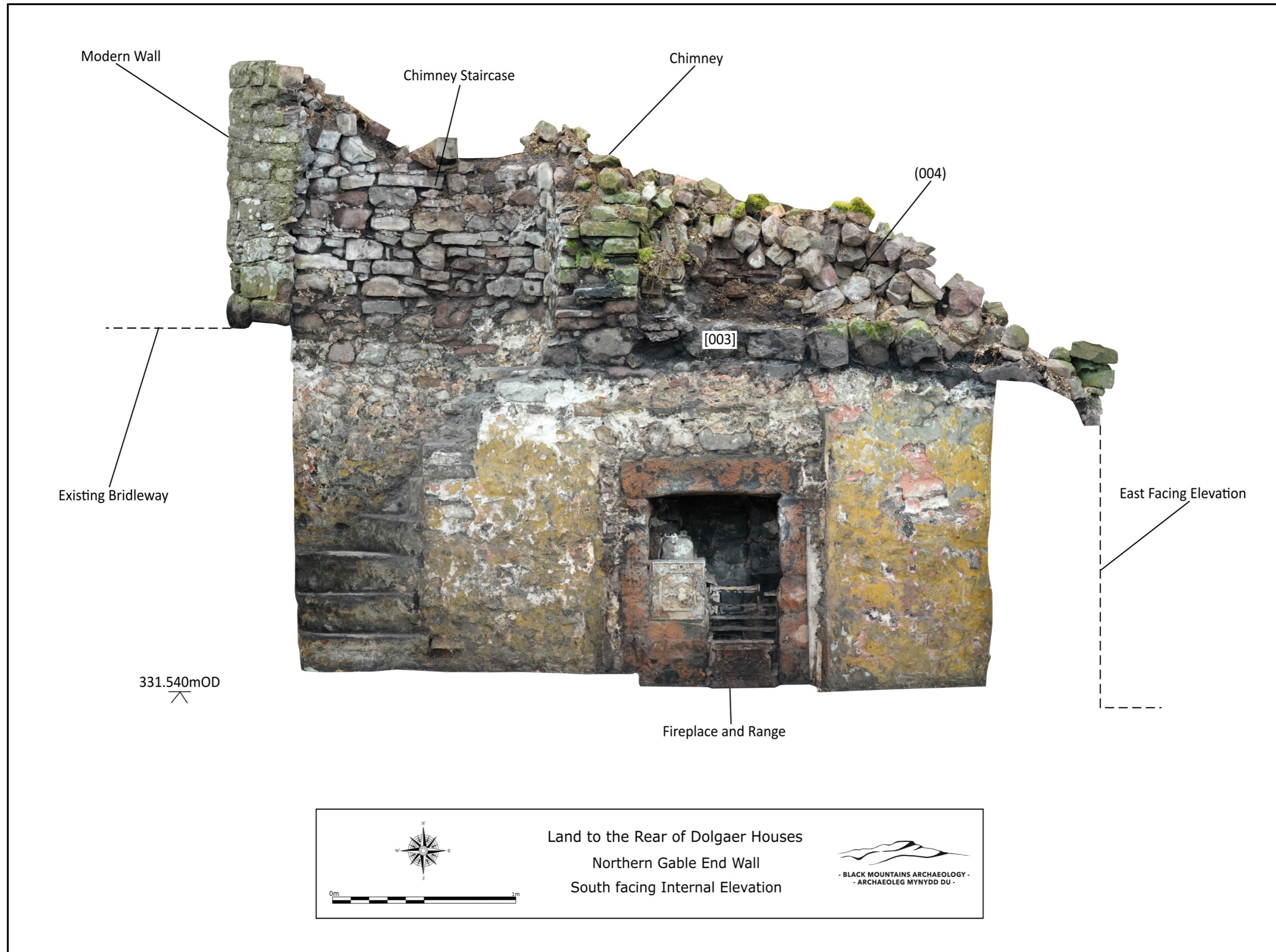


Figure 8. Photogrammetric still of south-facing section of northern gable end wall.

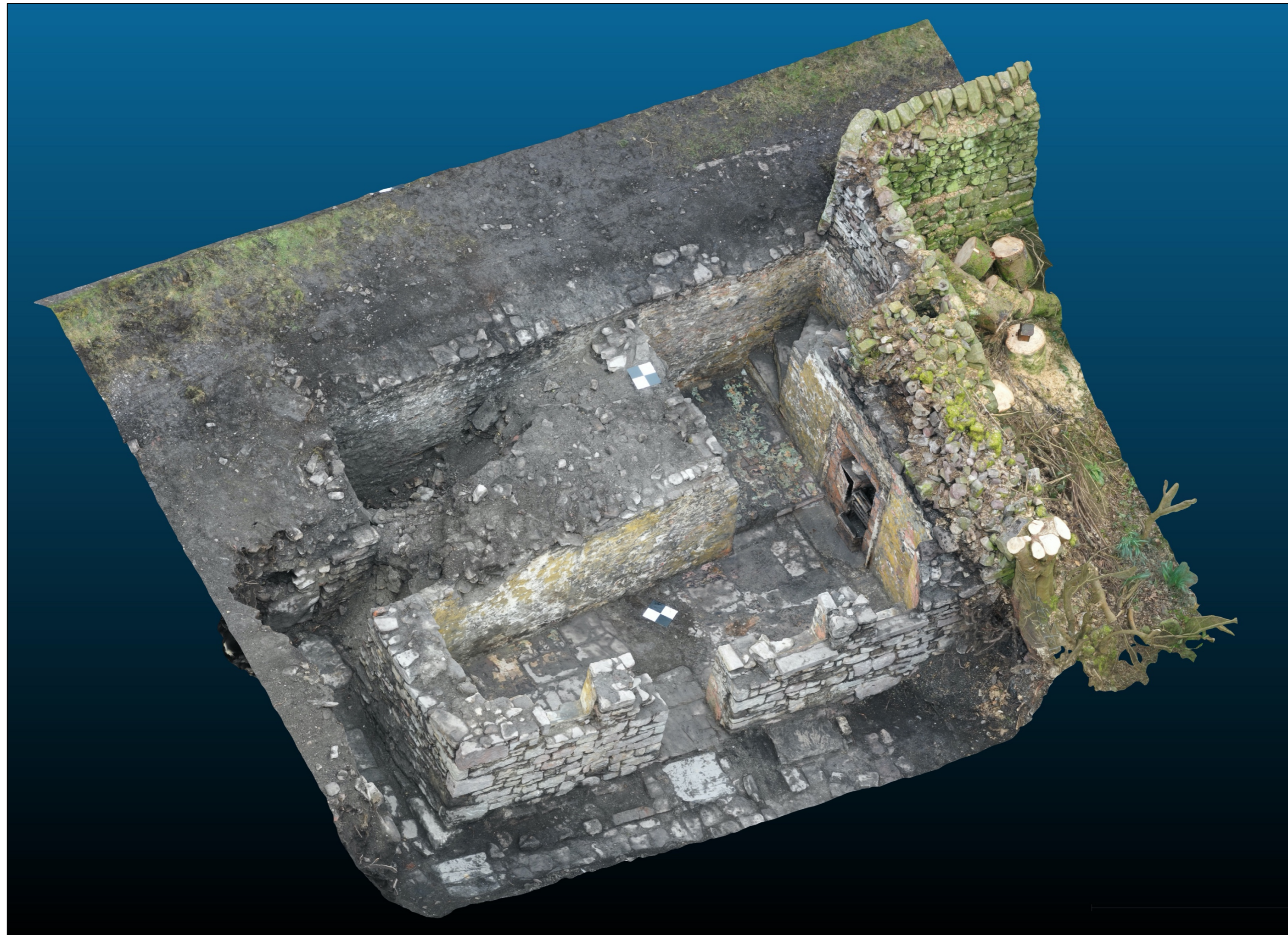


Figure 9. Oblique orthographic photogrammetric 3D model still. The full 3D model can be viewed here <https://p3d.in/UBYkb>.

6.2 Appendix II: Plates



Plate 1. East-facing elevation of front (west) wall leading to staircase to the right (view west)



Plate 2. Staircase leading up west edge of fireplace, incorporated into north gable (view northeast)



Plate 3. North-facing elevation of secondary partition wall abutting front (west) wall of house (view south)



Plate 4. Fireplace incorporated into south facing north gable wall (view north)



Plate 5. Interior view of light well windows in east elevation to north of rear entrance (view east)



Plate 6. Protruding section of masonry at juncture between primary and secondary partition walls (view southeast)



Plate 7. Rear entrance leading into ground floor of house, incorporated into eastern elevation (view east)



Plate 8. Oblique shot of rear (eastern) elevation with rear doorway (view southwest)



Plate 9. Oblique shot of northern reveal of rear doorway (view northeast)



Plate 10. Oblique shot of southern reveal of rear doorway (view southeast)



Plate 11. Exterior view two light well windows to north of rear doorway, incorporated into eastern elevation
(view west)



Plate 12. Oblique shot of light well window to south of rear doorway, incorporated into eastern elevation
(view southwest)



Plate 13. Juncture between southern gable end wall and central partition wall (view southwest)



Plate 14. Large sandstone (millstone grit) block to south of side entrance (view west)



Plate 15. Southward curve of outer retaining wall (view southeast)



Plate 16. Oblique view of southern elevation, to east of side doorway (view northeast)



Plate 17. Oblique view of retaining wall to south of house's southern gable (view southeast)



Plate 18. Flowerbed and flagstone floor to exterior of rear (eastern) elevation (view north)



Plate 19. Remains of flagstone flooring and linoleum in area south of fireplace and staircase (view east)



Plate 20. Chimney breast and staircase, incorporated into northern gable end wall (view northeast)



Plate 21. Top-down view of staircase



Plate 22. Remains of flagstone flooring with some remnant linoleum and bitumen to west of rear doorway
(view south)



**Plate 23. Remains of flagstone flooring with some remnant linoleum and bitumen to west of rear doorway
(view north)**



**Plate 24. Western (front) elevation after partial clearance of later infill between pair of later partition walls
(view southwest)**



Plate 25. Rear doorway, incorporated into southern gable end wall (view north)



Plate 26. Northern gable, south facing elevation, with masonry [003] and [004] above it (view north)



Plate 27. Eastern elevation with rear doorway and remains of light well window to south (view southeast)



Plate 28. Remains of curved walling above staircase (view northeast)



Plate 29. Test Pit 1 (view north)



Plate 30. Test Pit 2 (view north)



Plate 31. Test Pit 3 (view southeast)



Plate 32. Test Pit 4 (view southeast)



Plate 33. Test Pit 5 (view west)



Plate 34. Sherds of 19th century red earthenware storage vessel collected from demolition (001)



Plate 35. Sherds of possible late 18th century Staffordshire pearlware platter collected from demolition (001)



Plate 36. Complete 19th century salt-glazed stoneware preserve jar collected from demolition (001)



Plate 37. Two sherds of an 18th–19th century white china bowl collected from demolition (001)



Plate 38. Complete early 20th century Worthington's Pale Ale match striker collected from demolition (001)



Plate 39. Pair of 20th century glass bottles collected from demolition (001)

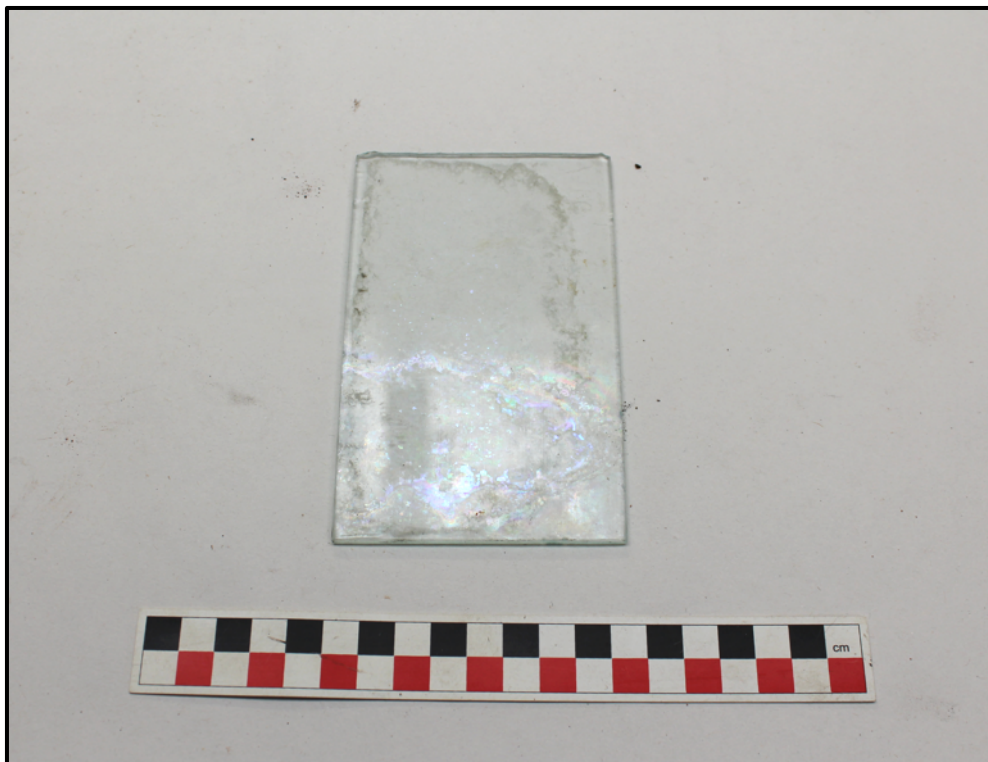


Plate 40. Small section of 20th century windowpane collected from demolition (001)



Plate 41. A 1919 George V farthing collected from demolition (001)



Plate 42. 20th century teaspoon collected from demolition (001)



Plate 43. Possible 20th century zip tag with Native American motif collected from demolition (001)



Plate 44. 19th century horseshoe collected from demolition (001)



Plate 45. Section of 19th –20th century window frame collected from demolition (001)

6.3 Appendix III: Context Inventory

Deposits and structures overlying remains of 19th century house

Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
001	Deposit		Dark-brown silty clay with frequent demolition material throughout, including bricks, masonry, pottery sherds (19 th –20 th century in date), as well as watering cans and tin baths. Covers most of interior of 19 th century house and banks up against its exterior eastern elevation.	Modern
002	Deposit		Dark-brown silty clay with frequent demolition material throughout, including bricks, masonry, pottery sherds (19 th –20 th century in date), as well as watering cans and tin baths. Infills space between later partition walls on interior of house.	Post-medieval/modern
003	Structure		Small stretch of roughly coursed masonry comprising rustic sandstone blocks, heavily disturbed and surrounded by black humic soil suggestive of root damage. Situated above surviving elevation of northern gable.	Modern
004	Structure		Drystone walling comprising rustic sandstone masonry. Possibly contemporary with the construction of the gable's outer face, which was also of drystone build and which faced onto the back garden associated with Dolgaer Houses.	Modern

Test Pit 1

Level of present ground surface = 332.136mOD. Test Pit 1 was dug towards the southern edge of the fence separating the proposed development from the rear gardens of Dolgaer Houses to the north. The test pit was rectangular in plan, measuring 0.9m x 1.8m, and had a maximum depth of 1.7m.

Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
101	Deposit	0–0.2m	Topsoil. Overlies (102).	Modern
102	Deposit	0.2–0.8m	Subsoil comprising mid-	Modern

			brown silty loam. Underlies (101). Overlies (103).	
103	Deposit	0.8–1.5m	Glacial deposit of grey silt with angular stones (Millstone Grit) throughout. Underlies (102). Overlies (104).	Natural
104	Deposit	1.5–1.7m+	Glacial deposit of reddish brown silty clay. Underlies (103).	Natural

Test Pit 2

Level of present ground surface = 331.325mOD. Test Pit 2 was dug immediately to the east of Test Pit 1. The test pit was rectangular in plan, measuring 3.45m x 0.9m, and had a maximum depth of 1.6m.

Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
201	Deposit	0–0.2m	Topsoil. Overlies (202).	Modern
202	Deposit	0.2–0.8m	Subsoil comprising mid-brown silty loam. Underlies (201). Overlies (203).	Modern
203	Deposit	0.8–1.5m	Glacial deposit of grey silt with angular stones (Millstone Grit) throughout. Underlies (202). Overlies (204).	Natural
204	Deposit	1.5–1.7m+	Glacial deposit of reddish brown silty clay. Underlies (203).	Natural

Test Pit 3

Level of present ground surface = 331.276mOD. Test Pit 3 was dug towards the eastern edge of the proposed development. The test pit was rectangular in plan, measuring 2.4m x 0.9m, and had a maximum depth of c1.4m.

Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
301	Deposit	0–0.1m	Topsoil. Overlies (302).	Modern
302	Deposit	0.1–0.5m	Subsoil comprising humic silty loam. Underlies (301). Overlies (303).	Modern
303	Deposit	0.5–0.7m	Possible demolition deposit comprising silty brown clay with frequent fragments of mortar throughout. Underlies (302). Overlies (304).	Modern
304	Deposit	0.7–1.4m+	Glacial deposit of reddish brown silty clay with frequent Millstone Grit cobbles throughout. Underlies (303).	Natural

Test Pit 4

Level of present ground surface = 331.656mOD. Test Pit 4 was dug just beyond the southeast corner of the 19th century house. The test pit was rectangular in plan, measuring 1.7m x 0.6m, and had a maximum depth of 0.85m.

Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
401	Deposit	0–0.32m	Sandstone cobbles in a dark brown silty clay matrix. Comprised	Post- medieval/modern

			upper surface of yard on southern exterior of 19 th century house. Overlies (402).	
402	Deposit	0.32–0.83m	Garden soil deposit comprising dark brown silty clay. Underlies (401). Overlies (403).	Post-medieval/modern
403	Deposit	0.83–0.85m+	Glacial deposit of reddish brown silty clay with frequent Millstone Grit cobbles throughout. Underlies (402).	Natural

Test Pit 5

Level of present ground surface = 332.258m OD. Test Pit 5 was dug towards the inside face of the house's western front wall, within an area enclosed by the two later partition walls that was infilled with demolition material. The test pit was rectangular in plan, measuring 1.7m x 0.8m, and had a maximum depth of 1.8m.

Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
501	Deposit	0–1.85m	Demolition deposit. Same as (002). Overlies (502). Abuts [503].	Post-medieval/modern
502	Deposit	1.85–1.87m+	Glacial deposit of Millstone Grit boulders. Underlies (501) and [503].	Natural
503	Structure	0–1.85m	Western front wall of the 19 th century house. Overlies (502). Abutted by (501).	Post-medieval

6.4 Appendix IV: Finds Inventory

The finds collected during excavations all derived from deposit (001). This deposit consisted of demolition possibly comprising material from the original 19th century house, however it is equally likely that it derived from another building entirely.

Context	Area	S/F number	Type	Description/detail	Weight	Dimensions	Minimum count	Period
001	Within 19 th century house	1	Ceramic	Storage vessell, 29 sherds, 19th century, red earthenware, shallow lugged handles toward rim, flat circular bottom, bulbous shoulders, mid-brown glaze on inside, limewash on outside.	9191g		29	Post-medieval
001	Within 19 th century house	2	Ceramic	Match striker, white earthenware complete. Cream coloured slip on exterior and interior. Composed of pedestal with conical dimple underneath. 2 handles on side. Small crucible above pedestal, with very shallow gallery. Transferred text: 'Worthington's in Bottle', 'Pale Ale' + Royal Seal in red + white.	970g	98.7mm tall x 13.2mm max diameter x 68.7mm min diameter	1	Modern
001	Within 19 th century house	3	Ceramic	Platter, 18 sherds, 1 with iron rivet, possible Staffordshire pearlware, late 18th century, ultramarine chinoiserie patter with temples in foreground and background along with branches of willow tree, scalloped edge. Design was transferred but with hand painted	1577g		18	Post-medieval

				embellishment near edges, slipped on base with pale greyish blue slip.				
001	Within 19 th century house	4	Ceramic	White china bowl, 2 sherds, circular flat base, stamp visible on base = 'MADE IN ENGLAND', slipped on inside + outside, off-white in colour.	244g		2	Post-medieval
001	Within 19 th century house	5	Ceramic	Salt glazed stoneware preserve jar, c 1900, complete, circular but slightly everted base, carination between shoulder and gallery. Gallery is rounded. Jar is embossed with dots below shoulder.	1577g	190.3mm tall x 145.5mm base diameter x 131.6mm rim diameter	1	Post-medieval
001	Within 19 th century house	6	Cu	1 farthing piece, George V, 1919 in date. Heavily corroded, although farthings of this type during the period immediately after WW1 were issued with a bright bronze finish.	3g	20.1mm diameter x 0.5mm thickness	1	Modern
001	Within 19 th century house	7	Glass	20 th century bottle, screw top, glass, ovular base, narrow body, thin neck, alcohol, seam running from base to top.	74g	127.7mm tall x 46.2mm width at base x 16.1mm rim diameter	1	Modern
001	Within 19 th century house	8	Glass	20 th century bottle, screw top, glass, ovular base, narrow body, thin neck,	241g	176.5mm tall x 65.1 width at	1	Modern

				alcohol, seam running from base to top, fluting on front of body.		base x 20.8mm rim diameter		
001	Within 19 th century house	9	Glass	Small section of windowpane with greenish hue. No visible bubbles within fabric of glass.	79g	715.7mm x 133.0mm x 3mm thick	1	Modern
001	Within 19 th century house	10	Cu	Copper alloy tag, possibly for zip, native American man imprinted in 1 side with text, SOOT---, '50' imprinted on other side.	7g	14mm x 23.5mm x 3mm thick	1	Modern
001	Within 19 th century house	11	Fe	Part of wrought iron window frame, square section, slightly rounded corner.	352g	204mm long x 15.4mm thick	1	Modern
001	Within 19 th century house	12	Fe	Horseshoe, wrought iron, belonging to small Cob, Suffolk Punch or Shire, strap incorporated through middle possibly indicating injury to foot/leg, right-side calkin survives and toe clip.	806g	170mm x 143mm 9.1mm thick	1	Post-medieval/modern
001	Within 19 th century house	13	Fe	Teaspoon. Text on body = 'Chrome on nickel silver'. Possibly from Sheffield.	17g	714.8mm long x 3.7mm min width x 30.4mm max width	1	Modern



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