

Poperinghe Barracks Industrial Site, Arborfield, Berkshire

**A Standing Building Survey
for Holborn Properties Limited**

by Jamie Preston

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code PBA02/43

June 2002

Summary

Site name: Poperinghe Barracks Industrial Site, Arborfield, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 7600 6570

Site activity: Building Recording

Date and duration of project: 20th–21st May 2002

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Jamie Preston

Site code: PBA02/43

Area of site: 1.95 hectares

Summary of results: The building survey identified 2 building designs associated with the late 1930s development of the site by the Army. Both were constructed from a light timber frame covered by timber boards. The roof covering was corrugated asbestos cement panels. Very few internal features that belonged to the original construction remained, due to later use as pig sties. Vestigial features included light fittings, wooden coat hooks and small slate blackboards fixed to the walls.

Monuments identified: None

Location and reference of archive: The site archive is currently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services, 47- 49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5NR and will be deposited with the National Monuments Record in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 06/06/02 Steve Preston ✓ 07/06/02

Poperinghe Barracks Industrial Site, Arborfield, Berkshire Standing Building Recording

by Jamie Preston

Report 02/43

Introduction

This report documents the results of the recording of the standing buildings on the site which formerly comprised a part of Poperinghe Barracks, Arborfield Garrison, on the western side of Eversley Road, Arborfield, Berkshire (SU 7600 6570) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Mark Wyatt of Holborn Properties, c/o Hedgerow House, Seer Green, Buckinghamshire, HP9 2UH.

Planning permission (app no. O/2001/4221) has been granted by Wokingham District Council for the construction of new housing on a parcel of land occupied by the former Poperinghe Barracks Industrial Site. The permission is subject to a condition relating to both archaeology and building recording. This report is concerned with the recording of the upstanding structures on the site prior to demolition. This condition was applied in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance *Planning and the Historic Environment* (PPG15 1994) and the District's policies on archaeology. A specification for building recording and field evaluation for the site was approved by Mr K Beachus, Archaeologist for Babtie Environmental, who advise the District Council on matters relating to archaeology and heritage.

The building recording component of the project archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record. The fieldwork was carried out by Jamie Preston on 20th–21st May 2002.

Location, topography and geology

Arborfield is situated to the south-east of Reading and to the south-west of Wokingham (Fig. 1). Arborfield Garrison lies south-east of Arborfield. The site itself is located west of the A327, just west of Arborfield Garrison. The area of the development site is *c.* 1.95 hectares. The site is currently densely occupied by derelict former army buildings (Fig. 2 and Plate 1). The site lies at a height of 61m above Ordnance Datum. According to geological maps (BGS 1971) the underlying geology is London Clay.

Objectives and Methodology

The objective of the building survey was to record the remaining standing structures on the site ahead of demolition. A photographic and drawn survey was carried out in order to record the present condition and

character of the site. Black and white and colour photographs were taken using a 35mm camera. Particular attention was paid to two representative samples which best describe these structures in their original condition. Rectified photography was used to record longitudinal and transverse elevations of the two sample structures. In addition, a hand-measured survey was conducted in order to retrieve the plan of these two buildings.

Historical Background

The land was originally purchased by the army in 1932. The site was developed as a training camp by 1939 and formed part of the Poperinghe Barracks. The camp was mainly used for training and accommodation of troops preparing for D-Day. In 1942 the Training Establishment of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers was created at the site. By 1975 the area of the Poperinghe Barracks east of the A327 had become a pig farm. Use of the site currently under investigation as a barracks ceased in 1977 when the neighbouring Rowcroft Barracks came into use.

Results of Building Survey

Of the 27 structures observed during the survey only 14 remain standing and of these 12 belong to the original barracks. A plan of the site demonstrates the layout of the original pre-war buildings (Fig. 2). There were three groups of six buildings each flanking a central structure constructed at right angles. The buildings are single storey and were constructed using a light timber frame bolted together and resting on a brick footing or plinth. Weatherboarding was employed on the external surfaces while matchboard was used for the internal wall surfaces. The roofs are king post construction with corrugated asbestos cement covering.

The plan of the flanking structures demonstrates that they were of 6 bays, each with windows and light fittings on each side. Louvre windows are situated in each gable end. The plan of Structure 6 describes a doorway in the south-west facing longitudinal elevation (Fig. 3). However, this is likely to be a later insertion and the entrances in the other examples are located in the outward facing gable end wall (Plate 3).

The plan of a central building example (Structure 12) also demonstrates 6 bays but there are 4 separate windows per bay on the north-west facing elevation (Figs. 3, 6, 7). There are partitions at roof level in the north-east end of the central structures (Plate 4).

The modification of the buildings for animal usage involved the insertion of breeze block constructed low walls presumably to consolidate the timber frame (Plate 2). These alterations have erased much of the evidence for internal features. There are, however, a number of vestigial features extant in several of the structures. In all

cases investigated a small water tank had been placed at roof level to one end of the buildings. There are wooden coat hooks in Structure 22 and small slate blackboards in Structures 10 and 17.

References

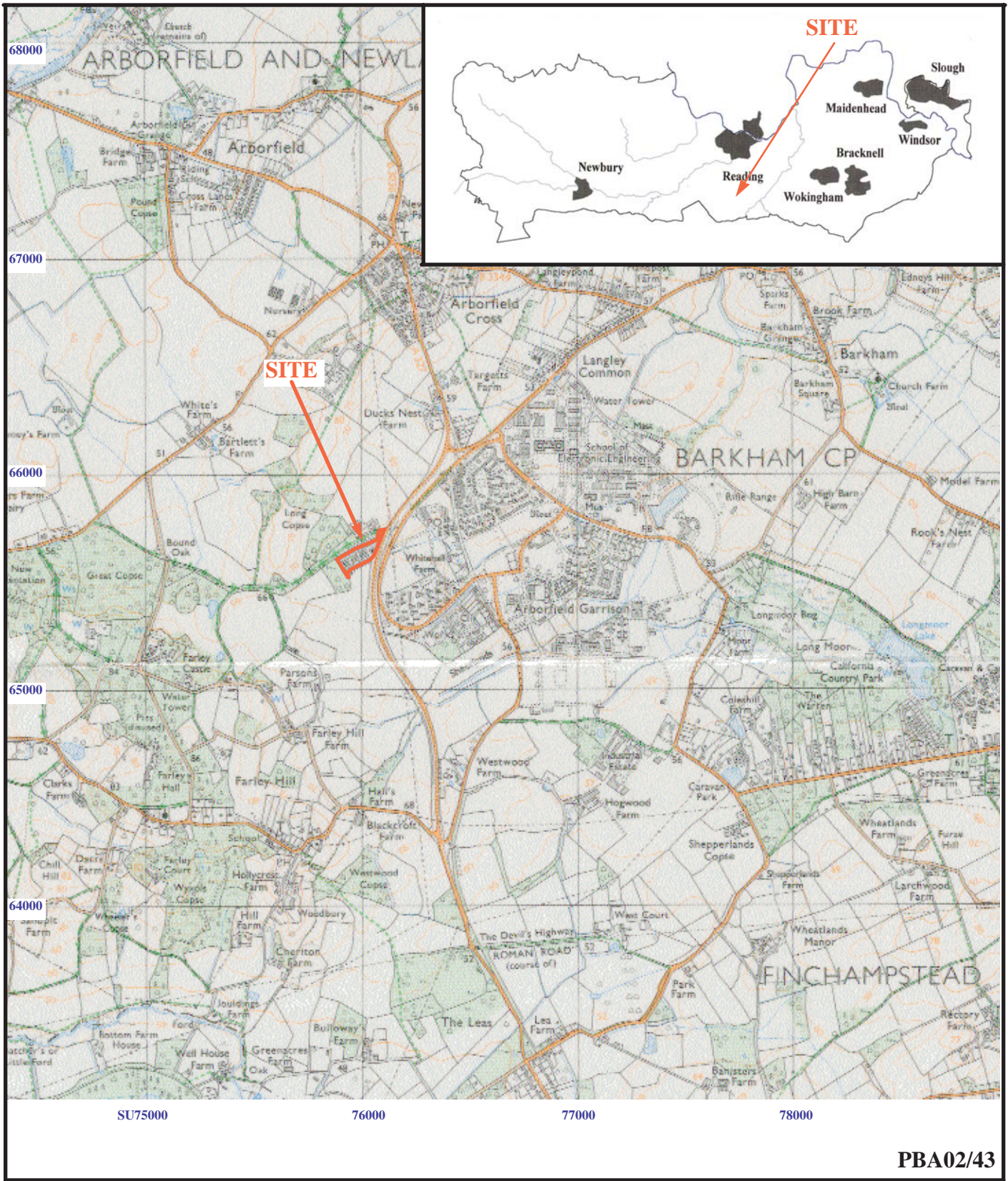
BGS, 1971, British Geological Survey, 1:63360, Sheet 268, Drift Edition, Keyworth
PPG 15, 1994, *Planning and the Historic Environment*, Dept Environment Planning Policy Guidance 15, HMSO

APPENDIX 1: Catalogue of Colour Print photographs

<i>Frame</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Orientation</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	General view	Looking SW	
2	General view	Looking SW	
3	Structure 27	Looking N	2m
4	Structure 27	Looking N	2m
5	Structure 27	Looking N	2m
6	Structure 16	Looking SE	2m
7	Structure 15	NE facing elevation	2m
8	Structure 15	NE facing elevation	2m
9	Structure 26	Looking W	2m
10	Structure 10	NE facing elevation	2m
11	Structure 10	NE facing elevation	2m
12	Structures 10, 9, 8	Looking W	
13	Structures 10, 9, 8	Looking W	
14	Structure 10	SE facing elevation	2m
15	Interior Structure 10	Looking NW	
16	Interior Structure 10	Looking S	
17	Structure 6	NW facing elevation	2m
18	Structures 14, 24, 25	Looking N	
19	Structures 14, 15	Looking E	
20	Structure 8	Looking NE	2m
21	Structure 23	SE facing elevation	2m
22	Interior Structure 22	Looking N	
23	Interior Structure 22	Looking NW	
24	Interior Structure 22	Looking NW	
25	Structure 12	NW facing elevation	2m
26	Structure 12	NW facing elevation	2m
27	Structure 12	SE facing elevation	2m
28	Interior Structure 12	Looking NE	
29	Structure 6	NE facing elevation	2m
30	Interior Structure 12	Looking SE	
31	Interior Structure 6	Looking SE	
32	Structure 20	Looking W	2m
33	Structure 20	Looking N	2m
34	Structure 6	SW facing elevation	2m
35	General view, Structure 17	Looking NW	
36	Interior Structure 17	Looking NW	

APPENDIX 2: Catalogue of Black and White Print photographs

<i>Frame</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Orientation</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	General view	Looking SW	
2	General view	Looking SW	
3	Structure 27	Looking N	2m
4	Structure 27	Looking N	2m
5	Structure 16	Looking SE	2m
6	Structure 15	NE facing elevation	2m
7	Structure 15	NE facing elevation	2m
8	Structure 26	Looking W	2m
9	Structure 10	NE facing elevation	2m
10	Structure 10	NE facing elevation	2m
11	Structures 10, 9, 8	Looking W	
12	Structures 10, 9, 8	Looking W	
13	Structure 10	SE facing elevation	2m
14	Interior Structure 10	Looking NW	
15	Interior Structure 10	Looking S	
16	Structure 6	NW facing elevation	2m
17	Structures 14, 24, 25	Looking N	
18	Structures 14, 15	Looking E	
19	Structure 8	Looking NE	2m
20	Structure 23	SE facing elevation	2m
21	Interior Structure 22	Looking N	
22	Interior Structure 22	Looking NW	
23	Interior Structure 22	Looking NW	
24	Structure 12	NW facing elevation	2m
25	Structure 12	Looking W	2m
26	Structure 12	SE facing elevation	2m
27	Interior Structure 12	Looking NE	
28	Interior Structure 12	Looking SE	
29	Structure 6	NE facing elevation	2m
30	Interior Structure 6	Looking SE	
31	Structure 20	Looking W	2m
32	Structure 20	Looking N	2m
33	Structure 6	SW facing elevation	2m
34	General view, Structure 17	Looking NW	
35	Interior Structure 17	Looking NW	
36	General view	Looking E	

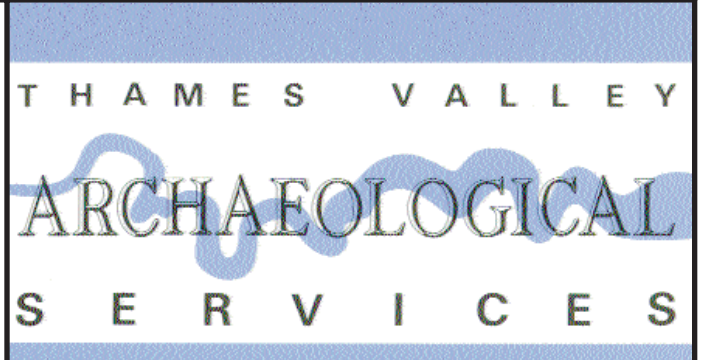


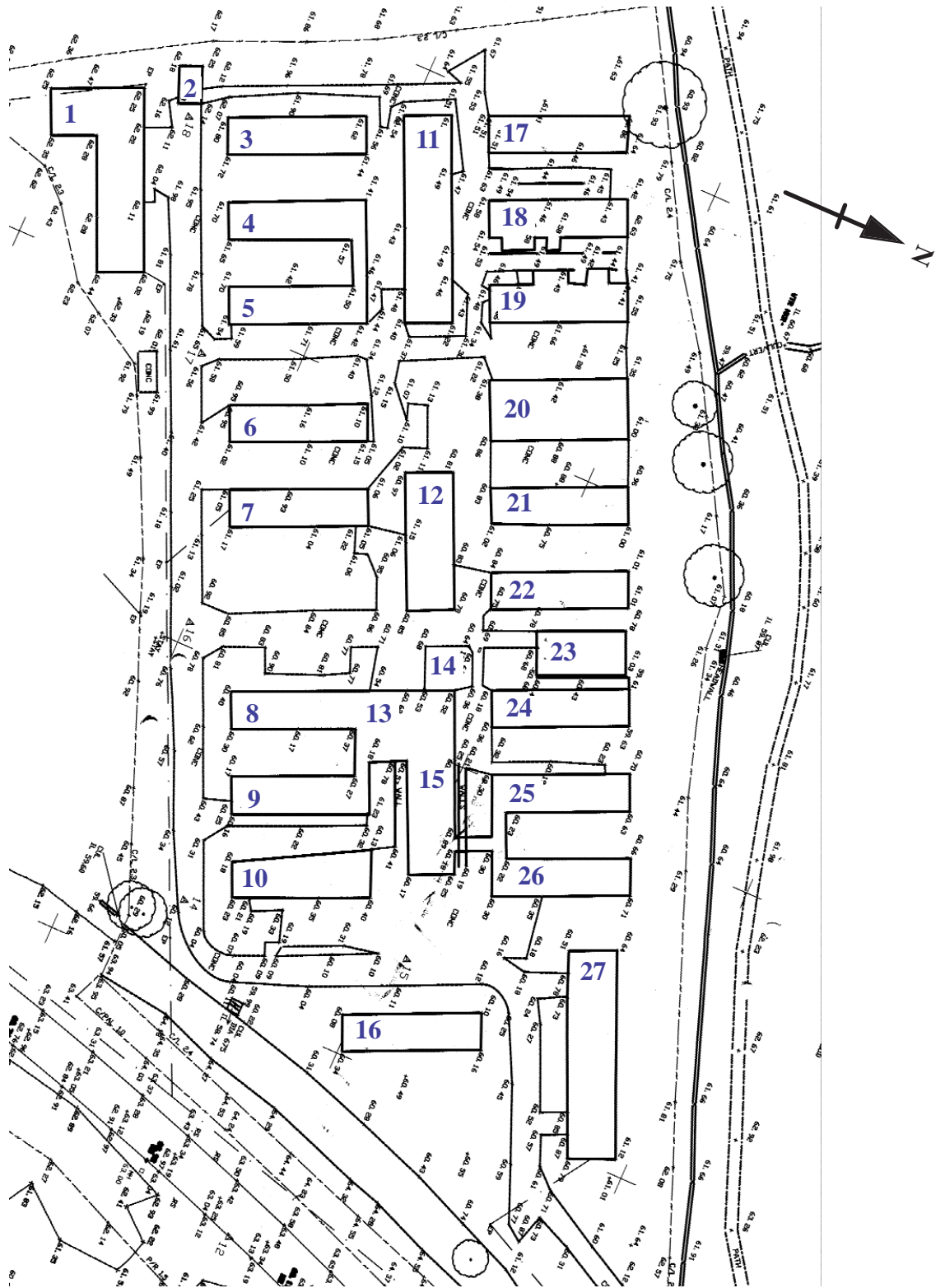
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Historic Building Recording**

Figure 1. Location of site within Arborfield and Berkshire.

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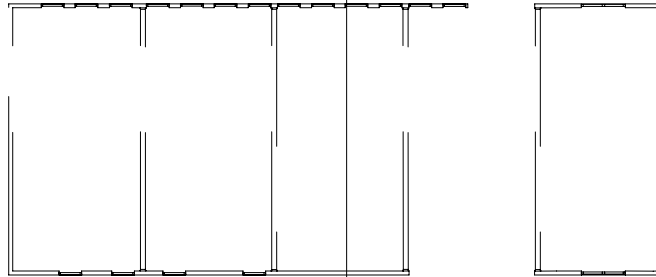
**Poperinghe Barracks Industrial Site, Arborfield,
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Figure 2. Detailed location plan of site.

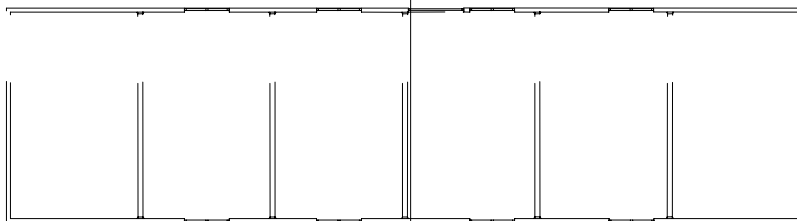
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Structure 12



Structure 6



0m 5m

Figure 3. Plans of the two main structural types on the site typified by buildings 6 and 12.

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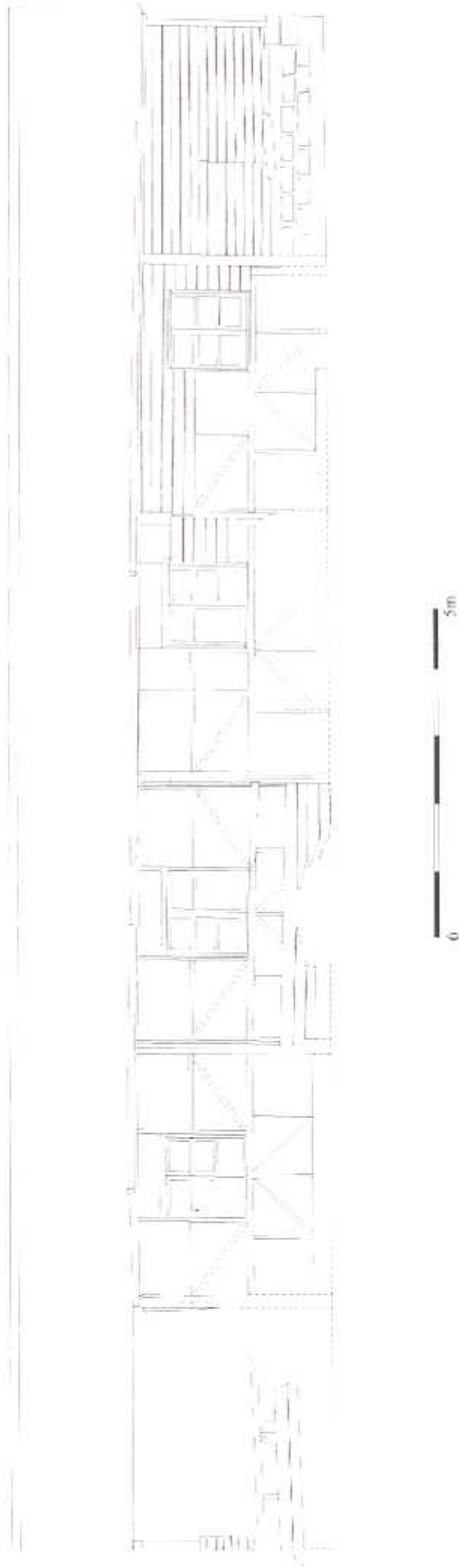


Figure 4. North East facing elevation of Structure 6.

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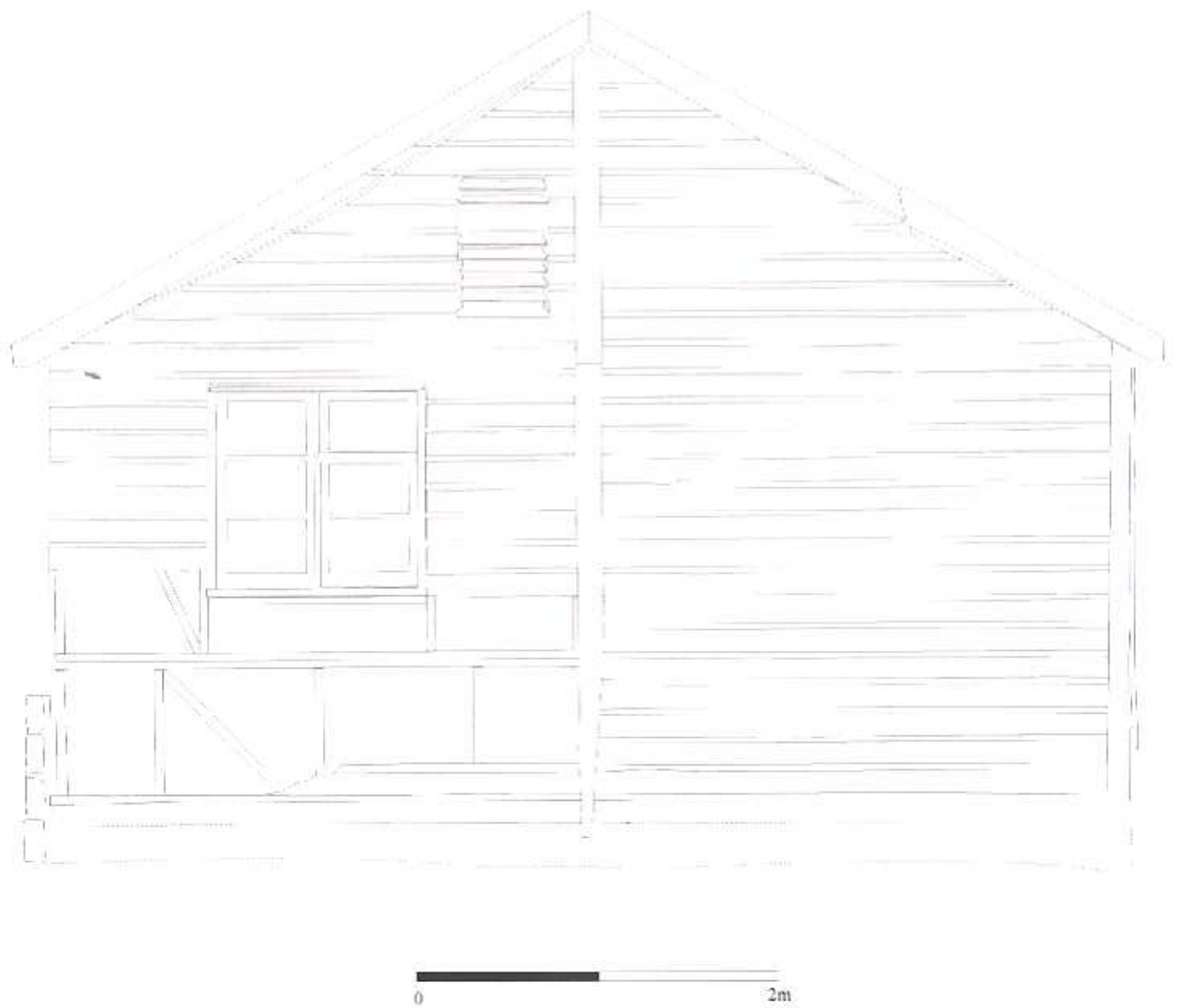


Figure 5. North West facing elevation of Structure 6.

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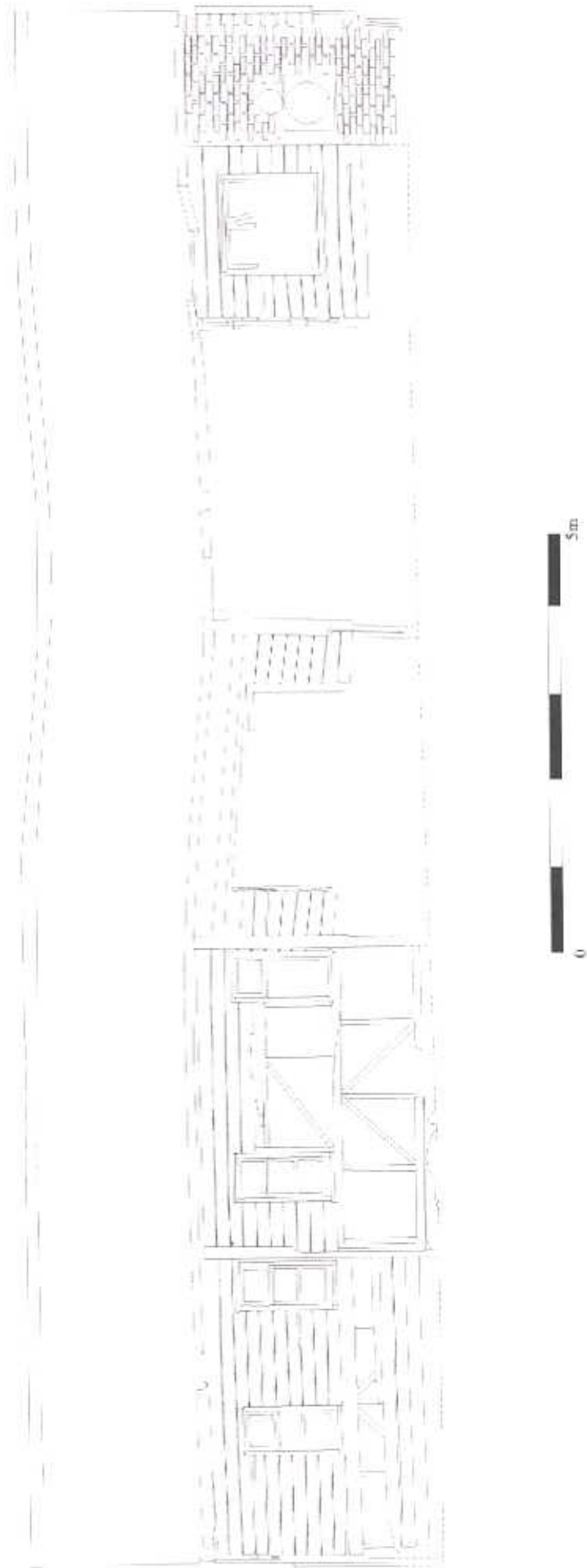


Figure 6. South east facing elevation of Structure 12.

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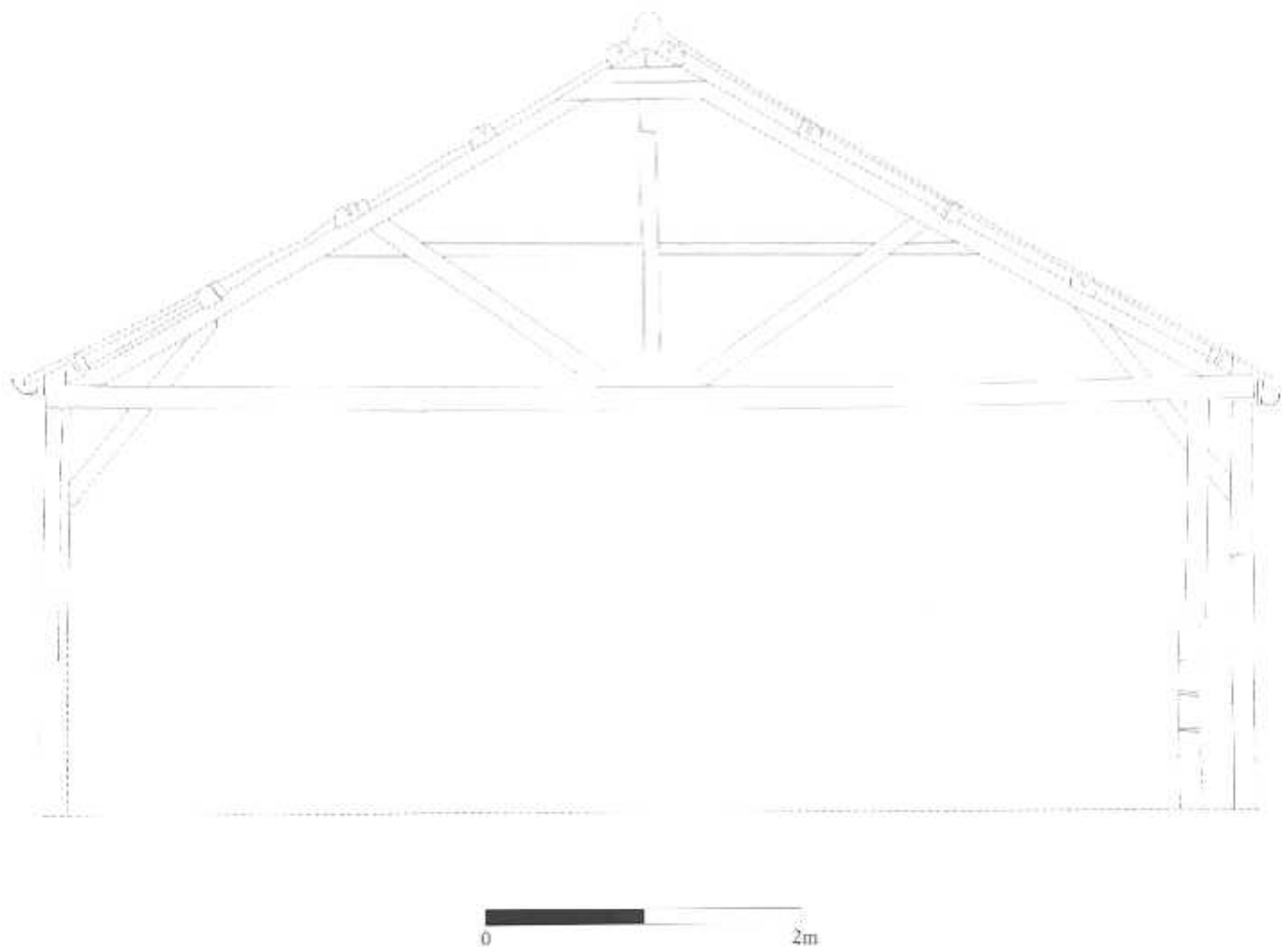


Figure 7. South West facing elevation of Structure 12



Plate 1: General view of site looking south



Plate 2: Structure 14/15 looking west



Plate 3: Structure 6 looking south west. Scale 2m



Plate 4: Structure 12 looking south. Scale 2m