

SKOMER ISLAND FARM, PEMBROKESHIRE

BUILDING RECORDING , SPRING 2005



Paratowyd gan Archaeoleg
Cambria
Ar gyfer CCW
Prepared by Cambria
Archaeology
For CCW



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RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2005/80
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 54887
Gwanwyn 2005
Spring 2005

SKOMER ISLAND, PEMBROKESHIRE BUILDING RECORDING, SPRING 2005

Gan / By

Neil Ludlow

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**SKOMER ISLAND, PEMBROKESHIRE
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Swydd / Position: Project Manager

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
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Ken Murphy

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Swydd / Position: Principal Archaeologist - Field Services

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

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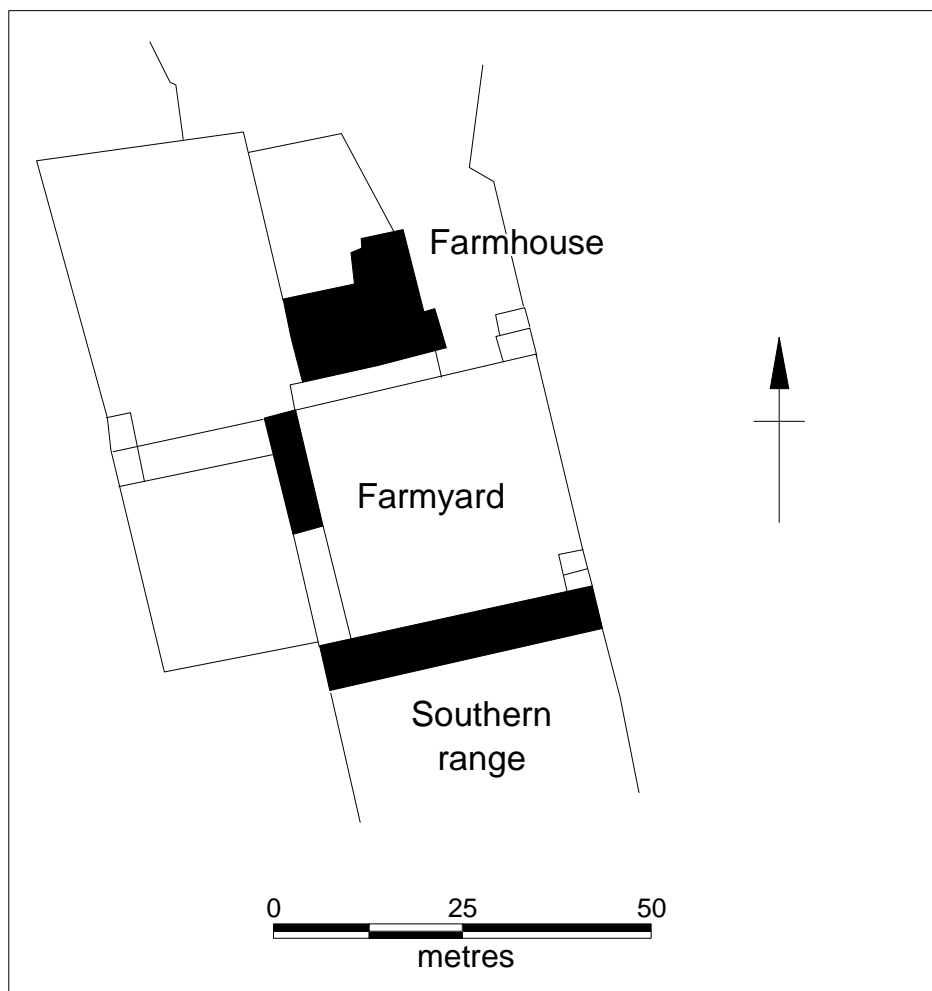
SKOMER ISLAND FARM, PEMBROKESHIRE: BUILDING RECORDING, SPRING 2005

Introduction

Skomer Island Farm lies at the centre of Skomer Island, at NGR SM 7264 0951, 69 metres above sea level. It comprises a farmhouse, which forms the north side of a square farmyard, 1373 square metres in extent and defined by a long barn and contiguous outhouse forming a range to the south, and the ruins of a building – and one restored building – to the west.

The fields and farm were established in the 18th- and early 19th- century, but the farm buildings, including the house, probably date to the mid 19th-century. The latter, however, shows two clear phases of construction, having achieved its present extent by 1875 when it was depicted on the Ordnance Survey first edition 1:2500 map. The farmstead has a typical 19th century layout. The farmyard and present buildings had similarly been established by 1875.

Plan of Skomer Island Farm



The farmhouse and southern range are subject to a proposal for conversion to create new accommodation. As a historic group of buildings, the works were accordingly subject to an archaeological condition. This required that a building record was to be undertaken to Level 2, as defined in the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England's 'Recording Historic Buildings: a Descriptive Specification' (RCHME 1990, 2). This was confined to the farmhouse and the

eastern part of the southern range, ie. those elements subject to the proposed conversion.

Historic Background (from Murphy and Ludlow 2001)

Administratively, Skomer Island formed part of the medieval Lordship of Haverford, under the control of the earls of Pembroke, and later the crown, and until recently formed a detached portion of the parish of St Martin, Haverfordwest. The island was farmed during the prehistoric period, rented for the seasonal depasturing of cattle during the Middle Ages, and rented annually for £4 7s in the 16th century. However, there appears to have been little permanent settlement until the 18th century when the present farm was established. A house constructed in the late 18th- or early 19th-century (now roofless) was replaced by a new house in the late 19th-century. The present field system within the farm's perimeter wall was laid out at the same time as the original house, apparently little influenced by any earlier field boundaries that once existed. Although the fact that a 'considerable portion (of the island) was under tillage' by the tenant farmer in 1833 would not have promoted the survival of earlier agricultural features. During the medieval period rabbits were deliberately introduced to the island and exploited for their flesh and skins. Warreners came to the island each winter to catch rabbits, and Treasury records from 1325-6 list payments to three rabbit-catchers, who with the aid of ferrets and nets supplied 'carcasses and skins of rabbits' worth £13 12s. Later in the 14th century there is a record of a combined ferreter's house and carcass store on the island, and there is a ?medieval house platform in this area. Rabbit farming intensified during the 19th century and continued until 1950. Although the burrows were largely situated within the area outside the farmed land, the rabbits became a serious pest and in 1840 the farm's perimeter walls were topped with heather pointed outwards to prevent rabbits invading farmland and destroying crops. A small stone shed in the southeast corner of the farmyard was used to store rabbits in the 19th century. The island is now a national nature reserve managed by the West Wales Wildlife Trust on a lease from the Countryside Council for Wales.

References

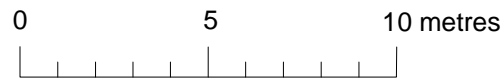
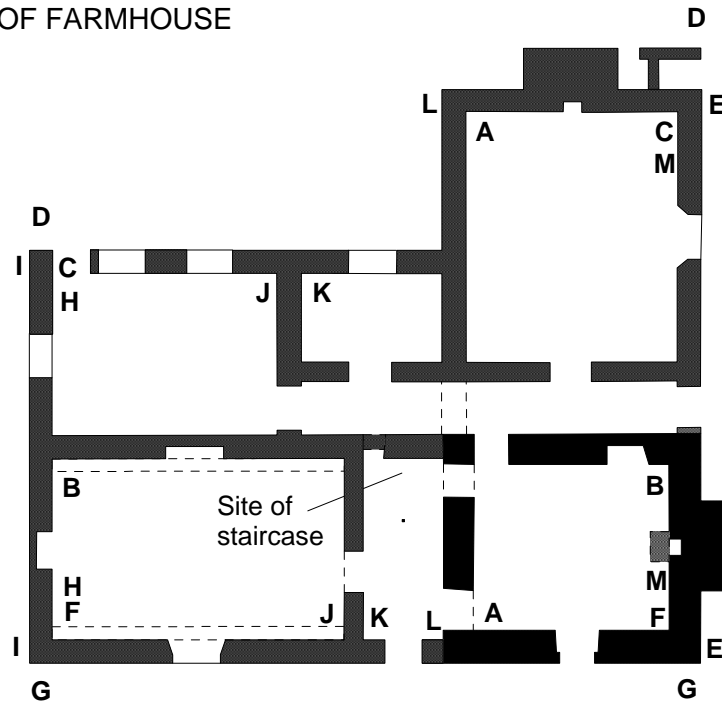
Murphy, K and Ludlow, N, 2001 'Historic Landscape Characterisation: Preseli; St David's Peninsula and Ramsey Island; and Skomer Island'.



RCHME, 1990 'Recording Historic Buildings: a Descriptive Specification'.

ARCHIVE NOTE

An archive, comprising field drawings (plans and elevations) and a comprehensive suite of photographs of both the interior and exterior of the buildings has been indexed and catalogued. It is deposited with the Sites and Monuments Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire, curated by Cambria Archaeology, Shire Hall, 8 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire. Copies will be forwarded to the National Monuments Record, curated by the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments, Crown Building, Plas Crug, Aberystwyth SY23 1NJ. Selected photographs are reproduced within this report.

SKOMER ISLAND FARMHOUSE:
PLAN OF FARMHOUSE

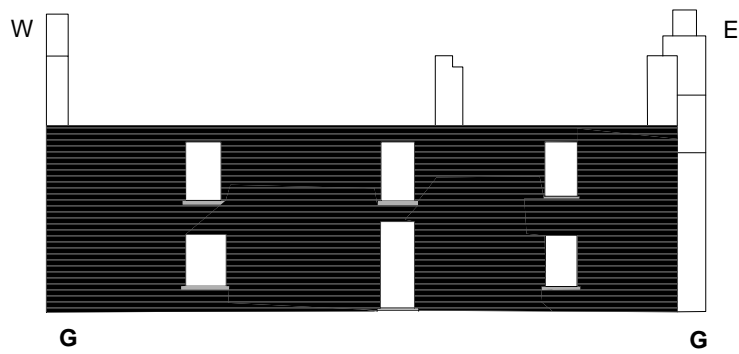


-  - Phase 1
-  - Phase 2

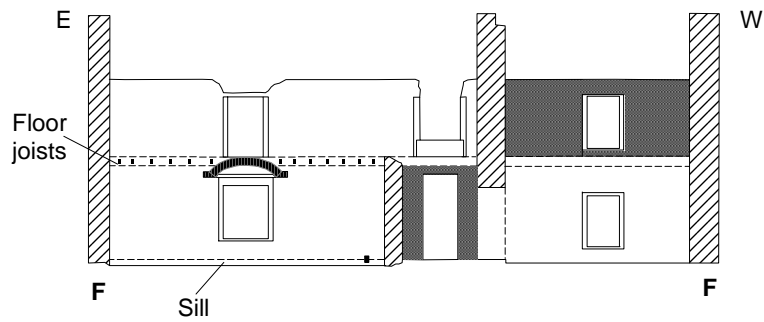







A-A, B-B - Line of elevation drawings

SKOMER ISLAND FARMHOUSE:
ELEVATION G - G: SOUTH WALL EXTERIOR

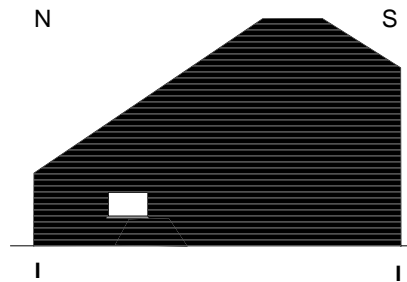


SKOMER ISLAND FARMHOUSE:
ELEVATION F - F: SOUTH WALL INTERIOR (REVERSED)

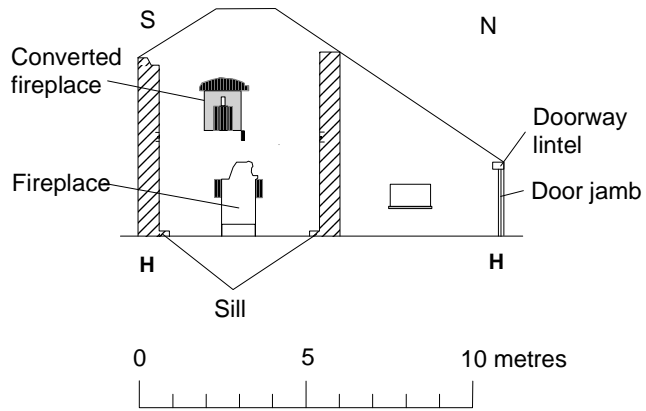







- | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|---|------------|---|----------------|
|  | - Slates |  | - Concrete |  | - Socket/chase |
|  | - Brickwork |  | - Render | | |

SKOMER ISLAND FARMHOUSE:
ELEVATION I - I: WEST WALL EXTERIOR

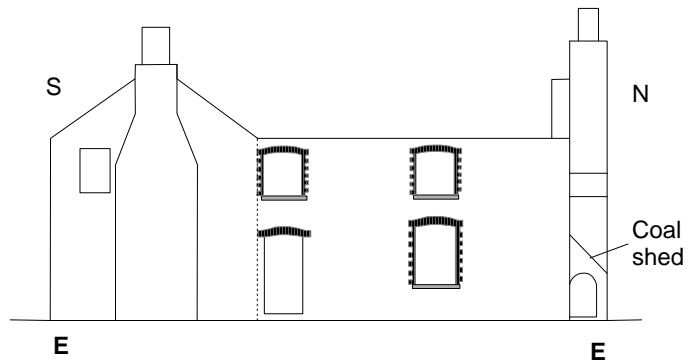


SKOMER ISLAND FARMHOUSE:
ELEVATION H - H: WEST WALL INTERIOR

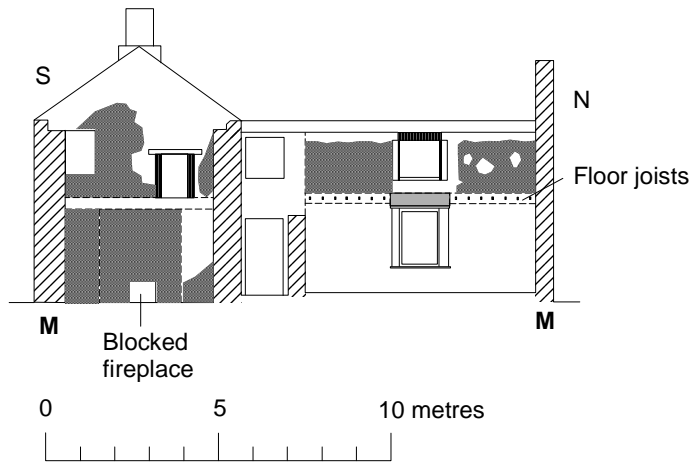







- | | | |
|---|--|---|
|  - Slates |  - Concrete |  - Socket/chase |
|  - Brickwork |  - Render | |

SKOMER ISLAND FARMHOUSE:
ELEVATION E - E: EAST WALL EXTERIOR

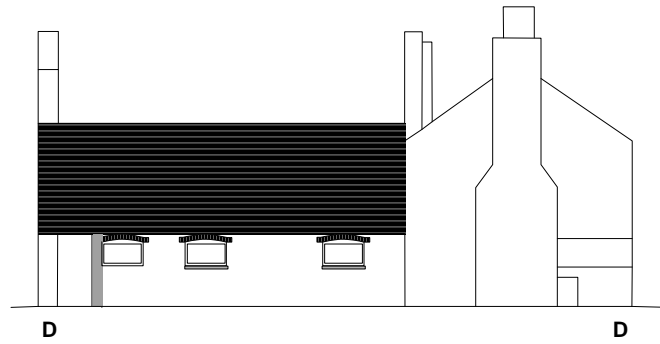


SKOMER ISLAND FARMHOUSE:
ELEVATION M - M: EAST WALL INTERIOR (REVERSED)

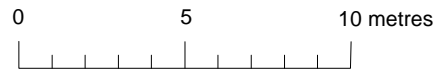
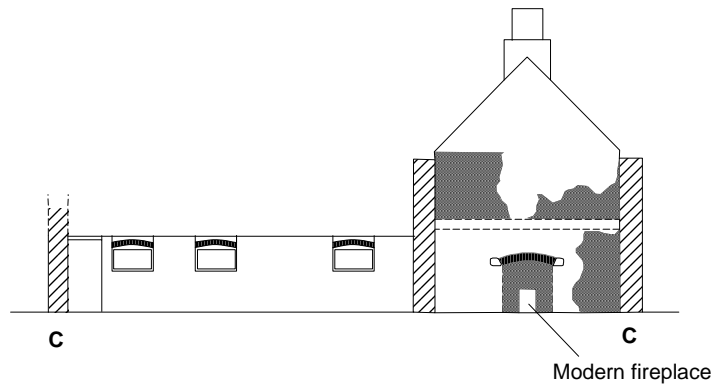







- | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|---|------------|---|----------------|
|  | - Slates |  | - Concrete |  | - Socket/chase |
|  | - Brickwork |  | - Render | | |

SKOMER ISLAND FARMHOUSE:
ELEVATION D - D: NORTH WALL EXTERIOR (REVERSED)

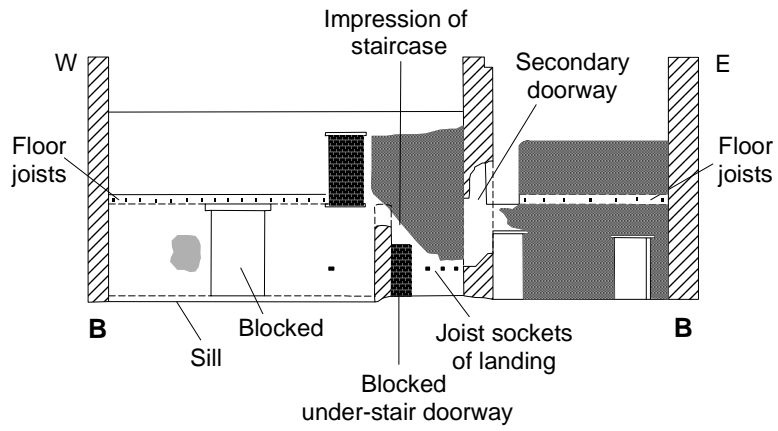


ELEVATION C - C: NORTH WALL INTERIOR

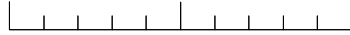








- | | | |
|---|--|---|
|  - Slates |  - Concrete |  - Socket/chase |
|  - Brickwork |  - Render | |

SKOMER ISLAND FARMHOUSE:
ELEVATION B - B

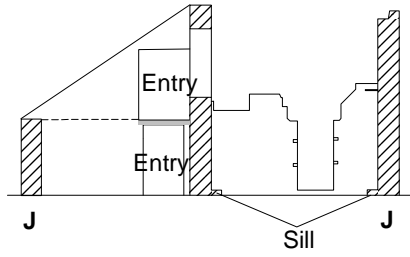


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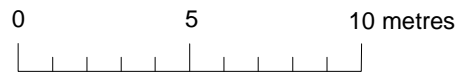
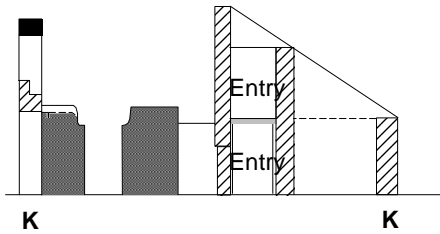







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|---|-------------|---|------------|---|-----------------|
|  | - Slates |  | - Concrete |  | - Socket/chase |
|  | - Brickwork |  | - Render |  | - Breeze-blocks |

SKOMER ISLAND FARMHOUSE:
ELEVATION J - J

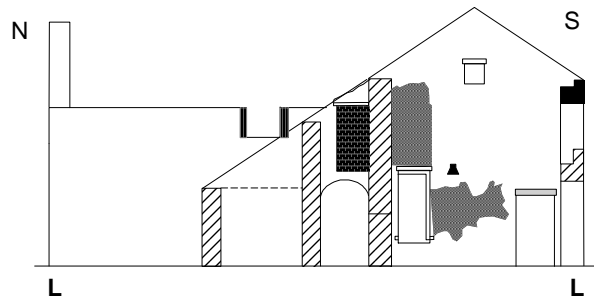


SKOMER ISLAND FARMHOUSE:
ELEVATION K - K

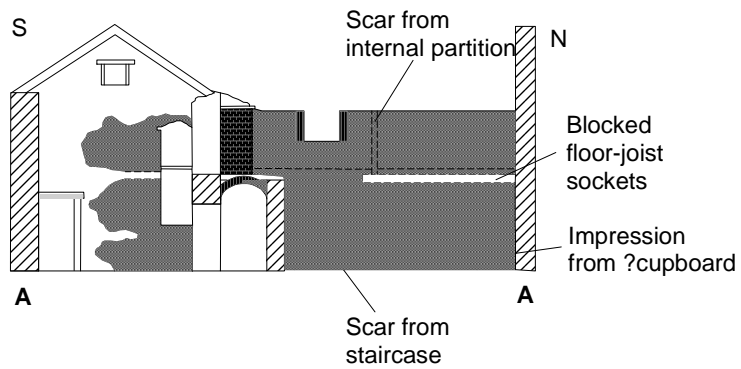








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|---|--|---|
|  - Slates |  - Concrete |  - Socket/chase |
|  - Brickwork |  - Render | |

SKOMER ISLAND FARMHOUSE:
ELEVATION L - L

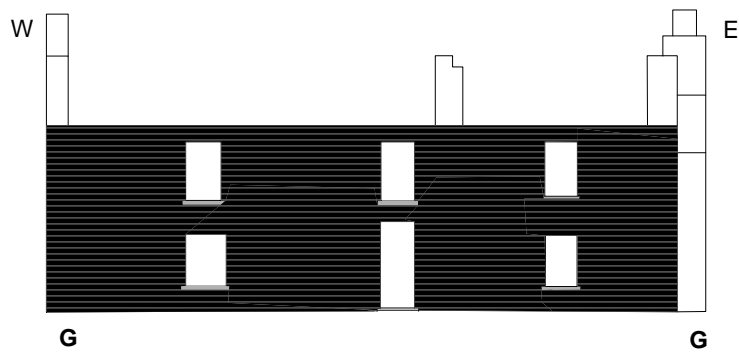


SKOMER ISLAND FARMHOUSE:
ELEVATION A - A

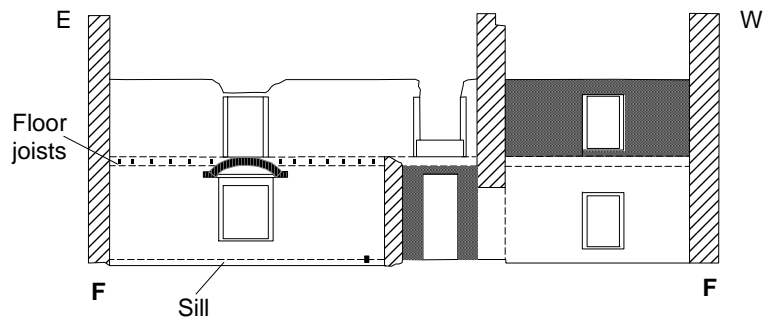







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|---|--|--|
|  - Slates |  - Concrete |  - Socket/chase |
|  - Brickwork |  - Render |  - Breeze-blocks |

SKOMER ISLAND FARMHOUSE:
ELEVATION G - G: SOUTH WALL EXTERIOR



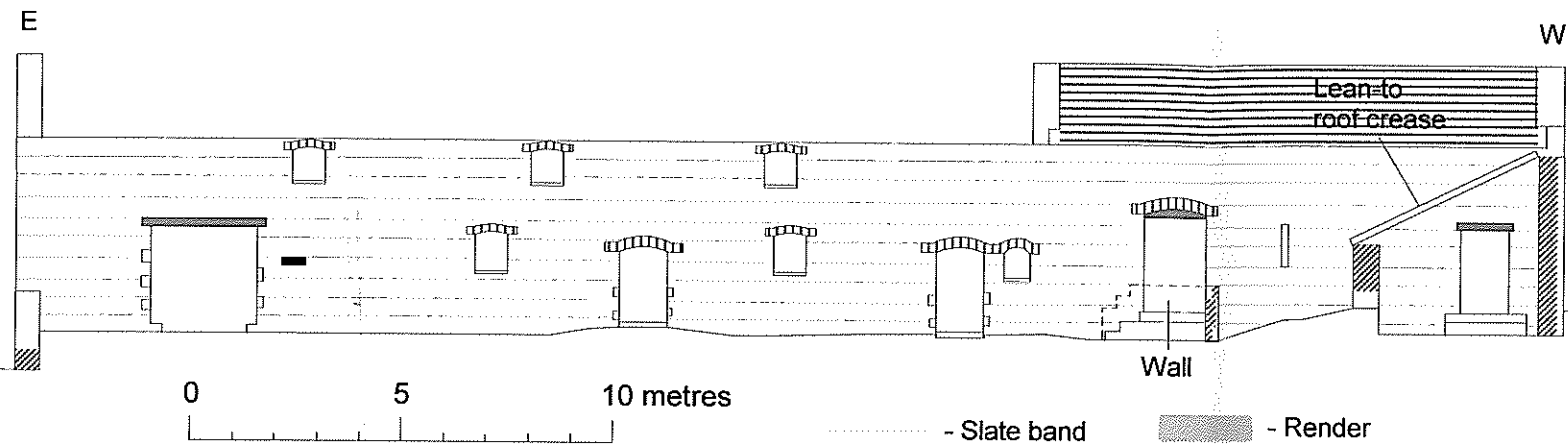
SKOMER ISLAND FARMHOUSE:
ELEVATION F - F: SOUTH WALL INTERIOR (REVERSED)



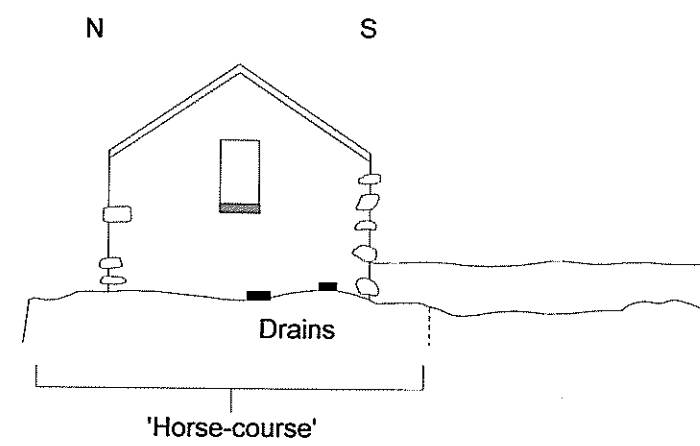
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|---|-------------|---|------------|---|----------------|
|  | - Slates |  | - Concrete |  | - Socket/chase |
|  | - Brickwork |  | - Render | | |

SKOMER ISLAND FARMHOUSE: OUTBUILDING RANGE

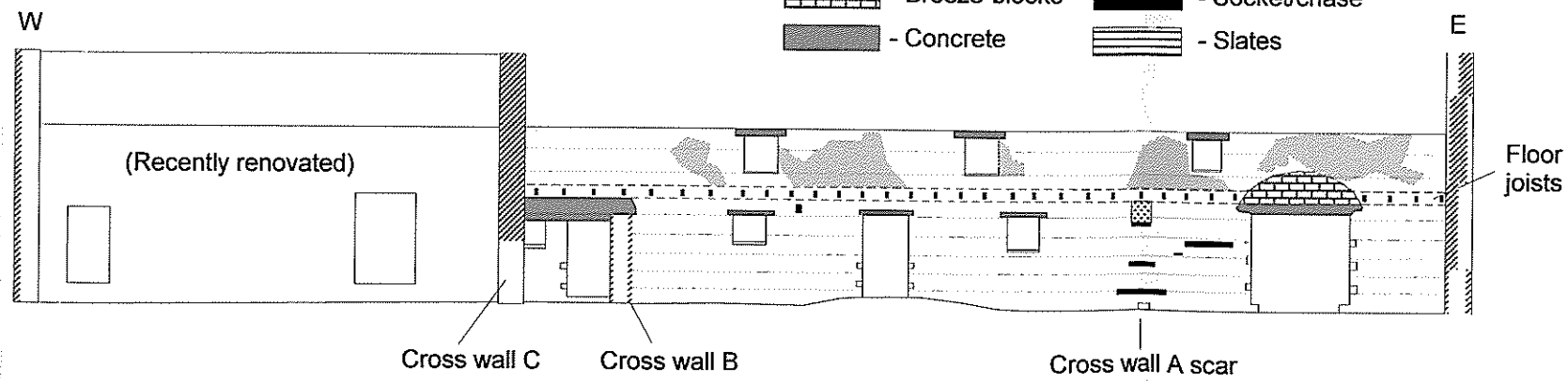
NORTH WALL: EXTERNAL ELEVATION



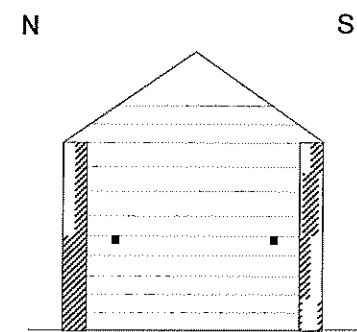
WEST WALL: EXTERNAL ELEVATION



NORTH WALL: INTERNAL ELEVATION



EAST WALL: INTERNAL ELEVATION



- Slate band
- Brickwork
- Breeze-blocks
- Concrete
- Render
- Corework
- Socket/chase
- Slates

Skomer Island Farm outbuilding range: north wall exterior (east end), from north



Skomer Island Farm outbuilding range: north wall exterior (east central section), from north



Skomer Island Farm outbuilding range: north wall exterior (west central section), from north



Skomer Island Farm outbuilding range: north wall exterior (west end), from north



Skomer Island Farm outbuilding range: east wall exterior, from east



Skomer Island Farm outbuilding range: west wall exterior, from west



Skomer Island Farm outbuilding range: south wall exterior (west end), from south



Skomer Island Farm outbuilding range: south wall exterior (west central section), from south



Skomer Island Farm outbuilding range: south wall exterior (east central section),
from south



Skomer Island Farm outbuilding range: south wall exterior (east end), from south

