

CPAT Report No. 1674

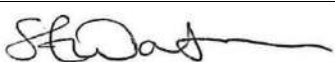
Marchwiel Mill House

Heritage Impact Assessment



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS
CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Client name: Megan Boreham
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Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:
		
Sophie Watson Project Archaeologist	Paul Belford Director	Paul Belford Director
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YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS
 CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR, United Kingdom

+44 (0) 1938 553 670

trust@cpat.org.uk

www.cpat.org.uk

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Summary

A pre-application Heritage Impact Assessment was conducted by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in connection with a proposed extension to the Grade II listed Marchwiel Mill House, Marchwiel, near Wrexham (Denbighshire).

The assessment included examination of readily available sources including the regional Historic Environment Record and the National Monument Record, together with a range of cartographic, documentary and published sources, together with a field visit.

The assessment has identified that the Mill House was probably built in or after 1840 at a time when Marchwiel Hall (located the south-east) was undergoing alterations. The Mill House is a highly decorative former landscape park feature, which contains a number of original features, fixtures and fittings internally and externally. The wheel pit survives to the west of the mill, the water being provided by a large mill pool located to the south.

The proposals seek to minimise the magnitude of impact to the asset through careful design, proposing to leave the wheel pit *in situ* beneath a projecting extension above it. The magnitude of impact is therefore considered to be moderate to slight. However, additional walling was identified beyond the wheel pit to the west and this should also be considered when drawing up any final structural designs.

Crynodeb

Bu Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys yn cynnal Asesiad o Effaith ar Dreftadaeth cyn-cais mewn cysylltiad ag estyniad arfaethedig i Dŷ Melin Marchwiail, Marchwiail, ger Wrecsam (Sir Ddinbych), sy'n adeilad rhestredig Gradd II.

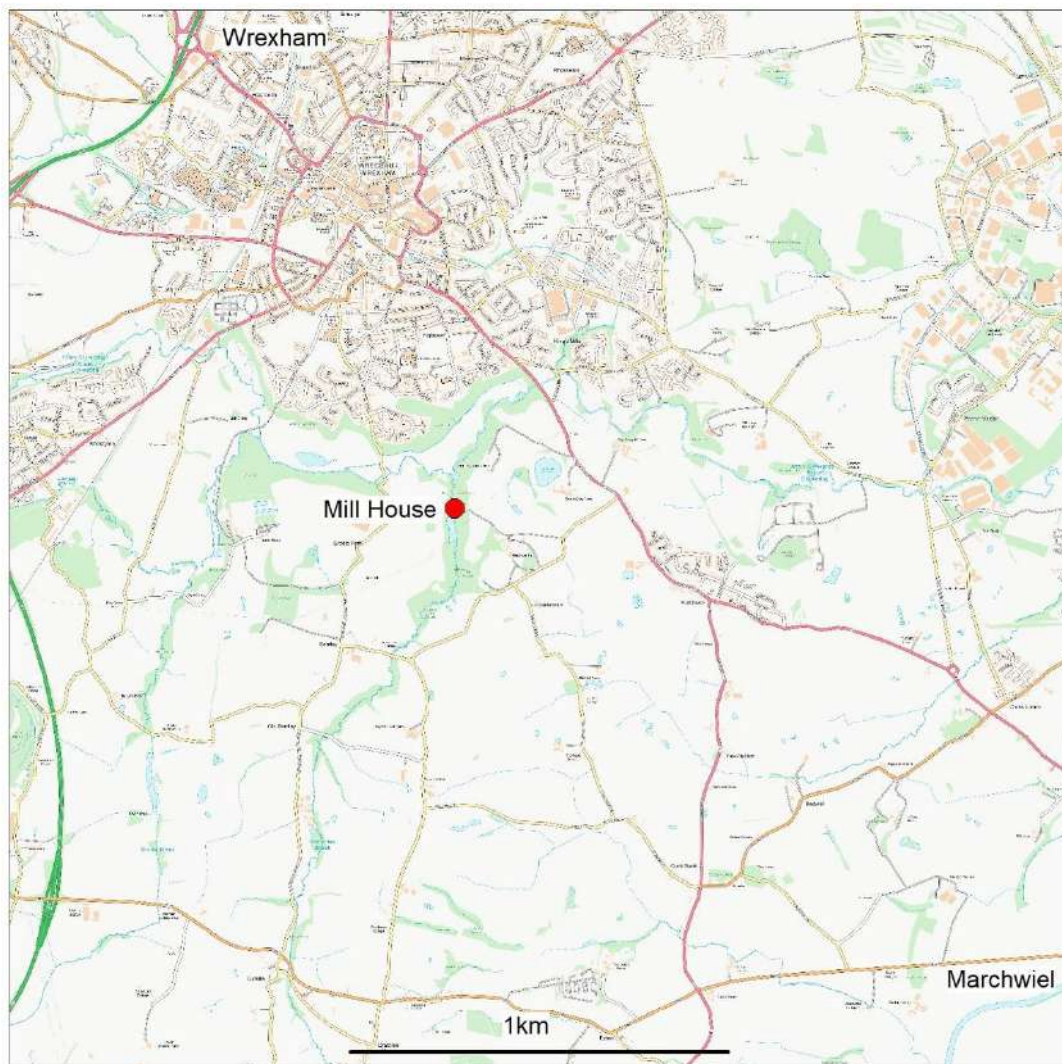
Roedd yr asesiad yn cynnwys archwilio ffynonellau a oedd ar gael yn rhwydd, gan gynnwys y Cofnod Amgylchedd Hanesyddol rhanbarthol a'r Cofnod Henebion Cenedlaethol, ynghyd ag amrywiaeth o ffynonellau cartograffig, dogfennol a chyhoeddedig, a hefyd ymweliad maes.

Nododd yr asesiad ei bod hi'n debygol i Dŷ'r Felin gael ei adeiladu ym 1840 neu wedi hynny, ar adeg pan roedd Plas Marchwiail (i'r de-ddwyrain) yn cael ei altro. Mae Tŷ'r Felin yn gyn nodwedd parc tirwedd hynod addurnol, sy'n cynnwys nifer o nodweddion, gosodion a ffitiadau gwreiddiol y tu mewn a'r tu allan. Mae twll yr olwyn wedi goroesi i'r gorllewin o'r felin, gyda phwll melin mawr i'r de.

Mae'r cynigion yn ceisio effeithio cyn lleied â phosibl ar yr ased trwy ddylunio gofalus, gan gynnig gadael twll yr olwyn yn ei le o dan estyniad yn dod allan uwchben. Felly ystyrir mai cymedrol i ysgafn yw graddau'r effaith. Fodd bynnag, nodwyd mur ychwanegol y tu hwnt i dwll yr olwyn, i'r gorllewin, a dylid ystyried hwn hefyd wrth lunio unrhyw ddyluniadau strwythurol terfynol.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Field Services department of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust were commissioned by Megan Boreham to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment for the Mill and Cottage at Marchwiell, Wrexham (SJ3405648273). The work formed part of a pre-application for planning consent to modernise the Mill House and extend the property further to the west.
- 1.2. The Mill Cottage is a Grade II Listed Building (17844) situated within the Marchwiell Estate and is thought to date to 1840.



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Fig. 1 Location of Marchwiell Mill Cottage

2 Methodology

- 2.1. The assessment consisted of a desk-based study of readily available primary and secondary documentary and cartographic sources in order to provide a historical framework for any surviving archaeological remains. This included relevant records held at the regional Historic Environment Records (HER) maintained by CPAT and the National Monument Record.

- 2.2. The assessment was conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (2017).

3 Scope and Guidance

- 3.1. The cultural heritage is a broad concept that embraces archaeological remains, the built heritage and historic landscapes. Cultural heritage is deemed to include the full range of man-made features that have been imposed on the landscape from the Palaeolithic, more than two hundred and fifty thousand years ago, to the 20th century. Some of these features will be visible as upstanding remains on the ground; others will be buried and only become apparent during ground disturbance. Some will have an archaeological interest and importance; others will be more historical in their origin. Collectively these features are known as heritage assets.
- 3.2. At a national level it is Cadw, the historic environment service within Welsh Government, which holds the remit for the cultural heritage resource. Another national body, Natural Resources Wales, has a particular interest in historic landscapes.
- 3.3. At a regional level, the cultural heritage resource is monitored by the regional Welsh Archaeological Trusts, and in this instance the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust acts as archaeological adviser to Wrexham County Borough Council.
- 3.4. The legislative framework for the historic environment in Wales was revised by the *Historic Environment (Wales) Act* 2016. The 2016 Act amended the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act* 1979 and the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act* 1990. It extended the definition of scheduled monuments and enhanced their protection, as well as making changes to the process of scheduled monument consent. Changes were also made to the protection of listed buildings. The 2016 Act also provided for a statutory register of historic landscapes, a statutory list of place names, and imposed a statutory duty on Welsh Ministers to compile and maintain Historic Environment Records (HERs).
- 3.5. National policy within Wales is set out in *Planning Policy Wales* (10th edition, 2018) (PPW). Issues relating to the historic environment are set out in Chapter 6, Distinctive and Natural Places. This notes that the 'protection, conservation and enhancement of historic assets is most effective when it is considered at the earliest stage' of a project; hence the need for a reasonable and proportionate impact assessment to ensure that any proposed development is sustainable and to prevent unnecessary harm to historic assets.
- 3.6. PPW is supported by *Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment* (TAN 24). It is designed to assist local authorities with developing their local plans and for determination of planning applications or listed building consent in relation to historic assets. PPW is also supported by associated Cadw best practice guidance on the historic environment.
- 3.7. The assessment will follow guidance produced by Cadw, on behalf of the Welsh Government, for managing historic assets: *Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales* (2017); *The Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (2017); and *Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales* (2011). The assessment of potential impacts to the Registered Historic Landscape will utilise the *Guide to Good Practice on Using the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in the Planning and Development Process* (2nd edition, 2007), produced jointly by Cadw and CCW.

- 3.8. The revised *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges* (DMRB), Volume 11 Section 3 Part 2, HA 208/07 (August 2007), though not specifically focused on developments of this nature, provides a suitable, general framework for assessing the cultural heritage.

4 Historical Background

- 4.1. This section provides a brief summary of the archaeology and history of the study area and its immediate surrounds to enable the Mill Cottage to be placed in a wider context.
- 4.2. Little is known of the origins of the village of Marchwiell. The earliest reference – which is to Marchocil – comes from the Norwich Taxation of 1254 which confirms the presence of a church at this date. Its existence as an administrative area within the lordship of Bromfield and Yale was recorded in 1315. The name is interpreted as meaning ‘large saplings’ and possibly suggests deliberate cultivation, but is otherwise uninformative. There is nothing to suggest an earlier, pre-Conquest origin.
- 4.3. The existence of the church in the 13th century suggests that formal establishment of a separate parish of Marchwiell may have taken place then. However information panels within the church suggest that Marchwiell parish was carved out of Bangor-on-Dee only as late as 1535, and that prior to this there had been a chapel, dependent on Bangor, on the site of the present church. However the evidence noted above, together with a 1359 record of a parson at Marchwiell, seems to indicate a much earlier foundation. The St Asaph historian, Archdeacon Thomas, was inclined to see the separation of Marchwiell from its mother church as an occurrence much earlier than the 16th century.
- 4.4. As late as c.1699 Edward Lhuyd was able to note in his *Parochial Queries* that there were only five houses and a smithy around the church at Marchwiell, and as far as can be established there are no pre-19th-century maps that would provide an idea of the scale of settlement here. The landscape evidence suggests that the main settlement is of relatively recent origin, perhaps no older than the early 18th century.
- 4.5. Marchwiell lay on the route of the Wrexham and Ellesmere Railway, which was constructed in 1892-95, forming a belated addition to the Cambrian Railways network. Although never successful in its own right, the Wrexham and Ellesmere branch connected Marchwiell with the market centre of Wrexham and undoubtedly initiated the growth of the settlement along the A525.

The Mill House

- 4.6. According to the listed building description, there has been a mill at this site for many centuries, with the current mill said to have been a result of remodelling in the 1840s. Marchwiell Hall is also recorded as having been remodelled at the same time.
- 4.7. However, the 1837 Old Series 1" map of Wales records no evidence of a Mill at the current site. The tithe map of 1840 (Fig. 2) again records no building at the mill site, in addition to which, the site of the mill pool is shown as a parcel of woodland, and is recorded in the apportionment as ‘wood’. Marchwiell Hall is recorded to the south-east and a ‘Crab Mill’ is recorded further to the west on the outskirts of Erddig Park.



Fig. 2 Tithe Map of 1840 showing the site of the mill in red

- 4.8. The fields surrounding the mill site on the north and western sides were recorded in the tithe apportionment as 'Ruff Moor' and 'Meadow' and there is no reference to a mill.
- 4.9. The mill is first recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1872 (Fig. 3). The mill is described as a 'Corn Mill', with the mill building shown as rectangular in plan, with the wheel pit clearly marked at the western end. The mill house adjoins the mill at its eastern end and is shown as L-shaped in plan. This reflects the layout of the upstanding buildings visible on the site today.
- 4.10. An additional building is shown around 10m to the north-east of the mill buildings, and this, a brick structure, is also still upstanding (photo 4661-0073-74).
- 4.11. The mill pool is situated to the south of the mill, utilising water from the Gefeiliau Brook, an off shoot from the River Clywedog which is located to the north. An additional off-shoot from the brook is shown just to the north of the mill house.
- 4.12. A small pond is shown between the mill buildings and pool, which appears to have been managed by a sluice at the north-eastern corner of the larger mill pool. An additional sluice is shown to the west. Presumably, water from the larger pool was diverted to the smaller pond via the sluice at the north-eastern corner and then on to the water wheel, probably via a launder (a wooden trough). The wheel is thought to have been fed with water from above, with the watercourse to the north of the mill acting as the tail race, allowing the water the flow back into the Gefeiliau Brook. It is likely that a culvert runs below ground from the wheel pit to the north before the water joined the small water course shown on the Ordnance Survey mapping.

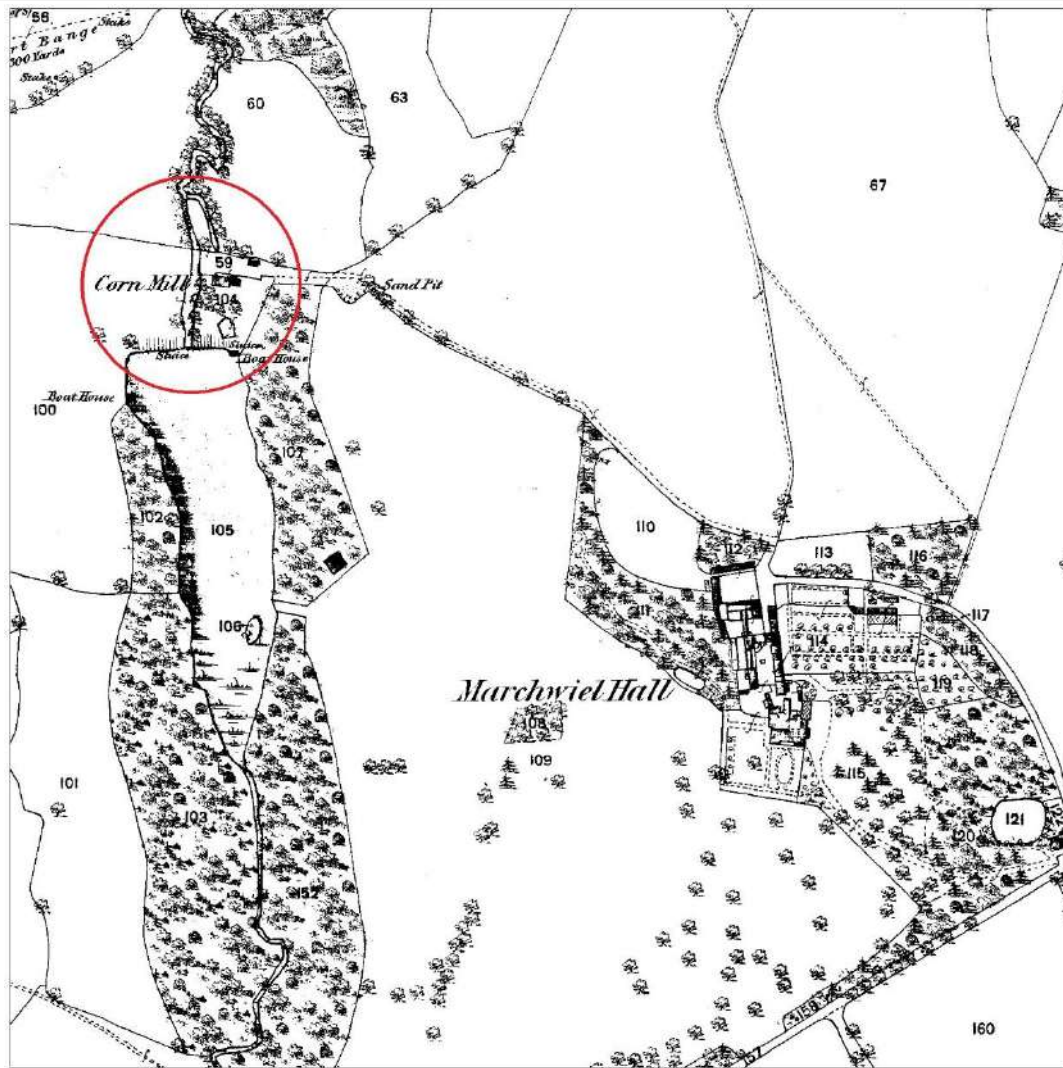


Fig. 3 1872 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map

- 4.13. Two boat houses are shown on the 1872 map at the northern end of the mill pool and an additional structure is shown to the east within the woodland.
- 4.14. By the time the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map was published in 1899, the mill is recorded as disused. A small structure is shown projecting from the southern side of the wheel pit, likely to have been the launder.
- 4.15. On this map, the mill pool is recorded as 'Manley Pool' and the woodland to the west of it 'Mill Pool Covert'. The woodland to the east of the pool is recorded as 'The Warren'.

5 Building Survey

- 5.1. The survey was conducted on 3 July 2019 in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA (2014) *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures*.
- 5.2. At the time of the survey the building was heavily overgrown and some areas were inaccessible due to vegetation and health and safety. This meant that a full assessment was not possible. In particular, the attic of the mill, the mill cellar and the area around the wheel pit were

inaccessible, although photographs have been taken of these areas from a distance where possible.

- 5.3. The survey drawings are based on plans and elevations supplied by the client. Where necessary and where possible, additional hand measured plans were made at the time of the survey by the archaeologist.
- 5.4. The building was positioned at the bottom of a small wooded valley accommodating the Gefeiliau Brook which runs north-south from the River Clwydog (located to the north). The site was accessed via a sloping track from Marchwiel Hall which lies around 400m to the south-east.

Mill house

- 5.5. The L-shaped mill house was located to the east of the rectangular mill building, which adjoins the house's western side. The house was single storey with an attic above. It was timber-framed and pegged with wooden dowels, the framing constructed upon a dressed stone plinth. It was not certain how the infill panels had been constructed as they were rendered and painted white. The external roof covering was of slate; a central stack contained three diagonally-set chimneys.



Fig. 4. Northern elevation of the mill house. CPAT photo 4661-0005.

- 5.6. The house featured some highly decorative carved timber, particularly to the south and east elevations. The eastern elevation had an ornate single doorway to the ground floor painted in black and white (Fig. 5). The design of the door incorporated two wooden carved snakes and a decorative iron strap hinge. The wooden door jambs and lintel were ornately decorated with black and white painted leaves with beveled detailing around the edge.



Fig. 5. Carvings on the mill house door. CPAT photos 4661-0002/0064.

- 5.7. The stone plinth that ran around the base of the building was decorated at the corners (photo 4661-0003).
- 5.8. The attic storey had a jettied window topped with a carved wooden finial (photo 4661-0079). The two small square attic windows had cast iron frames with lozenge detail to the center (photo 4661-0012). There was a decorative wooden string course to the attic in a dentil pattern with carved flowers. This wooden string course continued around to the south and along the entirety of the southern elevation, including the mill building.
- 5.9. The southern elevation of the mill house was also timber framed and pegged, with a jettied dormer window to the attic at the centre, topped with a carved wooden finial (photo 4661-0017). Below the attic window the string course was ornately carved with foliage and bears the inscription 'TM. AMM 1840' (Fig. 6). On the ground floor, there are two tall cast-iron lozenge-patterned windows, with ornately carved timber surrounds (photo 4661-0019), in keeping with the entrance doorway on the east elevation.



Fig. 6. Date carved on the southern elevation of the mill house. CPAT photo 4661-0021.

-
- 5.10. The northern elevation of the house had a projecting gable range with a square brick chimney at the apex (Fig. 4 above). This range – which housed a small kitchen and the stairs to the attic – was of brick construction with a timber-framed attic above with two small square wooden-framed windows. This elevation was markedly devoid of any decorative architectural details in comparison to the south and east elevations.
- 5.11. The mill house was accessed via a doorway from the east at the side of the projecting north gable range. This provided access into a small kitchen area with range and wooden stairs leading up to the attic floor and a doorway through into the southern side of the building which was divided into two rooms of similar size, that to the west housing a cast iron stove with timber surround (photo 4661-0015). The flooring was linoleum covered. The eastern room housed a small fire place; it floor was concreted.
- 5.12. As the plans provided of the upper storey of the mill house detailed the proposed layout, a record was made of the current layout, highlighting some inconsistencies with the measurements on the plans provided.
- 5.13. The attic floor of the mill house contained four small bedrooms and a bathroom. All of the floors were wooden boarded. The eastern room housed a small fireplace (photo 4661-0013). The arrangement of the roof timbers were also recorded on the plan. It is worth noting that the attic of the mill cottage extends around half way across the attic of the mill.

Mill

- 5.14. The mill building has a main working floor with an attic above and a cellar beneath.
- 5.15. Along the southern elevation, the mill building projected 1.67m further southwards than the back wall of the cottage. The mill structure was of brick construction with timber framing to the attic along the south elevation (Fig. 7). The decorative craved string course continued along below the attic of the mill building from the mill cottage and below this the construction was of white painted brick in a Flemish bond, set upon the decorative stone plinth. Decorative stone quoins were located at the corners (photos 4661-0022-26).
- 5.16. The remaining elevations of the mill were of brick. The western gable housed a tall cast-iron lozenge patterned window to the attic (photos 4661-0033, 0075). The wheel pit extended along the side of this elevation, but this was not easily accessible at the time of the survey, although a wide arched opening with a segmental brick header could be seen at cellar height, which would have housed the drive shaft for the water wheel. An additional arched opening was shown to the south of this on the elevation drawing provided by the client, however it was not possible to get photographs of this. The northern elevation of the mill had a small, plain dormer window to the attic (Fig. 8). The main mill floor was accessed via a set of iron steps leading up to a projecting covered balcony which allowed access into the mill via a wide wooden doorway (photo 4661-0060). There were two tall windows to either side of the doorway with sandstone sills and segmental brick arches above.



Fig. 7. Southern elevation of the mill. CPAT photo 4661-0023.



Fig. 8. Northern elevation of the mill. CPAT photo 4661-0030.

- 5.17. Accessed via a set of stone steps, an additional wide single doorway provided access into the lower floor of the mill. Like the upper floor, this door had two tall windows to either side which were later infilled with brick (Fig. 9; see also photos 4661-0034, 35, 36).

- 5.18. The stone steps led down to a 2m wide passage running alongside the northern side of the mill, with a stone wall continuing from the steps and beyond the wheel pit to the west. The passage provided access to the northern end of the wheel pit.



Fig. 9. Left: blocked cellar windows at the north-western corner of the mill (CPAT photo 4661-0034); Right: the western gable (CPAT photo 4661-0075).

- 5.19. Additional stone walling was visible beyond the edge of the wheel pit to the west, extending in both a westwards and a north-south direction. These additional structural remains will need to be considered when drawing up final plans for the proposed extension.
- 5.20. Internally, the main mill floor (accessed via the iron steps) was wooden boarded. The north-western corner of the room had been partitioned off by a wooden structure (photos 4661-0056-58). A hatch through the joists in the south-western corner led up to the attic (photo 4661-0059) – this was partially accessed to allow for some photographs to be taken but was not fully accessed.
- 5.21. Wooden joists were supported by two substantial timber beams, which bear a number of heavy iron fixings, and remnants of bearing blocks and associated bolts (Fig. 10; see also photos 4661-0039-40, 50-55, 58-59). The positioning of the remaining iron work appears to relate to a number of recesses in the brick work and some of the joists bear wear marks from ropes or belts (photo 4661-0053). There are several areas where the joists have been cut through to house the former mill machinery (photo 4661-0055), probably hoppers and drive belts.
- 5.22. Although not fully accessed, photographs taken of the mill attic space showed that there were remnants of fixings to the roof beams, including iron bolts and the remnants of bearing blocks (photo's 4661-0042-45).



Fig. 10. Fixings to the mill beams, viewed from the east. CPAT photo 4661-0059.

- 5.23. Access to the cellar of the mill building was not possible at the time of the survey however it was possible to obtain a few photographs via a hole through the floor above it (photo's 4661-0046-49). This revealed the southern and eastern walls of the cellar to be of stone construction. It was also possible to see a large upright beam located towards the southern wall and also a door way through the eastern elevation, which must lead to a cellar beneath the house.
- 5.24. A substantial timber beam could be seen supporting the joists to the floor above (photo 4661-0048) – the end of which can be seen projecting through the northern elevation of the mill (photo 4661-0036).



Fig. 11. View of the mill cellar from the north. Note the large timber upright and the yellow doorway thorough the eastern elevation into the mill house. CPAT photo 4661-0048-49.

6 Baseline Assessment

- 6.1. The assessment involved the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary sources at the following repositories: Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and the National Monuments Record.

World Heritage Sites

- 6.2. There are no World Heritage Sites within 250m of the Development.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

- 6.3. There are no scheduled ancient monument within 250m of the Development.

Listed Buildings

- 6.4. The proposed Development affects a listed building (17844) known as Mill House, Marchwiel. The mill was associated with Marchwiel Hall, which lies around 400m to the south-east and is itself listed grade II, with three other grade II structures being associated, including the stables, pigsties and the Bothy and garden wall.

Registered Parks and Gardens

- 6.5. There are no registered parks and gardens within 250m of the Development, although the boundary of the Erddig estate lies 400m to the west.

Registered Historic Landscapes

- 6.6. There are no registered historic landscapes within 250m of the Development.

Conservation Areas

- 6.7. There are no conservation areas within 250m of the Development.

Undesignated Assets

- 6.8. The data obtained from the Clwyd-Powys Historic Environment Record identified one undesignated asset within 250m of the Development (PRN 141860) – a 19th-century Rifle Range.
- 6.9. A total of 11 additional assets have been recorded as part of the desk-based assessment from the early Ordnance Survey Mapping. These are recorded below.

PRN	Name	Period	Type	Value
141860	Sontley Bridge/Erddig, Volunteers' rifle range	Post-medieval	Rifle Range	Low
Site 1	Manley footbridge	Post-medieval		Low

Site 2	Marchwiel Mill, outbuilding	Post-medieval	Building	
Site 3	Marchwiel, sandpit	Post-medieval	Sandpit	Low
Site 4	Marchwiel, mill pond	Post-medieval	Pond	Low
Site 5	Marchwiel, mill sluice	Post-medieval	Sluice	Low
Site 6	Marchwiel Mill, weir	Post-medieval	Weir	Low
Site 7	Marchwiel Mill, sluice II	Post-medieval	Sluice	Low
Site 8	Marchwiel Mill, boat house I	Post-medieval	Boat House	Low
Site 9	Marchwiel Mill, boat house II	Post-medieval	Boat House	Low
Site 10	The Warren, building	Post-medieval	Building	Low
Site 11	Marchwiel Mill, pool (Manley Pool)	Post-medieval	Mill Pool	Low

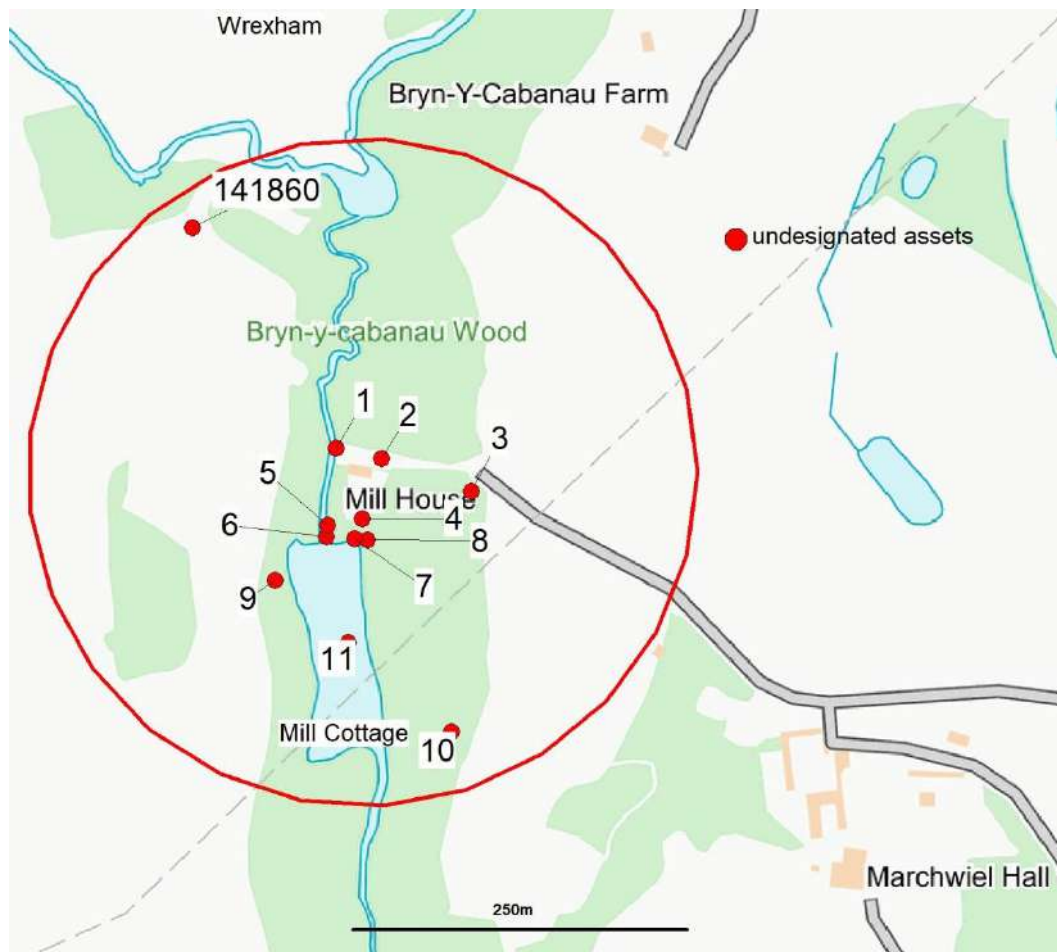


Fig. 12. Undesignated assets within 250m of Marchwiel Mill House

7 Impact Assessment

- 7.1. The following section assesses the potential impacts on the Mill House in accordance with Cadw's *Conservation Principles* (2010). This states that the potential impact of development or changes to a heritage asset should be assessed having first considered the significance of the asset, based on four component values, and the affect the proposals may have on each value. Welsh Government Technical Advice Note (TAN) 28 (2017) requires the assessment process to consider not only the significance of a heritage asset, but also the contribution the setting of that assets makes to that significance.

Evidential value

- 7.2. This derives from those elements of an historic asset that can provide evidence about past human activity and could include the physical remains or surviving fabric of an asset, the contribution of documentary sources, pictorial records and museum collections.
- 7.3. Marchwiel Mill is likely to have functioned as a landscape feature for Marchwiel Hall, probably as part of a ride through the park and to be enjoyed by any boaters on the mill pool. The mill house and parts of the mill contain a wealth of architectural detail, including intricate wooden carvings and dressed stone. As an example of an 1840's estate house and mill the building has a moderate to high significance based on evidential value. The plan, form and detailing of

the original building remains largely intact. The interior of the house retains little of obvious value with the exception of the decorative windows. The proposed plans are unlikely to alter any of these details significantly, and whilst the extension would cover over features that contribute to the historical value of the mill building (the wheel pit and associated features) these features would be preserved within the fabric of the building. The buildings evidential value will be unaffected.

Historical value

- 7.4. An historic asset might illustrate a particular aspect of past life or it might be associated with a notable family, person, event or movement. These illustrative or associative values of an historic asset may be less tangible than its evidential value but will often connect past people, events and aspects of life with the present and are not so easily diminished by change as evidential values and are harmed only to the extent that adaptation has obliterated them or concealed them.
- 7.5. As far as is known, there is currently very little known about the history of the mill and its connections and place within the local community. It lies around 1.7km west of the village at Marchwiell and its location on the Marchwiell Estate is relatively private. The proposals will have no adverse impact on the historic value of the building.

Aesthetic value

- 7.6. This derives from the way in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from an historic asset through its form, external appearance or setting.
- 7.7. The Mill House at Marchwiell includes elements of ornate architectural design, providing an example of local architectural styles of the time as part of a larger estate. The mill pool is still functioning, though it is heavily overgrown and combined with the mill, the pool and its surrounds presents an attractive Victorian parkland landscape feature, in a fine natural setting.
- 7.8. The proposals will have no adverse impact on the aesthetic value and are more likely to enhance it than detract from it.

Communal value

- 7.9. This derives from the meanings that an historic asset has for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.
- 7.10. Originally part of the wider Marchwiell Estate, the Mill House appears to have been relatively private and fairly short-lived, certainly operating for no longer than 60 years. Very little is currently known about the history of the mill and the nature of its communal value.
- 7.11. The proposals are not considered to have any significant impact on this value.

Setting

- 7.12. The setting of Marchwiell Mill House is provided by a small wooded valley which follows the course of the Gefeiliau Brook. The brook provided the water power for the mill and fed the mill pool, which is located to the south of the mill buildings.
- 7.13. Although part of the wider Marchwiell Estate, the mill buildings are located down slope from the Hall and its associated listed buildings. The wooded nature of the landscape means that

there is currently no inter-visibility between them, and the extent of any former inter-visibility is not certain.

- 7.14. As well as the main trackway that leads from the south-east from Marchwiell Hall, there are additional trackways in the immediate surrounding area which may have afforded views of the building in its heyday. Before reaching the mill, one track diverts off to the south from the main mill track and progresses through the woodland alongside the mill pool. From this track, some minor sightings of the mill are possible through the trees.
- 7.15. The main trackway, once past the northern side of the mill appears to have continued westwards via a footbridge over the Gefeilau Brook and on towards New Sontley and thereafter joining tracks which lead into the Erddig Park.
- 7.16. Undoubtedly the mill would have featured as an important landscape element within the wider Marchwiell Estate. The mill house and parts of the mill were highly decorated, particularly on the elevations that would have been sited at first approach and also on the southern side where the mill overlooked the mill pool. It was obviously important that this side of the mill was also aesthetically pleasing when viewed from the mill pool, where there are known to have been at least two boat houses.

Statement of Significance

Summary description

- 7.17. Marchwiell Mill Cottage is a good example of a 19th century estate house and mill, built in or after 1840. The building contains a wealth of intricate architectural decoration and provides an example of local architectural design. The principal views from the mill are south, across the mill pool.

Heritage Values

- 7.18. The Mill House was developed as part of the Marchwiell Estate as a water powered corn mill, possibly providing flour for the estate and locally around Marchwiell. As well as being a functional building, it was obviously equally designed to be aesthetically pleasing to visitors to the Marchwiell Estate and incorporates a high level of ornately carved timber detailing to the overall structure as well as remnant fixtures and fittings within the mill building, indicating the positions of bearing blocks, ropes or belts and the possible locations of the hoppers.

Character-Defining Elements

- 7.19. Key elements that define the heritage character of the Mill House include:
- the mill house
 - the corn mill and associated fixings and features
 - the mill pool
 - the mill watercourses
 - principle views from the mill towards the mill pool
 - principal views towards the mill from the surrounding landscape

8 Assessment of Impacts

- 8.1. The assessment has identified that the Mill House, a grade II listed building, is likely to have been constructed in or after 1840, at a time when Marchwiell Hall (located to the south-east) was undergoing some re-design.
- 8.2. The Mill House and the pool, which is located to the south, appear to have been constructed as an important element of the Marchwiell Estate, incorporating some highly decorative carved timber work clearly intended to have a marked visual impact, in a quaint rural setting, particularly when viewed from the mill pool.
- 8.3. Remnants of fixtures and fittings are visible within the mill, including iron bolts, remains of bearing blocks, worn joists (via ropes or belts) and a number of timber fixings. The wheel pit survives to the west, as well as additional stone walling, beyond it. It is possible that a culvert extends northwards from the wheel pit below ground.
- 8.4. The proposal seeks to mitigate the potential impacts to the building through careful design, proposing an extension to the mill building that will project outwards above the wheel pit, leaving the pit in-situ and ensuring any supporting structural elements take into account the surviving structural remains of the mill. The additional stone walls to the west of the wheel pit identified during the site survey will also need to be considered when drawing up final designs.
- 8.5. As a listed building, the historic value of the Mill House is high. The magnitude of effect by the impact of the proposals is likely to be relatively minor, making the overall significance moderate to slight.
- 8.6. A previously mentioned some areas of the building were inaccessible at the time of survey and it is possible that unseen features may be surviving that may have a bearing on the overall significance.

9 Conclusions

- 9.1. A Heritage Impact Assessment has been conducted to determine the potential direct and indirect impacts on heritage assets which could result from proposals to extend the Marchwiell Mill House, on the outskirts of Wrexham.
- 9.2. The desk-based assessment has revealed eleven new undesignated assets within 250m of the Mill, most of which related directly to the mill or the wider Marchwiell Estate. All of these features are considered to be of low significance and are unlikely to be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposals.
- 9.3. It is clear that there may be some potential for impacts to the structural remains of the mill building which is Grade II listed, namely the site of the wheel pit and additional walling which survives beyond it to the west. Potential impacts on these features should be assessed during the design stages, and if necessary consideration should be given to further survey and investigation work to determine more clearly their nature, extent, state of preservation, heritage significance/value and vulnerability.

10 Sources

- 10.1. Unpublished sources

Cadw, 2011. Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales. Cardiff: Welsh Assembly Government/Cadw.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (2017).

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA (2014) *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures*.

Silvester, R.J., Martin, C.H.R and Watson, S., 2013. Historic *settlements in Wrexham County Borough*. CPAT Report No 1186.

Welsh Government, 2017a. Heritage Impact Assessments in Wales.

Welsh Government, 2017b. Setting of Historic Assets in Wales.

Cartographic sources

1837 Old Series 1" map of Wales

1840 Tithe apportionment for Marchwiell Parish

1872 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1st edition Denbighshire 28.16

1899 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 2nd edition Denbighshire 28.16

11 Photographic Catalogue

Photo Number	View From	Description
4661-0001	NE	External – east elevation of mill house
4661-0002	E	External – east elevation of mill house: door
4661-0003	NE	External – east elevation of mill house: decorative stone plinth
4661-0004	E	External – east elevation of mill house: door
4661-0005	NE	External – mill house
4661-0006	E	External – east elevation of mill house
4661-0007	NE	External – north elevation of mill house
4661-0008	N	Internal – view of stove in mill house
4661-0009	S	Internal – view of kitchen window in mill house
4661-0010	E	Internal – Cast iron window with lozenge detail in stairwell (north elevation of mill house)

4661-0011	E	Internal – Cast iron window with lozenge detail in stairwell (north elevation of mill house)
4661-0012	W	Internal – Cast iron window with lozenge detail in mill house attic (east elevation)
4661-0013	E	Internal – fireplace in eastern mill house attic bedroom
4661-0014	S	Internal – cast iron window in eastern ground floor room of mill house
4661-0015	W	Internal – cast iron range in ground floor of mill house (western room)
4661-0016	SW	External – attic dormer window to south elevation of mill house
4661-0017	SW	External – south elevation of mill house
4661-0018	E	External – east elevation of mill building
4661-0019	S	External – south elevation of mill house: detail of window surrounds
4661-0020	S	External – south elevation of mill house: detail of decorative timbers
4661-0021	S	External – south elevation of mill house: detail of decorative timbers
4661-0022	S	External – south elevation of mill building
4661-0023	S	External – south elevation of mill building
4661-0024	SE	External – south elevation of mill building
4661-0025	S	External – south elevation of mill building: stone plinth detail
4661-0026	S	External – south elevation of mill building: brick detail
4661-0027	S	External – view into the wheel pit
4661-0028	SE	External – view of area to west of wheel pit
4661-0029	NE	External – view of mill house (northern gable)
4661-0030	N	External – view of mill building
4661-0031	N	External – view of wheel pit
4661-0032	NW	External – view of wheel pit

4661-0033	W	External – western gable of mill building
4661-0034	NW	External – north-west corner of the mill building
4661-0035	NW	External – north-west corner of the mill building
4661-0036	N	External – north elevation of mill: access to cellar
4661-0037	NW	External – western elevation of the mill house
4661-0038	W	External – western elevation of the mill house
4661-0039	E	Internal – remnant fixings to timber beams in mill
4661-0040	NE	Internal – remnant fixings to timber beams in mill
4661-0041	W	Internal – mill attic roof
4661-0042	SW	Internal – mill attic roof
4661-0043	S	Internal – mill attic roof
4661-0044	SW	Internal – mill attic roof
4661-0045	S	Internal – mill attic roof
4661-0046	N	Internal – mill cellar
4661-0047	NE	Internal – mill cellar
4661-0048	N	Internal – mill cellar
4661-0049	N	Internal – mill cellar
4661-0050	S	Internal – mill joist detail showing remnant fixings
4661-0051	W	Internal – mill joist detail showing remnant fixings
4661-0052	W	Internal – mill joist detail showing remnant iron fixings
4661-0053	S	Internal – mill joist detail showing wear marks to joists
4661-0054	E	Internal – mill joist detail showing remnant fixings
4661-0055	S	Internal – mill joist detail showing cut joists
4661-0056	E	Internal – mill showing west elevation with ladders up to attic
4661-0057	SE	Internal – mill showing interior of partitioned area in NW corner

4661-0058	NW	Internal – mill showing eastern elevation
4661-0059	E	Internal – mill joist detail showing remnant fixings
4661-0060	NE	External – showing mill door
4661-0061	N	External – mill house
4661-0062	N	External – mill house chimneys
4661-0063	N	External – southern wall of wheel pit
4661-0064	SE	External – east elevation of mill house: door detail
4661-0065	SW	External – south elevation of mill house showing timber detail
4661-0066	E	Internal – mill house attic
4661-0067	N	Internal – mill house attic roof timbers
4661-0068	SE	Internal – mill house attic roof timbers
4661-0069	E	External – view towards the mill from the trackway leading down from Marchwiell Hall
4661-0070	E	External – view towards the mill from the trackway running alongside the eastern banks of the mill pool
4661-0071	S	External – view to the north from the trackway running along the eastern side of the mill pool
4661-0072	E	External – view towards the mill from the trackway running alongside the eastern banks of the mill pool
4661-0073	E	External – view towards the mill from the trackway leading down from Marchwiell Hall
4661-0074	SE	External – view of the out-building located to the north of the mill
4661-0075	W	External – western gable of the mill
4661-0076	N	External – stone walling located to the west of the wheel pit (walling aligned N-S)
4661-0077	W	External view of the mill
4661-0078	W	External view from the mill back up the track towards Marchwiell Hall

4661-0079	NE	External view of eastern elevation of the mill house showing the jettied attic
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12 Photographic Contact Sheets



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13 Archive deposition Statement

- 13.1. The project archive has been prepared according to the CPAT Archive Policy and in line with the CIfA *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives guidance* (2014). The archive is entirely digital and will be deposited jointly with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and the National Monuments Record (RCAHMW).

Archive summary

CPAT HER Event PRN: 140302

79 digital photographs, CPAT film no 4661

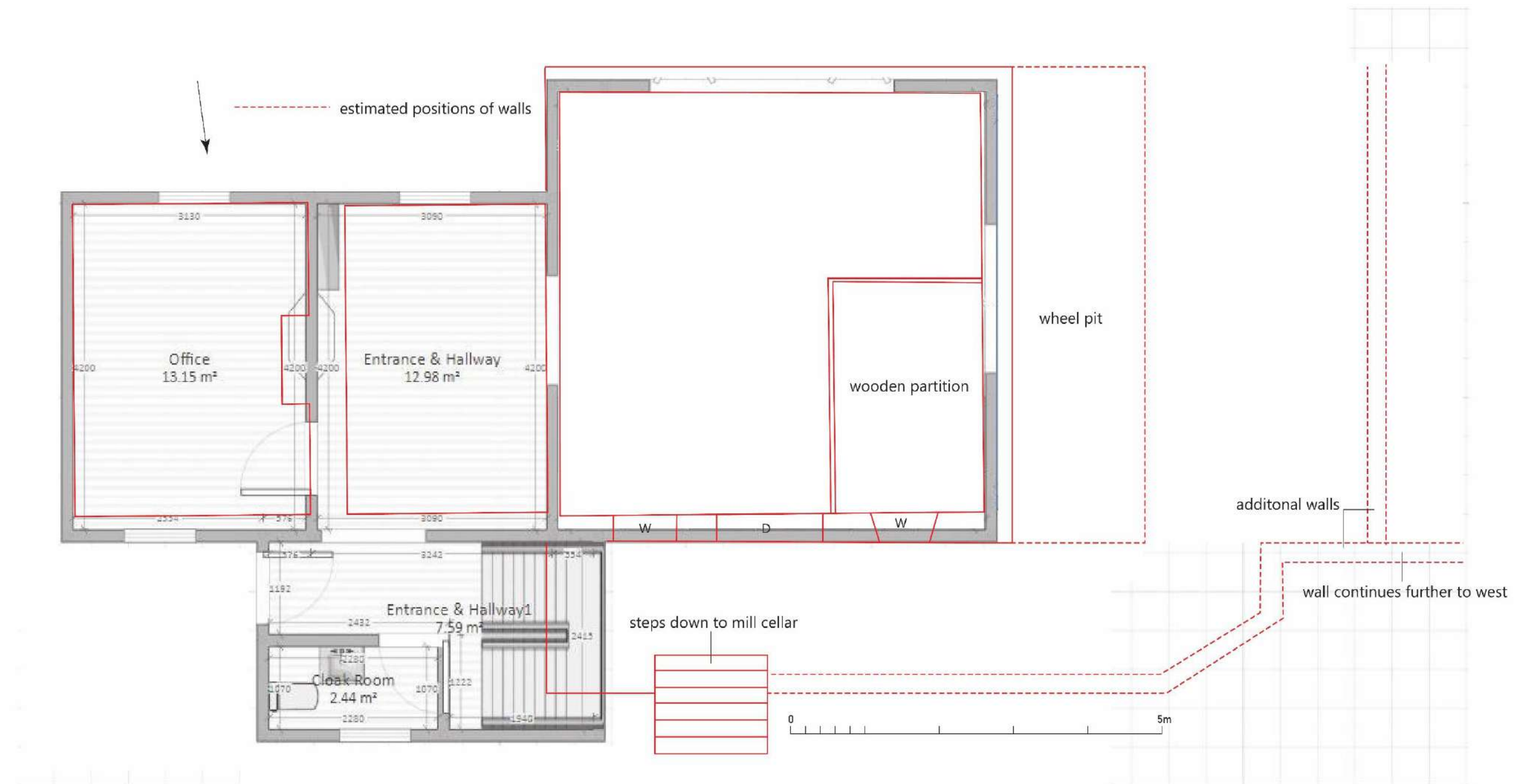


Fig. 13 Ground floor plan of mill house and mill showing alternative measurements and estimated positions of walls to the west of the mill

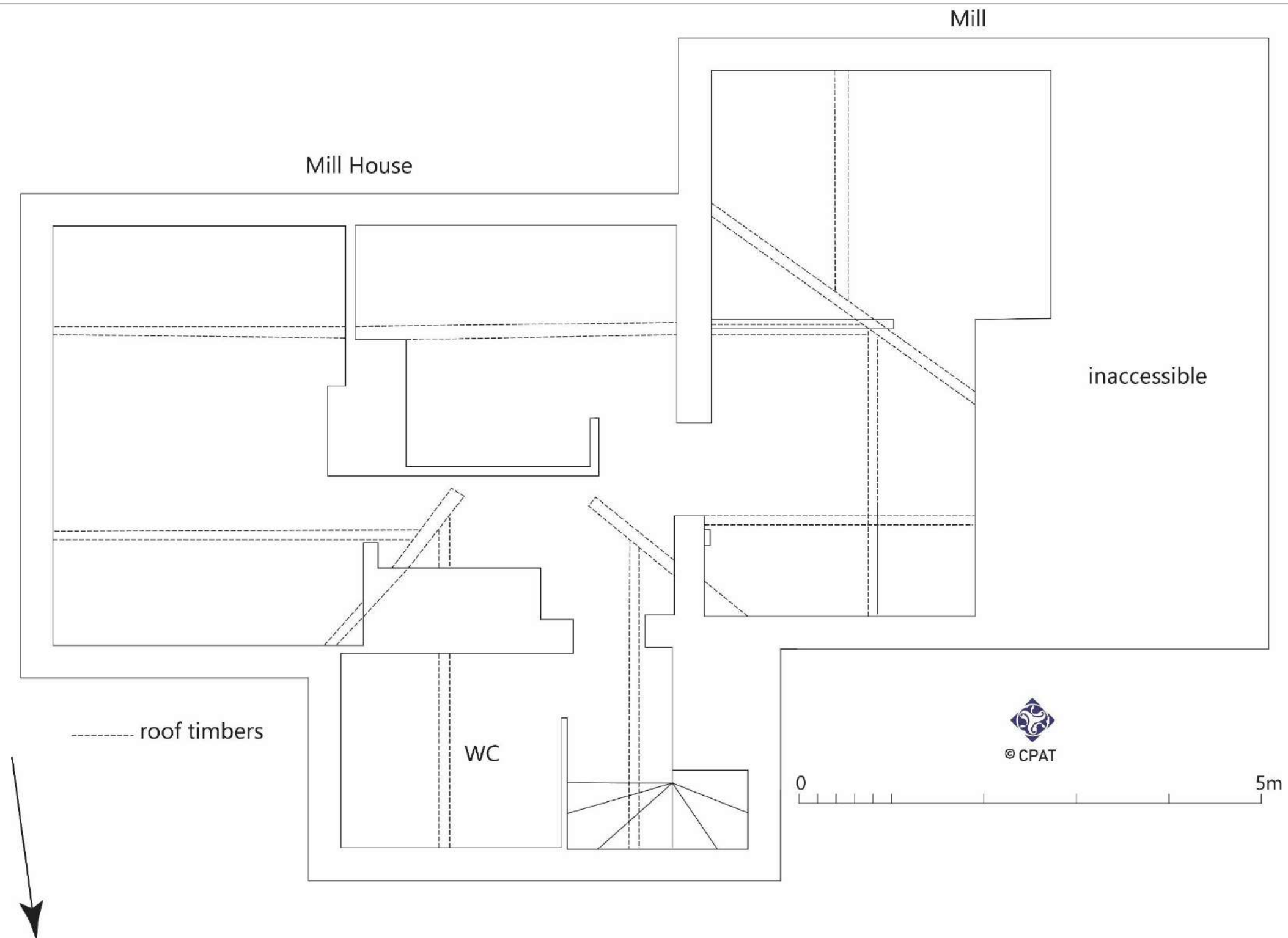


Fig. 14 First floor plan of mill house as existing

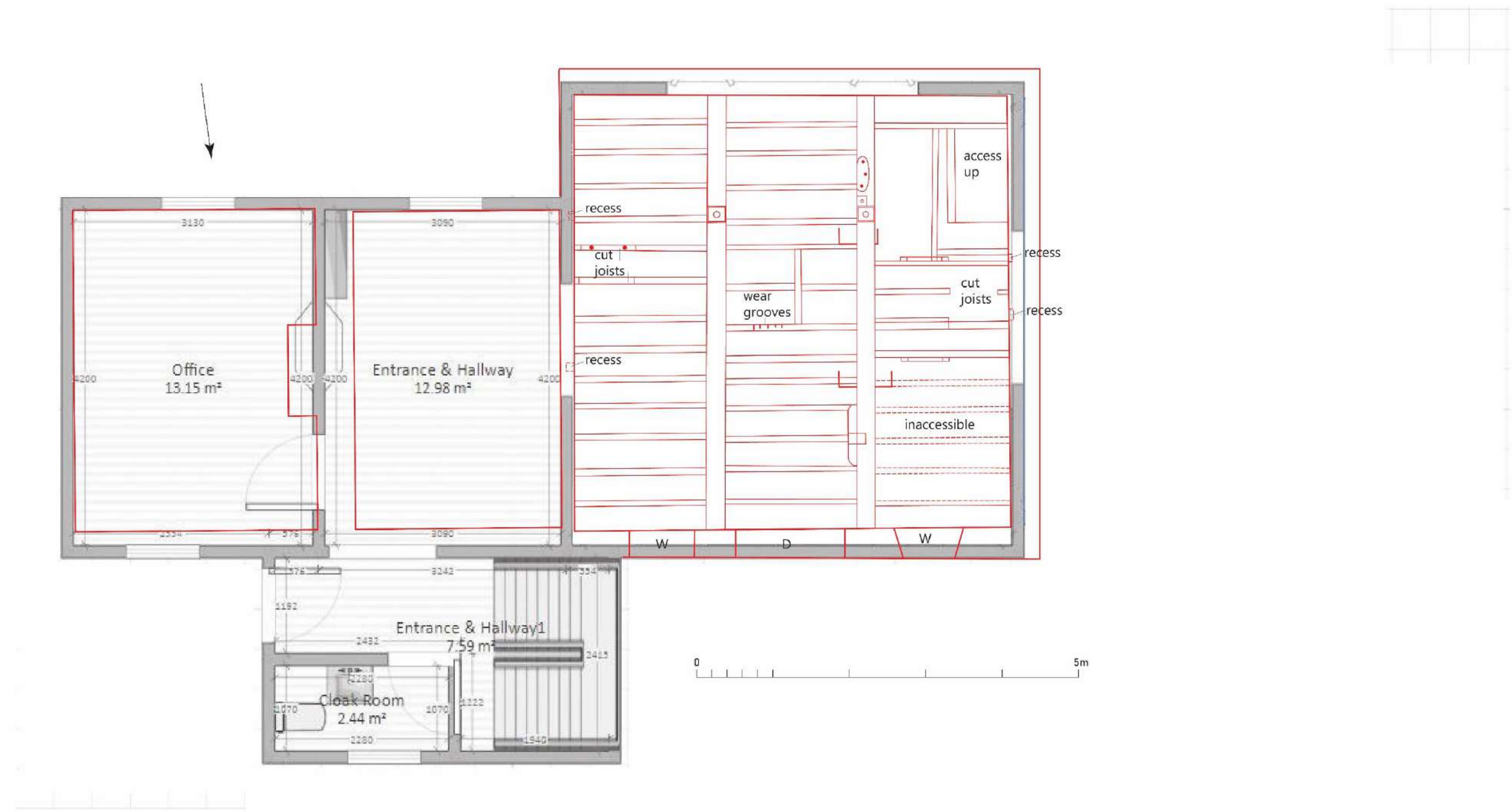


Fig. 15 Mill ceiling showing positions of beams, joists and iron fixings

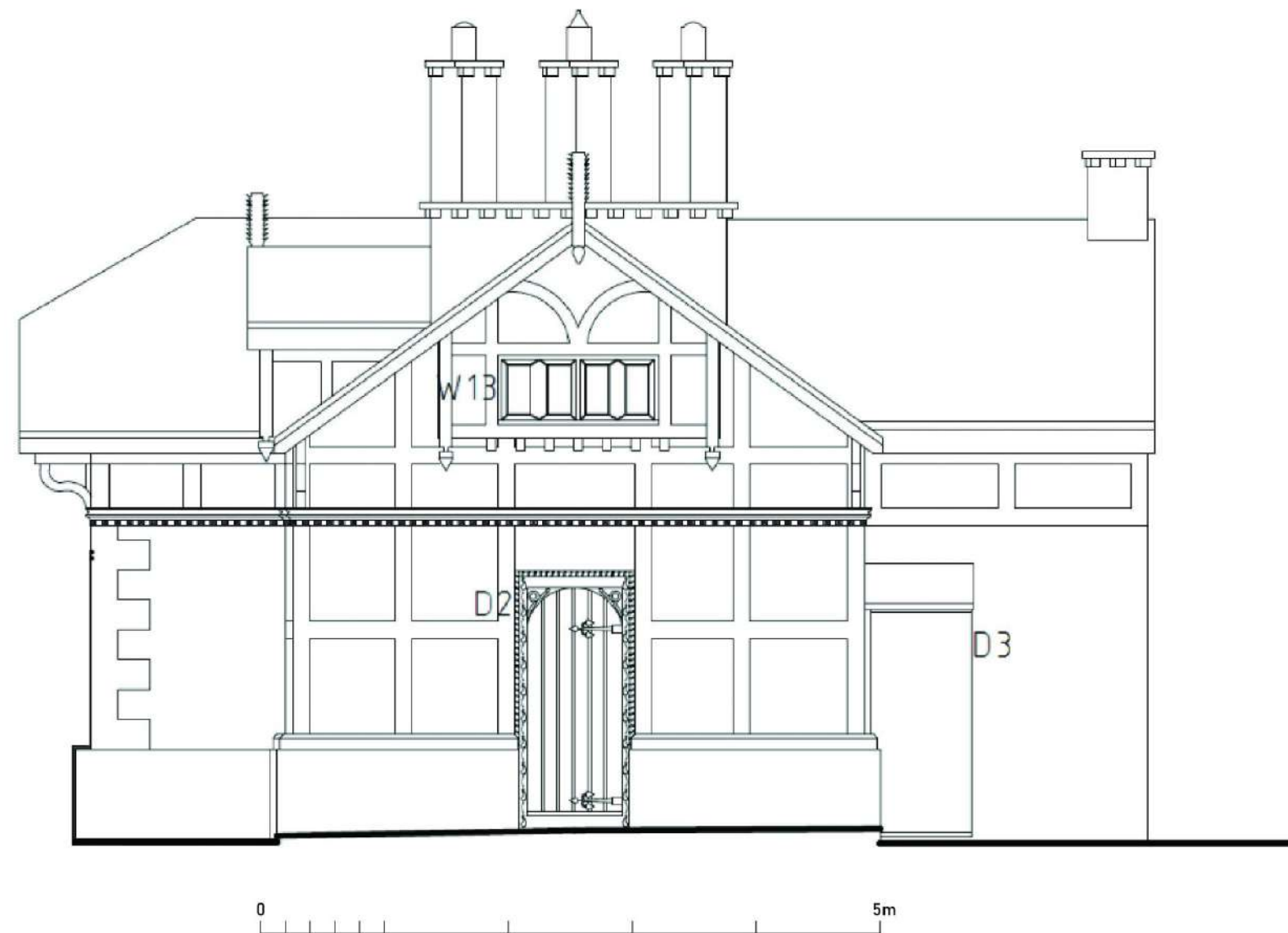


Fig. 16 East elevation

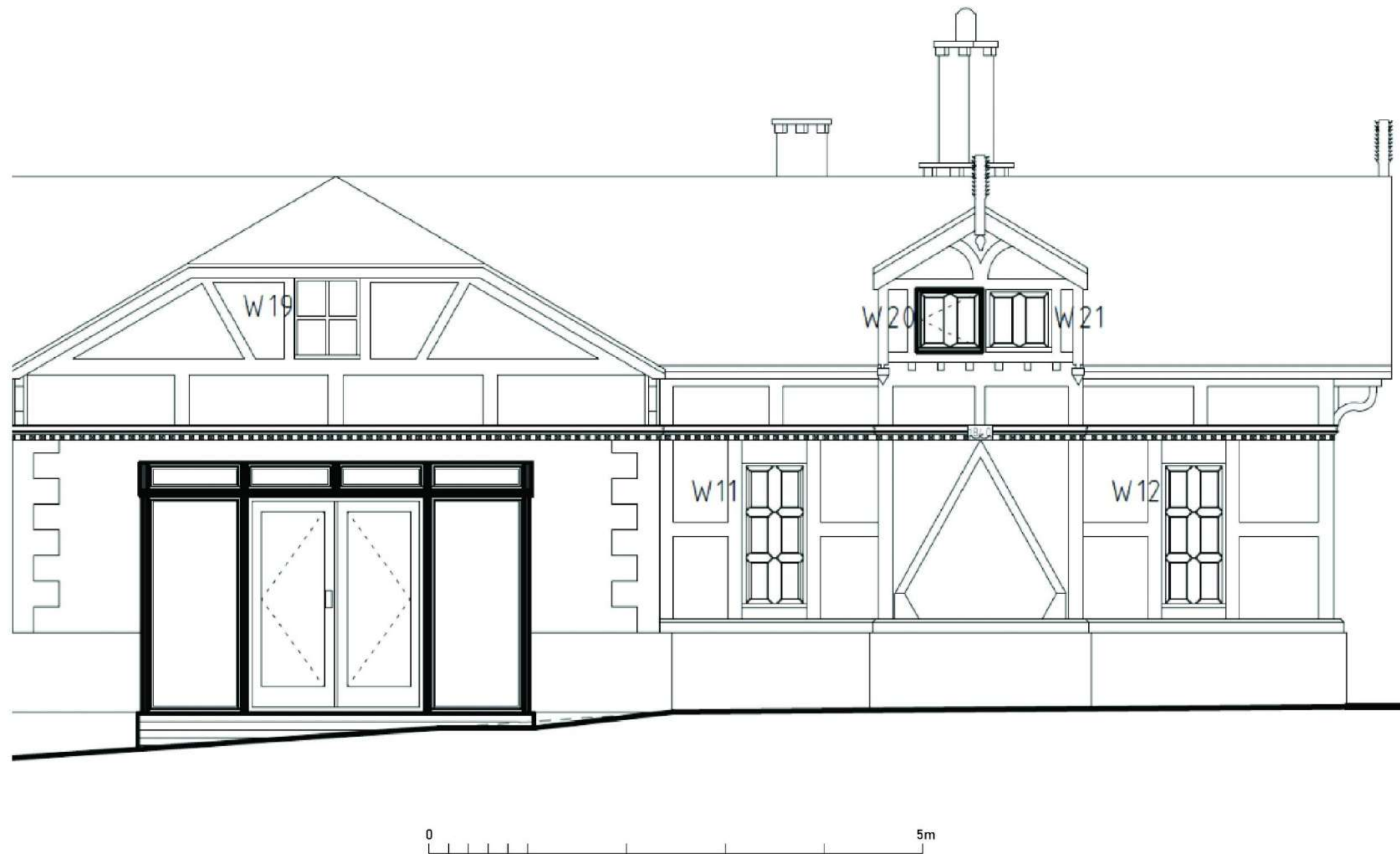


Fig. 17 South elevation (proposed)

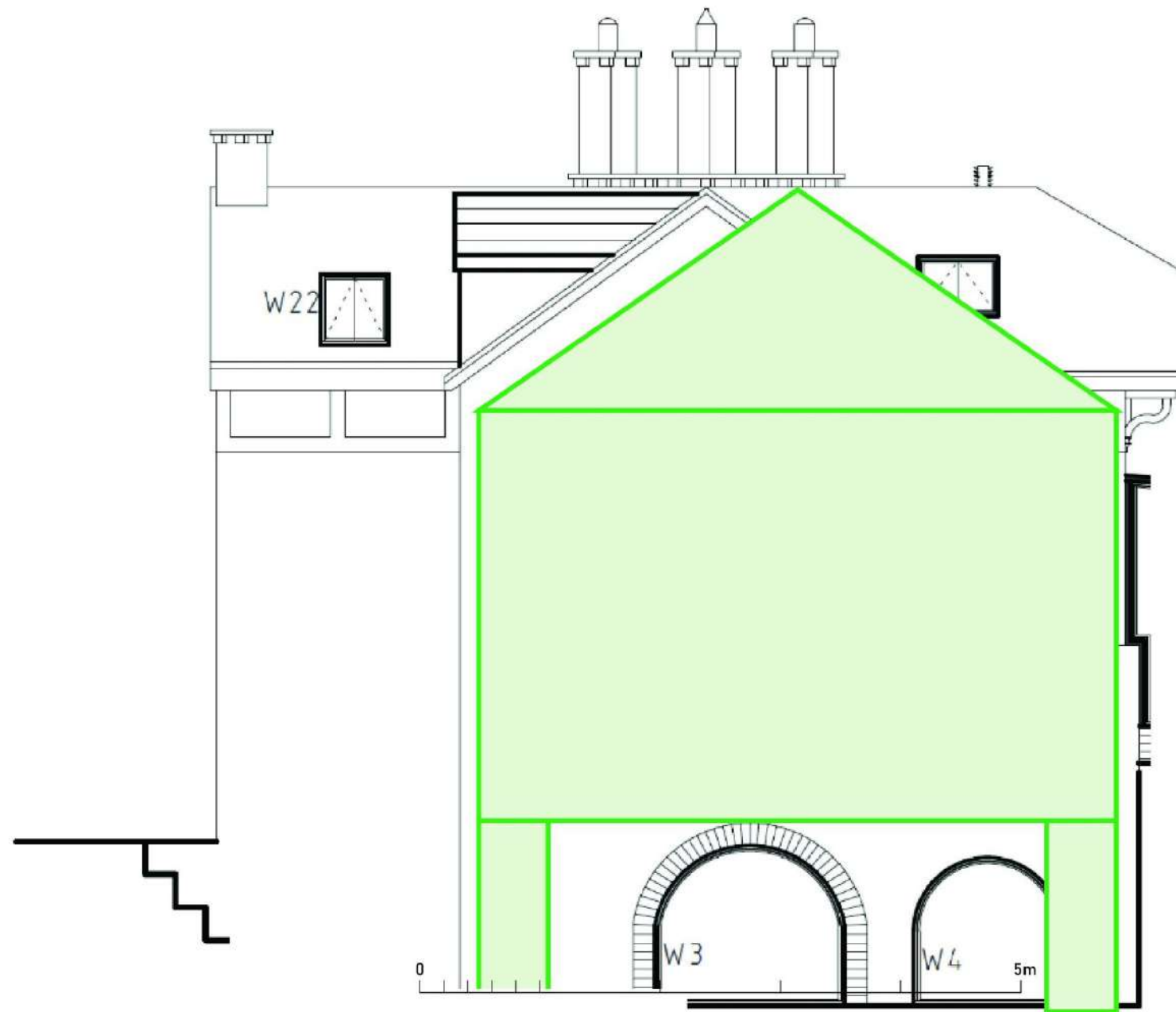


Fig. 18 West elevation (proposed)

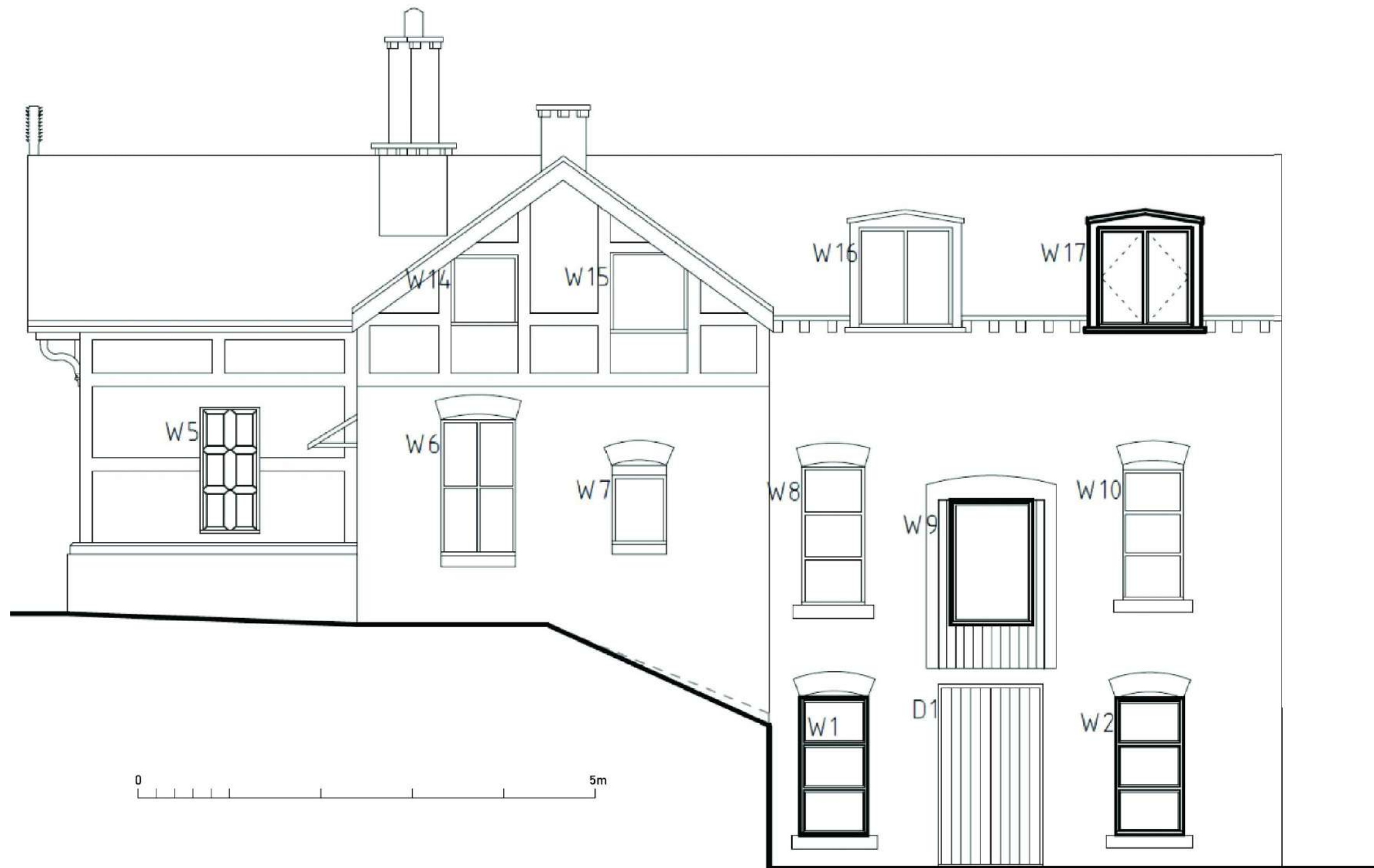


Fig. 19 North elevation (proposed)

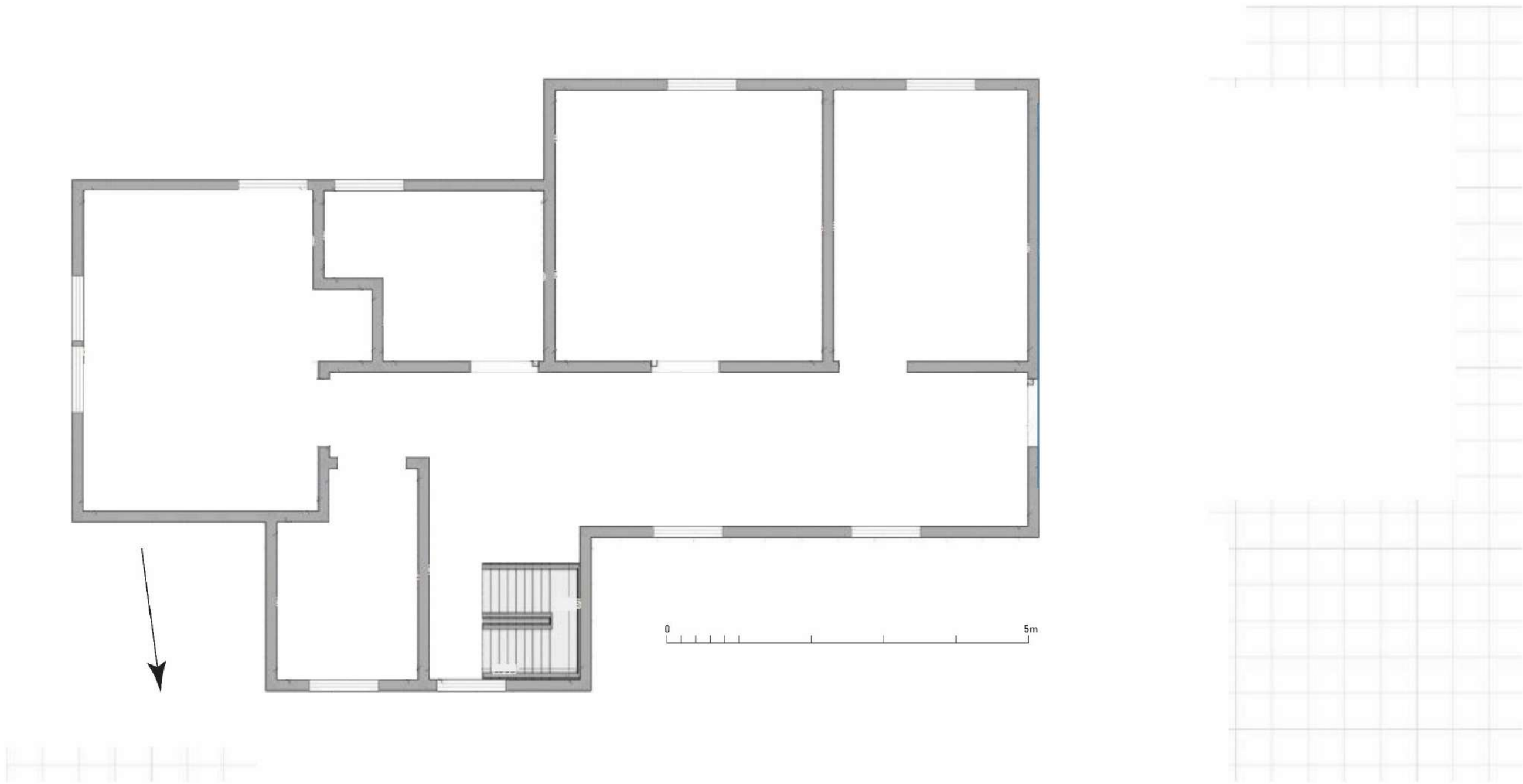


Fig. 20 Attic floor (proposed)