



2.9 FOUNDATIONS for RECOVERY

DUNURE CASTLE- STRUCTURAL CONDITION REPORT



UK Government



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INTRODUCTION

DUNURE CASTLE SOUTH AYRSHIRE KA7

Kennedy Castle lies on the South Ayrshire coast of the River Clyde, 5 miles South of Ayr, in the historic fishing village of Dunure. The Castle and Dovecote are designated a Scheduled Monument by Historic Environment Scotland and is of National Importance.



North Elevation

CONSERVATION PHILOSOPHY

The conservation repair works for the scheduled monument should be implemented according to internationally recognised conservation policies and practices identified for Scotland through the Stirling Charter and the Burra Charter, as formulated by the International Council on Monuments and Sites and the British Standard *Guide to the Principles of Conservation of Historic Buildings* BS 7913 which are widely accepted and adopted as the standard for heritage conservation practice.

The Charters define the basic principles and procedures to be observed in the conservation of important places, including wider issues such as cultural significance, consultation documentation and use of materials.

The Stirling Charter and good conservation practice generally requires that a Conservation Strategy (or Plan) should be in place to inform the programme of custodial repair and maintenance.



Aerial photograph of the castle site setting



A romantic scenic painting of Dunure castle by James D Harding, early 19th century

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SIGNIFICANCE OF DUNURE CASTLE AND DOVECOT

There is no doubt that Kennedy Castle is of national significance and its location in the picturesque village of Dunure contributes to the heritage and historic context of the Ayrshire Coast. Its physical presence on the cliff edge of Kennedy park overhanging the southern bay makes it a landmark for the village on the coastal landscape. Abandoned as a residence for the Kennedy family by the end of the 16th century the castle quickly fell into a ruinous condition, with lowly occupation continuing at the chapel and habitation of the workers cottages continuing in to the 19th century.



South elevation

CONSERVATION MAINTENANCE STRATEGY

Within an established arrangement of maintenance to be carried out by South Ayrshire Council, there is a core of conservation concern for the Castle and Dovecote:

- Preservation of the principal architectural composition of the buildings with the repair of elements at risk of collapse or accelerated decay.
- Consolidation of original masonry structure with minimal intervention or disturbance of detail and extant archaeology.
- Increased security and environmental stability to be achieved to avoid increased decay, loss of original fabric or becoming a safety hazard.
- Provide safe access for the general public visiting the historic site. Maintain stairways and gates.
- Provide and maintain heritage interpretation and information display boards for visitors.
- Contemporary design of new elements such as access decks, fencing and gates to provide necessary protection of the fabric from vandalism and prevent access to

unstable masonry or that could have a risk of falling from the structure.

- Maintain and manage the vegetation growth within the monument grounds, including protection of turfed wall-heads and removal of self-sown climbing plants, saplings etc where root systems are likely to masonry joints.
- Protect and preserve the habitat of wildlife that take up residency within the monument grounds, and not to interfere unless animals or plants are causing damage or de-stabilising the structure
- Discrete and contemporary essential services for power and lighting on a minimalist basis.
- Any modern intervention on the site to be appropriate and sympathetic to the protection and care of the buildings and safety of visiting public.



View within the castle from the tower access area towards the Kitchen block

THE SITE

SITE AND BUILDING DETAILS

Dunure Castle and Dovecot
Kennedy Recreation Park, Dunure

OS Map grid ref NS 2523915822 and Coordinates 225239, 615822

Owned by Historic Environment Scotland

Listing as a Scheduled Monument
Historic Scotland designation SM105

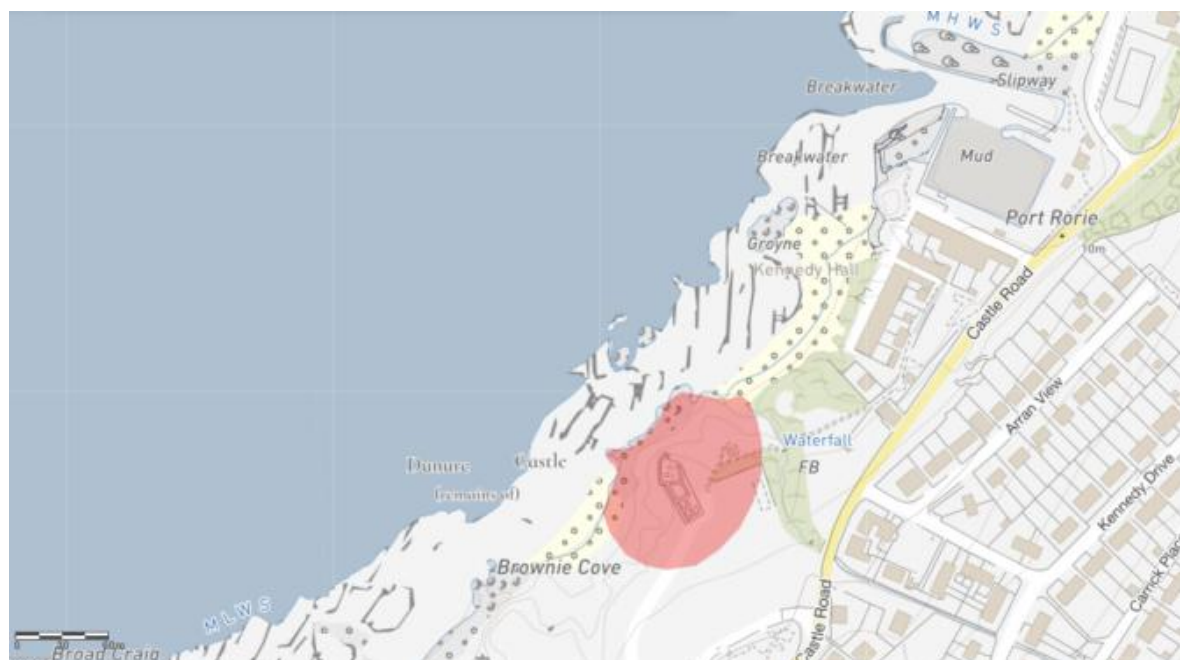
Located in the village of Dunure on a westward facing cliff on the South Ayrshire banks of the River Clyde.

A detailed description and history of the development of the castle is described in the Archaeological investigations by Thomas Addyman and WOSAS site records, *ref Appendix C*

The monument comprises the substantial remains of a medieval castle spanning 14th-17th centuries, and an associated 16th century dovecot to the East side.

LOCATION

Access to the castle is via footpaths across the fairly level grassed Kennedy Park on a raised beach and from the sandy bay below the cliff. The site is skirted by the Ayrshire Coastal Path.



HES location plan of the grounds of the Scheduled Monument and context with the village, harbour and coast.

SUMMARY HISTORY OF DUNURE CASTLE

The castle was originally built on the rocky volcanic eminence which projects above the coastal cliffs and the upper raised beach. The earliest part of the castle has been dated to the 13th century prior to the Scottish Wars of Independence, the first part of which started in 1297. This places it within the period when there was considerable Viking influence, which extended from the first half of the 9th century until the Battle of Largs in 1263. The lands of Dunure were, around the end of the 12 century, under the control of Walter de Champenais, but they later fell into the hands of the Kennedy family. John de Kennedy acquired the Castle and the Barony of Dunure, and later, in 1361, another John Kennedy acquired the lands of Cassillis. Kennedys from Dunure fought at the battle of Largs. At this battle Alexander III defeated the Vikings and this brought about the end of their influence in Southwest Scotland.

The seaward end of the Castle was rebuilt in both the 14th and 15th centuries, by which time there was a high tower house with a slated roof and fine sandstone features, such as window arches and the handsome fireplace which can still be seen in the outer wall .

In the mid to late 15th century the castle was further extended onto the raised beach and at still a later stage in the late 16th century a chapel almost certainly existed on the northeast side. Dunure Castle, marked on Mercator's map of 1595, was obviously of considerable importance, being one of only a dozen places mentioned in Carrick. By the 1654 publication of Blaeu's map it was given marked prominence, surrounded by treed policies. It is known that a wall existed round the castle policies enclosing the outbuildings and the dovecote. The latter dated to the late 15th or early 16th century and the pigeons would have provided winter meat.

During the late 16 century the castle enjoyed its heyday. The Kennedy family had risen to national prominence.

Over the end of the 16th century the castle was abandoned and plundered and this continued into the 17th century. By 1696 the castle was in a very ruined condition. Damage from assault and removal of stone and other materials evident for use on other buildings, including the Ayr Citadel.

Refer to Appendix C for a detailed Archaeological assessment of the historical development of the castle.

KENNEDY FAMILY HISTORY

Well recorded events within the family history related to their occupation of the castle include a local battle with the Kennedys of Barganny, and the roasting of the Abbot Alan Stuart at Crossraguel Abbey close to Maybole . The Kennedy family had castles and land in Dailly on the River Girvan valley, the old (15th century) and new (late 18th century) castles at Dalquharran near Dailly.

Though their interest in Dunure castle had long since ceased, the Kennedy family still owned the lands and Barony of Dunure. At the close of the 18th century Thomas Kennedy was keen to develop the area on a commercial basis by establishing a harbour to export the coal from the Dailly coalfield, to import lime and timber and to set up small industries such as limekilns, a boatyard, a tannery, a saltworks and a glassworks.

The picturesque setting of the castle ruins attracted a number of romantic paintings and drawings which help document and illustrate the architectural form and features of the substantial castle structure. These two sketches were drawn by Captain Francis Grose in 1789, recorded in his collection of sketches, *The Antiquities of Scotland* (1789-91)



The view from the village area shows the cottages and chapel positions relative to the current castle structure to the East of the castle



The view from the beach below the castle cliff illustrates the scale of the main tower structure before later sections have collapsed

CONDITION OF BUILDING FABRIC



Castle viewed from the Prowrie Rock

STRUCTURAL SURVEY FINDINGS

Report by David Narro Associates

The castle was consolidated and opened to public access as part of a previous repair scheme carried out by Strathclyde Building Preservation Trust and Page\Park Architects between 1996-1999. These repairs remain largely intact and there was only minor damage or deterioration of note which can be summarised as follows.

Some high-level masonry appears loose on the South-east (landward) three-storey ruin walls, which should be removed for safety reasons. This relates to individual stones at the eaves of the gables which could still have some tightness in the surrounding masonry, but which appear loose.

One of the internal lintels appeared cracked but is locked in to the surrounding masonry and does not pose a safety risk. A resin-dowel repair may be prudent to ensure no future slippage of each end of the lintel.

Some of the mortar at higher level and in the upper arches have weathered and appeared friable, and should be checked by a mason in due course to ensure adequate packing and integrity of the mortar matrix.

The wall head turfing appeared to be generally in good order with no remedial works required at this stage.

The masonry construction of the beehive dovecote is in sound condition.

Refer to survey record drawings and photographs prepared by ARPL Architects.



West elevation



North elevation, castle tower built on the cliff rock



East elevation. Substantial fragments of structure have fallen on the north side and lie on the grass bank between the Castle and Dovecote





Crack in high level lintel
High level eaves stone loose



some loose masonry has fallen out of walls
tree roots growing out of masonry



South building eaves stones loose in places





vegetation roots affect high level masonry



west elevation tower loose stone low level



loose stones at turfed wall-head on South building and crack in masonry of inner gable





Vegetation growing up West elevation and trees rooting in high level mortar joints



Loose stones at high level and erosion of mortar and stone of tower west wall and fireplace





Loss and erosion of mortar in arch of gated access to tower



Mortar eroding in arch of lower tower access



Corroding metal fencing at location frequently climbed for unauthorized access and some loose bedded stone – risks of falling and injury



Lower tower arches masonry generally sound, some erosion of mortar



South building some loose stones on gable and wall-head require re-bedding

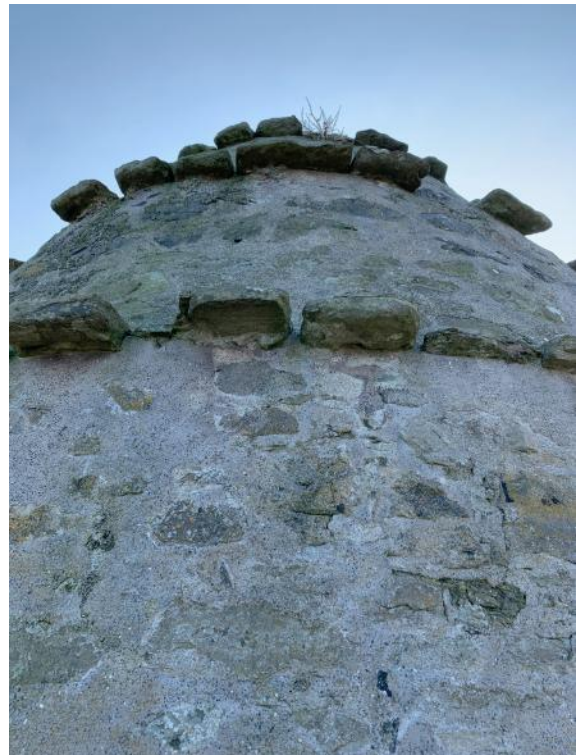


Some loose stones fallen out of tower NW corner and chimneys of South building





carved stones stored in tower have been moved by vandals breaking the timber shelving



Dovecote masonry condition is sound, with minor vegetation growth at high level





Fall of stones on West wall with some erosion of mortar and other loose stones



Interpretation boards have been bleached out by the sun and position on the wall is too

high for good accessibility - recommend renewal of information displayed



RECOMMENDED REPAIRS TO THE CASTLE TO ATTEND TO WITHIN 12 MONTHS

- Loose stones at high level to be removed before they fall and to be re-bedded in a lime mortar, noted on South building (Kitchen) gable and eaves and on tower West wall
- Repair cracked lintel in South building (Kitchen) with resin-dowell repair and lime mortar mix
- Localised repointing in various locations in South building (Kitchen), and entrance arch over gated entrance to the tower with lime mortar mix
- Seasonal cut back of vegetation growth / roots affecting masonry structure
- Check the security and fixings of the protective fencing to prevent unauthorised access (children regularly climbing on upper parts of the castle and tower area in the evening)
- Re-secure the gates to the tower area and carved stone store on the West side to prevent vandal ingress and damage that has evidently been caused during last few months. Renew the signage warning “no access” and areas of danger
- Repair the timber shelving system in the carved stone store and reposition the carved stones which have been moved and thrown out of the window by vandals.
- Recommend assessment should be made of lightning strike risks by specialist engineers, particularly of the tower, due to the increase of thunderstorms related to climate change.
- Development of renewal of Interpretation boards which are currently very difficult to read and not positioned in accessible locations, particularly for people with disabilities



Local children regularly climb into the restricted areas of the castle

GENERAL MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Careful and regular maintenance of the buildings is an important aspect of ensuring that major repairs are reduced and that costs involved in upkeep are kept down. The following list gives an indication of the sort of jobs that should be done and when.

- At appropriate Season :
- Check visually all high level masonry for any displaced stones when entering restricted area of castle.
 - Clear snow from paths.
 - Clean loose debris from access decks and paths
 - Remove litter
 - Check condition of paths and rock surfaces of cliff that could be of danger to the public
 - Check security of metal walkways, gates, fencing, hinges, fasteners & padlocks
- Spring / Early Summer :
- Make full inspection of exterior fabric.
 - Check for bird nests / bat activity.
 - Cut any vegetation / ivy starting to grow up walls.
 - Remove weeds growing on paths and in mortar joints
 - Check condition of turf wall-heads
- Summer :
- Cut grass in landscaped park areas at regular intervals.
 - Cut any invasive weed growth and maintain tree boughs regularly.
 - Carry out any localised lime mortar repairs or re-bedding of loose stones
- Autumn :
- Check for loose masonry, in danger of being dislodged with winter weather
 - Inspect high level with binoculars from ground level, for repair before winter.
- Annually :
- Inspect condition of notices and interpretation boards.

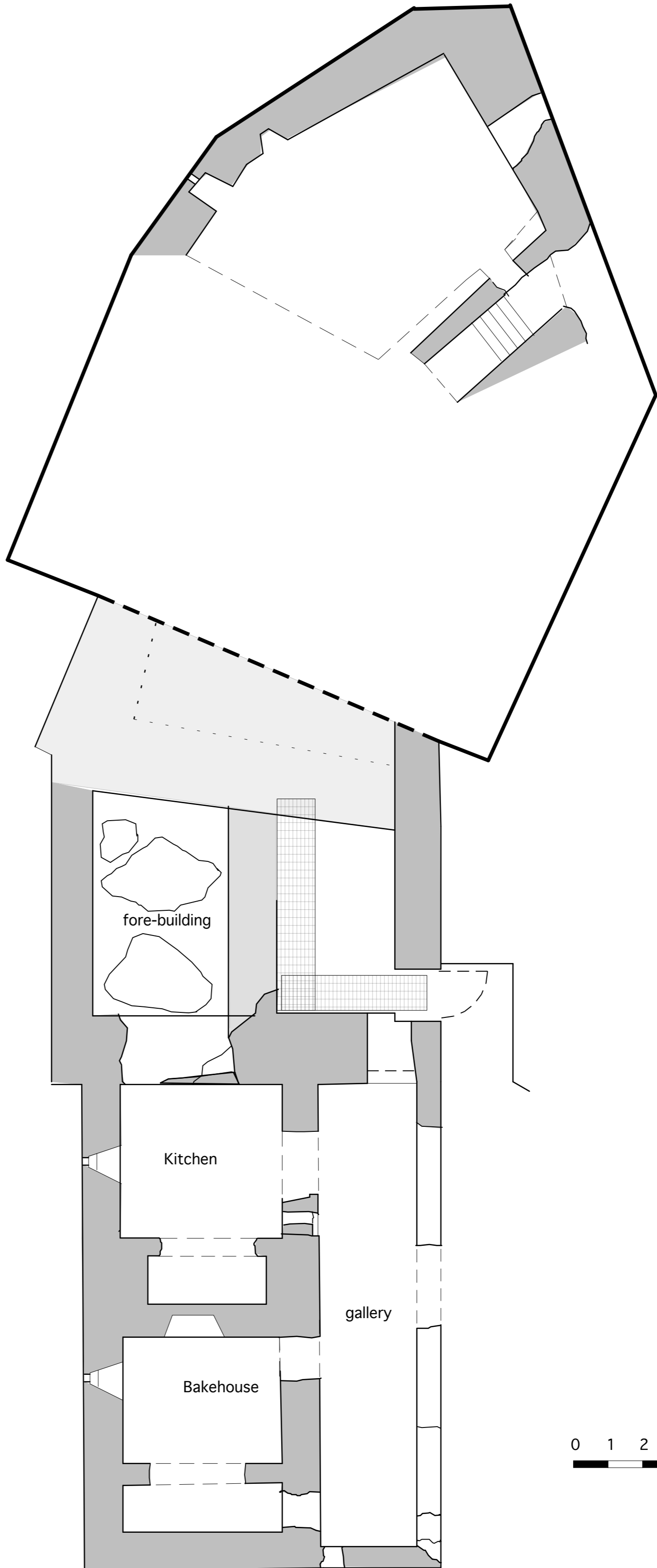
2022 RECORD DRAWINGS



Extract Ordnance Survey plan

Dunure Castle
Condition Review August 2022





GROUND FLOOR PLAN

JOB Dunure Castle

DRAWING Ground Floor Plan

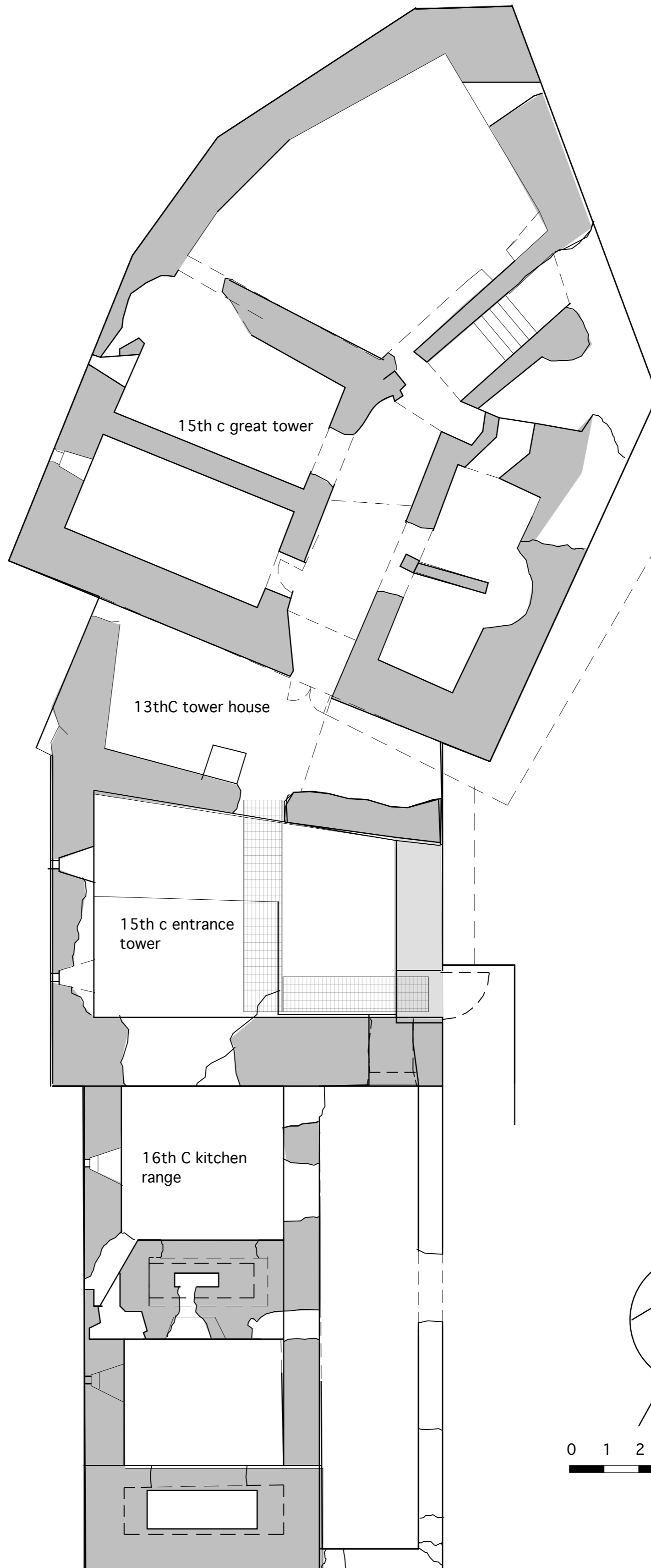
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DRAWING NO 6464/DC/01 **REV** -

CLIENT North Carrick Community Benefit Co.

ARPL ARCHITECTS
11 WELLINGTON SQUARE, AYR
TEL 01292 289777





FIRST FLOOR PLAN

JOB Dunure Castle

DRAWING First Floor Plan

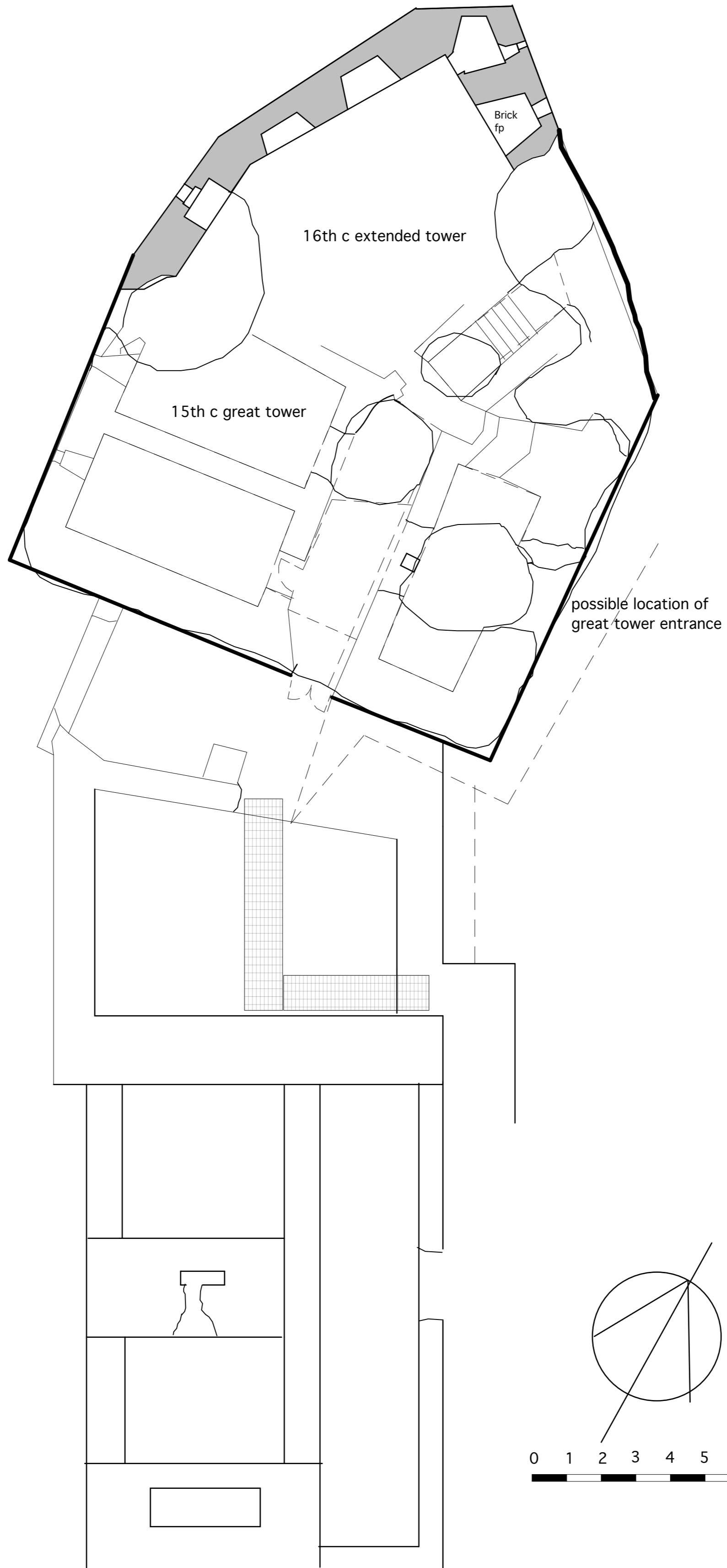
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SECOND FLOOR PLAN

JOB Dunure Castle

DRAWING Second Floor Plan

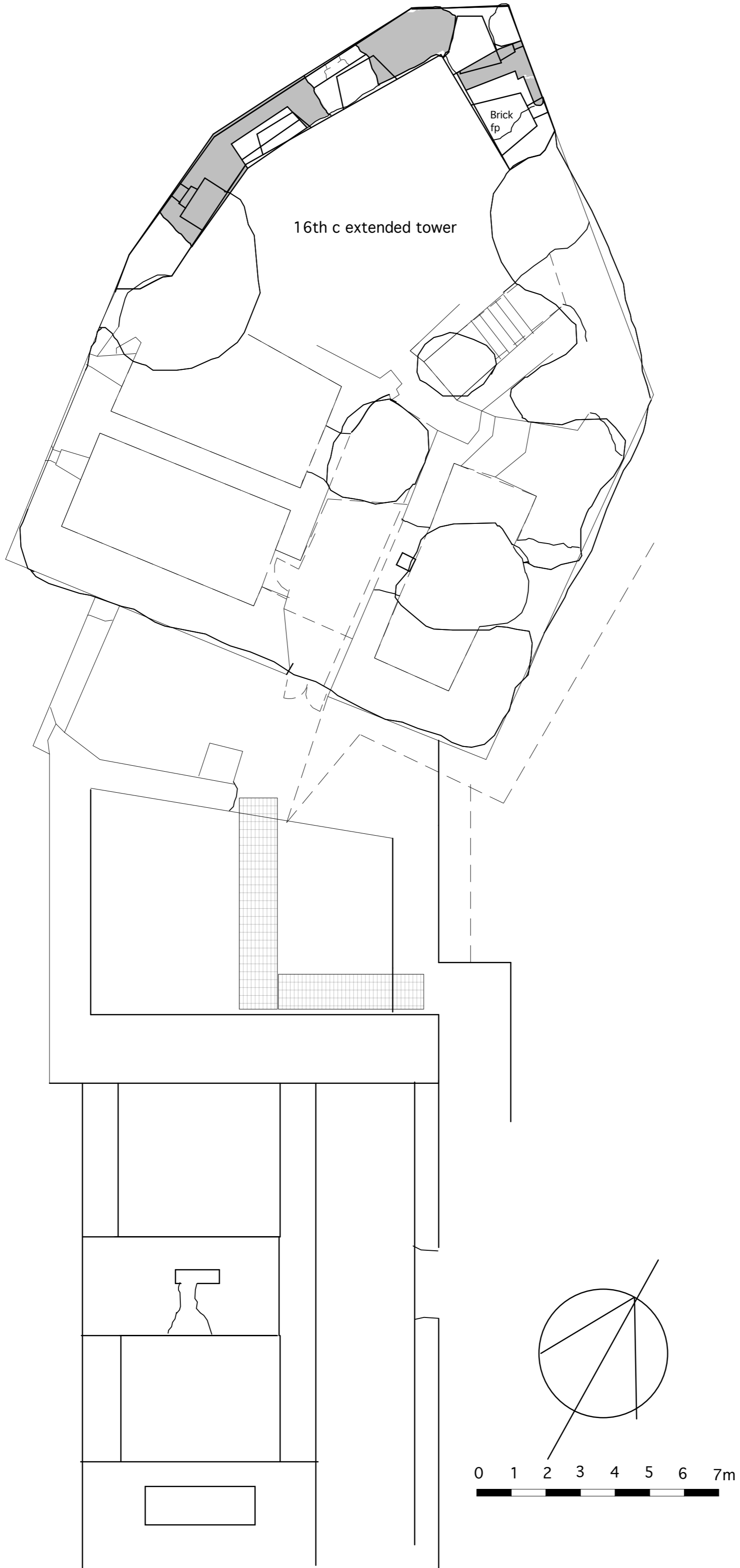
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THIRD FLOOR PLAN

JOB Dunure Castle

DRAWING Third Floor Plan

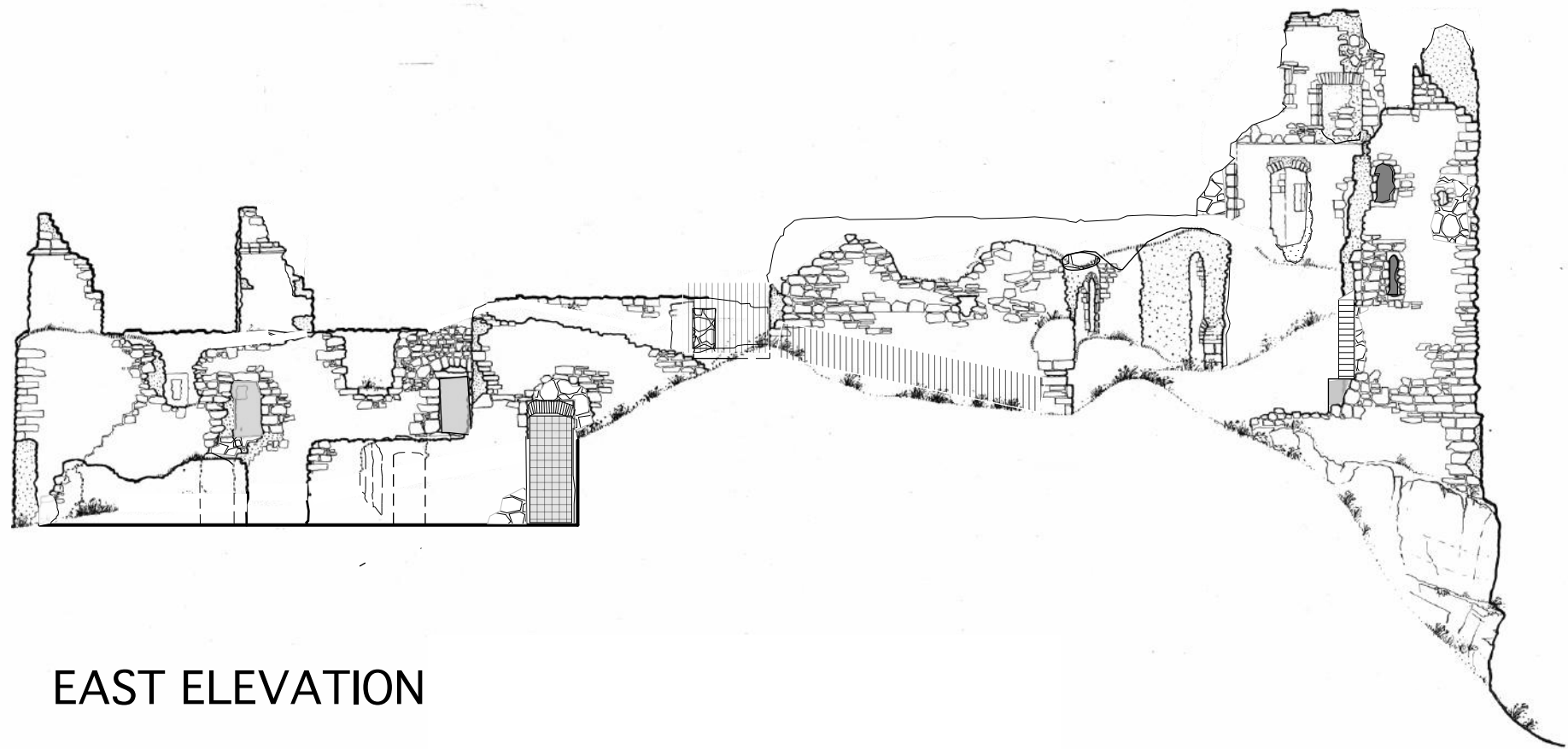
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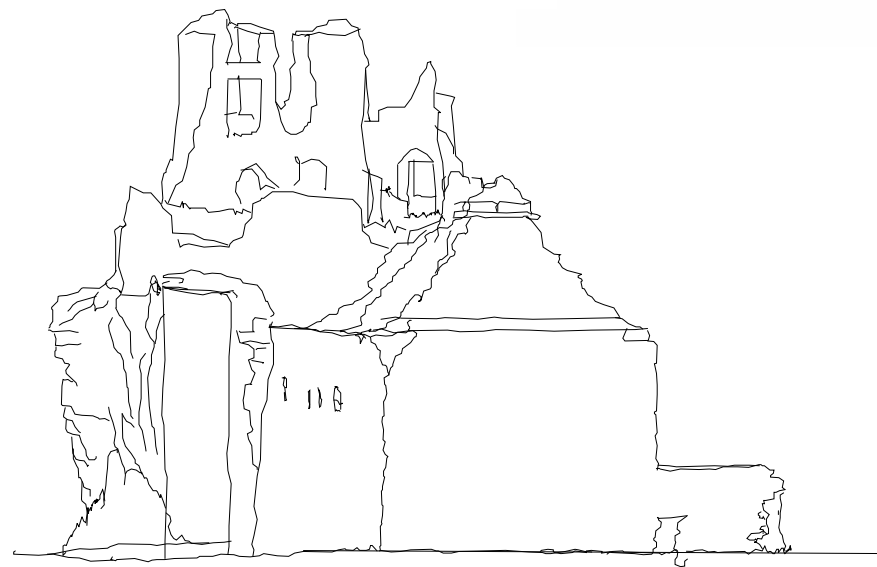
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EAST ELEVATION

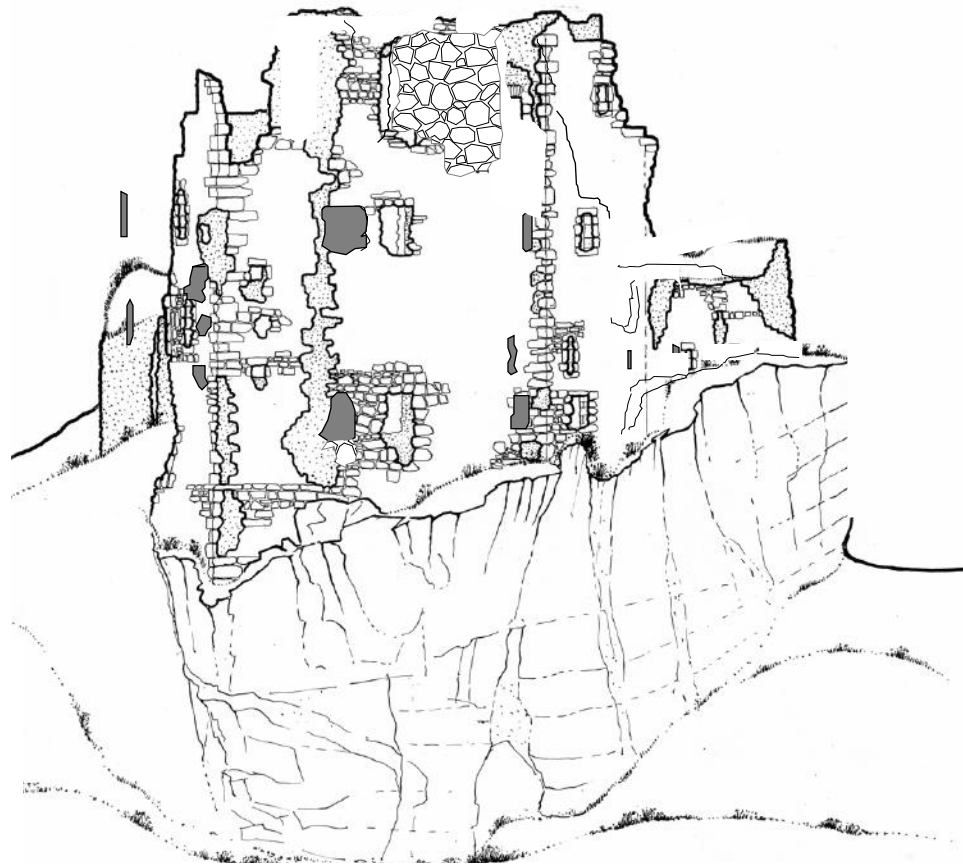


SOUTH ELEVATION

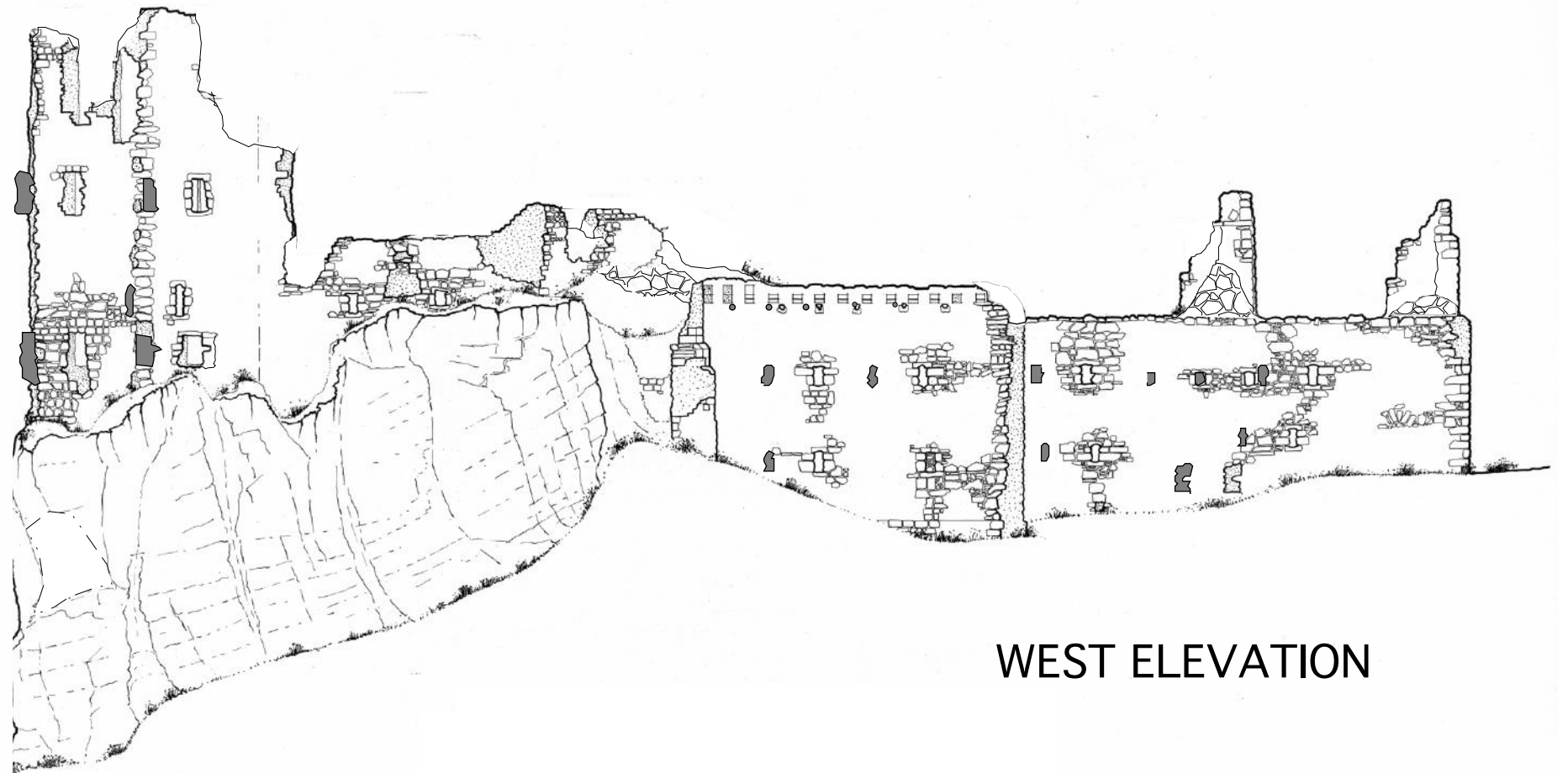
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NORTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION

JOB Dunure Castle

DRAWING NORTH AND WEST ELEVATIONS

SCALE 1:100 @ A1 DRAWN RC DATE April 22

DRAWING NO 6464/DC/06 REV

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APPENDICES

Appendix B 1 Archaeological Assessment and records

Appendix B 2 Structural Engineer's report

Addendix B 3 Archive reference:

CANMORE and HES Listing

R Storrie Local History extract Information