

TAIN - NEW TOILET BLOCK , REAR OF LOCALITY OFFICE, TAIN.

PRIMARY NOTES: In view of the presence of underground drains and the somewhat restricted area available for excavation the key to the garage was acquired from the locality office and the trench extended as far as was practicable into the interior of the garage only by a metre and a half or so, it ~~xx~~ runs from there perpendicular to the High Street for approximately 6ms. excavated by machine to various levels, the principal features are a earth and clay floor, on the High street side of the building extending from inside the garage out to a wall which we have broken through, and outside which there is a very faint suggestion of a sandy build up surface at a similar level to the floor on its interior, beyond that there is another floor level again on beaten earth or clay at a lower level, I will give those levels in a moment, no artifacts other than broken pieces of slate, roofing slate and a tiny fragment of a clay pipe with no context have been seen, outwith the wall on the far side from the High Street, has been a water pipe which still contains some water, a lead pipe - ^{is has} been broken and hopefully we havenot cut off someones supply?

LEVELS

HIGHLAND SMR	
COMPUTER	
INDEX	
MAP	

Surface of yard concrete adjacent to North East Corner of the garage wall, 1.458 metres, level 2 - approximate level of upper floor surface, 1.893 metres, level 3 - approximate base of clay floor level 2.044 metres, level 4 - base of stone forming foundation core of wall 1.945 metres, level 5 - approximate surface of lower floor level 2.260 metres, level 6 - surface of yard at corner furthestst away from the locality office 1.481 metres, level 7 - path in rose garden immediately outside gate 2.187 metres, height to road surface beyond the furthest corner of the yard wall measured by staff(3.8 metres). (Height of wall at furthest corner within yard 1.14 that is a drop of some 2.7 metres on the seaward side)

The house opposite Castle Hill is on slightly higher ground and the road between is likely to be some kind of hollow way as the projected drop in the ground might run reasonably over the top of the road. I'm informed that a stream does in fact run somewhere down through the rose garden as well as the main sewer, this would account for it being cut somewhat into the general slope here. Although the base of the rose garden appears to be built up behind a wall with the house below cut into the slope. Theres a possibility that the name Castle Hill on the house Castle Street and Castle Brae adjacent to it, that this area from St. Duthacs Church through to the Rose garden was something of a promintory projecting out into the flatlands below the old coastal slope.

The material beneath the concrete of the floor of the shed and the yard consists of a area of made up material comprising sanding gravel, pieces of broken slate, and some mixture of crushed mortar.

Within the garage overlies a black layer some 10 cms in depth excavated by machine at one side. Beneath this, ground make up the black layer is extremely sticky rich and very black, it contains flecks of charcoal, small blobs of buff/ orange coloured clay, fragement of shell including a whole upper part of a cockle shell, some evidence of ash perhaps small piece of coal, small fragement of much altere d window glass , a piece of fine ceramic, small fragements of slate but these may have fallen from above, fragment of mussel shell, small rounded cobbles, fragement of light china handle, more charcoal, much of this actually comes from a kind of zone of ad mixture between that and the foundation layer above it, at the base of the sticky black layer is this hard surface of beaten clay which presumably was a floor, the clay floor level is extremely level, well packed and hard, at one point there is a small reddish area which may indicate some fire, the extreme blackness of the material may suggest that this was simply a coal yard or something , but only having seen two small pieces of actual coal this seems a bit unlikely but although this material is so black it is remarkably free of any artifactual material at all and I will bag a small sample for flotation just to see if there is anything recognisable within it. Sample bag A

Corner of shed 1.455, top of upper floor 1.910, bottom of trench 2.258,
lower floor 2.280, base of wall 1.975, finally height of lead pipe 2.12



Department of Libraries & Leisure Services
Highland Regional Council

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT EXCAVATION NEW TOILET BLOCK SITE REAR OF LOCALITY OFFICE, TAIN

For Ross and Cromarty District Council, Leisure and Recreation Department.

1. INTRODUCTION:

The site lies within a backland area off the present High Street of the burgh of Tain, and it was deemed necessary to investigate the area to determine what, if anything, remained of medieval occupation in this part of the town. As no previous assessment has been made in Tain, and it is perhaps the oldest burgh in Highland Region, the work was undertaken to assess remains, if any, and provide background information should opportunities to investigate the early burgh present themselves in the future.

2. METHOD:

A 6-metre trench was excavated by machine perpendicular to the High Street and as close as possible to it. Because of the existence of drains and the heights of the Locality office building, the position shown on the accompanying plan was deemed to be the optimum available. It extends a short way into the standing workshop building as far as was practically possible with the machine.

The machine was used to cut into the area in approximate 10-20cm spits, with hand excavation where necessary to clarify levels. The resulting plan and section summarise the rather disappointing results.

3. RESULTS:

Beneath the concrete of the garage floor and yard was a thin layer of brown soil overlying a deep bottoming layer of rubble, brick etc (001-003). This in turn overlay a thin, sticky black layer of humus-rich material directly overlying a flat, beaten clay floor level (004-005). The black material contained only a few fragments of 18th-19th century bottle and window glass - neither particularly diagnostic. Beneath this again was a thick layer of heavily-compacted coarse red sand (006) with a major component of large, water-worn cobbles of varied geological origin, but with fragments of local red sandstone in places. While the mix suggests that this material had been redeposited, its clean nature (no artefacts were recovered and the material was unstained) its compaction argues against this, and it may be the natural sub-soil in this area.

Some 3.5m along the trench, the foundations of a sandstone wall were encountered crossing the trench at right angles. This wall was bound with lime mortar and approximately 50cm thick (007). It appeared to run along the same line as the back extension of the present building, and represents an earlier building of similar dimensions. The clay floor clearly related to this building.

Beyond the wall, the yard covering was of tarmac, again overlying a bedding layer, this time of finer gravel material and clearly of recent origin (008-009). This base overlay a much-disturbed layer of dirty soil with patches of clay, stone, brick, mortar and other recent debris (010). Disturbance may be due to a lead water pipe (011) which cut across the trench at an angle, and which still contained a trickle of clean water. This was severed by the machine during excavation. The only material noted within this layer other than the pipe were small fragments of internal wall-plaster, too fragmented for collection.

Beneath the disturbed layer was another floor of clay similar to that within the building (012) with a very thin layer of black, sticky material (013) similar to (004) within the building. Its date and function are uncertain, but this was again underlain by the curious red sandy material as before (006).

4. CONCLUSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS:

The site in general has clearly been built up above the road to the rear. However, this road in turn appears to be a hollow-way cut into the slope, and the previous natural topography is likely to conform rather to the grounds of the house in Castle Hill. The Rose Garden is likely to be a natural hollow, and contains an underground stream (local information), cutting into the general slope and now filled with the vaulted cellars underlying the elevated High Street. This, and the known raising of the High Street level suggest that artificial build-up may be considerable in this vicinity - and thus archaeological levels in a good state of preservation may survive at much lower levels.

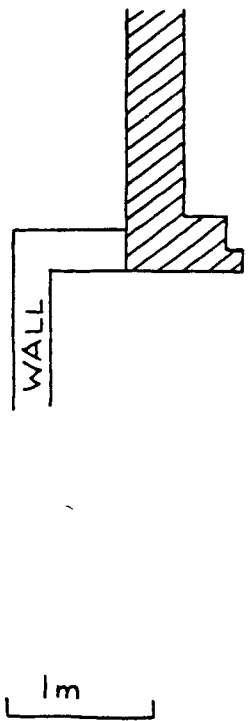
It would be necessary to investigate the morphology of the Medieval burgh more carefully through documentary evidence to try to ascertain how the topography had been modified to suit the modern town. This might be investigated by the local historical/archaeological society. Nevertheless, it seems likely that closer to the street, archaeological levels may survive to some depth, here and there masked by considerable depths of made-up material. In view of the early date of the burgh, it would be extremely important to take the opportunity to sample the town centre for evidence of archaeological survival whenever the opportunity arises. Details of existing cellars, their depths, etc., would help with such a study.

While the evidence from this small sondage is largely negative, it does suggest that archaeological survival - perhaps back to the earliest phases of Tain's history - might be present elsewhere, and in some areas at depth. A similar exercise should therefore be undertaken whenever the opportunity to investigate beneath the present burgh centre presents itself.

The few unimpressive finds will be sent to Tain Museum, where their accession is at the discretion of the Museum, as none are diagnostic or closely dateable, and all are fragmentary. The lack of finds is, in itself, somewhat curious, as normally one might expect quantities of rubbish in such a situation, but other than suggesting that the 19th-century inhabitants of the burgh were exceptionally tidy, this does not help with the assessment!

Robert Gourlay
Archaeologist
Department of Libraries and Leisure Services
Highland Regional Council.

ROSE
GARDEN



GARAGE
INTERIOR

A

0

1

2

3

4

5

6

A₁

UPPER
FLOOR
LEVEL

LOWER
FLOOR
LEVEL

MORTARED
WALL

LEAD
PIPE

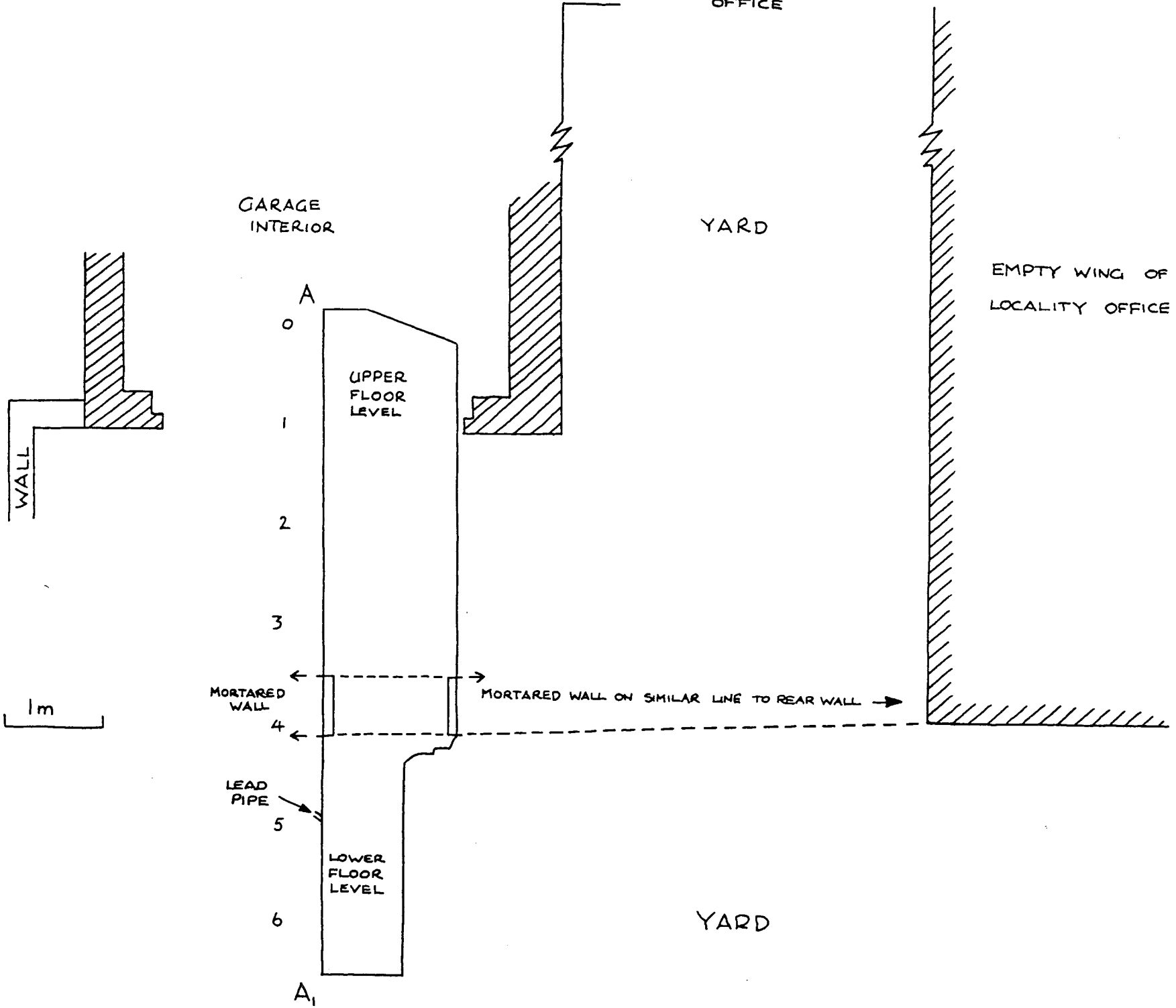
MORTARED WALL ON SIMILAR LINE TO REAR WALL →

STAIRCASE TO LOCALITY
OFFICE

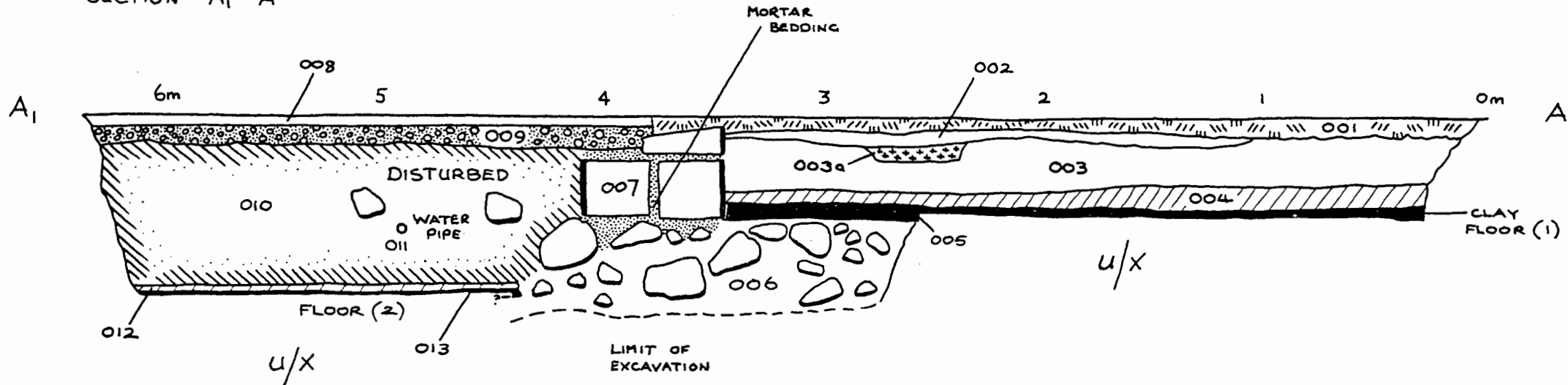
YARD

EMPTY WING OF
LOCALITY OFFICE

YARD



SECTION A₁ - A



- 001 Concrete of yard and within garage.
- 002 Brown soil, imported.
- 003 Bottoming layer: dirty soil admixed with rubble, brick etc.
- 003a Reddish, sandy material within 003. Possibly burnt, but origin unclear.
- 004 Black, humus-rich, sticky material directly overlying 005
- 005 Beaten clay floor, stained black from 004 above.
- 006 Compacted coarse red sand with large cobbles of varying origin.
Possibly imported. Very clean.
- 007 Foundations of a mortared, stone-built wall.
- 008 Tarmac of yard.
- 009 Bedding of small, rounded gravel.
- 010 Disturbed, dirty soil containing fragments of brick, stone, mortar and
other debris. Includes the water pipe 011.
- 011 Lead water pipe within 010.
- 012 Thin, black sticky layer as 004. Directly overlies 013
- 013 Beaten clay floor as 005 but at lower level. Overlies 006.

4

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGIST
REGIONAL BUILDINGS
GLENURQUHART ROAD
INVERNESS IV3 5NX

From: D.P.O.
ROSS & CROMARTY
Tel. (0349) 64991
Fax. (0349) 64675

Our ref: RC-92-1066 (DS)

Date 14/09/92

Related Applications:

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1972
DEMOLITION OF EX-GARAGE & CONSTRUCTION OF NEW
PUBLIC TOILETS (LBC)

AT: REAR OF DISTRICT OFFICE
HIGH STREET
TAIN

I enclose material relating to the above application for planning permission for your attention.

I would be pleased to receive your comments on the application within 14 days failing which I will assume that you have no objections to the proposal.

Divisional Planning Officer

Enc.

From:

To: Divisional Planning Officer
Highland Regional Council
Divisional Planning Offices
2 Achany Road
Dingwall IV15 9JB

office

? SVP

EXISTING MH

ASSUMED ROUTE OF
UNDERGROUND WATER SERVICE

ASSUMED ROUTE OF
UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC
SERVICE CABLE

yard

EXISTING YARD GULLEY.

20-87

EXISTING STONE STEPS

20-58

PLATFORM AND
RECESS ON
ACCESS TO
EXISTING DOOR

PROPOSED TOILETS

20-52

STONE WALL TO BE
REBUILT TO MATCH
WITH COPES REPLACED
AND PAINTING TO MATCH

20-81

19-07

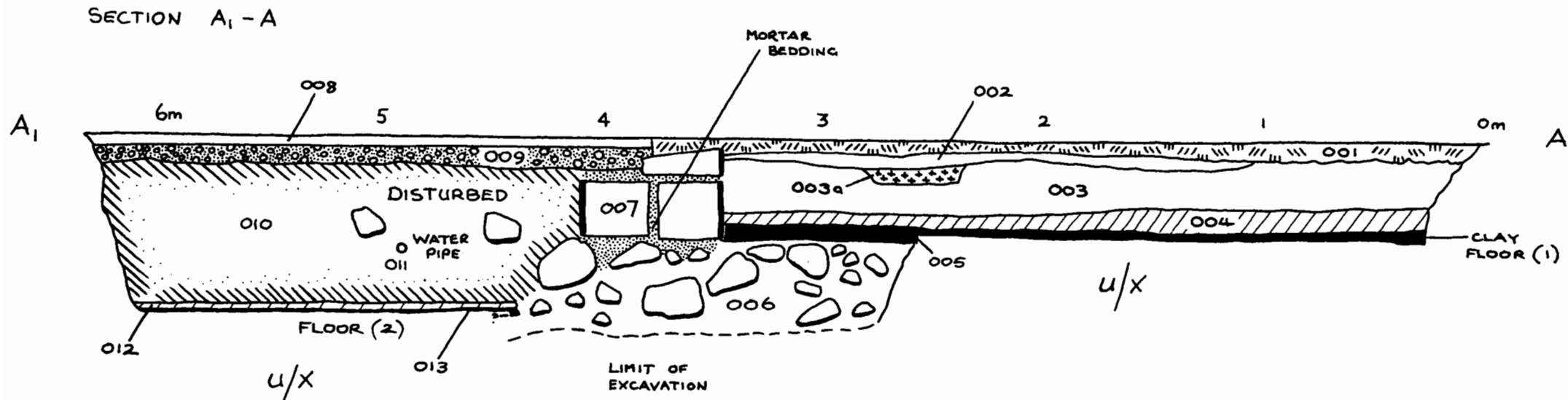
BLOCKWORK RETAINING
WALL WITH CONCRETE
COPING TINTED CREAM

CONCRETE STEPS
TINTED CREAM

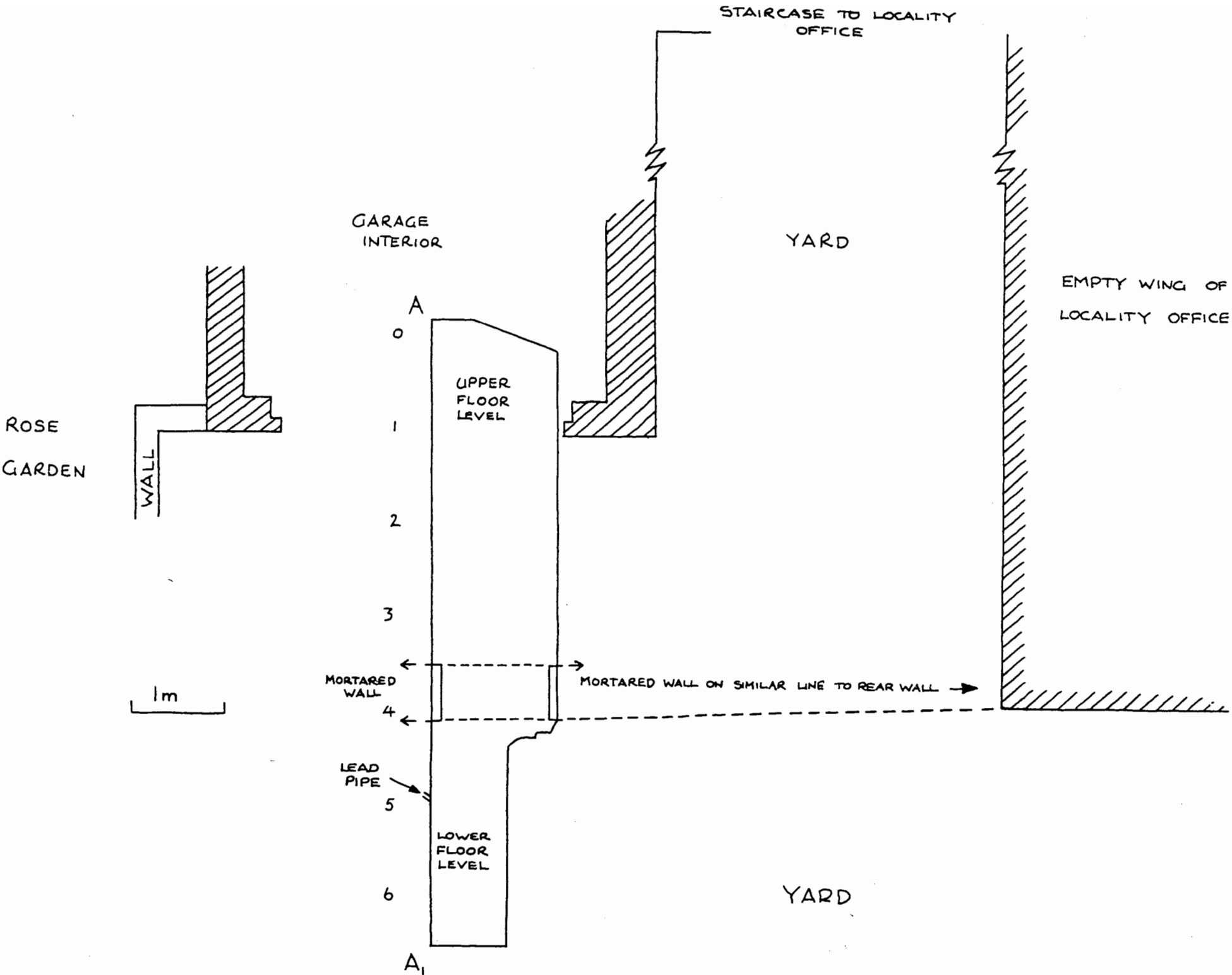
20-93

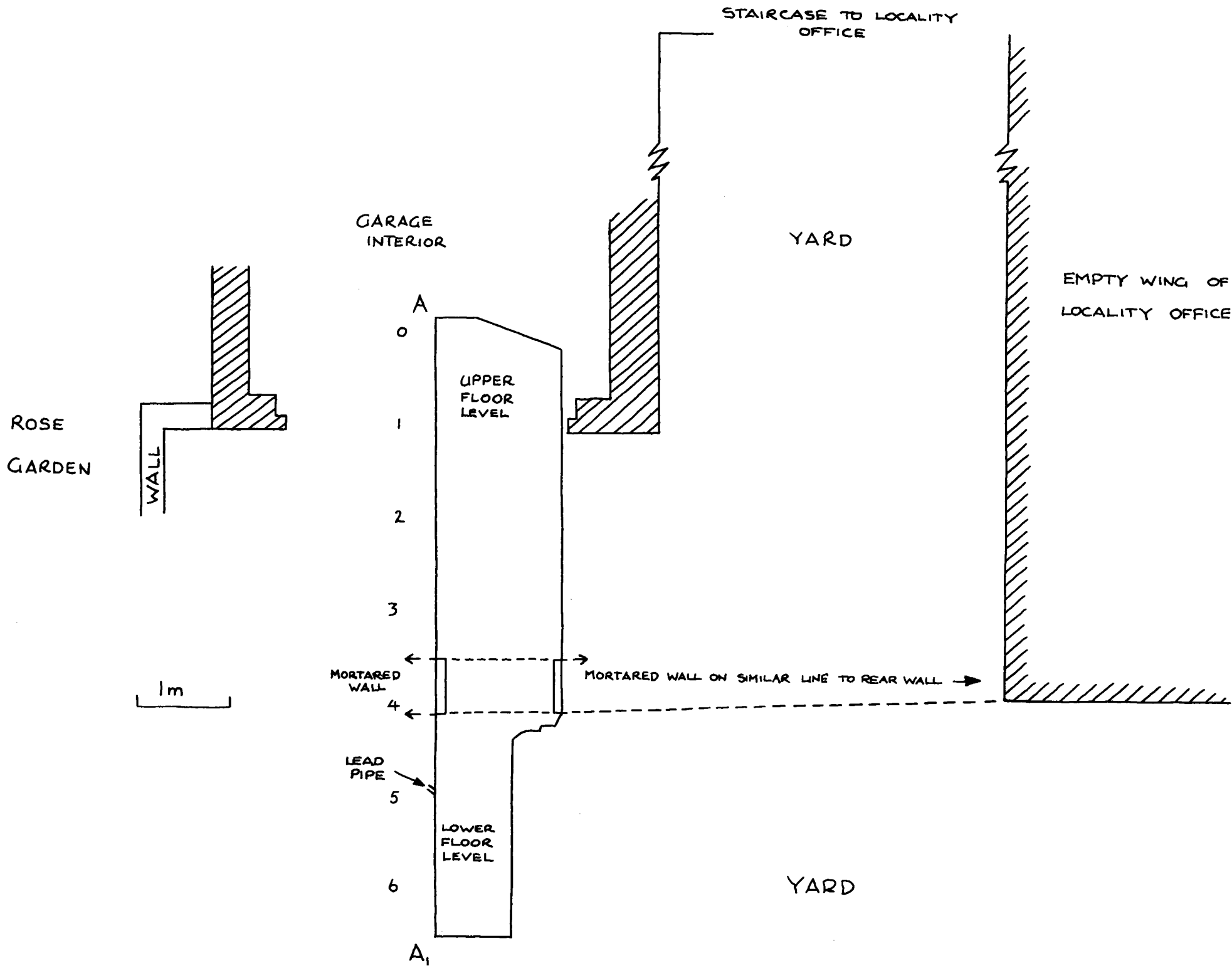
EXISTING DRAIN

19-98

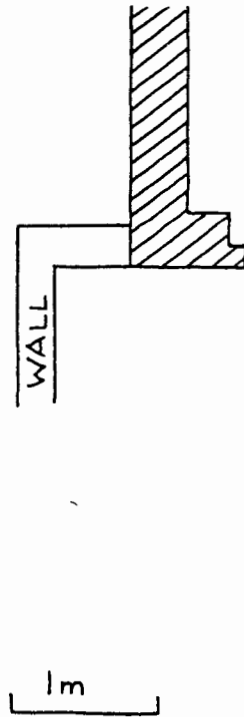


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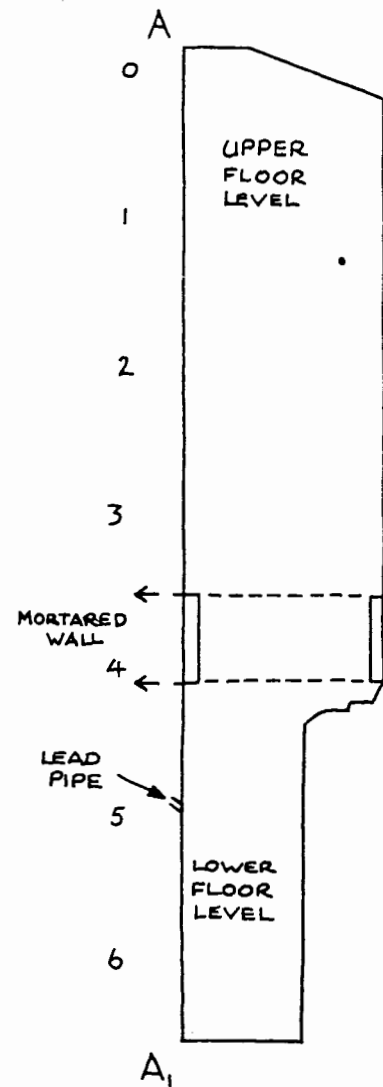




ROSE
GARDEN



GARAGE
INTERIOR



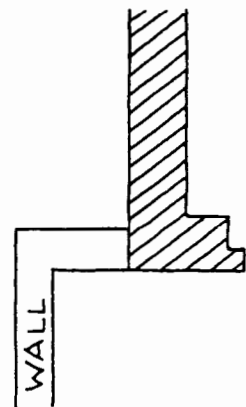
STAIRCASE TO
OFFICE

YARD

EMPTY WING OF
LOCALITY OFFICE

YARD

ROSE
GARDEN



1m

GARAGE
INTERIOR

A

0

1

2

3

MORTARED
WALL

4

LEAD
PIPE

5

6

A₁

UPPER
FLOOR
LEVEL

LOWER
FLOOR
LEVEL

STAIRCASE TO LOCALITY
OFFICE

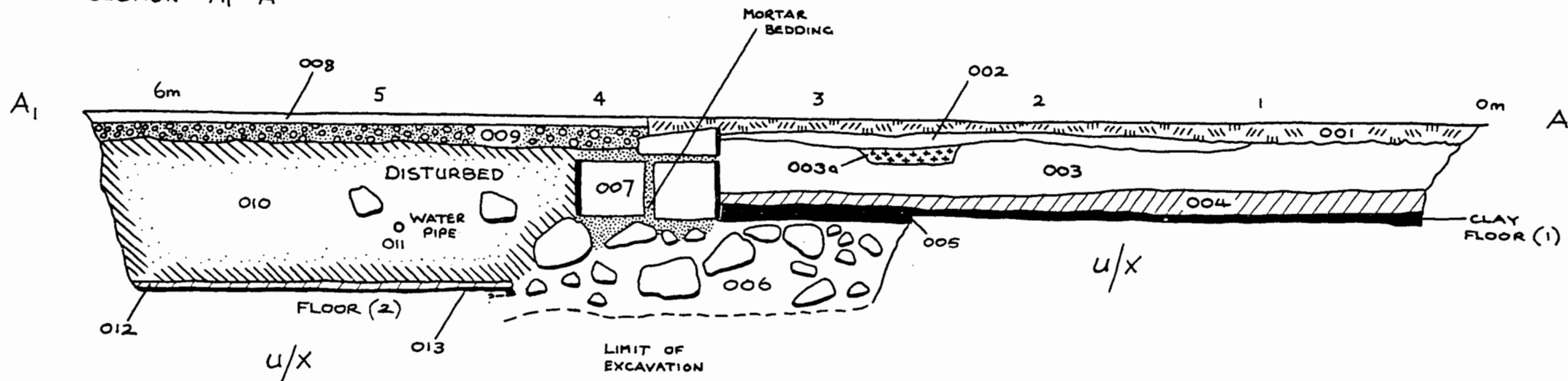
YARD

EMPTY WING OF
LOCALITY OFFICE

YARD

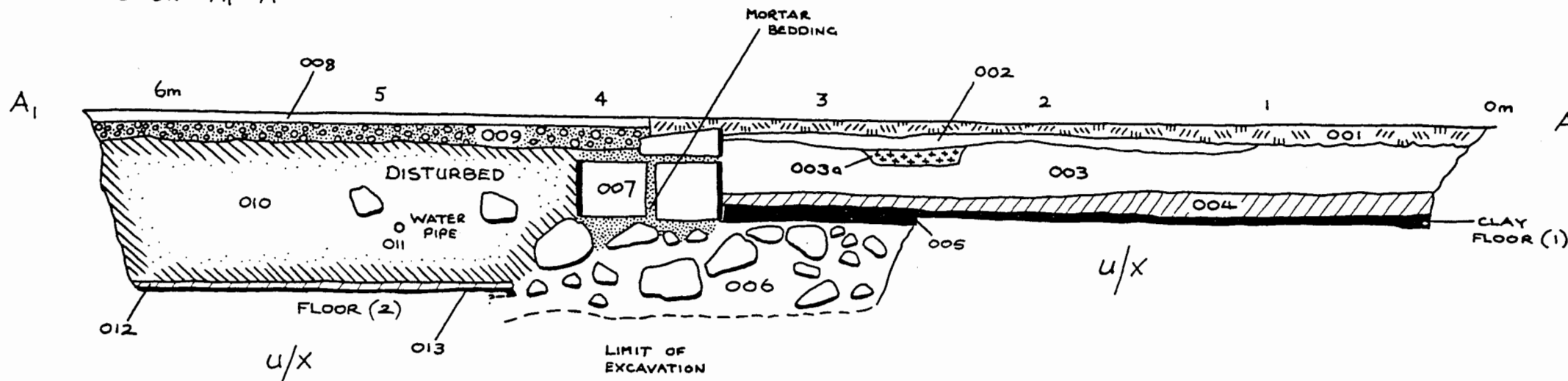
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A hand-drawn cross-section diagram of an archaeological excavation. The diagram shows a stratigraphic profile with various layers and features. At the top, a horizontal line is labeled '6m' on the left and '0m' on the right. The profile is divided into several numbered sections: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Section 1 is the topmost layer, labeled 'MORTAR BEDDING'. Section 2 is a layer below it, labeled '002'. Section 3 is a layer below that, labeled '003'. Section 4 is a layer below that, labeled '004'. Section 5 is a layer below that, labeled '005'. Section 6 is the bottom layer, labeled '006'. Other features include a 'DISTURBED' area in section 5, a 'WATER PIPE' in section 5, a 'CLAY FLOOR (1)' in section 4, and a 'CLAY FLOOR (2)' in section 6. A dashed line indicates the 'LIMIT OF EXCAVATION'. The diagram is labeled 'A1' on the left and 'A' on the right. The scale is 'u/x'.

- | | |
|------|---|
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Highland Regional Council

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACTS

PLANNING
PLANNING

PLANNING
APPLICATION

RECEIVED

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS FORM IS COMPLETED CORRECTLY TO AVOID DELAYS IN PROCESSING. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY THE ENCLOSED EXPLANATORY NOTES BEFORE STARTING

1 TYPE OF APPLICATION
I/We hereby make application for:

☐ Planning Permission
☐ Outline Planning Permission
☐ Approval of Reserved Matters
☒ Listed Building Consent
☐ Conservation Area Consent

2 APPLICANT'S NAME ADDRESS
ROSS AND CROMARTY DISTRICT COUNCIL, COUNCIL BUILDINGS, DUNDEE.

POSTCODE

TELEPHONE NUMBER

3 AGENT'S NAME ADDRESS
DOUGLAS MURRAY, ARCHITECT, PARK HOUSE STUDIO, THE SQUARE, STRATHPEFFER.

POSTCODE IV14 9 DL

TELEPHONE NUMBER (0997) 421 981

4 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
DEMOLITION OF GARAGE ETC. AT REAR OF LOCALITY OFFICE AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PUBLIC TOILETS; ~~DEMOLITION OF EXISTING PUBLIC TOILETS~~

5 LOCATION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
HIGH STREET, TAIN.

6 EXISTING USE OF LAND/BUILDING(S)
PART GARAGE ETC, PART YARD AREA AT REAR OF LOCALITY OFFICE : EXISTING PUBLIC TOILETS TO SOUTH EAST OF ROSE GARDEN.

7 EXISTING BUILDINGS
Existing buildings on the site will be:-

☐ unaffected ☐ altered/extended ☒ demolished ☐ changed in use

Details: AS DRAWINGS.

FOR OFFICIAL
USE ONLY

Application Number

RC 1997/066

Date of Receipt

14/9/02

Fees

Application £FREE

Advertisement £FREE

TOTAL £....

Date Paid

Receipt Number

Grid Reference

NH 780
820

Settlement

646

Ward Number

22

Local Plan

Area No 111

Status

Inset

Type

Applicant

RC

Application

08

PREVIOUS DEVELOPMENTS

NONE RECENT

9

PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR ROAD VEHICLES

It is intended to: ☒ use an existing access

AS EXISTING

☐ improve an existing access

☐ form a new access

Name of road to which access is required:

Number of parking places to be provided:

10

PROPOSED DRAINAGE ARRANGEMENTS

It is intended to use: ☒ a Public Sewer

☐ a Septic Tank with an outfall to

☐ a soakaway

☐ a watercourse

☐ the sea

☐ Surface Water to separate soakaway

11

PROPOSED WATER SUPPLY

It is intended to use: ☒ the Public Supply

☐ a Private Supply whose source is

12

PROPOSED EXTERNAL BUILDING MATERIALS

Outside Walls SANDSTONE TO MATCH LOCALITY OFFICE,
WITH WET-DASH CREAM HARLING

Roofcovering NATURAL SLATING

Boundary enclosures (e.g. fences, walls etc.) WALLS TO BE REBUILT TO
MATCH EXISTING STONE WALLS

13

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL USES

☐ Industrial / Commercial questionnaire attached

☐ Minerals questionnaire attached

☐ Not applicable

14

PLANS

Attached herewith the undernoted plans

☐ Three copies of site plan

numbered 9923/1-3

☐ Three copies of block plan

numbered do

☐ Three copies of floor plan

numbered do

☐ Three copies of cross-section

numbered do

☐ Three copies of elevations

numbered do

For Mineral Working applications please list the numbers of all submitted drawings:

ST ELEVATION

SECTION T-T

Notes

locality office

yard

20.87

EXISTING STONE STEPS
(CONCRETE)

20.58

PROPOSED TOILETS

5m x 6m
EXTEND TO 11m

CONCRETE FLOOR

20.52

STONE WALL TO BE
REBUILT TO MATCH

20.81

BLOCKWORK RETAINING
WALL WITH CONCRETE
COPING TINTED CREAM

19.07

CONCRETE STEPS
TINTED CREAM

20.93

19.98

NORTH

rose garden

LOCALITY OFFICE PROPERTY OF B&C DC.
TENANTS ALSO H.R.C. TRADING STANDARDS
ROSE GARDEN PROP. B&C DC.
EXISTING PUBLIC CONVENIENCE
TO BE DEMOLISHED
PROPERTY OF MR. JAMES ARTHUR,
THE GROVE, LAMINGTON STREET, TAIN.
POST OFFICE

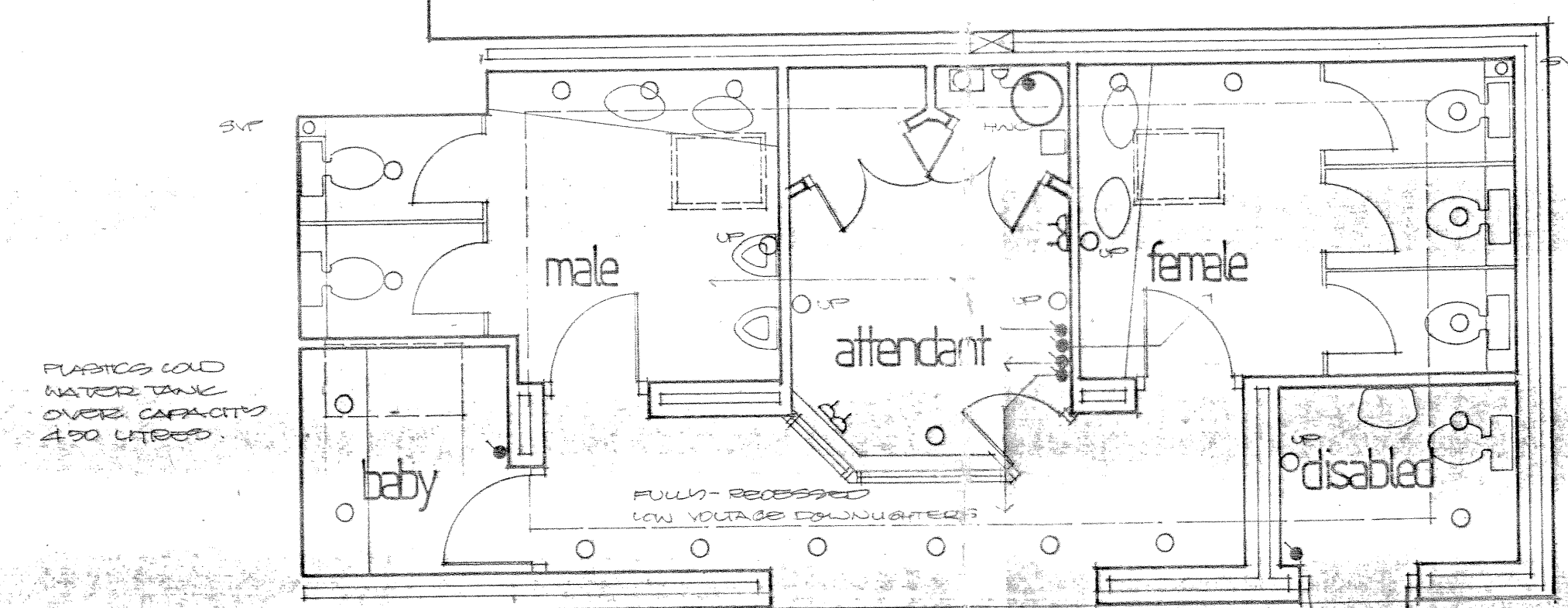
5 weeks to
tender
Mid-late NOV
New build
after New Year

Ian McDonald
Architect
Dingwall

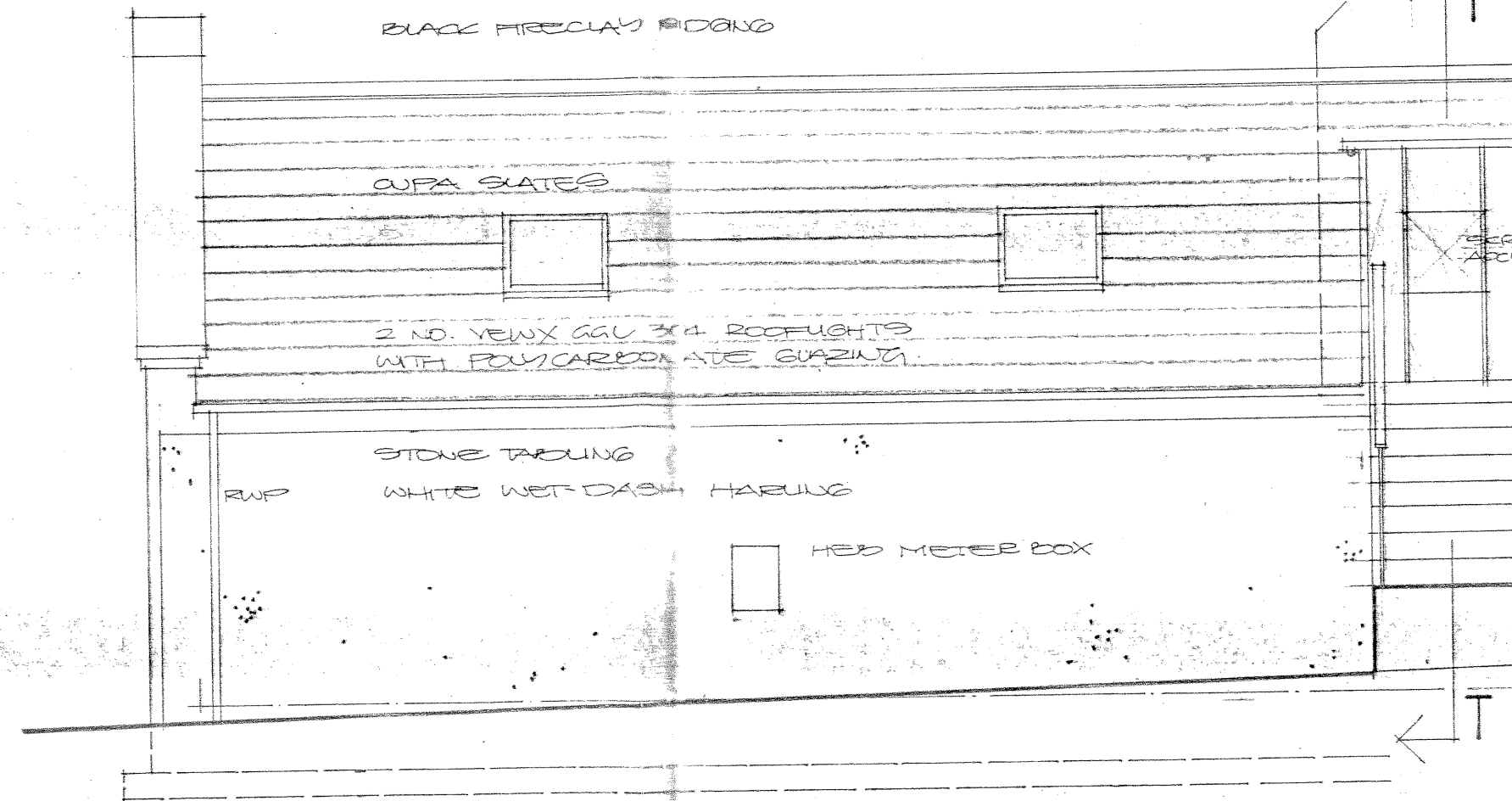
Key: AT
LOCALITY
OFFICE
(VAC
MRS
WILLIAMSON)

SANITARY WARE
ALL FROM ADMITTANCE-SHAKES: ALL COLOURED
WC UNITS: WENTWORTH WC PAN AND CLOSE-COUPLED CISTERN
IN COLOUR 'ONSTER SREX' WITH DAKASAN OPEN-
FRONT SEAT (NO COVER) WITH 51.5T FLUARS/RED FLYING
VANITY BASINS: ORBIT SELF-RIMMING INSET BASIN WITH
PRESS-TYPE HOT/COLD TAPS
DRAINED TOILET: AS DATA ENCLOSED, INCLUDING COLOUR 2
WC PAN, CISTERN, OPEN-TOED SEAT, CORNIX
WASH-BASIN, AND SAFETY RAILS ETC
URINALS: SANITARY WALL MOUNTED URINALS WITH DIVISION
STAINLESS-STEEL FLUSH-PIPS & SPREADERS
PLASTIC CISTERN AS BECAU BUT CONTROLLED
BY CISTER-MISER OR SIMILAR.

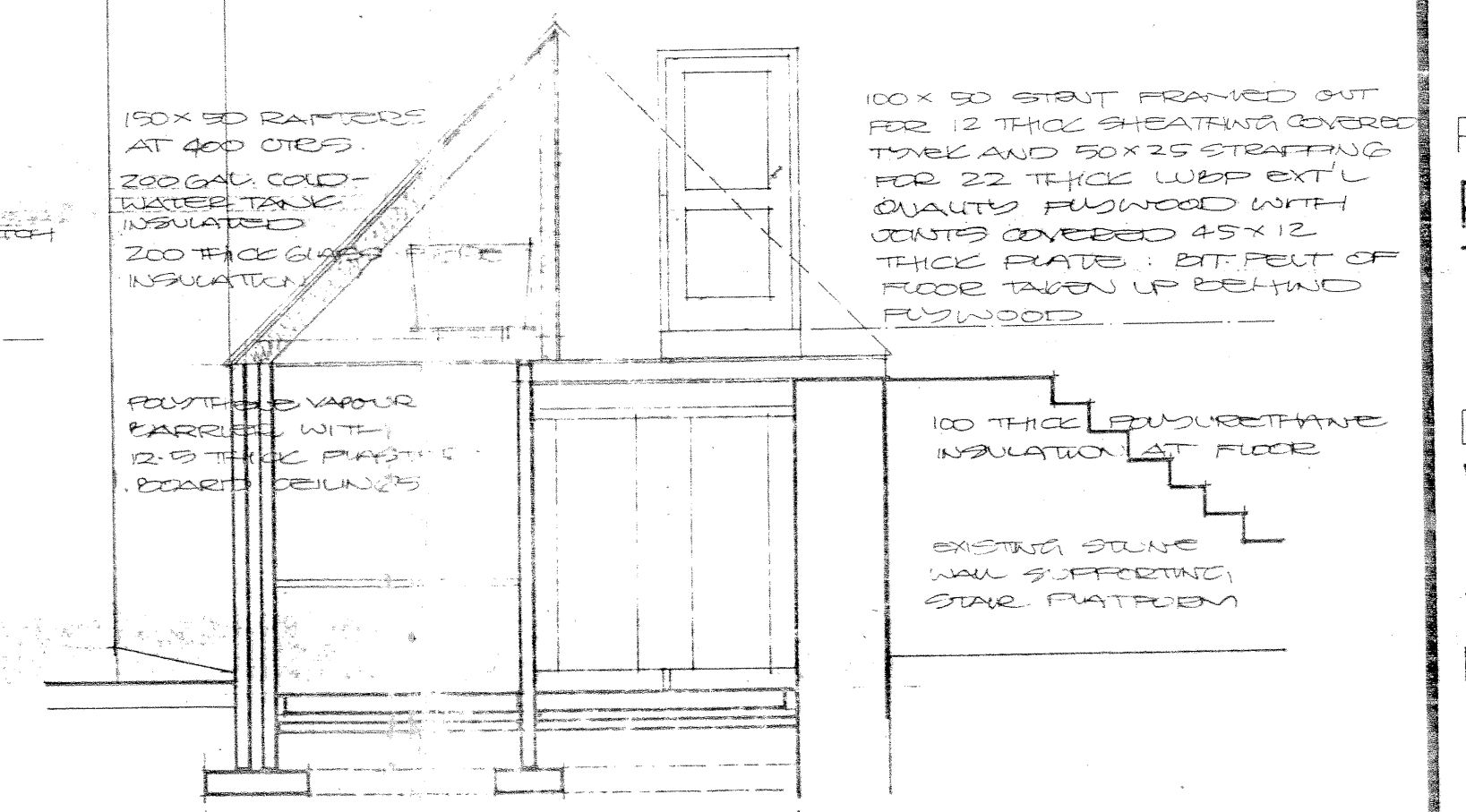
HOT WATER COUNTER TO BE
1M RANGE UTD. 'SUPER POWER'
DIRECT COUNTER CAPACITY 210 LITRES
WITH 1/2" V.I. INSULATION HEATER UNITS
DISTRIBUTION BOARD
METER BOX



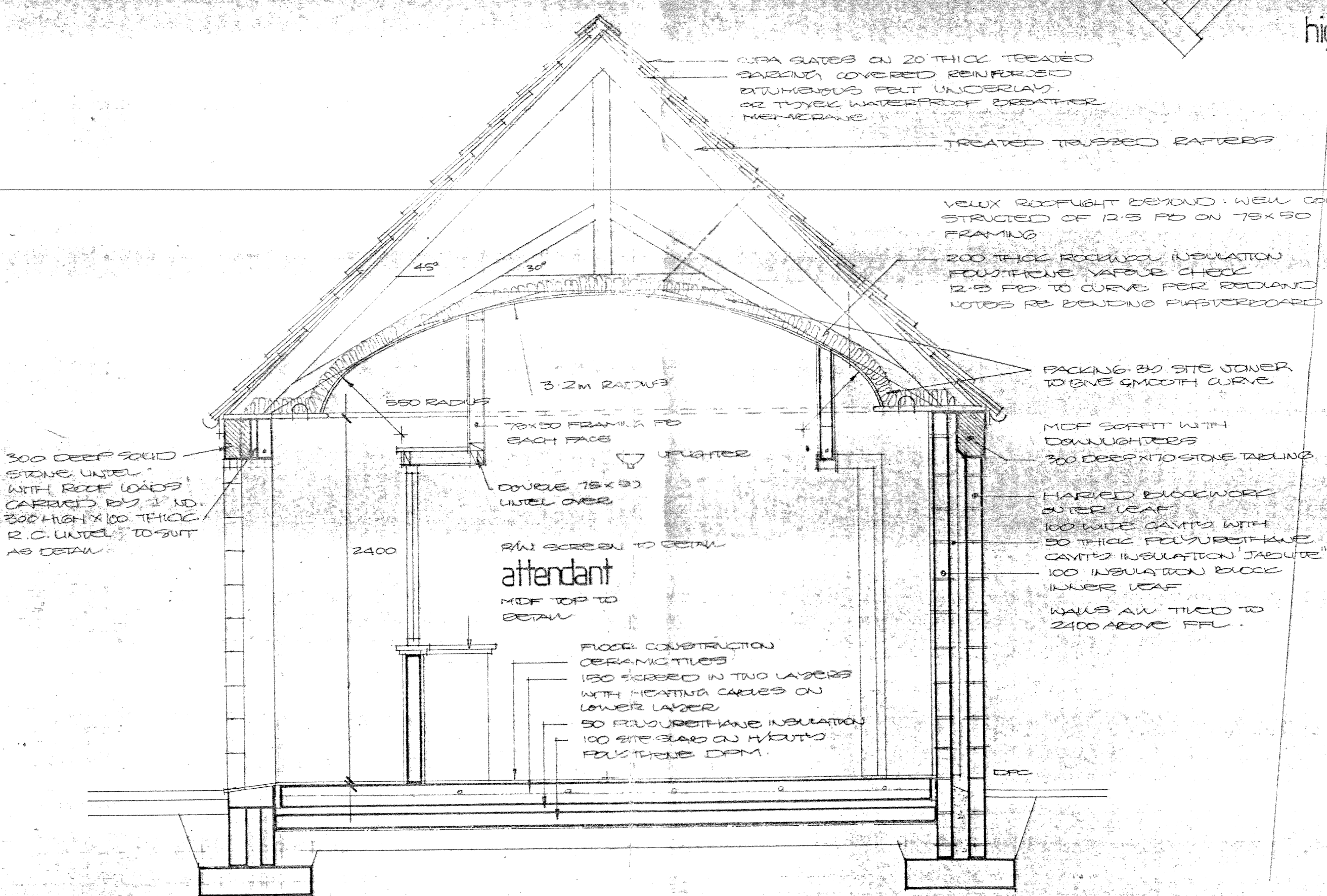
•SERVICES LAYOUT•



•WEST ELEVATION•

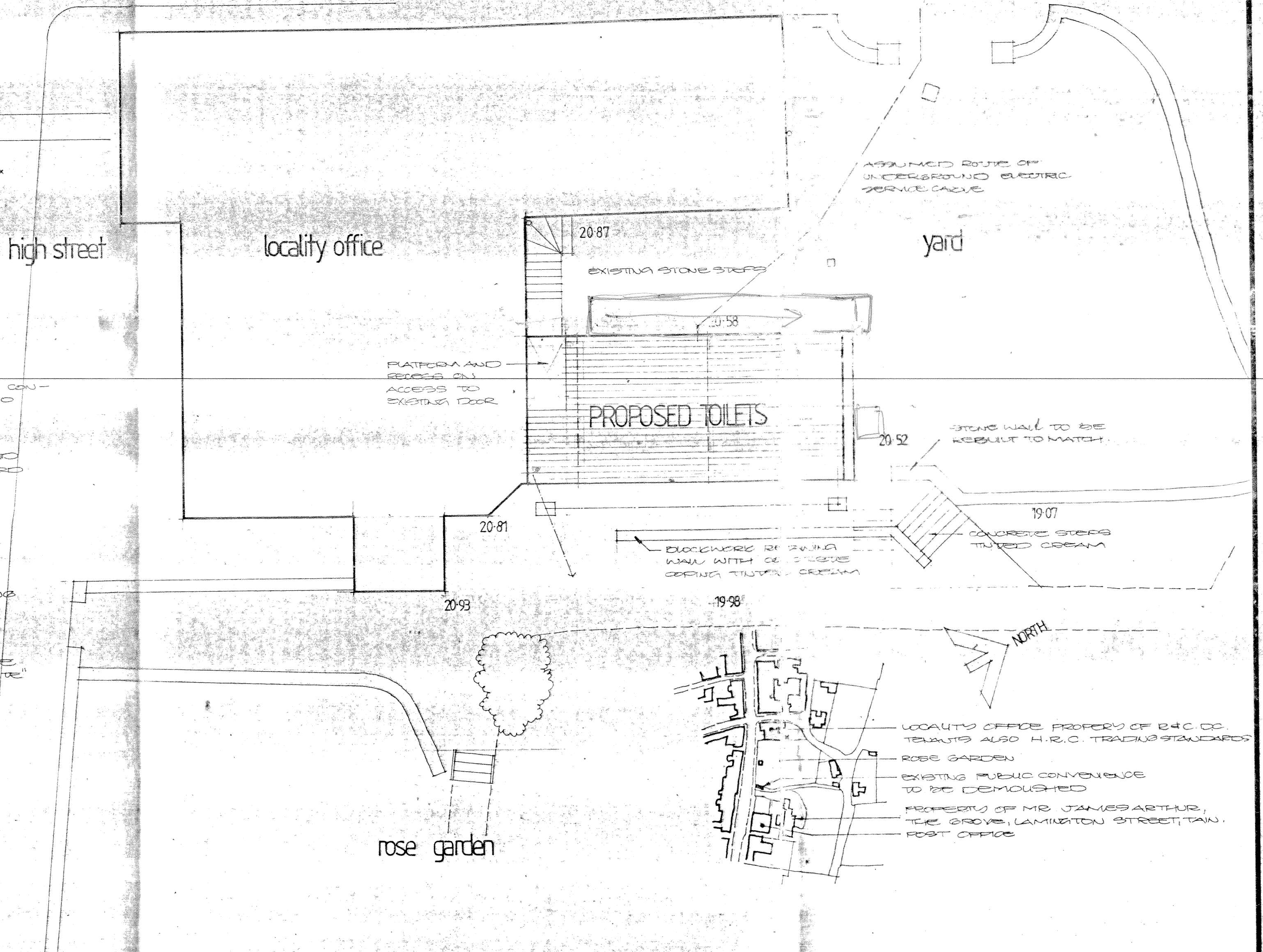


•SECTION T-T•



•SECTION S-S•

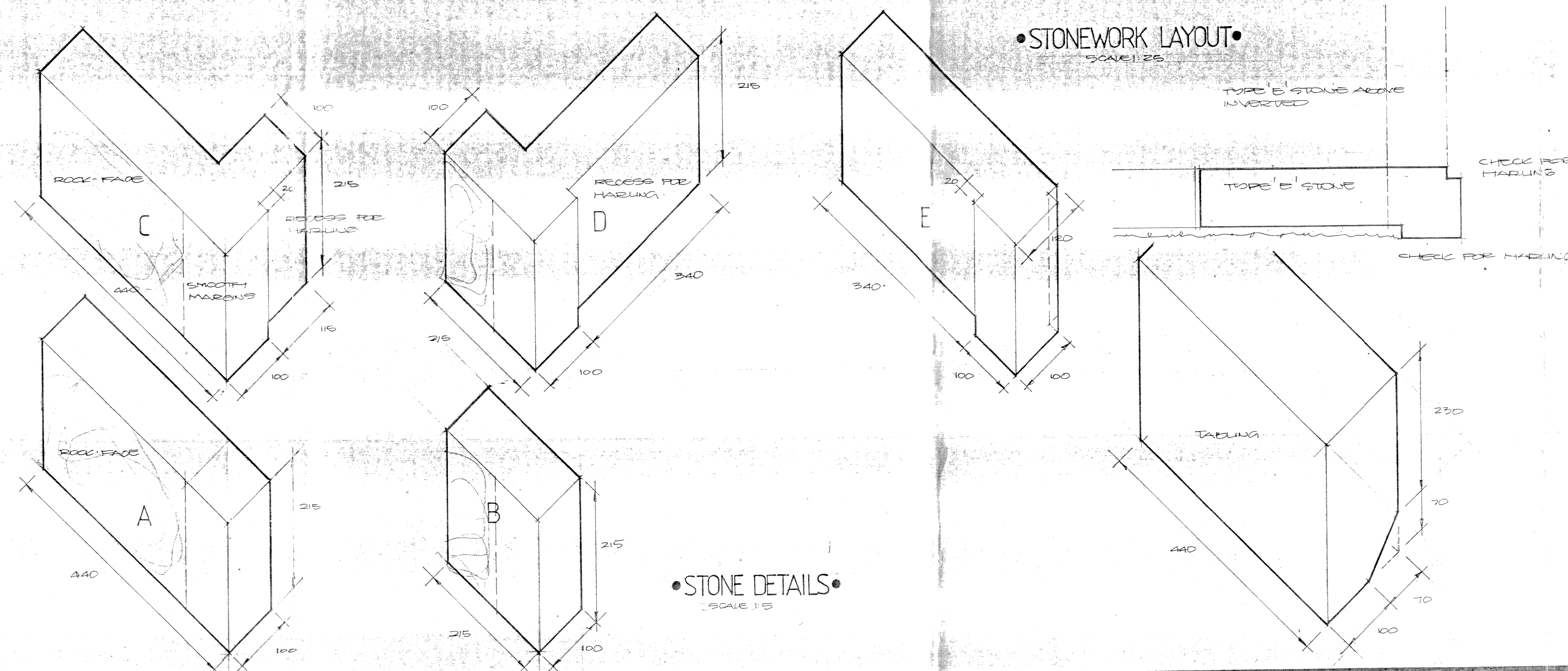
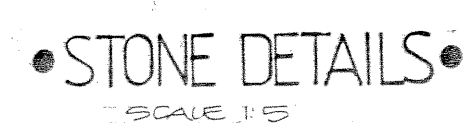
SCALE 1:25



•SITE LAYOUT•

SCALE 1:100

•LOCATION PLAN•

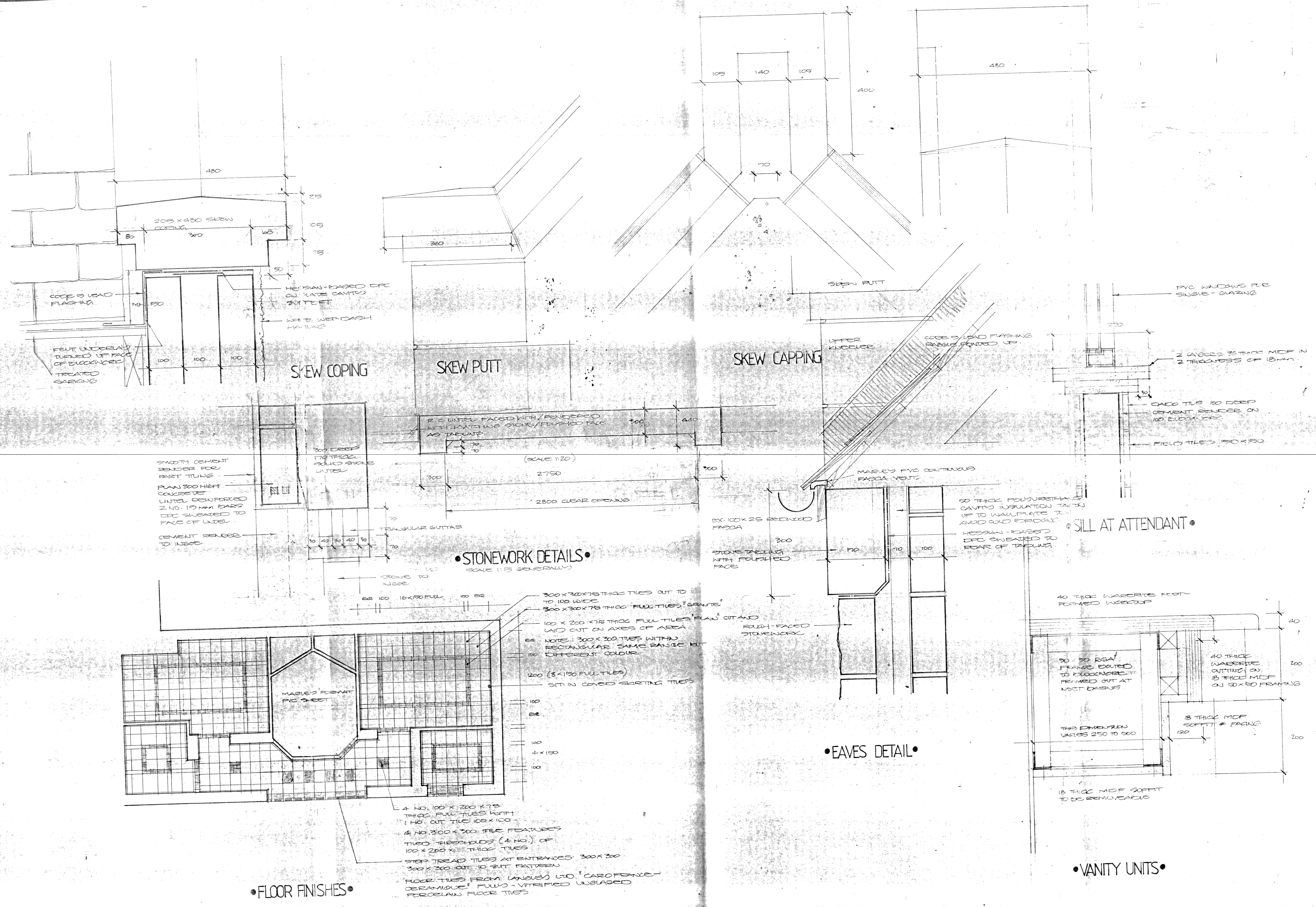


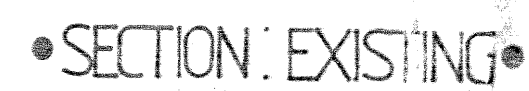
Project
**PUBLIC TOILETS
TAIN**
ROSS AND CROMARTY D.C.

Drawing
WORKING

Scale/Date
1:5
SEPT. 1992
Drawing No
9223/4

Notes







• FLOOR PLAN: EXISTING •