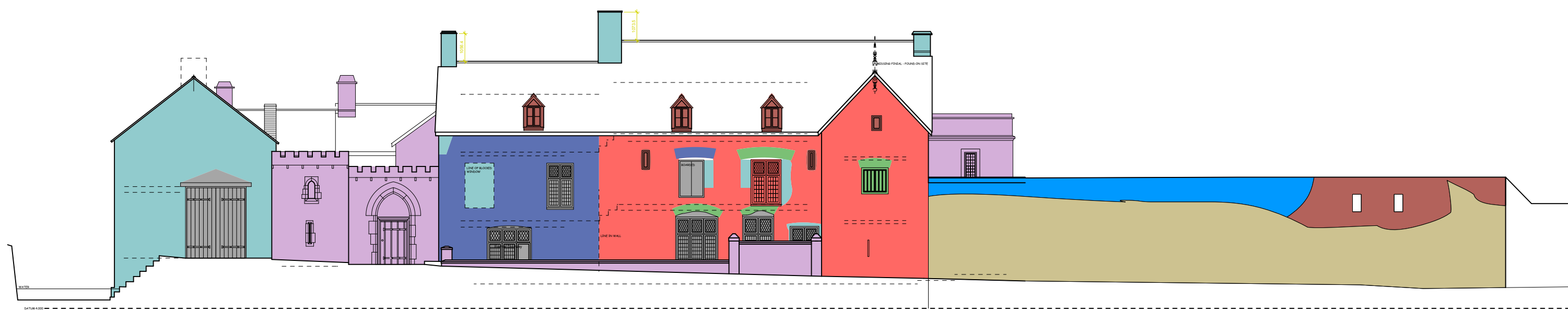
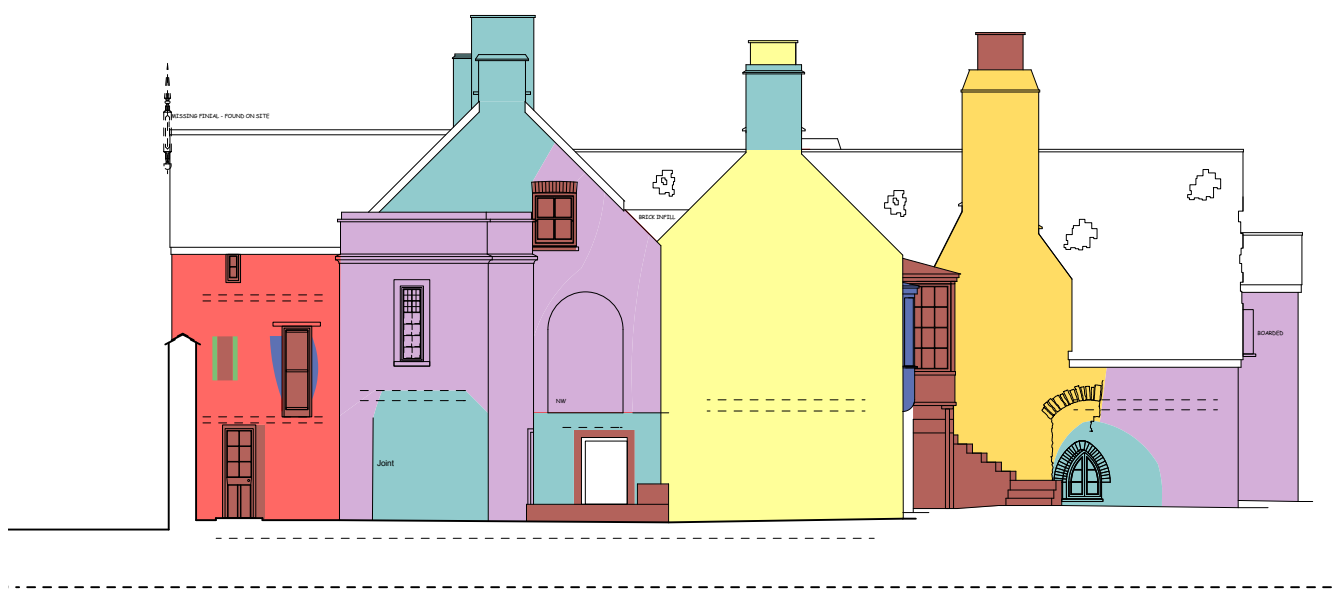


History Of Island House

Chronology



Wogan Street Elevation



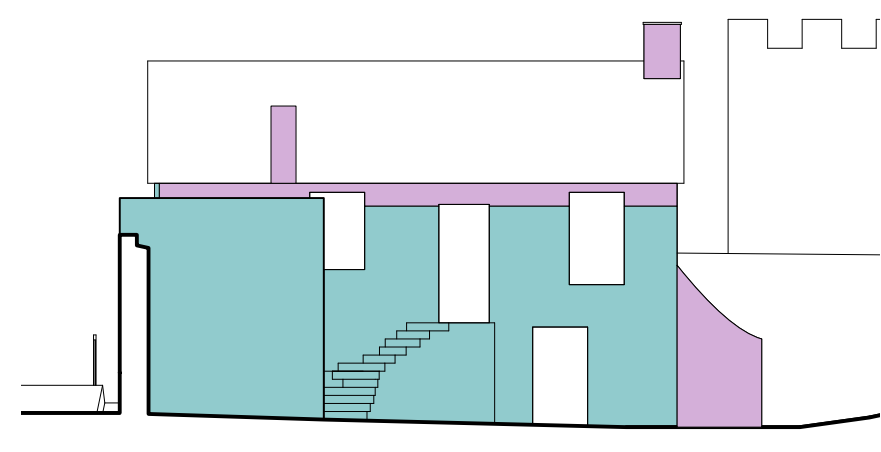
Section A-A



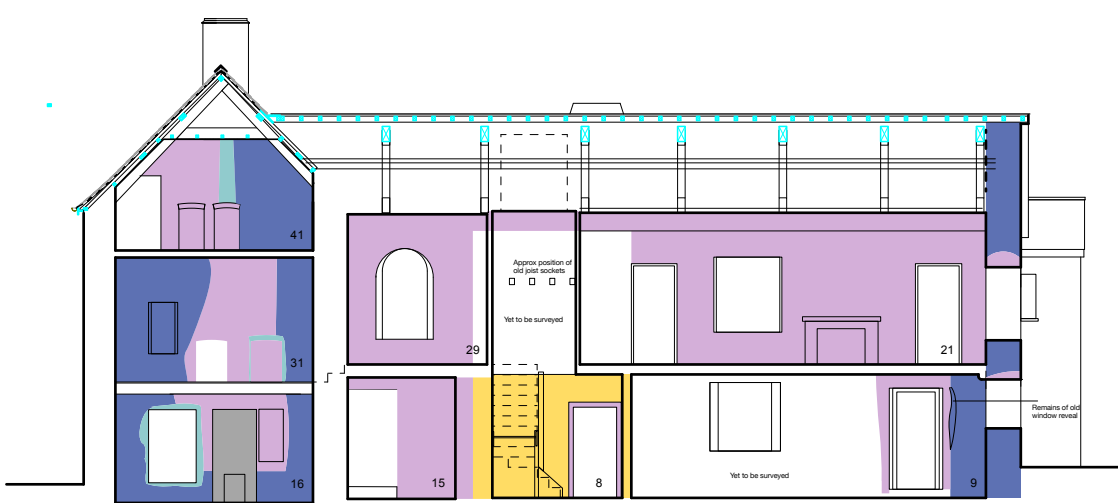
Section B-B



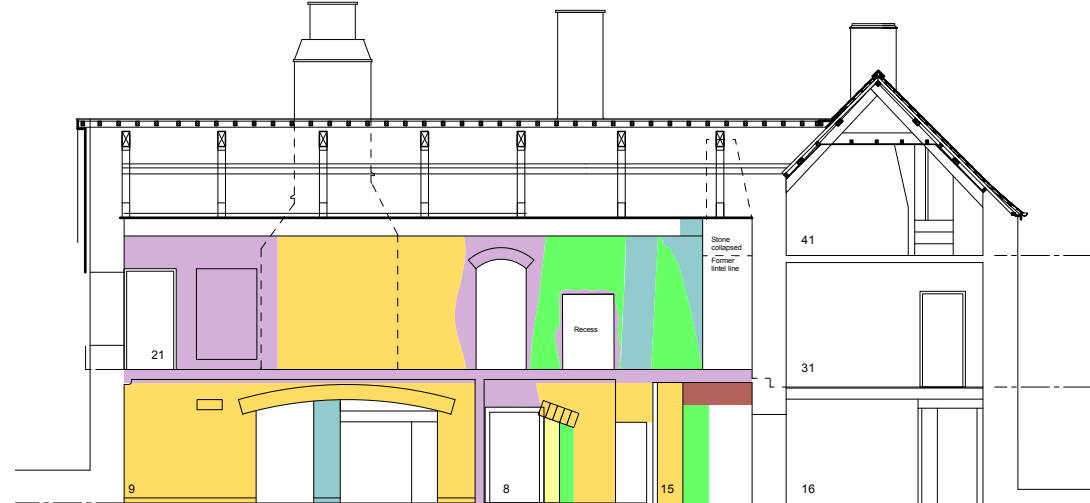
Section C-C



Section D-D

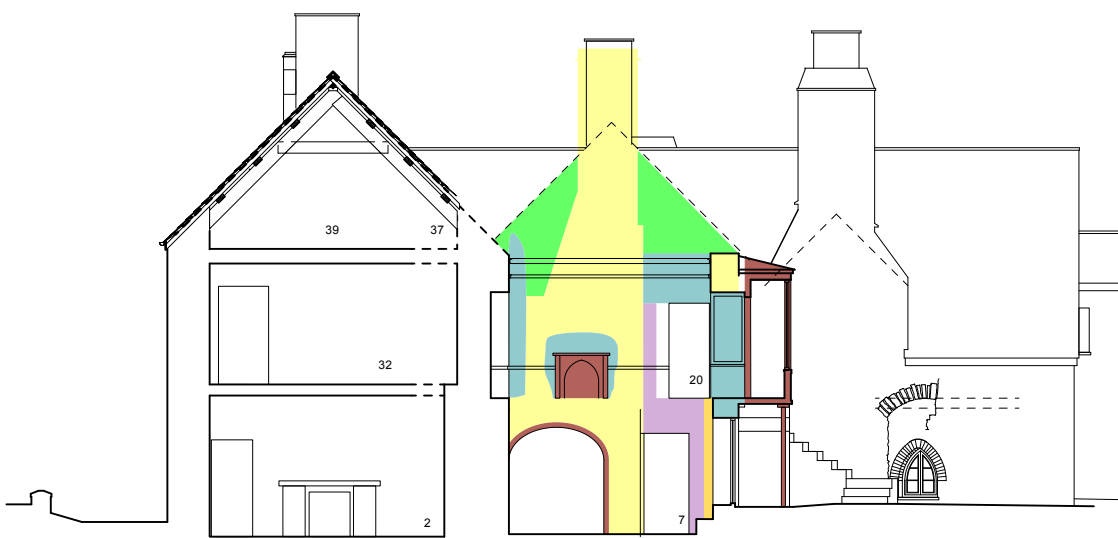


Section E-E



Section F-F

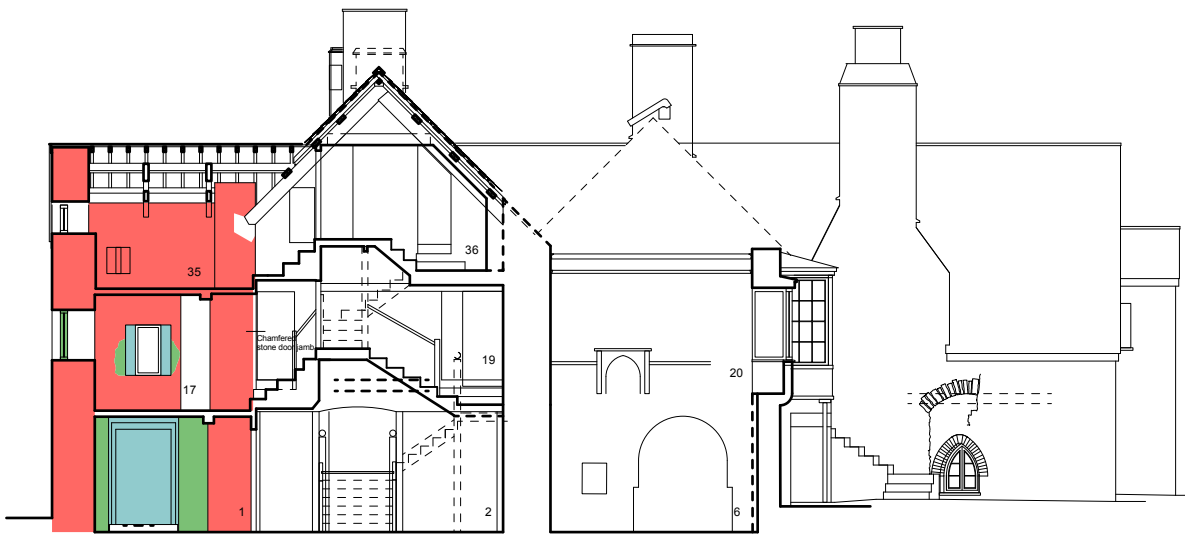
KEY: PERIOD OF FABRIC	
	Yet to be surveyed
	Fabric Rebuilt
	Medieval
	C16
	c.1600
	c.1658
	c.1670
	Early C18
	C18
	Early C19
	1837
	c.1860
	1860 - c.1910
	Late C19 - c.1900
	c.1910
	Late C20
	C20



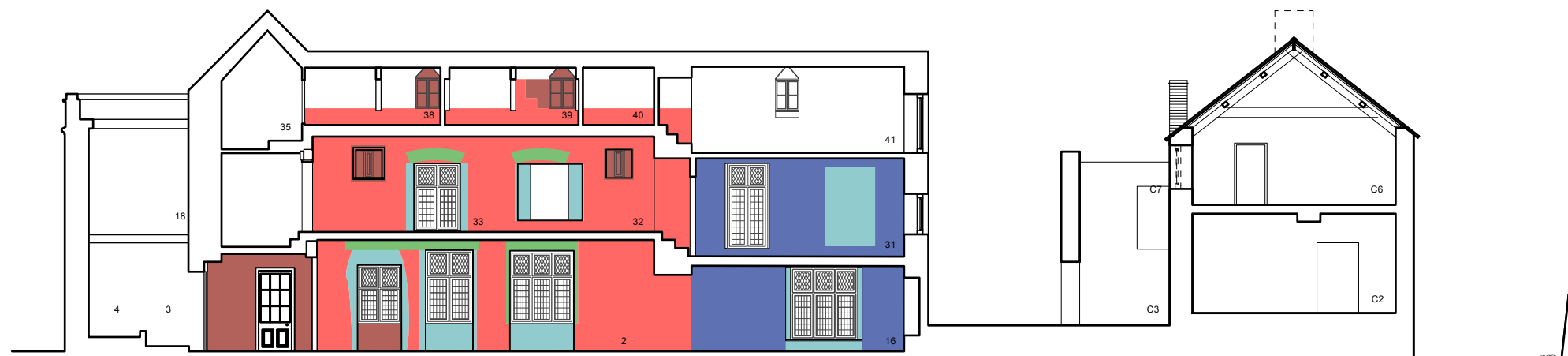
Section G-G



Section H-H



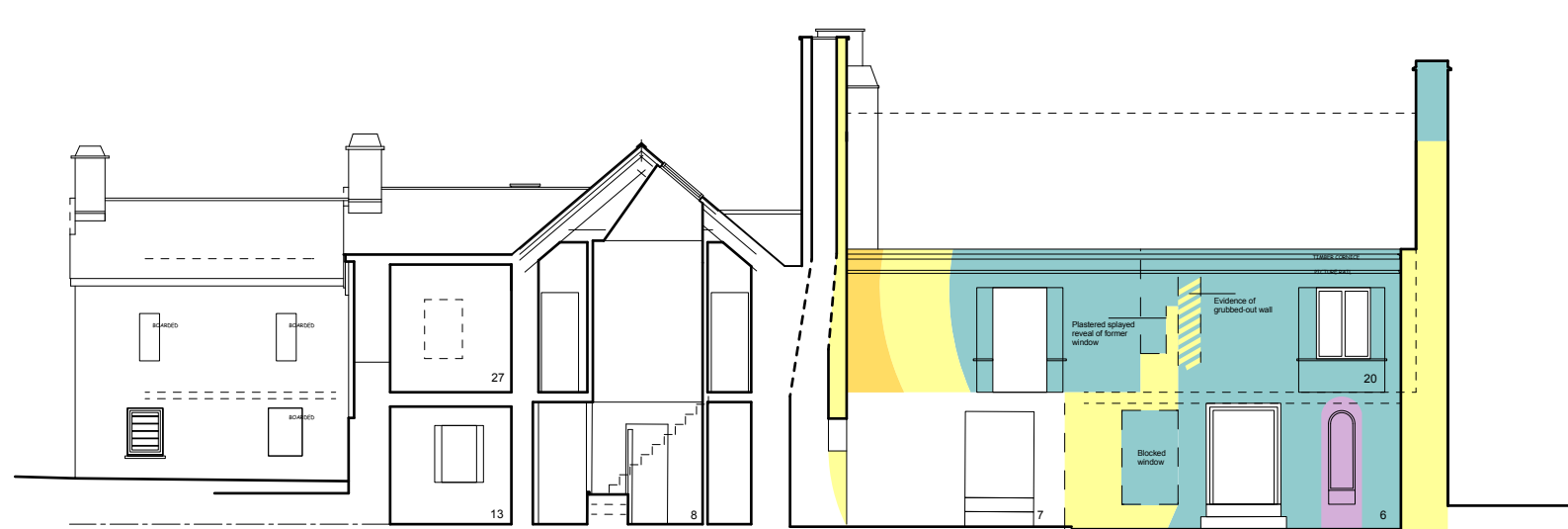
Section I-I



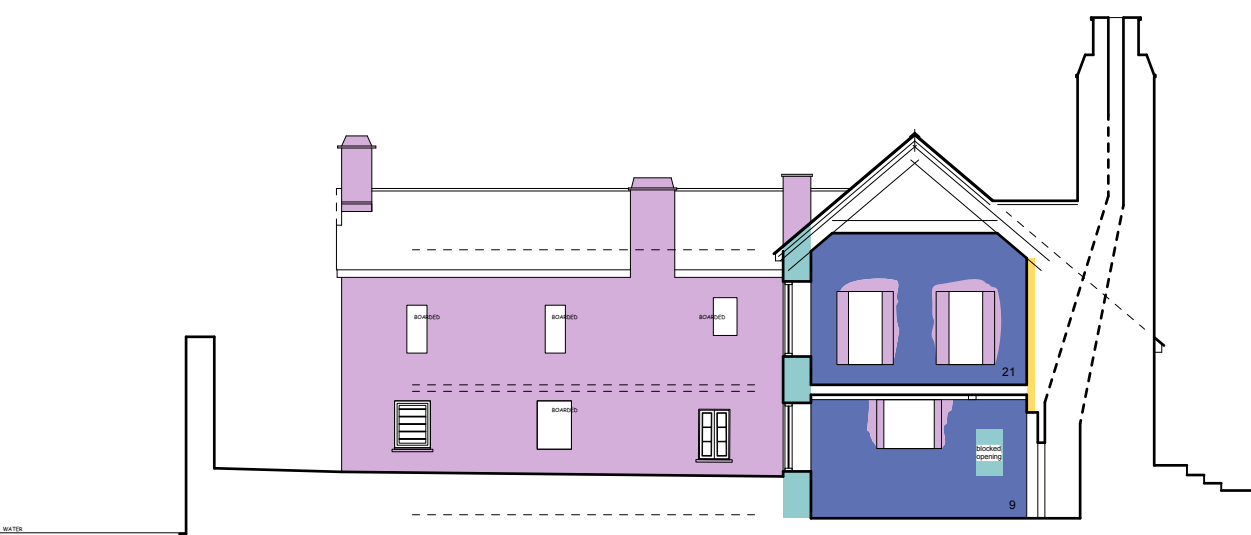
Section J-J



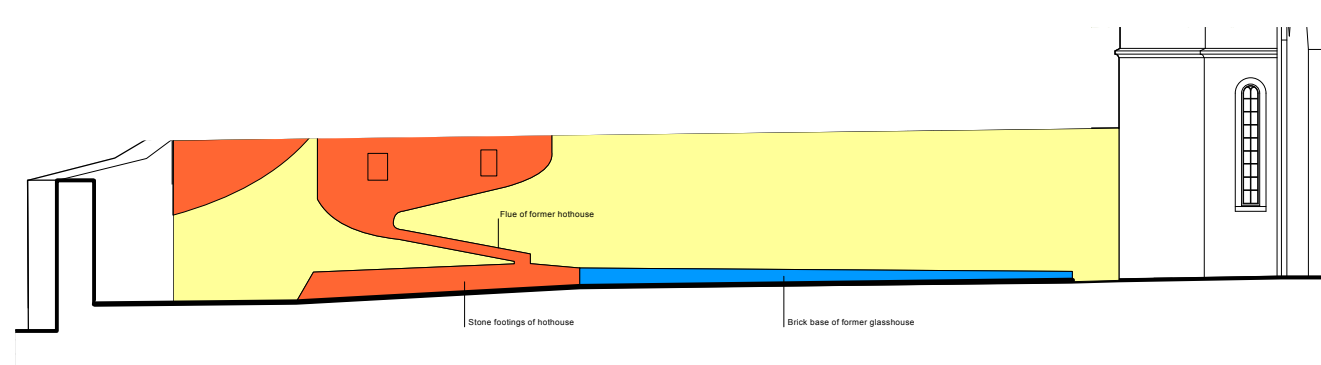
Section K-K



Section L-L



Section M-M



Section N-N

History

5. The eighteenth century

Georgian Laugharne was a fashionable and prosperous place, as houses like Great House and Castle House show. Island House – clearly by now a single dwelling, occupied by the locally influential Skrymes – had a partial makeover, the detail all lost due to C19 remodeling. The south-west range – presumably a shoddy affair – was rebuilt. Only faint traces survive of the Georgian sea-facing sashes, which presumably lighted good paneled rooms, of which some timber fixings survived within the walls. It is also likely that the main stair was located within this part of the house.

The 'spine wall' – the original back wall of the medieval house – was extensively altered and patched up, with new openings cut through into the new rooms. The eastern extension of the north range was possibly constructed for John Hughes (+1729). It contained a good room (drawing room or best bedroom perhaps) at first floor level, the ground floor originally a store (the blocked goods-entrance later in-filled for a window). One of the front windows was in-filled, perhaps due to the window tax. Between the rear of the extension and the south range was a small yard (later in-filled), perhaps with the store associated with the Skrymes' chandlery business.

6. The early Victorian period

During the 1830s, the house was heavily altered, the work concentrated on the medieval north range and the south-west range. The heiress Mary Skyrme is commemorated on a plaque of 1837 inside the south garden wall, which she extended to square up the plot.

Mary and her husband, George Stackpole set about transforming the interior of the house. They created a new staircase within the front range, replacing all the floors. The stair was not the present structure, but probably an elegant stick-baluster design, typically Late Georgian.

The south-west range was re-fitted, the upper rooms (drawing room and ball-room with inter-connecting doors) given coved plaster ceilings (all lost in a major collapse in spring 2020). A passage was broken through the thick masonry between the east gables of the ranges and the small courtyard beyond in-filled, so as to allow access into the South Range from the main house. Servants' rooms were provided in the attic of the North Range and its east extension.

The house was largely re-windowed, the old openings to the front altered and pretty 'seaside-regency' bow windows added to the garden elevation. The existing coach house probably also dates from this period.

Much of the work was crude and ill-conceived suggesting an ad-hoc approach with little supervision by a skilled designer. Some elements of the work were so poor, that sections of masonry eventually collapsed or were about to. Despite the poor building works, the house was evidently well-appointed – it's west turret contained a bathroom and w.c., probably one of the few houses in town to have such facilities.

7. The late Victorian era.

In 1856, Mary Stackpole died, her husband in 1863. Mary Skyrme, the wealthy heiress to the estate married Frederick Wienholt in 1856, at the age of 45. The Wienholts embarked on a further major phase of work at Island House, this time concentrating on the service rooms, at the east end. Extensions were built to the south range, which was re-fitted, complete with a back staircase. The old store room was made into a room, the insertion of a fireplace causing an impressive shunting of the flues above. The works – probably carried out after 1863 – were generally of high quality and clearly designed by an architect, the external walls faced in attractively coursed masonry. The designer was probably E.M. Goodwin (formerly of the London partnership of Coe & Goodwin), resident in Laugharne in 1857 and again in 1860, looking for decent commissions, his main patron being W.H. Yelverton of Whitland Abbey.

This phase of work also included the attractive Gothic battlemented street gate, the turret alongside disguising the coal house – the whole is a playful nod to the castle, yet tactfully done in matching stone. The gate led into the service yard of the house, where a well has been rediscovered.

8. New ownership – 1900

After centuries of family ownership, the house was sold in 1900 to Captain Thomas Jones, probably as an investment. Yet another major period of refurbishment ensued, this time within the North Range, which was gutted and re-floored, the staircase reconstructed in 'baronial style', its layout adapted to raised floor levels (Victorian wallpaper of c. 1875 had actually survived behind a later partition. The alteration of the floors had a significant impact on the structure, the work including the creation of the present large entrance hall and alterations to the dining room to create a new servery passage. The ball-room end of the drawing room was altered to insert a match-boarded ceiling and new fireplace. The work was not particularly distinguished in style or quality. The staircase was admittedly of impressive scale, but most of the elements were machine-produced, apart from a few bits of paneling, which were eighteenth-century.

9. Recent History

Over the last 120 years, Island House has been subject to several phases of repair, mostly to detrimental effect. In the mid-C20, new windows were installed to the Wogan Street elevation and much of the interior re-plastered in (impressively thick) cement. The main lead valley gutter was evidently a major contributor of damp, with several attempts made to prop rotting floor joists and trusses, typically by under-building in concrete block. With the absence of regular maintenance, the roofs and leadwork generally failed, some of the chimneys in dangerous condition. Inside, the floors of the Victorian extensions had started to collapse. Many rooms were uninhabitable.

In the winter of 2020, the roof of the South-west Range collapsed, bringing down the floors and ceilings below. The exposed spine wall deteriorated to the point of being dangerous and was taken down and rebuilt in 2020. Associated problems have led to the rebuilding of sections of the skew passage and chimney wall of the South-west range. The insertion of various doorways in the east extension of the north range led to the sudden collapse of the masonry above, the adjacent east porch found to have no footings, joined to earlier masonry via timber ties.

Works by IHRL to date have concentrated on making the house safe, the reinstatement of floors and replacement/repair of roof trusses 'tying' the structure together. There is no doubt that had the major roof collapse not been reacted to as quickly, much of the house would have entered a rapid phase of decline, some sections very likely becoming beyond viable repair.