



Historic Building Recording

Rosewell Mains Steading

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Prepared for:

Rosewell Development Trust Community Company Ltd

Prepared by:

Michael Briggs BSc (Hons) MSc

Robert McMorran MA (Hons) MA ACIfA

Neo Environmental Ltd

Tel: 0141 773 6262

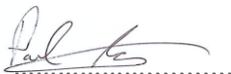
www.neo-environmental.co.uk

1 Lonmay Road,

Glasgow

G33 4EL

	NAME	DATE
Edited by:	Robert McMorran	29/01/2015
Checked by:	Paul Neary	29/01/2015

APPROVED BY:

Paul Neary



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1 INTRODUCTION

SITE DESCRIPTION

- 1.1 Rosewell Development Trust Community Company Ltd commissioned Neo Environmental Ltd to undertake a Level 1 Historic Building Survey at Rosewell Mains Steading, Gorton Loan, Rosewell (NGR 328877 662571) prior to the development of the site. The survey was required to fulfil a condition set by East Lothian Council to “record the upstanding remains and determine whether the development will disturb any buried archaeological deposits.”
- 1.2 The farmhouse steading is situated within the village of Rosewell, 1.7km to the east of Roslin and 11km to the south of the city centre of Edinburgh. The site is located in the south of the village, bounded by Gorton Road to the northeast and by a mix of modern buildings and disused brownfield sites.

OBJECTIVES

- 1.3 The objectives of the Historic Building Recording were to make a general record of the buildings on site through various methods including:
 - Photography of the internal and external elevations, wherever possible, as well as the setting of the building and any architectural features of note;
 - A ground plan, indicating any phasing where relevant;
 - Map regression analysis;
 - Annotated drawings of elevations;
 - Historical description and contexts relevant to the site.

2 METHODOLOGY

MAP REGRESSION

- 2.1 Simple map regression analysis was undertaken for the site using maps from the National Map Library of Scotland that are publicly available. This process allows the site to be placed into a historical context and highlights any changes that have occurred to the building and its setting over time. The maps used are represented chronologically in Figures 1 to 4. These are Ordnance Survey maps from 1854, 1892, 1905 and 1957 respectively.

SITE VISIT

- 2.2 A site visit was undertaken on the 13th December 2014, which consisted of a written and photographic record of exterior elevations. A general and detailed photographic record of the exterior elevations was compiled.
- 2.3 Access to the interior of the buildings was not possible due to the unstable condition of the property. Dense vegetation limited evaluation of some elevations, particularly Building M.

3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Rosewell Mains Steading dates from the mid-19th century. Its presence is first evident on the 1st edition OS map from 1854 (Figure 1), and is part of only a handful of buildings visible in Rosewell at the time.

3.2 Frances Groome's Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland (1896) described the village of Rosewell at the time as:

...a village in Lasswade parish, Edinburghshire, 5 furlongs S of Hawthornden station, and 4 miles SW of Dalkeith. It is largely inhabited by colliers employed in neighbouring coal mines; and it has a post office, with money order and savings' bank departments, an Established church, and a public school. The church (1872; 350 sittings) is a handsome edifice, and was raised to quoad sacra status in 1874. Pop. of village (1861) 390, (1871) 790, (1881) 1394; of q. s. parish (1881) 2129.¹

3.3 The population of Rosewell increased from 390 in 1861, just after the farmhouse steading was built, to 2129 in 1881, primarily due to the extensive coal mining taking place in the vicinity. Coal mining within Rosewell is evident from the early existence of Whitehill Colliery, visible on the 1st edition OS map in 1854. This colliery was leased in 1856 to a coal baron called Archibald Hood, who then expanded the works. The subsequent population increases were largely due to his employment and housing of miners within Rosewell for the Whitehill Colliery. Many streets were built and dedicated as miners' housing at this time, such as Victoria Street and Lothian Street, which are still in residential use today.

3.4 The increased population was supported by further development including Rosewell Parish Church, which was built in 1871 and opened in 1874. The Penicuik to Dalkeith Railway was also opened in 1872 to accommodate this mining activity as well as being open to passengers in the area. The railway ran through the village of Rosewell from 1872, but was subsequently closed one section at a time until shutting down completely in 1967. The dates of these developments correspond with the dates of the population increases for the mining activity, and illustrate a period of relatively significant expansion within the setting of the Rosewell Mains Steading during the second half of the 19th century.

¹ Groome, F. H. (1896) *Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland*. Electric Scotland, accessed 06/01/15

4 MAP REGRESSION ANALYSIS

- 4.1 The Rosewell Mains Steading dates back to the mid-19th century and is first visible on the 1854 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 1). Although slightly schematic, the buildings are represented clearly enough to make out the form that it had at the time. Many of the buildings still currently standing are recognisable on this map, but differ somewhat in their layout and surroundings.
- 4.2 The 1892 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 2) shows notable changes to these buildings since 1854, including consolidating some of the buildings on the east side and north side, as well as splitting from the building to the southwest. These changes define the steading more clearly than before, and the resulting layout still forms the core of the modern site.
- 4.3 The period between 1854 and 1892 represents significant changes to the farmstead itself, which coincides with the period of change that the surrounding town also undergoes. This is due to the mining boom that occurred at this time, as discussed previously. There are many developments visible on the 1892 map as a result, such as the Penicuik to Dalkeith railway and the miners' housing to the north of the farmstead, while Whitehills Collieries is established approximately 600m to the south and is connected to the railway. This mining industry leads to notable population growth and defines the identity of the town at this time. The former girls' school and boys' schools are no longer visible, and appear to be merged into a larger primary school on the site of the former boys' school. The former girls' school, on the other side of Carnethie Street to the east of the steading, appears to be converted to housing to support the population growth. Additionally, some of the field boundaries to the west of the farmstead have been removed to increase the size of the fields, with Cochrina Cottage being constructed here, close to the farmstead. Rosewell Parish Church is also now established to the south of the farmstead.
- 4.4 There are no significant changes to the layout of the farmstead after 1892. Most small changes in its appearance can be attributed to the increase in detail on the maps themselves, with the exception of buildings H, J and K, which appear to have been extended between 1905 and 1957. Therefore any physical changes that occurred during this time must have been primarily cosmetic or repair work. The wider area of Rosewell continues to see residential development after 1905, and there are many new areas of housing visible, including Cochrina Place, a new housing development built directly to the north of Cochrina Cottage.

Phasing

- 4.5 The map regression analysis has shown that there are three distinct phases to the layout of the Rosewell Main Steading. The first phase is the original farmstead visible on the 1854 OS map, the second phase is illustrated by the 1892 OS map after the period of significant change within Rosewell and the third phase is illustrated by modern OS maps, which show the additions or extensions of buildings H, J and K. Figure 5 illustrates the differences in second and third phases

(late 19th century and early 20th century), specifically the modern alterations to buildings E, F, H, J and K. The differences between the first and second phases, while significant, are not as clear on a ground plan, as they involve many instances of joining or separating buildings on the north, south and east sides of the complex in order to better define the group of buildings.

5 ARCHITECTURAL APPRAISAL

INTRODUCTION

5.1 The Rosewell Main Steading currently consists of thirteen buildings². For the purposes of this report, these buildings are labelled (A-M), which can be seen in Figure 5.

BUILDING A (PLATES 1 – 7)

5.2 Located adjacent to Gorton Road, the single-storey building is constructed from sandstone rubble with a slate roof. The southwest elevation contains a centrally located entrance with a blue timber plank door. Four blocked-up windows are discernible, two located either side of the entrance. The rear elevation (northeast facing) contains three slots, presumably to facilitate ventilation, which have been blocked with mortar. A blocked-up window is located near the gable end to the north of the elevation, above which a modern red brick addition has been constructed to accommodate a gently sloping, felt covered roof. A benchmark has been chiselled into the foundation quoin at the northern extent of the rear elevation. The northwest facing gable has a modern blue timber plank garage door installed. The gable end has been rendered with a modern facing beneath which the sandstone rubble wall is observed. This building makes up the core of the steading's first phase, along with buildings D and L/M, which enclose the central courtyard.

BUILDING B (PLATES 8 – 11)

5.3 Located adjacent to the northwest facing gable end of Building A, the single-storey rubble stone building appears to be a continuation of the gable end of Building A. The building has a slate roof with a later square ashlar chimney located upon the ridgeline. The northwest facing elevation contains a blocked-up window. Abutting the western extent is a chiselled stone gate pier. The southwest elevation contains an entrance with blue timber plank twin doors and iron lintel cut into the rubble stone wall. This appears to be a modification of the historic entrance. The southeast elevation is plain but contained a square opening at the base of the structure of unknown function but may possibly have been used for storage space or accommodated farm machinery.

² The restricted access to the site could not confirm this number decisively.

BUILDING C (PLATES 12 – 16)

5.4 Building C is a two storey rubble stone building with a loft and later slate roof. The main entrance is located on the southwest facing elevation with a window on each storey. The entrance and windows are presently blocked-up. The northwest elevation is plain excepting a round aperture in the centre of the elevation near the ridgeline of the roof. Obviously, a later addition its function is unknown but may have provided ventilation of the loft space and possibly indicates a change of use of the building from a dwelling to a functional element of the farm complex. The quoin stones between the two elevations are interesting as they have been purposely rounded; possibly to facilitate agricultural traffic manoeuvring along the adjacent farm track. The northeast facing elevation contains a small blocked-up central window located just below the roofline. This appears to be an adaptation of a larger window and the stone work below the roofline has undergone some remedial work, possibly to accommodate the later roof. Approximately 1m from the base of the elevation two pipes are seen to extrude from the wall and are later additions indicating a change of function. Only a portion of the southeast facing elevation is visible, as Building C abuts Building D, but beneath the roofline modern brickwork is observed with a brick chimney clearly illustrating that the roof is a later addition.

BUILDING D (PLATES 17 – 22)

5.5 Building D is a one storey rubble sandstone building with a slate roof. The southwest facing elevation is largely obscured by modern wood and brick structures. However, a large window inscribed “Rosewell 1935” is observed. The stonework (red sandstone blocks) appear to be later additions. Adjacent to this window a smaller original window is located to the north. To the south of the main window a possible entrance is discerned, however, this has been blocked-up with rubble sandstone. The rear elevation, northeast facing, contain four archways located side-by-side that have been bricked-up, probably in the not too distant past. Each arch is approximately 2m in height by 2m width. Columns consist of large chiselled sandstone blocks. The masonry appears to be a rubble sandstone, however, there is a discernible higher quality to the buildmanship which contrasts with the stonework found elsewhere within the steading. Three small square windows are located below the roofline above each of the supporting columns of the archways below. Modern adaptations to the elevation include an iron frame roofing extending beyond the archways into the courtyard supported by a brick wall and circular apertures cut into the modern brick work accommodating metal pipes; possibly functioning as air vents.

BUILDING E (PLATE 23)

5.6 Building E is a modern timber planked shed abutting the southwest facing elevation of Building D.

BUILDING F (PLATES 18 & 23)

5.7 This building is a modern brick extension to Building D, and has a slate roof and large wooden barn door on the southeast part of the southwest facing elevation. There are three small square vents on the southwest facing elevation, next to the barn door.

BUILDING G (PLATES 24 – 26)

5.8 Building G is a rubble sandstone one-storey building with a slate roof. An entrance is located in the southwest facing elevation, although it is not clear if this is a later addition to enlarge the building as phasing in this elevation suggests that it may have formed a plain gable end. Later brick work is clearly visible below the roofline contrasting starkly with the original rubble sandstone below, indicative of an enlargement of the roof space. The original pitch of the roof is possibly implied in this elevation although this interpretation should be treated with caution. A blue iron extension (possibly a crane) is embedded into the modern brick work. The southeast facing elevation is primarily of rubble sandstone construction with modern brick above to accommodate the later roof. It is not clear if the rubble sandstone is contemporary with similar elevations within the steading as it appears to be of a different hue. This fact may lend credence to the interpretation that the building was enlarged. An entrance with a blue timber plank doorway is observed within a central location and circular apertures possibly for ventilation are located in the modern brick work beneath the roofline. Four windows were identified in the northwest facing elevation which have been blocked-up, although some examples accommodate small rectangular slots presumably for ventilation. Pipes are observed protruding from the elevation and deposits of grain (possibly barley) were found within the pipes.

BUILDING H

5.9 This building is a modern brick built barn with a corrugated metal roof, and is in fairly poor condition. It adjoins the earlier Building I, which lies to its southeast.

BUILDING I (PLATE 27)

5.10 Building I adjoins Building H but is clearly earlier in date. This is another sandstone and slate construction, and has a doorway in the northeast facing elevation, which has been partially blocked by sandstone, while part of the wooden door is still present which has been used to block the remainder.

BUILDING J (PLATES 28 – 31)

5.11 This appears to have been a large storage building constructed in the early 20th century from sandstone blocks with a corrugated metal roof. There is a large entrance in the northwest facing elevation and it adjoins Building I at the south end, while leaving a gap of approximately 2m between Buildings G and J.

5.12 The northeast gable end is plainly constructed from sandstone blocks, and has been more recently patched with different sandstone within the centre of the elevation, possibly as part of repair work done here.

BUILDING K (PLATE 29)

5.13 Building K is immediately adjacent and adjoining Building J at its southeast, the construction of which is contemporary. These buildings are very similar, but Building K has a large blocked entrance with large horizontal sandstone slabs forming a lintel. It has been blocked using bricks but no concrete facing. There is also a recent shed adjoining this building to the southeast, constructed largely from corrugated metal and in poor condition.

BUILDING L (PLATE 32)

5.14 This is another substantial sandstone building, which together with Buildings A, D and M, makes up the main early phase steading, enclosing the courtyard area inside. The southeast facing elevation cannot be seen clearly due to the heavy vegetation present in front of it. There is another wooden shed extension built onto this elevation where it meets Building E.

5.15 The northwest facing elevation contains several windows blocked with brick and concrete facing, one of which is very large, as well as another wooden door, also painted blue.

BUILDING M (PLATE 33)

5.16 The elevations of Building M were largely obscured by thick vegetation. However, the northeast facing gable end was visible. It was constructed from a rubble sandstone and was largely featureless. The slate roof appeared to be a later addition. Due to difficulty of access it was not clear if the building was part of Building L or a later component of Building A.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The map regression analysis shows that the main alterations to the layout of the Rosewell Mains Steading occurred between 1854 and 1892, which coincides with the large population growth in the village due to the increase in local coal mining activity. However, there is no evidence to suggest that the building had any use related to this mining activity at any point before or after these changes, but rather is more likely to have always been in agricultural use. An associated sheepfold becomes visible to the south on the 1905 Ordnance Survey map, but this may have existed prior to this time and simply not been recorded on previous editions.
- 6.2 One of the main original buildings, Building A, appears likely to have been constructed to house animals, probably cattle. In addition, metal cylinders attached to the exterior of Buildings E and G were found to contain barley remains, suggesting that they may have been used to dry barley. As such, this also indicates the likelihood that the steading has been predominately in agricultural use. The presence of the steading in Rosewell in 1854, when the population was only a few hundred and there were only a handful of buildings, also increases the likelihood of the complex being used for farming in order to sustain itself.
- 6.3 Despite the historic context of the building, there are a large number of physical alterations made to the building that detract from its aesthetics. These alterations tend to be entirely for practical use at the expense of the appearance and setting of the building. These include wooden shed extensions, brickwork construction on top of original sandstone walls and blocking up windows and doors with brick and concrete. Therefore the building can be considered to have been predominantly functional above any historical or aesthetic importance.

7 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

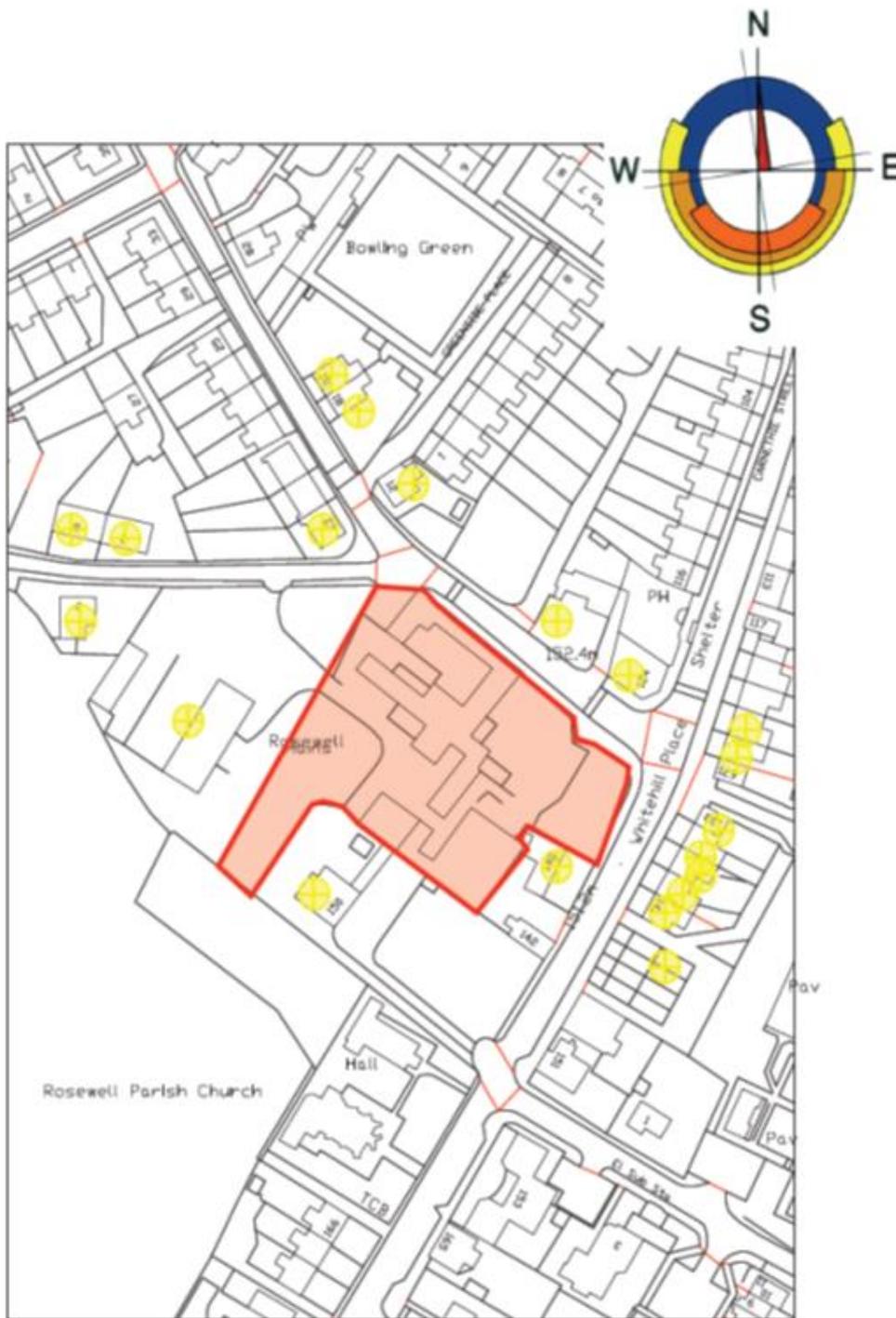
- 7.1 The Rosewell Mains Steading site serves as a good local example of a mid-19th century steading, and historically they are some of Rosewell's earliest buildings, having existed before and during the village's defining industrial coal mining boom.
- 7.2 The main changes to the layout and plan of the site occurred between 1854 and 1892, at the same time as the surrounding village changed significantly due to the population increase. However, there is no evidence that this changed the use of the site, and the building appears to always have been used for agricultural purposes.
- 7.3 There have been a number of modern alterations made to the aesthetics of the buildings which have compromised the appearance and setting of the original steading. This indicates that the priority of the buildings is its function rather than any historical importance.
- 7.4 No further historic building recording is recommended.

8 CARTOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

1854	Ordnance Survey	1:10560	Edinburghshire Sheet 12
1892	Ordnance Survey	1:10560	Edinburghshire Sheet 14.NW
1905	Ordnance Survey	1:2500	Edinburghshire Sheet 014.01
1957	Ordnance Survey	1:2500	Plan NT 2862

9 APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: LOCATION PLAN



Distance Survey, © Crown Copyright 2011. All rights reserved. Licence number: 100020449

Location Plan

APPENDIX B: FIGURES

FIGURE 1: EXTRACT FROM ORDNANCE SURVEY (1ST EDITION) 1854

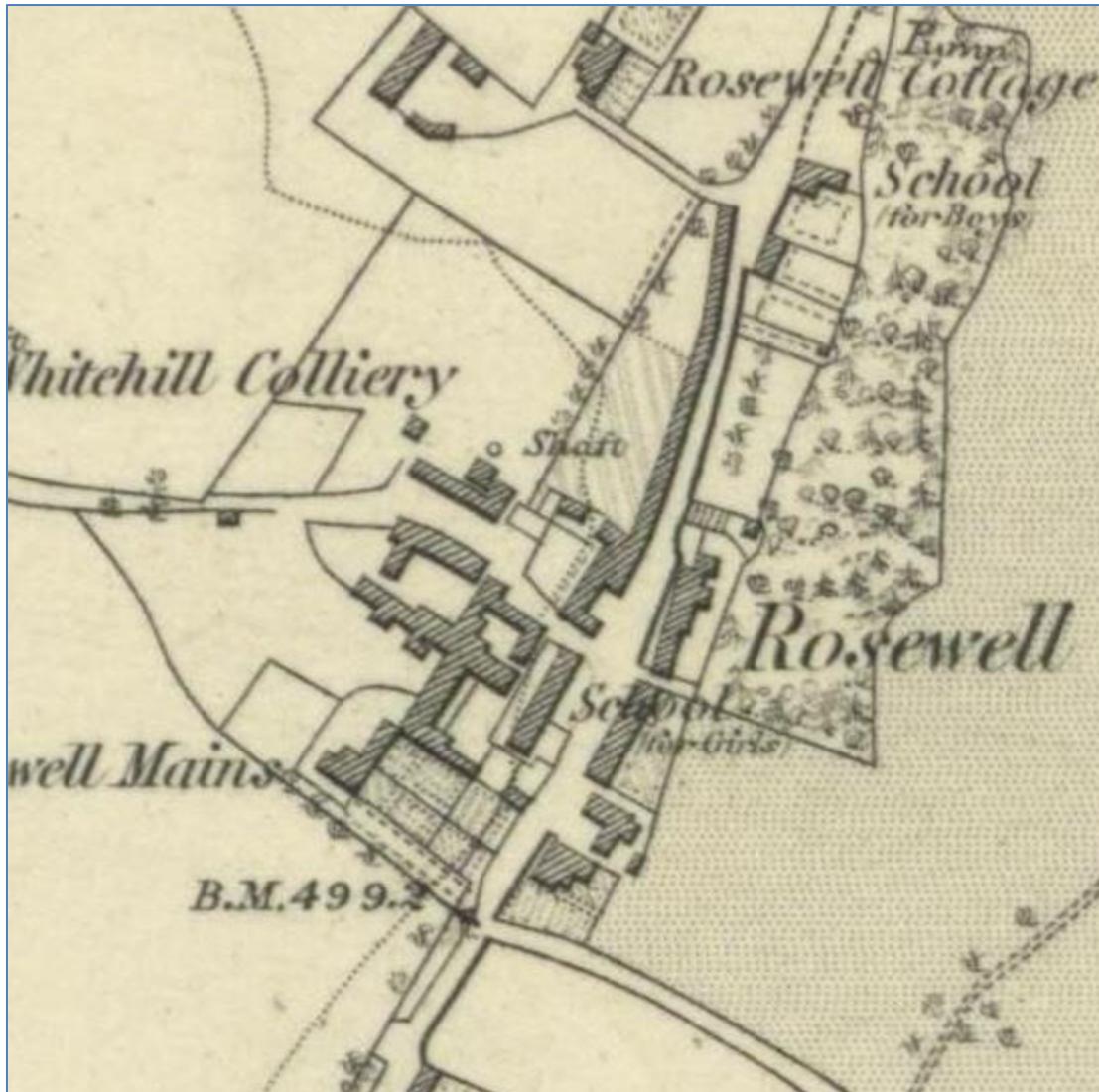


FIGURE 2: EXTRACT FROM ORDNANCE SURVEY 1892

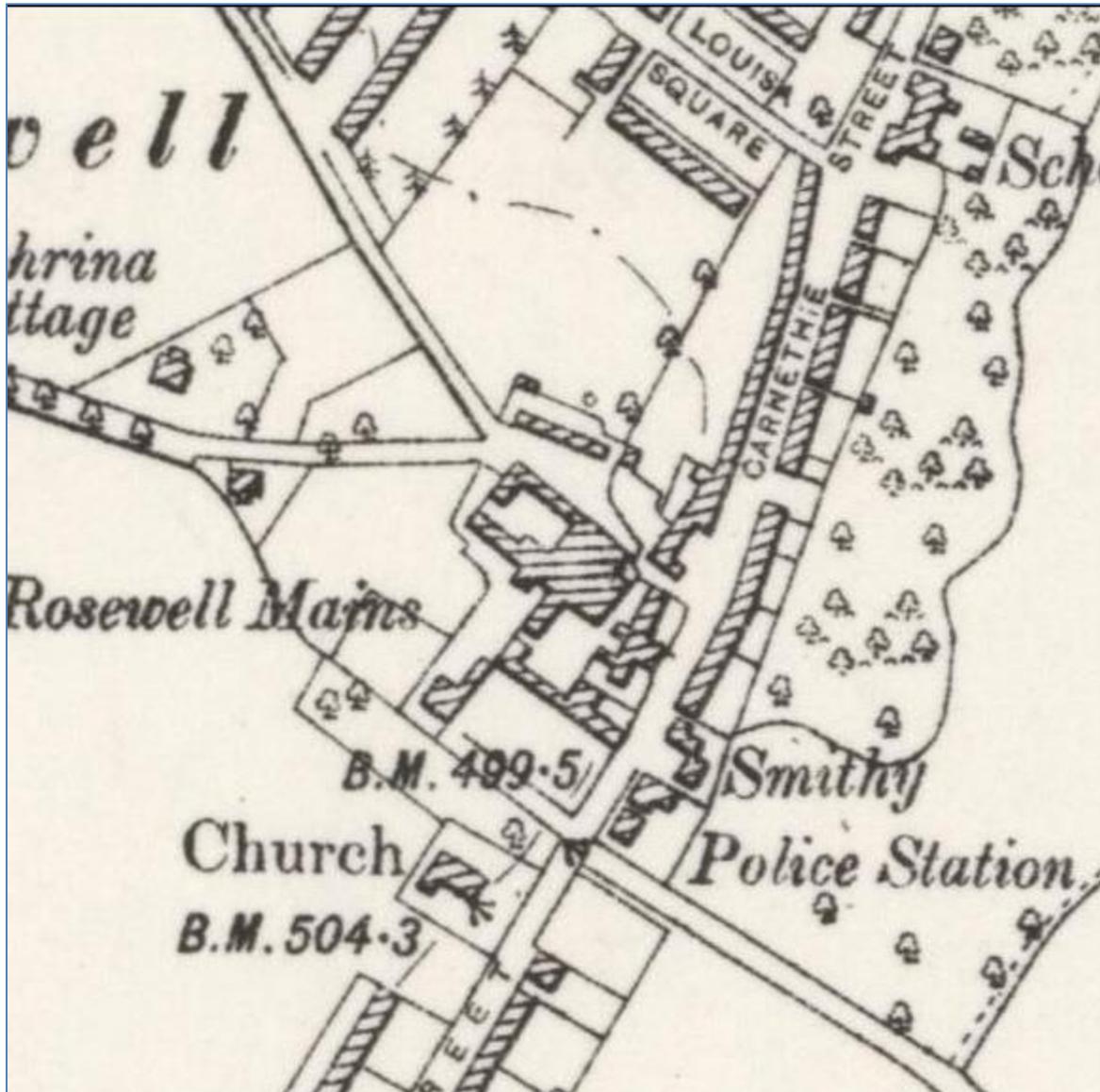


FIGURE 3: EXTRACT FROM ORDNANCE SURVEY 1905

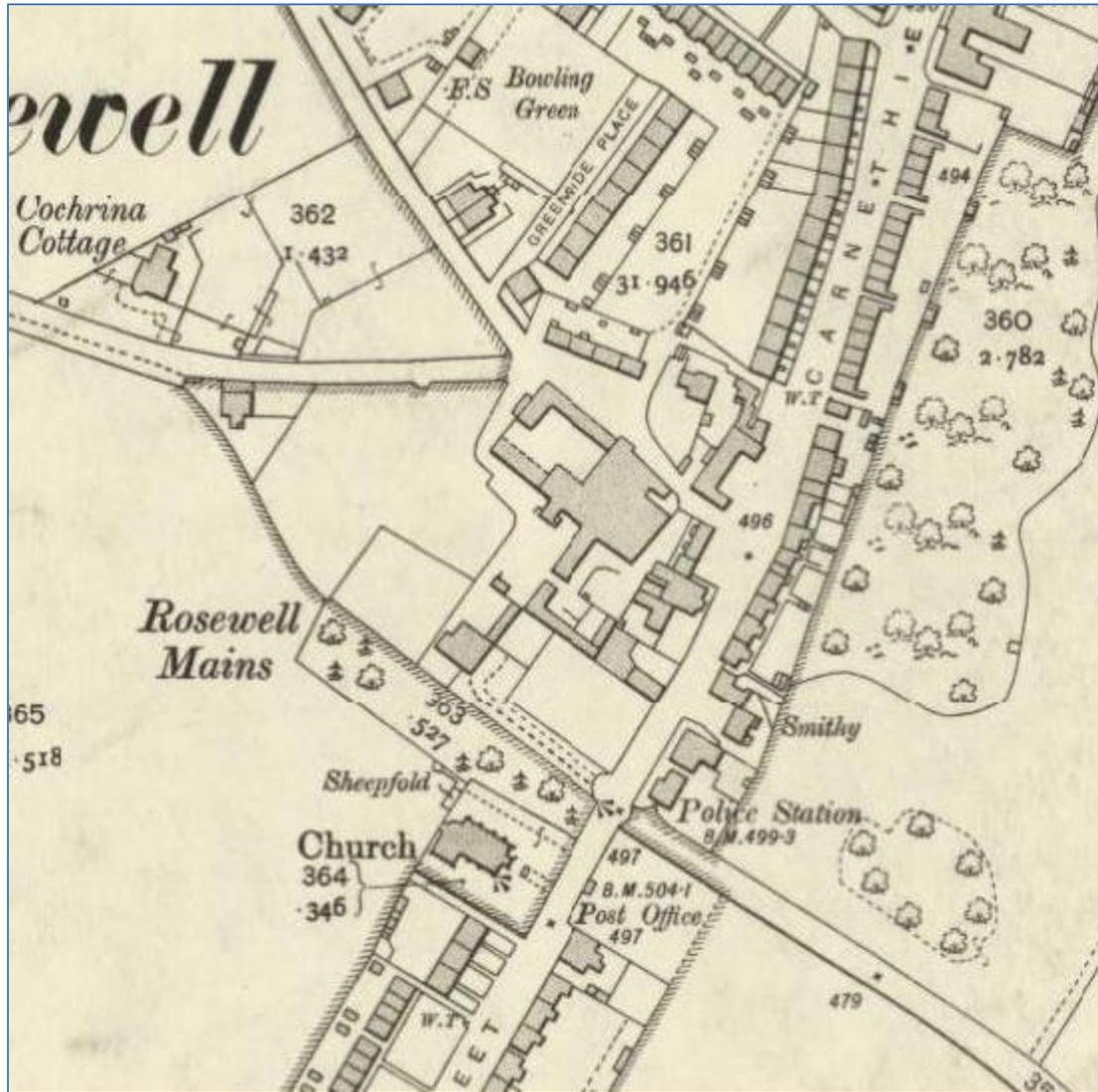


FIGURE 4: EXTRACT FROM ORDNANCE SURVEY 1957

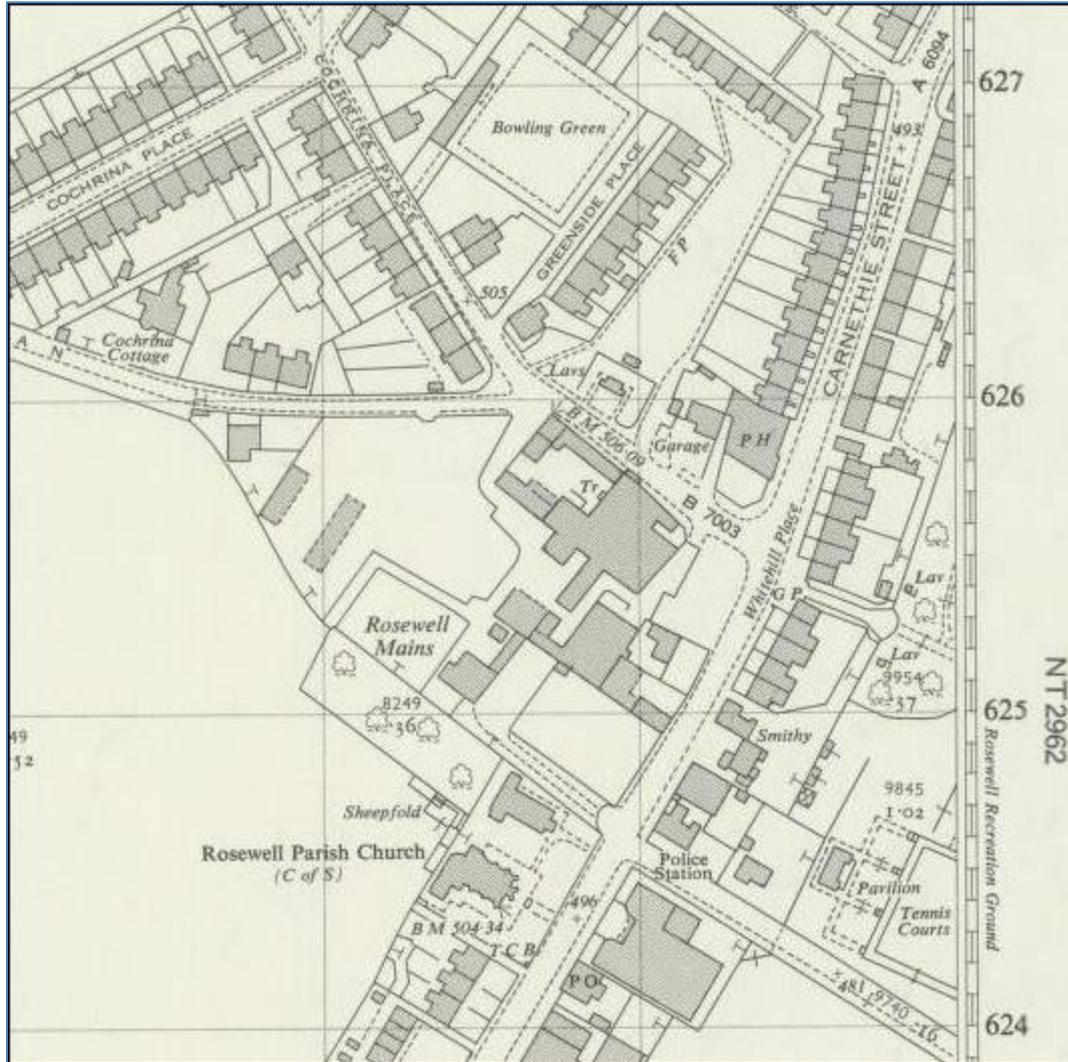
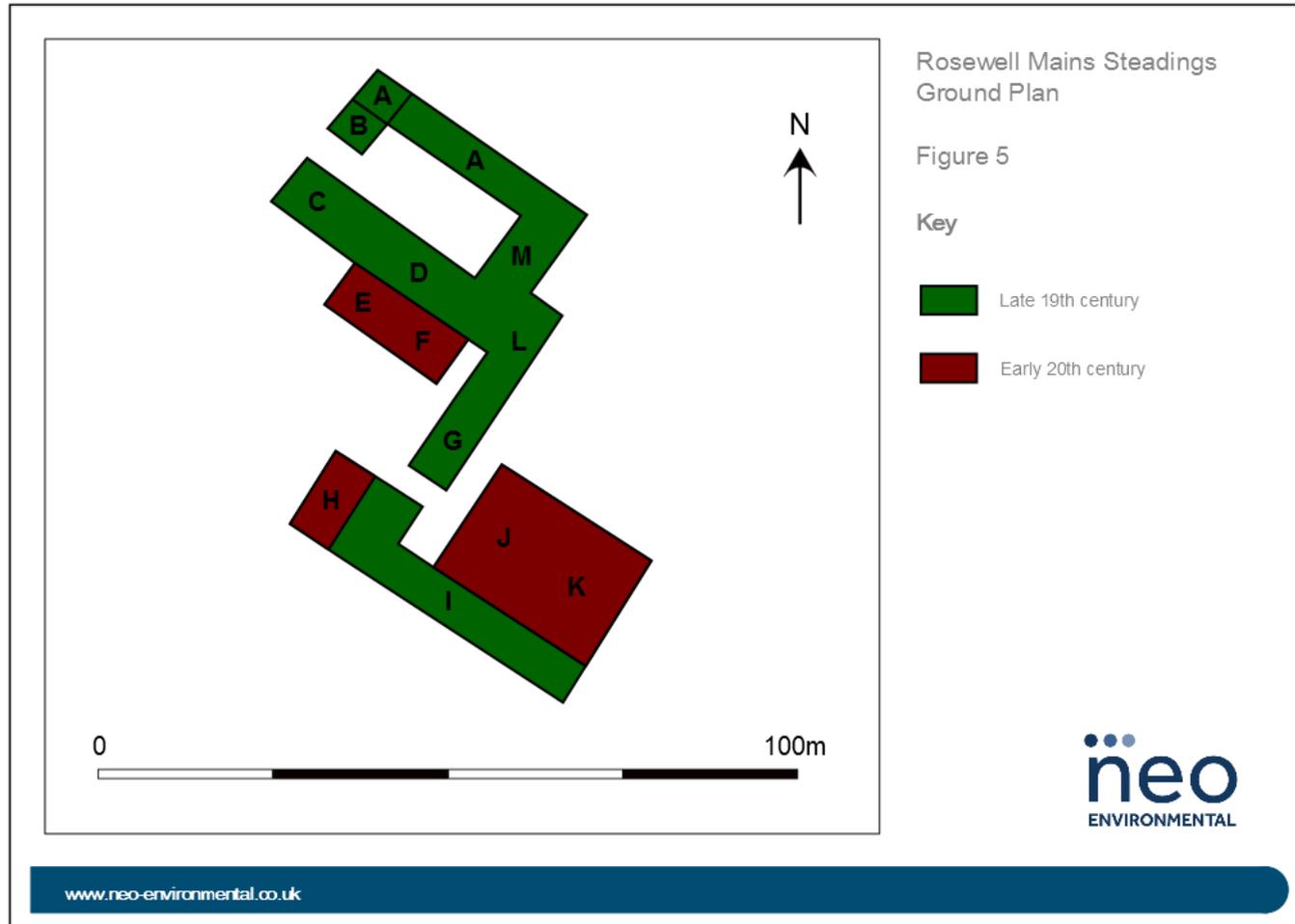


FIGURE 5: GROUND PLAN OF ROSEWELL MAINS STEADINGS



APPENDIX C: PLATES

Plate 1: Building A, general view of southwest facing elevation



Plate 2: Building A, general view of southwest facing elevation



Plate 3: Building A, general view of northeast elevation



Plate 4: Building A, general view of northeast elevation



Plate 5: Building A, detail of blocked-up 'air vent'. Northeast elevation.



Plate 6: Building A, general view of northwest facing elevation



Plate 7: Building A, detail of benchmark on north end of northeast elevation



Plate 8: Building B, general view northwest facing elevation



Plate 9: Building B, general view southwest facing elevation



Plate 10: Building B, general view of southeast facing elevation



Plate 11: Building B, detail of opening in southeast facing elevation



Plate 12: Building C, general view showing northwest and southwest elevations



Plate 13: Building C, general view of northwest elevation



Plate 14: Building C, general view of southwest facing elevation



Plate 15: Building C, general view of northeast elevation



Plate 16: Building C, detail showing curved quoins between northwest and southwest elevations



Plate 17: Building D, general view of southwest facing elevation



Plate 18: Building D, southwest facing elevation showing Building E and F



Plate 19: Building D, general view of northeast facing elevation



Plate 20: Building D, detail of archway in northeast facing elevation



Plate 21: Building D, detail of window in northeast facing elevation



Plate 22: Building D, detail of windows in northeast facing elevation



Plate 23: Building E and F, general view of southwest facing elevations



Plate 24: Building G, general view of southwest facing elevation



Plate 25: Building G, general view of northwest facing elevation



Plate 26: Building G, general view of southwest facing elevation



Plate 27: Building I, general view of northeast facing elevation



Plate 28: Building J, general view of northwest facing elevation



Plate 29: Building J, general view of northwest facing elevation



Plate 30: Building J, general view of northeast facing elevation



Plate 31: Buildings J and K, general view of northeast facing elevation



Plate 32: Building L, general view of southeast facing elevation



Plate 33: Building M, general view of northeast facing gable end



APPENDIX D: DES ENTRY

Local Authority	East Lothian Council
Project Title/Site Name	Rosewell Main Steading
Project Code	OASIS neoenvir1-204100
Parish	Lasswade
Name of Contributor	Robert McMorran
Name of Organisation	Neo-Environmental Ltd
Type(s) of Project	Historic Building Recording
NMRS No(s)	N/A
Site/Monument Type(s)	N/A
Significant Finds	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 2887 6257
Start Date (this season)	13 th December 2014
End Date (this season)	13 th December 2014
Previous Work (incl. DES ref.)	None
Main (Narrative) Description (may include information from other fields)	<p>Rosewell Development Trust Community Company Ltd commissioned Neo Environmental Ltd to undertake a Level 1 Historic Building Survey at Rosewell Mains Steading, Gorton Loan, Rosewell (NGR 328877 662571) prior to the development of the site. The survey was required to fulfil a condition set by East Lothian Council to “record the upstanding remains and determine whether the development will disturb any buried archaeological deposits.”</p> <p>Despite the historic context of the building, there are a large number of physical alterations made to the building that detract from its aesthetics. These alterations tend to be entirely for practical use at the expense of the appearance and setting of the building. These include wooden shed extensions, brickwork construction on top of original sandstone walls and blocking up windows and doors with brick and concrete. Therefore the building can be considered to have been predominantly functional above any historical or aesthetic importance.</p>
Proposed Future Work	None
Caption(s) for Illustrators	None
Sponsor or Funding Body	Rosewell Development Trust Community Company Ltd
Address of Main Contributor	Head Office

	Wright Business Centre 1 Lonmay Road Glasgow G33 4EL
Email Address	Robert@neo-environmental.co.uk
Archive Location (intended/deposited)	Neo-Environmental Ltd