

Standing Building Survey
West Ardler farmhouse
Ardler, Perth and Kinross



Farmhouse looking North East



23rd November 2010

Introduction (Illustrations 1 and 2)

Mr Peter Grewar proposes to demolish the existing farmhouse and build a new house on the site. The planning consent for this development (Perth and Kinross Planning Application 10/01129/FLL) included an archaeological condition which specified the need for the implementation of a standing building survey to record the farmhouse prior to its demolition. This survey was carried out by the author on Tuesday 16th November 2010 (Site Code ARD01); weather conditions were overcast and cold with occasional light rain showers.

Historical Background (Illustrations 3)

The architectural style of the farmhouse suggests that it may originally be of late 18th / early 19th construction. Although a settlement named 'Airdler' is marked on John Ainslie's map of 1794 the best depiction of the farmhouse, its buildings and grounds is that shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of the 1860's (Illus). A limited search of the census records for 1871 indicates that at the time of the record one William Osler was the tenant farmer at West Airdler. Osler is described as being a farmer of 332 acres employing 8 men, 2 boys and 4 girls. Also listed in the census entry are his 5 children, 2 general servants and 1 farm servant. By the census of 1881 William Osler Junior has taken over from his father and was then employing 4 men, 2 boys and 2 girls. One of his sisters is still living in the farmhouse and he still has 2 domestic servants.

Description of farmhouse and building complex

West Airdler farmhouse stands in its own grounds on the north side of the road between Markethill and Airdler to the South East of Coupar Angus. The main house (A) has had a large room added on its Southern side (B) and has a courtyard on its eastern side with another single storey building (C) forming its Eastern edge. A well built capped sandstone wall runs to the East from building C separating the garden from a driveway. A smaller brick building (D) is built against the northern side of this wall and a stone building (E) is integrated into the wall close to its North Eastern end.

Building A (Farmhouse)

This building is constructed of mortar bonded red sandstone blocks with alternate shaped quoin stones at its corners. It has a slate roof and a chimney at each of its gable ends.

South Western Elevation (Illustrations 5, 6 and 7 and 35)

This elevation has a central pediment with a small roundel at its top and is capped with a finial. A small glazed wooden porch has been built against the front of the pediment. The Northern and Southern wings of this elevation each have two wooden windows built into the wall one above the other.

South Eastern Elevation (Illustrations 8, 9 and 36)

This elevation has a single wooden window at ground level and has had a large single storey building (B) attached to its eastern side.

North Western Elevation (Illustration 12 and 37)

This elevation has a blank wall face at its Western end. 10m North East along this elevation are two adjacent wooden windows at ground level and a further two windows at first floor level. A small single storey structure has been built against the wall face which partially obscures the corner of one of these windows. The North Eastern end of this elevation has been extended 3m beyond the original gable line which is topped by a chimney.

North Eastern elevation (Illustration 11)

The face of this elevation has been obscured by the construction of Building B against its face and the addition of a small bathroom extension at first floor level that is supported by a RSJ. The small section visible includes a wooden window at ground floor level.

South Eastern elevation (Northern arm) (Illustration 13)

This elevation has a doorway at ground floor level in the angle of the junction with the Southern arm of the building and a wooden window at first floor level. The North Eastern extension to this arm has a single wooden window at ground floor level.

Building B (Large room)

Built of mortar bonded sandstone blocks this structure has been built against the North Eastern side of Building A and has a slate roof.

South Eastern elevation (Illustration 9)

This elevation contains two tall wooden windows.

North Eastern elevation (Illustration 10)

This elevation has a blank wall face and a tall chimney at its gable.

North Western elevation (Illustration 11)

This elevation has a blank wall face.

Farmhouse Interior (Illustrations 16 to 23)

There are two living rooms, a kitchen and storeroom on the ground floor of the farmhouse. Upstairs there are four bedrooms. The large room (Building B) has been built onto the North Eastern side of the house and provides much more living space. Upstairs accommodation accessible from the kitchen has been added presumably to house the domestic servants; the addition of this explains the

extension that has been added to the North Eastern arm of the farmhouse. The call system visible in the kitchen was presumably added at the same time (Illustration 22).

Building C (Store)

This small single storey building is built of mortar bonded red sandstone blocks and has a slate roof; it has a chimney at either gable end. It forms the north eastern side of the courtyard behind Building A.

South Western elevation (Illustration 26)

This elevation has a central doorway with a wooden door and a wooden window on its northern side.

North Western elevation (Illustration 24)

This elevation has a blank wall face although there are traces of a blocked narrow window; some of the blocking is made up of handmade red bricks.

North Eastern elevation (Illustration 25)

This elevation has a wooden window at either end.

South Eastern elevation (Illustration 27)

This elevation contains traces of a blocked doorway at its Eastern end.

Garden Area and associated buildings

A well built capped sandstone wall runs North East from the side of Building C. This forms one side of a garden area whose other boundaries are defined by hedges. There is a wooden door through this wall.

Building D (Illustration 28)

Built against the Northern face of the stone wall is a small brick built shed with a single wooden window in its Northern wall, a doorway in its eastern end and a corrugated iron roof.

Building E

Built into the garden wall close to its North Eastern end is a small building with a slate roof and a flagged stone floor, it contains two small separate rooms.

North Western elevation (Illustrations 29 and 30)

This elevation is gable ended with a blank wall face but two built stone structures are visible in the wall at ground level. The Easternmost of these is 0.66m high and 0.70m wide and is built of three large stones with a fourth stone filling the gap; there is a very slight gap along one of the edges of this stone. The Westernmost is built in a similar manner but is 0.64m high.

South Western elevation (Illustration 31)

There is a single narrow window with wooden frame in this elevation.

South Eastern elevation

There is a doorway into a small room on this side of the building.

North Eastern elevation (Illustration 32)

This gable ended elevation is flush with the line of the garden wall and has a doorway into a small room on this side of the building. The roof lines of the gable are decorated with scalloped wooden decoration.

Interior of building (Illustration 33)

The two small rooms in the interior of this structure both have wooden bench like structures against the inside face of their North Western walls. Both these benches are 0.45m high above the stone floor and could originally be opened; they appear to have an as yet not known function in relation to the built stone structures in the North Western elevation.

Interpretation of Buildings *(Illustration 30, 33 and 38)*

West Ardler farmhouse is a fine example of a late 18th / early 19th century building. It appears to have gone through a period of several alterations which include an extension for servant's accommodation to the North East, provision of an upstairs bathroom and the addition of a large well light room on its South Eastern side. To its North East there is a garden area bounded by a well built stone wall on its North Western side. Built into this wall and presumably contemporary with its construction is a small gable ended building split into two rooms which contain wooden benches associated with what maybe some sort of ventilation in the structures North wall. The function and purpose of these features is a mystery and despite some research and discussions with colleagues in the archaeological profession the author has not been able to find any parallels for them.

Recommendations

The author feels that the photographic survey and drawn elevations are an adequate record of the farmhouse and its associated buildings prior to the sites redevelopment. However the final decision on the need for any further work rests with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

References

Cartographic Sources (<http://www.nls.uk/maps>)

John Ainslie Map of the County of Forfar or Shire of Angus 1794

Ordnance Survey Maps - Six-inch 1st edition, Scotland, 1843-1882

Printed

Glendinning, M and Wade Martins, S 2008 **Buildings of the Land Scotland's Farms 1750-2000**, RCAHMS

Census Information

<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/content/>

Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	West Ardler Farmhouse
PROJECT CODE:	ARD01
PARISH:	Coupar Angus
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Derek Hall
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Derek Hall, archaeologist and ceramic specialist
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Standing Building Survey
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Farmhouse
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 254 413
START DATE	16 th November 2010
END DATE	16 th November 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A photographic standing building survey and drawn elevations were made of the former farmhouse and associated buildings at West Ardler. The farmhouse has a fine pedimented front on its main elevation and may date to the late 18 th / early 19 th centuries.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr Peter Grewar
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	N/A
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	34 Glenfarg Terrace, Perth, PH2 0AP
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	NMRS
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Derek.hall1@blueyonder.co.uk

Report Illustration List

Illustration 1 Location of West Ardler farmhouse (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2010. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)

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Illustration 3 Ardler on 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of c 1860 (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

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Illustration 37 North Western elevation of Building A (farmhouse) Scale 1:100

Illustration 38 Suggested phasing of farmhouse (red indicates original building, green later additions) Scale 1:500

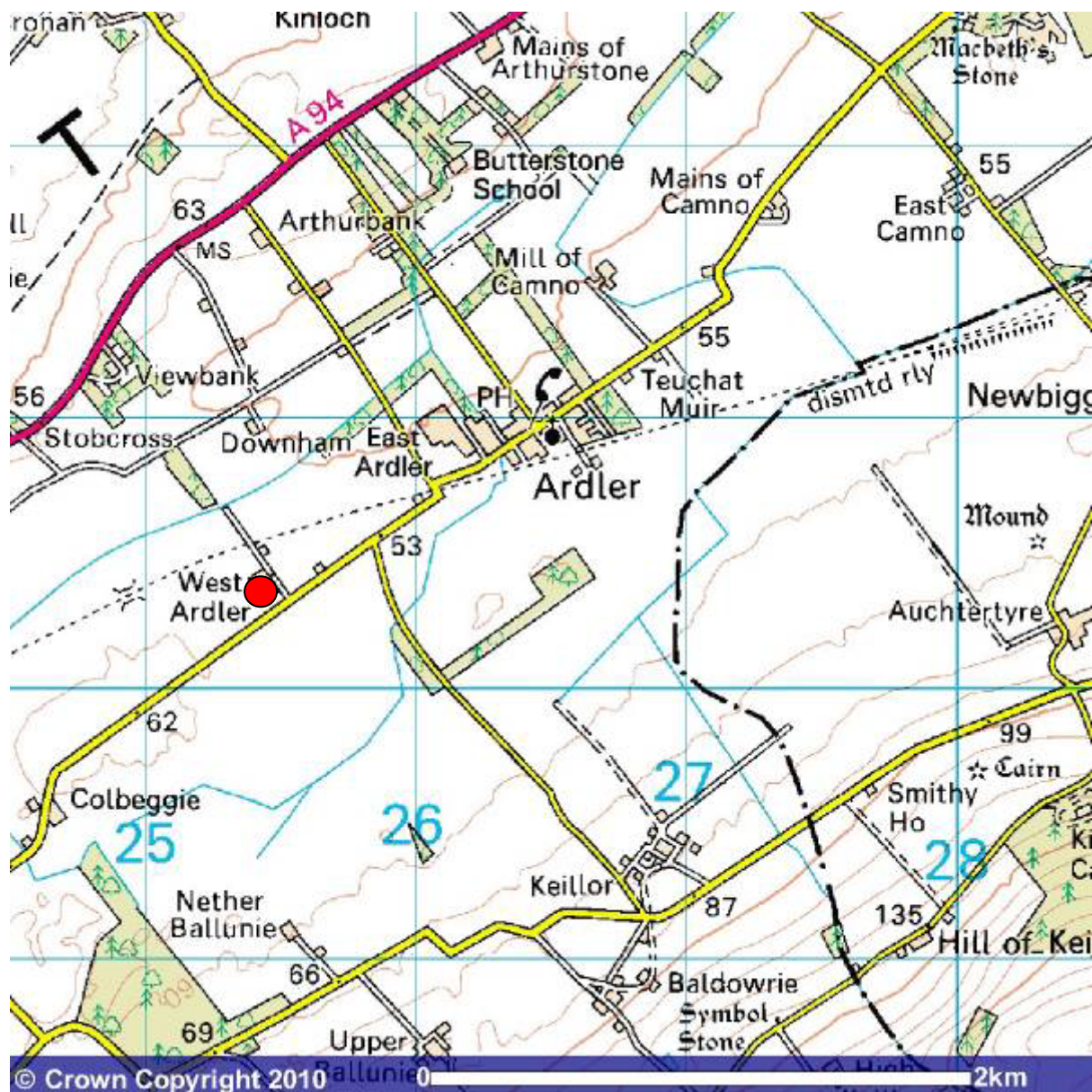


Illustration 1 Location of West Ardler farmhouse (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2010. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)

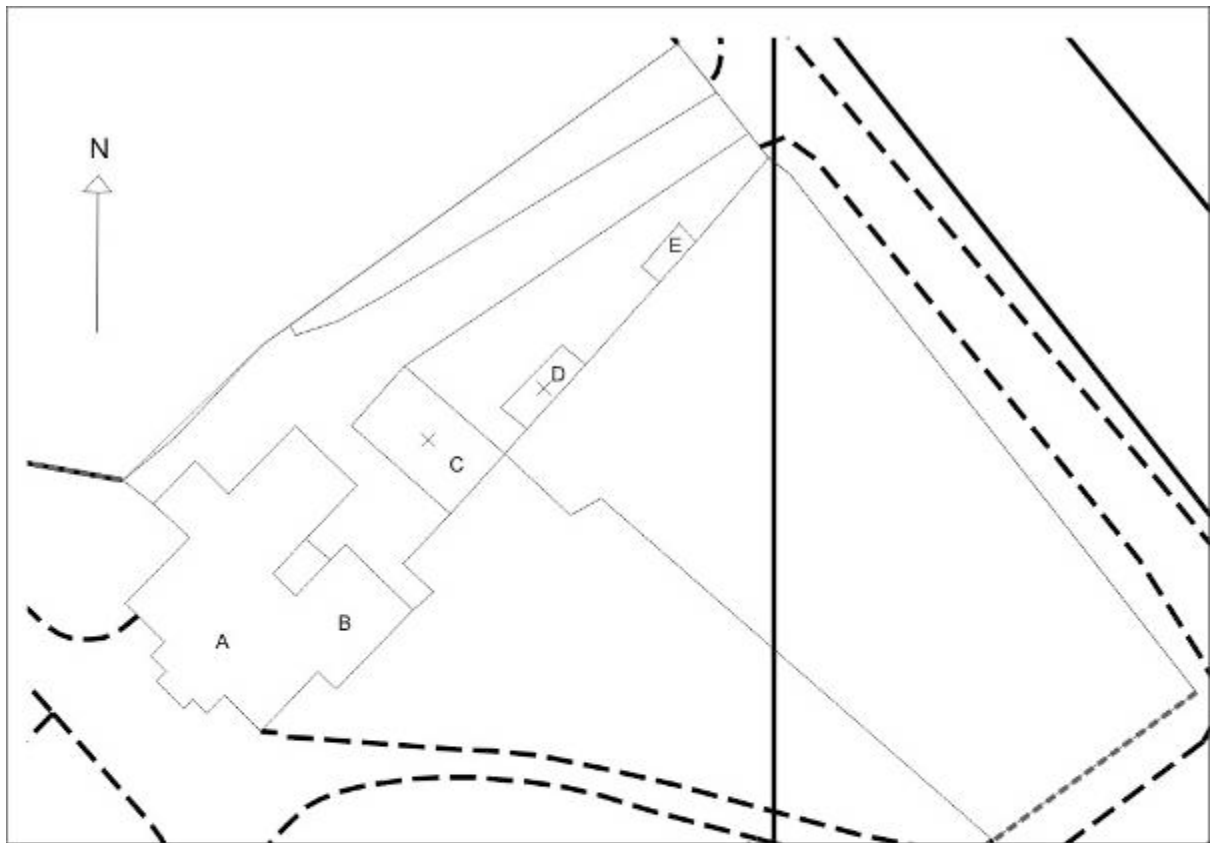


Illustration 2 Farmhouse and buildings as numbered for survey, Scale 1:500 (based on architects survey)

Six-inch 1840s-1880s maps - zoom out to display small-scale 1920s maps



Illustration 3 Ardler on 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of c 1860 (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)



Illustration 4 General view of farmhouse looking North East



Illustration 5 Western elevation of farmhouse (Building A) looking North East



Illustration 6 Detail of pedimented western elevation looking North East



Illustration 7 Top of pediment looking North East



Illustration 8 South Eastern elevation looking North West



Illustration 9 South Eastern elevation of Building B built against North Eastern side of farmhouse



Illustration 10 North East facing elevation of Building B looking South West



Illustration 11 South Western elevation of Building B and visible remnant of elevation of Building A



Illustration 12 North Western elevation of Building A showing extension



Illustration 13 South Western elevation of extension to Building A



Illustration 14 South Eastern elevation of Building A



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Illustrations 16 and 17 Interior of living room on ground floor (North side)



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Illustration 22 Call system in kitchen

Illustration 23 Upstairs room in pedimented front



Illustration 24 North Western elevation of Building C looking South East



Illustration 25 North Eastern elevation of Building C looking South West



Illustration 26 South Eastern elevation of Building C



Illustration 27 South Western elevation of Building C



Illustration 28 Building D looking South West



Illustration 29 North Western elevation of Building E looking South East



Illustration 30 North Western elevation of Building E showing built structures at foot of wall looking South East



Illustration 31 South Eastern elevation of Building E looking North West



Illustration 32 North Eastern elevation of Building E looking South West



Illustration 33 Wooden 'bench' inside room in Building E looking North West



Illustration 34 Buildings E, D, C and Farmhouse A and garden wall looking South West

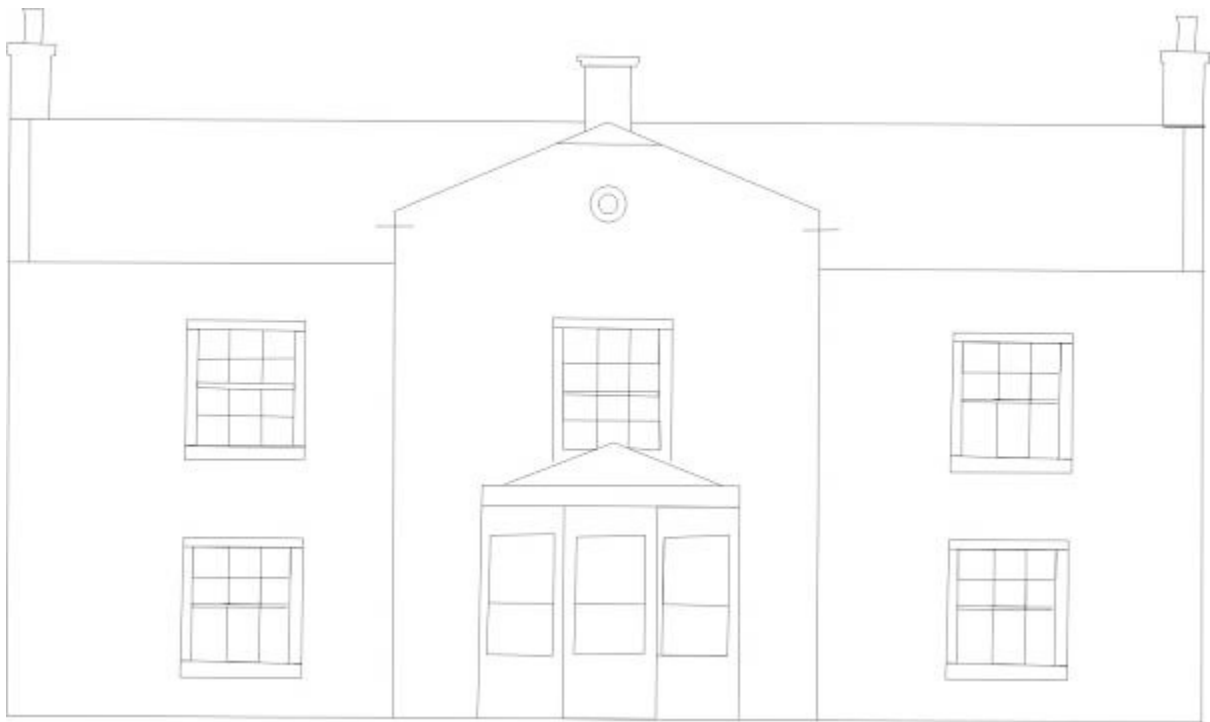


Illustration 35 Main South Western elevation of farmhouse (Building A) Scale 1:100



Illustration 36 South Eastern elevation of Building A (farmhouse) and Building B (Large room) Scale 1:100

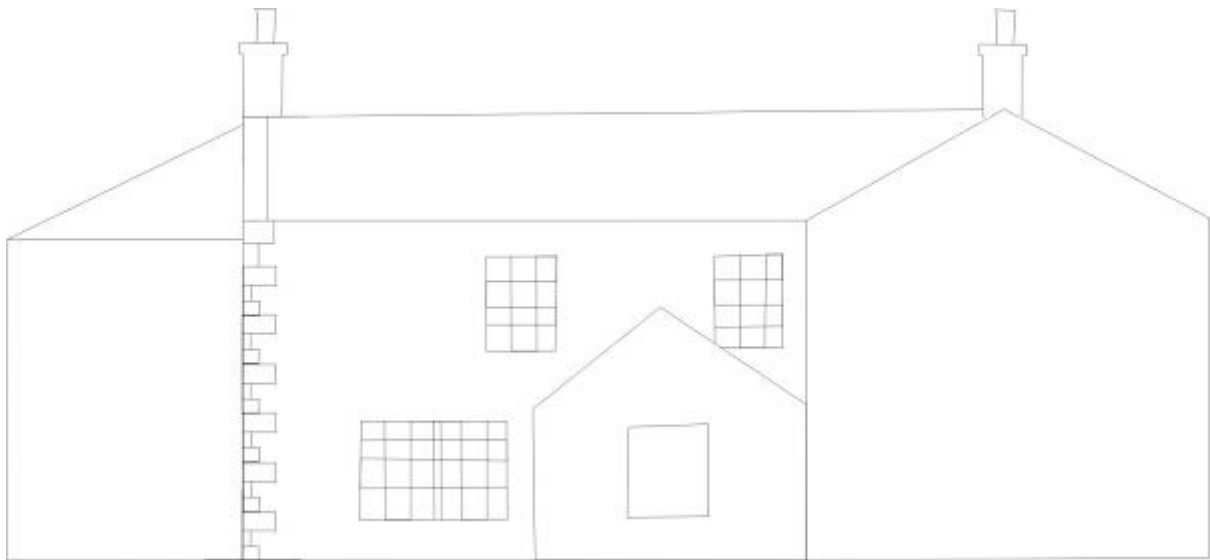


Illustration 37 North Western elevation of Building A (farmhouse) Scale 1:100

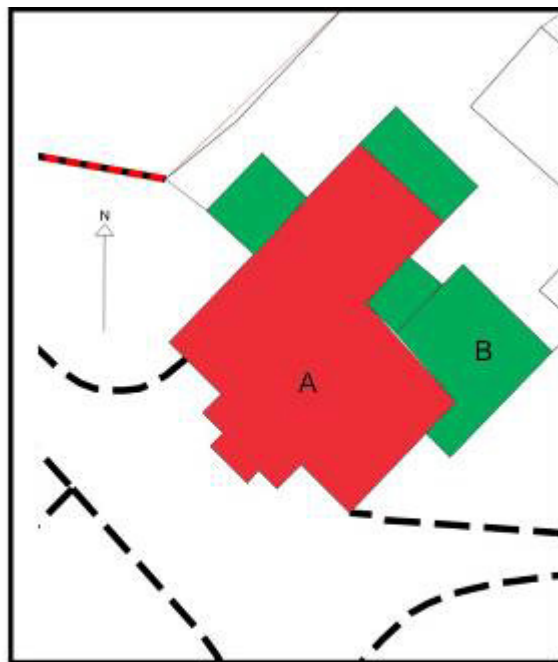


Illustration 38 Suggested phasing of farmhouse (red indicates original building, green later additions)
Scale 1:500

Full photographic archive number by frame number (both JPEG and RAW files)

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