# Finavon Doocot
# Angus

## Historic Building Recording for
## The National Trust for Scotland

FF14

**Alder Archaeology Ltd**
**55 SOUTH METHVEN STREET**
**PERTH PH1 5NX**
Tel: 01738 622393
Fax: 01738 631626
Director@AlderArchaeology.co.uk

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**Author** Tamlin Barton, MA
**Illustrator** Tamlin Barton, MA
**Editor** David Bowler, BA, MPhil, FSA Scot, MIfA

## *ABSTRACT*

*The National Trust for Scotland commissioned Alder Archaeology Ltd to carry out a historic building recording on Finavon Doocot, the largest doocot in Scotland, which lies just off the A90 near Forfar. The purpose of the investigation was to create a record of the Doocot ahead of a proposed repair programme. The work (site code FF14) was carried out on the 6th and 7th of November 2012 in good weather conditions. External and internal elevations of the large double-lectern doocot were surveyed electronically and an analytical record of the structure was made. The work revealed that the 1978-9 partial restoration of the doocot had replaced about a quarter of the building's original fabric including wall tops and the S wall. This reconstruction had effectively removed any phasing which may have been present in the original building, though some of the stone re-used in the restoration hints that there were some historic alterations. In particular, it seems that the finials and gablets may have been added in the late 17th or 18th century, and the crow steps possibly renewed at this time. The date of the original building is uncertain as the plaque in the wall is blank, but the doocote was probably constructed around the time of Finavon Castle which is likely to have been built by the Earl of Crawford some time after 1608. The original building appears to have had yetts in the doorways, an important security measure to protect a doocot of this size.*

# 1 Background

## 1.1 Introduction

National Trust for Scotland commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological building recording on the Finavon Doocot in Angus. The Doocot is located beside the A90 duel carriageway to the NE of Forfar, centred on NGR NO 4968 5648. The work (site code FF14) was undertaken on the 6th and 7th of November 2012 in good weather conditions.

## 1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of the building recording was to produce an analytical report on the Doocot supplemented by a drawn plan, principal elevations and a comprehensive photographic record. More generally, the standing building recording would provide a good record of the Doocot ahead of a proposed repair programme and help enhance the Trust's interpretation of the structure for the public.

## 1.3 The Report

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this Building Recording. Four printed copies will be sent to the NTS along with the electronic project files. Copies will also be sent to The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and The Archaeology Service for Aberdeenshire, Moray and Angus.

## 1.4 Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Daniel Rhodes for his assistance during this project. National Trust for Scotland funded this building Recording.

# 2 Archaeological Background

Finavon Doocot derives most of its significance from the fact that it is the largest doocot in Scotland, with 2420 nesting boxes. The doocot was built to serve the needs of Finavon Castle and demonstrates the importance of ancillary buildings to large estates at that time. The size of Finavon Doocot reflects its importance as part of the estate and the fact that a great many pigeons would have been needed to satisfy the large community in Finavon Castle.

The lack of maintenance of the doocot from the late nineteenth century is notable as it demonstrates the declining importance of doocots at that time. The last recorded maintenance of the doocot was in 1864. Such a lack of maintenance of doocots is in evidence across Scotland.

In 1979 Mrs Mazur, the owner, handed Finavon Doocot over to the Angus Historic Buildings Society, setting a time for its restoration. The roof at that time was dangerous, the front wall had separated from the gable walls by 15cm, and the top of the division wall overhung the foot by over 30cm. The society gained help from the Historic Building Council for Scotland, and local tradesmen began the restoration in autumn 1978. The front wall was taken down and re-usable stones preserved, while broken material helped make the level terrace in front of the building. A new front wall was constructed of bricks bonded with lime mortar and then harled. New roofs were built to Victorian design, and joiners fitted traditionally made doors.

# 3 Details of Work

## 3.1 Archaeological Method

The building was inspected over two days. The first day was spent concentrating on the photographic record and recording internal areas of the structure; the second day involved creating external elevations and interpreting the building. Though the NTS brief for this project stipulated that all principal elevations were to be drawn at a suitable scale, health and safety aspects for this project in relation to the height of the building and the unstable nature of the walls meant that elevations had to be surveyed electronically. This was carried out using two different techniques: For external elevations, a Leica reflectorless total station was used to create a CAD survey. Internal areas, which were too dark and high to survey using a total station, were photographed from multiple angles to create a sequence of shots for the creation of 3D models. This technique, which used opensource software, resulted in a series of 3d point clouds similar to those produced by a laser scanner which were then sliced and orientated correctly to enable drawing up of the internal elevations in CAD. In contrast to these high tech approaches, the plan of the Dovecot was hand drawn at 1:50 using hand and long tapes.

The photographic record was undertaken using a digital SLR camera. All principle elevations were recorded as well a series of oblique shots showing the building in its setting. Photographs were also taken of important details such as doorways, the plaque and other ornamentation. After the above record was made, the building was comprehensively inspected and analysed from ground level (for safety). Context numbers were assigned to the building's fabric and each described and interpreted.

Notes were taken on possible stratigraphic relationships. The true orientation of the building was WSW-ENE, but for the purposes of this report this was taken to be E-W.

## 3.2 Results of Investigations

### *3.2.1 General Description of Doocot (see illus 2-5)*

The building is a typical double-lectern type doocot with the central wall projecting through the roof. Built into a wooded bank, the structure is rectangular in plan, orientated roughly E-W with the front elevation facing S. The building is divided into two rooms of equal size, each accessed via small doorways in the front elevation. In between the doors, a stone plaque has been incorporated high up in the wall. Three horizontal string courses run along the rear wall, the middle one continuing around the E and W elevations where it steps down to join a single course running along the front elevation just below the roof line. The central, E and W walls have crow steps with decorated skewputts, and there are further crow stepped gablets at the NW and NE corners and in the centre of the rear wall. Resting on top of these features are ball finials and in between them along the rear wall are two pyramidal finials. The rear wall is higher than the roof, creating a high parapet.

*The front elevation (illus 3 and Images\External\Front\Oblique\DSC03408.jpg)*

### *3.2.2 Original Unaltered Fabric of the Building*

Unaltered fabric survives in the E, W and internal walls below the wall head, as well in the rear wall below the upper string course.

The outer face of this fabric is exposed at the base of the N (rear) wall where the modern harling had been chipped away to make room for modern supports. The outer face here is composed of medium sized random rubble, mostly angular blocks of sandstone and occasionally whinstone of a variety of shapes and sizes but averaging c. 20 x 10cm. Some of the sandstone blocks are roughly faced with pecking.

*The rear elevation (illus 5 and Images\External\Rear\Oblique\DSC03444.jpg)*

Three horizontal string courses are incorporated into the rear wall composed of rectangular sandstone slabs of a variety of widths and roughly uniform thicknesses. The lower course, which runs at head height, is broken off, but the middle course still projects some 12cm, though many of its stones are broken. The middle course continues around the E and W sides of the structure where it descends in steps towards the front elevation. This string course is entirely intact on the side elevations and is probably a replacement here. The lower course may also have once run around the E and W sides of the building, but was subsequently covered over with harling. This possibility was noted when closely inspecting photographs of the E elevation where it looks like there is a horizontal raised bulge giving away the former location the course. The upper string course on the rear elevation is largely intact and is likely to be a replacement.

*A pecked stone in the rear elevation*
*(Images\GeneralDetails\TooledStonesRearElev\DSC_0025.jpg)*

Close inspection of the stonework in the rear wall shows that the gaps between the stones have been pointed with a white lime mortar which may be original but is probably 19th century. This mortar can also be seen in the interior of Room B where the N wall has collapsed. In other areas, traces of original harling survive on the faces of some of the stones and in between the string course stones. This is a yellowish lime render with a fine grit component. Over this is a layer of cement render for the harling applied in the late 1970s.

*The original yellowish harling (Images\GeneralDetails\Harling\DSC03650.jpg)*

Original cornerstones are exposed in the rear elevation and are large squared blocks of reddish grey-brown sandstone, up to 52 x 32 x 18cm, showing rough tooling.

The core of the N wall is exposed in the E room (Room B) where the internal face has collapsed. The random rubble of the external face has been bonded into a core composed of a mixture of sand and clay with small angular fragments of rubble. The mortar which can be seen in this face is probably the white lime pointing applied to the outer wall face. Inner faces of the wall have been built carefully, incorporating a series of next boxes constructed from sandstone slabs. The horizontal and vertical members of the nest boxes are embedded slightly into the wall and project some 32cm into the room. Well-selected small squared blocks of sandstone have been used to form the back faces of the nest boxes. The nest boxes themselves have been built in the linear egg-crate arrangement typical of lectern doocots.

*The clay and sand core of the N wall exposed in Room B*
*(illus 8 and Images\Internal\B2\DSC03172.jpg)*

Horizontal shelves for the nest boxes comprise hewn and chiselled sandstone slabs of a variety of widths (57-103cm) and between 7cm and 4cm in thickness, with divisions frequently, but not always, meeting below upright divisions. Occasionally, grooves have been pecked into the faces of these stones to allow the uprights to fit. The uprights, which have both chiselled and hewn faces, are aligned above one another and are of similar thicknesses to the horizontal members. Though there is some degree of variation throughout the dovecot, the most frequent internal dimensions for the nest boxes is 21cm tall, 24.5cm wide and 32cm deep.

Towards the base of the structure, the nest boxes rest on a ledge where the wall reaches full thickness. The face of the wall here incorporates medium sized angular blocks of sandstone showing no tooling, built to approximate level beds.

The above description is the same for original parts of the W, central and E walls.

*Below the nest boxes where the wall reaches full thickness, Room A*
*(Survey\SfM\A2\photos\DSC03013.jpg)*

*Close up of the shelving for the nest boxes in Room A. Scale = 25cm*
*(Images\GeneralDetails\NestBoxes\DSC03645.jpg)*

The floor of the rooms are covered in rectangular flagstones of varying sizes with those in the W room (Room A) cemented during the 1970s restoration. The flags are likely to be the original floor surface as it would have been important to have a solid floor for periodically shovelling up pigeon guano. However, it is likely that both floors were re-set or re-levelled over the years. Inspection of the floor in the E room was difficult due to the pile of collapsed material from the N wall, but it appeared that the flags here were held in place with earth.


*The flagstone floor in Room B (illus 2 and Images\Internal\BFloor\DSC03354.jpg)*

### *3.2.3 The 1970s restoration*

When the restoration began in 1978, only the E roof of the building survived however this was deemed to be in poor condition and was subsequently taken down. The W wall of the structure was found to have partly collapsed and the S wall, the principal elevation, had separated from its adjoining walls. The restoration process involved taking down the S wall entirely and reconstructing it in brickwork, red brick on the outside and grey brick inside. According to the public display panel, this wall was bonded with lime mortar, though the author found the grey bricks to be bonded with cement. Brickwork was also used to repair the tumbled section of the W wall and the top of the internal wall, which overhung and was dangerous.

*The upper portion of the N (rear) wall reconstructed in brick*
*(illus 5 and Images\External\Rear\Closeups\DSC03429.jpg)*

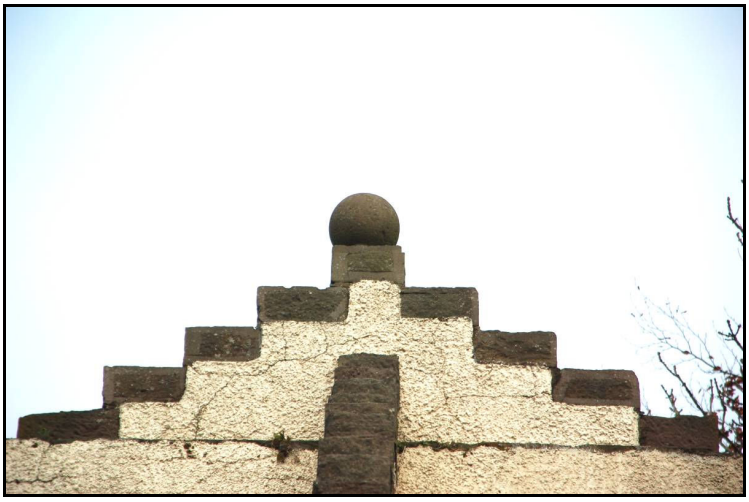
The other major structural alteration was the partial downtaking of the upper part of the rear wall. Much of this repair was carried out in red brick and the upper string course was probably also replaced during this work. What remained of the W and E gablets was altered and stabilised in red brick; the central finial was completely reconstructed. The stone ledge just above the roof line towards the bottom of the rear parapet (see photo below) also seems to have been rebuilt as it fairly uniform. As already mentioned above, it is likely that the string courses along the W and E elevations were removed and new courses inserted during the restoration.

New roofs were constructed in pine, with the rafters spanning three purlins. This involved rebuilding the tops of the W, internal and E walls with brick and stonework to incorporate the new roof purlins. For some reason the angle of the E roof is at a slightly shallower angle than the W roof; this would not have been part of the original design which would have been symmetrical. Perhaps the instability of the rear wall on the E side caused measurements to go slightly awry when the timberwork for the roof was being ordered?

*The E roof (Images\External\Front\Oblique\DSC03404.jpg)*

New flight holes were incorporated into the centre of the roofs, but whether their design is true to the original holes is not clear without looking at historic photos or drawings. Stone slates were used to cover the roofs which probably involved partial re-use of slates that had collapsed into the structure, as well as sourcing more from a local supplier. In size, the stone slates are similar to the sandstone slabs used for the string courses, though somewhat thinner.

During the restoration, pieces of stonework were retained and re-used. Some would have been found in situ, but others were probably discovered on the ground having fallen off the structure. The sandstone blocks for the crow steps are a little eroded and are probably reasonably old, though given their regular nature they may be early replacements rather than belonging to the original structure. Some of the blocks used in the gablets, particularly those below the central finial, have dressed edges and may be 1970s replacements. The central ball finial is too circular and uniform to be original and was probably also a 1970s replacement. The other ball finials are oval as they have become distorted through weathering, so may well be several hundred years old.

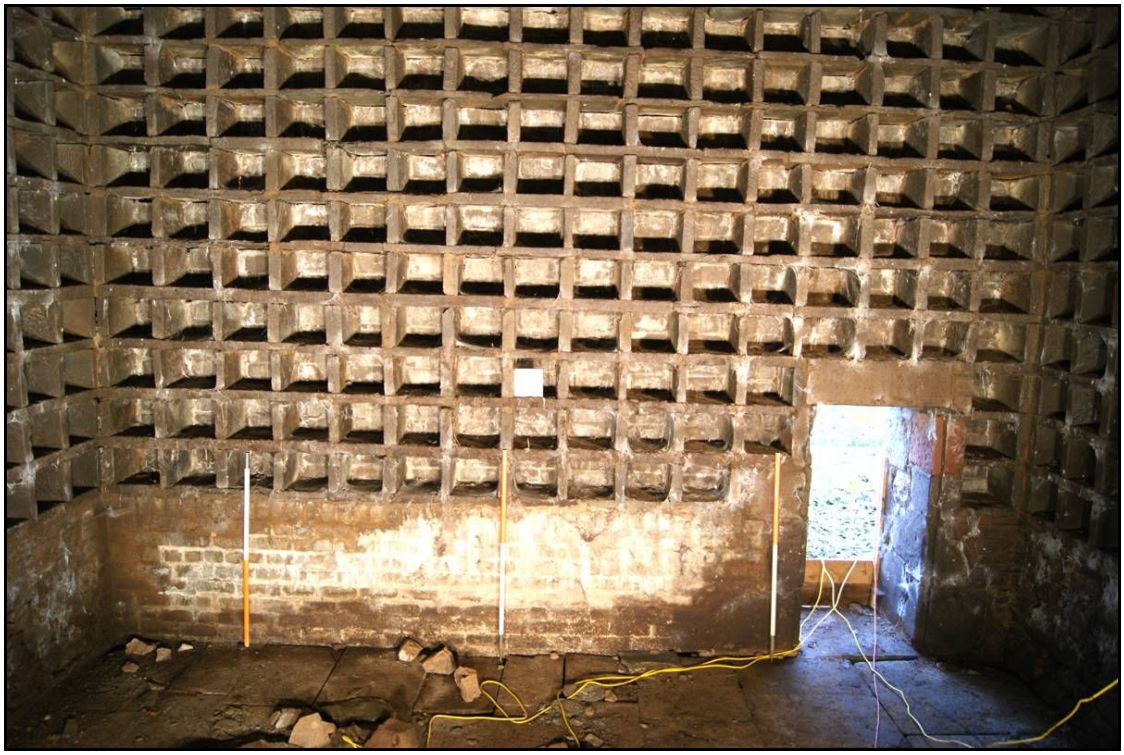


*The central finial (Images\GeneralDetails\Roof\DSC_0004.jpg)*

*The W ball finial (Images\GeneralDetails\Roof\DSC_0001.jpg)*

Of the two pyramidal finials, the one on the E looks more weathered and may well be older than that on the W, however further analysis is not possible without a proper inspection close up.

When the S wall was being reconstructed during the restoration, grey bricks were used for the internal face so the re-build looked less obvious. The brickwork was constructed so that the horizontal and upright slabs for the nest boxes recovered from the old S wall were re-used and the nest boxes re-created.



*The internal face of the S wall in Room B (illus 9 and Images\Internal\B4\DSC03317.jpg)*

The two doorways were reconstructed during the restoration and this has meant that though most of the door stones are original, the positions of the stones are probably not as they were prior to 1978. The W door is hinged on its W side and the E door to its E. Cut into the rybats and sills of both doorways are recesses on the exterior and interior faces. Currently there are only doors in the outer wall recesses, but the presence of inner recess suggests that originally there were either two doors or a single door and a yett for each room. Some of the rybats in the exterior face of the W doorway are either not part of the original doorway or are original stones whose recesses have been re-cut using a power tool. However, the two stones housing hinges for the current door are original, as are the three lower rybats opposite. These stones are all made from a course reddish-grey sandstone and latter three rybats have fine vertical tooling on their inside faces. Three small square sockets have been chiselled into the recess of the uppermost of the three stones, possibly to house an old lock mechanism. Below this on the same stone, a much smaller and obviously more recent hole has been cut for the current door bolt, and below, on the inner face is a carved inverted D or possibly a J? The stone below has a deep empty socket for a hinge pivot, suggesting that it may have once belonged on the opposite side of the doorway.

*The W Doorway (Images\External\Front\Details\DSC03397.jpg)*

*The 3 recess in the W doorway recess and the carved letter below*
*(Images\GeneralDetails\WDoor\DSC03613 and DSC03614)*

The two large stones above the W doorway appear to be original lintels, though thinner stones have been incorporated below them. The face of the outer lintel has a worn notch to enable the door or yett to be pulled open from its recess. On the face of the inner lintel, coarse chisel marks can be seen. The W side of the interior face of the W doorway has a single original stone with a round bolt hole cut into the recess. This is exactly the sort of position where one would expect a bolt holding an inner door closed

and so the position of the stone may be approximately true to the original doorway. The lower stone opposite is original and has a possible hinge pivot or bolt hole and beside it a square notch, for a lock or latch? Overall, it is not clear which side the inner door was hung. The original inner doorway stones, like those of the outer elevation are a coarse pinkish sandstone with fine vertical tooling on their inner faces.

*The E Doorway (Images\External\Front\Details\DSC03398.jpg)*

The rybats of the outer face of the E doorway are largely unaltered and most retain their original chiselled recesses. All the stones are pink coarse sandstone and most have the same fine vertical tooling on their inner faces as stones in the W doorway. On the W side of the door is a single hole for the current lock bolt. On the E, old hinge pivot holes in stones at the top and bottom have been re-used to hang the current door. The second stone up on this side has an empty hinge pivot hole which is interesting given that only one pivot hole is located around the inner door recess. It seems likely that originally there were two pivots for each for the outer and inner doors (or possibly an outer yett and the inner door) and the stones were mixed up during the restoration. The front lintel stone retains an unaltered original recess.


*The Plaque (Images\External\Front\Details\DSC03400.jpg)*

The sandstone plaque which has been re-built into the S wall above the doorways is unfortunately blank. Its flat face is probably a replacement stone rather than the original weathered armorial panel. The sides, lintel and sill of the plaque have ornamental curved chamfered inner edges.

In the late 1970s, use of traditional harling techniques to restore historic buildings was not widely practiced. Consequently the harling chosen for the Dovecot restoration was essentially modern in character; first a cement based render was applied to the surface of the stonework which was then scored. Following this a mixture of stone chips, hydrated lime and some form of synthetic translucent adhesive (see picture below) was applied to the surface. The harling has now cracked off in several places, most notably on the rear elevation exposing in places the cement render below. Such a technique is essentially non-breathable, and the moisture in the clay bonded rubble is now unable to escape from the outer face of the wall which may have caused damage to the building's fabric.

*Close up of a section through the modern harling*
*(Images\GeneralDetails\Harling\DSC03608.jpg)*

# 4 Discussion

## 4.1 Phasing

Apart from the pointing of stonework with white lime mortar possibly in the 19th century, and the late 1970s restoration, no phasing was seen in the building's fabric. It remains possible however, that the stonework for the current crow steps, the original gablets and finials are 18th century in origin and were added to enhance the look of the doocot.

## 4.2 Function

Finavon has most of the characteristics of a typical Scottish Lectern Doocot. Lecterns, which first developed in the late 16th century, essentially allowed a far greater number of pigeons to be housed than earlier beehive forms of cote because of the increased area of the internal walls which created more space for nest boxes. In double-lecterns, like Finavon, the numbers of nest boxes were effectively doubled, creating a very efficient larder of birds. The nest boxes at Finavon at 21cm x 24.5cm x 32cm deep are rather typical of Scottish nest boxes sizes which average around 25cm square and 30cm deep. The uniform dimensions of the boxes at Finavon are due to the high quality of the local sandstone which could be easily worked into slabs of regular widths and thicknesses. It is thought that the sandstone for the boxes may have originally come from the parish of Carmyllie, a major source of local sandstone in Angus, especially roofing slabs.

Access to harvest young pigeons (squabs) and carry out essential internal maintenance would have been via movable ladders resting on either permanent or temporary beams which were slotted into opposing nest boxes. This was no doubt one of the reasons why it was important for builders of doocots to build structures where the number of nest boxes on one wall mirror precisely those opposite. Remains of beams have been found in situ in some of the Moray dovecots, at Ballindalloch, Burgie and Wester Elchies.

The nest boxes at Finavon have been built well above the ground level, a common finding in many doocots. This had several advantages; firstly, birds which chose to nest low down would not be in any danger of having their holes buried by the build up of guano. Secondly, solid lower walls made it easier to collect and remove the pigeon waste, which was a valuable commodity as a fertilizer and for use in gunpowder manufacture. The flagstone floor made it easier to remove the dung, as well as providing a rather essential barrier to burrowing predators.

Pigeons would have entered the structure through the flight holes; these are covered with mesh on the inside of the present roof to prevent current birds damaging the structure. The design of the flight holes, which are located in low swept dormers, is a common feature of most square and lectern doocots, though in East Lothian, there was a separate tradition in which flight holes were located along a wide dormer spanning the full width of the building, creating a step in the roof. The reconstructed dormers at Finavon were probably copied from the roof which can be seen in early photographs of the doocot. This was probably itself a 19th replacement which may have copied the dormers and flight holes of the original roof. The actual number of flight holes varies widely between doocots and this appears to have had more to do with aesthetics rather than functionality once a basic minimum number of holes had been created. Some of the double-lectern doocots with surviving roofs in East Lothian and Highland illustrate

this point well: Barnhouse, 1402 nest boxes, 34 flight holes; Inveresk, 1163 flight holes, 14 flight holes; Ruchlaw, 1300-1400 nest boxes, 20 flight holes; Spott, 1422 flight holes, 20 nest boxes; Akergill, 1800 nest boxes, 6 flight holes; Forse House, 816 flight holes, 10 nest boxes. So as we can see there is probably not much functional significance in 16 flight holes having been used for Finavon which contains 2420 nest boxes.

The string courses which are common on most Doocots provided important landing and departing platforms for the pigeons as well as places to preen and warm in the sun. The courses are also known as 'rat courses' and were once thought to have functioned by deterring rats and other climbing predators, but their effectiveness is now questioned.

The dimensions of the doorways at Finavon at 1.5m x 0.77m are not particularly significant, and are roughly similar to many doocots in Scotland. However, the doorways themselves are interesting because they show that originally there appear to have been hinges and recesses on both the outer face and inner faces. This is a sign that either there were two doors in each doorway, or that there were doors on the inside and metal yetts – open hinged metal grids, on the outside. This increased security measure should not be a surprise given how much food Scotland's largest doocot must have housed, and how visible it would have been in the landscape to potential thieves.

## 4.3 Form and dating

Doocots are notoriously hard to date precisely and Finavon, which has no historical references and a blank front plaque, is no exception. At the time of writing The Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group had published four regional guides in their Doocot series; Moray, Lanarkshire, East Lothian and Highland / Orkney / Shetland. Though the descriptions of cotes vary considerably, the guides have provided a good baseline for comparison with Finavon. In the following section, different aspects of doocot design have been looked at to try to gain an understanding of Finavon's date.

*16th century Doocots*

Previous information written about Finavon Doocot has tended to suggest that it has a 16th century origin, so it was important to take a close look at other doocots from this period. Most of the 16th century doocots studied (Congalton, Dirleton, Dolphingstone, Drylawhill, Luffness, Northfield, Nunraw, Phantassie, Waughton, Gordonstoun, Covington, Dale House and Freswick House are Beehive type, and there are only a handful of square and lectern doocots. Two 16th century double-lectern doocots are located at North Berwick, at Tantallon Castle and at The Abbey on the lands of an old nunnery. These doocots have walls stepped back at each string course, large gables, and 3 chunky crow steps. In Moray, two 16th century square doocots at New Spynie and Pittendreich are both very small, with double-pitched roofs and unusually, rather gothic stone vaulted arches to support the roofs. There appear to be no other parallels for these Moray Doocots. There are two lectern cotes with date stones at Athelstaneford (1583) and Tranent (1587), though it is possible that the datestones may have come from elsewhere. Both these cotes are square and relatively small. They both have two string courses but little other embellishment. In form, the two cotes at north Berwick are most similar to Finavon, as they are both double-lectern type with their central walls breaking the roofline, but the large chunky gables and crowsteps are

quite unlike Finavon. Much closer to Finavon in regard to wall thicknesses and crow steps are Tranent and Athelstanford.

*Embellishments*

Only two parallels for the stepped string course at Finavon could be found: Akergill (18th century) and Forse House (1700), both in Caithness. At Akergill, the upper courses of both E and W doocots descend in a single step, but at Forse House, the upper step descends in two steps much like at Finavon, though here there is also a lower string course on the gables descending in a single step. As for finials, only 5 doocots in the guides have surviving ball finials or the remains of such: Preston Tower, Herdmanston, Cadbol, East Fortune, Forse House. Of these doocots the first two are thought to be 17th century with the rest dating from the 18th. The main fashion for these embellishments was from the late 17th century through to the mid 18th, and finials may well have been added onto earlier structures to enhance their look in this period.

*Vents*

Present in most of the large Dovecots, but missing from Finavon, are ventilation holes which were important for the creation of a draught to reduce the build up of ammonia etc. Ventilation holes, which can be both square or circular are frequently situated above the doorways, but they can also be found on side gables and the rear walls. At Finavon it appears that there were never any vents unless these were somehow missed out during the reconstruction of the S wall. If there were originally no vents than this may be significant, as the three lectern Doocots in the guide without vents are probably 16th century (Tranent, The Priory and Tantallon) and another, a square doocot at Dalvey is early 17th. Further north in Caithness, only Forse House (c1700) and the 18th century cotes in Orkey at Skaill, Lopness and Holland have no vents, though the lack of vents in the latter may have a lot to do with the local Orkney building style. The absence of vents at Finavon could possibly be taken as a sign of an affinity with the 16th and early 17th century styles of lectern doocots, but this comparison is far from conclusive.

*Crows steps*

One of the most distinguishing features of Finavon is the large number of crow steps, which works out at 3.2 for every metre. A similar number of steps per metre can be seen at Findrassy (1631), 2.6 steps per metre, Akergill (18th century), 2.8 steps per metre, Bourhouse (18th century), 3.2 steps per metre, Herdmanston (1669), 2.8 steps per metre, Spott (18th century), 3.4 steps per metre, Tranent (1587), 2.8 steps per metre and Preston Tower (17th century) 2.8 steps per metre. That the above doocots span a wide range of dates is a sign that the number of crow steps is a result of local materials or personal taste and has little to do with the period in which they were built.

*Height of Nest Boxes*

It is often stated that the height that nest boxes were raised off the floor increased during the 17th and 18th centuries, to enable easy removal of guano for fertilizer and gunpowder manufacture. This being the case, where data existed in the guides, the heights were examined for square, rectangular and lectern doocots to see if any trends could be gleaned to compare with Finavon.

| **Name of Doocot** | **Date** | **Height of nest boxes off ground** |
|---|---|---|
| New Spynie | 16th century | nest boxes at ground level |
| Pittendreich | 16th century | nest boxes at ground level |
| The Abbey | 16th century | nest boxes 1m off ground level |
| Tantallon | 16th century | nest boxes 0.5-0.7m off ground level |
| Burgie | prob early 17th century | nest boxes at ground level |
| Dalvey | prob early 17th century | nest boxes less than 1m off ground level |
| Findrassie | prob early 17th century | nest boxes less than 1m off ground level |
| Leitcheston | 1st half of 17th century | nest boxes 1m off ground level |
| Ruchlaw | 17th century | nest boxes 1m off ground level |
| Kockando | 17th or 18th century | nest boxes 0.55m off ground level |
| Beil | 17th or 18th century | nest boxes 0.5m off ground level |
| Forse House | 1700 | nest boxes 1m off ground level |
| Eskgrove | 18th century | nest boxes 0.3m off ground level |
| Fountainhall | 18th century | nest boxes at ground level |
| Inveresk gate | 18th century | nest boxes at ground level |
| St Clement's Wells | 18th century | nest boxes 2m off ground level |
| Dunbeath | mid 18th century | nest boxes 0.9m off ground level |
| Ardersier | prob 18th century | nest boxes 0.8m off ground level |
| Lethen House | prob 18th century | nest boxes 0.6m off ground level |
| Skaill | late 18th century | nest boxes 0.6m off ground level |

As can be seen, virtually no trends were apparent and Finavon's nest boxes at 0.8m above the ground fit in with nest box heights covering a range from the 16th to late 18th centuries.

*Size*

In terms of size, Biel at Stenton in East Lothian is possibly the second largest doocot in Scotland, measuring 11.9m x 6.1m (which is not far off Finavon at 12.88m x 6.65m) and would have originally had 2000 nest boxes. Unfortunately, like several of the doocots, a precise date is not known for this cote though it is broadly 17th to 18th century. Herdmanston, near East Saltoun (1669) is the next largest at 10.6m x 5.7m with 2000 nest boxes, then The Abbey, North Berwick (probably 16th century) at 9.7m x 4.8m and 1320 nest boxes, then Bourhouse, Dunbar (18th century) at 9.5m x 4.9m and 1402 nest boxes, then Johnstounburn (18th century) at 8.83m x 5.86m and 2140 nesting boxes and then Inveresk Gate, East Lothian (18th century) 8.6m x 5.4m and 1163 nesting boxes, then Spott, East Lothian (18th century) at 8.7m x 5.5m with 1422 nest boxes, then Akergill Tower (18th century) 8.8m x 4.9m and 1800 nest boxes, then Forse House, Caithness (c. 1700) at 8.5m x 4.7m and 816 nest boxes. As can be seen there is little that can be said as to a correlation between size and date, though there appears to be a notable increase in largish double-lectern type doocots in the 18th century.

*Doorways*

There is little that can be said with regards to door size and dating, but the possibility that cote may have once had outer yetts is interesting as usually these features are seen in the earlier 16th century cotes, such as Tantallon and Pittendreich.

*Stonework and wall bonding*

The method of wall construction using clay bonded rubble is a local vernacular technique which can be found throughout Tayside region and is a tradition which carried on well into the 19th century. This construction technique therefore has little significance with regards to dating. Some of the stones in the rear wall as well as the cornerstones show very rough tooling, but this is to be expected for stones used in a wall that would be harled, as well as non-principal elevations in general. Their rustic nature can therefore tell us little about the dating of the structure. The stones used in the front elevation however are different and much more carefully worked. Many of the doorway stones used in the restoration show original fine vertical tooling, which is perhaps what one would expect of 17th or 18th century stone dressing rather than 16th. The main crow steps used in restoration, though slightly weathered, are perhaps a little too regular to be original. If the ball finials and gablets were added as embellishments in the late 17th or 18th century, it is not unreasonable to suppose that the crow steps were replaced in this period too. The blank plaque, which may be an insertion rather than original, is hard to date based on the style of its border alone.

*A final date?*

The above comparisons, though useful, have failed to shed any light on a precise date for the Finavon Doocot. Whilst some of the details, most notably the finials and decorated string courses, point to the sort of embellishment one would expect in the 18th century, there are elements in common with 16th century doocots, most notably the lack of vents and the evidence for yetts. We may never find out the precise date of Finavon, but gut instinct, its similarity to the large 17th century cote at Herdmanston and the fact that the old ruin of Finavon Castle dates to 1608, suggests a tentative 17th

century date for the original parts of the structure with perhaps gablets and finials being added in the 18th.

# 5 Conclusions

This building recording has shown that the dating and phasing of the Finavon Doocot remains somewhat elusive, but this is hardly surprising given the difficulties of dating lectern doocots and the extent of the restoration in the late 1970s. What the work has achieved however is to provide a good record of one of the most impressive Doocots in Scotland, and it is hoped that this will be an invaluable resource when carrying out future repairs.

# 6 Bibliography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# Appendix 1 Context Register

| *No:* | *Description* | *Phase* |
|---|---|---|
| 01 | Original clay bonded W wall excluding nest boxes. | Original |
| 02 | Original masonry nest boxes built into W wall (Room A) | Original |
| 03 | Original clay bonded wall excluding nest boxes. W half of the N wall | Original |
| 04 | Original masonry nest boxes built into the W half of the N wall (Room A) | Original |
| 05 | Original clay bonded wall excluding nest boxes. Internal wall | Original |
| 06 | Original masonry nest boxes built into the W half of the internal wall (Room A) | Original |
| 07 | Original clay bonded wall excluding nest boxes. E wall | Original |
| 08 | Original clay bonded wall excluding nest boxes. E half of the N wall | Original |
| 09 | Original masonry next boxes built into the E wall (Room B) | Original |
| 10 | Original masonry nest boxes built into the E half of the internal wall (Room B) | Original |
| 11 | Original masonry nest boxes built into the E half of the N wall (Room B) | Original |
| 12 | Flagstones in Room A. Re-set during restoration and cemented | 1978-9 |
| 13 | Flagstones in Room B | Original |
| 14 | Lower string course built into rear wall | Original |
| 15 | Mid string course built into rear wall | Original |
| 16 | Upper string course built into rear wall | 1978-9 |
| 17 | Brickwork at the top of the rear wall | 1978-9 |
| 18 | W finial at the top of the rear wall | 1978-9? |
| 19 | W pyramidal finial at the top of the rear wall | 1978-9 |
| 20 | E pyramidal finial at the top of the rear wall | 1978-9 |
| 21 | W finial at the top of the rear wall | 1978-9 |
| 22 | Central finial at the top of the rear wall | 1978-9 |
| 23 | Crow stepped gablet below the central finial at the top of the rear wall | 1978-9 |
| 24 | Crow steps on E wall | 1978-9? |
| 25 | Central crow steps | 1978-9 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 26 | Crow steps on W wall | 1978-9 |
| 27 | Original cornerstones, NW corner | Original |
| 28 | Original cornerstones, NE corner | Original |
| 29 | Traces of original harling | Original |
| 30 | Horizontal double thickness stone ledge below the finials on the S side of the rear wall (W side) | 1978-9 |
| 31 | Horizontal double thickness stone ledge below the finials on the S side of the rear wall (E side) | 1978-9 |
| 32 | Stonework along the top of the rear wall | 1978-9 |
| 33 | Outer skin of red brick, S wall. Lime mortared. | 1978-9 |
| 34 | Reconstructed masonry next boxes in W half of S wall (Room A) | 1978-9 |
| 35 | Reconstructed brickwork and stonework up the S side and on the wall head of the W wall | 1978-9 |
| 36 | Reconstructed brickwork and stonework up the S side and on the wall head of the internal wall | 1978-9 |
| 37 | Reconstructed masonry next boxes in E half of S wall (Room B) | 1978-9 |
| 38 | Reconstructed brickwork and stonework up the S side and on the wall head of the E wall | 1978-9 |
| 39 | Cement render below the modern harling | 1978-9 |
| 40 | Modern harling | 1978-9 |
| 41 | Reconstructed W doorway | 1978-9 |
| 42 | Reconstructed E doorway | 1978-9 |
| 43 | Re-positioned central plaque | 1978-9 |
| 44 | Replacement timberwork for roof including new flight holes | 1978-9 |
| 45 | Current stone slated roof | 1978-9 |
| 46 | Replaced string course in the S wall | 1978-9 |
| 47 | String course in the W wall (partially replaced) | 1978-9 |
| 48 | String course in the E wall (partially replaced?) | 1978-9? |
| 49 | Collapsed debris from internal face of E side of N wall (Room B) | 1990s-2000s? |
| 50 | Reconstructed nest boxes in on S side of W wall | 1978-9 |
| 51 | Reconstructed nest boxes in on S side of E wall | 1978-9 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 52 | Reconstructed nest boxes in on W side of internal wall | 1978-9 |
| 53 | Reconstructed nest boxes in on E side of internal wall | 1978-9 |
| 54 | White lime mortar pointing seen between gaps in external stonework at the NW corner and projecting through the collapsed part of the N wall | 19th century? |
| 55 | Inner skin of grey brick for S wall, cement bonded | 1978-9 |
| 56 | NW corner crow stepped gablet | 1978-9 |
| 57 | NE corner crow stepped gablet | 1978-9 |

# Appendix 2 Photographic Register

## Images/External/ESide

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC03409 to DSC03412 | Shots of the E side of the Doocot | W, NW |

## Images/External/WSide

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC03445 to DSC03451 | Shots of the W side of the Doocot | NE, E, SE |

## Images/External/Rear/Oblique

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC03443 to DSC03444 | Two oblique shots of the rear of the Doocot | S |

## Images/External/Rear/Closeups

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC03413 to DSC03442 | Sequence of close up shots covering the rear of the Doocot | SE |

## Images/External/Front/Oblique

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC03401 | Oblique shot of the W half of the front of the Doocot | NW |
| DSC03402 | Oblique shot of the E half of the front of the Doocot | NE |
| DSC03403-4 | General shots of the modern flight holes | NNW |
| DSC03405 | Oblique shot of the Doocot taken from the SE | NW |
| DSC03406 | Shot of the Doocot in its setting, taken from the SE | W |
| DSC03407-8 | Shots of the front of the Doocot | NW |

## Images/External/Front/Details

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC03397 | Close up of the W doorway | NNW |
| DSC03398-9 | Close up of the E doorway | NNW |
| DSC03400 | Close up of the panel | NNW |

## Images/GeneralDetails/WDoor

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC03386 to DSC03396 | Sequence of close up shots of the front elevation of the Doocot | NNW |

## Images/GeneralDetails/WDoor

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC03609-10 | Photos showing lock and hinge recesses in the stonework on the E side of the W doorway (exterior) | NE |
| DSC03611 | General shot of stonework on W side of the W doorway (exterior) | NW |
| DSC03612-13 | Close up of lock recesses in stonework on the E side of the W doorway (exterior) | E |
| DSC03614 | D-shaped mark in stonework below the above lock hole | E |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| DSC03615-16 | Finely tooled stonework on E side of the W doorway | E |
| DSC03617 | Close up of possible hinge hole on the E side of the W doorway (external) | E |
| DSC03618 | Shot of the W doorway lintel | NNW |
| DSC03619 to DSC03621 | Rough tooling on the internal face of the W doorway lintel | SSE |
| DSC03622 | Possible hinge or lock hole on W side of the W doorway (interior) | SW |
| DSC03623 | Possible hinge or lock hole on E side of the W doorway (interior) | SE |
| DSC03624 | Close up of above | SE |
| DSC03625-26 | Shot of stonework on W side of the W doorway (external) | NW |
| DSC03627 | General shot of W doorway lintel from outside | NNW |
| DSC03628 | Shot of recess in lintel to open door, W doorway | NNW |

## Images/GeneralDetails/EDoor

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC03629-30 | General shots of the E doorway linel | NE, NW |
| DSC03631 to DSC03634 | Shots of stonework on W side of E doorway (external) | NNW, NW |
| DSC03635 | Shots of stonework on E side of E doorway showing recess for hinge? | NE |
| DSC03636 to DSC03640 | Shots of stonework on W side of E doorway (interior) | SW |
| DSC03641 to DSC03644 | Shots of stonework on E side of E doorway (interior) | SE |

## Images/GeneralDetails/Harling

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC03607 | Close up of modern harling at the NW corner of the Doocot | SE |
| DSC03608 | Close up of modern harling at the NW corner of the Doocot | SSE |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| DSC03609 | Shot showing traces of original yellowish harling on the rear elevation of the Doocot | SSE |
| DSC03610 | Shot showing traces of original yellowish harling on the rear elevation of the Doocot around the lower string course | SSE |

## Images/GeneralDetails/NestBoxes

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC03645 | Close up of nest boxes in the W wall, Room A. Shot also shows clay bonding of rubble wall behind | ESE |
| DSC03646 | Close up of nest boxes in the W wall, Room A | ESE |
| DSC03647 | Close up of nest boxes in the NW corner of Room A | NW |
| DSC03648 - 49 | Close up of nest boxes in the NW corner of Room A. Shot shows where grooves have been cut into the horizontal slabs to accommodate the vertical slabs. | NW |
| DSC03650 to DSC03655 | Close up of the unstable and distorted stonework for the next boxes in the N wall of Room A. | NNW |
| DSC03656 | Close up of nest boxes in the NW corner of Room A | NW |

## Images/GeneralDetails/Roof

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC_0001 | Close up of roof finial, NW corner of Doocot | NW |
| DSC_0002 | Close up of pyramidal finial on the W side of the Doocot | NW |
| DSC_0003-4 | Close up of the central finial | NNW |
| DSC_0005 | Close up of the pyramidal finial on the E side of the Doocot | N |
| DSC_0006 | Close up of the roof finial, NE corner of the Doocot | N |
| DSC_0007 | Close up of flight holes on W side of the roof | NW |
| DSC_0008 | Close up of flight holes on E side of the roof | N |
| DSC_0009 | Shot of crow steps on E side of Doocot | NE |
| DSC_0010 | Close up of the lowest stone of the crow steps on the E side of the Doocot | NE |
| DSC_0011 | Close up of the lowest stone of the crow steps on the W side of the Doocot | NW |
| DSC_0012 | Shot of stone ledge in front elevation at the top of the roof (E side) | N |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| DSC_0013 | Shot of stone ledge in front elevation at the top of the roof (W side) | NW |
| DSC_0014 | Shot of the E pyramidal finial from the rear | SW |
| DSC_0015 | Shot of the central pyramidal finial from the rear | SW |
| DSC_0016 | Close up of the central pyramidal finial from the rear | SW |
| DSC_0017 | Shot of W pyramidal finial from the rear | SW |
| DSC_0018 | Shot of the W finial from the rear | SW |
| DSC_0019 | Close up shot of the E finial from the front | N |
| DSC_0020 | Close up shot of the W half of the central crow steps on the rear wall of the Doocot | NNW |
| DSC_0021 | Close up shot of the W finial from the front | NW |
| DSC_0022 | Close up of the W pyramidal finial | NW |
| DSC_0023 | Close up of the E pyramidal finial | N |

## Images/GeneralDetails/TopCourseBricks&Stonework

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC_0026 to DSC_0033 | General close up shots of the brickwork and stonework above the upper string course of the Doocot | SSE-SW |

## Images/GeneralDetails/TooledStonesRearElev

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC_0024-25 | Shot of tooled stones in the rear elevation of the Doocot below the lowest string course | SSE |

## Images/Internal/A1

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC02943 to DSC02946 and DSC02984 to DSC02997 | Sequences of shots covering the internal face of the W wall in Room A | WSW |

Images/Internal/A2

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC03056 to DSC03060 | Sequences of shots covering the internal face of the N wall in Room A | NNW |

Images/Internal/A3

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC03061 to DSC03065 | Sequences of shots covering the W face of the internal wall, Room A | NNW |

Images/Internal/A4

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC03121 to DSC03130 | Sequences of shots covering the internal face of the S wall, Room A | SSE |

Images/Internal/ACeiling

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC03125 to DSC03129 | Various shots of the roof timberwork in Room A | - |

Images/Internal/B1

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC03217 to DSC03225 | Sequences of shots covering the E face of the internal wall, Room B | WSW |

Images/Internal/B2

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC03165 to DSC03172 | Sequences of shots covering the internal face of the N wall in Room B | NNW |

Images/Internal/B3

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC03268 to DSC03274 | Sequences of shots covering the internal face of the E wall in Room B | ENE |

Images/Internal/B4

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC03316 to DSC03320 | Sequences of shots covering the internal face of the S wall in Room B | SSE |

Images/Internal/BCeiling

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC03321 to DSC03324 and DSC03350 to DSC03353 | Various shots of the roof timberwork in Room B | - |

Images/Internal/BFloor

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC03354 to DSC03356 | Shots of the flagstones in Room B | ENE |

Images/Internal/BFloor

| *Image No* | *Description* | *View* |
|---|---|---|
| DSC03381 to DSC03385 | General shots of the interior of Room B | N, NNW |

# Appendix 3 Site Records Register

| *Sheet No* | *Description* | *Scale* |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Annotated plan of the Doocot | 1:50 |
| 2 | Notes and interpretation | - |
| 3 | Notes and interpretation | - |
| 4 | Annotated rear elevation of the Doocot | 1:50 |

# Appendix 4 Electronic Survey Register

| *File No.* | *Description* |
|---|---|
| Survey\DoocotFront.dxf | Total station survey of the front and E side of the Doocot |
| Survey\DoocotRear.dxf | Total station survey of the rear of the Doocot |
| Survey\Doocotbricks.dxf | Total station survey showing the sizes of bricks in the rear elevation |
| Survey\A1Sparse&DenseRotated.ply | Point cloud of internal W side of Room A |
| Survey\SfM\A1\photos\ DSC02948 to DSC02983 | Photos used to create above point cloud (jpgs) |
| Survey\A2Sparse&DenseRotated.ply | Point cloud of internal N side of Room A |
| Survey\SfM\A2\photos\DSC02998 to DSC03055 | Photos used to create above point cloud (jpgs) |
| Survey\A3Sparse&DenseRotated.ply | Point cloud of internal E side of Room A |
| Survey\SfM\A3\photos\DSC03066 to DSC03120 | Photos used to create above point cloud (jpgs) |
| Survey\A4Sparse&DenseRotated.ply | Point cloud of internal S side of Room A |
| Survey\SfM\A4\p | Photos used to create above point cloud (jpgs) |

| | |
|---|---|
| hotos\DSC03131 to DSC03164 | |
| Survey\B1Sparse &DenseRotated.ply | Point cloud of internal W side of Room B |
| Survey\SfM\B1\photos\DSC03226 to DSC03267 | Photos used to create above point cloud (jpgs) |
| Survey\B2Sparse &DenseRotated.ply | Point cloud of internal N side of Room B |
| Survey\SfM\B2\photos\ DSC03173 to DSC03216 | Photos used to create above point cloud (jpgs) |
| Survey\B3Sparse &DenseRotated.ply | Point cloud of internal E side of Room B |
| Survey\SfM\B3\photos\ DSC03275 to DSC03315 | Photos used to create above point cloud (jpgs) |
| Survey\B4Sparse &DenseRotated.ply | Point cloud of internal S side of Room B |
| Survey\SfM\B4\photos\DSC03325 to DSC03349 | Photos used to create above point cloud (jpgs) |
| Survey\BFloorSparse&DenseRotated.ply | Point cloud of flagstones in Room B |
| Survey\SfM\BFloor\photos\DSC03357 to DSC03380 | Photos used to create above point cloud (jpgs) |
| Survey\Front&EsideSparse&DenseRotated.ply | Point cloud of front and E elevations |
| Survey\SfM\Front&Eside\photos\ DSC03454 to DSC03505 | Photos used to create above point cloud (jpgs) |
| Survey\RearDense&SparseRotated.ply | Point cloud of rear elevation |
| Survey\SfM\Rear\photos\ DSC03558 to | Photos used to create above point cloud (jpgs) |

| | |
|---|---|
| DSC03602 | |
| WsideSparse&DenseRotated.ply | Point cloud of west elevation |
| Survey\SfM\WSide\photos\ DSC03506 to DSC03557 | Photos used to create above point cloud (jpgs) |

# Appendix 5 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

| | |
|---|---|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | Angus Council |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME: | Finavon Doocot |
| PROJECT CODE: | FF14 |
| PARISH: | Oathlaw |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S): | Barton, T |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | Alder Archaeology Ltd |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT: | Building Recording |
| RCAHMS NO(S): | NO45NE.17, NO45NE.26 |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | Dovecot, Doocot |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS: | None |
| NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures) | Site centred on NO 4968 5648 |
| START DATE | 06-11-2012 |
| END DATE | 07-11-2012 |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. *DES* ref.) | None |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:<br>(May include information from other fields) | The National Trust for Scotland commissioned Alder Archaeology Ltd to carry out a historic building recording on Finavon Doocot, the largest doocot in Scotland, which lies just off the A90 near Forfar. The purpose of the investigation was to create a record of the Doocot ahead of a proposed repair programme. The work (site code FF14) was carried out on the 6th and 7th of November 2012 in good weather conditions. External and internal elevations of the large double-lectern doocot were surveyed electronically and an analytical record of the structure was made. The work revealed that the 1978-9 partial restoration of the doocot had replaced about a quarter of the building's original fabric including wall tops and the S wall. This reconstruction had effectively removed any phasing which may have been present in the original building, though some of the stone re-used in the restoration hints that there were some historic alterations. In particular, it seems that the finials and gablets may have been added in the late 17th or 18th century, and the crow steps possibly renewed at this time. The date of the original building is uncertain as the plaque in the wall is blank, but the doocote was probably constructed around the time of Finavon Castle which is likely to have been built by the Earl of Crawford some time after 1608. The original building appears to have had yetts in the doorways, an important security measure to protect a doocot of this size. |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | None |

| | |
|---|---|
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: | National Trust for Scotland |
| CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS | - |
| ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR: | Alder Archaeology Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX |
| ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended) | RCAHMS (intended) |
| EMAIL ADDRESS: | director@alderarchaeology.co.uk |

# Appendix 6 Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork

### 6.1 Recording Methodology

Alder Archaeology employs a Single Context Recording System that allows full cross-referencing of stratigraphy, finds and environmental samples, as well as site-wide phasing. All features will be planned at scale 1:20, and sections drawn at scale 1:10. Sections and profiles will be drawn and all features will be photographed with metric scale included. Environmental samples will be taken from archaeologically significant contexts, if the analysis of these samples would aid significantly in the interpretation of any features identified.

### 6.2 Human Remains

If human remains are encountered they will be left in situ and the local police will be informed. If removal is required this will take place in compliance with Historic Scotland's Policy Paper *The Treatment of Human Remains in Archaeology*.

### 6.3 Products and Reporting

A Data Structure Report will normally be prepared within a period agreed within the Written Scheme of Investigation/ Project Design, after the completion of the fieldwork. This forms the basic level of reporting. Further reporting may be required on the basis of discoveries made during excavations.

A copy of the report and the project archive will be deposited in the NMRS. Further copies will be sent to the client, LAAO and others, as appropriate.

### 6.4 Artefacts

Finds of objects will be subject to the Scots Laws of Treasure Trove and *Bona Vacantia*. We will report such finds, if recovered, with supporting documentation to the Secretariat of the Treasure Trove Panel for disposal to the appropriate museum.

### 6.5 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

A brief summary of the results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland.*

### 6.6 General Conditions and Health and Safety

We adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists.

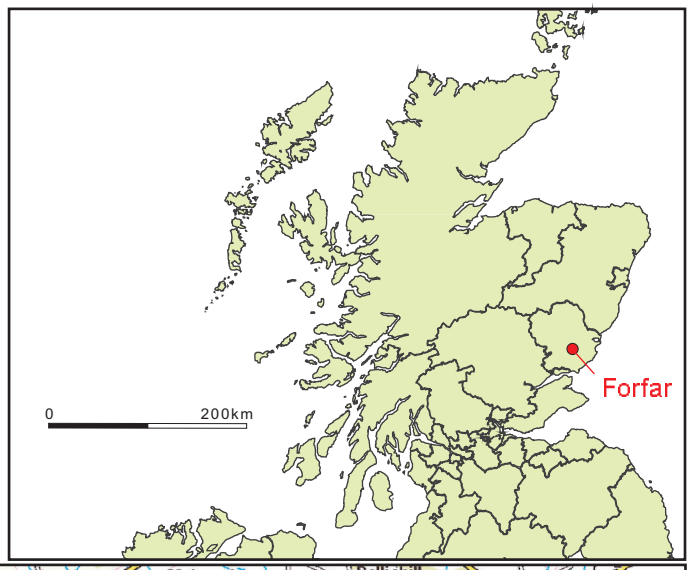
Alder Archaeology Ltd has public liability insurance of £2,000,000. Details of this can be provided on request.

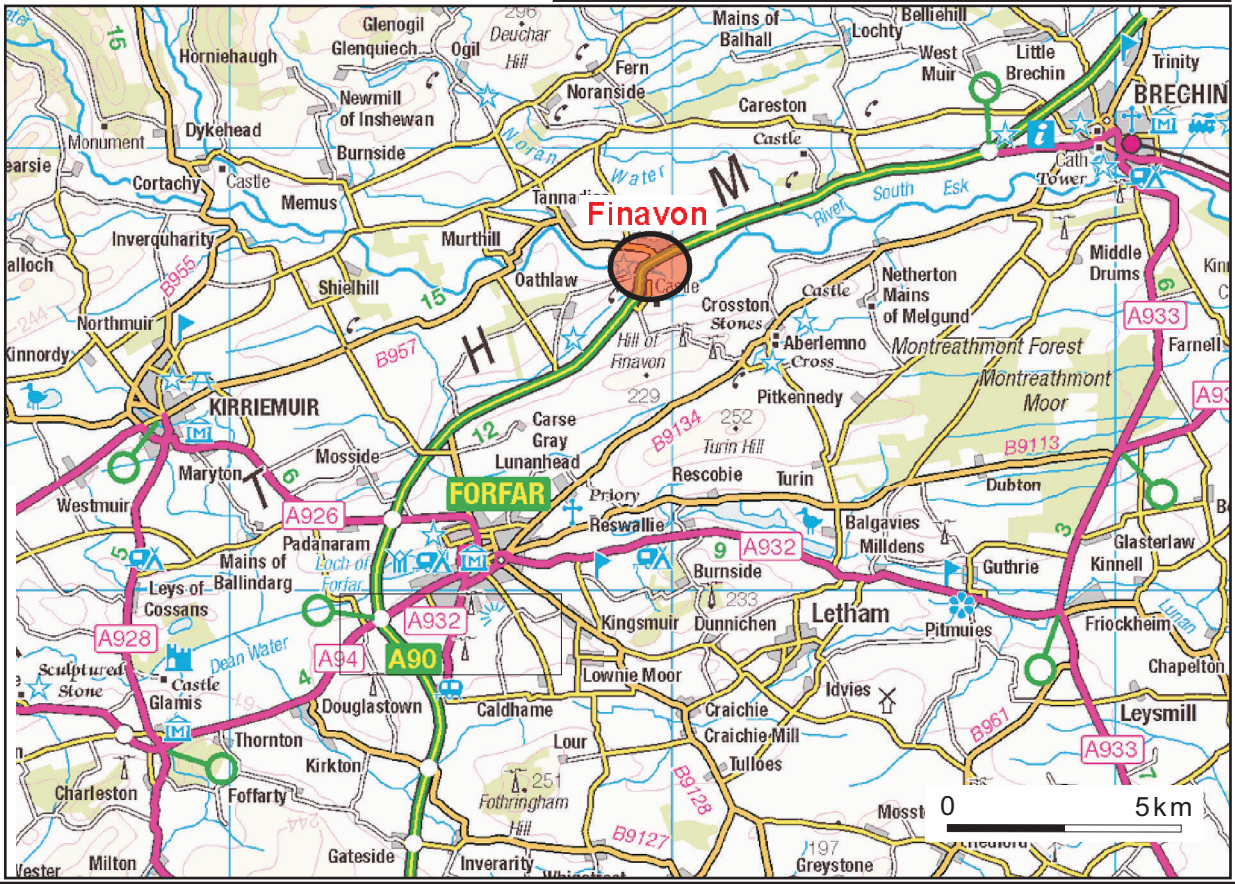
We operate a strict health and safety policy and conforms to the Health and Safety at Work Act. We undertakes Risk Assessments on all fieldwork carried out.

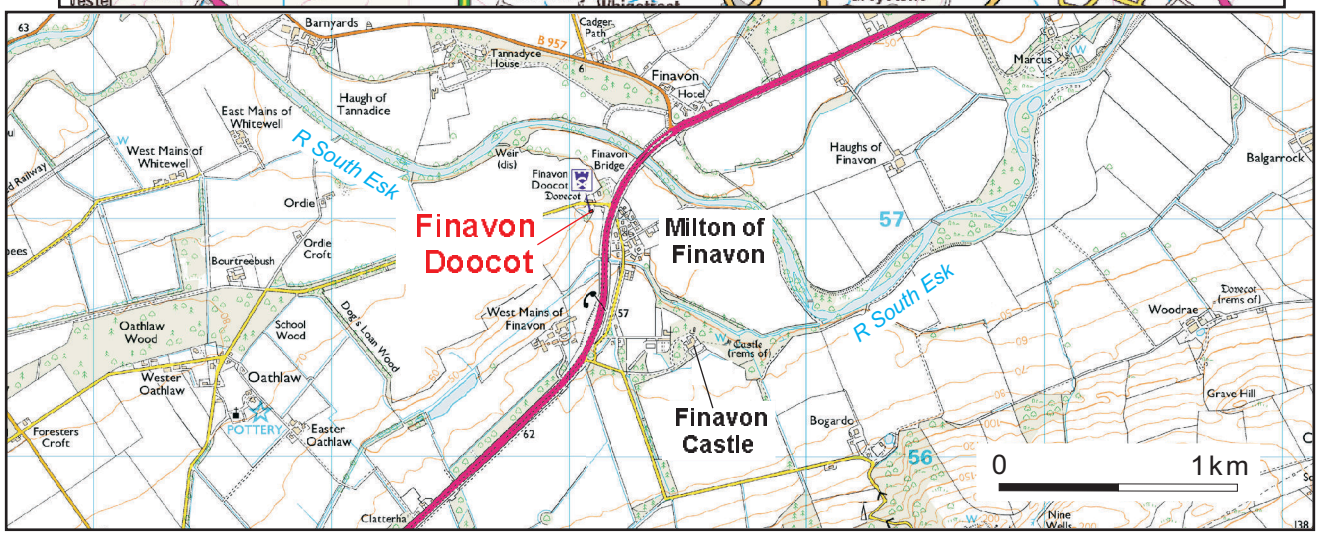
Alder Archaeology representatives will at all times wear protective footwear, high visibility clothing and other appropriate clothing. Hard hats will be worn if there is active plant on site or at all times if the site is deemed a hard hat area.

If lightly contaminated deposits are uncovered disposable boiler suits and gloves will be worn. A source of clean water will be made available for staff to clean hands with. If the health risk posed by site contamination is felt to be too high all further archaeological work will stop in that area.

Illus 1 Location of Finavon Doocot



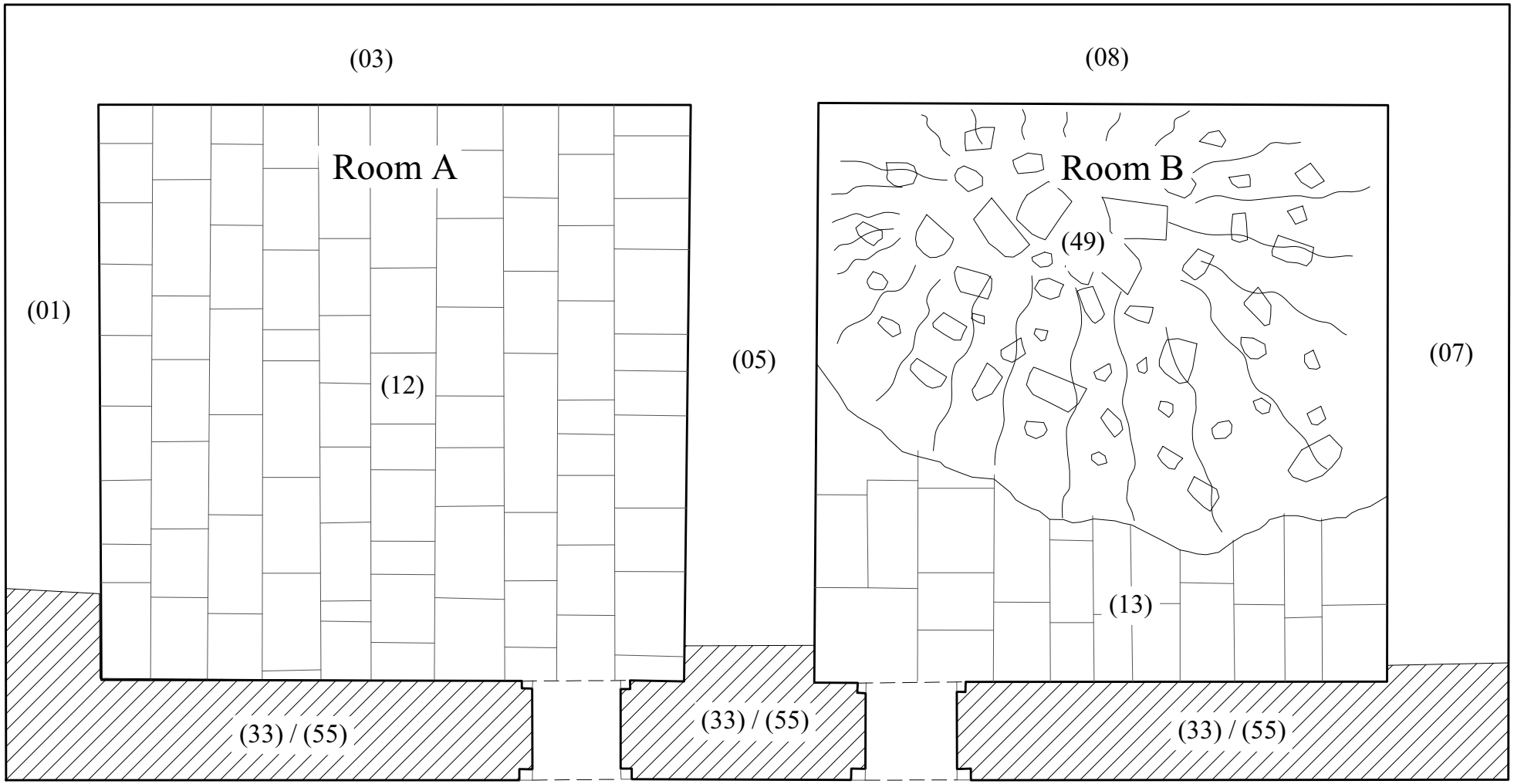






FF14

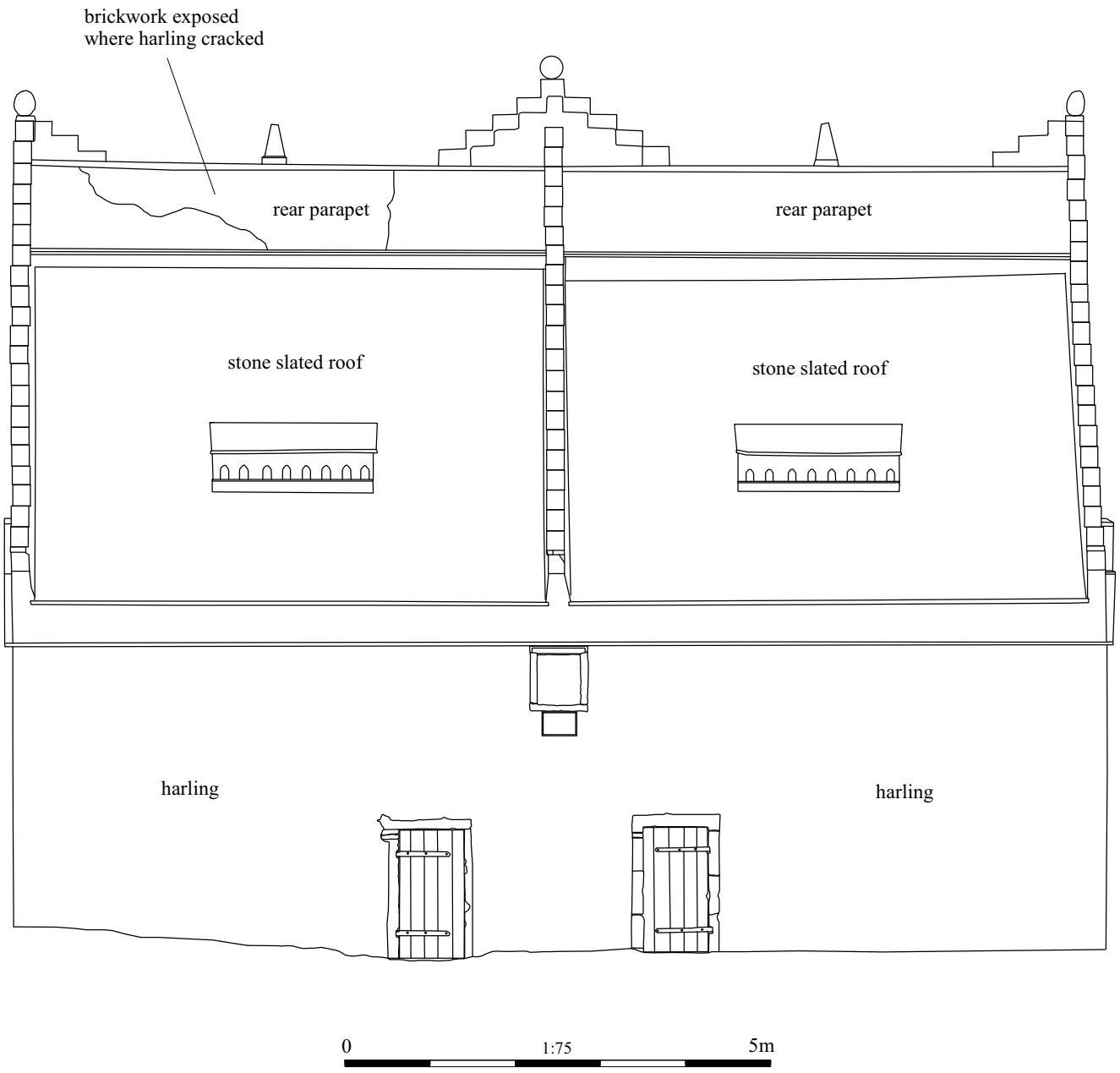
Illus 2

# Plan of the Doocot



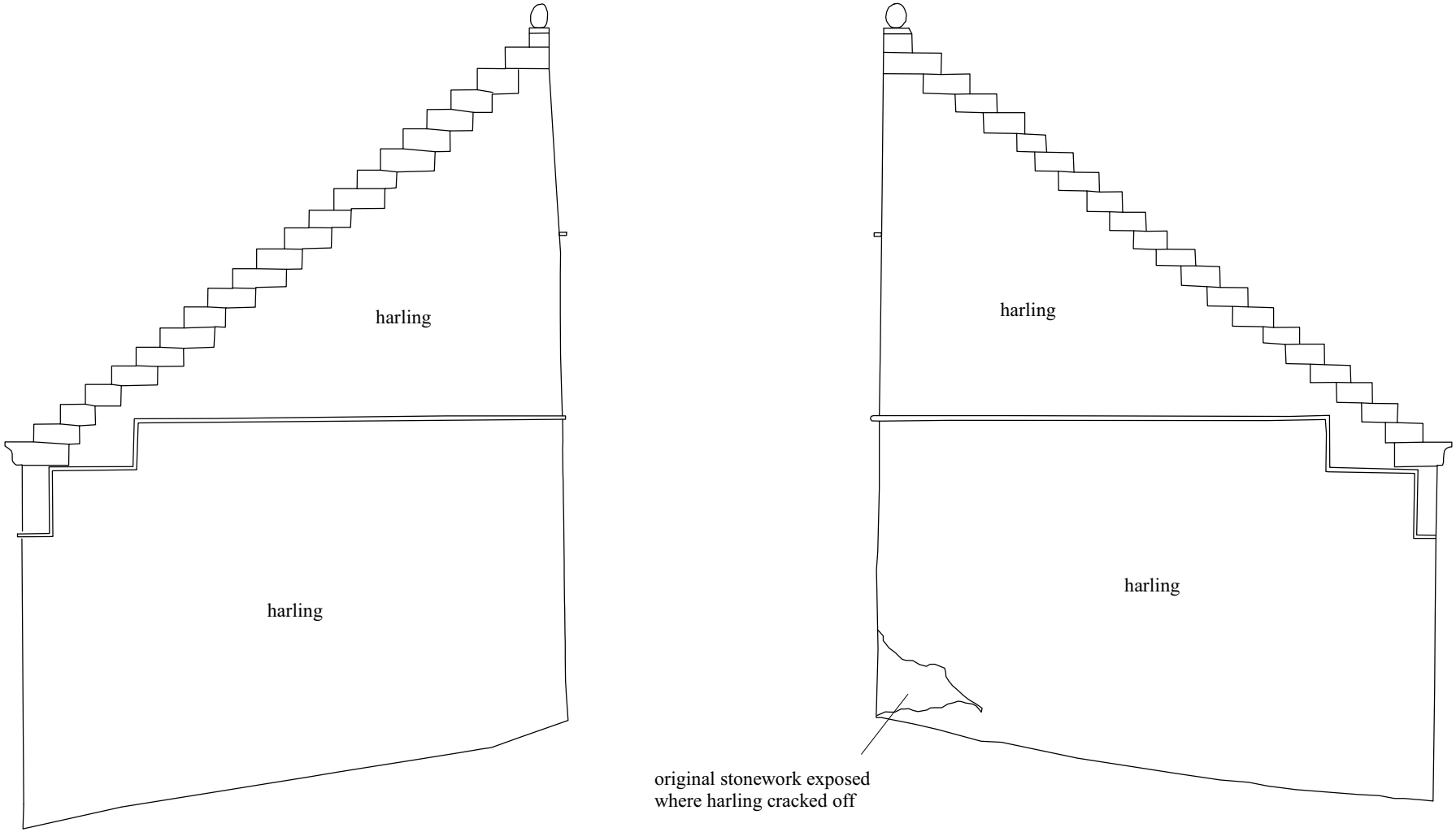
Illus 3

# Front Elevation



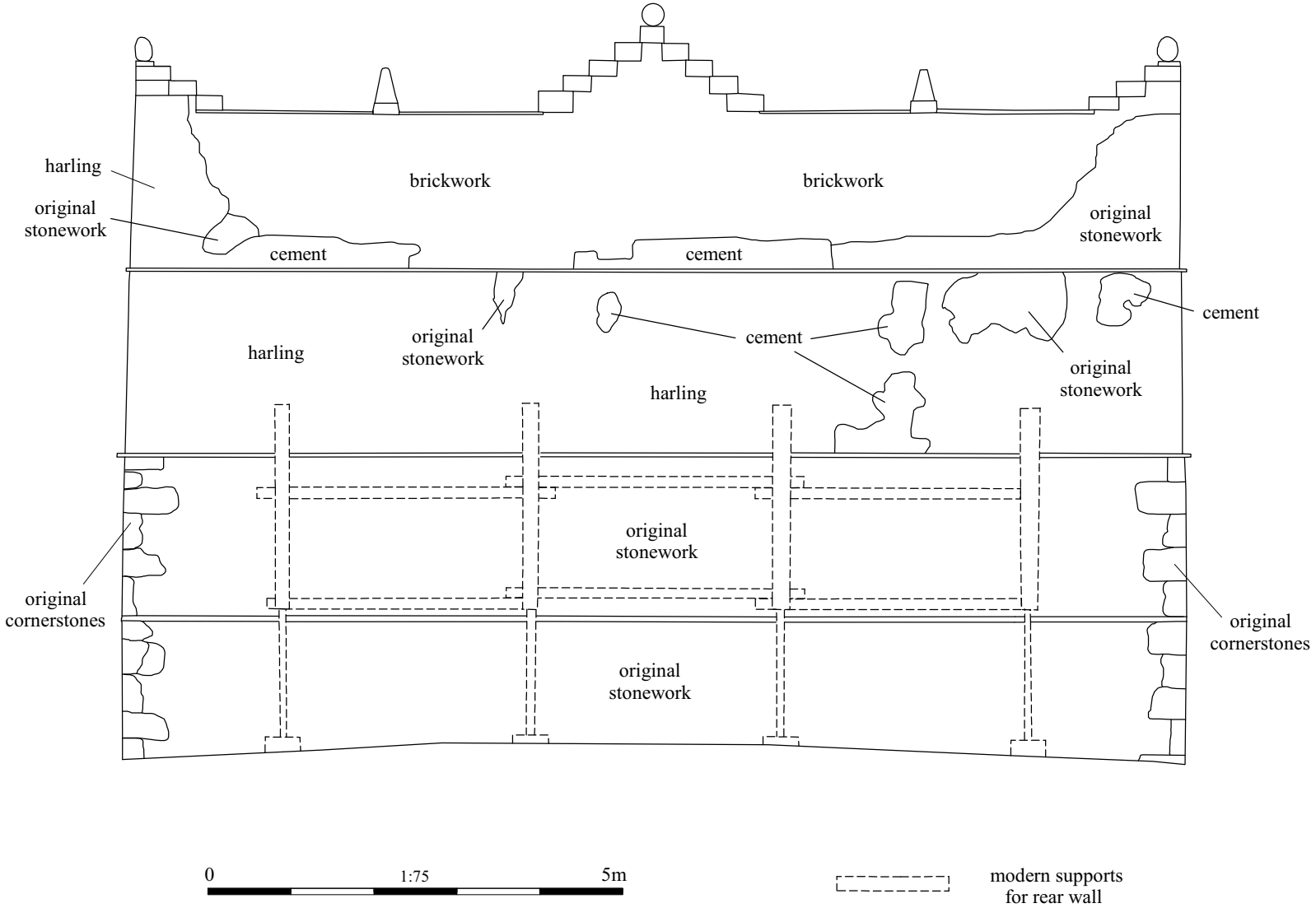
Illus 4

# Side Elevations



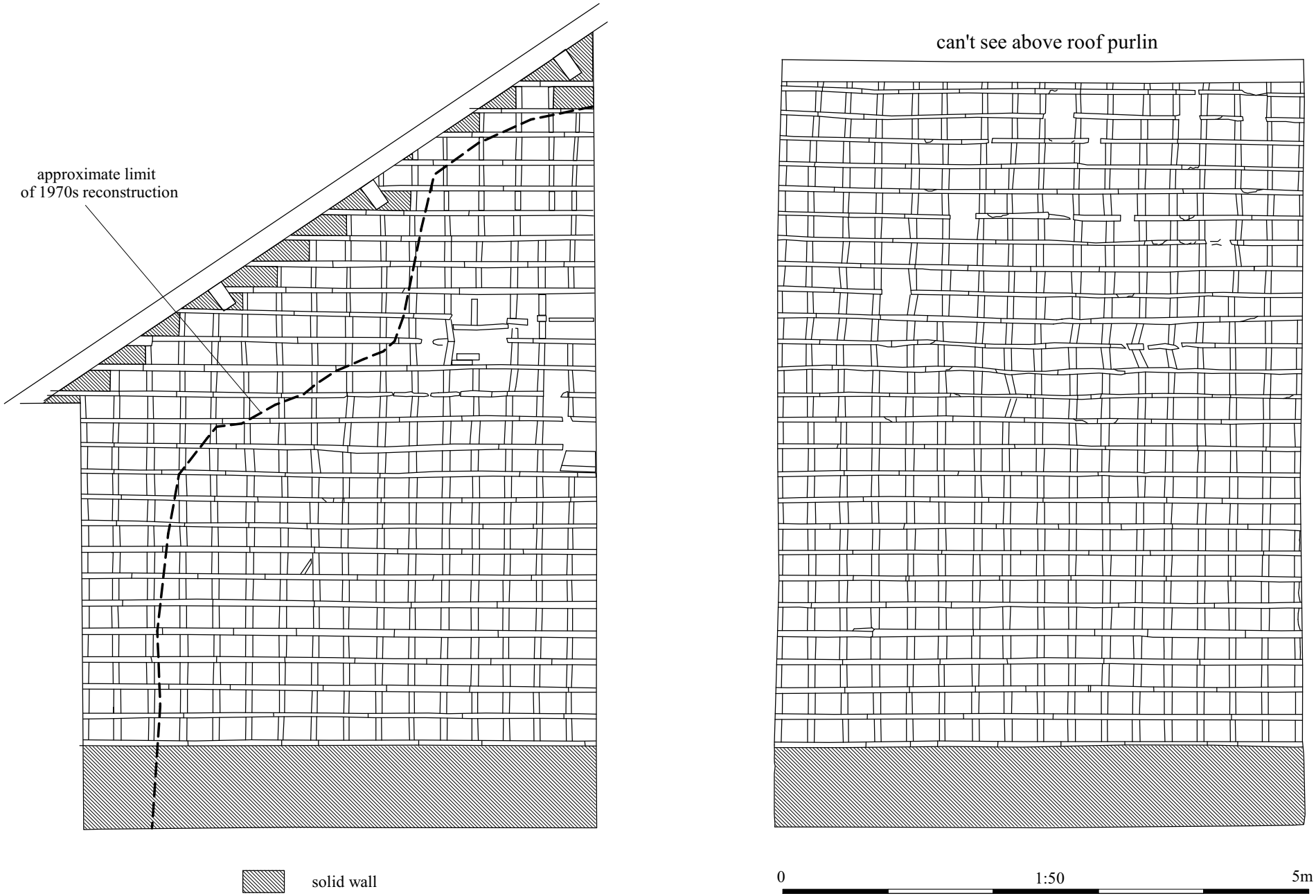
Illus 5

# Rear Elevation



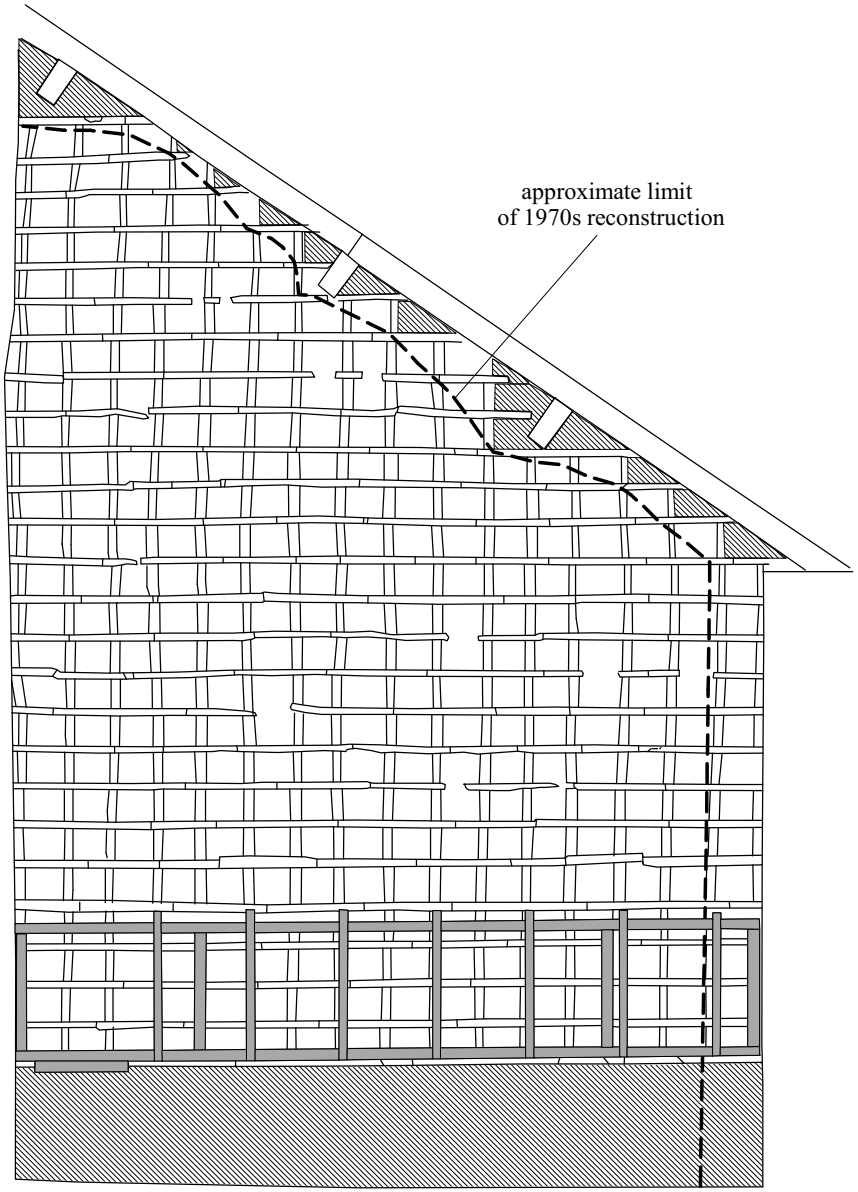
Illus 6

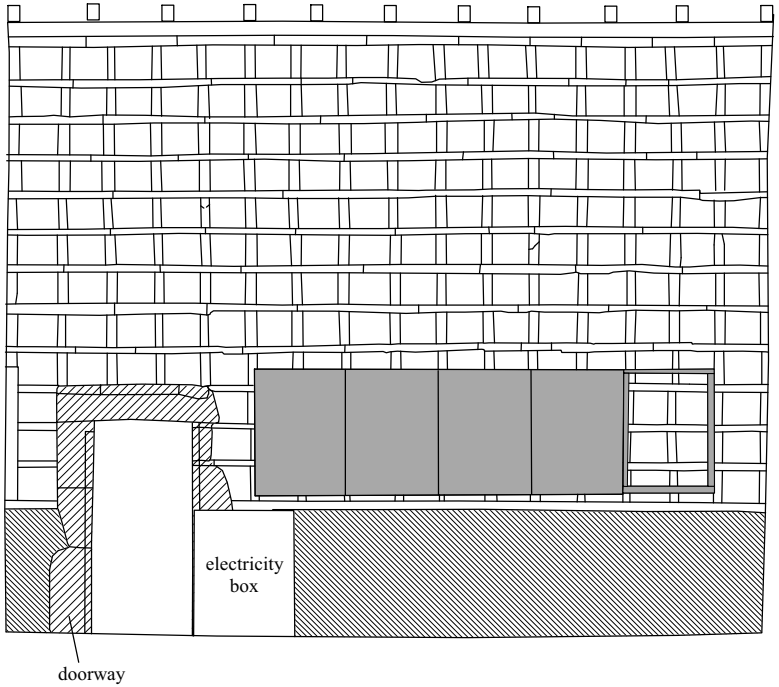
# W and N internal elevations, Room A



Illus 7

# E and S internal elevations, Room A




solid wall

modern wood and information panels

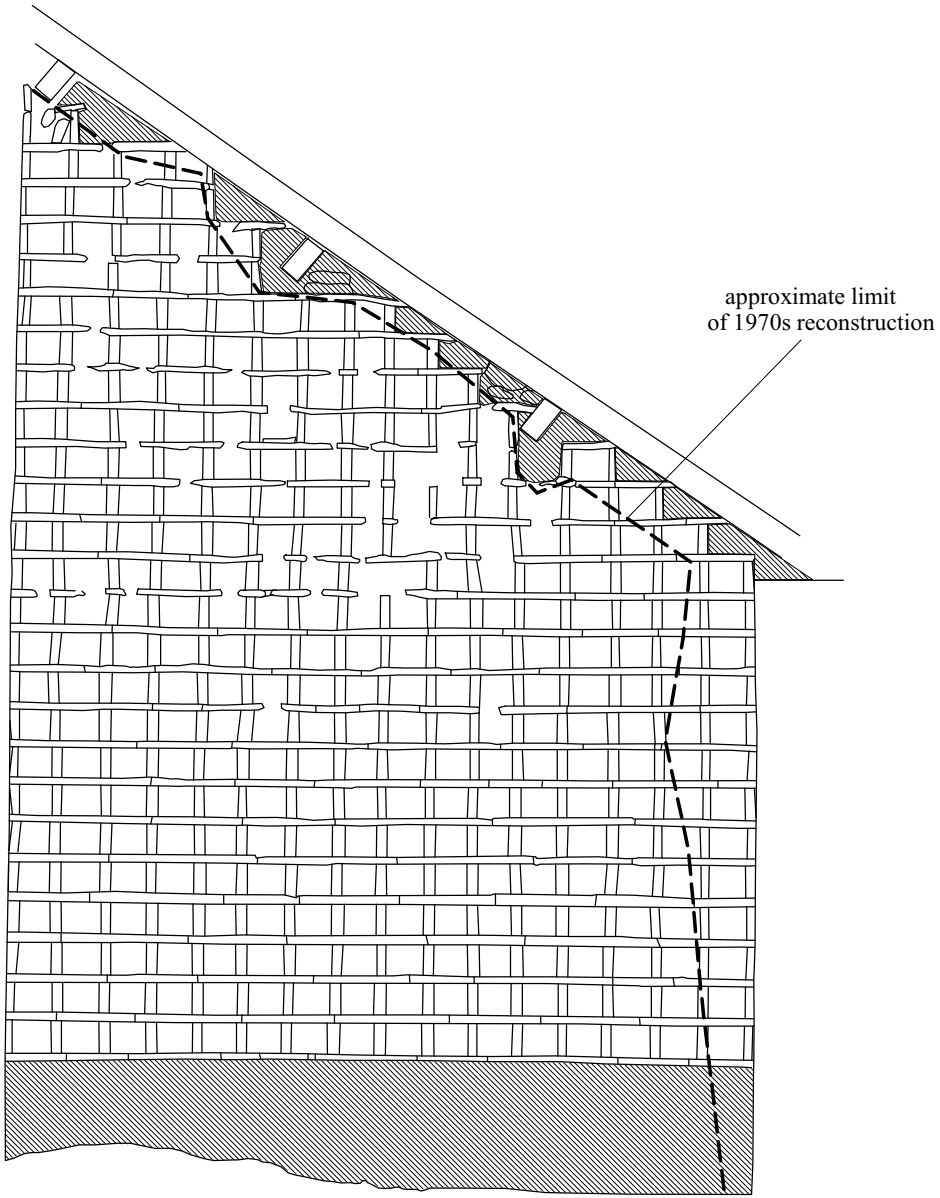
0 1:50 5m

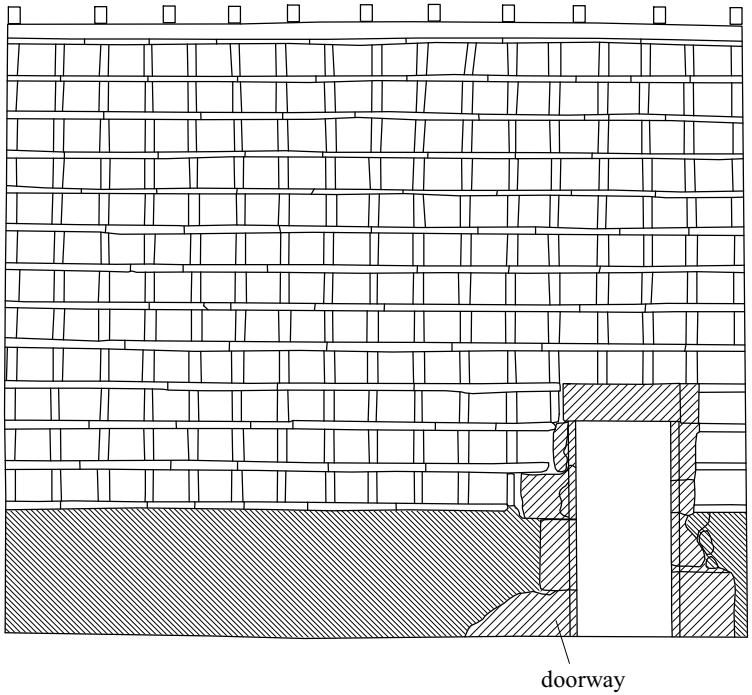
Illus 8

# W and N internal elevations, Room B

Illus 9

# E and S internal elevations, Room B




solid wall

0 1:50 5m