

Archaeological Building Recording
Old Lodge
Straloch
BLAIRGOWRIE
BW08



Old Lodge, S Front. Bothy to Left

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

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Authors David Perry MA, FSA Scot and David Bowler BA, MPhil, FSA Scot, MCifA
Illustrators David Bowler and Chris Fyles
Editor David Bowler

ABSTRACT

A record of Straloch Old Lodge (NGR NO 0413 6422, site code BW08) was drawn up for Hebridean Contemporary Homes Ltd in December 2014 and January 2015.

Photographs, Drawings and Historical / Cartographic research show the development of this rural building, part of a settlement recorded from 1451 on, and extant as a farmhouse by 1862. It was later developed as a shooting lodge, and finally demolished in 2014.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Hebridean Contemporary Homes Ltd commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological building record (Alder site code BW08) on the Old Lodge, Straloch, Blairgowrie, Perth and Kinross. The building was originally a farmhouse, later a shooting lodge, latterly a dwelling house at NGR NO 0413 6422.

The work was in fulfilment of the archaeological condition on development application reference 14/00896/FLL.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

Since the building was demolished before the survey could be undertaken, the requirement was to record as much of the building as could be ascertained from plans, photographs and limited documentary research.

1.3 Reporting

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this standing building survey. Copies will be sent to the client, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and Perth and Kinross Historic Environment Record.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

This standing building recording is designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development. Terms of Reference dated 30/7/2014 were supplied by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust. The requirement was to record the building to English Heritage Level 2 standard, with a written summary of the building's form, function, location, age, type of building and description of the buildings development; a photographic survey; and a basic building plan.

1.5 Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Sean Edwards of Hebridean Contemporary Homes Ltd and Sarah Malone and Sarah Winlow of Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust for their assistance and guidance throughout this project. Hebridean Contemporary Homes Ltd funded this report on behalf of their client.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1 – 2)

Straloch is located some 25km NW of Blairgowrie and Rattray, and about 1km N of the source of the River Ardle, where the Brerachan Water joins the Allt Fearnach. The A924 runs NW up Strathardle to Straloch, before turning W and S to Pitlochry. The Old Lodge and adjacent Keeper's Cottage lay 0.25km N of the A924, and 0.5km E of Straloch House, just below the 290m contour line.

The Old Lodge was set back on the north side of a driveway with a yard in front and a grassed area to the rear. The Lodge and adjacent Keeper's Cottage were set out side by side, both facing S, probably to maximise the view to Kindrogan Hill, and available

daylight. Both were rather similar in layout, symmetrical, with a central porch, and three gablets on the first floor. The Lodge was to the east, and set back from the Keeper's Cottage. Between them was a connecting corridor at the rear, and in front a corrugated-iron garage referred to as the Bothy, built before 1968 (Valuation Rolls, 3.3 below). The ground to the rear (N) rises steeply to the summit of Creag an t-Sithein (635m), making the N side of the buildings rather dark and damp. In fact the N elevation of the Lodge was completely windowless.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

The farmstead at Straloch is recorded on the 'First Edition' OS map, dating the buildings prior to the 1862. The farmstead as depicted on the 'First Edition' OS map comprised one unroofed building, nine roofed buildings and three enclosures. The demolished building was one of two surviving roofed buildings and is considered of historic interest in the Perth and Kinross Historic Environment Record and in the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland's Canmore database.

2.3 Archaeological Method

Since the building had been demolished prior to the photographic survey, photographs supplied by Hebridean Contemporary Homes Ltd were used to interpret the building. Limited documentary research was conducted using maps and valuation rolls.

3 Results of Historical Investigation

3.1 Introduction

The lordship of Straloch in Perthshire was part of the earldom of Atholl. From at least 1451 lands in Straloch were held by a branch of the Robertson family that was also known as Reid. The estate was sold in 1778 for debt. The last member of the family was General John Reid, a musician as well as a soldier, who died in 1807, leaving an endowment to Edinburgh University to found a chair of music (Robertson 1887). Straloch was bought by the Butters of Faskally and remained with that estate until it was sold again in 1910, when it was bought by George Clark.

3.2 Cartographic Evidence

Early maps by Pont (c1583-96), Roy (1747-55), Stobie (1783) and Thomson (1827) were examined.

Straloch is named on Pont's map. Roy names 'Strathloch' but between four settlements, two comprising two buildings, one of three buildings and one of four buildings. Neither Stobie nor Thomson show or name Straloch.

The site of the Old Lodge is shown on the OS 'First Edition', surveyed in 1862, as Mains of Straloch, a farmstead comprising one unroofed, nine roofed buildings and three enclosures. By 1899, of the buildings only three buildings remained: Straloch Lodge, comprising two adjacent buildings linked by a corridor, and a separate Kennels to the west. By 1977, a garage had been built between the two buildings of the Old Lodge.

The development of the Old Lodge can be traced through the OS maps. In 1862 the building was a farmhouse with a garden in front (south) and on the west side and a yard to the rear (north). Attached to the front was an entrance porch and on the west side of the rear was a kitchen extension, the whole forming an L-shaped building. By 1899 two stepped extensions, for a passage and laundry, had been added to the house over the garden to the west and a corridor linked the passage to an adjacent building to the south-west. An extension had been added to the rear wing, a single-storey, lean-to shed and two other sheds were added at the angle of the kitchen extension and main wing.

3.3 Valuation Rolls

The Valuation Rolls for the County of Perth give an indication of the status of the building. In 1858-9 Straloch was part of Faskally estate. The farm of Mains of Straloch was tenanted by Thomas Farquharson at a yearly rental valuation of £146. The 'Shootings' of Straloch were combined with those of Cairndhu at an annual rental of £120 and held by C Holland Corbett, Esq, of Cheltenham. By 1866-7 the farm of Mains of Straloch was combined with that of Cottertown of Straloch to form a single farm. The Lodge and Shootings of Straloch are first recorded in 1878-9, when they were occupied by James Mansfield of Edinburgh. Presumably the old farmhouse was converted into the lodge between those dates and most of the other buildings were cleared.

In 1911-12 the estate of Straloch belonged to George Aitken Clark. The Lodge and Shootings were tenanted by Thomas and Harold Kay at a valuation of £240. A 'House' at Straloch, tenanted by the Kays, was inhabited by Alexander Farquharson, while a 'Mansion House' at Straloch was 'Building'. The latter house is Straloch House, the current house, at NGR NO 03658 64120, built in 1911. Farquharson was described as inhabiting the Lodge in 1908-09.

In 1912-13 the building was the 'Old Lodge', divided in two parts with a rental value of £10 per annum, both unoccupied. Perhaps the two buildings linked by the passage were now to be occupied by estate workers. Thereafter, the Old Lodge remained as two occupancies. By 1968/9 a Garage had been built.

The name 'Mains of Straloch' indicates that the farm had originally been part of the demesne land of the Straloch estate, that is it was held directly by the laird, not leased to a tenant. The Robertson or Reid lairds did not reside at Straloch but at Inverchroskie.

4 Photographic and Drawn Record

Twenty-five digital images were supplied by Sean Edwards of Hebridean Contemporary Homes Ltd, taken externally, and on the ground and first floors. These are listed and described in detail in Appendix 1. Also supplied were plans and elevation drawings made by Finlayson Hughes in 1995 (Illus 5 – 8), in connection with a proposed modernisation ultimately abandoned.

These show a fairly simple, symmetrical layout of three rooms on each floor; central hall with two sitting rooms on the ground floor; central bathroom with two bedrooms on the first floor. In the S was a small, central, stone-built entrance porch. To the N was an extension with kitchen on the ground floor and a small bedroom on the first.

In the re-entrant angle between the main block and the kitchen block was a small square tower block. On the ground floor was a single windowless room with an external door but no connection to the rest of the house. This could have been an outside lavatory or a coal store. On the first floor was a single room with a small window, perhaps a box room. On the N side of the tower block had been a single-storey shed also with an external door; this shed was demolished in 1995 when a window was inserted into the adjoining kitchen wall. The roof scar of this former shed was still visible in 2014 (see Illus 5, 7, 8 and 11)

To the W was a ground floor extension comprising a small laundry room and connecting corridor to the Keeper's cottage.

One peculiarity of construction is the visible boulder foundation in the E gable wall and adjacent parts of the N and S walls. Large boulder foundations are a traditional feature of rural buildings in Perthshire, and the visibility here may only be because the slope of ground exposes the foundations at this point. It is possible that this end of the building is a surviving fragment of an earlier phase, incorporated into an expanded building later, perhaps reflected in the transition seen in the Cartographic Evidence (3.2 above), between 1862 and 1899.

The rooms had cast-iron fireplaces in the gable end walls. Investigations prior to the recent demolition showed that the walls were generally lined with lath and plaster. On the ground floor, the W room was lined to waist height with tongue and groove boarding, while the E room had been lined from floor to ceiling, covering up mid 20th-century wallpaper on lath and plaster. Every room in the Lodge had three external stone walls. The Lodge was located about 1,000 feet above sea level, partly set into rising ground to the N, and overshadowed by Kindrogan Hill to the S. It is not difficult to guess that rising damp and bitter cold may have been recurring problems at most times of the year, to which the timber lining may have been a response.

On the first floor, a curious feature in the E and W bedrooms is the small cupboards set into the thickness of the S wall in each room. Wall alcove cupboards are very common either side of a fireplace, where they occur 'naturally' as a result of the thickness of the chimney breast, but here they seem to have been inserted by deliberately thinning the outside wall specially for the purpose.

In the first-floor bathroom, the cast-iron bath tub with the distinctive arrangement of taps and remote-controlled waste pipe on a cast iron bridge at the end of the bath is a feature which has been seen in other farm cottages in Perthshire. Scotland, especially Glasgow, was an important centre for the production of sanitary wares, Shanks of Barrhead being a legendary example. The People's Palace Museum in Glasgow boasts a truly astonishing cast-iron bathtub and shower with pipes and valves to rival a fairground organ, while a very closely related example graces Kinloch Castle on the Isle of Rum, holiday home of Sir George Bullough, and frequent resort of his friend King Edward VII.

5 Conclusions

5.1

The Old Lodge at Straloch was not, as far as one can tell, a building of exceptional character, and by the end of its life may have been a difficult place to inhabit. Nevertheless, it preserved some interesting and curious features of rural architecture in Perthshire. Despite its premature demolition, the drawings, photographs and documentary evidence have preserved enough information to give a good account of its history, development and form.

6 Bibliography

Cartographic

OS 1867 Ordnance Survey [First Edition], Perth and Clackmannan Sheet XXXII.2 (Moulin) (surveyed 1862). 1:2500.

OS 1899 Ordnance Survey, Second Edition 1899, Perthshire Sheet XXXII.2 (revised 1898). 1:2500.

OS 1977 Ordnance Survey, NO 06 SW. 1:10,000.

Pont, T c1583-96 [Strathardle, Glenshee and Glenericht] (Pont 27).

Roy, W 1747-55 Military Survey, Sheet 17/2.

Stobie, J 1783 'The counties of Perth and Clackmannan'.

Thomson, J 1827 'Perthshire with Clackmannan'.

Bibliographic

Robertson, J 1887 *The Baron Reid-Robertsons of Straloch*. Blairgowrie: Blairgowrie Advertiser.

Valuation Rolls of the County of Perth, Perth and Kinross Council Archive, CC1, 8/1.

Appendix 1 Photographic Register

<i>No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
	01 External	
001	S Front, distant view. Keepers' Cottage (L), Bothy (Centre) and Old Lodge (R).	N
002	Old Lodge, S Front, with Bothy to Left. Bothy , corrugated iron walls and roof. Cast iron gutters and down pipes. Half-round	WNW

	<p>gutters. Two sash and case windows in E wall, four pane, wooden frame.</p> <p>Lodge, two storey, rendered, painted cream. Sash and case windows, two pane, except front porch side window, three pane, probably casement.</p> <p>Front door traditional vertical tongue and groove boards, with modern brass-effect letter box.</p> <p>Cast iron gutters and down pipes. Half-round gutters. Half-octagon hoppers. Gutters fixed on fascia boards on ends of exposed rafters and purlins extending beyond wall head. Waste from bathroom feeds into rainwater pipe to E of porch, via additional hopper.</p> <p>All lodge roofs slated, including front porch and gablets over first-floor windows. Slightly rough, thick, grey slates, possibly scotch. Possibly slightly diminishing courses. Zinc ridges and valleys.</p>	
003 - 4	<p>Old Lodge, East Elevation and rear extension.</p> <p>East gable wall blank. Odd, cantilevered extension to fascia board at NE corner, to disguise asymmetric roof design. S eaves project beyond wall head; N eaves are flush to wall head, hence higher. Cast-iron roof light in N slope of roof, close to stair tower.</p> <p>Foundation of N wall formed of prominent large boulders, esp at NE corner. Also, less prominent, at SE corner. Traditional rural construction method, especially in dry stane dykes. N wall mostly blank, as far as rear extension. Construction obscured by render, but seems rough and bulging.</p> <p>Double chimney stack at E and W gable ends of main block. Large octagonal ceramic chimney pots, except that S pot on E stack is missing. Projecting slate courses at top and bottom of chimney stacks to shed rain. Detail of construction obscured by render.</p> <p>Rear extension (kitchen block) is two storey, with two-pane sash and case window on each floor. Half-round cast-iron gutters. Small cast iron downpipe a NE corner.</p> <p>Single chimney stack in centre of N gable wall, with octagonal ceramic pot. N wall otherwise blank. Roof ridged and slated as main block. Same height. Much sagging of ridge.</p> <p>Re-entrant between kitchen block and main block is occupied by small square tower, with back door in shadow on E wall. Cement / mortar fillet in re-entrant between tower and kitchen block shows position of single-storey lean-to structure, removed before most recent re-painting. Cast iron vent pipe on E wall of stair tower, but no visible outfalls. Small, three-pane casement window at first floor level. Tower has hipped roof, similar to rest of building, but lower.</p> <p>Low stone and timber structure with corrugated iron lean-to roof, to N of kitchen block. Firewood store? Rising ground to N clearly above internal floor levels, likely to cause damp.</p>	WSW
005	<p>Old Lodge, S Front. Bothy to Left.</p> <p>Lodge, symmetrical layout, with central porch and four windows on ground floor, three windows on first floor, central window slightly smaller. Boulder foundation seen in E gable wall continues round to S front wall, at least as far W as first window. Not seen W of central porch.</p> <p>Roof slates possibly in diminishing courses. Some sagging of roof at either end, close to chimneys.</p>	N

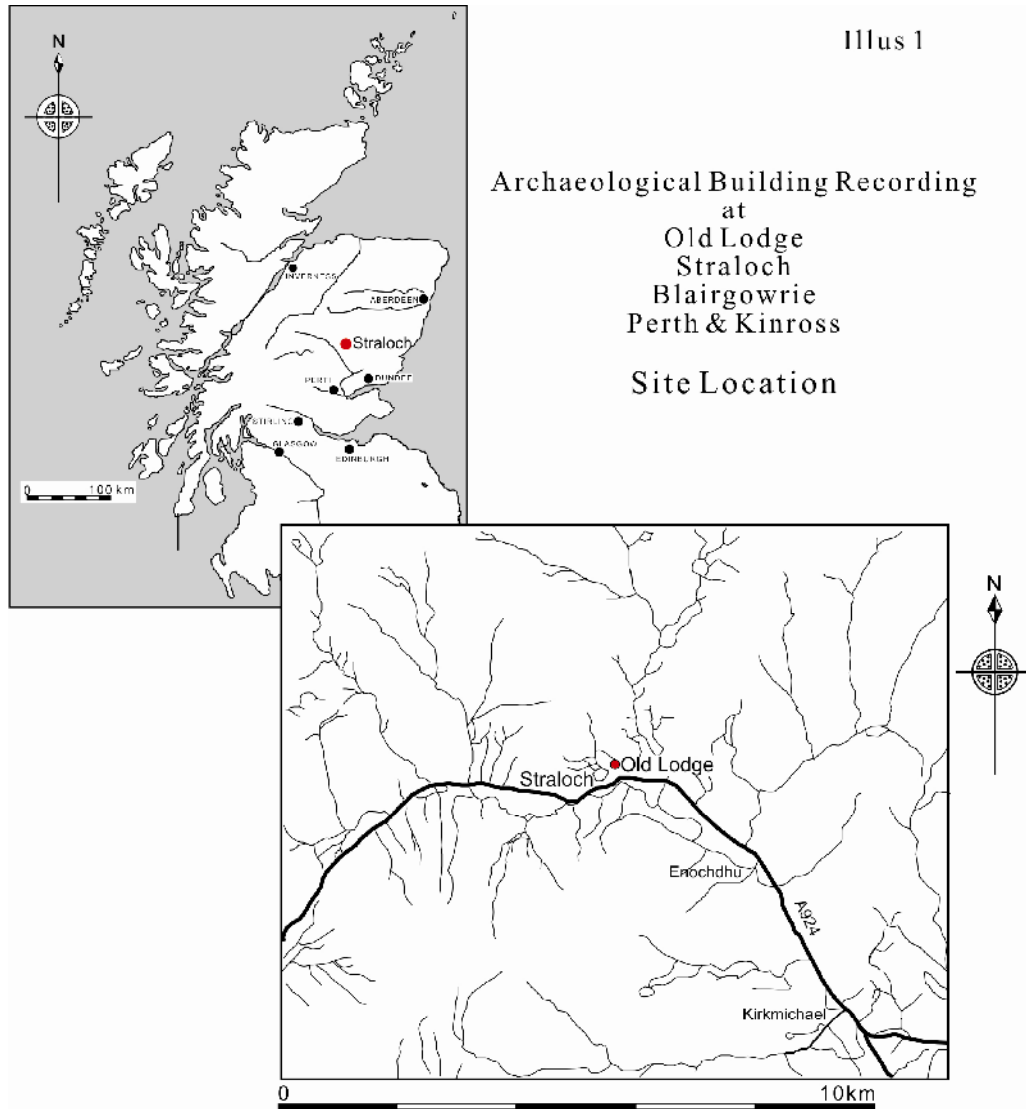
	Bothy has corrugated iron S end wall, with central double doors and concrete entry ramp for vehicles, and decorative timber work over central doors.	
006	Old Lodge, with Keeper's Cottage to W. General similarity of layout, but notable differences. Keeper's cottage has thin lime wash over rubble, not thick render. Smaller windows. Only 2 windows on ground floor, not four. Wooden porch, not stone. T-plan triple chimney stacks. No projecting slate course at base.	NW
007	Old Lodge W extension showing connection to Keeper's Cottage. Single storey extension against W gable wall of Lodge, with hipped roof and rubble masonry walls with thin lime wash. Two sash and case windows. Single storey extension to S wall of Keeper's Cottage, lean-to roof. Connects with bothy and Old Lodge extension.	SSE
	02 Ground Floor	
008	Old Lodge inside front door. Porch lined with vertical tongue and groove pine boards, probably 20 th cent. Also on ceiling. Internal front door is in two parts, with woodgrain effect paint (scumbled), doors half glazed. Internal hall has late 20 th -century or early 21 st century laminate flooring.	N
009	Old Lodge East front room windows. Room lined with vertical wooden boards, papered and painted over. Window splays lined with narrower tongue and groove boards. Wooden shutters still in place. Late 19 th – early 20 th century? Six-panel door in SW corner of room leads to entrance hallway. .	S
010	Old Lodge East front room. East gable wall with 19 th cent fireplace in situ, tile and cast iron.. Vertical lining boards partly removed to reveal earlier wall finishes. Include mid-20 th cent wallpaper, lath and plaster, and plaster on the hard. Bottom 0.5 m of wall has solid grey cement finish behind boards and wallpaper.	NE
011	Old Lodge West sitting room from hallway. Hallway lined with vertical tongue and groove boards to shoulder height, and on ceiling. Interesting curved partition wall. Light panel door to sitting room. Sitting room has fireplace in W gable wall, with bright blue tile surround, perhaps mid 20 th -century. Tongue and grove boarding to waist height on gable wall. Door to kitchen at N end of hall, vertical planks with ledgers and diagonal brace, traditional farm cottage type.	NW
012	Old Lodge W sitting room, windows to S front. Walls lined with tongue and groove boarding to waist height. Window splays fully lined. Shutters still in place. Doorway to hall is six-panel, but lightly built.	S
013	Old Lodge W sitting room. NW corner of room. General view of tile fireplace. Lining boards removed behind storage heater to reveal air space and masonry of N wall. N wall apparently windowless, probably due to slope of ground behind.	NW
014	Old Lodge Kitchen East window (not original). Deep splay indicates thickness of wall. Low, boarded ceiling. Mid 20 th -century cupboards and fittings. N wall windowless, due to fuel store and slope of ground beyond.	NE
015	Old Lodge kitchen in rear extension. W window.	NW

016	Old Lodge kitchen showing corridor that used to connect to Keeper's Cottage. Traditional plank door leads to W extension. Door does not open more than seen here, suggest late insertion or re-organisation. Sash and case window ahead is in W wall of main block, not in W extension, visible externally through window.	W
017	Old Lodge staircase. Plain, but with complicated curves. Late 19th - Early 20 th cent?	N
018	Old Lodge stairs from first floor landing. Detail, curved handrail of banister. Passage to E bedroom ahead.	E
	03 First Floor	
019	Old Lodge, East bedroom. Single sash and case window in S front wall. Cast iron fireplace in E gable wall. Low door in SW corner gives access cupboard in thickness of wall.	SE
020	Old Lodge, East bedroom. Single sash and case window in S front wall. Low door in SW corner gives access to cupboard in wall thickness.	SSW
021	Old Lodge first floor West bedroom. Single sash and case window in S front wall. Cast iron fireplace in W gable wall. Roof of bothy and of keeper's cottage visible through window.	SW
022	Old Lodge West bedroom. Old Lodge first floor West bedroom. Single sash and case window in S front wall. Cast iron fireplace in W gable wall. Test hole in wall over fireplace shows lath and plaster.	WSW
023	Old Lodge first floor rear bedroom. Sash and case window in W wall (compare external view, image 004). Wooden shutter still visible. Cast iron fireplace in N gable wall. Cupboard in wall thickness beside. Coombed ceiling over window. Test holes in wall show lath and plaster.	NE
024	Old Lodge bathroom. Single window in centre of S wall over porch (Compare images 002 and 005, where drain pipes confirm location of bathroom over porch and entrance hall.) Modern (late 20 th – early 21 st cent) pedestal wash basin, but marks on wall of earlier cast-iron brackets. Early lead piping in NW corner of room, with integrated mounting tabs. Original bath against N wall. Narrowness of room indicates passage on N side to access W bedroom.	ESE
025	Old Lodge original bath. Enamelled cast iron. Cast-iron bridge supports taps and remote-operated waste plug. Ingenious but impossible to clean! Type seen in other farm cottages in Perthshire. Early 20 th century? Glasgow a major centre of production.	E

Appendix 2 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Old Lodge, Straloch
PROJECT CODE:	BW08
PARISH:	Moulin
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	David Perry and David Bowler
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Historic Building Record
RCAHMS NO(S):	NO06SW31
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Farmstead
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	Site centred on NO 0413 6422
START DATE	01 Dec 2014
END DATE	06 January 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Photographs, Drawings and Historical / Cartographic research show the development of this rural building, part of a settlement recorded from 1451 on, and extant as a farmhouse by 1862. It was later developed as a shooting lodge, and finally demolished in 2014.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Hebridean Contemporary Homes Ltd on behalf of their clients.
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

Illus 1

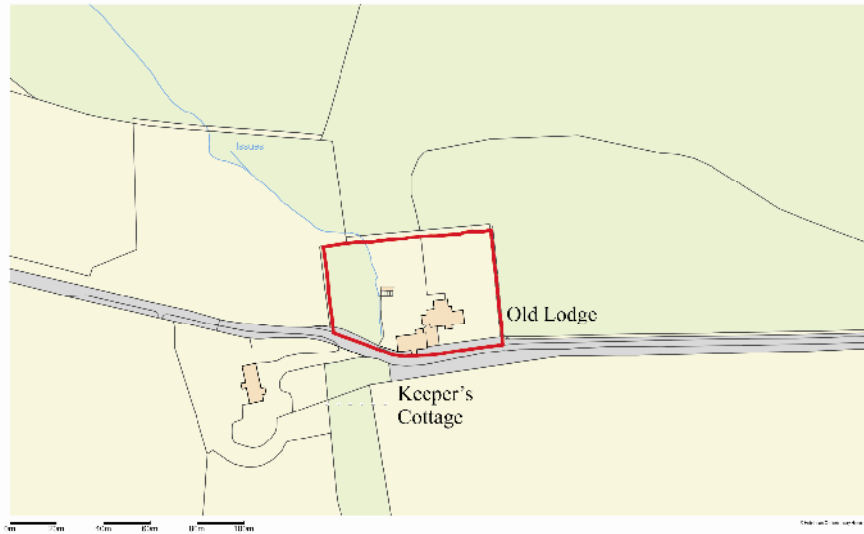


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Old Lodge, Straloch, Site Plan

Illus 2

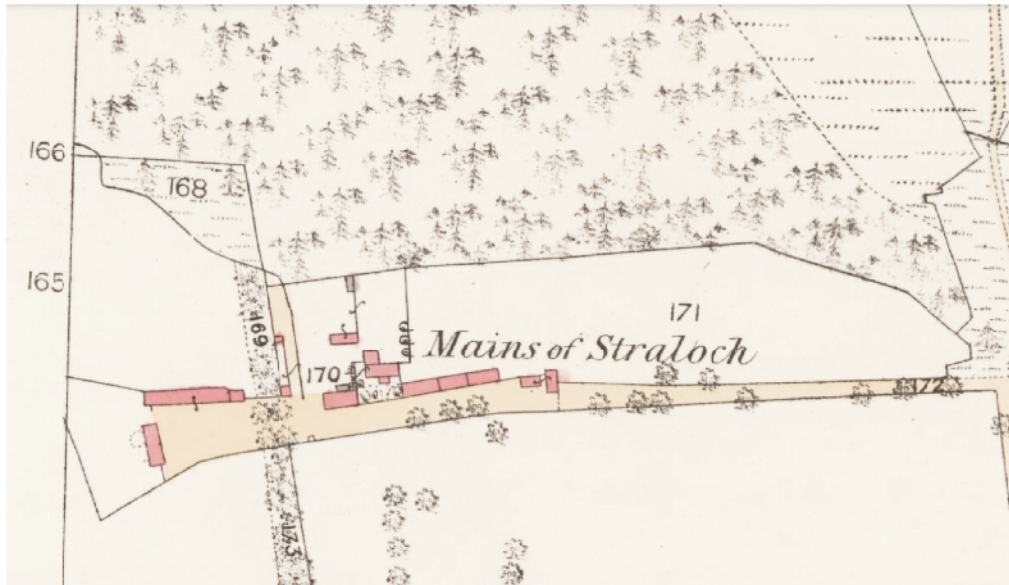


Site Plan as drawn by Hebridean Contemporary Homes Ltd, 26 March 2013

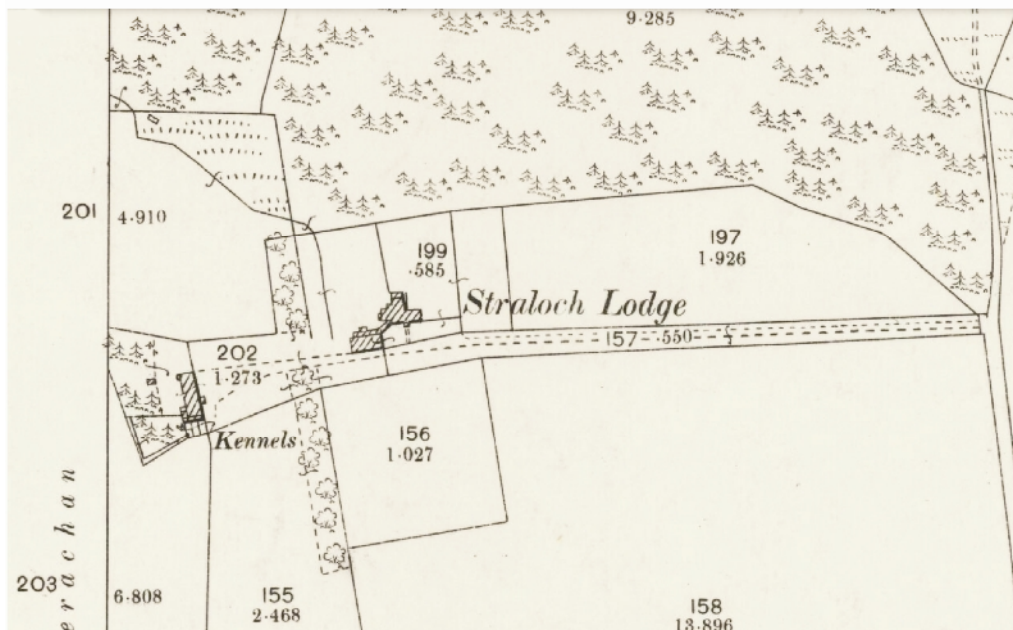
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Old Lodge, Straloch

Illus 3 - 4



3 Extract from OS 1867, showing Lodge with kitchen to rear, and Keeper's Cottage



4 Extract from OS 1899, showing Lodge and Keeper's Cottage linked by passage

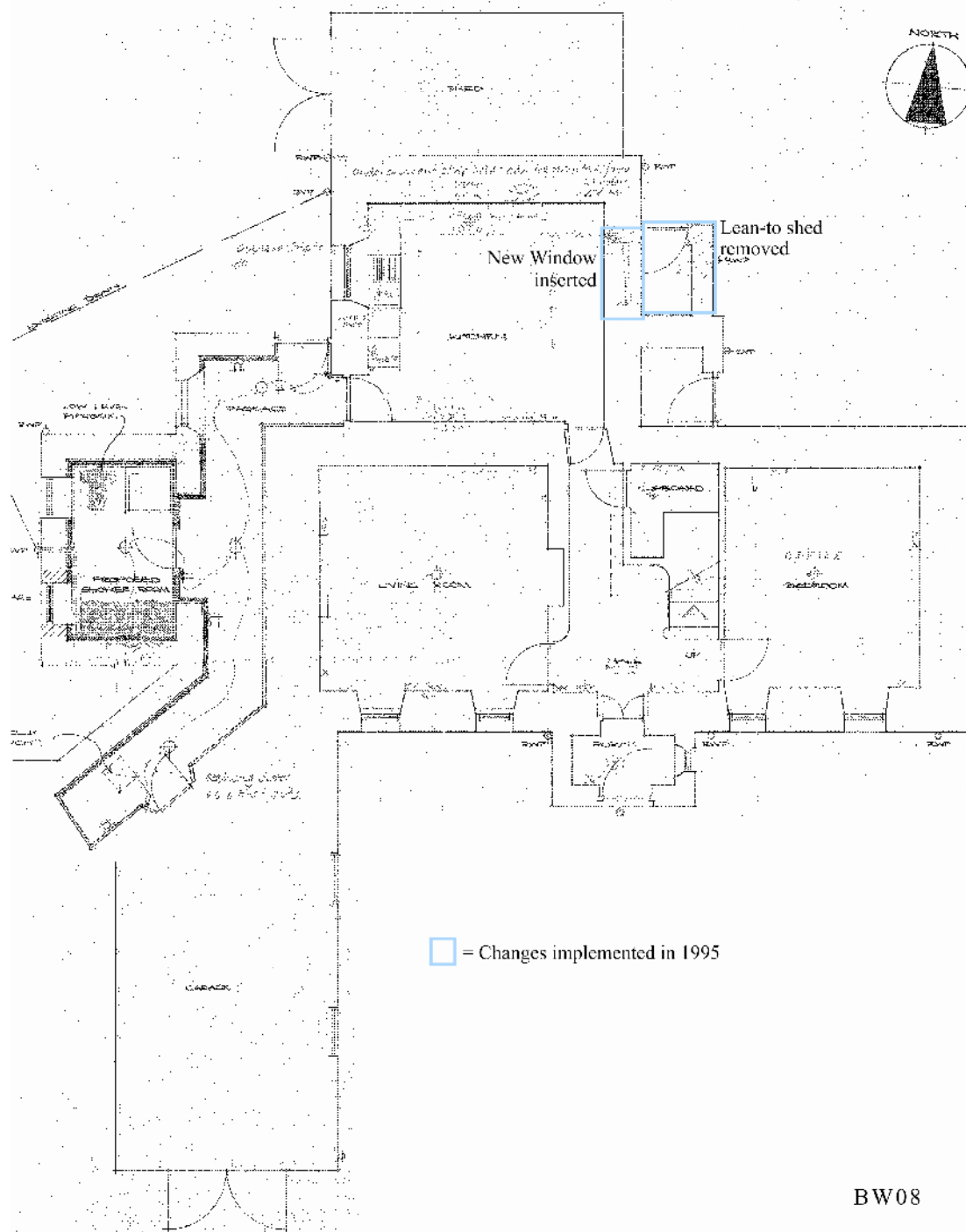
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Old Lodge, Straloch

Illus 5

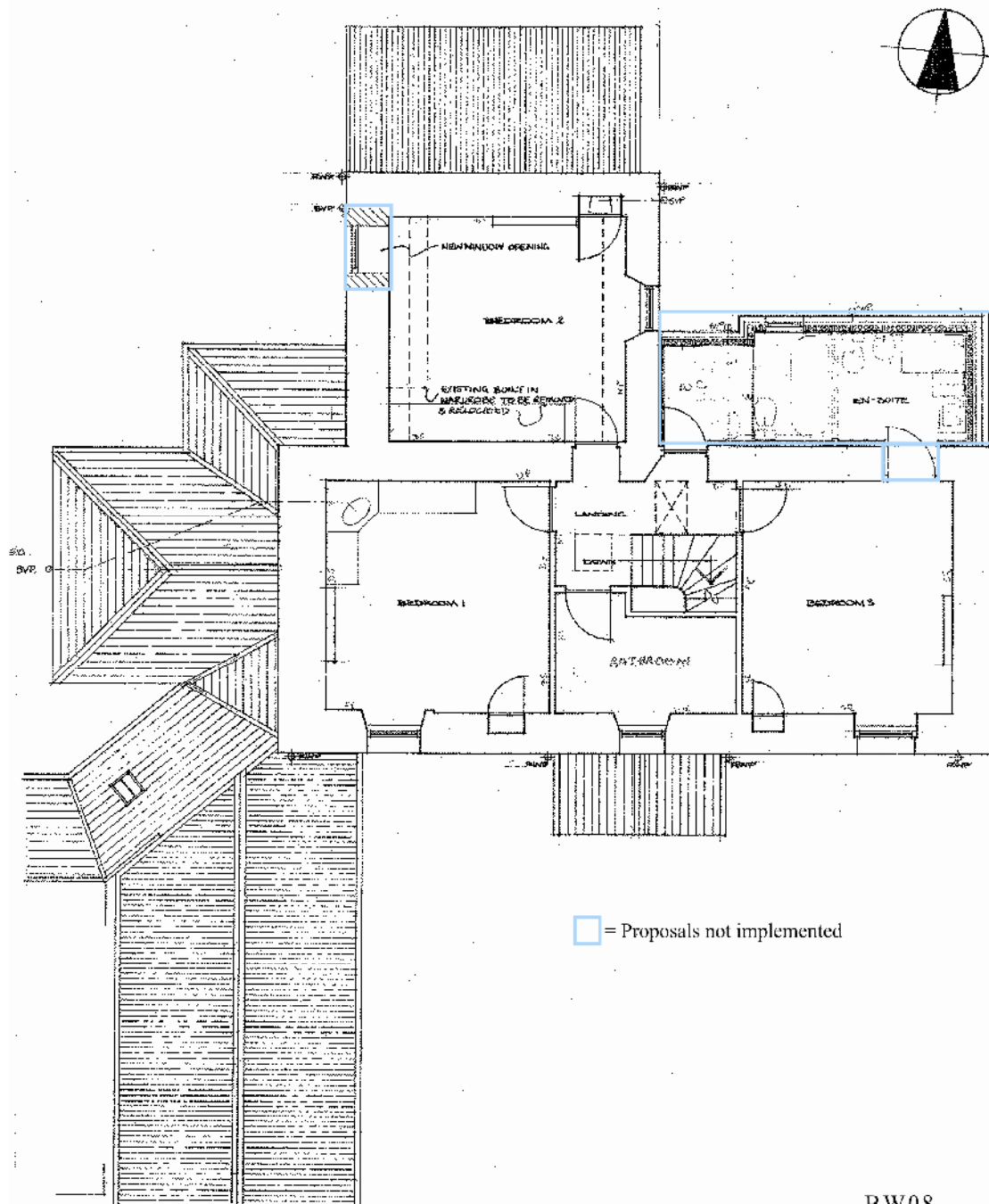
Ground Floor Plan as drawn by Finlayson Hughes, 28 April 1995



Old Lodge, Straloch

Illus 6

First Floor Plan as drawn by Finlayson Hughes, 13 March 1995



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Old Lodge, Straloch

Illus 7

N and S elevations as drawn by Finlayson Hughes, 02 March 1995

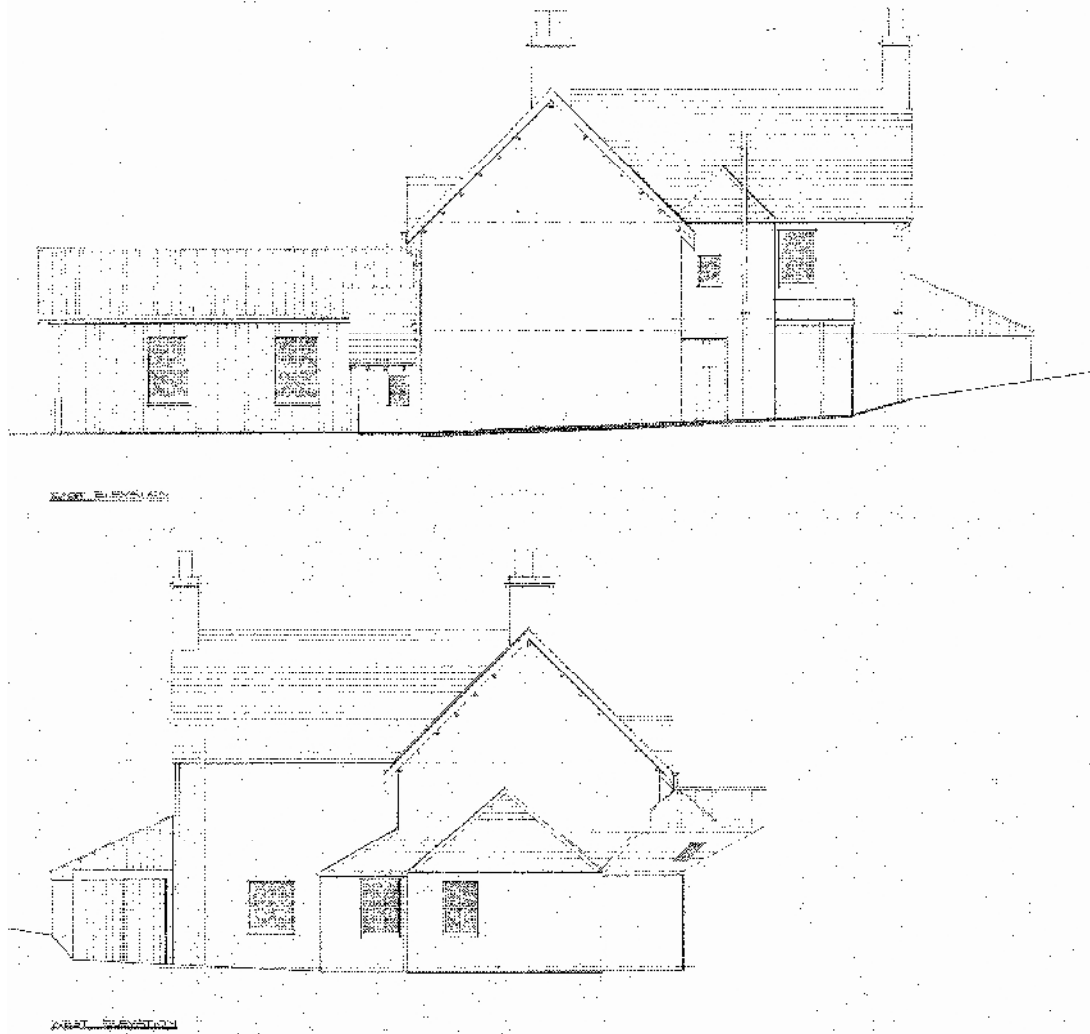


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Old Lodge, Straloch

Illus 8

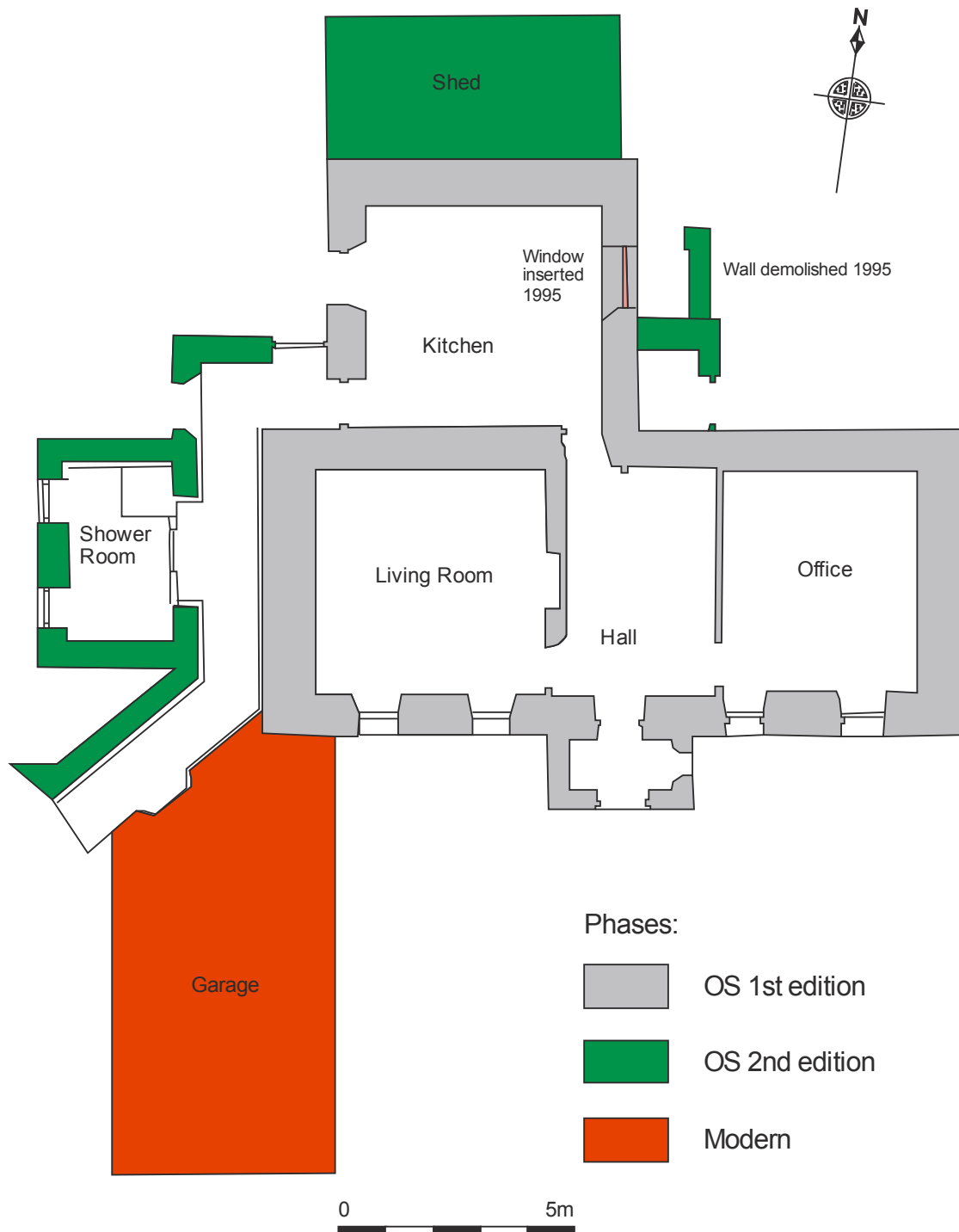
E and W elevations as drawn by Finlayson Hughes, 02 March 1995



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Illus 9

Phases of construction (ground floor plan)



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Old Lodge, Straloch

Illus 10 - 15



10 Old Lodge and Bothy, view NW



11 Old Lodge, E elevation



12 Ground Floor, E Room



13 Ground Floor, W Room



14 First Floor, E Room



15 First Floor, Bathtub

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