

Archaeological Standing Building Survey  
Denend Farm Steading  
Newtyle  
ANGUS  
NT01



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STANDING  
BUILDING SURVEY  
DENEND FARM STEADING  
NEWTYLE, ANGUS**

**NT01**

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*Illustration 1: Site location plan*

*Illustration 2: Denend Farm, Newtyle, steading*

*Illustration 3: Main Exterior Elevations*

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**Editor** David Bowler, BA, MPhil, FSA Scot, MCIfA

## **ABSTRACT**

*Alder Archaeology undertook a Level 1 archaeological standing building survey of a steading on the site of a new build dwelling house development at Denend Farm, Newtyle. The proposed development area includes the steading, much of which was to be demolished, centred on NGR NO 30690 41903. The work (site code NT01) was undertaken on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015 in fine weather conditions. The construction and development sequence of the steading was elucidated, with an original 'L' plan steading having been constructed in local red sandstone during the early Nineteenth Century, amended to form a 'U' plan shortly afterwards and with the internal courtyard finally roofed to create a filled-in polygon. An accompanying outbuilding had probably been a smithy, contemporary with the original steading.*

## **1 Background**

### **1.1 Introduction**

Project Management Scotland Ltd commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological standing building survey of a steading on the site of a new build dwelling house development at Denend Farm, Newtyle. The proposed development area includes the steading, much of which was to be demolished, centred on NGR NO 30690 41903. The work (site code NT01) was undertaken on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015 in fine weather conditions. The requirement was to conduct a Level 1 survey as per ALGAO guidelines.

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 15/00625/PPPL.

### **1.2 Aims and Objectives**

The main aim of this investigation was to record the nature and form of the building fabric and structure, taking particular note of any evidence of construction phasing.

### **1.3 Reporting**

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this survey. Copies will be sent to the client, NMRS / Historic Environment Scotland, and Angus Sites and Monuments Record.

### **1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues**

This survey is designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development.

### **1.5 Acknowledgements**

Project Management Scotland Ltd funded this survey.

## **2 Details of Work**

### **2.1 The Site (Illus 1)**

The steading, situated on sloping ground on the southeast side of the Balkeerie-Newtyle road, consisted of a single large polygonal building, the major axis of which was aligned northeast-southwest, with a smaller accompanying outbuilding to the southwest. A stream flowed alongside the northeast edge of the main building, from the slopes of Kinpurnie Hill to the southeast; the hill slope was retained by a stone-built wall which formed a covered passage along the southeast edge of the main building. Denend Farmhouse lay to the southwest of the steading and outwith the development area.

### **2.2 Archaeological Potential**

The steading had been part of a dairy farm, which however appears not to have been actively used for milk production on site since the 1980s (a beef herd of Charolais cattle

replaced the dairy herd around this time). The initial construction of the steading building may date from the earlier 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

### 2.3 Archaeological Method

A Level 1 survey required the creation of a full photographic record of the interior and exterior of the buildings, along with measured floor plans and elevations and a narrative account of the building fabric, construction method and development sequence.

### 2.4 Results of Investigations

The steading was clearly of multi-phase construction, with a prominent modern extension on the northwest side built of breeze blocks with a corrugated iron roof and poured concrete floor. The building fabric of the northeast, southeast and southwest sides, in contrast, was of un-rendered red sandstone, consisting of squared and frequently stugged blocks and snecked infill, with patches of rubble wall. This suggested an original plan of 'L' or 'U' shape, around a central courtyard subsequently filled to create a covered rectangle. Closer inspection revealed that the south-western "arm" of the 'U' shape was separated from the remainder by an internal passage measuring 1.45m wide and connected only via the lintel of a modern door opening to the exterior; the original steading had formed an 'L' shape, therefore. Despite presenting a continuous facade, the steading may be discussed via these apparent internal subdivisions.

#### *North-eastern range*

The wall fabric was of lime-bonded Angus red sandstone squared rubble, some stugged, snecked with regular quoins, standing to between 4m and 5m from the ground at the wall head. The roof was of blue-grey slate, continuing to 6m from the ground at the roof ridge. In plan, the range measured 19.1m long (northwest- southeast) and 6.4m wide. An open-fronted vehicle shed occupied the ground floor of the north-west end of the range, fronting the nearby road, with twin, rectangular arches separated by a central pillar. Internally, the room measured 5.2m wide x 5.5m long, with the walls being 0.61m thick. While the majority of the steading floors were of poured concrete, the vehicle shed floor was of bare earth (possibly overlying cobbles or slabs). A wood-framed door in the southeast elevation connected with the barn beyond at a height of 0.9m from the earth floor. 1.5m to the northeast, a window also opened into the barn at a height of 1.4m above the floor. This was partially obscured by the wooden rafters of the first floor hayloft above, indicating that the latter was a later insertion.

Occupying the remaining 13m of the range, to the rear of the vehicle shed, was a single storey barn with wooden mezzanine accessing the hayloft. The walls beneath the hayloft and mezzanine were partially whitewashed, but the remainder of the barn featured bare stone walls beneath the wooden A-frame roof supports. Due to structural damage to both rafters and stairs, the hayloft was not accessed.

Immediately to the rear of the vehicle shed and to the northeast of the barn, a single storey room measuring 5.5m long extended 2.1m out from the long wall of the main range. This was roofed with smaller slates than the main range and its wall fabric contained noticeably more frequent squared blocks; on this basis, it seems probable than the room represented a later extension from the original building. A bricked-up

sub-rectangular aperture in the main building wall (back wall of the room) connected with the barn. The room had latterly been utilised for general storage.

#### *South-eastern range*

Of the same fabric as the north-eastern range and forming a continuous 'L' shape with it, this was occupied by a single, low-ceilinged room (the wallhead being approximately 2.6m from the raised concrete floor surface. Much of the north end of the room was inaccessible due to a large quantity of stockpiled car tyres, but the room had clearly once been used as a milking shed. Concrete stall dividers projected from the southeast elevation, each stall measuring 2.2m wide and up to 1.2m in height. The floor featured a central drainage trough which may be presumed to have run the length of the milking shed. A brick-cased doorway connected with the passage separating the shed from the south-western range (the south arm of the 'U'), while a stone cased doorway with stone slab threshold, almost certainly an original feature, connected with the enclosed central byre (formerly an open courtyard). Both these doorways were situated in the northwest elevation of the shed, with the brick casing indicating a later insertion in the stone fabric. A third doorway, also cased in brick, opened into the external covered passage to the southeast via the southeast elevation. The walls of the shed were painted, but a bricked-up window was discernible in the southeast elevation above the milking stall opposite the southernmost entrance. The roof of the range was of blue-grey slate, supported on wooden slats.

#### *South-western range*

This comprised a single-storey room measuring 15m long x 4.3m wide (internally) aligned northwest-southeast, also formerly a milking shed, opening to the northwest via double doors. Stalls, since removed, had projected from the southwest elevation, represented by linear breaks in the render surface of the lower wall; each stall measured 1.85m across, with a central vent opening through the wall to the southeast.

The wall fabric of this range was predominantly of the snecked sandstone, although both white-painted and (where the paint had peeled away) of grey stone rather than the red stone used in the original 'L' plan steading. Above the stone fabric, the wall heads of this range had been extended upwards above the level of the south-eastern range, with red brick creating a height of approximately 3m above the external ground surface. This extended wall supported a roof of corrugated iron. A modern slide door in the northwest end of the northeast elevation connected with the modern breeze block extension, which had been constructed against the north side of the range.

#### *Central byre*

Featuring a corrugated roof and somewhat uneven poured concrete floor which sloped markedly to the west and included a roughly central drainage hatch, this appeared to have originally been an open courtyard between the stone-built ranges of the steading. Two whitewashed, concrete and breeze-block constructed feed troughs surmounted by wooden mangers opposed the northwest wall of the south-east range along the south-east side of the byre, across a passage 1.4m wide. Beyond the troughs, the open concrete floor measured 13m diagonally. A bricked-up window was situated in the southwest wall of the northwest range (forming the northeast elevation of the byre), 9m from the west end of the wall and 1.18m from the concrete floor. A window, also

bricked up and measuring 1.32m square, was situated opposite in the southwest range. A central door in this elevation accessed the range beyond. The presence of the blocked windows strongly supported the supposition that the now-enclosed space had previously been an open yard.

#### *Modern extension*

This had probably been a pump room for milk production and storage; pumping/monitoring equipment was still present in one of the two rooms, with the other (larger) room probably being the main store room. The interiors of both rooms were concrete lined, with the building fabric being breeze blocks under a corrugated roof.

#### *Shed*

Located at the southernmost corner of the main steading building, this could not be fully accessed due to vegetation, but appeared to be constructed of a similar fabric to the adjoining range.

#### *Outbuilding (smithy)*

Standing 1.8m to the southwest of the main building, this was a single storey building measuring 12m x 5m and aligned northwest to southeast. Painted externally and whitewashed within, it appeared nevertheless to be constructed of the same sandstone fabric, in similar sneaked style, as the majority of the steading, although whether of pink or grey stone was unclear. The northwest corner of the building was supported by a large (0.78m x 0.56m x 0.19m) boulder. The roof was of corrugated iron, but was presumably a replacement of the original; similarly, the main double doors opening in the northwest end of the building had been inserted within a red brick casing measuring 3m wide.

Central to the internal southeast elevation, a fireplace constructed of dark grey sandstone blocks beneath a 0.55m high single slab mantle, measured 1.1m high and 1m wide. The hearth had been fronted with breeze blocks, but these were certainly late additions; indeed, the fireplace itself may have been an original feature. An alcove, probably formerly a corner press, was situated 1m to the northeast of the fireplace. Two doors were spaced along the south end of the northeast elevation, both within embrasured openings, with a rectangular widow to the north. North of this was a 0.5m square window, with a third door measuring 1.2m wide and 2.04m high within an embrasure at the north end of the elevation. A bricked up window was apparent in the southwest elevation opposite. The building thus had been extremely well-ventilated and illuminated given its relatively small size, suggesting it had originally been a workshop, probably a smithy. It currently supported the northeast end of an open-fronted shelter extending towards the farmhouse to the southwest and roofed with corrugated iron.

### **3 Interpretation**

The original 'L' plan, later 'U' plan, steading was entirely consistent in fabric and construction with an early 19<sup>th</sup> Century farm building, later having been adapted to the changing needs of a modern working farm. The steading had for a time formed part of a complex of outbuildings with the accompanying smithy (located close to both a source

of water and the vehicles and animals housed in the steading). No features of particular interest were noted, but a clear sequence of development was elucidated.

## 4 Conclusions and Recommendations

### 4.1 Recommendations for Further Work

Alder Archaeology considers the terms of the archaeological condition on planning to have been met and does not recommend further work. However, the final decision ultimately rests with Claire Herbert of Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service, the Angus area Archaeologist.

## Appendix 1 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
001	Northwest corner of steading, oblique	S
002	Modern extension on west side, oblique	WSW
003-005	West end of northeast elevation (external)	SW
006	Extension, northeast elevation	SW
007	Extension, northeast elevation (roof)	SW
008	Extension interior, bricked-up window/doorway, oblique	S
009	East end of northeast elevation (external)	SW
010	General view, northeast elevation, external	W
011-015	Covered passage, east side of building	SW
016	Brick-cased doorway into milk shed from covered passage	NW
017	Back wall of covered passage, east side of building	SW
018-020	Barn, rear room of northeast range, oblique (internal)	S, SW
021-022	Southeast elevation, barn (internal)	SE
023	Northwest elevation, barn, wooden fittings and upper storey (internal)	NW
024	Northeast elevation, barn, oblique (internal)	N
025	Detail, wooden ceiling of barn (internal)	S
026	Detail, damaged wooden stairs to upper storey of barn (internal)	W
027-029	Southeast elevation, vehicle shed, front room of northeast range (internal)	SE



030	Northeast elevation, modern extension (exterior)	SW
031	Southwest elevation, pump room, modern extension (interior)	SW
032	Northeast elevation, pump room, modern extension (interior)	NE
033	Side room, modern extension, oblique (interior)	N
034	Northeast elevation, side room, modern extension (interior)	NE
035-036	Southwest elevation, side room, modern extension	SW
037	Southwest elevation, modern extension (exterior)	NE
038	General view, northwest elevation, main building, oblique (exterior)	E
039	General view, northwest elevation, smithy and main building (exterior)	E
040	External passage between main building and smithy (exterior)	SE
041-42	Southwest elevation, main building, oblique (exterior)	E
043	Detail, window and doors in smithy, oblique (exterior)	SSE
044	General view, northeast elevation of smithy (exterior)	S
045-046	General view, interior of smithy	SE
047	Southwest elevation, smithy, oblique (interior)	S
048	Detail, wooden rafters in smithy (interior)	SE
049-050	Northeast elevation, smithy, oblique (interior)	E
051-53	Northwest elevation/double doors, smithy (interior)	NW
054-055	Detail, brick casing of smithy double doors	NE
056-57	Detail, stone fireplace in southeast elevation of smithy (interior)	SE
058-059	Southeast elevation, smithy (interior)	SE
060	South end, northeast elevation, smithy, oblique (interior)	E
061	General view, southwest elevation of smithy (exterior)	E
062	Southwest elevation of smithy (exterior)	NE
063-064	General view, southwest elevation of west milk shed/store, oblique (interior)	S, W
065	Detail, vents and stall divider marks in render	SW
066	General view, northeast elevation of west milk shed/store, oblique (interior)	N
067-68	Northwest end, northeast elevation of west milk shed/store (interior)	NE

069	General view, northeast elevation of west milk shed/store, oblique (interior)	E
070-071	Northwest elevation/double doors, west milk shed/store (interior)	NW
072	Interior passage between west milk shed and east milk shed/southeast range	SW
073	Detail, piled tyres in west milk shed (interior)	NE
074	Detail, milking stall against southeast elevation of east milk shed (interior)	SE
075	Southwest elevation, east milk shed (interior)	SW
076	Detail, door between east and west milk sheds	NW
077-078	General view, northwest elevation, east milk shed, oblique (interior)	N
079	Northeast elevation obscured by piled tyres, east milk shed (interior)	NE
080	Interior passage at rear of byre (interior)	NE
081	Detail, rear wall of troughs/side wall of passage, byre, oblique (interior)	NNE
082	Detail, wooden ceiling boards, east milk shed (interior)	SE
083	Detail, original doorway between east milk shed and byre (originally courtyard), oblique (interior)	S
084-085	Southeast elevation/troughs, byre (interior)	SE
086-087	Southwest elevation, byre (interior)	SW
088-089	Northwest elevation, byre (interior)	NW
090	Northeast elevation, byre (interior)	NE
091	Detail, double doors in south end of northwest elevation, west milk shed (exterior)	SE
092	Northwest elevation, smithy (exterior)	SE
093	Northwest elevation, modern extension (exterior)	SE
094	North end, northwest elevation, main building (exterior)	SE
095	General view, northwest elevation, main building, oblique (exterior)	S
096	General view, north end of northwest elevation, main building, oblique (exterior)	SSE
097	General view/location shot, northwest elevation, main building and smithy, oblique (exterior)	S
098-099	General view/location shot, northwest elevation, main building and smithy (exterior)	SE
100	General view, northeast elevation, main building, oblique (exterior)	W

101	General view, covered passage/edge of hill, southeast side of main building (exterior)	SW
102	General view/location shot, from hillside path	W

## Appendix 2 Drawing Register

<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	Site notes and sketch plan	-
2	Site notes	-

### Appendix 3 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Angus
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Denend Farm
PROJECT CODE:	NT01
PARISH:	Newtyle
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	C Fyles
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Standing Building Survey
RCAHMS NO(S):	-
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Steading
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	Site centred on
START DATE	12/10/2015
END DATE	12/10/2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Alder Archaeology undertook a Level 1 archaeological standing building survey of a steading on the site of a new build dwelling house development at Denend Farm, Newtyle. The proposed development area includes the steading, much of which was to be demolished. The construction and development sequence of the steading was elucidated, with an original 'L' plan steading having been constructed in local red sandstone during the early Nineteenth Century, amended to form a 'U' plan shortly afterwards and with the internal courtyard finally roofed to create a filled-in polygon. An accompanying outbuilding had probably been a smithy, contemporary with the original steading.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Project Management Scotland Ltd
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	-
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Alder Archaeology Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	RCAHMS (intended)

EMAIL ADDRESS:	<a href="mailto:director@alderarchaeology.co.uk">director@alderarchaeology.co.uk</a>
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## Appendix 4 Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork

### 4.1 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.

### 4.2 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*.

### 4.3 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.

### 4.4 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.

### 4.5 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

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

### 4.6 General Conditions and Health and Safety

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

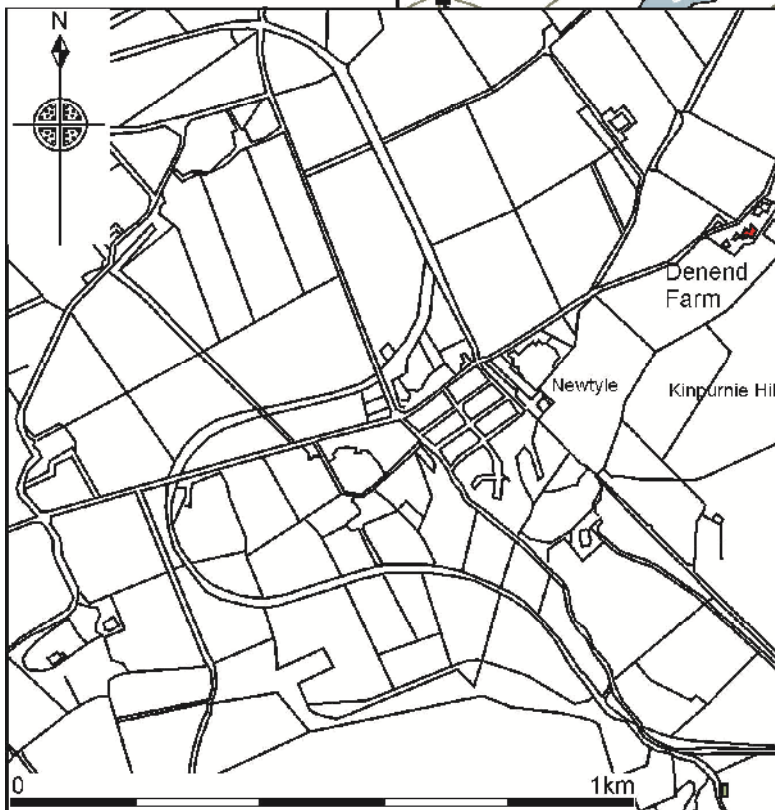
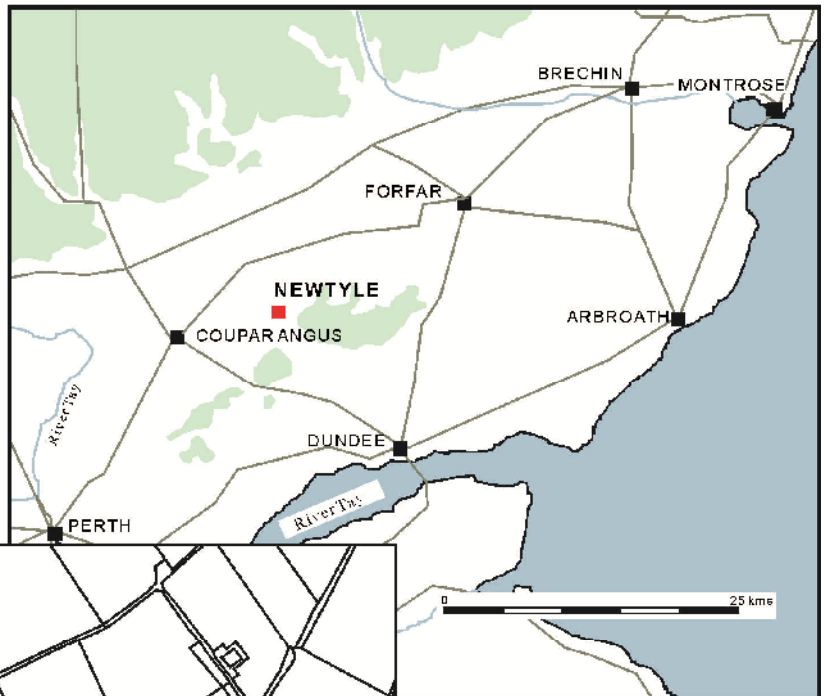
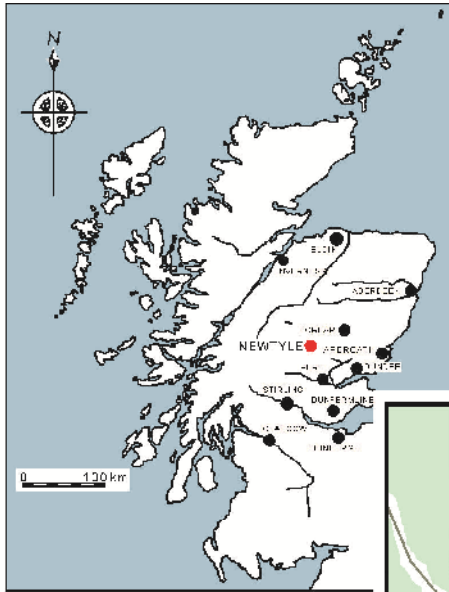
Alder Archaeology Ltd has public liability insurance of £2,000,000. Details of this can be provided on request.

We operate a strict health and safety policy that conforms to the Health and Safety at Work Act. We undertake 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.

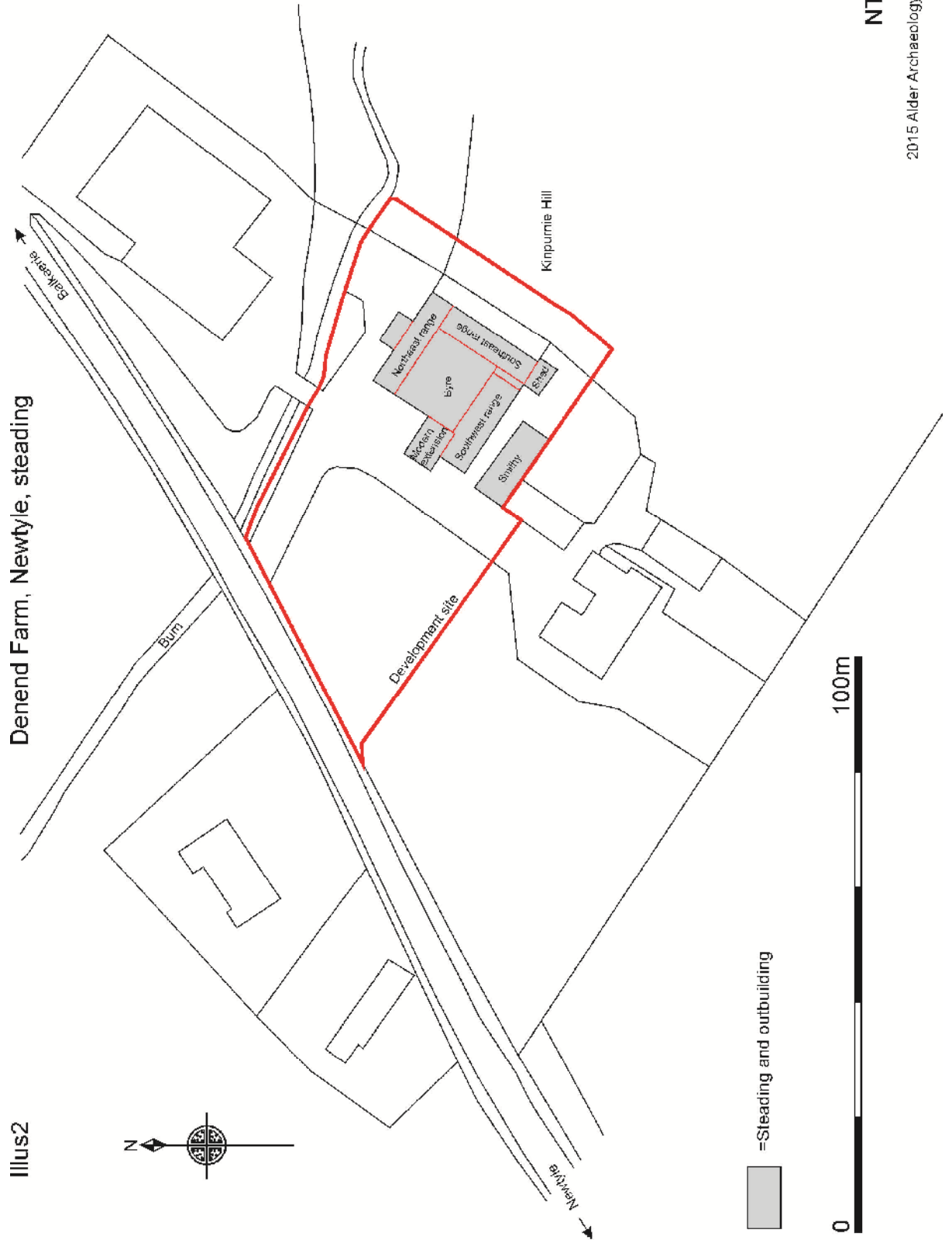
### Denend Farm, Newtyle, Site Location



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NT01

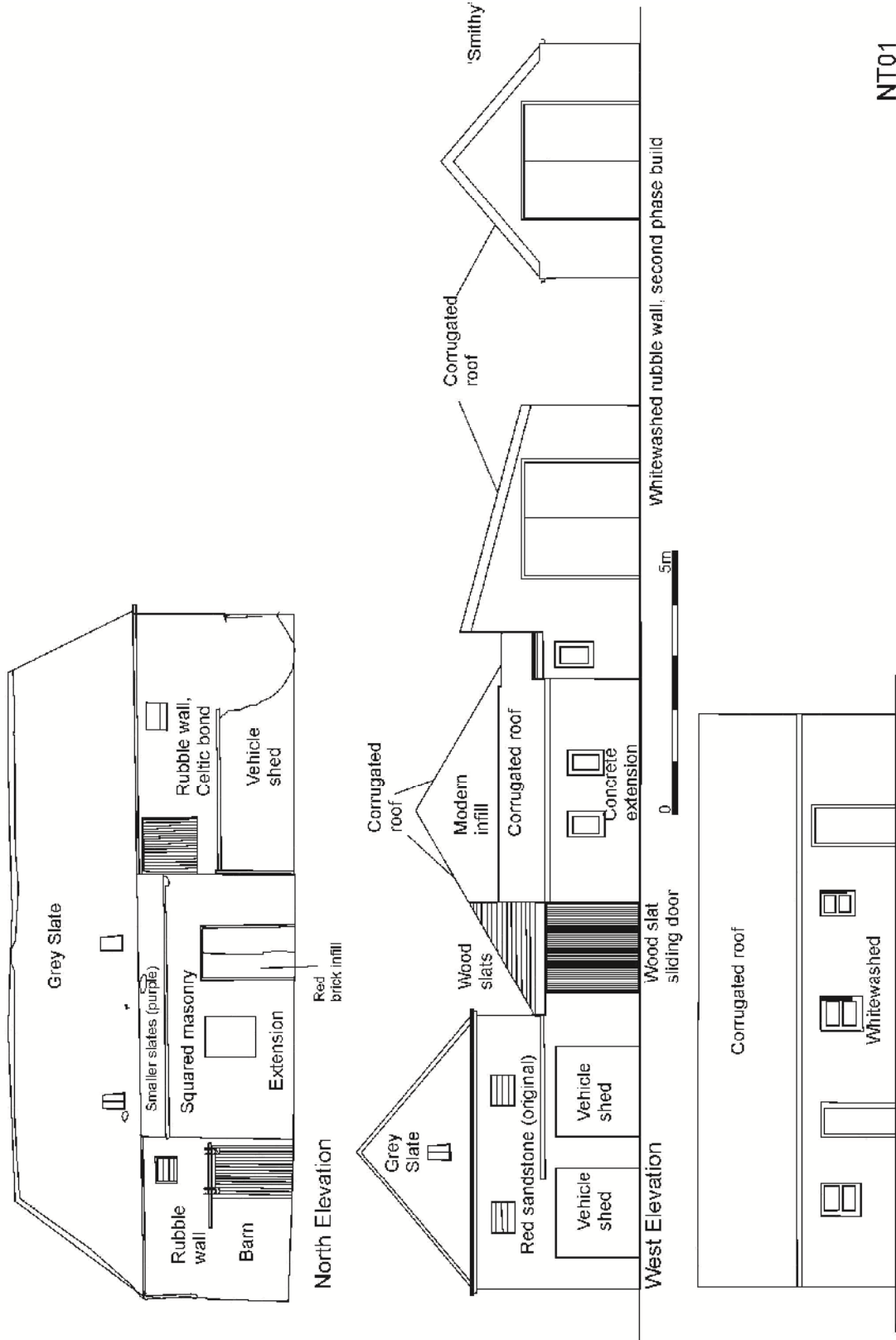
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Illus2



Illus 3 Main exterior elevations



NT01

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 Base drawings by PM Scotland