

Archaeological Standing Building Record  
Wedderleys  
Wester Rochelhill  
Nr Eassie  
PERTH & KINROSS  
EA01



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STANDING  
BUILDING RECORD  
WEDDERLEYS  
NR EASSIE**

**EA01**

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*Illustration 1: Site location plan*

*Illustration 2: Wedderleys, Plan of Farmstead*

*Illustration 3: Wedderleys Farmstead, main exterior elevations*

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**Illustrator** Chris Fyles, MA FSA Scot  
**Editor** David Bowler, BA, MPhil, FSA Scot, MCIfA

## **ABSTRACT**

*Alder Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Mrs Jane Brewster of Easter Denoon Farm to conduct a survey of a nineteenth century farmstead at Wedderleys, near Eassie, Angus. Prior to the demolition of the building and erection of a new dwelling house, a Level 1 survey was conducted of the site at NGR NO 36588 44359 on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016 in overcast weather conditions. A sequence of construction and use was identified, beginning with a single storey rectangular cottage, in which numerous blocked windows were apparent, suggesting possible use for craft work such as weaving. This building is indicated in an 1846 OS map of the area. A second cottage was then constructed adjoining the first, which was then modified for use as an ancillary structure. The later dwelling was further developed, with a bedroom extension creating an L-shaped plan; finally, a brick porch was constructed around the entrance to the cottage. The earlier building became ruinous and the farmstead was abandoned in 1995.*

# **1 Background**

## **1.1 Introduction**

Mrs Jane Brewster commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological standing building survey of a derelict farmstead at Wedderleys, near Eassie. The proposed development comprised demolition of the extant structure, centred on NGR NO 36588 44359 and replacement of this with a new dwelling house. The work (site code EA01) was undertaken on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016 in overcast weather conditions. The requirement was to conduct a Level 1 survey as per ALGAO guidelines (PAN 2/2011, SPP, SHEP).

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 15/00654/PPPL.

## **1.2 Aims and Objectives**

The main aim of this investigation was to record the likely date, character and quality of the structure and its historic by creating a full photographic and narrative account of the buildings, paying particular attention to any evidence of construction phasing and use.

## **1.3 Reporting**

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this survey. Copies will be sent to the client, Historic Environment Scotland and Angus Historic Environment Record (maintained by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service).

## **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**

We wish to thank Mr & Mrs Brewster for their assistance and guidance throughout this project. Mr & Mrs Brewster funded this survey.

# **2 Details of Work**

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

The former farmstead occupied a plateau on the northwest-facing brow of a hill to the south of Eassie and Dunkenny, overlooking Strathmore and separating this from Glenogilvy to the southeast. Denoon Burn flows past the site to the west, with a minor road connecting the A94 Forfar to Perth road with the A928 to Glamis passing Wester Rochelhill to the northeast.

## **2.2 Archaeological Potential**

The farmstead of Wedderleys is likely to date from the nineteenth century and is indicated on the 1846 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map as a single long building with attached enclosures. It is possible that a farm stood on the site at an earlier date than this,

however. The building and an outbuilding (a corrugated iron shed) are currently in a derelict and ruinous condition, having been uninhabited since 1995.

### **2.3 Archaeological Method**

A full photographic survey was made of the interior and exterior of the buildings, including all exterior elevations and the local setting, with the addition of measured floor plans and elevations and a narrative account of the plan, form, function, age and developmental sequence of all upstanding structures on the site.

### **2.4 Results of Investigations**

Wedderleys farmstead comprised a single storey cottage with attic built on an L-shaped plan and adjoining a long, two-roomed and partly ruinous building of earlier date. The latter construction, aligned NW-SE and extending NE from the cottage, was largely ruinous, with the SW-end room unroofed and the NE room featuring a replacement roof of corrugated iron; this had partially collapsed by the time of the survey. The main living room of the cottage was found to be an extension of the earlier building, to which a later back bedroom and front porch had been added. The earlier, rectangular building probably corresponded to the dwelling indicated on the 1846 OS map of the site, this being also of rectangular plan.

The main cottage building was harled and featured a roof of grey slate. The back bedroom extension, built onto the NW side of the cottage, featured red brick lower courses/foundations, with ashlar widow sills; the windows of the main building had also been refitted with identical ashlar sills, presumably at the time of the extension build. The main building was constructed with rubble walls (0.60m thick) , visible on the SW exterior elevation (forming one wall of a lean-to wooden kennel or shed built against this elevation), also visible within the living room where damaged plaster had fallen away. The wall fabric was notably less random than the narrower rectangular range, confirming a different and likely later phase of construction. The cottage included two single-stack chimneys, one at each end (NE and SW) of the building. The earlier rectangular building adjoined the NE gable of the cottage, which jutted beyond the 5.7m width of the earlier building. The rectangular main building measured 7m NW-SE x 12.25m NE-SW, with the extension measuring 4.55m NE-SW x 4.20m NW-SE. A brick-walled porch measuring 3.60m NE-SW x 1.90m NW-SE was constructed around the entrance in the SE elevation. Internally, the main building was subdivided by a plasterboard partition wall 8.40m from the NE end of the building. The later extension included a toilet/bathroom measuring 2.30m NE-SW x 1.50m NW x SE, with the remainder being a single, L-shaped bedroom; the toilet walls were solid and therefore probably integral to the extension, suggesting a twentieth century date of construction. The brick-walled porch probably represented the final phase of construction of the cottage.

Two windows, set into embrasures each measuring 1.20m wide, were located at either end of the southeast wall of the main building, the partition dividing the two. A similar window was set into the opposite wall, 1m SE of the partition. Within the bedroom extension were four windows without embrasures, two casement windows with hoppers opposite each other in the toilet and connecting passage, both measuring 1.20m high x 0.65m wide. The rear bedroom featured a fixed window with hopper, in total 0.40m wide x 0.90m high, with a 1.00m square double fixed window with hopper 1.20m to the

NE. All window frames were wooden and white-painted, of later twentieth century date.

The main building featured two fireplaces, one at each end, that at the SW end (partitioned from the remainder of the room), measuring 0.70m square, within a mantelpiece measuring 1.00m wide x 1.20m high, beneath a wooden shelf. The fireplace itself was of cast iron, with decorative ceramic tile edging and may have been of Edwardian date. The opposite fireplace, in the main living room, included a mid-twentieth century range with subdivided top and bottom oven and side grate, the whole 1.20m square. To each side, wooden press cupboards were set into the elevation, within original alcove spaces each 0.75m wide.

The earlier, rectangular building, largely ruinous and with earthen floor, measured 19.00m NE-SW x 5.70m NW-SE and was subdivided by an internal lateral gable-topped wall, 0.50m thick, 8.00m from the NE end. The NE room featured a stone fireplace flanked by 0.50m x 0.40m stone box alcoves. The fireplace itself was edged by single, massive slabs 1.15m high x 0.40m wide, 0.10-0.15m thick. A doorway at the NE end of the NW elevation had been extensively rebuilt with red brick and recent reapplication of mortar was evident in several patches throughout the building.

A blocked window was evident opposite the doorway; 1m southwest of the window, a blocked, 1m-wide doorway probably represented the original entrance to the building, 1.10m from the current, double-door space, 2.50m wide in the southwest end of the elevation. A row of three blocked windows featured in the northwest elevation beginning opposite the blocked doorway, 2.00m southwest of the brick rebuild, each being 0.70m wide and possibly having originally extended to the roof eaves. In all cases, the blocking material was of stone rather than brick, suggesting these alterations had been made relatively early in the building's use. Similar alterations were apparent in the SW room, with a brick-rebuilt doorway 2.50m from the SW end in the SE elevation, two stone-blocked windows to the SW of this and a third 2.50m to the NE (at the approximate midpoint of the elevation); two more blocked windows featured in the opposite elevation, with the remains of a wooden lintel apparent over the northern example, which was also the widest at 1.10m wide. The remaining windows measured 0.70m wide. The number of illuminating and ventilating windows and doors suggested the building may originally have been used for some form of craft work, perhaps smithing or weaving.

### **3 Conclusions and Recommendations**

- 3.1** The sequence of construction and use at Wedderleys appears to have been as follows: a single, rectangular rubble-walled building, subdivided into two and featuring copious windows and doors perhaps permitting some form of cottage industry, was built in the early nineteenth or possibly late eighteenth century and is indicated on the 1846 OS map. Later in the nineteenth century a single room cottage was constructed adjoining the original building; the latter was subjected to a number of alterations at approximately the same time, with windows and doors being blocked, presumably indicating a change of use to an ancillary structure no longer lived in. Early in the twentieth century, a bedroom extension was constructed on the northwest side of the cottage, transforming it into an L-shape; the windows of the original cottage were rebuilt with ashlar sills at this time. Finally, a brick porch was built around the entrance

in the southeast wall of the cottage. The earliest building, now a range adjoining the dwelling, gradually declined, becoming ruinous upon abandonment of the farmstead in 1995.

### 3.2 Recommendations for Further Work

Alder Archaeology considers that the Level 1 survey has been conducted appropriately and does not recommend further work on this site. However, the final decision ultimately rests with Claire Herbert, the Angus area Local Government Archaeological Officer with Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service.

## Appendix 1 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
01-02	Location shot, farmstead from E	W
03	Location shot, farmstead from N	S
04-05	Location shot, farmstead from NW	SE
06-07	Location shot, farmstead from WSW	ENE
08	NE-end of range, NW elevation (exterior)	SE
09	NW extension, main cottage, NW elevation (exterior)	SE
10	Main cottage, NW elevation (exterior)	SE
11	NW extension, main cottage, NE elevation (exterior)	SW
12-13	NW extension, main cottage, SW elevation (exterior)	NE
14	SW end, main cottage, NW elevation (exterior)	SE
15-16	SW elevation (exterior)	NE
17	Location shot, Wester Rochelhill from Wedderleys	E
18-20	SW end, main cottage, SE elevation (exterior)	NW
21	Main cottage, SE elevation (exterior)	NW
22	SE elevation (exterior)	NW
23	SE end of range, SE elevation (exterior)	NW
24	NE elevation, porch	SW
25	SW elevation, garden dyke	NE
26	NE elevation, garden dyke	SW

27	NE-end of range, SE elevation	NW
28	SW elevation, field dyke	NE
29	NE elevation (exterior)	SW
30	NE room of range (interior, oblique)	N
31	NE elevation, NE room of range (interior)	NE
32	Detail, fireplace in NE elevation, NE room of range (interior)	NE
33	N end, SE elevation, NE room of range (interior)	SE
34	S end, SE elevation (doorway), NE room of range (interior)	SE
35	N end, NW elevation, NE room of range (interior)	NW
36	S end, NW elevation, NE room of range (interior)	NW
37	SW elevation, NE room of range (interior)	SW
38	Detail, concrete trough/drain, NE room of range (interior)	NE
39	NE elevation, SW room of range (interior)	NE
40-41	N end, SE elevation, SW room of range (interior)	SE
42	S end, SE elevation, SW room of range (interior)	SE
43-44	SW elevation, SW room of range (interior)	SW
45	S end, NW elevation, SW room of range (interior)	NW
46	N end, NW elevation, SW room of range (interior)	NW
47	Detail, stone trough, SW room of range (interior)	NW
48	Porch, cottage (interior)	NW
49	Side room, porch, cottage (interior)	NE
50	Side room doorway into porch, cottage (interior)	SW
51	Doorway from porch into living room, cottage (interior, oblique)	N
52	Living room, cottage (interior, oblique)	N
53	Side door into living room, cottage (interior)	NE
54	Doorway from passage into SW room, cottage	SW
55	SW room, cottage (interior, oblique)	W
56	E end, SW elevation, SW room, cottage (interior)	SW



57	W end, SW elevation, SW room, cottage (interior)	SW
58	NW elevation, SW room, cottage (interior)	NW
59	NE elevation, SW room, cottage (interior)	NE
60	Doorway from SW room into passage	NE
61	SW elevation, living room, cottage (interior)	SW
62-64	SE elevation, SW room, cottage (interior)	SE
65-66	S end, NW elevation, living room, cottage (interior)	NW
67-68	N end, NW elevation, living room, cottage (interior)	NW
69	NE elevation, living room, cottage (interior)	NE
70-71	N end, SE elevation, living room, cottage (interior)	SE
72-73	N end, NW elevation, living room, cottage (interior)	NW
74	SE elevation, living room, cottage (interior, oblique)	E
75	Doorway to porch, from living room (interior, oblique)	S
76	Doorway to back bedroom, living room, cottage (interior)	NW
77	NE elevation, toilet, cottage (interior)	NE
78	SE elevation, passage between living room and back bedroom, cottage (interior)	SE
79	Back bedroom, cottage (interior, oblique)	N
80	NW elevation, back bedroom, cottage (interior)	NW
81	NW elevation, back bedroom, cottage (interior, oblique)	W
82	Attic hatch, back bedroom, cottage (interior)	E
83	NE elevation, back bedroom, cottage (interior)	NE
84	SE elevation, back bedroom, cottage (interior, oblique)	E
85	SW elevation, back bedroom, cottage (interior)	SW
86	Detail, ceiling damage, living room, cottage (interior)	N
87-88	Outbuilding/shed	SW, S
89-90	Lean-to/kennel, SW end of cottage	W, N

## Appendix 2 Drawing Register

<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	Site notes and scale plan of site	1:50

## Appendix 3 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Angus
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Wedderleys, Wester Rochelhill
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	EA01
<b>PARISH:</b>	Eassie
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	C Fyles
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Alder Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Standing Building Survey (Level 1)
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	-
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Farmstead
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NO 36588 44359
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> April 2016
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> April 2016
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	Prior to the demolition of a nineteenth century farmstead and erection of new dwelling house, a Level 1 survey was conducted. A sequence of construction and use was identified, beginning with a single storey rectangular cottage, in which numerous blocked windows were apparent, suggesting possible use for craft work such as weaving. This building is indicated in an 1846 OS map of the area. A second cottage was then constructed adjoining the first, which was then modified for use as an ancillary structure. The later dwelling was further developed, with a bedroom extension creating an L-shaped plan; finally, a brick porch was constructed around the entrance to the cottage. The earlier building became ruinous and the farmstead was abandoned in 1995.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	-
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Mrs Jane Brewster
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Alder Archaeology Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	<a href="mailto:director@alderarchaeology.co.uk">director@alderarchaeology.co.uk</a>
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	HES (intended)

## 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.

Illus 1



Wedderleys, Wester Rocheill  
Nr Eassie

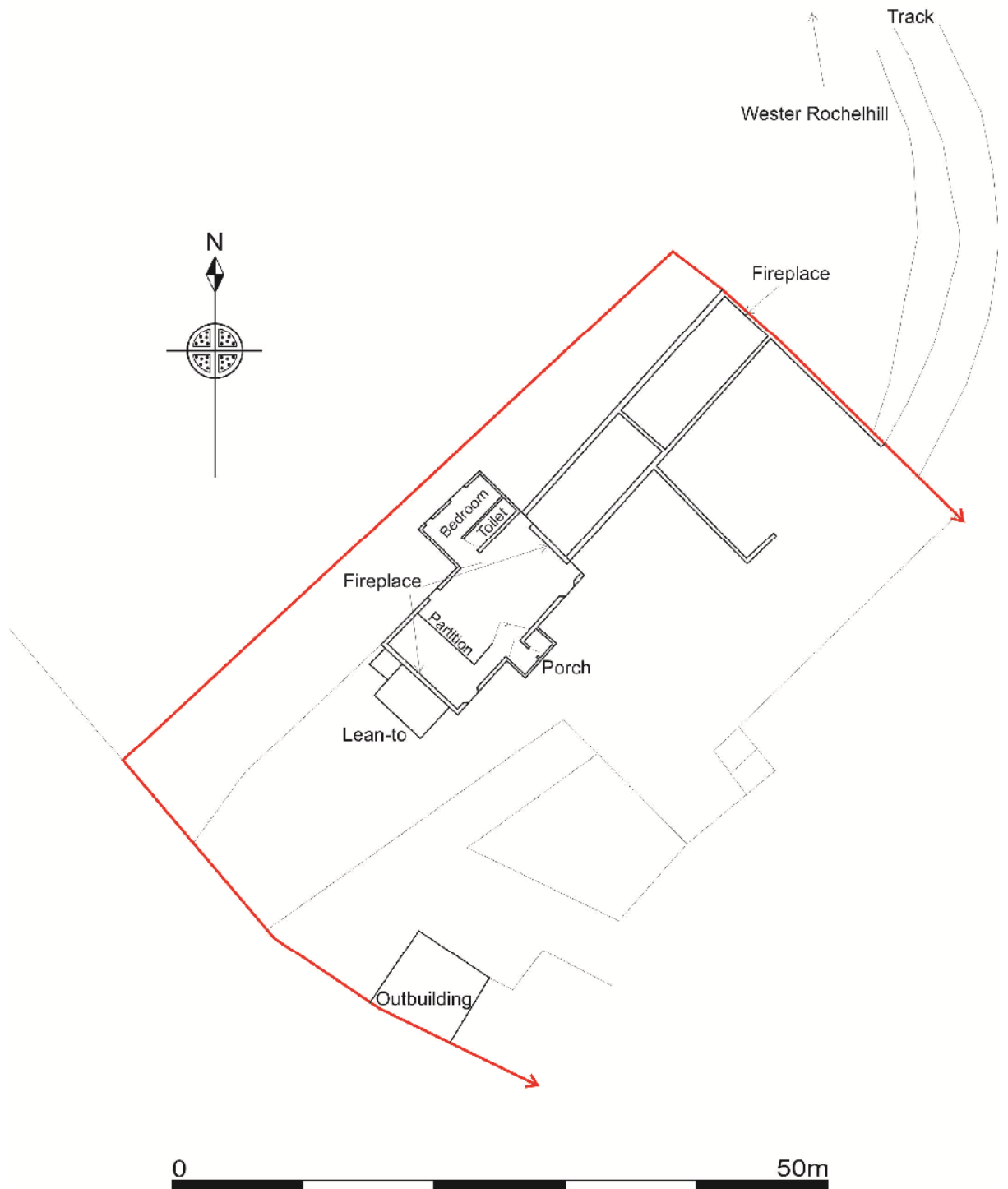
Site Location

EA01

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Illus 2

Wedderleys, Plan of farmstead



EA01

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Illus 3

Wedderleys Farmstead, main exterior elevations

