

Historic Building Record
Abercairny Stable
Crieff
PERTH & KINROSS
CF14



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

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD
ABERCAIRNY STABLE
CRIEFF
PERTH & KINROSS

CF14

<i>1</i>	<i>Background</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Details of Work</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>Conclusions and Recommendations</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Appendix 1</i>	<i>Photographic Register</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Appendix 2</i>	<i>Drawing Register</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Appendix 3</i>	<i>Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Appendix 4</i>	<i>Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork</i>	<i>9</i>

Illustration 1: Site location plan

Illustration 2: East and South Ranges, floorplan and features

Illustration 3: Principal external elevations

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

ABSTRACT

Murdoch Architects Ltd commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological historic building survey of a B-listed Victorian stable block at Abercairny, near Crieff, in advance of alterations. The proposed development was centred on NGR NN 91371 22565. The work (site code CF14) was undertaken on 22nd November 2016 in fine weather conditions. The requirement was to create a permanent record of the building prior to works commencing. Special attention was to be paid to the East range, which was the main focus of the alterations. The stable, constructed in 1841, is an example of Gothic-revival architecture and contains Gothic-arched wooden stall fittings and original cobbled floor, drainage and ground-floor doorways and window embrasures, all of which were to be retained.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Murdoch Architects Ltd commissioned Alder Archaeology, on behalf of Abercairny Estates Ltd, to undertake an archaeological historic building survey of a B-listed Victorian stable block at Abercairny, near Crieff in advance of alterations to the building interior of the East Range to convert it to a ground floor reception room and kitchen preparation area. Some alteration of the exterior of the South Range was also planned, comprising the extension of an existing covered lean-to corridor. The proposed development was centred on NGR NN 91371 22565. The work (site code CF14) was undertaken on 22nd November 2016 in fine weather conditions. The requirement was to create a permanent record of the building prior to works commencing. Special attention was to be paid to the East range, which was the main focus of the alterations.

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 15/01575/FLL, dated 29th August 2016.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this investigation was to create a visual and descriptive record, (including scale drawings, photographs and a narrative consideration of form, function, location, age, type and architectural phasing) of the standing buildings in advance of the development works.

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 Perth & Kinross Sites and Monuments Record.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

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

1.5 Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Mr Daniel Parker of Abercairny Estates Ltd for his assistance and guidance throughout this project. Abercairny Estates Ltd funded this survey.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

The stable block occupies a plateau at the top of a gentle, south-facing slope down to the former location of the now-demolished Abercairny House, to the south of the A85 Perth – Crieff road close to the hamlet of Fowlis Wester. The block forms a U-shape in plan with an ornamental gateway closing off the U to the west and an attached housing terrace to the north. The East Range of the block faces the main entrance across a central courtyard.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

Abercairny Stable was constructed in 1841 to replace an earlier stable dating from 1804 which had been located close to Abercairny House. It is an example of Gothic Revival architecture, lies within the Abercairny Garden and Designed Landscape and is Category B-listed.

2.3 Archaeological Method

All principal elevations, external and internal, affected by the modification work were photographed, together with the current setting of the east and south ranges. Doorways, windows and other features of interest were measured and a narrative account created of the building fabric, construction sequence and function.

2.4 Results of Investigations

The entirety of the stable block was constructed of predominantly grey sandstone (with some light pink sandstone), with stugged ashlar blocks forming the door and window surrounds. The main entrance on the west side featured twin flanking turrets and a family crest and date above the gate, opposite the East Range located at the rear of a courtyard (gravel-floored at the time of the visit, but with cobbles visible around the perimeter).

Park View flat

This was located at the south end of the East Range, in the south-east corner of the development. It was decorated throughout in modern style, with plain ceilings. The kitchen in the north-west corner of the flat interior faced onto the proposed extension/reinstatement of the lean-to corridor along the corridor frontage of the South Range, through a single sash window of double-pane width measuring 1.10m high x 0.90m wide. This was not an original feature.

The stairs to the first floor were a single flight filling the space behind the south elevation of the East Range stable. This elevation was to be taken down as part of the development; however, the stairs were not original and of no architectural interest.

Arched double-width sash windows in the main south room/living room of the ground floor stylistically echoed the stall arches in the East Range stable (see below), so may have been original, although modified by modern pine-box casing. The western-most example also featured a truncation to the west side of its embrasure. The eastern embrasure measured 1.80m wide (external), the west 1.50m wide (external), both 0.30m deep. The window frames both measured 1.25m wide. The living room also featured a modern gas fire in a modern tiled setting against the internal east elevation.

The entrance porch featured a single pine-framed sash window in an embrasure 1.10m wide (exterior) and 0.30m deep, with the frame 0.62m wide.

With the exception of the arched windows in the south/living room, the ground floor of Park View contained no features of architectural or historical interest.

East Range Stable

The ground floor level of the stable featured five windows, with two pairs interspersed by two doorways and the fifth window located at the south end of the elevation and illuminating the kitchen of Park View (see above). All featured a 0.30m deep exterior sill, with the Park View sill being chamfered and located one course higher than the remaining sills. All were cased in stugged ashlar, with single-block lintels. The other four windows included flat sills 1.06m wide, jutting 0.14m from the wall face, with frames 0.90m wide, each a triple-pane lattice sash. The difference in style with the Park View window clearly indicated that the latter was a later feature. Of the two doorways, the northern example was located 3.00m from the north end of the elevation, the southern 5.00m north of the south end. Windows were spaced 1.20m either side of the former, 1.80m either side of the latter.

A single window was set into the first floor level directly above the northern doorway; the base of the 1.50m wide aperture had been blocked with four courses of concrete blocks to permit the insertion of a modern dapple-glazed bathroom window frame, but the position of directly above a doorway suggested that the window itself may have been an original feature.

Stable interior

This was divided into two ground floor rooms, with the larger southern room measuring 10.50m north-south x 5.50m east-west; the smaller northern room measured 7.50m north-south x 5.50m east-west. The two doorways gave access to each of these rooms from the west, with each located midway along the west elevation (internal) of each room. Within the southern room, the interior embrasures of the two flanking windows measured 1.80m wide and 0.30m deep, with the glazed windows measuring 1.57m high within the upper portions of 2.60m high embrasures. The doorway was of the same height and 1.20m wide. Both doors and windows featured wooden slat lintels in the interior elevation, which were probably replacements of original features.

The floor of the south room was longitudinally divided into a western half, floored with cast concrete slabs, and an eastern half floored with cobbles. The slabs displayed a variety of scored patterns, which suggested it may have been tiled. Between the two surfaces ran a drainage gutter 0.15m wide and extending the full length of the room. Standing immediately to the east of this feature was a wooden arcade of seven posts set into the floor and supporting six Gothic arches formed of a plastered pine timber frame. The plaster had been stripped from the arches and there appeared to be traces of varnish or paint on the posts. This feature represented the front partition of former horse stalls, the dividers for which were represented by their base tracks (five in total) which ran west-east along the cobbled surface from the five free-standing posts (the post at either end of the line was set against a wall), each 1.60m from the next. Three more posts were set just short of the east elevation of the room, while iron tethering rings were set into the elevation itself. All of these features were probably original to the building.

The south room communicated with the north via a 1.00m wide, 2.10m high door set in a partition wall 0.45m thick.

The windows and doorway casing in the west elevation of the smaller northern room were box-clad, with embrasures 1.50m wide and 0.30m deep- ie, although the exterior

appearance of all four stable windows was uniform, there was interior variation between the south and north rooms. The south-east corner of the room featured a wooden manger, currently housing an electrical junction box. The drainage gutter did not continue in this room, but the distinction was maintained between the cobbled east side and paved west. At the time of the visit, the north room was being utilised for storage, which largely obscured the cobbled floor, but extant upstanding stall dividers were visible. A second wooden arcade continued the line followed in the south room, comprising three arches supported by four posts, with the abutments, voussoirs and extrados retaining their plaster finish. On the slab floor, the scored patterns were replaced by simple longitudinal marks, which may have been intended to improve grip.

South room- alterations and phasing

The south end of the elevation featured what may have been a blocked doorway, 1.00m wide and 2.25m high. The remains of a wooden frame survived around the edges of the feature. This did not align with the lean-to corridor opposite in the exterior, overlapping this to the north, while no trace of its outline was visible in the exterior wall fabric- whereas clear marks remained from the former presence of the corridor. It is possible, therefore, either that the doorway predated the South Range corridor and the exterior wall has since been re-faced, or that the feature actually represented a corner press used for storage and was not in fact a door at all. A 1.00m wide blocked doorway was apparent in the south elevation of the room, at the west end immediately against the doorway or press noted above. This featured a wooden lintel and may have been an original exit, suggesting that the range terminated at this wall and that Park View was a later extension (accounting for the asymmetry exhibited in the courtyard elevation), or it may have communicated with a room now occupied by the Park View flat. Despite the presence of a porch against the exterior east wall of the room, no outline of an entrance was visible in the wall fabric of the north-east corner of the interior opposite this feature, indicating that the wall face had probably been resurfaced following the blocking of an entrance in this area. Deep horizontal grooves cut into the faces of all the interior elevations, together with traces of wooden slats, indicated the former presence of a timber and plaster surface which may have been a later introduction.

3 Conclusions and Recommendations

Alder Archaeology consider that the Historic Building Record has been compiled according to the requirements of the archaeological condition on development application reference 15/01575/FLL, dated 29th August 2016. No further work is recommended in connection with the current development, although the final decision lies with Perth & Kinross Council Planning Department.

Appendix 1 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
001-5	Location shots, W facade of Stable	E
006-7	W facade of Stable, from courtyard	W
008	S range, from courtyard, oblique	SE
009	Clocktower of S range	S
010-12	Clocktower and E end of S range	S
011-16	Junction of S and E ranges, traces of former arcade	S, SE
017-18	W elevation (external), E range	E
019	W elevation (external), E range, oblique	SE
020-21	Entrance to S room of E range	E
022-24	Oblique of S room	NE
025	N elevation (internal), S room of E range	N
026	N end of E elevation (internal), S room of E range	E
027	Mid-section, E elevation, S room of E range	E
028-29	S end of E elevation (internal), S room of E range	E
030-31	S elevation (internal), S room of E range	S
032	S window, W elevation (internal), S room of E range	W
033	S end, including blocked door/press, W elevation (internal), S room of E range	W
034	Mid-section, including door, W elevation (internal), S room of E range	W
035	N window, W elevation (internal), S room of E range	W
036	N end, W elevation (internal), S room of E range	W
037	Detail, wooden arches of stall partition arcade, oblique	SE
038	Stall partition arcade, oblique	SE
039	Detail, broken/removed stall post, S room of E range	SE
040	E end, S elevation, including cobbled floor of stalls area, S room of E range	S
041	Stall partition arcade, oblique	SW

042	Detail, arch of stall partition arcade	W
043	Detail, rafters, ceiling stripped E of stall arcade, S room of E range	S
044	Detail, rafters, ceiling stripped W of stall arcade, S room of E range	S
045	General view of floor, S room of E range	S
046	Detail, drainage channel in floor, S room of E range	S
047	W end, N elevation, N room of E range	N
048-49	N elevation, N room of E range	N
050-51	E end, N elevation, N room of E range	NE
052	Detail, supporting pillar of wooden stall arcade, N room of E range	NE
053	Detail, central arch of wooden stall arcade, N room of E range	E
054	Wooden stall arcade, N room of E range, oblique	SE
055-56	Detail, ceiling, N room of E range, oblique	-
057-58	Detail, manger on E elevation (internal), N room of E range	E
059	Detail, door in W elevation (internal), N room of E range	W
060	Detail, wooden half-partition, N room of E range, oblique	NW
061	S end, W elevation, N room of E range, oblique	SW
062	S end, W elevation, N room of E range	W
063-64	N elevation (internal), NW room (kitchen) of Park View ground floor	N
065	Detail window (with end of lean-to behind), NW room (kitchen) of Park View ground floor	W
066	W elevation (internal), NW room (kitchen) of Park View ground floor	W
067	NW room (kitchen) of Park View ground floor, oblique	NW
068-69	Doorway to NW room (kitchen) of Park View ground floor, from connecting passage	W
070	Connecting passage, Park View ground floor	SW
071	S room, Park View ground floor, oblique	SW
072	E window, S elevation (internal), S room, Park View ground floor	S
073	W window, S elevation (internal), S room, Park View ground floor	S
074-75	E elevation, S room, Park View ground floor	E

076	N elevation, S room, Park View ground floor	N
077-78	Stairs to first floor, Park View	W
079	E elevation, porch, Park View	E
080	S elevation (external), Stable, oblique	NE
081-82	Detail, arms and date on gateway arch, Stable exterior	E
083	Detail, traces of original lean-to corridor on E elevation (external) of E range, oblique	SE
084	Detail, floor of N room of E range	N
085	Detail, blocked doorway in S elevation, S room of E range	S
086	Door of S porch on E elevation (external) of E range	N
087	S porch on E elevation (external) of E range, oblique	NW
088	Detail, corner finial of SE corner (external), E and S ranges	NW
089	S end of E elevation (external), E range, oblique	NW
090	S end of E elevation (external), E range	W
091	Mid-section (S porch and lean-to) E elevation (external), E range, oblique	NW
092	S porch on E elevation (external) of E range	W
093	Mid-section (N porch and lean-to) E elevation (external), E range	W
094	N end of E elevation (external), E range, oblique	NW
095	Door of N porch on E elevation (external) of E range	N

Appendix 2 Drawing Register

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

Appendix 3 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth & Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Abercairny Stable
PROJECT CODE:	CF14
PARISH:	Crieff
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	C Fyles
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	HBR
NMRS NO(S):	NN92SW 25.11
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Stable block
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NN 91371 22565
START DATE (this season)	22/11/2016
END DATE (this season)	22/11/2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Alder Archaeology undertook an archaeological historic building survey of a B-listed Victorian stable block at Abercairny, near Crieff, in advance of alterations. The requirement was to create a permanent record of the building prior to works commencing. Special attention was to be paid to the East range, which was the main focus of alterations. The stable, constructed in 1841, is an example of Gothic-revival architecture and contains Gothic-arched wooden stall fittings and original cobbled floor, drainage and ground-floor doorways and window embrasures, all of which were to be retained.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	-
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Abercairny Estates Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Alder Archaeology Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX
EMAIL ADDRESS:	director@alderarchaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	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.

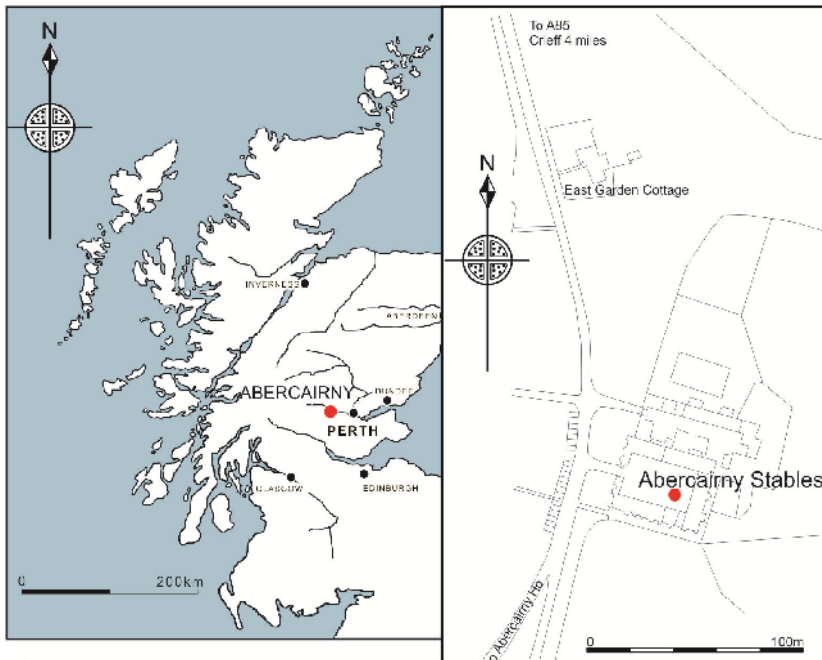
We operate a strict health and safety policy that conforms to the Health and Safety at Work Act. We undertake Risk Assessments on all fieldwork carried out.

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.

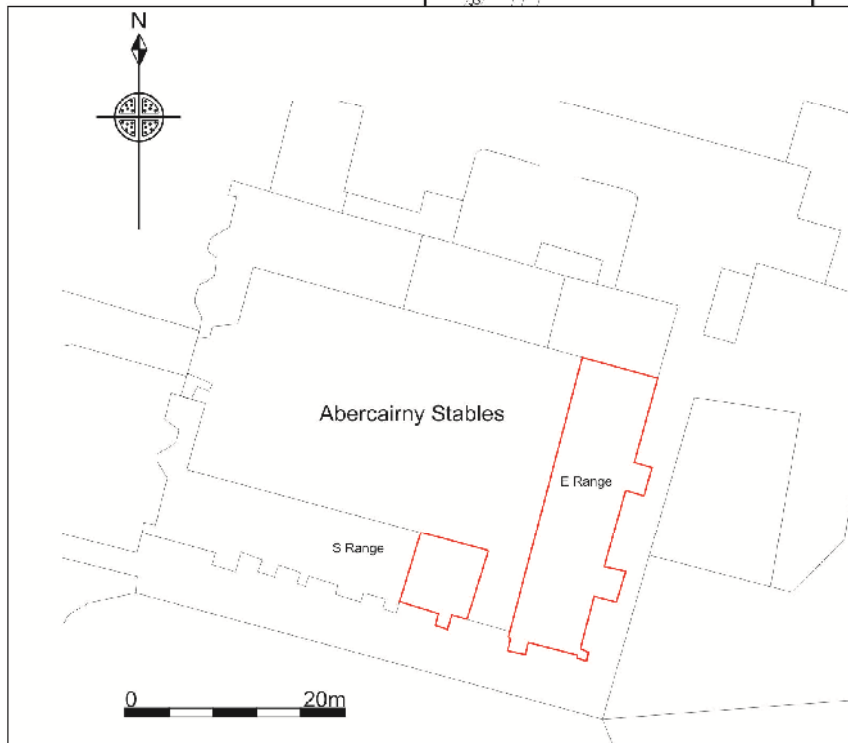
Illus 1

Abercairny Stables, Crieff



Historic Building Record

Site Location

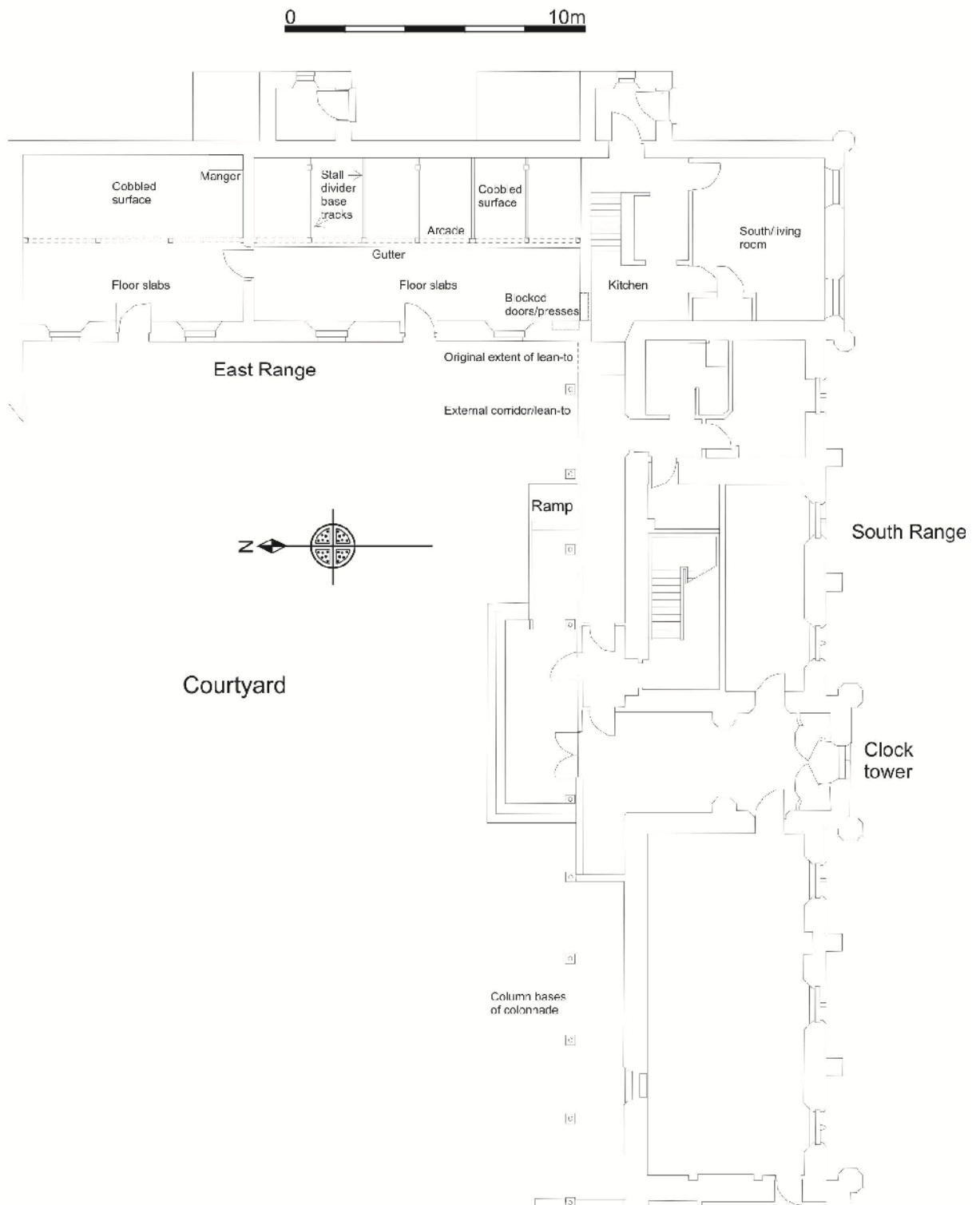


CF14

2016 Alder Archaeology Ltd

Illus 2

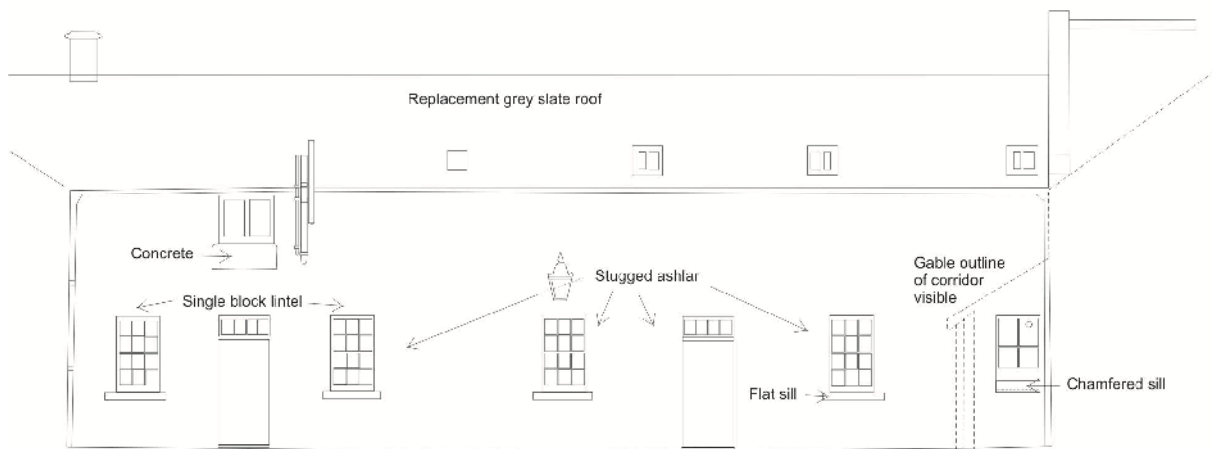
East and South Ranges, floorplan and features



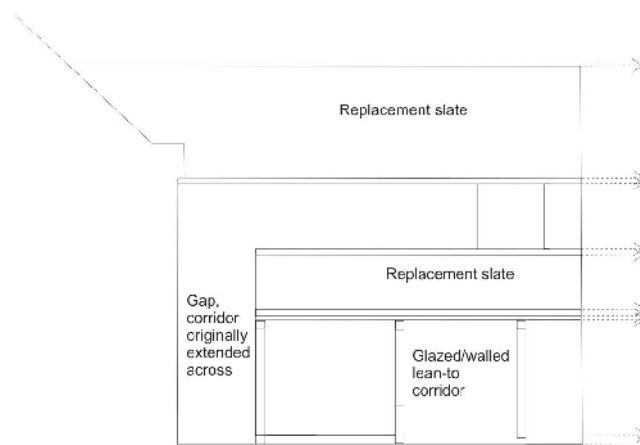
CF14

2016 Alder Archaeology Ltd

Illus 3 Principal Courtyard Elevations, East and South Ranges



West elevation, East Range



North elevation, South Range, junction with East Range

CF14

2016 Alder Archaeology Ltd