

Standing Building Survey  
Freelands Farm Steading  
Friockheim  
ANGUS  
FM01



**Alder Archaeology Ltd**  
**55 SOUTH METHVEN STREET**  
**PERTH PH1 5NX**  
Tel: 01738 622393  
[Director@AlderArchaeology.co.uk](mailto:Director@AlderArchaeology.co.uk)

**STANDING BUILDING SURVEY  
FREELANDS FARM STEADING  
ANGUS**

**FM01**

<i>1</i>	<i>Background .....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Details of Work .....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>Interpretation .....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>4</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>Discovery &amp; Excavation in Scotland Entry .....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Appendix 3</i>	<i>Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork .....</i>	<i>8</i>

*Illustration 1: Site location plan*

*Illustration 2: Ground floor plan of steading, including demolished area*

*Illustration 3: Exterior elevations*

<b>Author</b>	Chris Fyles, MA, FSA Scot
<b>Illustrator</b>	Chris Fyles, MA, FSA Scot
<b>Editor</b>	David Bowler, BA, MPhil, FSA Scot, MCIfA

## ***ABSTRACT***

*Alder Archaeology conducted a standing building survey of a disused farm steading at Freelands Farm, near Friockheim, NGR NO 59794 51748, in advance of demolition and the erection of a new agricultural storage building. The survey, site code FM01, was conducted on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017 in fine weather. Part of the steading had been demolished prior to the survey; the remainder comprised an L-shaped building of predominantly rubble-wall construction with stugged ashlar elements and brick and concrete modifications. A construction date in the earlier nineteenth century is likely.*

# **1 Background**

## **1.1 Introduction**

Algo Design & Build Ltd commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake a Level 1 Standing Building Survey of a disused steading at Freelands Farm, near Friockheim, in advance of demolition and the erection of a new agricultural storage building. The proposed development area is to the N of Friockheim, centred on NGR NO 59794 51748. The survey (site code FM01) was undertaken on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017 in fine, clear weather conditions. The requirement was to record the existing structure photographically and in narrative form, noting setting, form, function, fabric and details of construction phasing.

The work was designed to inform the archaeological condition on development application reference 17/00649/FUL.

## **1.2 Aims and Objectives**

The main aim of this investigation was to record the date, character and quality of the standing building prior to demolition work.

## **1.3 Reporting**

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

## **1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues**

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

## **1.5 Acknowledgements**

We wish to thank Lucy Normand of Algo Design & Build Ltd for her assistance throughout this project. Algo Design & Build funded this survey.

# **2 Details of Work**

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

The site comprised an area of flat, open ground to the N of Friockheim, accessed via a track connecting with Glasterlaw Farm to the SE and Heugh-Head Farm to the SW of the site, which was also bounded to the W by the A933 road. Drainage ditches emptied towards the Guthrie Burn to the N. The steading originally consisted of a U-shaped complex of buildings including a central L-shaped connecting pair of stone ranges flanked by two smaller sheds with corrugated roofs. However, prior to the survey visit both sheds and approximately half of the longer stone range had been demolished without archaeological monitoring. A truncated L-shape comprising two stone buildings survived to be recorded.

## **2.2 Archaeological Potential**

The steading was of uncertain age, but appears on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition one inch (1868) and six inch (1865) maps of Forfarshire and was therefore constructed at least as early as the mid-nineteenth century. As depicted on these maps, it was by this date already a U-shaped complex, although the N of the two sheds was absent.

## **2.3 Archaeological Method**

A full Level 1 Standing Building Record was compiled, as per ALGAO 2011 guidelines, comprising: annotated location and base plans and elevations, indicating phasing and cross-referenced to the accompanying text; a written description of the buildings, considering form, function, location, age, type of building and description of architectural phasing; photographs of all external and main internal elevations, detailing and the setting of the buildings; detailed archival research.

## **2.4 Results of Investigations**

The surviving two-storey steading formed an L-shape around a concrete-floored former courtyard with a W and N range, the apex being to the NW. This combined building was constructed predominantly of lime-bonded, shaped sandstone rubble with areas of stugged masonry including quoins and ashlar casings around the windows and doorways on the exterior SW elevation of the W range. This entire elevation had been substantially rebuilt with evidence of relatively recent re-pointing and the installation of stone-clad concrete lintels in the S half of the range which formed a vehicle shed with triple entrance. A similar rebuild was apparent around a 3.20m wide vehicle/livestock entrance in the NE elevation of the N range, which also featured ashlar casing. The majority of the fabric on all elevations was grey sandstone, but areas of the courtyard elevations of both ranges included patches of red or pink Angus sandstone, suggesting the reconstruction of the outer-facing exterior elevations, probably at some stage in the nineteenth century and perhaps related to the expansion of the steading into the U-shaped complex depicted on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition map; however, further investigation of this possibility was prevented by the demolition of E half of the complex. The interior of the W range had clearly included a wooden upper floor, as evidence by beam slots at first floor level, but this had been removed, as had the grey roof slates across both ranges, exposing bare wood boarding (fragments of slate lay on the ground in various places) supported by wooden roof beams. Rubble from the recent demolition work had been piled at the E end of the truncated N range; to judge from this, much of the E range or shed had been composed of concrete blocks, but sandstone masonry and rubble was also in evidence, suggesting the E end of the N range was constructed from much the same fabric as the surviving W end.

The W range was internally sub-divided into a vehicle shed at the S end and a more general barn to the N, the division affected by a concrete block partition wall 9.00m from the S end. The presence of concrete lintels and stone cladding in the vehicle shed suggested it may itself have been a later insertion into the existing range. Two square concrete pillar bases remained in place in the middle of the floor, having previously supported square, probably steel, posts and perhaps representing stall dividers, suggesting the “vehicle shed” may have been used for milking; however, no other trace of stalls was apparent, the posts alternatively simply being supports for the first floor. The triple entrance in the NW wall was divided into 2.70m, 2.60m and 2.90m wide open doorways, divided by two re-pointed masonry pillars. The first floor had been

accessed via a staircase ascending from N of the partition wall, the ghost of this still visible in the wall plaster of the NE internal elevation. The N end of the range featured a projecting portico supported by two wooden posts (possibly re-purposed telegraph poles), beyond which the 4.30m wide entrance spanned the full internal width of the N range opposite and had probably been inserted, the wall fabric being partially re-built in brick. A blocked window was situated immediately adjacent to the entrance at ground floor level, itself a later insertion or re-forming of an older aperture, as only the lintel, sill and N edge were properly framed, the S edge being simply re-pointed wall fabric. The window measured 0.80m wide x 1.15m high. The first floor of the range featured two sets of double doors in dormers, with a square, unglazed window between and another at the S end of the range. The doors suggested the upper floor space had been used for storing fodder. The range measured 20.00m long x 6.00m wide (external).

The N range featured brick and concrete reinforcements for beam supports opposite the W range, probably part of the first floor ceiling of the latter. The NW exterior elevation of the N range was otherwise blank, apart from the ashlar-cased vehicle/livestock entrance already mentioned above. This supported a concrete lintel and it is possible that some of the masonry was in fact cladding. The entrance was clearly an insertion into older wall fabric which showed signs of substantial reconstruction to either side of the doorway. The range had been truncated 4.00m E of the entrance; the surviving range measured 21.00m (plus 5.00m of portico), 4.90m wide (external). The interior of the range featured blank, plastered walls and a concrete floor, with no evidence of a first floor.

The courtyard area, to the S and E of the ranges, had at some stage been enclosed and reportedly was used as a milking shed (according to the landowner); this was borne out by the presence of roof beam slots along the courtyard elevations of both W and N ranges and a concrete floor extending across most of the courtyard. Two doorways in the NW corner of the courtyard accessed the ranges, the doorway in the W range being brick-cased with a wooden lintel and concrete threshold and was clearly inserted at a late stage in the life of the steading; it measured 0.90m wide and 1.80m high. The doorway in the N range featured a concrete lintel but stugged masonry casing; it may have originated in an earlier rebuilding, perhaps a conversion of the range from a simple block or L-shape to a U-shaped plan. The wall fabric of the courtyard elevations featured more random rubble or Celtic bond construction, with red sandstone more apparent, than on the outer facing elevations; this possibly reflects an earlier building phase. The courtyard elevation of the W range included three blocked ground floor doorways and a blocked window, all 0.90m wide with stugged sandstone lintels, evenly spaced along the elevation. The middle two doorways and the window, at the N end, were blocked with random stone rubble, while the S end doorway was filled with regular-coursed grey slabs. The N range elevation featured one central ground floor doorway of the same dimensions as the open doorway to the W, with a concrete lintel suggesting it had stood open into the twentieth century. The blocking material was a variety of masonry blocks and fragments. A 0.50m square first floor window, also blocked, was situated 0.50m E of the doorway; a second blocked window or doorway, 1.10m high, was at the demolished E end of the wall, probably slightly truncated. The roof beam slots along the N range were at a slightly higher level than those on the W range, suggesting that an earlier shed may have preceded the recent milking shed. Whether or not this was the case, recent satellite imagery shows the courtyard

unenclosed, the milking shed having been removed some time before demolition work began.

### **3 Interpretation**

Map evidence that the steading existed in the mid-nineteenth century was borne out by the fabric of the surviving building, which indicated an earlier nineteenth century date of construction. Subsequent repeated reconstructions had greatly modified both the fabric and the plan of the steading, which may have followed a common pattern of a simple block or L-shape being extended into a U-shaped plan. The insertion of entrances into the outer-facing elevations, requiring reconstruction and reinforcement with brick and concrete, probably during the twentieth century, may have post-dated some of the modifications made to the courtyard elevations which included blocking existing doorways and windows. The erection of one or possibly two successive milking sheds to enclose the courtyard may have come late in the sequence of use. Further information, concerning the E end of the N range and the flanking sheds, was lost due to the demolition of this part of the complex.

### **4 Conclusions and Recommendations**

Alder Archaeology consider that the Standing Building Record has been compiled according to the archaeological condition on application 17/00649/FUL and do not recommend further work in connection with the present development. However, the final decision ultimately rests with Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service, as curators of Angus archaeology.

## Appendix 1 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
001-002	Location shot, SW corner of steading, oblique	NE
003	Location shot, NW corner of steading, oblique	SE
004-005	General location shots	S, E
006-007	SW elevation of steading, exterior	NE
008	S end of SW elevation, exterior	NE
009	SE elevation of steading, exterior	NW
010	SE elevation, gable end of W range	NW
011	Courtyard elevations, exterior, oblique	NW
012	General view, truncated N range, SE elevation of N range	WNW
013	SE elevation of N range, exterior	N
014	SE elevation of N range, exterior	NW
015	NE elevation of W range, exterior	SW
016	NW corner of courtyard, doorways into W and N ranges, exterior	NW
017-018	Detail, doorway into W range, exterior	SW
019-020	Detail, doorway into N range, exterior	NW
021	Truncated NE end of N range, NE elevation, exterior	SW
022	Truncated NE end of N range, NW elevation, exterior	SE
023	NW elevation of N range, exterior	SE
024-027	Detail, rubble pile from partial demolition of building	SE, SW, W, NW
028	Interior of N range, SE elevation, oblique	SW
029	Detail, blocked doorway in SE elevation, N range, interior	SE
030	Doorways from courtyard, N range, interior, oblique	E
031	Interior of N range, NW elevation, oblique	NE
032	W end of NW elevation of N range, interior	NW



033-034	Interior of W range, concrete partition wall	SE
035	Interior of W range, oblique	S
036	Detail, doorway to courtyard, W range, interior	NE
037	Detail, ghost of staircase on NE elevation of W range, interior	NE
038	Detail, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor double door in SW elevation of W range, interior	SW
039	Detail, roof beam slots in W end of SW elevation of W range, interior	SW
040	Interior of vehicle shed, W range interior, oblique	E
041	S end of NE elevation, vehicle shed, W range, interior	NE
042	NE elevation of vehicle shed, W range, interior, oblique	N
043	1 <sup>st</sup> floor and ceiling, NE elevation, vehicle shed, W range, interior	NE
044	SE elevation of W range, interior	SE
045	Detail, pillar bases in vehicle shed floor, W range, interior	SE
046	Detail, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor window, SW elevation of vehicle shed, W range, interior	SW
047	SW elevation of vehicle shed, W range, interior, oblique	W

## Appendix 2 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Angus
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Freelands Farm, Friockheim
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	FM01
<b>PARISH:</b>	Guthrie
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	C Fyles
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Alder Archaeology
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	SBR
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	-
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	-
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR</b> (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 59794 51748
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	10/10/2017
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	10/10/2017
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	Alder Archaeology conducted a standing building survey of a disused farm steading, in advance of demolition and the erection of a new agricultural storage building. The survey was conducted in fine, clear weather conditions. Part of the steading had been demolished prior to the survey; the remainder comprised an L-shaped building of predominantly rubble-wall construction with stugged ashlar elements and brick and concrete modifications. A construction date in the earlier nineteenth century is likely
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	-
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Algo Design & Build Ltd
<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</b> (intended/deposited)	HES (intended)

## Appendix 3 Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork

### 3.1 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.

### 3.2 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*.

### 3.3 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.

### 3.4 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.

### 3.5 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

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

### 3.6 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.

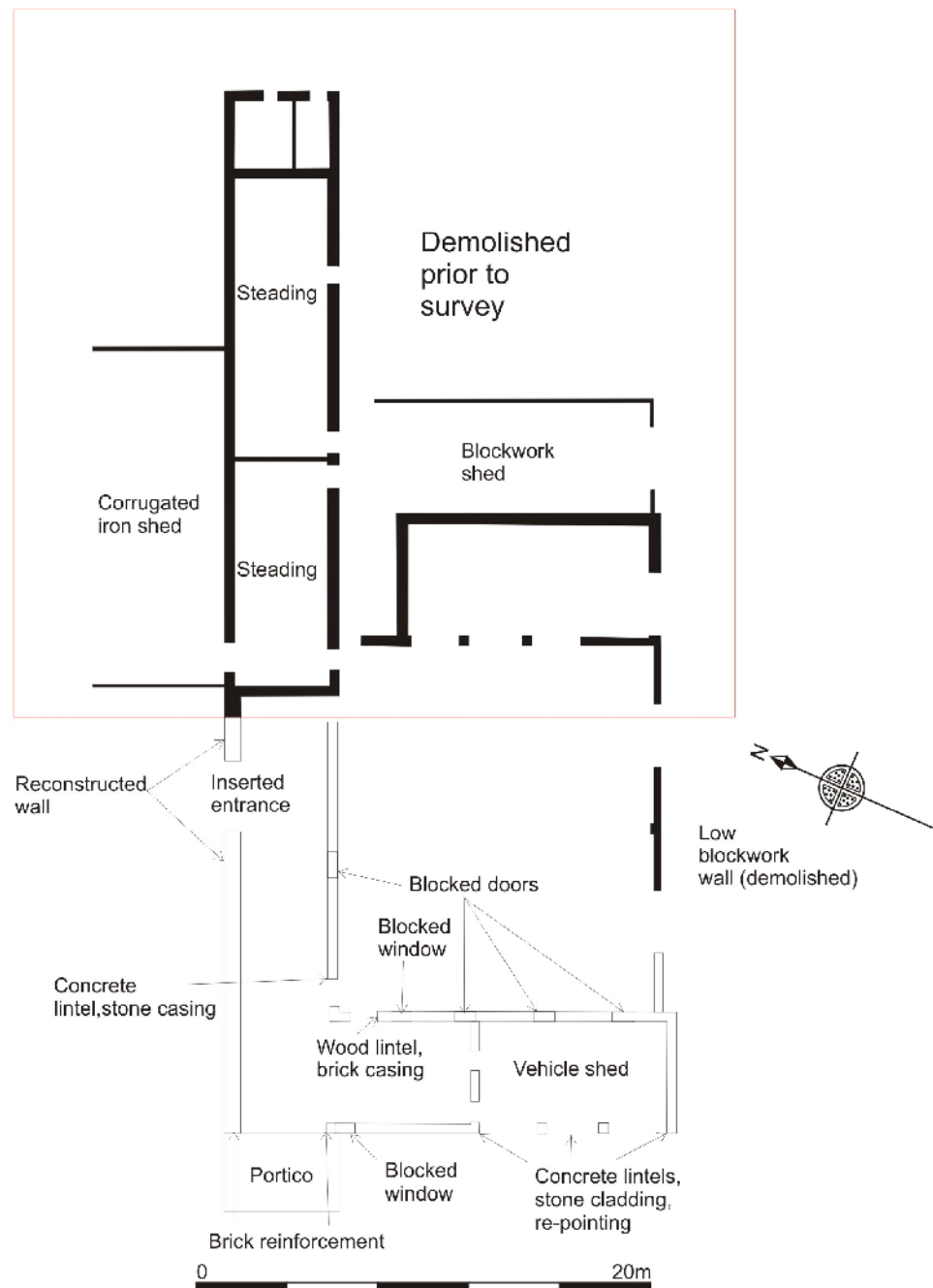
If lightly contaminated deposits are uncovered disposable boiler suits and gloves will be worn. A source of clean water will be made available for staff to clean hands with. If the health risk posed by site contamination is felt to be too high all further archaeological work will stop in that area.



FM01

2017 Alder ARchaeology Ltd

Illus 2 Ground floor plan of steading, including demolished area



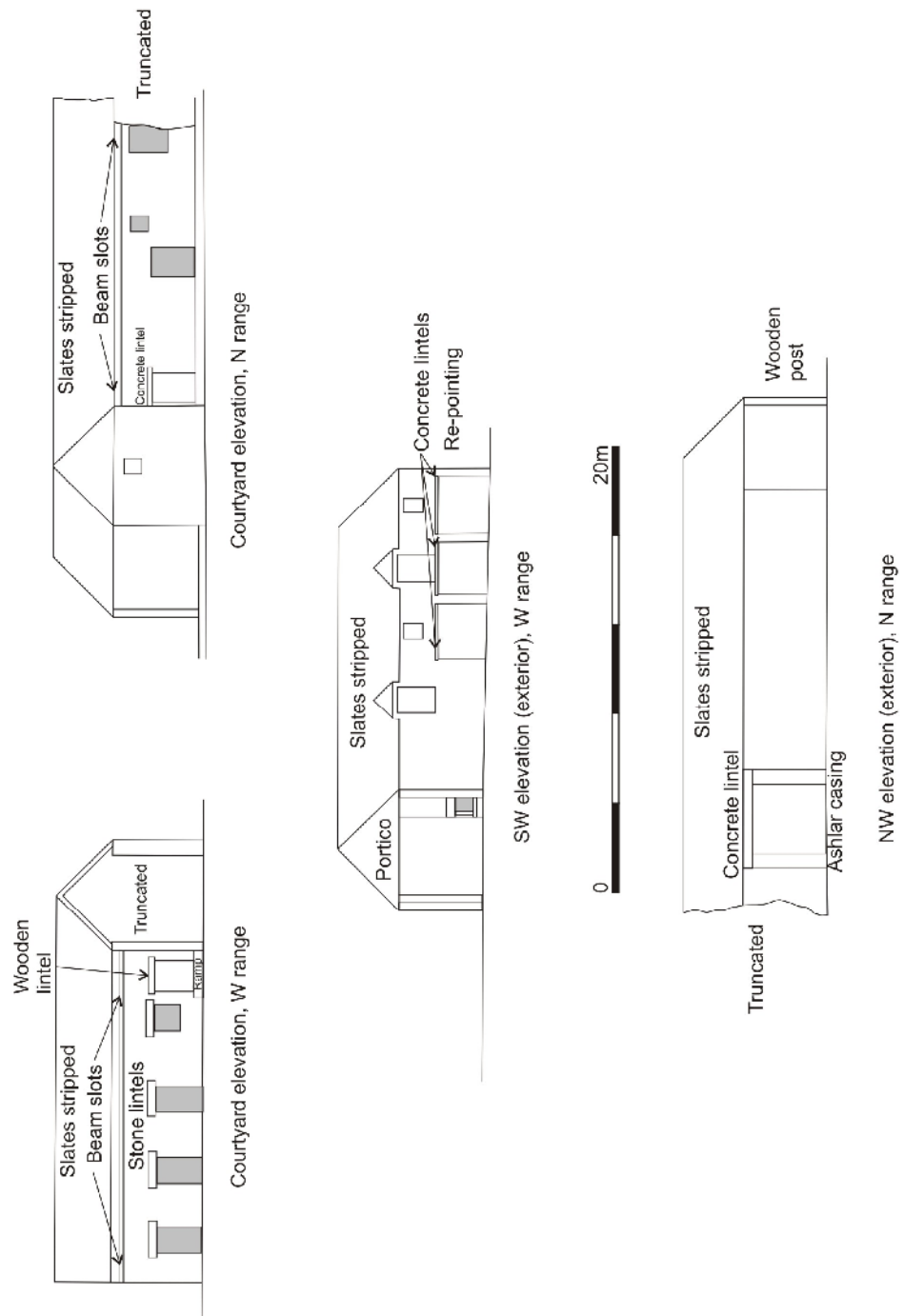
Base plan by A.B. Roger & Young Chartered Architects & Surveyors,  
from planning application 08/00168/FUL

FM01

2017 Alder Archaeology Ltd

Illus 3

Exterior elevations



Base drawings by A.B. Roger & Young Chartered Architects & Surveyors,  
from planning application 08/00168/FUL

FM01

2017 Alder Archaeology Ltd