

Historic Building Recording
Lower Old Mill
Camserney
PERTH & KINROSS

AF16



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

**HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING
LOWER OLD MILL
CAMSERNEY**

AF16

1	<i>Background</i>	1
2	<i>Details of Work</i>	1
3	<i>Interpretation</i>	4
4	<i>Conclusions and Recommendations</i>	4
5	<i>Bibliography</i>	4
Appendix 1	<i>Photographic Register</i>	5
Appendix 2	<i>Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry</i>	7

Illustration 1: Site location plan

Illustration 2: Floor plan of Lower Flat

Illustration 3: External elevations

Images: NE elevation; SW elevation; SE elevation of extension; possible roof ghost over wheel pit

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

ABSTRACT

A Historic Building Recording was carried out of the ground floor of a former corn mill at Camserney, near Aberfeldy. The mill, of 19th Century date, had already been converted into flats, one of which occupied the ground floor. The survey, conducted on 7th September 2020, was carried out in advance of the construction of a small extension.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Fearn Macpherson Chartered Architects, on behalf of Mr & Mrs McCluskey, commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an Historic Building Recording of a converted former water mill at Camserney, near Aberfeldy, in advance of the construction of an extension. The proposed development area is at one end of the lower storey of the mill, which has been converted into two domestic flats and is centred on NGR NN 81984 49280. The work (site code AF16) was undertaken on 7th September 2020 in overcast weather conditions. The requirement was to conduct a basic Historic Building Recording survey.

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application references 20/00768/FLL and 20/00769/LBC.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this investigation was to create a permanent photographic, illustrated and narrative record of the building in advance of development, taking account of current setting and condition, form, function and fabric and noting features of interest and any phases of construction 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, The National Record of the Historic Environment at Historic Environment Scotland, and Perth & Kinross Historic Environment Record.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

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

1.5 Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Mr & Mrs McCluskey and Rob Macpherson of Fearn Macpherson for their assistance and guidance throughout this project. Mr & Mrs McCluskey funded this Historic Building Recording.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

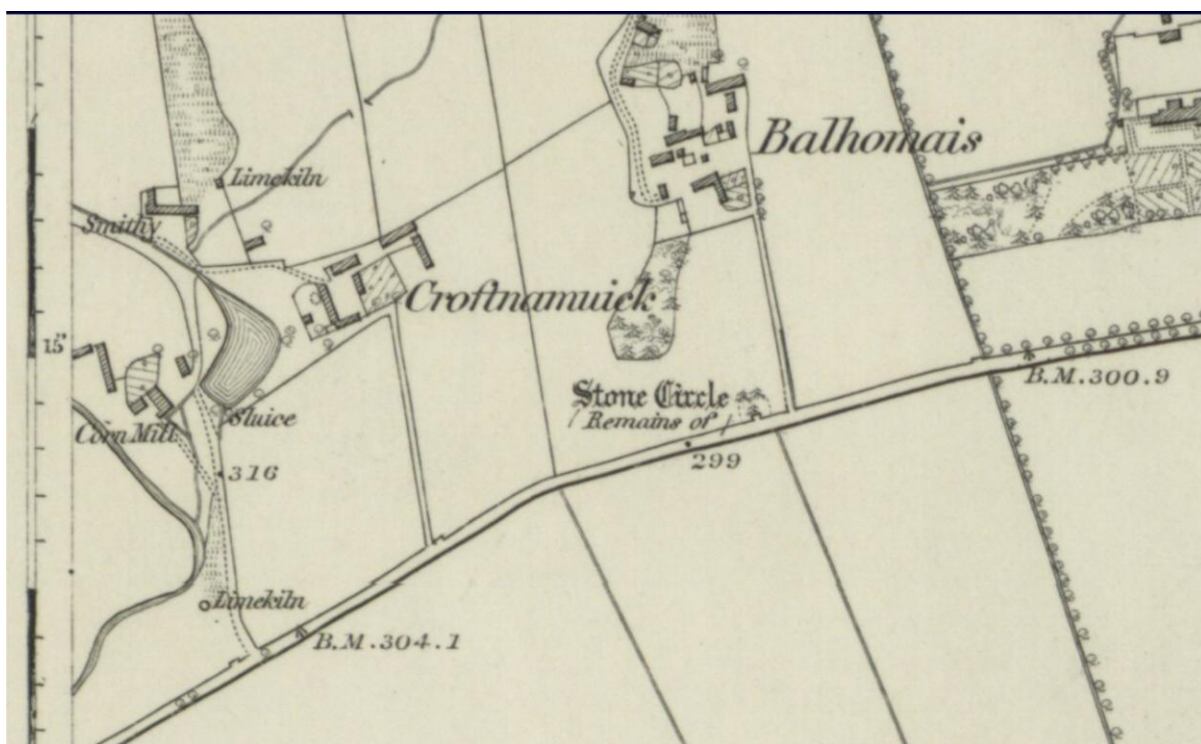
The Old Mill lies on the S edge of the scattered hamlet of Camserney, which forms an arc on the S slope of the ridge running generally NE-SW along the N bank of the River Tay, locally from Weem in the NE to Dull in the SW. The Falls of Camserney lie on the same ridge approximately 500m NW of the Mill, while the Camserney Burn flows to the W of the site. The ridge itself is a shoulder of the high ground between Loch Tummel and the Tay, ground which includes Meall a' Charra and Schiehallion. The B846 Old Military Road runs along the lower ground S of the site, connecting with Aberfeldy via Wade's Bridge (NN84NE 36) approximately 1.6km to the E.

Approximately 400m E of the site are the remains of Balhomais stone circle (NN84NW 5).

2.2 Archaeological Potential

Old Mill of Camserney (NMRS number NN84NW 92) is a B-listed 19th Century water-powered former corn mill of rubble construction, with associated Mill House and steading (both now also converted to modern dwellings). The waterwheel was removed during conversion work and is now housed in Aberfeldy. An accompanying lade ran from the Falls of Camserney N of the site to a millpond just E of the mill, rejoining the Camserney Burn S of the mill.

The Mill appears on the 1st Edition OS map of the area (published 1867):



The Old Mill is the “Corn Mill” at far left, with mill pond across the track

2.3 Archaeological Method

A basic Historic Building Recording was carried out to create a permanent record. This comprised: a full photographic record of the building in its current setting, with all main external elevations of the whole building and internal elevations of the Lower Flat (where accessible), as well as features of interest; annotated measured plan and elevation drawings of the building, together with location maps at appropriate scales; a narrative account, taking in the form, fabric, condition and function of the building, together with features of interest, measurements of key features and details of any evidence of phases of construction and use.

As the Lower Flat was in use as a family home, it was not appropriate to fully record the interior, which would have constituted a breach of privacy. Accordingly, brief

record shots were taken of most rooms, apart from those directly adjacent to the proposed extension.

2.4 Results of Investigations

The Old Mill was an essentially rectangular three-storey building aligned NW-SE, with a small, single storey (plus loft space) extension to the SW at the SE end of the main building. The building fabric was lime-bonded rubble, primarily whin, with a restored grey slate roof. The NE elevation was set into the hillside, with an intervening channel flanked by the wall-face and a stone retaining wall, which had been rebuilt or extended with concrete bricks at the wallhead. This elevation featured three broad bays incorporating a main entrance set centrally in the second storey, accessed via a walkway from the hillside, with windows in the flanking bays and two smaller off-set windows at the eaves. Thus, the main entrance to the building was into the Upper Flat (which in fact took up both the second and third floors).

The NW end of the Mill was formed by a narrower, square, three-storey unit that had originally housed a drying kiln, as evidenced by a timber ventilator set on the roof ridge. This housing was set back from the main wall face on both the NE and SW elevations. It may have been integral to the original design, but its wall fabric was noticeably different from the main building, featuring fewer long, narrow slabs; in fact, its construction resembled that of the SW extension, suggesting both may have been later additions. This part of the Mill was reportedly badly damaged by fire in 2018 and restored sympathetically using lime mortar and whinstone rubble, which must have had a bearing on its appearance; however, the damage was primarily on the NE side, whereas the difference in fabric was visible on all elevations.

The SW elevation, facing away from the hill and thus appearing far taller than the NE side, featured asymmetrical window spacing, the fenestration of each floor being offset from the rest. The Lower Flat had only two windows on this side of the main building (and none on the NE side), these being spaced either side of the door, which was positioned at the NW end of the main building, short of the step back of the former kiln. Both were multi-pane tilt and turn frames, taller than those in the upper stories, and probably replacements fitted into the original apertures during conversion work.

The wall face above the door bore thick patches of render, possibly indicating repair to the quoins bordering the kiln; this contrasted with the bare stone of most of the building. At the SW end of the elevation was the single storey gabled extension to the SW, now containing a modern kitchen and utility room but possibly originally a store adjoining the room housing the milling machinery. The extension featured a single slit window positioned centrally in the SW elevation; since both of the rooms within included a rectangular multi-paned window (one in the NW and one in the SE elevation), one or both of these may have been a later addition, with the slit providing the original illumination to the SW end whilst minimising draughts.

What was probably the double-pitched roof ghost of the wheelhouse was visible against the SE elevation of the main building, as a sub-triangular patch of harling extending to the sill of a window at third storey level. This was situated directly above the wheel pit (now a chicken run), approximately 1.20m wide x 4.00m long (SW-NE), with up to 1.50m surviving above ground level and the base back-filled. The outer edge of the pit

was supported by a stone retaining wall, now forming the edge of the garden, into which the return leg of the lade could be traced where it exited the wheel pit.

The NW elevation was difficult to access, being separated from the neighbouring property by a very narrow passage. It featured rectangular multi-pane windows in the second and third storeys, with a slit window at ground floor height of the same type as in the extension; all were centrally placed. The elevation was otherwise blank.

The interior of the Lower Flat was entirely modern in décor and furnishing and in use throughout as a family home. No traces of earlier features remained, with the exception of the embrasure settings of the windows, including the slits in the SW extension and NW. A third slit was present in the corner of the SE corner room (bedroom), within a half-embrasure; this may originally have illuminated the base of the milling mechanism, whereas a window in the SE elevation must have been inserted following removal of the wheel from the exterior.

3 Interpretation

The building was a handsome example of a 19th Century corn mill with incorporated drying kiln, of stone rubble construction commensurate with the presumed date (replacing the clay or timber-built mills of earlier centuries). Estate records referenced in the listing (5th October 1971) show it to have been one of several mills located along the Camserney Burn, the others including a lint (linen) mill, a carpet mill and a saw mill. It may originally have been a simple rectangle, to which the kiln was later added, possibly at the same time as the small extension housing (perhaps) a storeroom. Conversion to domestic use had almost entirely obscured any original features in the interior, while the removal of the wheel had also greatly altered its appearance—although not enough to obscure its original function.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 Recommendations for Further Work

Alder Archaeology consider that the HBR was conducted correctly and do not recommend further work in connection with the present development. However, the final decision ultimately rests with Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust.

5 Bibliography

Ordnance Survey, Perthshire, Sheet XLIX (includes: Dull; Logierait; Weem), surveyed 1862, published 1867 (six inches to one mile, First Edition)

Appendix 1 Photographic Register

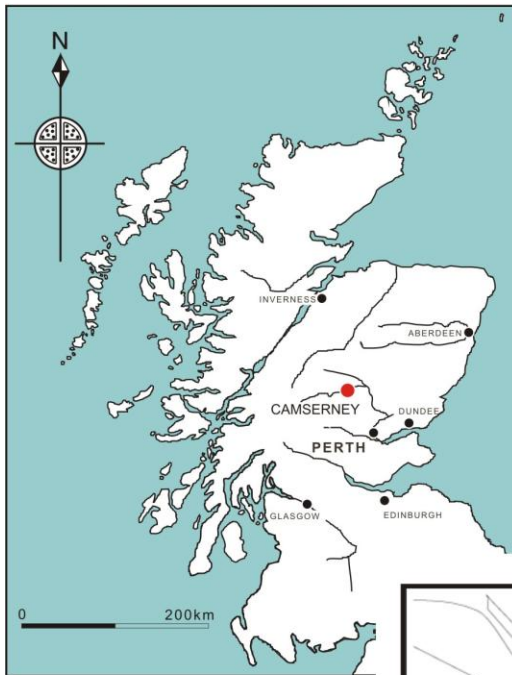
<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
001-3	Location shots, Old Mill with Mill House	NE, N
004	Exterior, SW elevation, S end	NE
005-6	Exterior, SW elevation, N end (oblique)	N
007-8	Exterior, SW elevation of SW wheelhouse extension	NE
009	Exterior, general view of SW wheelhouse extension	S
010	Exterior, NW elevation of SW wheelhouse extension	SE
011	Exterior, SE elevation of SW wheelhouse extension	NW
012	Exterior, SE elevation of Mill (oblique)	N
013	Exterior, location of former wheelhouse against SE elevation of Mill (oblique)	N
014-17	Exterior, wheel-pit	NE
018	Exterior, base of former wheelhouse/top of wheel-pit, SE elevation of Mill	NW
019	Exterior, view into wheel-pit from SE side	NW
020	Exterior, SE elevation of Mill	NW
021	Exterior, channel between NE elevation of Mill and hillside retaining wall	NW
022-23	Exterior, upper storey of NE elevation	SW
024-25	Exterior, S end of upper storey of NE elevation	SW
026	Exterior, lower storey of N end of NE elevation	SW
027-28	Exterior, N end of NE elevation	SW
029-31	Exterior, channel between NE elevation of Mill and hillside retaining wall	SE
032-33	Exterior, SW elevation of Mill	NE
034	Exterior, SW elevation, N end	NE
035-36	Exterior, SW elevation of SW wheelhouse extension	NE
037-38	Locations shots, Mill, Mill House and Steading	N
039-40	Exterior, general view of mill from Mill House	E
041	Interior, general view of utility room	SW

042	Interior, roof hatch in utility room	-
043	Interior, SE elevation of utility room	SE
044-45	Interior, NW elevation of utility room	NW
046	Interior, SE elevation of kitchen	SE
047	Interior, SW elevation of kitchen	SW
048	Interior, detail, slit window in SW elevation of kitchen	SW
049	Interior, general view of kitchen	S
050-51	Interior, door in NW elevation of kitchen	NW
052	Interior, window in SE elevation of SE bedroom	SE
053	Interior, general view of living room	E
054	Interior, general view of NW bedroom	NW
055-57	Exterior, lade returning channel to SW of wheelhouse	NE
058	Exterior, SE elevation of Mill, oblique	N

Appendix 2 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth & Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Lower Old Mill of Camserney
PROJECT CODE:	AF16
PARISH:	Dull
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	C Fyles
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	HBR
NMRS NO(S):	NN84NW 92
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Cornmill
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NN 81984 49280
START DATE (this season)	7 th September 2020
END DATE (this season)	7 th September 2020
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A Historic Building Recording was carried out of the ground floor of a former corn mill at Camserney, near Aberfeldy. The mill, of 19 th Century date, had already been converted into flats, one of which occupied the ground floor. The work was carried out in advance of the construction of a small extension.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	-
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr & Mrs McCluskey
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)

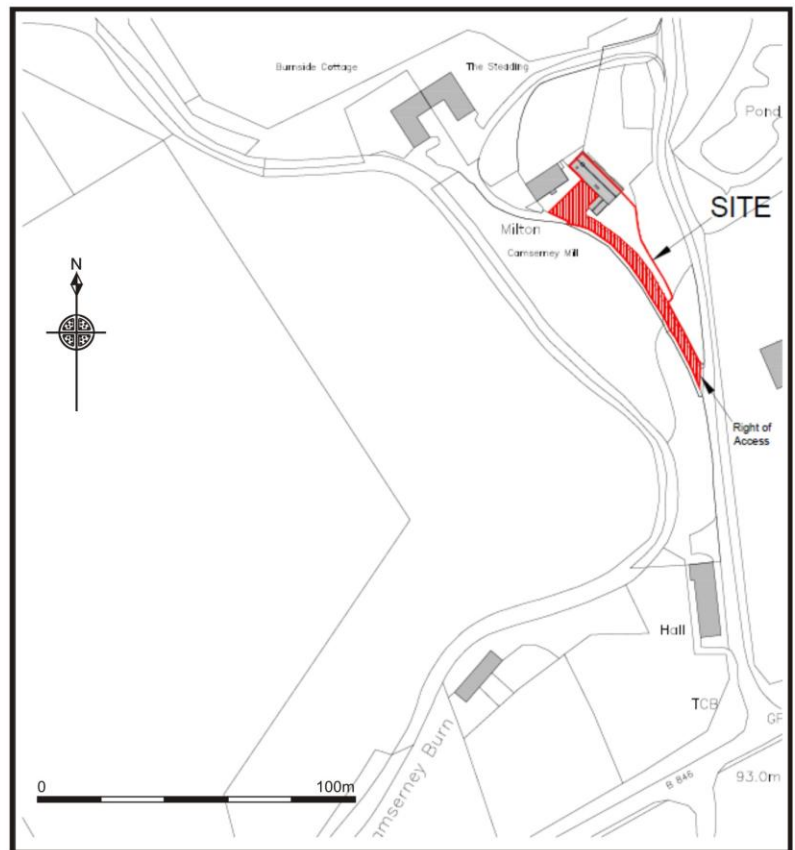
Illus 1



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved.
Licence number AL 100049514

Lower Old Mill of Camserney

Site Location

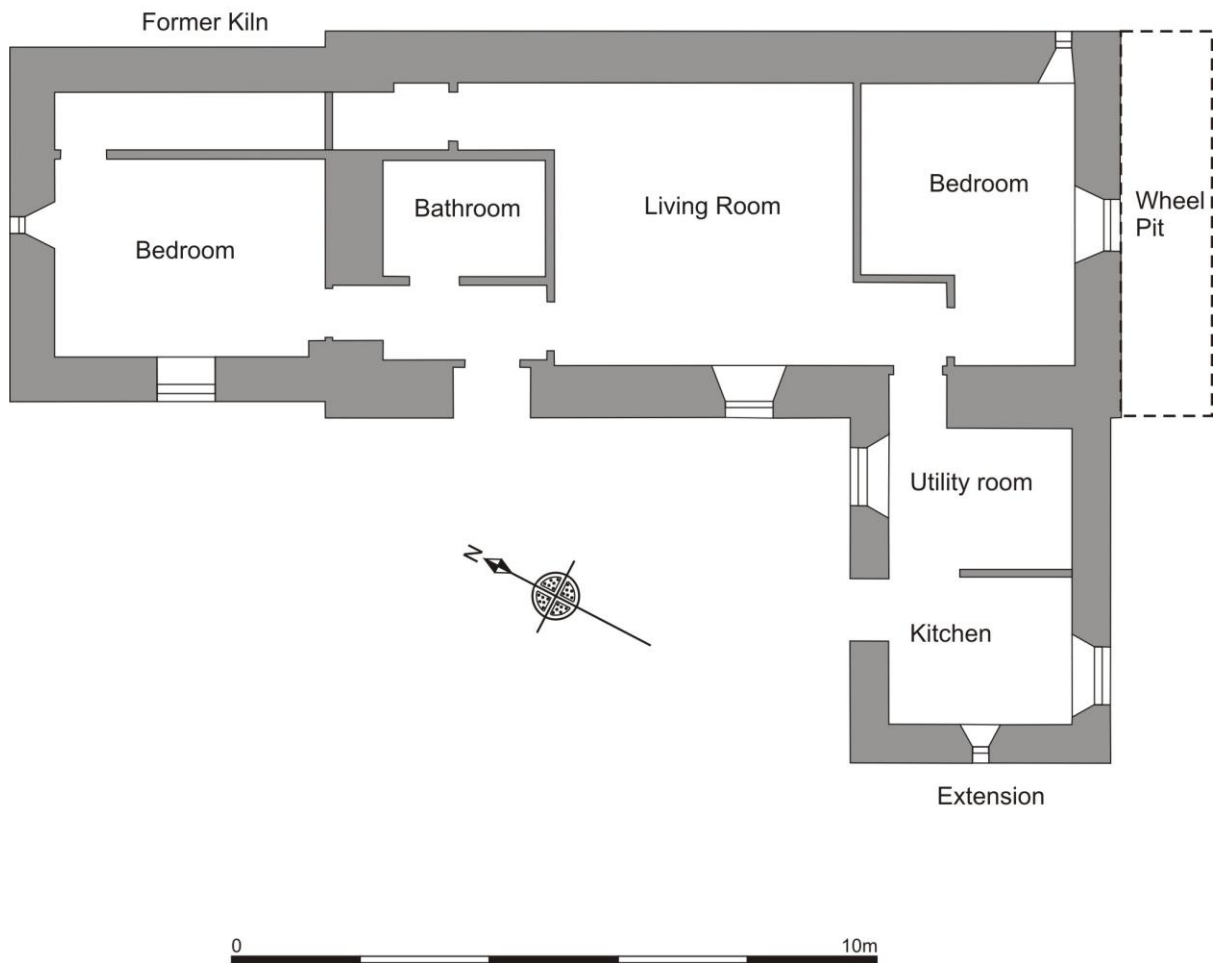


AF16

2020 Alder Archaeology Ltd

Illus 2

Floor plan of Lower Flat



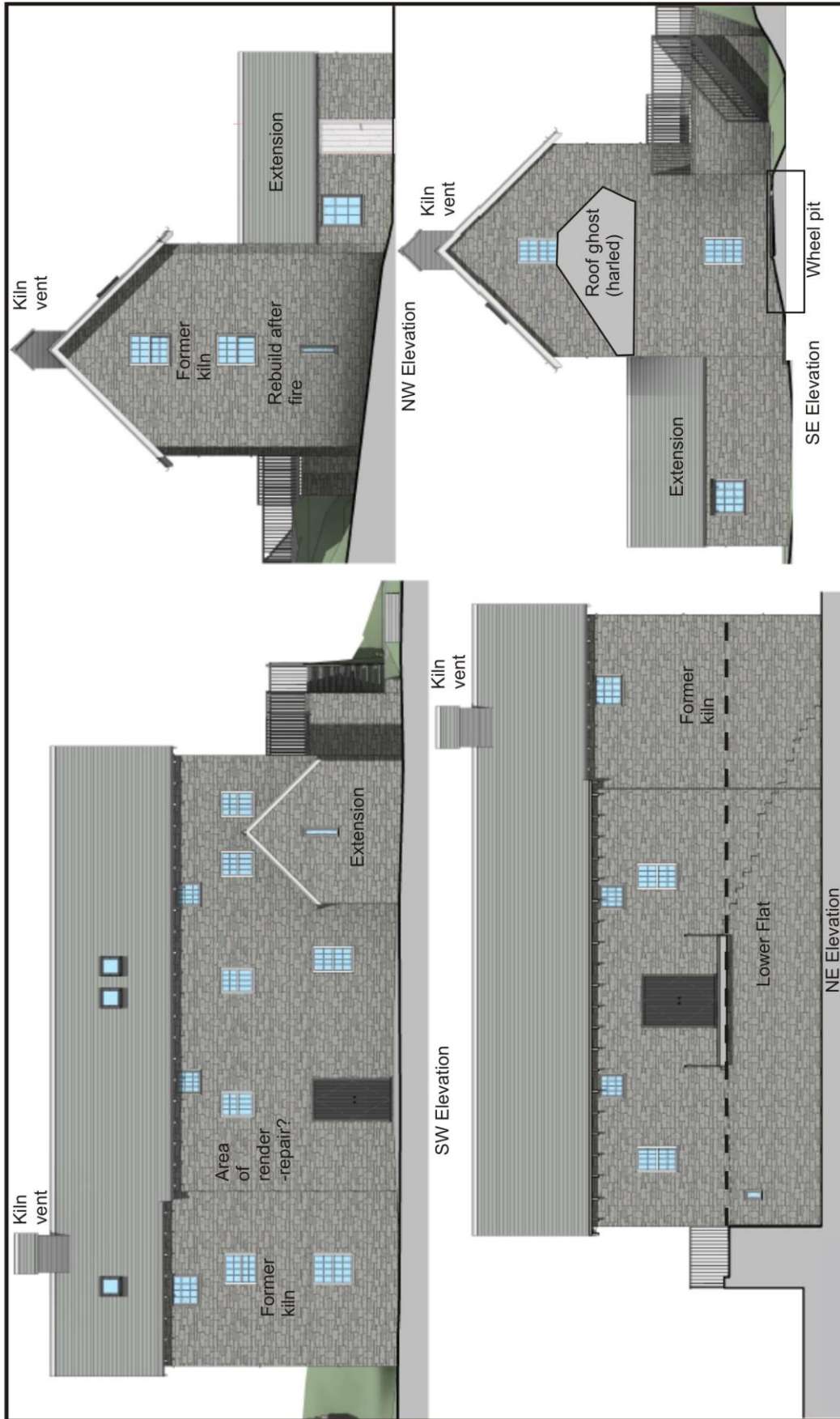
Base drawing by Fear Macpherson Chartered Architects

AF16

2020 Alder Archaeology Ltd

Old Mill of Camserney, external elevations

Illus 3



Base drawings by Fearn & Macpherson Chartered Architects

0 10m

AF16

2020 Alder Archaeology Ltd



NE elevation



SW elevation



SE elevation of extension



Possible roof ghost over wheel pit