

Historic Building Recording
Corrymuckloch
Amulree
PERTH & KINROSS
AJ04



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CORMYMUCKLOCH
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Photographic images: 2, 23, 46, 59, 60, 95, 110

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ABSTRACT

Two former byres, forming a single, conjoined building, were recorded prior to conversion to holiday accommodation. The byres appear on the 1863 First Edition OS map and were constructed in a typical late eighteenth/early nineteenth vernacular style comprising rubble walls. The larger of the two appeared to have originally included domestic accommodation, featuring a fireplace and stugged ashlar casings and quoins. An area of rig and furrow close by was also assessed; although surviving rig was present, this was too distant from the development site to be impacted by the planned works.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

GD Planning, on behalf of Mr John Moir, commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an Historic Building Recording of two adjoining former byres at Corrymuckloch, near Amulree, in advance of conversion to holiday accommodation. The proposed development area, including a small wood, lies alongside a former inn and farmhouse and is centred on NGR NN 89453 34576. The work (site code AJ04) was undertaken on 5th November, 2020, in bright weather conditions. The requirement was to conduct a basic HBR and also to assess the survival of a nearby area of rig and furrow and any possible impact upon this from the planned development.

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 20/01021/FLL.

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. An additional aim was to assess the extent and nature of any surviving rig and furrow in proximity to the development and record this photographically.

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 Garry Dimeck and John Moir for their assistance and guidance throughout this project. Mr Moir funded this HBR.

2 Details of Work

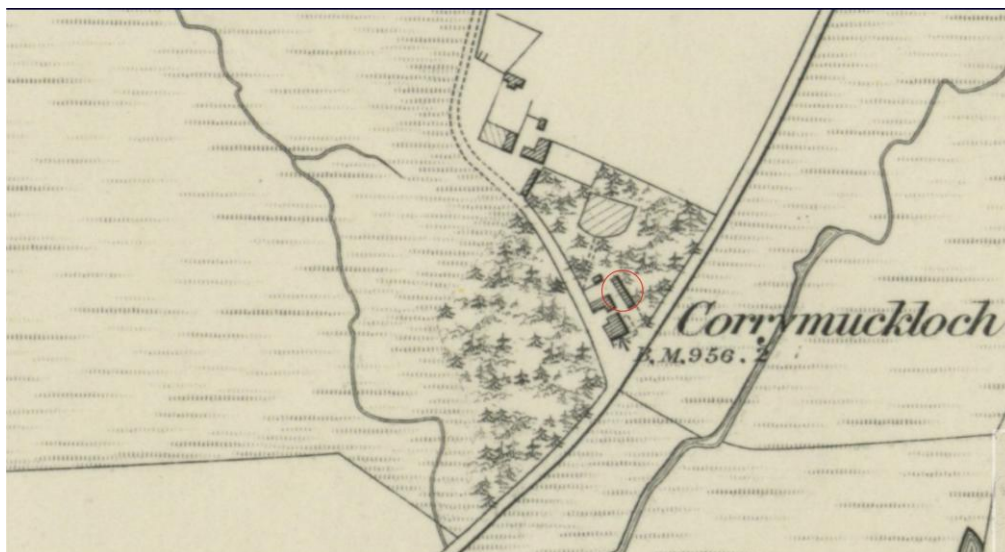
2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

The development area lies immediately adjacent to the NW side of the A822 road between Amulree to the NE and Newton to the SW. The former inn and farmhouse, now a domestic dwelling with bed and breakfast accommodation and including an L-shaped steading and courtyard, stands immediately to the SW of the site, with a second former steading more distantly to the NW, alongside a Wade Road running out towards a range of steep hills that ring the site on the N and W sides. The immediate area of the development is low-lying, indeed waterlogged in part, but the ground rises away from

the road towards a ridge on which the second steading is situated. Part of the site lies within a small wood, alongside the A road, with another, larger wood behind the house to the W and SW. Across the A822 to the SE is an extensive area of bog, with the Girron Burn running through this and a small loch (the Muckloch, ie, Lake of Pigs?) fringed by forestry plantation, lies to the SE of the site.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

The farmstead of Corrymuckloch appears on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of the area (surveyed 1863, published 1867), with the conjoined byres appearing on their present plan as a rectangular building:



OS 1st Edition (six inches to a mile), byres circled

The Wade Road (NN83NE 15) runs from the hills to the N of the site to join the A822 immediately W of the house and is part of the stretch of military road between Crieff and Dalnacardoch constructed in the mid-eighteenth century. The area also includes numerous clearance cairns and a ruined building and field system (NN83SE 18) at Creag Na Meine to the W of the development area at NN 8878 3446. These are of an as yet unassigned period, but possibly relate to an area of rig and furrow (NN83 SE 17), part of which lies within the present site.

In 1995, a significant Late Bronze Age hoard was discovered to the NE of the site, close to the Wade Road at NN 8953 3507, comprising a bronze dipper or ladle, a fragmented sword blade and three socketed axeheads (NN83NE 36). Four cupmarked stones (NN83NE 16, 54, 55, 73) lie within an area close to the hoard site, while the ridge to the W of the Wade Road features at least ten more (NN83NE 25, 28, 29, 56, 65, 66, 71, 72, 74, 75).

There exists a folk ballad called “The Battle of Corrymuckloch” describing an event in the early nineteenth century in which a force of soldiers and excise men was repulsed in their attempt to apprehend one Donald the Smuggler. The song was first published in 1905.

2.3 Archaeological Method

The area of rig and furrow was first located and photographed and the distance to the development site measured (specifically, the distance to the proposed location of a septic tank to be installed as part of the development works).

A basic Historic Building Recording was carried out to create a permanent record of the former byres, which survived as a singled conjoined building of two ground floor rooms. This comprised: a full photographic record of the building in its current setting, with all main external and internal elevations 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.

2.4 Results of Investigations

Rig NN83SE 17 (see Illus 4)

A surviving area of rig and furrow was located around NGR NN 89474 34632. This lay on the SE slope of the ridge to the NE of the site and was separated from the development by a track running SE from the Wade Road. The edge of the rig lay approximately 40.00m N/NE of the proposed tank location. The faint but discernible rigs ran on a generally E-W alignment and were spaced 0.50m – 1.00m apart, standing c.0.20m tall. Within the wood, the S half of the area recorded in the NRHE NN83SE 17, no rig remained; the whole of this part of the site was covered with pine trees, the majority mature but of no great age apart from a handful of larger examples, while much of the ground itself was waterlogged by springs which presumably fed into the Girron Burn on the other side of the road.

There did not appear to be any threat posed by the present development to the surviving rig to the N and NE.

Byres HBR

The building to be developed had formerly been two conjoined rectangular byres, aligned NW-SE with the larger of the pair at the SE end, the smaller appearing to have been an extension from this to the NW. The combined external length of the building was 24.48m NW-SE, with the larger building 6.15m wide and the smaller 5.85m.

SE Byre

12.37m long x 4.97m wide (internal). The building was largely constructed of stone rubble, with stugged ashlar red sandstone cills, lintels, side casings and quoins. The roof was of grey slate, in good repair with skylights and lead flashing suggesting relatively recent refurbishment. The interior floor had been removed, having been severely undermined by rabbits burrowing in the sand beneath. A small chunk of combined concrete and cobbles indicated its former composition. Unlike the smaller byre, the larger also contained a wooden first floor, occupying the NW half of the interior wallhead and forming a ceiling and enclosing wooden partition wall. This floor could not be accessed, however, owing to the stairs having been removed following collapse. The outline of the stair edge was still visible in the whitewashed render of the

NE and NW elevations, the NW half of the ground floor having been painted, unlike the bare-walled remainder. The NW end of the SW elevation featured a door and a fixed lattice window, with another similar window in the NE elevation positioned opposite the space between the two opposing features. Both windows were 1.08m wide, the SW was 1.15m tall and its NE counterpart shorter at 1.00m. The SE elevation featured an open, 2.75m wide entrance with ashlar casing and a stone lintel, well integrated into the wall, indicating an original entrance. The NW elevation featured a fireplace positioned centrally on the ground floor, with a cast iron firebox within a moulded ashlar mantelpiece, painted black and measuring 1.40m tall x 1.25m wide; the rectangular chimney stack with ceramic pot protruded between the two byres. Although the SE end of the building featured exposed roofbeams and did indeed appear to have been intended for storage, the NW end was of obvious domestic purpose, with its built-in fireplace, enclosed wooden upper storey and ashlar casings and quoins. It seemed to have represented a small cottage with attached byre space, although before the recent removal of stairs the upper floor had been used as a hayloft.

A possible feature of interest- which, if proven, would be an indicator of considerable age- was a dark slate boulder set into the NW elevation at ground level, to the NE of the fireplace. This was conspicuously unlike the surrounding fabric, being larger, harder and more crudely-shaped (and also unpainted). This was possibly a so-called “witch stane”, a traditional method of warding off evil quite widely attested in Scotland during the seventeenth century, but becoming less common in succeeding centuries.

NW byre

10.41m long x 4.65m wide (internal). This building was also constructed of stone rubble, similar in pattern to the large building but minus the quoins and casings. It stood approximately 1.00m lower than its larger companion and was almost certainly constructed as an extension to the latter. This smaller building was still in use for storing straw bales and had a rough dirt floor. The SW elevation featured a 1.00m wide empty doorway at the SE end, but the most interesting features were single rows of ten terracotta ceramic pots or tubes set horizontally into each of the long walls. These had internal diameters of 0.22m and were presumably vents, indicating the former presence of animals or birds. This byre featured no upper storey, with exposed roofbeams similar too, but lower than, those in the SE end of the larger byre; these appeared to have been fairly recently replaced. Another feature was a second possible witch stane, in this case an unshaped boulder of white quartz set into the founts of the SW exterior elevation at the approximate mid-point and, again, very unlike the surrounding fabric. In general, however, the extension appeared to be too recent- or at least recently modified- for such a feature, with the NW elevation featuring a concrete lintel and no casing (unlike the SE byre/cottage) and the presence of the vents also relatively recent.

3 Interpretation

The conjoined byres, really an original combined living space and byre with later extension, were constructed in a style fairly typical of the local vernacular of the eighteenth and earlier nineteenth centuries. This accords well with their appearance on the first edition OS map of 1863. The presence of what might possibly have been witch stanes perhaps indicates a somewhat earlier date, or perhaps a longer survival of a folk

tradition which in less remote areas had already disappeared by the likely time of construction.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 Recommendations for Further Work

Alder Archaeology consider the HBR and rig survey to have been conducted correctly and do not recommend further work in connection with the present development. The surviving area of rig and furrow is not impacted by the planned works. However, the final decision ultimately rests with Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust.

5 Bibliography

Ordnance Survey, *Perthshire, Sheet LXXI (includes: Dull; Fowlis Wester; Little Dunkeld)*
Survey date: 1863, Publication date: 1867 (six inches to a mile, First Edition)

Appendix 1 Photographic Register

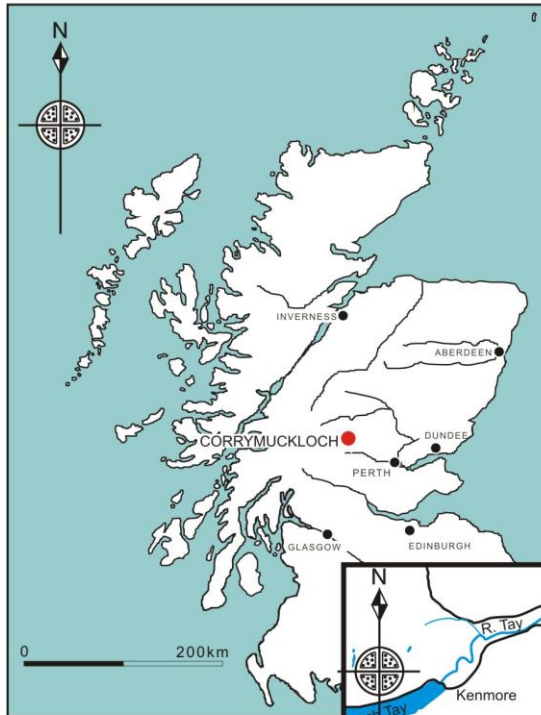
<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
1-5	Surviving rig on hill to N/NW of site	NE, E, ESE
6-10	Surviving rig, view to site	SW, S
11-13	Surviving rig, view to Wade Road	W, SW
14-16	Surviving rig and site	SW
17-19	General view of site from N	S
20-21	View of location of surviving rig (on hill) from location of septic tank (in wood)	N
22-25	Location of septic tank	SE
26-30	Location of filtration bed	E, SE
31	View of farmhouse from filtration bed location	NW
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34-35	Hill to S of filtration bed, possible rig/banks	SW
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40	View of surviving rig from wood	NE
41	Location shot, SE elevation of byre with farmhouse	NW
42	NE elevation of farmhouse, oblique	WNW
43	Location shot, SE elevation of byre with wood to E	NNW
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49-50	Exterior, SW elevation of SE byre, oblique	N
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57	Exterior, window in SW elevation of SE byre	NE
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60	“Witch stane”? set into base of SW elevation of NW byre	NE
61-62	Exterior, NW elevation of byre	SE
63-66	Exterior, NE elevation of NW byre	SW
67-68	Exterior, NE elevation of SE byre, oblique	S
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74-75	Interior, SE elevation of NW byre	SE
76	Detail, view of roof beams in NW byre	SE
77	Interior, NE elevation of NW byre, oblique	E
78-79	Interior, SW elevation of NW byre, oblique	S
80	Interior, NW elevation of NW byre	NW
81-83	Location shots, view of NW elevation of steading, oblique	W
84	Location shot, courtyard wall attached to steading	SW
85-89	NW elevation of steading	SE
90	Location shot, steading and byres	E
91-92	Interior, general views of SE byre, oblique	ESE, N
93-94	Interior, NW elevation of SE byre	NW
95	Interior, groundfloor of NW elevation, SE byre	NW
96	Interior, detail of former location of stairs, oblique	N
97-98	Interior, fireplace in NW elevation of SE byre	NW
99-103	Interior, NE elevation of SE byre, oblique	N, E
104-107	Interior, SW elevation of SE byre, oblique	W, S
108	Interior, window in SW elevation of SE byre, oblique	WSW
109-110	“Witch stane”? to NE of fireplace, NW elevation of SE byre	NW
111-114	Interior, SE elevation of SE byre	SE
115-120	Location shots, general overview of site from Wade Road to NW	ESE

Appendix 2 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth & Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Corrymuckloch, Amulree
PROJECT CODE:	AJ04
PARISH:	Dull
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	C. Fyles
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	HBR
NMRS NO(S):	NN83SE 17
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Rig and furrow
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NN 89453 34576
START DATE (this season)	5 th November, 2020
END DATE (this season)	5 th November, 2020
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Two former byres, forming a single, conjoined building, were recorded prior to conversion to holiday accommodation. The byres appear on the 1863 First Edition OS map and were constructed in a typical late eighteenth/early nineteenth vernacular style comprising rubble walls. The larger of the two appeared to have originally included domestic accommodation, featuring a fireplace and stugged ashlar casings and quoins. An area of rig and furrow close by was also assessed; although surviving rig was present, this was too distant from the development site to be impacted by the planned works.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	-
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	John Moir
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)

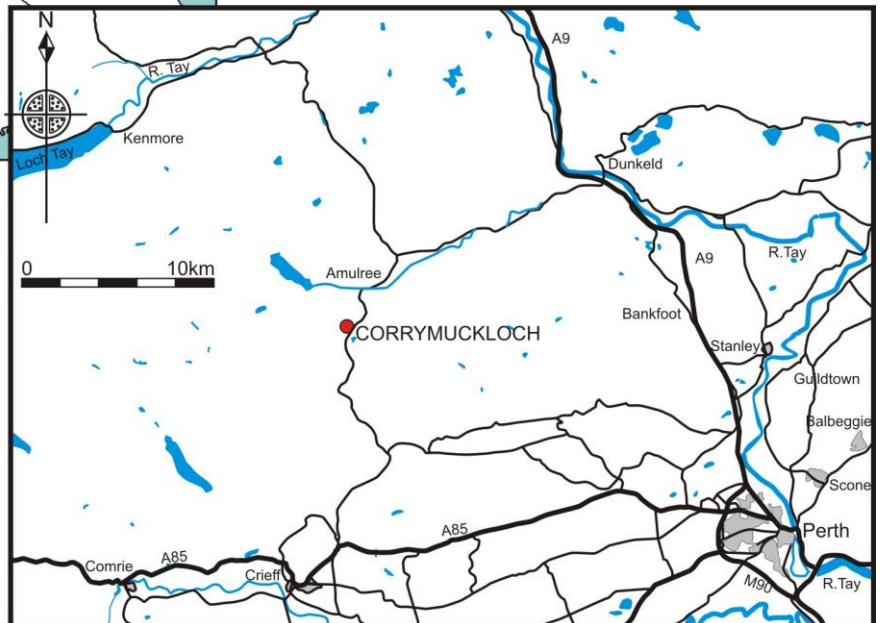
Illus 1



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Corrymuckloch, Amulree

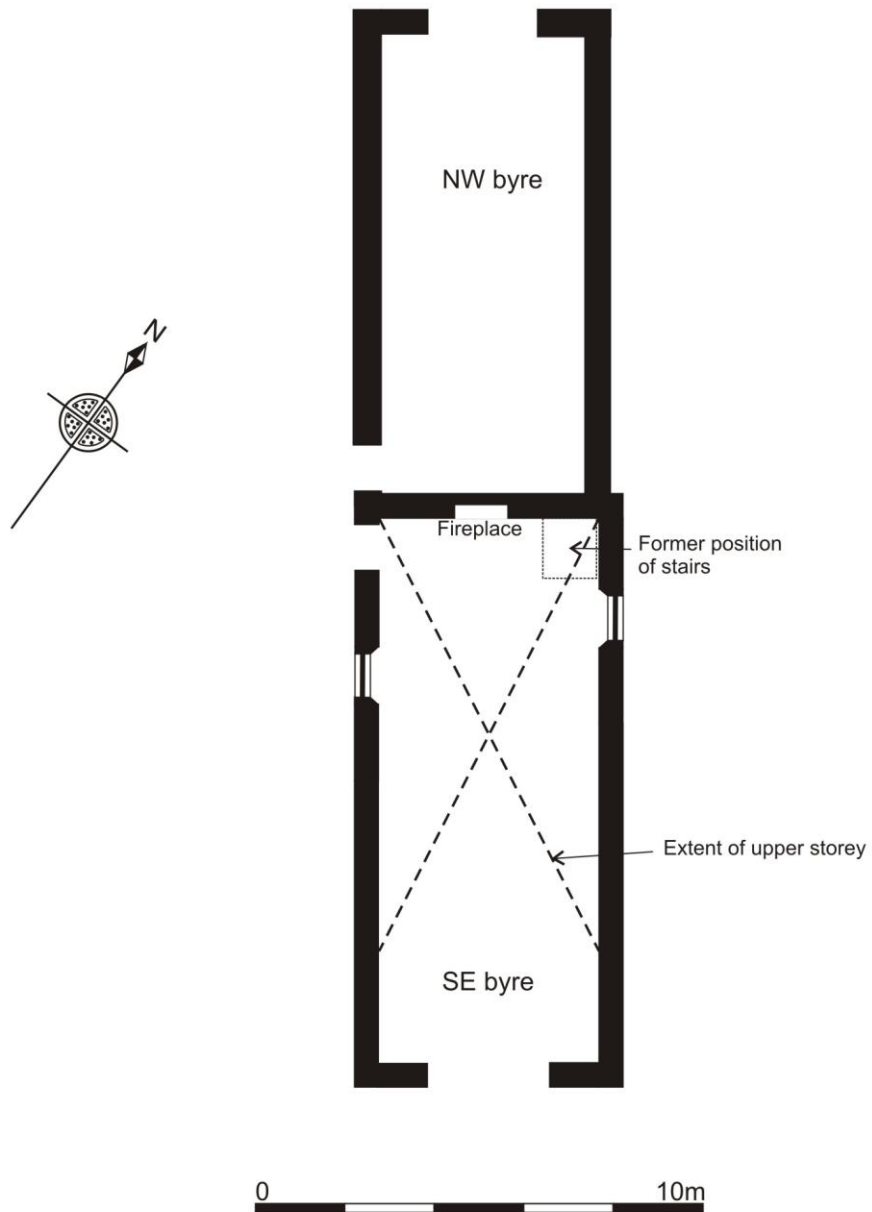
Site Location



AJ04

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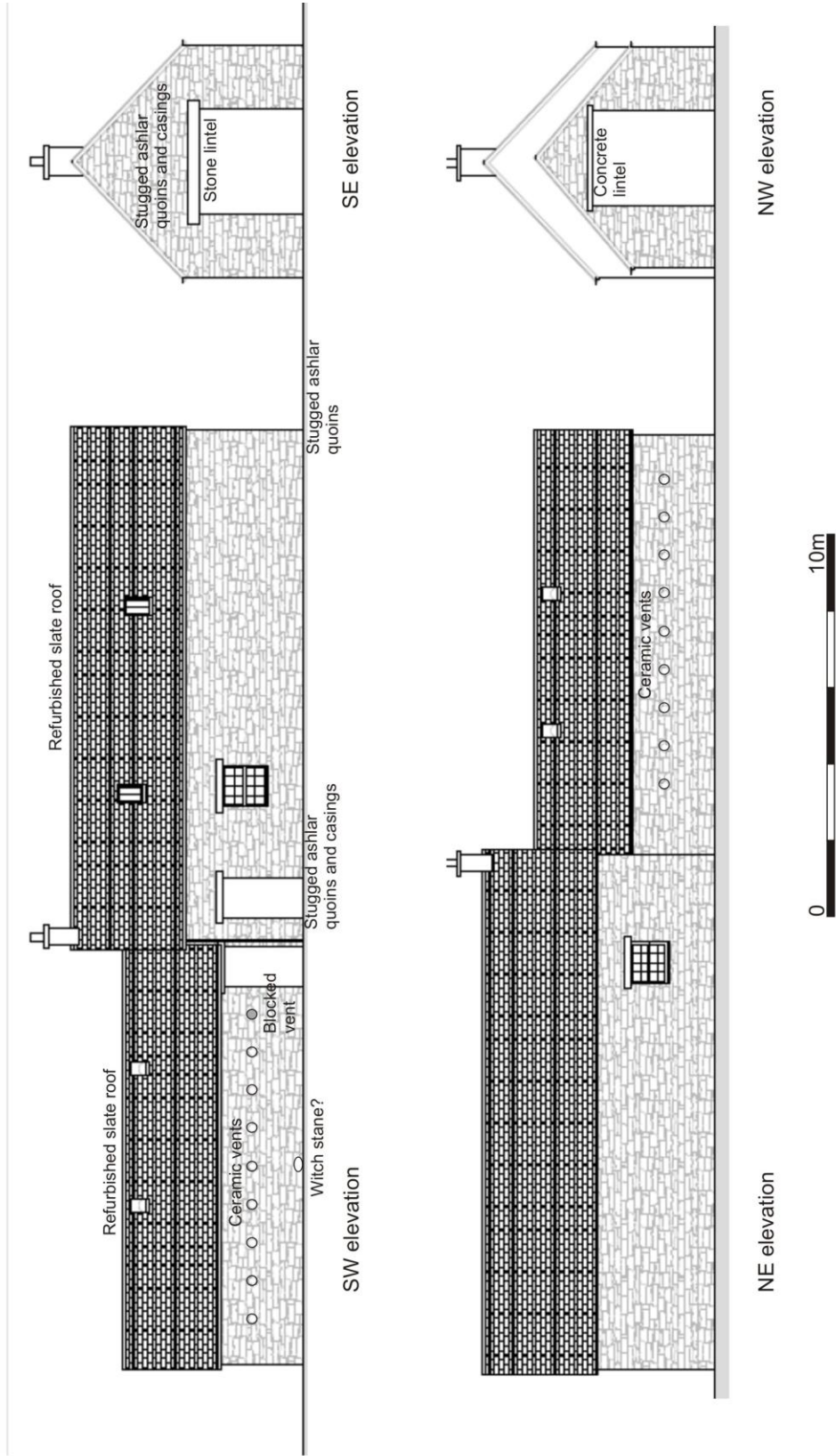
Illus 2 Corrymuckloch, Amulree, Floor plan of byres



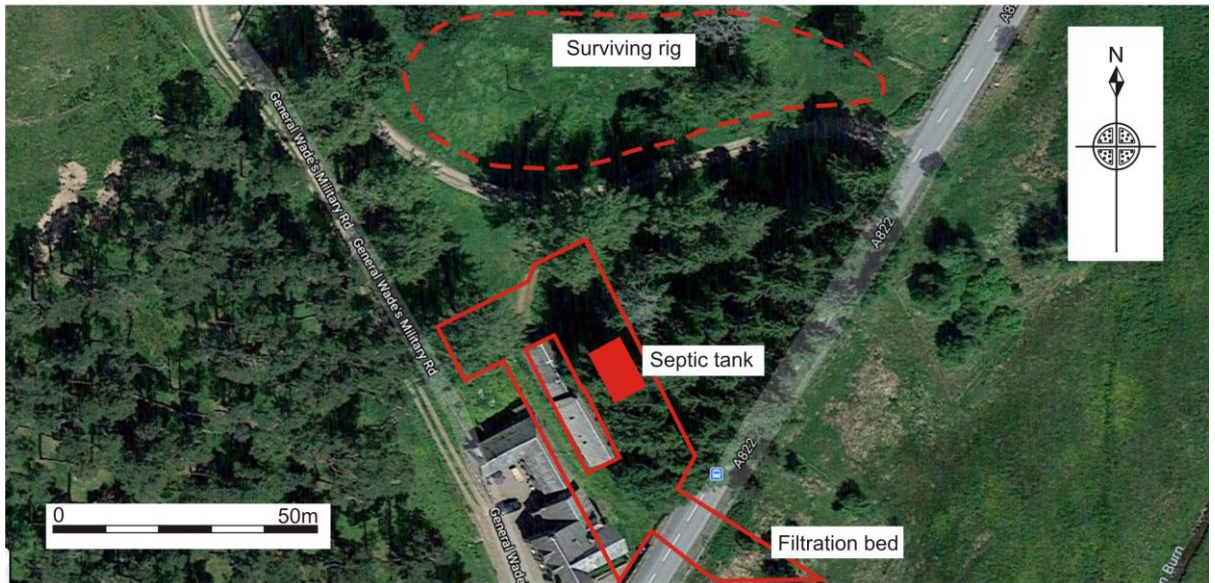
Base plan by Crossings House Design Ltd

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Illus 4 Corrymuckloch, Amulree, location of rig relative to site (from satellite)



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Surviving rig on hill to N of site

Location of septic tank



SE elevation

SW elevation of NW barn



Interior, fireplace in NW elevation

Witch stane? To NE of fireplace



Witch stane? In exterior SW elevation of NW barn