

Historic Building Recording
Cleish Mill Farm
Cleish
PERTH & KINROSS
CH03



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CLEISH MILL FARM
PERTH & KINROSS**

CH03

<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>5</i>	<i>Bibliography</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Appendix 1</i>	<i>Photographic Register</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Appendix 2</i>	<i>Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry</i>	<i>7</i>

Illustration 1: Site location plan

Illustration 2: Floor plan

Illustration 3: External elevations

Photographic illustrations: 1, 9, 14, 47, 61

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ABSTRACT

A former steading was surveyed in advance of conversion to housing. Of rubble wall construction and having recently been extensively modified following a period of dereliction, the steading appeared on the First Edition OS Map (1854/6) and was probably of early nineteenth or late eighteenth century origin, having been built alongside a former watermill.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Ms Sharon Ross commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological historic building recording of a former steading at Cleish Mill Farm, near Kinross, in advance of conversion to housing. The proposed development area is located on the edge of a complex of buildings associated with a former watermill and is centred on NGR NT 10296 97809. The work (site code CH03) was undertaken on 2nd December, 2020, in clear weather conditions. The requirement was to conduct a basic HBR survey.

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 20/01075/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.

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

Sharon Ross funded this HBR; we also wish to thank her for her assistance during this project.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

Cleish Mill Farm lies on the NE side of the B9097 road, 800m SSE of the hamlet of Cleish, itself 4.3km SW of Kinross. The site, also known as Watergate, includes a former watermill (now converted to housing), a derelict agricultural shed, a farmhouse and several outbuildings, including an L-shaped steading running SW from the mill, the SW end of which is to be converted to housing and forms the subject of the present survey. The immediate surroundings are fairly level and low-lying, to the SW of Loch Leven, but 650m to the S, the land rises abruptly to form the cliff of Nivingston Craigs, beyond which lie Nivingston Hill, Dowhill Muir and Cowden Hill.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

Cleish Mill (NT19NW 58.01) is probably of early 19th Century date, with most of the accompanying buildings being of similar vintage. The mill, farmhouse (labelled “Summer Ho.”) and steading all feature on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of the area (published 1856):



1st Edition OS, 1854/6, the Mill is producing flour, with a barley mill at Nivingston

A short distance to the W of the farm and also indicated on the OS map, was the site of the “Lecture Stane” (NT19NW 4), reputedly a cairn excavated in 1791 and found to contain four glazed and decorated cinerary urns, which was supposedly used before the Reformation as a support for coffins during the reading of the burial service. This suggests that a cemetery and church pre-dating those presently at Cleish (NT09NE 43) may have been located closer to the Stane, unless this tradition was part of a tour of the parish boundaries sometimes made by funeral processions.

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 (including the main NE-SW arm) and internal elevations of the SW end and ground floor of the cart shed, 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

The steading was L-shaped in plan with two approximately equal arms, with a separate shed building attached at the NE end forming an asymmetrical U; the arm of the steading at the SW end, aligned NW-SE, contained a workshop and small barn, while the NE-SW arm (running towards the mill) contained a small stable and cart shed, the latter not part of the present development, which directly concerned only the stable, barn and workshop. Record shots were taken of the shed interior. The farmhouse lay to the N across a courtyard that was partially enclosed by the steading. Only the cart shed

had an upper floor, which was not accessed. The steading had been derelict until recently, when the present owners had rebuilt sections of the walls, re-roofed the whole building with corrugated metal sheeting and made several smaller modifications to render it habitable. The steading was constructed of stone rubble, with the NE arm being of more regular appearance and the exterior of the workshop of lighter-coloured stone. The wall thickness was generally 0.58m.

The workshop measured 10.27m NW-SE x 4.86m SW-NE, 4.86m tall from poured concrete floor to the base of the single-pitched roof. The remainder of the steading stood taller and featured a double-pitched roof. The NW elevation featured three evenly-spaced blocked windows or alcoves, each 0.55m tall x 0.45m wide and 1.00m above the floor. These were not visible in the exterior fabric and were therefore more probably alcoves. The SW elevation featured a 3.30m wide window with six fixed dapple glass panes, clearly a modern insert with concrete block rebuild; at the S end of the same elevation concrete blocks and red bricks had been used to fill in a window 1.10m tall x 0.70m wide and presumably blocked when replaced by its much larger modern counterpart. The NE elevation, which contained the entrance door at the S end, also featured two window arches, the S one of which had been blocked with stone rubble. Each measured 1.50m tall, from floor to mid-arch, 2.00m wide with a flattened Roman arch. Above these, halfway between the arches and the roof, were two smaller rectangular windows, each 0.70m wide and 0.40m tall, with wooden lintels, both filled with concrete blocks. The upper wallhead above the windows had been built up to its current height with stone rubble that was noticeably different in colour to the remainder of the fabric, with fresh pointing- this presumably dated to the recent re-roofing of the derelict building. Above the modern single-width door was another area of rebuild of the same width (0.90m), running to the roof; this suggested the building containing the workshop may not originally have adjoined the remainder of the steading, a suggestion borne out by the presence of quoins in the outer wall fabric above the door. The SE elevation contained what appeared to be a chimney flue, blocked with stone rubble and lime mortar, with a doorway or window at first floor level filled with concrete blocks; viewed from outside, the NW end of the barn (see below), which stood taller than the workshop, did appear to feature a capped chimney stack, minus the pot. This might suggest that the taller part of the steading pre-dated the shorter workshop, except that the quoins noted above indicated an existing building extended to adjoin the remainder of the steading. Moreover, the original height of the workshop, which had required significant rebuilding after standing derelict for some years, may have differed markedly from its present level. It is possible that the chimney in fact served the workshop building rather than the barn, but was later incorporated into the latter.

The barn, which occupied the SE end of the SW arm and the corner of the steading, measured 8.54m NW-SE x 4.48m SW-NE. It was accessed via a stone ramp with kerb or step. As in the workshop, the floor was of poured concrete, with the room 5.47m tall to the exposed roof apex. The SW elevation featured three upper wallhead windows and two below, suggesting it had previously had an upper floor. One of the lower windows was clearly an insert with concrete block rebuild; the rest were set into embrasures. The SE elevation, meanwhile, featured three ground floor windows, all of which appeared to have been cut through the wall, with no embrasures, while a single upper window was set into an embrasure of the same appearance as those in the SW elevation and therefore probably original. The lower wall of the SW elevation appeared to have been rebuilt around the newer windows, with a concrete lintel above. The NE

elevation featured a blocked window with brick rebuild at the N end, with open space at first floor level through to the stable at the S end. The NW elevation featured a blocked first floor doorway to the E of the flue, with a gable ghost across the flue itself that possibly indicated an extension of the building upwards. It may be that this corner block was an addition to the original cart shed (the wall fabric appeared slightly less regular than the rest of the NE arm) and was constructed to join the shed and workshop into a single steading.

The stable occupied the SW end of the NE arm, adjoining the barn. It measured 4.79m NW-SE x 2.81m SW-NE, with the same roof height as the barn but with an uneven, slightly raised cobbled floor. A gable ghost in the NE elevation suggested the height of the whole building had been raised, while beam slots in the same elevation indicated the former position of the first floor, c.2.50m above the cobbles. The room, being so small and with a single-width doorway 1.00m wide, must have been difficult to use as a stable for an average-sized horse, but did not appear to have been re-configured. It was at present almost without illumination, except for a small, grille-covered vent in the SE elevation; however a boarded first-floor window just below the wallhead, in the same elevation, and a stone-blocked example opposite to the W of the door, would once have provided more light. The exterior wall face above the doorway appeared to have been built up against the cart shed, suggesting once again that this whole corner section (stable, barn) had been constructed to link the cart shed with the workshop; the S and E sides of the building bore no such traces, so it may have been that the space now occupied by the stable and barn was once an open yard, backed by a wall linking the standing buildings.

3 Interpretation

Although small in area (indeed, not even occupying the entire building), the area surveyed had followed an interesting sequence of construction as two separate buildings which were later combined, with the NE arm apparently also being raised in height. Taken together, the steading was a good example of local vernacular architecture and had probably been standing for some time before its appearance on the 1856 OS map. While recent modifications were clearly obvious, alterations dating from much earlier in the building's history- such as blocked windows- were also apparent.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

Alder Archaeology consider the HBR to have been 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, *Fife, Sheet 30 (includes: Beath; Cleish; Dunfermline; Kinross)*, Survey date: 1854, Publication date: 1856

Appendix 1 Photographic Register

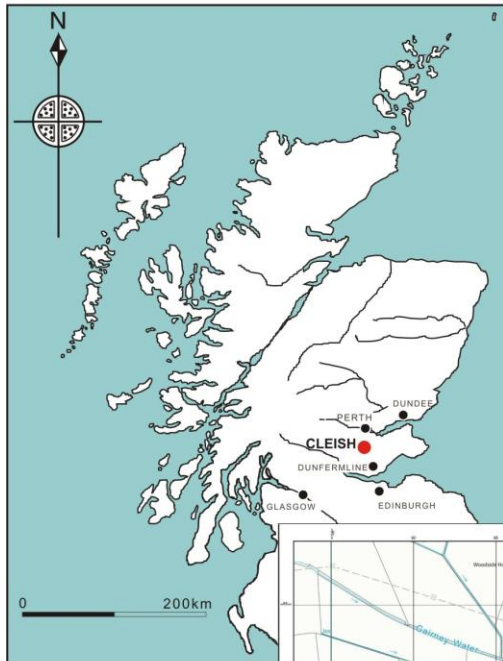
<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
1-3	Location shots, steading with farmhouse	E, W
4-6	General views, NW elevation of exterior	SW, S
7-9	Exterior, W end of NW elevation, cart shed and stable	SE
10	Exterior, E end of NW elevation, cart shed	SE
11-12	Exterior, NE elevation, workshop and barn	SW
13-14	Exterior, N end of NE elevation, workshop	SW
15-16	Exterior, S end of NE elevation/W end of NW elevation, barn and stable, oblique	S
17-18	Exterior, NW elevation of workshop	SE
19-22	Location shots, SW elevation of steading, with accompanying buildings	NE, E, SE
23-26	Exterior, SW elevation of steading	NE
27-28	Exterior, N end of SW elevation of steading, workshop	NE
29-30	Exterior, S end of SW elevation of steading, barn	NE
31	Exterior, SE elevation of steading, oblique	NNE
32	Exterior, W end of SE elevation of steading, oblique	W
33	Exterior, W end of SE elevation of steading	NW
34	Exterior, W end of SE elevation of steading, oblique	W
35	Exterior, mid-section of SE elevation of steading, oblique	NNE
36	Exterior, W end of SE elevation of steading, oblique	W
37	Exterior, E end of SE elevation of building to NE of steading, oblique	NNE
38	Exterior, watermill to NE of steading	NE
39-40	Interior, general view of workshop, oblique	W
41	Interior, NW elevation of workshop	NW
42	Interior, S end of SW elevation of workshop	SW
43-44	Interior, N end of SW elevation of workshop, oblique	WNW, W

45-46	Interior, mid-section of SW elevation of workshop, window	SW
47	Interior, SE elevation of workshop	SE
48-49	Interior, W end of NE elevation of workshop, oblique	N
50	Interior, E end of NE elevation of workshop, door	NE
51-52	Interior, mid-section of NE elevation of workshop, blocked window	NE
53-54	Interior, W end of NE elevation of workshop	NE
55	Interior, general view of barn, oblique	SSE
56-57	Interior, SE elevation of barn	SE
58-59	Interior, SW elevation of barn, oblique	W
60	Interior, mid-section of SW elevation of barn, windows	SW
61-62	Interior, NW elevation of barn	NW
63	Interior, NE elevation of barn, oblique	E
64-65	Interior, N end of NE elevation of barn	NE
66	Interior, S end of NE elevation of barn	NE
67	Interior, roof space above wallhead between barn and stable	NE
68-69	Interior, SE elevation of stable	SE
70	Interior, wallhead of SE elevation of stable	SE
71-72	Interior, NW elevation of stable	NW
73	Interior, NE elevation of stable, oblique	N
74	Interior, wallhead of NE elevation of stable, gable ghost	NE
75	Interior, SW elevation of stables, oblique	S
76-78	Interior, SE elevation of cart shed	SE
79-81	Interior, SW elevation of cart shed	SW
82	Interior, NE elevation of cart shed	NE

Appendix 2 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

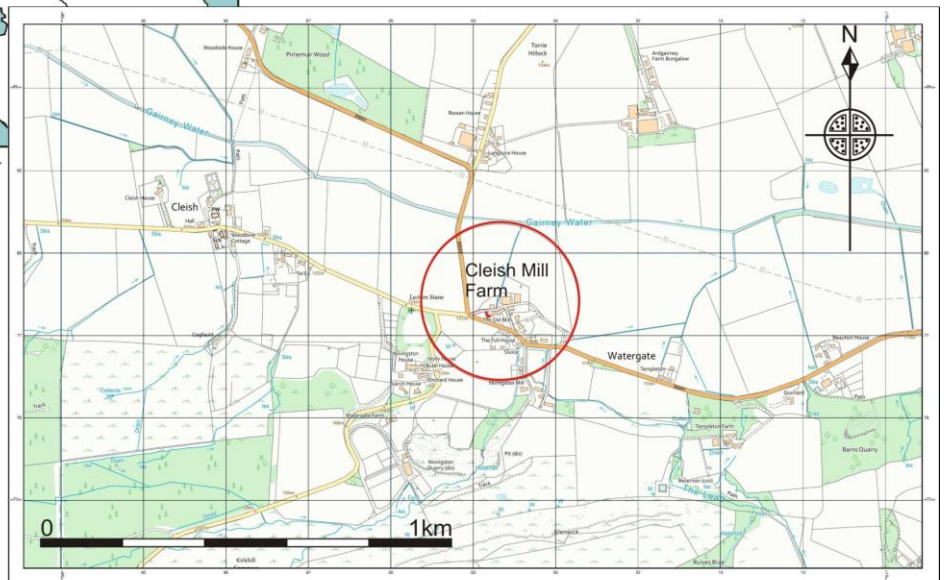
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth & Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Cleish Mill Farm
PROJECT CODE:	CH03
PARISH:	Kinross
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	C Fyles
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	HBR
NMRS NO(S):	NT19NW 58.01
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Watermill, steading
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 10296 97809
START DATE (this season)	2 nd December, 2020
END DATE (this season)	2 nd December, 2020
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A former steading was surveyed in advance of conversion to housing. Of rubble wall construction and having recently been extensively modified following a period of dereliction, the steading appeared on the First Edition OS Map (1854/6) and was probably of early nineteenth or late eighteenth century origin, having been built alongside a former watermill.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	-
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Ms Sharon Ross
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)

Illus1



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Cleish Mill Farm,
Perth & Kinross
Site Location

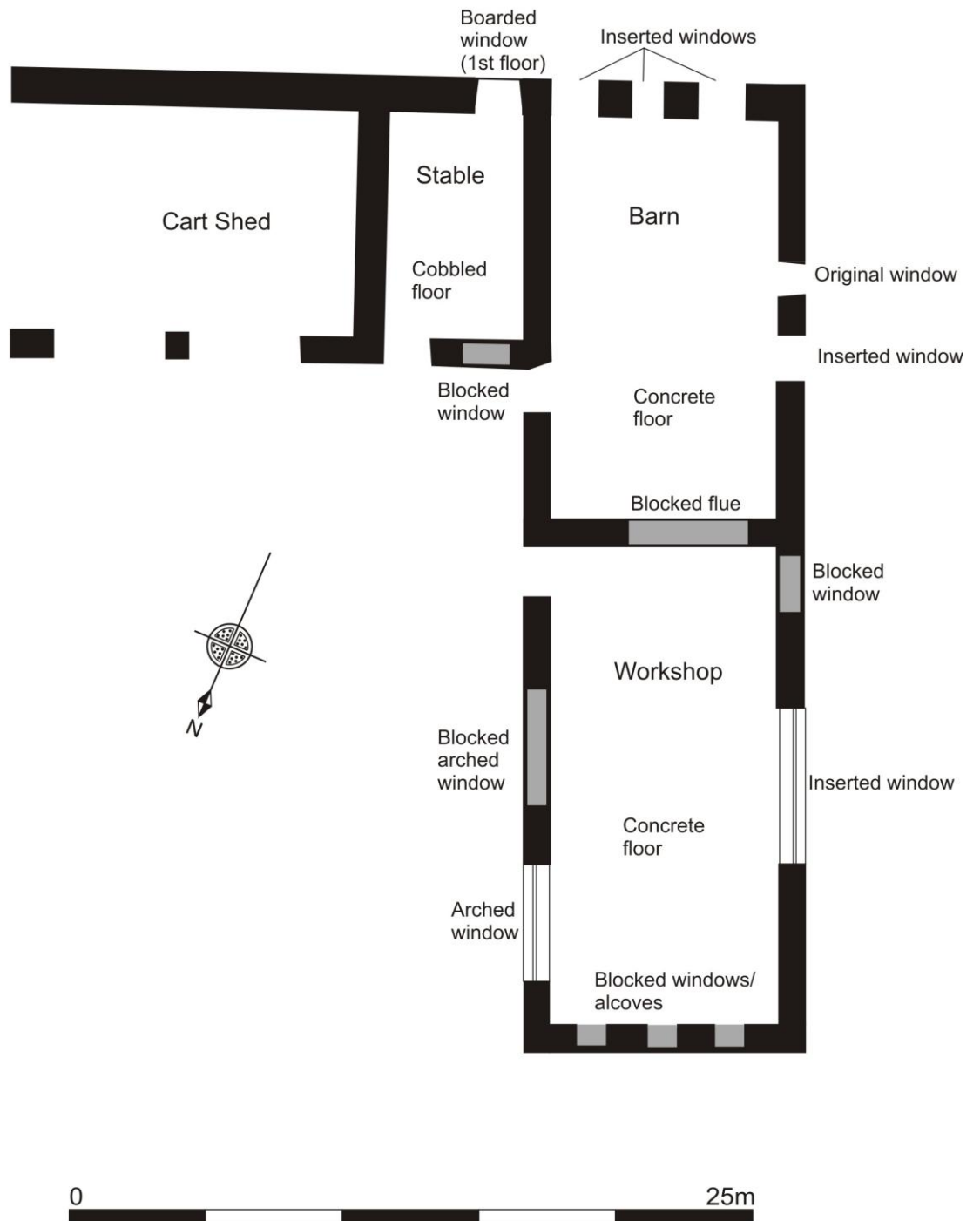


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Illus 2

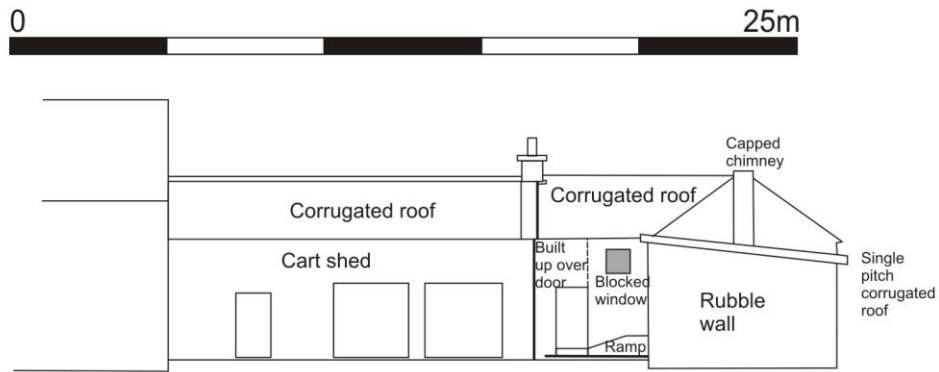
Floor plan of steading



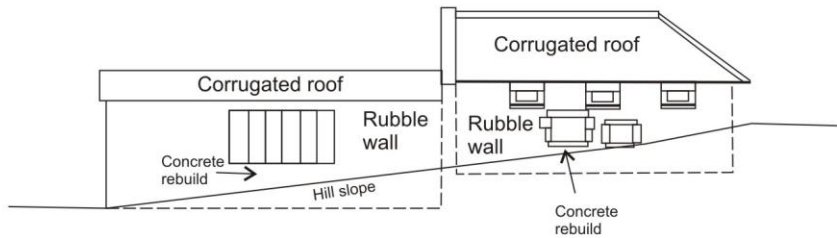
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Illus 3 External elevations



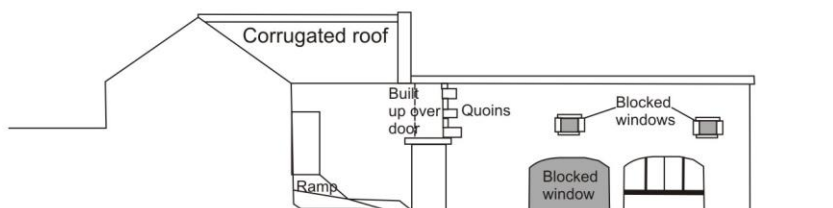
NW elevation



SW elevation



SE elevation



NE elevation

CH03



Location shot, steading with mill

Exterior, NW elevation (stable, shed)



Exterior, NE elevation (workshop)

Interior, SE elevation (workshop)



Interior, NW elevation (barn)