

Archaeological Standing Building Recording  
Pitnacree  
Ballinluig  
PERTH & KINROSS  
PL09



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STANDING  
BUILDING RECORDING  
PITNACREE  
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**PL09**

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*Illustration 1: Site location plan*

*Illustration 2: Floorplan of steading and workshop*

*Illustration 3: External elevations of steading and workshop*

*Illustration 4: Features of interest – wall stub, vent doorway*

*Illustration 5: Phase plan of steading and workshop*

*Illustration 6: Photographic plan of steading and workshop*

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**ABSTRACT**

*An enhanced standing building recording was made of a disused former steading in advance of conversion to housing. The steading was associated with a former mill (initially corn, latterly a saw mill) and was depicted on the First Edition OS Map of the area (1867). The survey was conducted on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2021.*

# **1 Background**

## **1.1 Introduction**

McKenzie Strickland Associates, on behalf of Kate Clark and Mark Stewart, commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological standing building recording of a disused steading associated with a former mill at Pitnacree, near Ballinluig. The proposed development area comprises three standing buildings, centred on NGR NN 92451 53661. The work (site code PL09) was undertaken on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2021, in fine weather conditions. The requirement was to conduct an enhanced level of recording in compliance with ALGAO guidelines

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 20/01700/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 building 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 standing building recording constitutes archaeological work designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development.

## **1.5 Acknowledgements**

We wish to thank Anneli Allen of McKenzie Strickland Associates for her assistance and guidance throughout this project. Kate Clark and Mark Stewart funded this standing building recording.

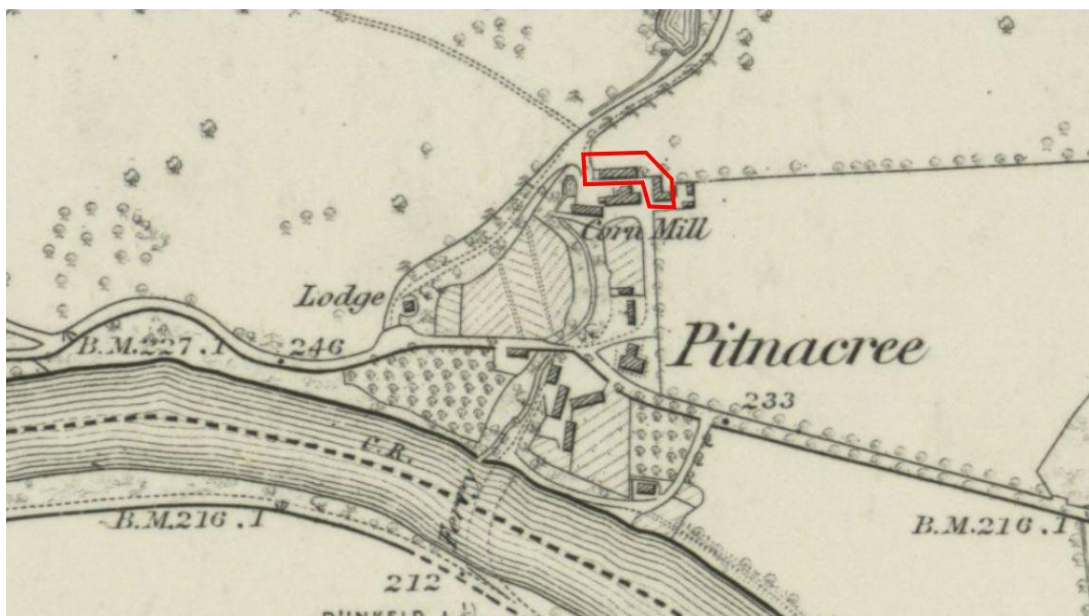
# **2 Details of Work**

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

The hamlet of Pitnacree lies on the N bank of the River Tay to the W of Ballinluig. It is arranged generally N-S around a connecting track linking with an unnamed road running from the A827, which crosses the Tay to the SE of Pitnacree. The highest point in the hamlet is at the N end, with the land dropping away S to the river. At the same end are the disused buildings forming the subject of this survey, lying N and E of the inhabited Mill Cottages.

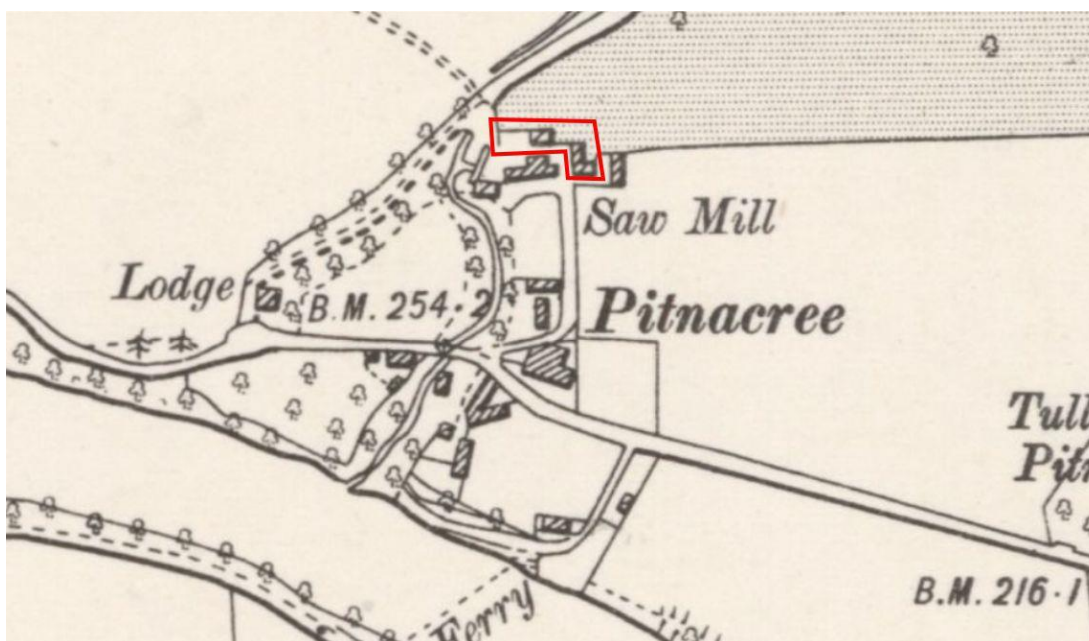
## 2.2 Desk-Based Research

The three buildings forming the subject of the survey are not recorded in the NRHE database (Canmore). However, immediately to the S is the Mill House (NN95SW 108) and Mill (NN95SW 106), the latter a former corn mill depicted on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> Edition map, this having become a saw mill by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (although, in truth, which building is actually indicated is somewhat unclear). The same maps also show the buildings forming the survey group as outbuildings to the Mill House:



*OS 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, published 1867*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition also indicates the partial ruination or demolition of the main E-W rectangular building of the survey group, the standing portion of which is now shown as drastically truncated:



*OS 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, published 1900*

Earlier maps show little in the immediate area, the only one to show a settlement at Pitnacree being John Thomson's Atlas of Scotland (1832), which shows a house:



Thomson, 1832

### 2.3 Archaeological Method

Prior to any development works being carried out and following archival and cartographic research, an Enhanced Standing Building Survey was carried out to create a permanent record. This comprised: a full photographic record of the buildings in their current setting, with all main external and internal elevations and features of interest, accompanied by an annotated location plan; annotated, measured floor plans and elevation drawings of the building (including rooflines), including any unusual or hidden features (eg, blocked doorways) and indicating construction materials, together with a location map at appropriate scales; drawings of key features (eg, industrial fittings, well-preserved or unusual windows or doors, unusual architectural or decorative elements); phase plans illustrating the developmental sequence of the building; map regression including all available maps (OS and earlier) and architect's drawings; an expanded 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 and to include detailed room-by-room description with measurements.

### 2.4 Results of Investigations

The steading survived as two relatively small buildings (hereafter the E and W buildings), both aligned E-W and linked by a stone wall that retained the hillslope to the N and formed the N wall of both buildings, with a gap of 4.73m between the two. The steading had been partially cut into the slope, which rose above it and obscured the base of the N elevation. To the E of the steading and also linked by a retaining wall

(this running a curvilinear course from the SE corner of the steading) was an outbuilding (also featured on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS maps) aligned N-S and recently in use as a workshop (and referred to as such from now on). This bordered a separately-owned cottage.

The remains of the original steading as featured on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition map were visible as stone rubble walls, lime-bonded, comprising the entirety of the N elevation as mentioned, the E and W and part of the S elevation of the the E building and the W and a small part of the S elevations of the W building. The remainder of the W building had been rebuilt in timber planking, with a wooden loft added above the majority of the building and a small wooden shed at the E end. The E building, S elevation, appeared to retain both its original wall and original entrances with wooden plank swing doors which, if not themselves original, were at least of considerable (if indeterminate) age. However, repointing with cement was apparent around the doors in the interior, suggesting either repair work or the reconfiguration of the doorways. Both buildings, and also the workshop, were presently roofed with corrugated metal sheeting, which in the workshop was supplemented with an insulated ceiling of plastic sheeting.

The gap between the E and W buildings appeared to represent demolition of a single room that had hitherto connected the two halves as a single, continuous steading. This was borne out by the map evidence (see above). Projecting 0.20m from the S end of the W elevation of the E building was a short stub of stone wall:



*Wall stub, W elevation of E building*

This suggested the former presence of an entrance on this side of the gap; unfortunately, the complete demolition of the opposite wall, the E elevation of the W building, and also of the S elevation of this presumed room meant that other traces of its presence were not discernible.

The interior of the E building comprised two rooms, E and W, with the former measuring 3.90m E-W x 5.31m N-S, 4.36m tall from a sand floor to the apex of the modern roof. The W room was the same height and distance N-S, 4.66m E-W. The floor in this room was uneven dirt. The repointing work mentioned above was most apparent in the W room with patches of relatively fresh lime mortar also visible on the remaining three internal faces. The W gable end featured a single rectangular window within the timber planking above the stone wallhead.

The ground floor of the W building was a single room measuring 12.00m E-W x 4.98m N-S. 4.61m E-W at the E end of the building was floored with wooden floorboards, within a single storey shed that was wooden on the E and S elevations, stone on the N and open to the W. The remainder, below the wooden loft (which could not be accessed), was floored with poured concrete. The ceiling/loft floor was 2.48m above the concrete, while the shed part stood 3.98m tall from floorboards to roof apex. The loft roof stood 1.10m above the shed.

The internal N elevation of the W building featured two apertures, the first a narrow rectangular window- in reality a vent- within a V-shaped embrasure located 0.77m W of the junction of the main building with the wooden shed. The embrasure was 0.66m wide, 0.77m tall, 0.60m deep (the average wall thickness throughout all three buildings) and was blocked with a wooden board. It sat 0.88m above the concrete floor. W of this aperture, the internal face of the stone wall was wood panelled, rendering any other openings invisible. 1.60m from the E end of the N elevation (within the shed, but in the stone wall) was a modern window built within the uppermost part of a former doorway, now blocked below the window with corrugated metal sheeting. The window was 1.40m above the floorboards, with the entire doorway (including window) 2.10m tall and 1.03m wide. No other features of interest were present.



*Vent in W building*



*Window in blocked doorway*



The separate workshop featured wooden swing doors in the W elevation, behind which were modern steel roller shutters. The S end of the elevation had been extensively rebuilt in modern brick and concrete around a single-width side door. The floor was of painted poured concrete and the ceiling, as described above, was of insulating plastic sheets. Wooden frames had been fixed to the interior wall faces to take plasterboard, which had either been removed or not yet fitted. The internal space measured 8.62m N-S x 3.72m E-W, 2.82m tall from floor to ceiling.

### **3 Interpretation**

The steading and outbuilding preserved elements of earlier 19<sup>th</sup> Century vernacular architecture, albeit substantially modified through demolition and rebuilding. None of the remaining features gave much indication of the original function of either building, both having remained in use until recently as workspaces and storage.

### **4 Conclusions and Recommendations**

#### **4.1 Recommendations for Further Work**

Alder Archaeology consider that the building survey 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**

Thomson, J., *Atlas of Scotland; Perthshire with Clackmannan*, 1832

Ordnance Survey, *Perthshire, Sheet XL (includes: Logierait; Moulin)*, Survey date: 1863; Publication date: 1867 (six inches to a mile, First Edition)

Ordnance Survey, *Perth & Clackmannan sheet XL.SW (includes: Little Dunkeld; Logierait)*; Date revised: 1899; Publication date: 1900 (six inches to a mile, Second Edition)

## Appendix 1 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
1-5	Location shots, steading from SE	WNW, N
6	Location shot, Pitnacree hamlet from SE corner of development area	S
7	Location shot, steading from SW	ENE
8-10	Location shots, steading from NW	SE
11-12	External, N elevation of steading, W end, oblique	SW
13-14	External, N elevation of steading, W end of W building	S
15-16	External, N elevation of steading, gap between W and E buildings	S
17-18	External, N elevation of steading, E building	S
19	External, N elevation of steading, oblique	SW
20-21	External, E elevation of steading	W
22-24	External, N elevation of workshop	S
25-27	External, N and E elevations of workshop, oblique (E elevation on private land)	SW
28-33	External, W elevation of steading, W building, oblique	ESE, NE
34-36	External, S elevation of steading, W end of W building	N
37-38	External, S elevation of steading, E end of W building (shed)	N
39-40	External, E elevation of steading, W building, oblique	NW
41-42	External, S elevation of steading, gap between W and E buildings	N
43-44	External, W elevation of steading, E building, oblique	NE
45-47	External, detail, W elevation of steading, E building, wall stub at S end	E
48-49	External, S elevation of steading, E building, oblique	NE
50-51	External, S elevation of steading, E building, W end	N
52-53	External, S elevation of steading, E building, E end	N
54-55	Internal, steading, N elevation of E room, E building	N
56-59	Internal, steading, E elevation of E room, E building, oblique	NE, SE
60-64	Internal, steading, W elevation of E room, E building, oblique	NW

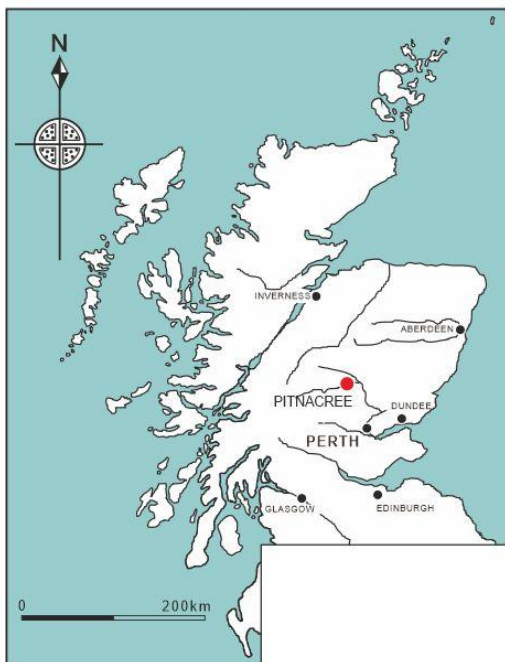
65	Internal, steading, detail, roof over E room, E building	-
66	Internal, steading, general view, W room, E building, oblique	NW
67-68	Internal, steading, W elevation, W room, E building	W
69	Internal, steading, N elevation, W room, E building	N
70-71	Internal, steading, E elevation, W room, E building	E
72	Internal, steading, detail, roof over W room, E building	-
73-74	Internal, steading, S elevation, W room, E building	S
75-76	Internal, steading, general view of W building interior, oblique	NW
77-78	Internal, steading, W elevation of W building	W
79-80	Internal, steading, N elevation of W building, oblique	NE
81	Internal, steading, N of elevation of W building, W end	N
82-84	Internal, steading, N elevation of W building, mid-section (E end of main building)	N
85-87	Internal, steading, detail, window in N elevation of W building	N
88-93	Internal, steading, N elevation of W building, E end (shed)	N
94-96	Internal, steading, detail, window (former doorway) in N elevation of W building	N
97-99	Internal, steading, E elevation of W building	E
100-102	Internal, steading, S elevation of W building, oblique	SW
103-104	Internal, steading, S elevation of W building, W end (stone wall stub)	S
105-106	Internal, steading, detail, wooden loft above W building	W
107-108	External, W elevation of workshop	E
109-110	External, W elevation of workshop, oblique	NE
111	External, W elevation of workshop, doors open (steel shutters down)	E
112-113	Internal, N elevation of workshop	N
114-115	Internal, S elevation of workshop	S
116-119	Internal, E elevation of workshop, oblique	NE, SE
120	Internal, W elevation of workshop, N end	W
121-122	Internal, W elevation of workshop, oblique	SW

123-124	Internal, W elevation of workshop, S end, oblique	SW
125	Internal, detail, plastic sheet ceiling of workshop	-

## Appendix 2 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

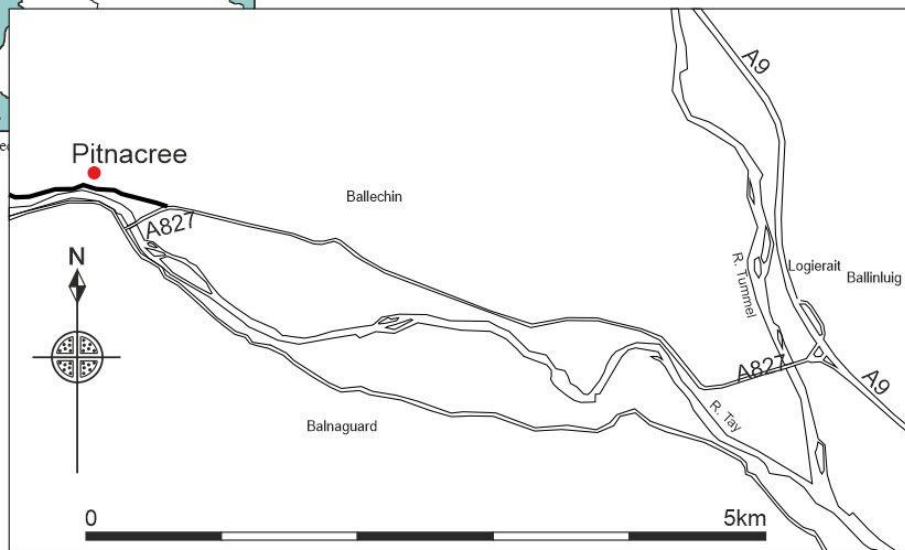
<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Perth & Kinross
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Pitnacree
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	PL09
<b>PARISH:</b>	Logierait
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	C Fyles
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Alder Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Standing Building Recording
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NN95SW 106, 108
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Steading
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NN 92451 53661
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2021
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2021
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	An enhanced standing building recording was made of a disused former steading in advance of conversion to housing. The steading was associated with a former mill (initially corn, latterly a saw mill) and was depicted on the First Edition OS Map of the area (1867).
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	-
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Kate Clark and Mark Stewart
<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)

Illus 1



### Pitnacree, Ballinluig Site Location

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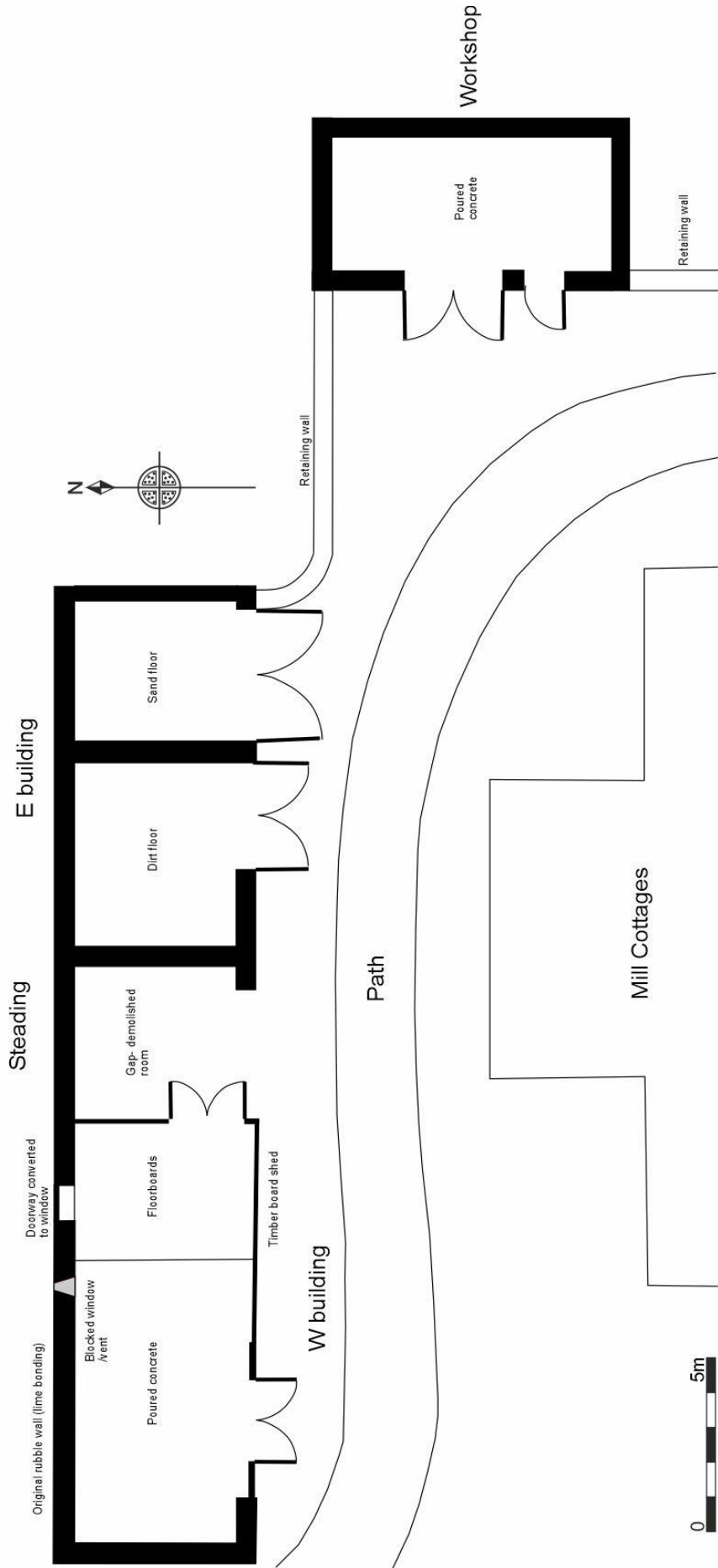


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Floorplan of steading and workshop

Illus 2



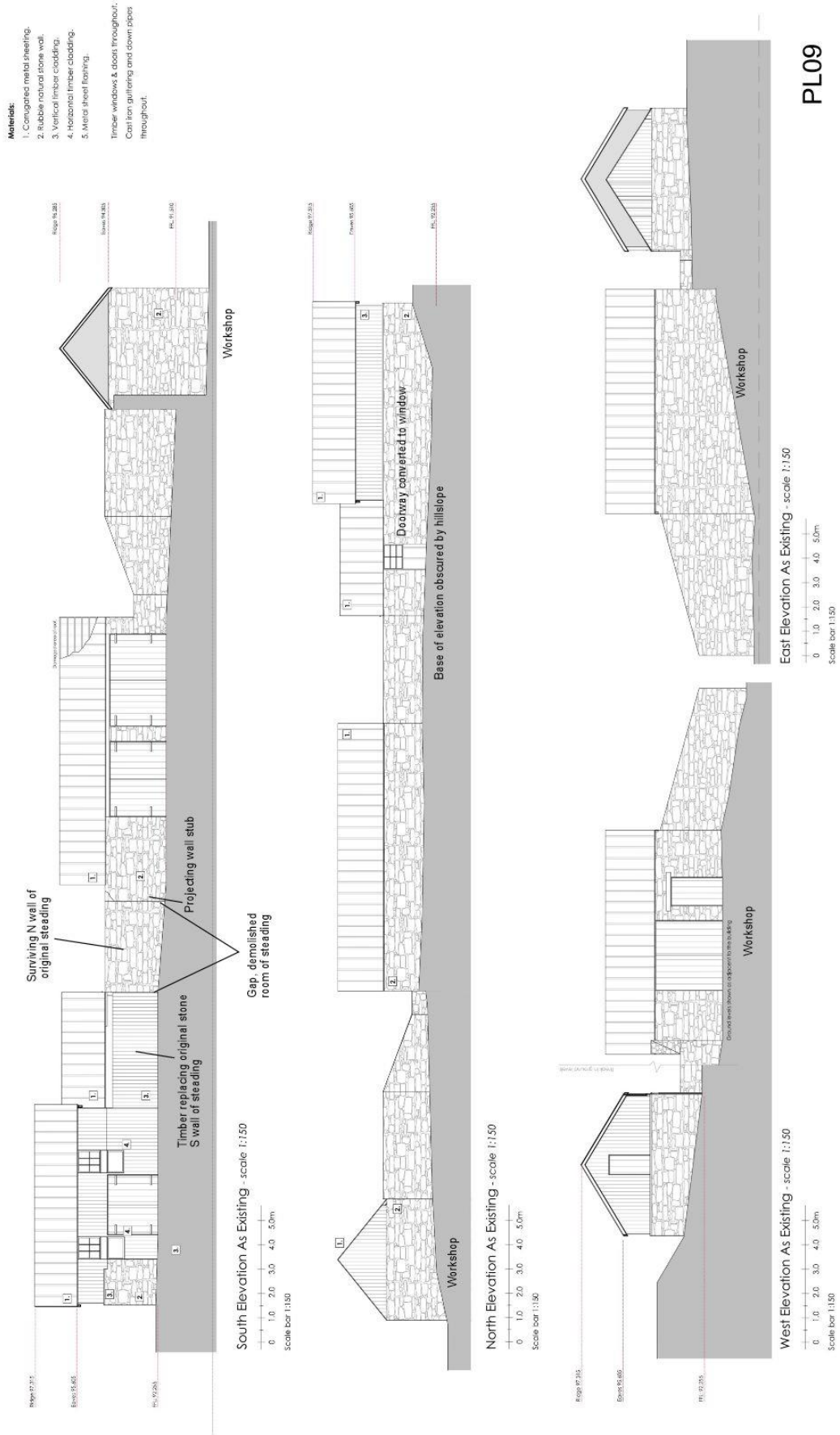
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Base drawing by McKenzie Strickland Associates

# Illus 3

## External elevations of steading and workshop



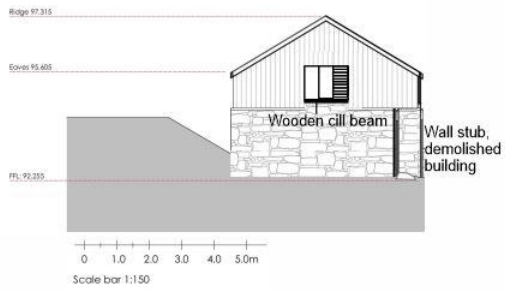
Drawings by McKenzie Strickland Associates

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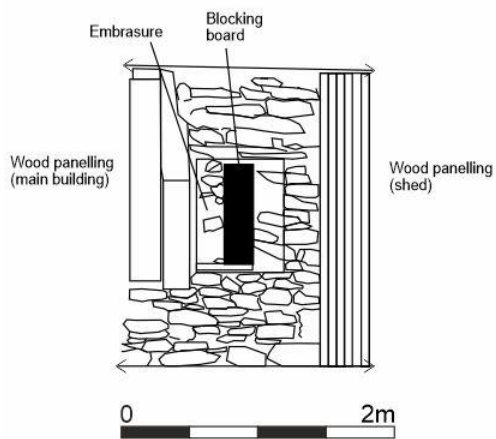
PL09



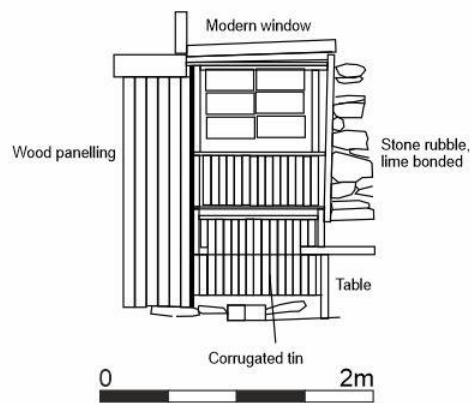
### Illus 4 Features of interest- wall stub, vent, doorway



Wall stub, W elevation of E building



Vent, N elevation (internal)  
W building



Window in former  
doorway, N elevation  
(internal), W building

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Illus 5

Phase plan of steading and workshop

