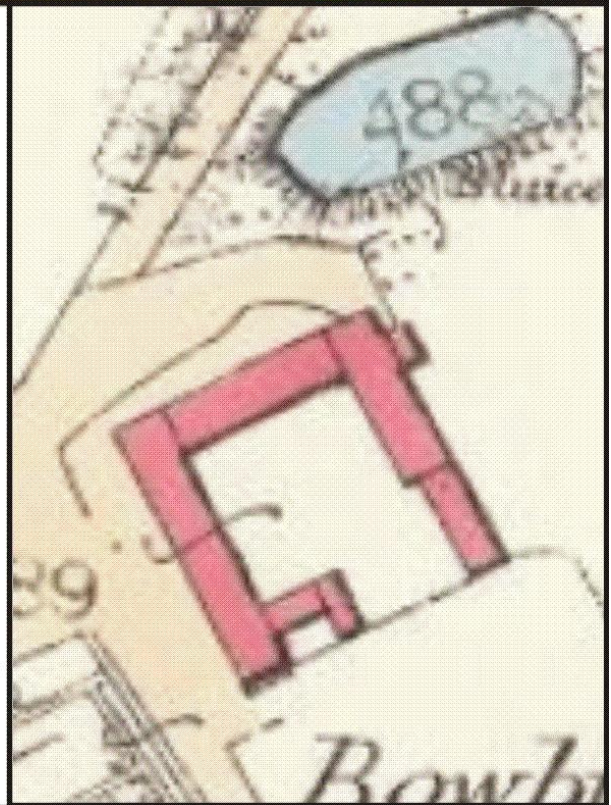


Bowbutts Farm, Strachan,  
Banchory AB31 6NN



Alison Cameron  
Cameron Archaeology  
23.8.12



# Bowbutts Farm, Strachan, Banchory, AB31 6NN

## Report on Standing Building Survey

### Contents

1	INTRODUCTION.....	3
2	BACKGROUND .....	4
3	THE STANDING BUILDING SURVEY .....	5
	Phase 1.....	5
	Phase 2.....	7
	Phase 3.....	11
4	CONCLUSIONS.....	11
5	REFERENCES.....	12
6	RECOMMENDATIONS .....	12
7	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	12
	APPENDIX 1 FEATURES .....	13
	APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS .....	13

### Illustrations

Cover (top) the south facade of the farm (bottom) extract from First Edition Ordnance Survey map (*copyright National Library of Scotland*).

Illus 1	Location plan .....	3
Illus 2	Extract from John Thomson's Atlas of Scotland, 1832 showing 'Bowhults' (centre) ....	4
Illus 3	Ordnance Survey maps; First Edition (top) and Second Edition (bottom).....	4
Illus 4	Plan showing all features, apertures and rooms.....	5
Illus 5	Phase 1 Room 1 (left) and Room 2 (right).....	6
Illus 6	Phase 1 gable (left) constructed of large pink granite blocks, and Phase 2 (left) .....	6
Illus 7	North and south elevations .....	7
Illus 8	West and east elevations .....	7
Illus 9	Stone drain F3 leading to SW corner Room 3 .....	8
Illus 10	Room 4 east elevation .....	8
Illus 11	Room 4 east elevation detail showing threshing mill apertures W6 and W7.....	9
Illus 12	Room 5 interior .....	9
Illus 13	Room 1 west wall showing several blocked apertures .....	10
Illus 14	Sectional north and south elevations .....	10
Illus 15	Sectional east and west elevations .....	11
Illus 16	Phase plans showing footprint of farm steadings .....	12
Illus 17	Camera points used in this report .....	13

### SUMMARY

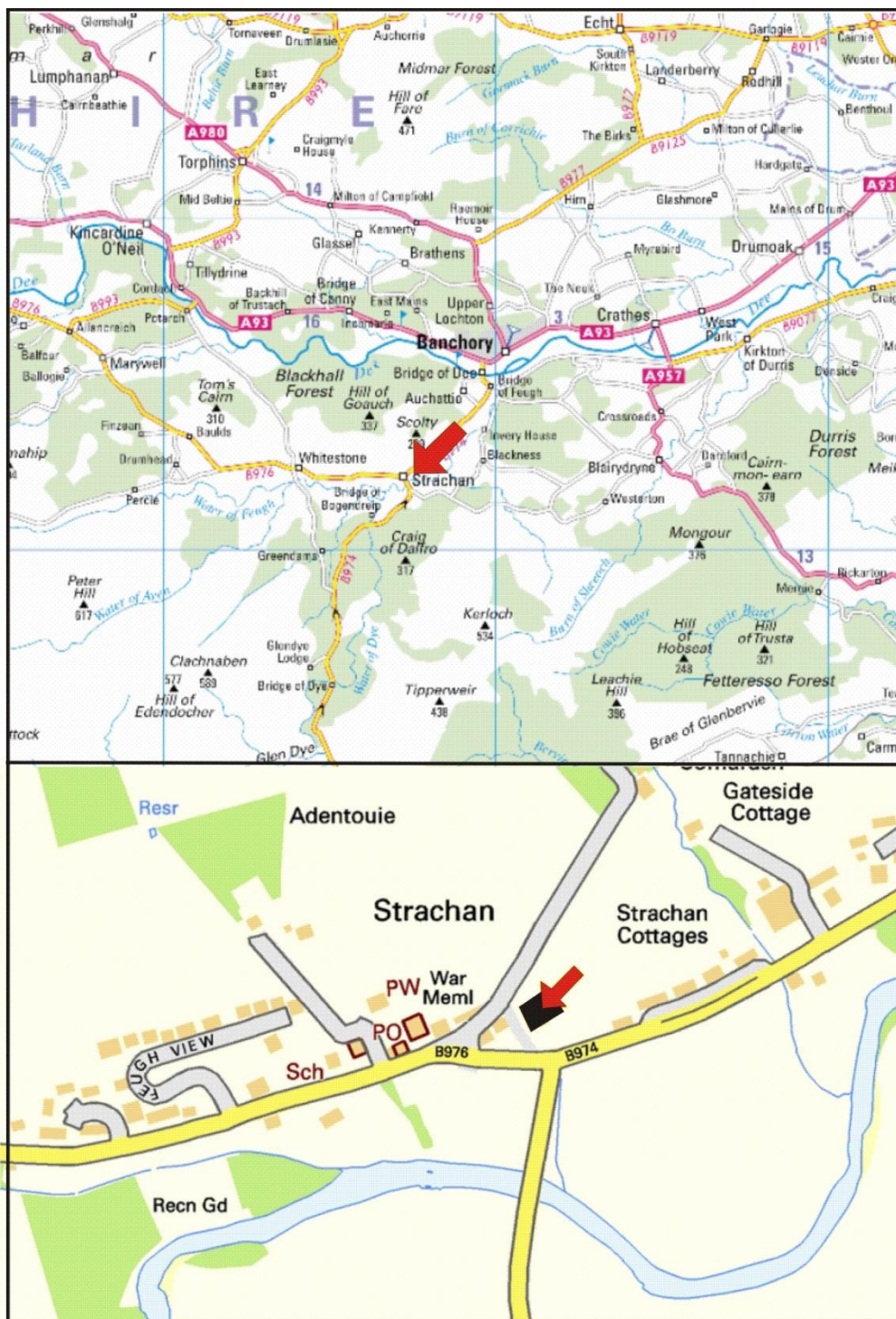
A Level 2 standing building survey was carried out on 20 August 2012. It is recommended that no further work is carried out at this site during the current development but this is subject to advice from Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service.



# 1 INTRODUCTION

The applicant C Neish & Sons has lodged an application with Aberdeenshire Council (planning reference FULL/2011/3370) for demolition of existing farm buildings and erection of mixed residential development. The site is in Strachan parish, the NGR for the site is NO 67539 92336 which lies at 75-90m OD. A Level 2 standing building survey is required prior to demolition.

The standing building survey was carried out in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) Planning Advice Note (PAN 2/2011) and Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP), which state that archaeological remains should be regarded as part of the environment to be protected and managed.



Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2012).



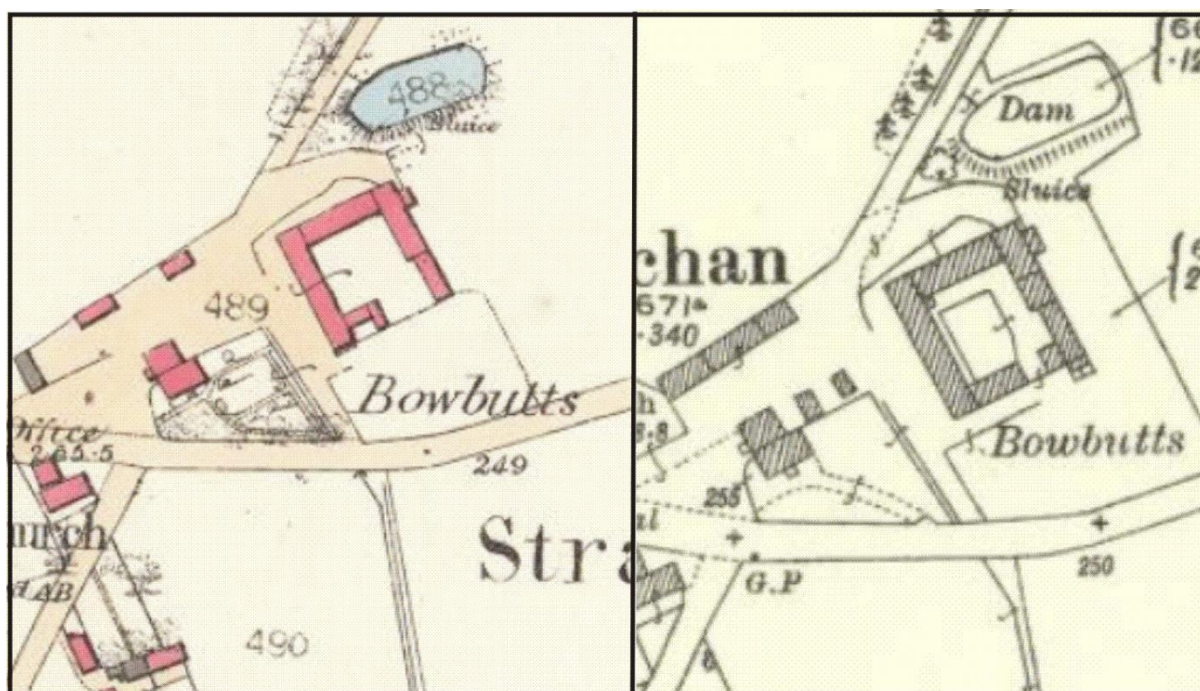
## 2 BACKGROUND

The word Bowbutts comes from the tradition of setting up targets or 'bow-butts' near parish churches for archery practice. The New Statistical Account of Scotland of 1845 (NSA 1845, 236) refers to two tree-covered mounds in the vicinity of Bow-Butts Farm but no trace of these survive today (NO69SE13). There are several other 'Bowbutts' placenames in Scotland but this name is not recorded on any of the pre-19th century maps of the area.

The farm appears as 'Bowhults' on John Thomson's Atlas of Scotland, 1832 (Illus 2) and the farm is well developed by the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Illus 3) where it is called 'Bowhults' which is changed to 'Bowbutts' by the Second Edition (Illus 3).



Illus 2 Extract from John Thomson's Atlas of Scotland, 1832 showing 'Bowhults' (centre) (copyright National Library of Scotland).



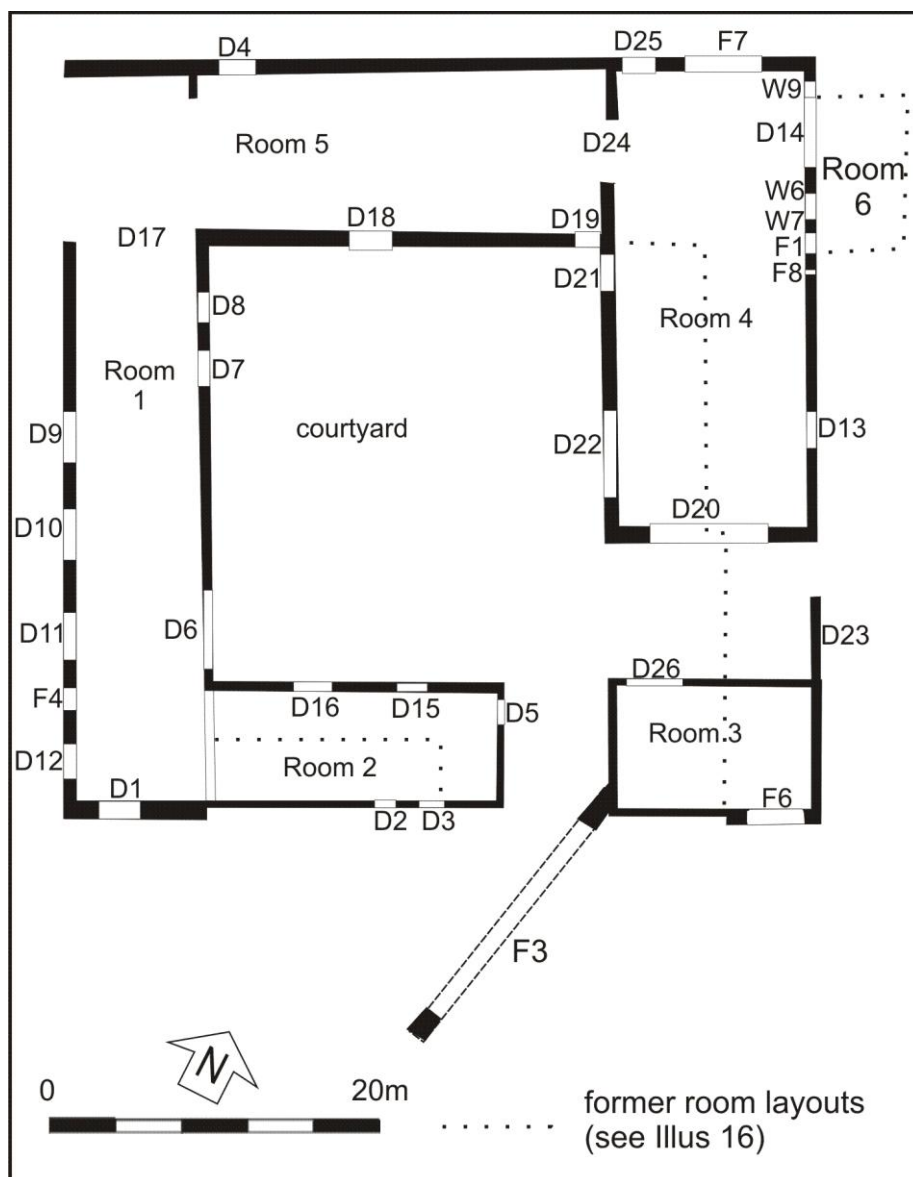
Illus 3 Ordnance Survey maps; First Edition (top) and Second Edition (bottom) (copyright National Library of Scotland).

### 3 THE STANDING BUILDING SURVEY

The survey was carried out on 20th August 2012. The steadings consist of five rooms around a central courtyard which was open at the south side in Phase 1 whilst in Phase 2 buildings were constructed to form an enclosed courtyard with small passageway between Rooms 2 and 3.

#### Phase 1

Rooms 1, the north and east portions of Room 2, the east end of Room 3, the north and east portions of Room 4 and Room 5 formed parts of the earliest phase of this farm steading. The walls of these Phase 1 structures are mainly constructed of large blocks of pink granite (Illus 5, 6). Original uses of the rooms are unknown apart from Room 4 which probably incorporated a threshing mill. A pond and sluice at the NE corner of the farm can be seen on the First and Second Edition Ordnance survey maps; this area has been redeveloped in the recent past and no evidence of this survives. A sluice would have fed the water from the pond through the threshing mill and the water would have exited the farm through stone drain F3 (Illus 4, 9). Scars on the east wall of Room 4 indicate where a building (Room 6) has been demolished (F1, F2; Illus 8) and blocked apertures show where drive shafts would have passed through the wall.



Illus 4 Plan showing all features, apertures and rooms

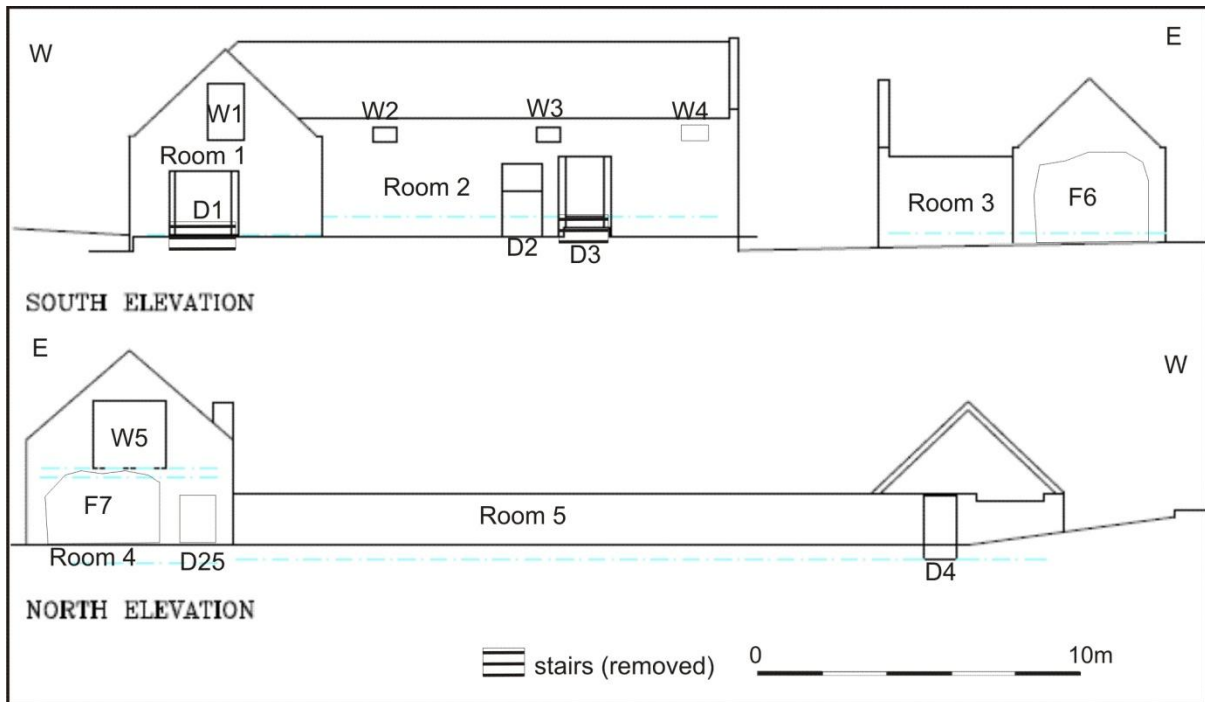




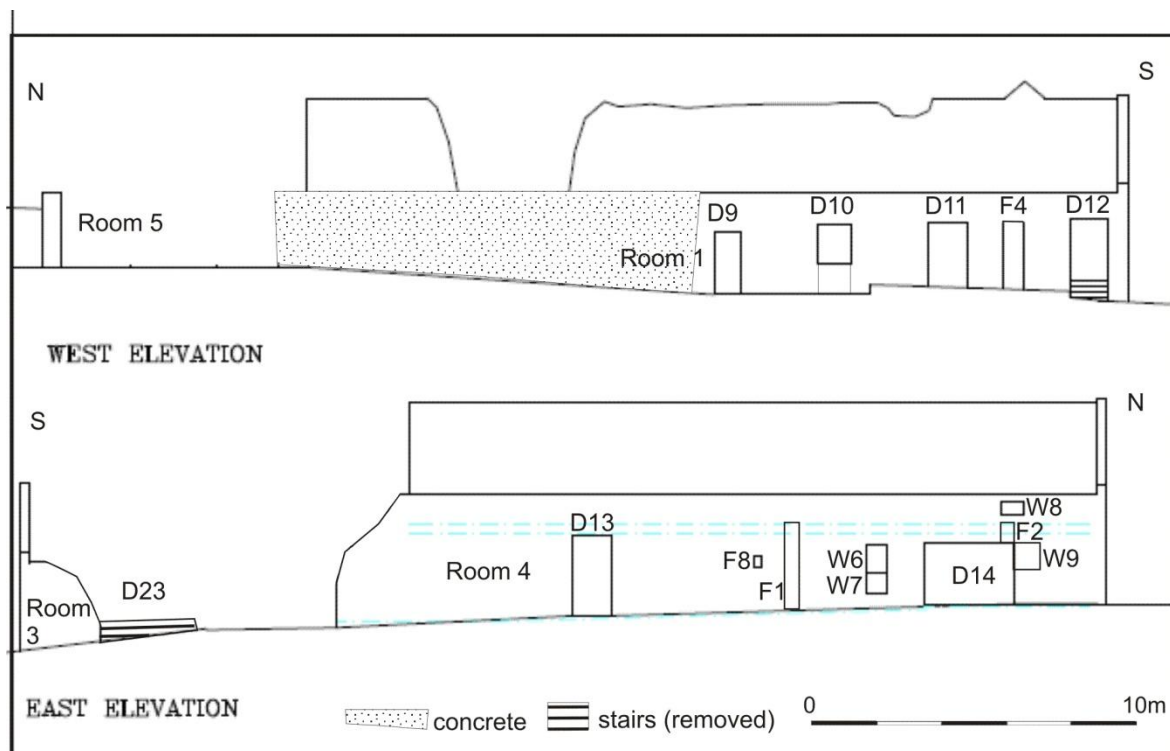
Illus 5 Phase 1 Room 1 (left) and Room 2 (right) substantially altered in Phase 2



Illus 6 Phase 1 gable (left) constructed of large pink granite blocks, and Phase 2 (left). The Phase 1 gable had a door (F6) which was blocked in Phase 2



Illus 7 North and south elevations (copyright Ronald Hay Architectural Design)



Illus 8 West and east elevations (copyright Ronald Hay Architectural Design)

## Phase 2

The second phase of buildings was constructed of large granite blocks and smaller fieldstones. In this period the threshing mill was still in use; Room 2 had been extended and an addition on the west side of Room 3 formed a closed courtyard 19 x 20.2m in size with a small passageway into the courtyard to the south.





Illus 9 Stone drain F3 leading to SW corner Room 3



Illus 10 Room 4 east elevation; the threshing mill wuld have been attached on to the right hand side of this photograph





Illus 11 Room 4 east elevation detail showing threshing mill apertures W6 (above) W7 (bottom) and D14 (right).

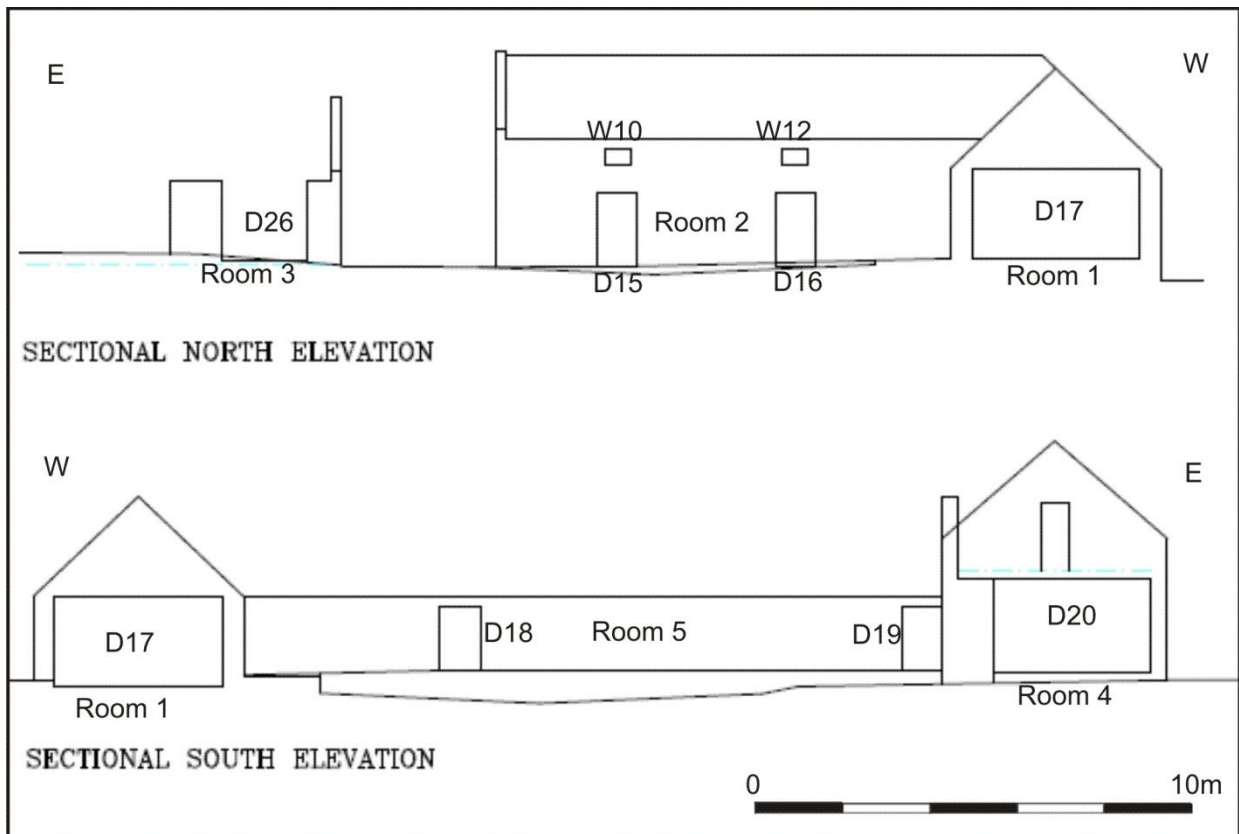


Illus 12 Room 5 interior; this room was extended and the internal fittings replaced in Phases 2 and 3



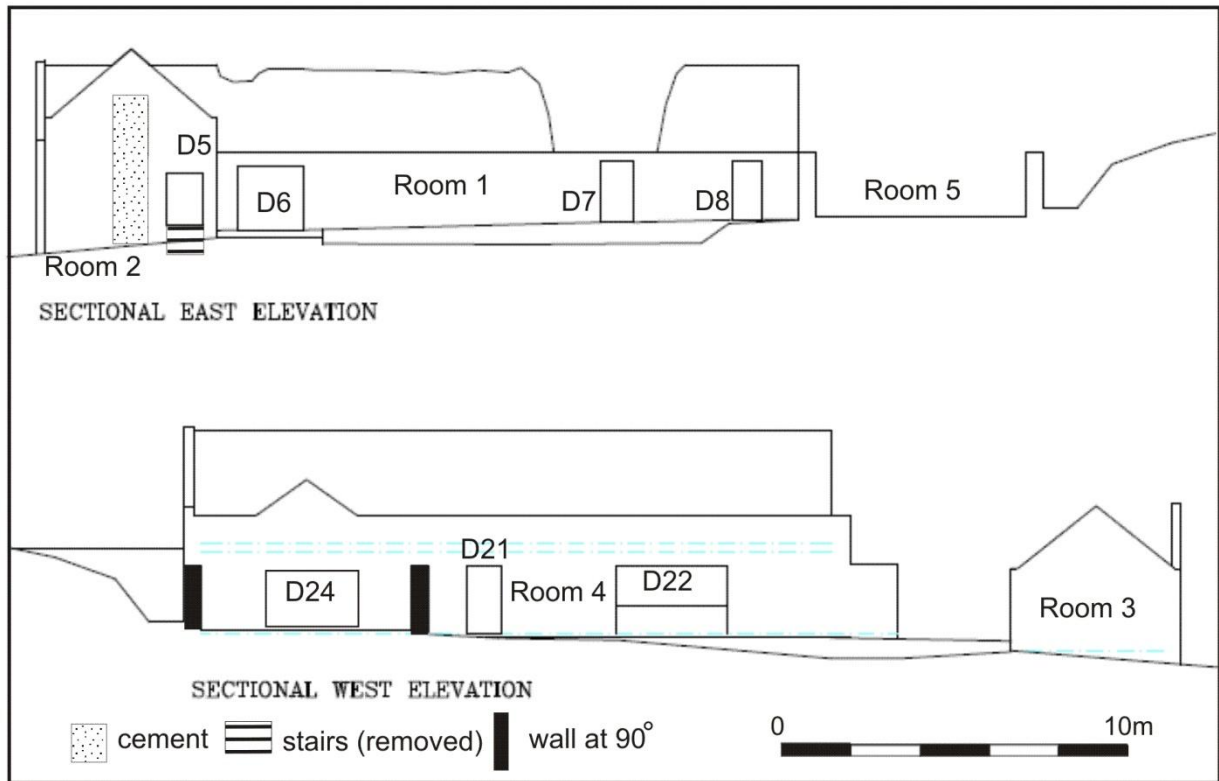


Illus 13 Room 1 west wall showing several blocked apertures



Illus 14 Sectional north and south elevations (copyright Ronald Hay Architectural Design)





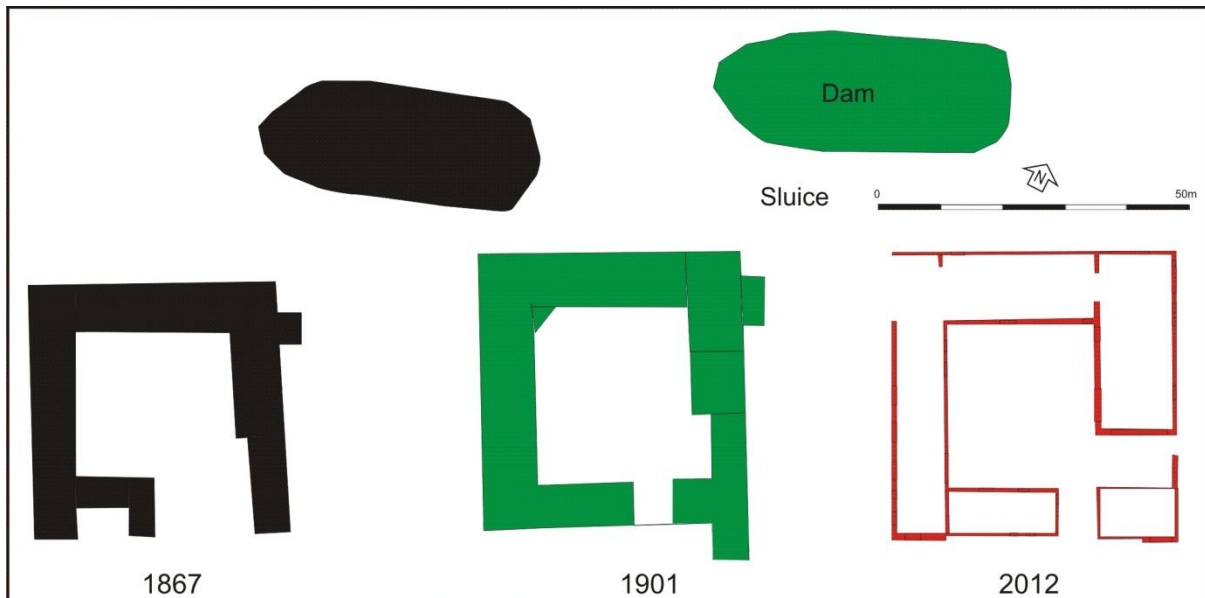
Illus 15 Sectional east and west elevations (copyright Ronald Hay Architectural Design)

### Phase 3

Various alterations have taken place including refitting Room 5 with reinforced concrete byre partitions and fireclay ventilation system. The south part of Room 4 was also demolished creating an access to the east of the steading and other walls were demolished.

## 4 CONCLUSIONS

The standing buildings survey and study of relevant maps have revealed that these steadings have been altered, extended and adapted several times from the early 19th century (Illus 16). The open courtyard was eventually closed to form a more sheltered area and the buildings appear to have been at their height in the early 20th century. Later alterations and demolition have removed all original internal fittings but blocked apertures indicate original layout, including the mill, presumably for threshing.



Illus 16 Phase plans showing footprint of farm steadings from First Edition Ordnance Survey (1867; left) Second Edition (1901; centre) and from this survey (right)

## 5 REFERENCES

NSA 1834-1845 *The new statistical account of Scotland by the ministers of the respective parishes under the superintendence of a committee of the society for the benefit of the sons and daughters of the clergy*. Edinburgh, Book no. 11 (Kincardineshire), 236.

## 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current development subject to agreement by Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service.

## 7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Mr A Neish, Bowbutts; Scott Strachan, CastleGlen Properties (Aberdeen) Ltd; Ron Hay, Ronald Hay Architects; Bruce Mann, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service.

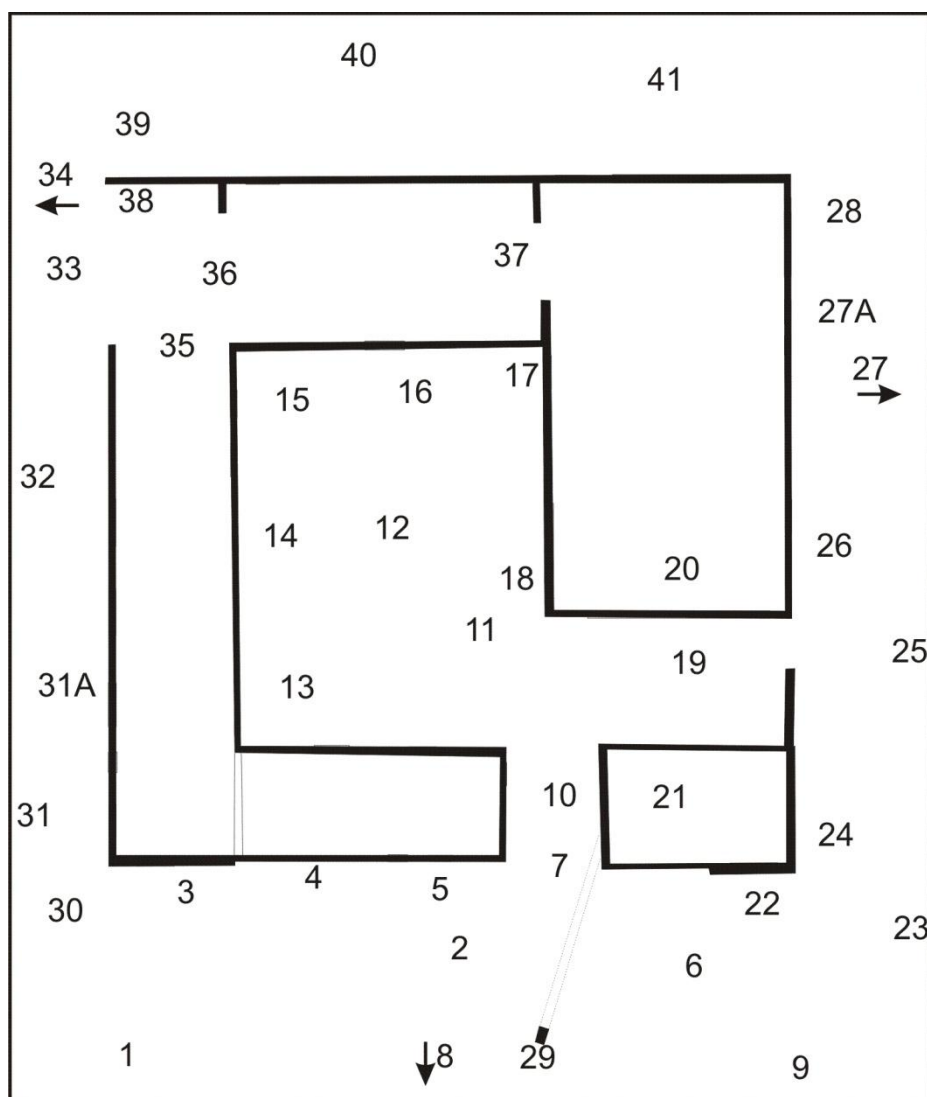
Cameron Archaeology  
 45 View Terrace  
 Aberdeen  
 AB25 2RS  
 01224 643020  
 07581 181057  
[cameronarch@btinternet.com](mailto:cameronarch@btinternet.com)  
[www.cameronarchaeology.com](http://www.cameronarchaeology.com)  
 Company registration no 372223 (Scotland)  
 VAT registration no 990 4373 00



## APPENDIX 1 FEATURES

Context	Description
F1	Wall scar attachment of Room 6
F2	Wall scar attachment of Room 6
F3	Stone drain from SW corner Room 3 to south taking water from pond, through Room 4 to Feugh.
F4	Blockage 0.6m wide, 2.20m high. Too narrow for door
F5	Former partition Room 5
F6	Phase 2 blocking Phase 1 aperture, Room 3
F7	Phase 2 blocking Phase 1 aperture, Room 4
F8	Small aperture east wall Room 4 south of Room 6; part of threshing mechanism?

## APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS

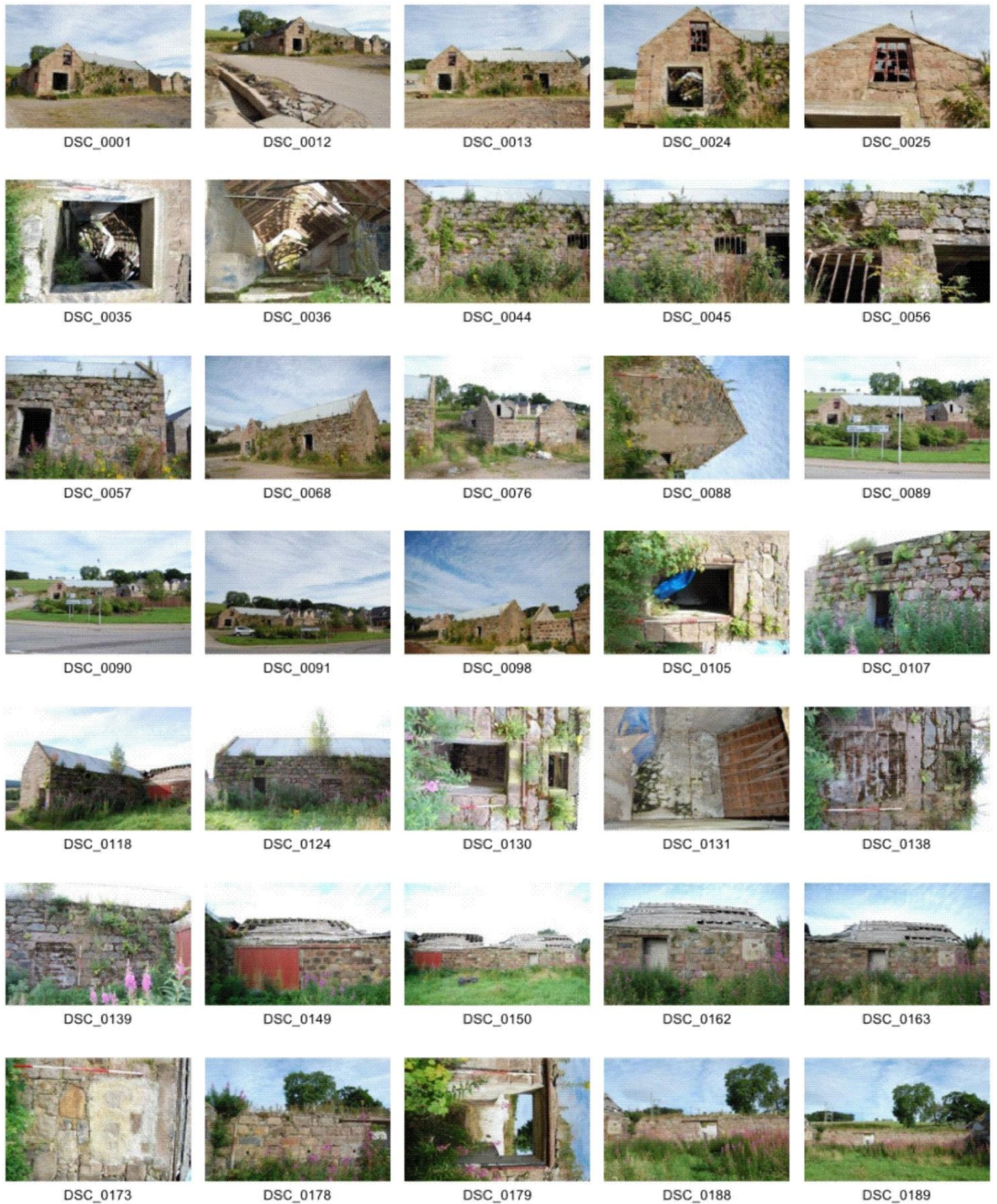


Illus 17 Camera points used in this report

Photo no	Description	CP	Facing
DSC_0001-0006	Room 1 (left) Room 2 (middle) Room 3 (right)	1	N
DSC_0007-0012	Room 1 (left) Room 2 (middle) Room 3 (right)	1	N
DSC_0013-0018	Room 1 (left) Room 2 (right) Door 1 (left) Door 3 (right)	2	NW
DSC_0019-0024	Room 1 (left) Door 1 window 1 (above)	3	NW
DSC_0025-0029	Room 1 window 1 (above)	3	NW
DSC_0030-0038	Room 1 interior	4	NW
DSC_0039-0044	Room 2 infill stonework (Phase 2) with D2 (right) and W2 above	2	NW
DSC_0045-0050	Room 2 Door 2 (left) and Door 3 (right)	2	NW
DSC_0051-0056	Room 2 Door 2 (left) and Door 3 (right) with Window 3 (above)	2	NW
DSC_0057-0062	Room 2 Door 3 (left)	5	NW
DSC_0063-0075	Room 1 (left) Room 2 (right)	6	NW
DSC_0076-0081	Room 3	6	N
DSC_0082-0088	Room 2 east gable with Door 5 (right)	7	WNW
DSC_0089-0092	Farm complex	8	NNW
DSC_0093-0099	Room 1 (left) Room 2 (middle) Room 3 (right)	9	NW
DSC_0100-0105	Room 2 Door 5	10	WSW
DSC_0106-0111	Room 2 Door 15 with Window 10 (above)	11	SE
DSC_0112-0118	Room 2 Door 6 (left) Door 15/Window 10 (centre) Door 6 (right)	12	SSW
DSC_0119-0124	Room 2 Door 15/Window 10 (left) Door 16/W12 (right)	12	SSE
DSC_0125-0130	Room 2 Door 15 with Window 10 (above)	11	SSE
DSC_0131-0132	Room 2 interior	11A	SSE
DSC_0133-0138	Room 2 Door 16/Window 12 above	12	SSE
DSC_0139-0144	Room 1 Door 16/Window 12 above (left) Door 6 (right)	13	SW
DSC_0145-0149	Room 1 Door 6	13	SW
DSC_0150-0156	Room 1 Door 6 (left) Door 7 D8 (right)	12	SW
DSC_0157-0168	Room 1 Door 7 (left) Door 8 (right)	14	SW
DSC_0169-0173	Room 1 Door 7	14	SW
DSC_0174-0178	Room 5 south wall with Door 18 (right)	12	NW
DSC_0179-0183	Room 5 Door 18	16	NW
DSC_0184-0193	Room 5 south wall with Door 18 (centre)	12	NW
DSC_0194-0199	Room 5 Door 19	17	NW
DSC_0200-0206	Room 4 Door 21	17	NE
DSC_0207-0211	Room 4 interior	17	NE
DSC_0212-0217	Room 3 (left) Room 2 (centre) Room 1 (right)	17	SSE
DSC_0218-0222	Room 1 east wall	17	SW
DSC_0223-0235	Room 4 Door 21 (left) Door 22 (right)	12	NE
DSC_0236-0240	Room 4 south wall with Door 20	19	NW
DSC_0241-0245	Room 4 south wall original stonework with Door 20 (right)	19	NW
DSC_0246-0249	Room 4 interior	20	NW
DSC_0250-0262	Room 3 north wall	20	SE
DSC_0263-0267	Room 3 north wall	19	SE
DSC_0268-0272	Room 4 south wall with Door 20	21	NW
DSC_0273-0277	Room 3 interior west wall	21	SW
DSC_0278-0284	Room 3 interior south wall showing Phase 1 gable	21	SE
DSC_0285-0290	Room 3 interior south wall showing Phase 1 gable	19	SE
DSC_0291-0296	Room 3 external west gable	7	NE
DSC_0297-0304	Room 3 external west gable	10	ENE



DSC_0305-0321	Room 3 south wall original Phase 1 gable (right) showing infill door?	22	NW
DSC_0322-0326	Room 3 south wall original Phase 1 gable (right)	23	WNW
DSC_0327-0331	Room 3 south gable showing Phase 1 pink granite blocks	22	NW
DSC_0332-0336	Room 3 SE corner	23	WNW
DSC_0337-0341	Room 3 SE corner	23	NW
DSC_0342-0346	Room 3 SE corner	24	WSW
DSC_0347-0351	Room 3 SE corner showing large stone foundation	24	WSW
DSC_0352-0356	Room 3 east wall with remains of Door 23	24	WSW
DSC_0357-0361	Room 4 east wall	25	WNW
DSC_0362-0366	Room 4 east wall with Door 13 (left)	26	WSW
DSC_0367-0373	Door 13	26	WSW
DSC_0374-0380	Room 4 east wall with Door 13 (left) Door 14 (right)	27	WSW
DSC_0381-0385	Room 4 east wall wall scar F1 (left) Door 14 (right)	27	NW
DSC_0386-0390	Room 4 east wall wall scar F1 (left) W6/W7 mill drive shaft holes (centre) Door 14 (right)	27A	SW
DSC_0391-0395	Room 4 east wall W6/W7 mill drive shaft holes (left) Door 14 (right)	27A	SW
DSC_0396-0401	Door 14	28	SW
DSC_0402-0407	Door 14 with Window 8 (above)	28	SW
DSC_0408-0424	Stone drain F3	29	N
DSC_0425-0430	Room 1 (left) Room 2 (right)	1	NNE
DSC_0431-0437	Room 1 west wall Door 12 (right), door 11 (centre) Door 10 (left)	31	NE
DSC_0438-0443	Room 1 west wall Door 12 (right), door 11 (left)	31	NE
DSC_0444-0448	Blocking F4 former door	31	NE
DSC_0449-0453	Door D10	31A	NE
DSC_0454-0458	Door D9	31A	NE
DSC_0459-0470	Room 1 west wall Door 12 (right), door 11 (centre) Door 10 (left)	32	NE
DSC_0471-0475	Room 1 west wall	32	NNE
DSC_0476-0481	Room 1 west wall	33	NNE
DSC_0482-0486	Room 5 (left) Room 1 (right)	34	NNE
DSC_0487-0491	Room 5 (left) Room 1 (right)	34	NNE
DSC_0492-0502	Room 1 interior	35	SE
DSC_0503-0508	Room 5 interior	36	NE
DSC_0509-0513	Room 5 interior	37	SW
DSC_0514-0518	Room 5 NE gable with Room 1 through door 24	37	NE
DSC_0519-0523	Room 5 showing reinforced concrete stalls and fireclay ventilation	36	ENE
DSC_0524-0528	Room 5 north wall showing fireclay ventilation	37	W
DSC_0529-0533	Fireclay ventilation detail	37	NW
DSC_0534-0538	Room 5 north wall detail of partition F5	38	NE
DSC_0539-0543	Room 5 north wall west end showing construction details	38A	ENE
DSC_0544-0549	Room 5 north wall Door 4	39	SE
DSC_0550-0555	Room 5 north wall Door 4 (right)	40	SW
DSC_0556-0560	Room 5 north wall	40	SE
DSC_0561-0566	Room 5 north wall	40	SE
DSC_0567-0577	Room 5 north wall with upper window W5 (top) Door 25 (right) and blockage of old ?door (bottom left)	41	SE







DSC\_0199



DSC\_0203



DSC\_0208



DSC\_0209



DSC\_0211



DSC\_0214



DSC\_0221



DSC\_0229



DSC\_0230



DSC\_0236



DSC\_0241



DSC\_0246



DSC\_0249



DSC\_0250



DSC\_0263



DSC\_0272



DSC\_0273



DSC\_0284



DSC\_0285



DSC\_0296



DSC\_0297



DSC\_0304



DSC\_0305



DSC\_0316



DSC\_0326



DSC\_0327



DSC\_0336



DSC\_0337



DSC\_0345



DSC\_0350



DSC\_0356



DSC\_0357



DSC\_0366

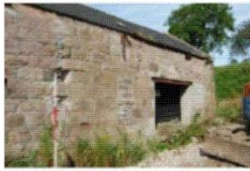


DSC\_0367



DSC\_0380





DSC\_0381



DSC\_0387



DSC\_0394



DSC\_0401



DSC\_0402



DSC\_0410



DSC\_0417



DSC\_0423



DSC\_0424



DSC\_0425



DSC\_0437



DSC\_0438



DSC\_0448



DSC\_0449



DSC\_0458



DSC\_0468



DSC\_0475



DSC\_0476



DSC\_0486



DSC\_0487



DSC\_0496



DSC\_0497



DSC\_0508



DSC\_0509



DSC\_0518



DSC\_0519



DSC\_0528



DSC\_0529



DSC\_0538



DSC\_0539



DSC\_0549



DSC\_0550



DSC\_0560



DSC\_0561



DSC\_0577