

Standing Building Survey and Watching Brief Contlaw Mains Steading, Milltimber AB13 0ES



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SUMMARY

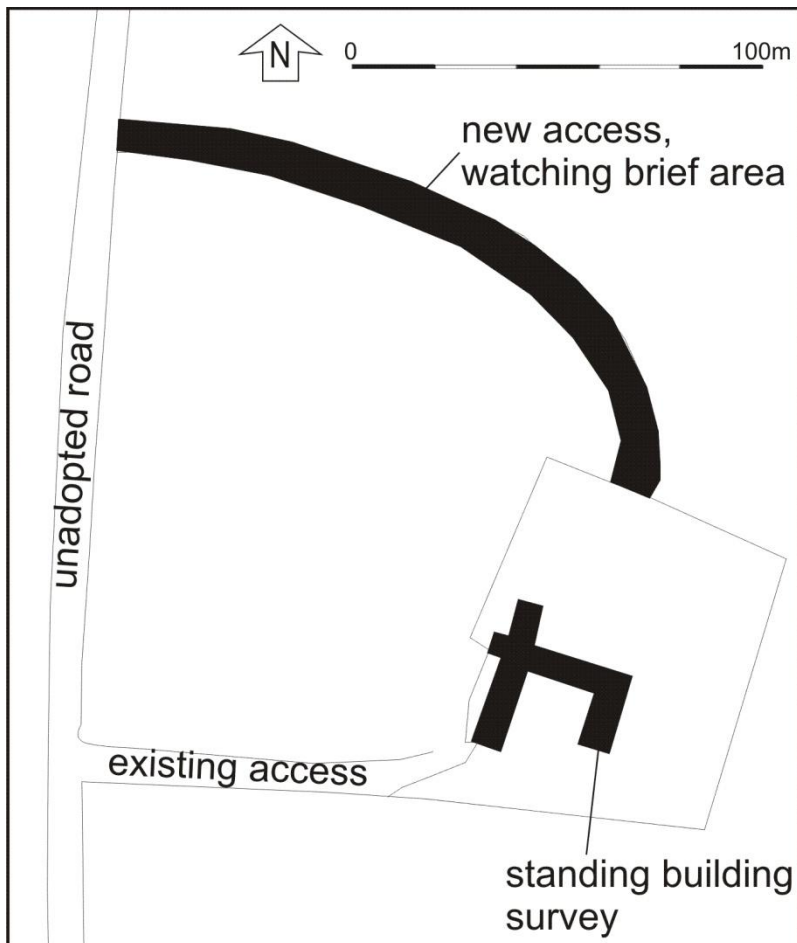
A Level 2 standing building survey was carried out on the remains of the 19th-century steading buildings and a watching brief carried out during the soil strip for the new access road. It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during this current development.

1 INTRODUCTION

The site lies at NJ83942 02802 and at a height of 120-125m OD in the parish of Peterculter. An application P120479 was passed by Aberdeen City Council on 5.7.12 for renovation and conversion of redundant farm steading to form a single dwelling house, with associated outbuildings and formation of a new private access drive from an unadopted road with a standard archaeology condition (condition 1). The work was commissioned by Ashleigh Kinch, Kinch Enterprises (Farms), Westfield Lodge, Contlaw Road, Milltimber, Aberdeen, AB13 0ES.



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



Illus 2 Plan showing area of standing building survey and watching brief (*copyright CWS Enterprises*)

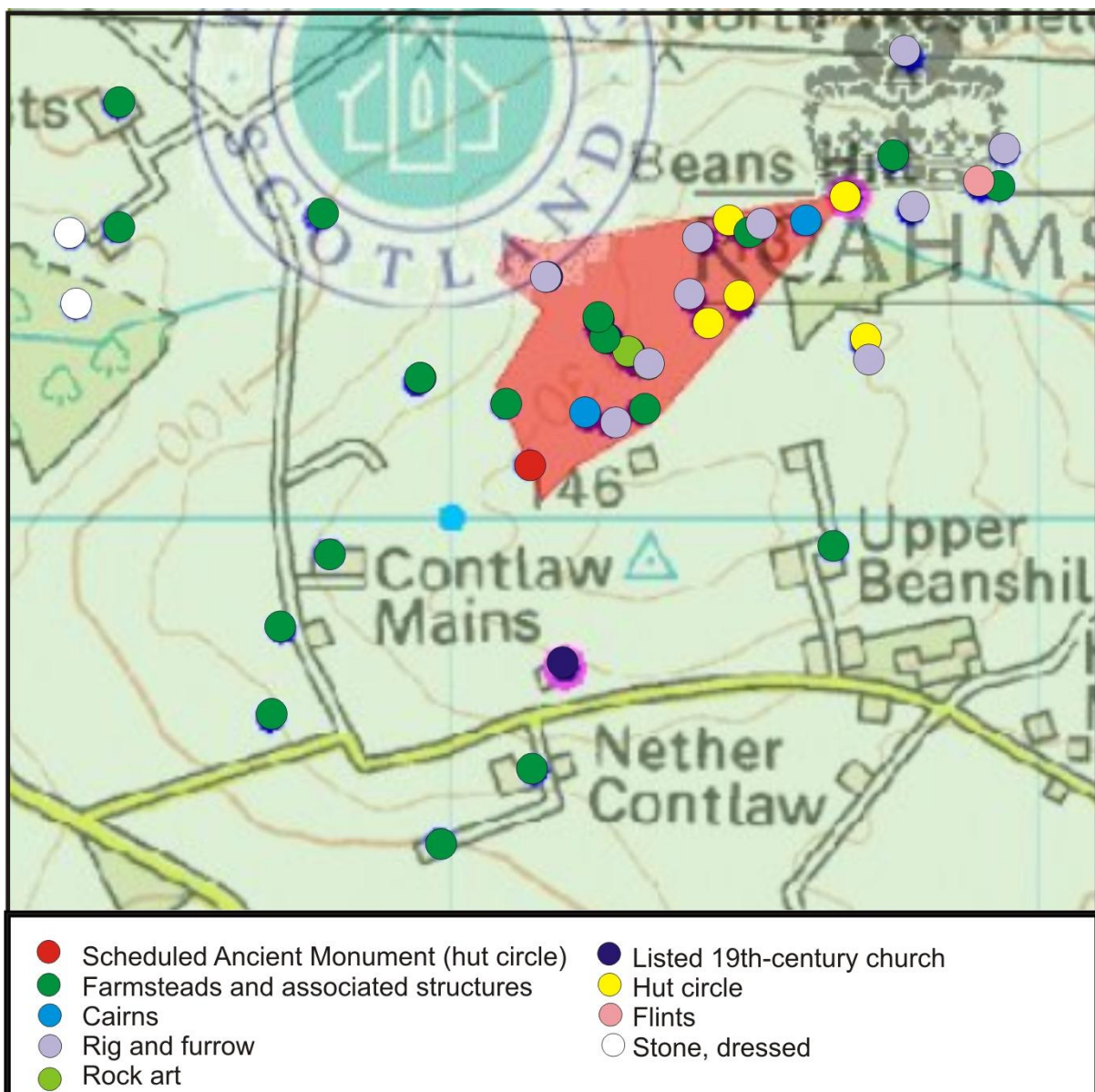


Illus 3 Aerial photograph of farm and adjacent fields (*copyright Google*)

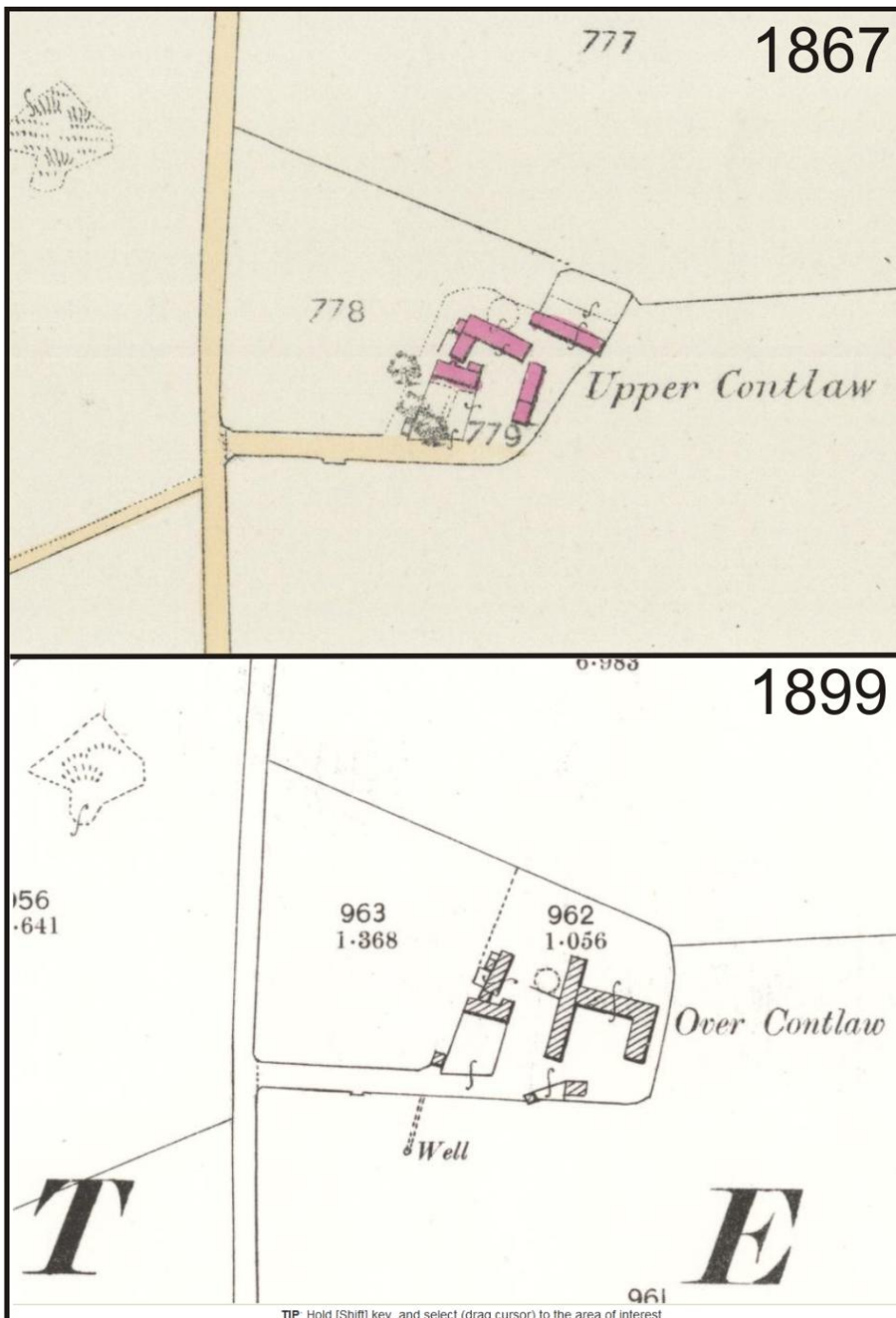
2 BACKGROUND

Contlaw Mains (NMRS no NJ80SW 62.00) is not on late 16th-century Pont or mid-17th century Blaeu. On the First Edition Ordnance Survey map the farm was Upper Contlaw, on the Second Edition Over Contlaw (Illus 5) and remained with that name until at least the 1960s. In the mid 19th century a horse mill was located at the north of the site (now demolished) and this was then moved adjacent to the buildings covered by this survey.

There are many archaeological sites in the area of this former farm (Appendix 2). One Scheduled Ancient Monument is a hut circle 355m ENE of Contlaw Mains and several other hut circles are known on Bean's Hill. March Stone 23 at the top of Beans Hill is Listed Category B. A number of rig and furrow areas, cup-marked stones, farmsteads and associated buildings including pens and stack bases survive on the unimproved land to the NE of the current site.



Illus 4 Plan showing PASTMAP sites in the vicinity of this development (copyright RCAHMS)



Illus 5 First Edition OS map (top) showing horse mill above northern building (now demolished) and Second Edition (bottom) (copyright National Library of Scotland)

A watching brief was carried out north of the current site (Cameron 2010, 13) on the soil strip for a new track but no archaeological remains were recorded. A landscape survey was carried out at Westfield (Peters 2010) NE of the current site and a hectare of wood was surveyed and various features including an unidentified hut-circle recorded prior to a watching brief for a new track (Peters 2009). Rig and furrow were truncated by this work and recorded but no sub-surface archaeological remains were identified.

3. STANDING BUILDING SURVEY

Prior to the standing building survey modern buildings had been demolished including a cattle court in the crook of the C-shaped steading, a shed on the east of Room 4 and buildings to the north of the steadings. The interior surfaces of Rooms 1 and 2 covered with plaster as these had been for housing cattle and plastic sheeting had covering the wall-heads to protect from the elements had all obscured some details.

The standing structure is constructed of coursed large granite boulders with small rubble infill. Many of the original granite lintels have been removed previously as doors and windows were altered and there is a steel beam (D9) and wooden lintels (D8, D6). Door 5 has been completely reconstructed in concrete as have several other features. From the available information it has been possible to see two phases of development.

Phase 1

Rooms 2, 3 and 4 were constructed in one phase; decorative corbels (Illus 6, 8) on the corners of these buildings suggest that they were built on one phase. The horse-mill may date to this phase as it was sited next to one of the northern buildings on the First Edition Ordnance Survey (Illus 5).

All the buildings appeared to be single storey apart from Room 1 and 2 which have had second floors; Room 1 has upper floor window W2 and Room 2 has W11 (above D12) and beam slots (Illus 12). Room 2 had two carriage doors (D13 and D14) off the courtyard and access road to the south of the property

AA is the remains of a horse mill (Illus 5, 13) or stands on the site of one seen on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (Illus 5). It was cut through by Room 5 and is now being used as a base for a water tank.

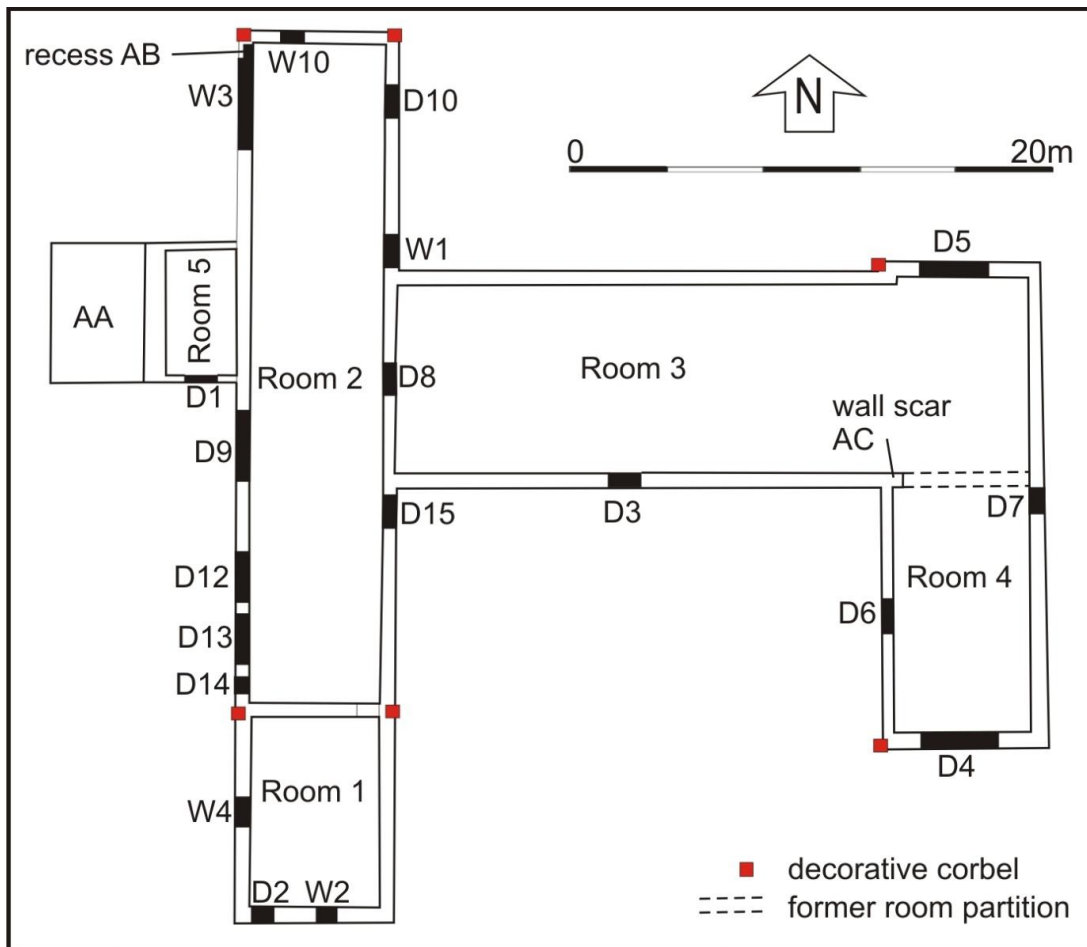
In the NW corner of the interior of Room 2, recess AB (Illus 6) housed a fitting; it is immediately adjacent to Window W3 and may have been associated with providing running water to the buildings. This may have been domestic accommodation but any further evidence of this has now been lost.

The First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Illus 5) shows only one linear range which may have been replaced by the current buildings and it is therefore likely that the standing remains date to the late 19th century. There is no earlier evidence in the remaining structures.

Phase 2

Room 1 added to south after the construction of Room 2. It is in stone and may not have been built long after the original building.

In the late 20th century other structures such as a roof for the cattle court and Room 5 were added but these were mostly removed prior to the survey. Latterly Rooms 1, 2 and 3 had been fitted out with animal stalls and the remains of these could be seen as scars in the cement rendering.



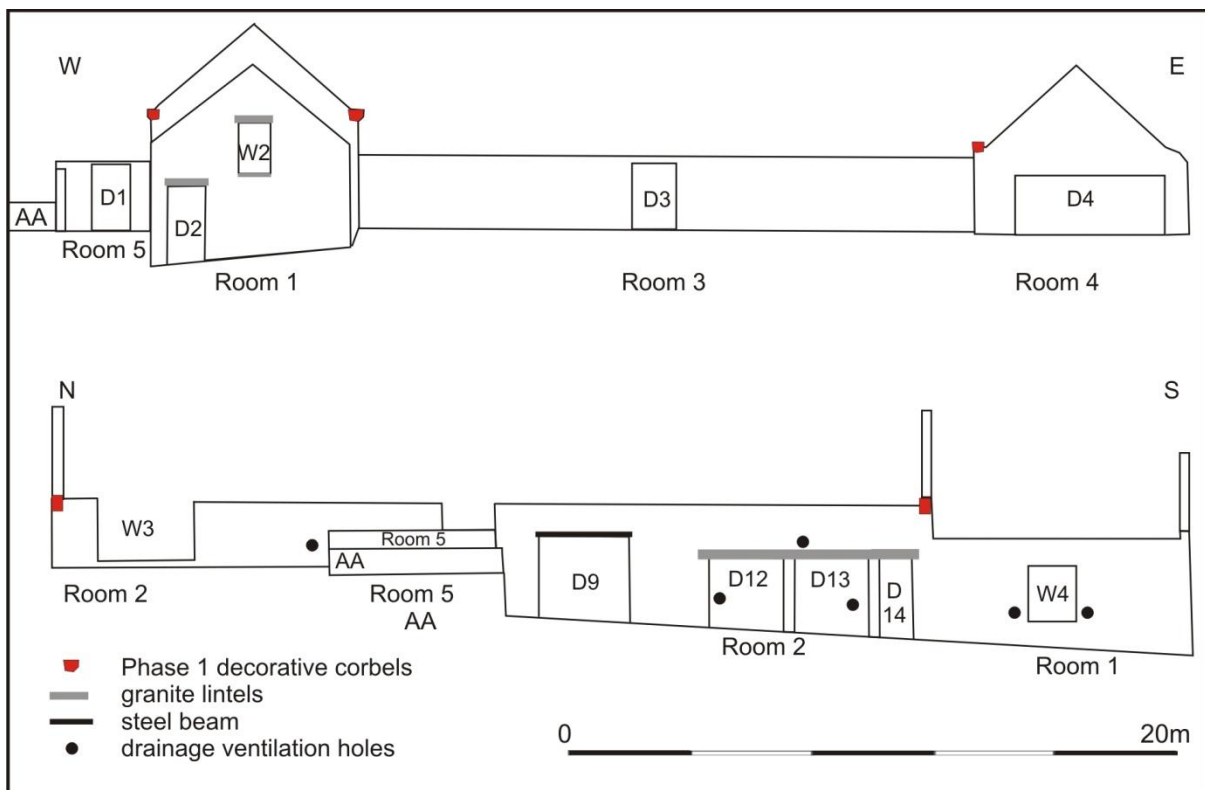
Illus 6 Plan showing rooms, apertures and features



Illus 7 Phase 1 west arm of steading showing Doors D12, D13, D14



Illus 8 Corbel on NE corner Room 1



Illus 9 Elevations of west facing (bottom) and south facing (top) façades



Illus 10 Room 1 (right) and Room 2 (left) from SW



Illus 11 Room 4 (left) and Room 3 (right) from NE



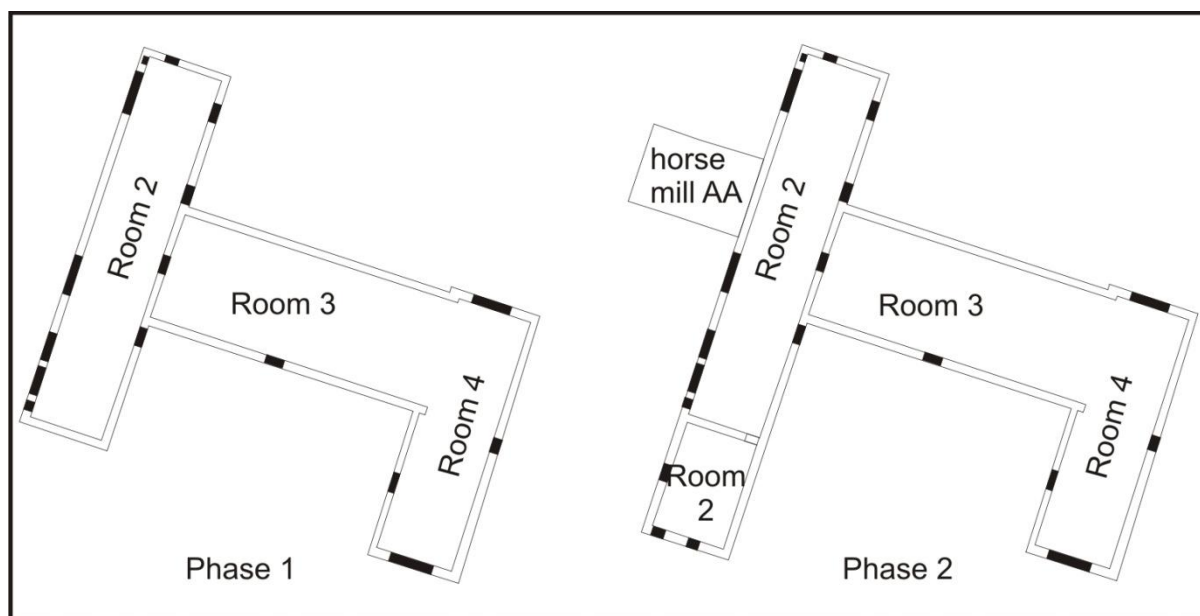
Illus 12 North end east wall Room 2 with D10 showing beam slots



Illus 13 AA the remains of a horse-mill with Room 5 (right)



Illus 14 Recess AB (right; to left of ranging rod) with remains of Window W3 (centre)



Illus 15 Phase 1 buildings with Phase 2 later extensions

4 WATCHING BRIEF

The soil strip for a new access route (Illus 2) was observed on 22 August 2012. The topsoil varied from 0.4m depth at the west end of the field to 0.2m at the top (east end). Two stone drains were recorded at the west end near the field boundary and a disconnected electric cable in a shallow trench was uncovered near the steading. No significant archaeological features were identified.



Illus 16 Watching brief area; facing NW

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that no further work is required during this current development but this is subject to advice from Judith Stones, Aberdeen City Council.

6 REFERENCES

Cameron, A 2010 Watching brief at Contlaw Mains, Milltimber, Aberdeen DES, 13.
Peters, C 2009 Watching brief at Westfield, Milltimber, Aberdeen.
<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/greylit/details.cfm?id=5111>
Peters, C 2010 Landscape survey, Westfield, Milltimber, Aberdeen
<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/greylit/details.cfm?id=6131>

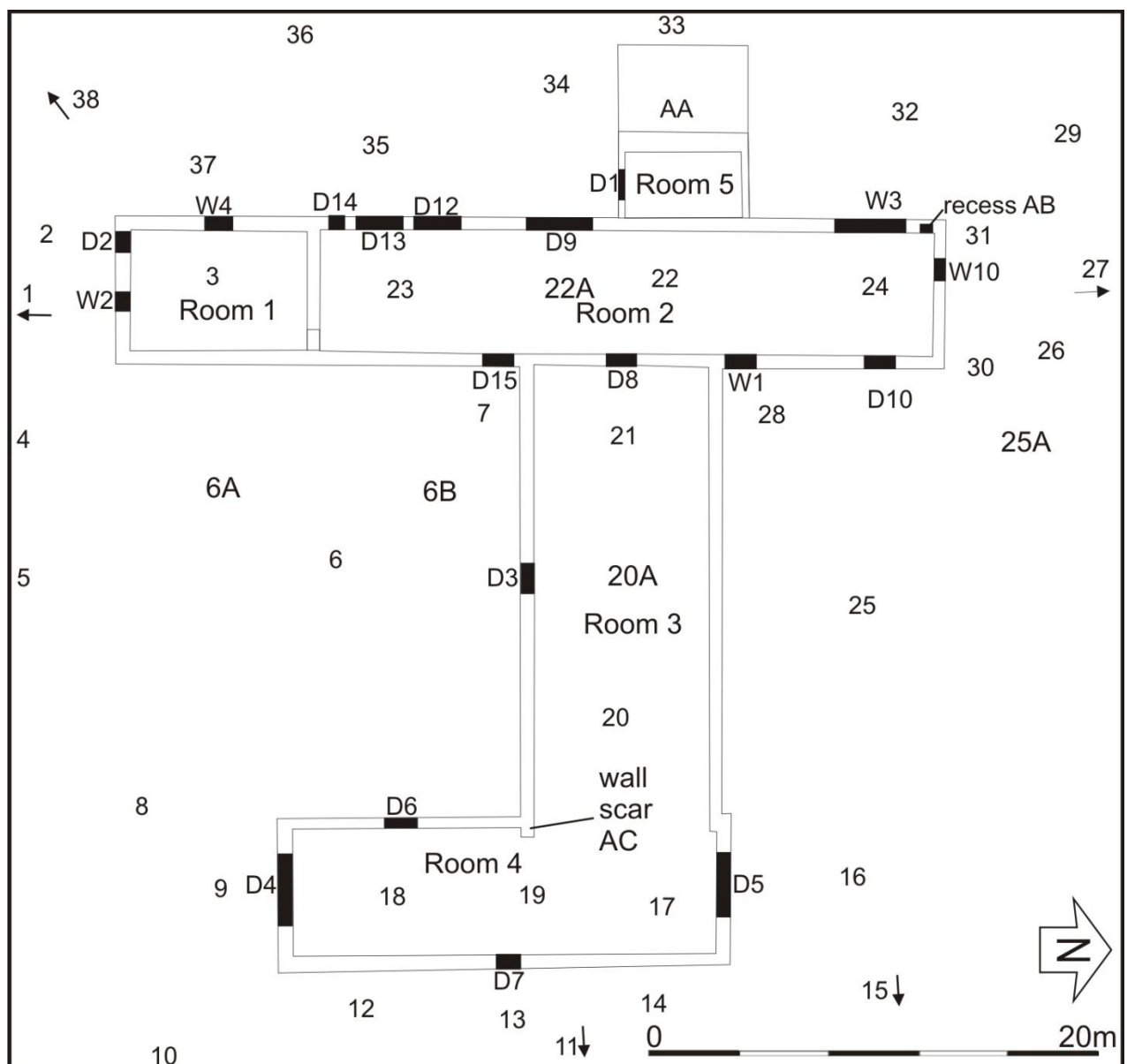
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Ashleigh Kinch, Kinch Enterprises (Farms), Westfield Estate and Judith Stones, Aberdeen City Council.

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APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS

STANDING BUILDING SURVEY



Illus 17 Plan showing camera points used in standing building survey



DSC_0008



DSC_0015



DSC_0021



DSC_0029



DSC_0030



DSC_0036



DSC_0052



DSC_0059



DSC_0060



DSC_0068



DSC_0073



DSC_0085



DSC_0091



DSC_0102



DSC_0109



DSC_0110



DSC_0111



DSC_0130



DSC_0139



DSC_0140



DSC_0151



DSC_0157



DSC_0158



DSC_0171



DSC_0182



DSC_0183



DSC_0193



DSC_0200



DSC_0201



DSC_0207



DSC_0215



DSC_0221



DSC_0233



DSC_0234



DSC_0248



DSC_0261



DSC_0262



DSC_0271



DSC_0272



DSC_0279



DSC_0298



DSC_0300



DSC_0308



DSC_0317



DSC_0326



DSC_0327



DSC_0339



DSC_0344



DSC_0356



DSC_0363



DSC_0364



DSC_0371



DSC_0379



DSC_0385



DSC_0392



DSC_0401



DSC_0408



DSC_0416



DSC_0422



DSC_0436



DSC_0437



DSC_0443



DSC_0450



DSC_0459



DSC_0460



DSC_0472



DSC_0473



DSC_0480



DSC_0490



DSC_0496





Photo no	Description	CP	Facing
DSC_0001-0008	South wall Room 1: D2 (bottom left) W2 (top middle)	1	N
DSC_0009-0015	South wall Room 1: W2	1	N
DSC_0016-0021	South wall Room 1: D2	1	N
DSC_0022-0029	South wall Room 1: D2 (bottom left) W2 (top middle)	1	N
DSC_0030-0035	Room 1 SE corner showing scar for cattle feeders	3	S
DSC_0036-0050	South wall Room 1: D2 (bottom right) W2 (top middle)	3	S
DSC_0051-0058	East wall Room 1	3	S
DSC_0059-0071	South wall Room 1: D2 (bottom right) W2 (top middle)	3	SSE
DSC_0072-0090	North wall Room 2 showing original Phase 1 exterior gable	3	N
DSC_0091-0096	North wall Room 2 showing original Phase 1 exterior gable showing large stone foundation	3	N
DSC_0097-0103	west wall Room 1 showing drainage pipe ventilation	3	W

DSC_0104-0110	west wall Room 1 showing drainage pipe ventilation	3	W
DSC_0111-0117	Room 1 NW corner showing large stone foundation	3	NW
DSC_0118-0133	Room 1 exterior south gable	4	NNW
DSC_0134-0139	Room 1 (left) Room 2 (right)	5	NW
DSC_0140-0151	Room 1 (left) Room 2 (right)	5	W
DSC_0152-0157	Room 1 exterior east wall	6A	W
DSC_0158-0169	Room 2 south end east wall from courtyard with D15	6B	W
DSC_0170-0175	Door 15 from exterior	7	W
DSC_0176-0182	Room 3 west end Door 3	6	N
DSC_0183-0189	Room 3 west end Door 3 (right)	5	N
DSC_0190-0194	Room 3 east end Door 3 (left)	5	N
DSC_0195-0200	Room 3 east end Door 3 (centre)	5	N
DSC_0201-0206	Room 3 east end Door 3 (left) Room 4 D4 (right)	5	NNE
DSC_0207-0214	Room 4 south end west wall with D6 (centre)	6	E
DSC_0215-0220	Room 4 south end west wall with D6 (right)	6	E
DSC_0221-0226	Room 4 south end west wall with D6 (left)	6	E
DSC_0227-0233	Room 4 south gable	6	E
DSC_0234-0239	Room 4 south gable with D4	8	N
DSC_0240-0255	Room 4 south gable with D4	10	NW
DSC_0256-0263	Room 4 east wall	11	W
DSC_0264-0271	Room 4 east wall south end	12	W
DSC_0272-0278	Room 4 east wall north end	14	W
DSC_0279-0287	Room 4 (left) with D5 and Room 3 (right)	15	SW
DSC_0288-0298	Room 4 (left) with D5 and Room 3 (right)	16	SSW
DSC_0300-0306	North wall Room 3	16	SSW
DSC_0307-0312	Room 4 D5 exterior	16	S
DSC_0313-0326	Room 4 D5 interior	17	N
DSC_0327-0335	Room 4	17	S
DSC_0336-0343	Room 4 east wall north end	17	E
DSC_0344-0350	Room 4 east wall north end	18	SE
DSC_0351-0357	Room 4 south gable	18	S
DSC_0358-0363	Room 4 south gable (left) D6 (right)	18	SW
DSC_0364-0370	D6	18	W
DSC_0371-0384	Room 4 south end west wall showing wall scar AC (right)	19	W
DSC_0385-0391	Room 3 south wall with wall scar AC (left)	17	SW
DSC_0392-0400	Room 3 south wall with wall scar AC (left)	20	S
DSC_0401-0407	Room 3 south wall with D3 (centre)	20A	S
DSC_0408-0415	Room 3 south wall with D3 (left)	21	S
DSC_0416-0421	Room 3 SW corner with D8 (right)	21	SW
DSC_0422-0429	Room 3 west wall with D8 (centre)	21	W
DSC_0430-0436	D8	21	W
DSC_0437-0442	Room 3	21	E
DSC_0443-0449	Room 3 North wall west end with junction to Room 2 (left)	21	N
DSC_0450-0459	Room 3 North wall	21	NNE
DSC_0460-0466	Room 3	21	E
DSC_0467-0472	Room 3 south wall	21	ESE
DSC_0473-0479	Room 2 D8 looking towards D5	22	E
DSC_0480-0468	Room 2 south gable	22	S
DSC_0487-0495	Room 2 south gable (right) east wall (left)	22	SE
DSC_0496-0505	Room 2 D9	22A	W
DSC_0506-0519	Room 2 north gable showing W10 (centre) and D10	22	N

	(right)		
DSC_0520-0527	Room 2 D10 showing joist holes	24	E
DSC_0528-0534	Room 2 joist holes above D10	24	E
DSC_0535-0544	Room 2 W3	24	W
DSC_0545-0553	Room 2	24	S
DSC_0554-0560	Room 3 North wall with D5 (left)	16	S
DSC_0561-0566	Room 3 North wall with D5 (left)	25	SE
DSC_0567-0572	Room 3 North wall with junction with Room 2 (right)	25	S
DSC_0573-0578	Room 2 W1	28	W
DSC_0579-0585	Room 2 east wall with W1 (left) and D10 (centre)	25	W
DSC_0586-0591	D10	25	W
DSC_0592	Room 3 North wall with D5 (left)	25	S
DSC_0593-0599	Room 2 east wall with W1 (left) and D10 (centre)	25A	SW
DSC_0600-0606	Room 2 east wall with W1 (left) and D10 (centre)	25A	SW
DSC_0607-0637	Room 2 north wall	25	S
DSC_0638-0647	Room 3 N wall (left) Room 2 N wall (right)	27	SE
DSC_0648-0680	NE corner Room 2 showing decorative corbel	30	S/SE
DSC_0681-0688	N wall Room 2	26	S
DSC_0689-0691	NE corner Room 2 showing decorative corbel	30	S
DSC_0692-0698	NW corner Room 2 showing decorative corbel	31	S
DSC_0699-0704	NW corner Room 2 showing decorative corbel	31	SE
DSC_0705-0718	NW corner Room 2 showing decorative corbel	31	SE
DSC_0719-0725	Room 2 W3	32	E
DSC_0726-0734	Room 2 W3 (left)	33	NE
DSC_0735 (1)	SW corner Room 1	38	NE
DSC_0735 (2-9)	Room 2 west wall D14 (right), D13, D12, D9 (left)	36	NNE
DSC_0735 (10-16)	Horse mill base AA (centre) R5 (right)	34	N
DSC_0735 (17-28)	Horse mill base AA (centre) R5 (right)	34	NNW
DSC_0735 (29-42)	Horse mill base AA (centre) R5 (right)	34	NNE
DSC_0735 (43-50)	Horse mill base AA (centre) D9 (right)	33	NE
DSC_0735 (51-56)	D9	34	E
DSC_0735 (57-62)	D9 (left) D12, D13, D14	34	SE
DSC_0735 (63-69)	D12 (left), D13, D14	34	SSE
DSC_0735 (70-77)	D9 (left) D12, D13, D14	34	ESE
DSC_0735 (78-84)	D9 (left) D12, D13, D14	34	E
DSC_0735 (85-90)	D12 (left), D13, D14	34	E
DSC_0735 (91-96)	D12 (left), D13, D14 W4 (right)	34	SE
DSC_0735 (97-102)	D14 (right), D13, D12	37	NNE
DSC_0735 (103-109)	D12 (left), D13, D14 Phase 1 (left) Phase 2 (right)	34	E
DSC_0735 (110-116)	D14	36	E
DSC_0735 (117-125)	Room 1 west wall with W4 (with D14 left)	37	E
DSC_0735 (126-132)	Room 1 (right) Room 2 (left) west walls	36	NE
DSC_0735 (133-139)	Room 1 (right) Room 2 (left) west walls	36	NE
DSC_0735 (140-147)	Room 2 south wall, south wall of Phase 1 with decorative corbel (Room 1 Right)	36	E
DSC_0735 (148-155)	Room 2 south wall, south wall of Phase 1 with decorative corbel (Room 1 Right)	36	NE
DSC_0735 (156-163)	Room 2 SW corner corbel	36	E
DSC_0735 (164-175)	Drainage pipe ventilation	36	E
DSC_0735 (176-182)	Room 1 south gable	38	NNE
DSC_0735 (183-189)	Room 1 south gable	1	N
DSC_0735 (190-203)	Room 1 (right) Room 2 (left) west walls	38	NE
DSC_0735 (204-218)	Room 1 SW corner plain corbel (Phase 2)	38	NE/ENE

WATCHING BRIEF

Evaluation		
DSC_0154-0155	West end of trench at road	E
DSC_0156-0161	West end of trench at road	E
DSC_0162-0167	West end of trench at road with land drain F1	E
DSC_0168-0173	soil strip new access track	E
DSC_0174-0178	soil strip new access track	W
DSC_0179-0185	soil strip new access track	W
DSC_0186-0191	soil strip new access track	E
DSC_0192-0196	soil strip new access track	W
DSC_0197-0201	soil strip new access track	W
DSC_0202-0206	soil strip new access track	ESE
DSC_0207-0211	soil strip new access track	WNW
DSC_0212-0216	soil strip new access track	ESE
DSC_0217-0222	soil strip new access track	WNW
DSC_0223-0233	soil strip new access track	WNW
DSC_0234-0240	soil strip new access track	WNW
DSC_0241-0245	soil strip new access track	W
DSC_0246-0251	soil strip new access track	SE
DSC_0252-0257	soil strip new access track	NW
DSC_0258-0262	soil strip new access track	NW
DSC_0263-0272	soil strip new access track	NW
DSC_0273-0277	soil strip new access track	SE
DSC_0278-0287	soil strip new access track	NW
DSC_0288-0292	SE end access track	WNW
DSC_0293-0297	SE end access track	SE
DSC_0298-0302	electric cable F3	SE
DSC_0303-0307	electric cable F3	NW
DSC_0308-0312	SE end access track	SE
DSC_0313-0322	SE end access track	NW



DSC_0154



DSC_0161



DSC_0162



DSC_0173



DSC_0174



DSC_0185



DSC_0186



DSC_0196



DSC_0197



DSC_0206



DSC_0207



DSC_0216



DSC_0217



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DSC_0234



DSC_0235



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DSC_0237



DSC_0238



DSC_0239



DSC_0240



DSC_0241



DSC_0251



DSC_0252



DSC_0262



DSC_0263



DSC_0277



DSC_0282



DSC_0283



DSC_0290



DSC_0297



DSC_0298



DSC_0307



DSC_0308



DSC_0316



DSC_0322