

**Balmaleddie Steading, Marykirk, AB30 1XL
Report on Level 1 Standing Building Survey**



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SUMMARY

A Level 1 standing building survey was carried out on 15 December 2014; the weather was clear and bright. All exterior walls were recorded photographically and architects plans were annotated and measurements taken. The roofs were in poor condition and so there was no access to the interior of the steading buildings. The building had been built for agricultural use and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required during this redevelopment (Aberdeenshire planning application 2014/3073). Further archaeological work may be required if the Spear Mill building itself is to be redeveloped.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located on the SE side of Marykirk on the NE side of the Burn of Balmaleedy (Balmaleedie). It is centred on NGR NO 68972 65085, at 19-21m OD (Illus 1) and in the parish of Marykirk.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Louise Rae, A.B. Roger and Young Ltd, Brechin. An Aberdeenshire planning application 2014/3073 for conversion and alterations and extension of steading to form 2 dwellinghouses was passed on 18 November 2014 with an archaeology condition (condition 2) for a Level 1 standing building survey.
- 1.3 All the archaeological work 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.

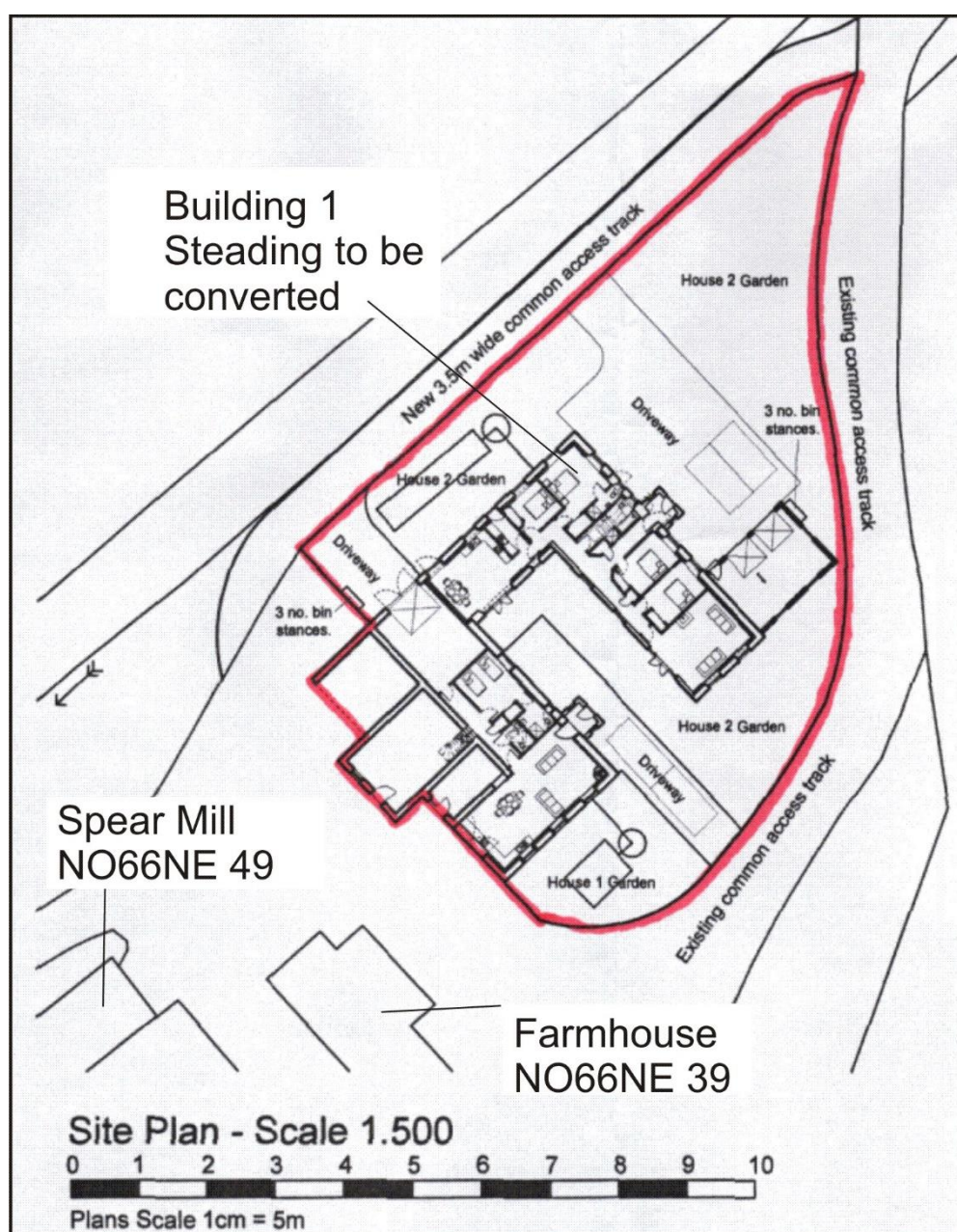


Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2015)

2 THE LEVEL 1 STANDING BUILDING SURVEY

The site is occupied by the 19th-century Spear Mill farmhouse (NO66NE 39) Listed Category C and its associated unlisted steading (the subject of this survey) and the early 18th-century Spear Mill (NO66NE 49) Listed Category B (Geddes 2001, 43; Illus 2). A battle, said to have been fought between the laird of Aberluthnet (the old name for Marykirk), and the laird of Canterland and Balmaleddie (Burn of Balmaleddie), with their retainers. Their quarrel was over the siting of a mill now called Spear Mill because they fought with spears, 'but when this happened none can precisely tell.' (NMRS Canmore online NO66NE 1).

The standing building survey took place on 15 December 2014; the weather was clear and bright. All exterior walls were recorded photographically and architects plans were annotated and measurements taken. The roofs were in poor condition and so there was no access to the interior of the steading buildings. The building had been constructed for agricultural use and developed since it was first constructed in the late 18th or early 19th century.

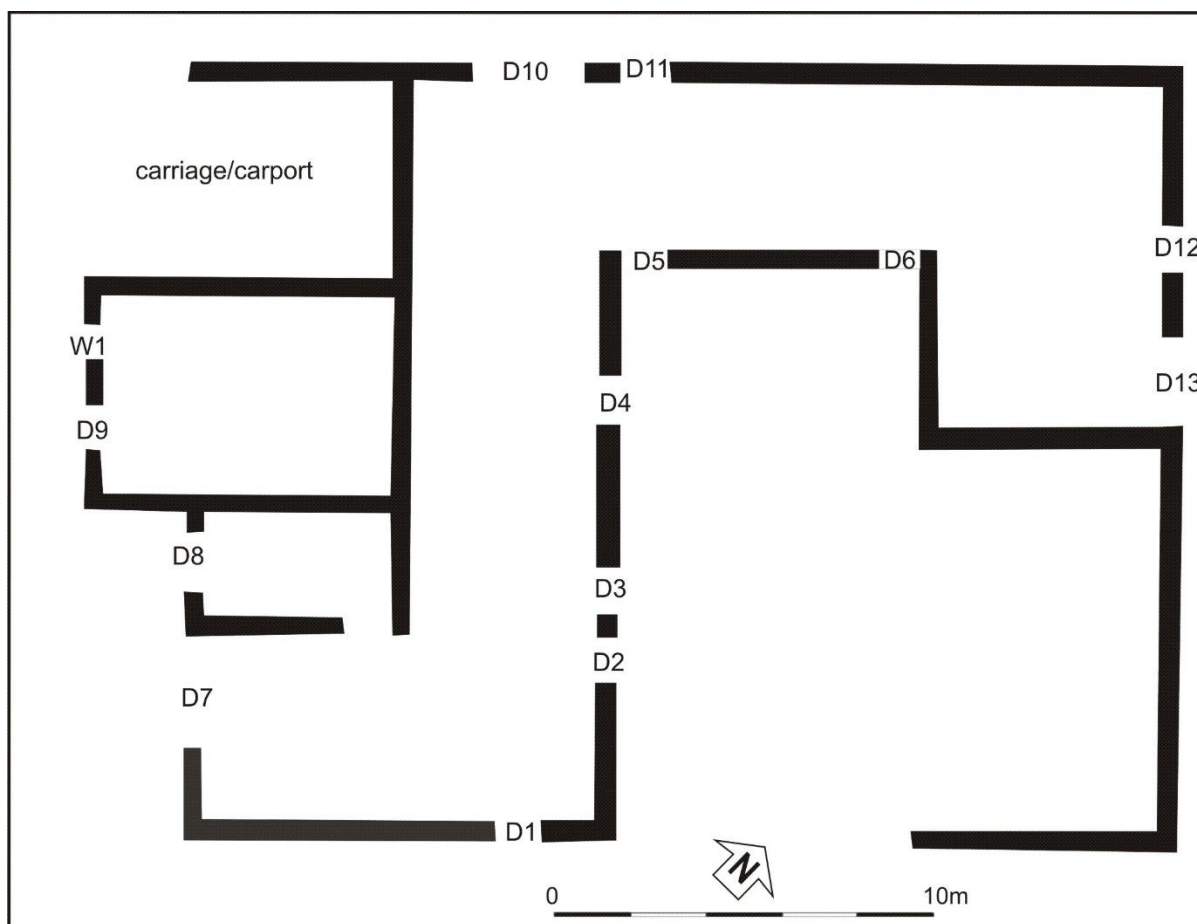


Illus 2 Plan of all buildings (from copyright AB Roger & Young)

2.1 Building 1 The Steading

The steading is located at the north end of the parcel of land, NE of the farmhouse and mill. The roofs are collapsing and so there was little access to the interiors and some of the exterior walls were difficult to access. All walls and details were photographed.

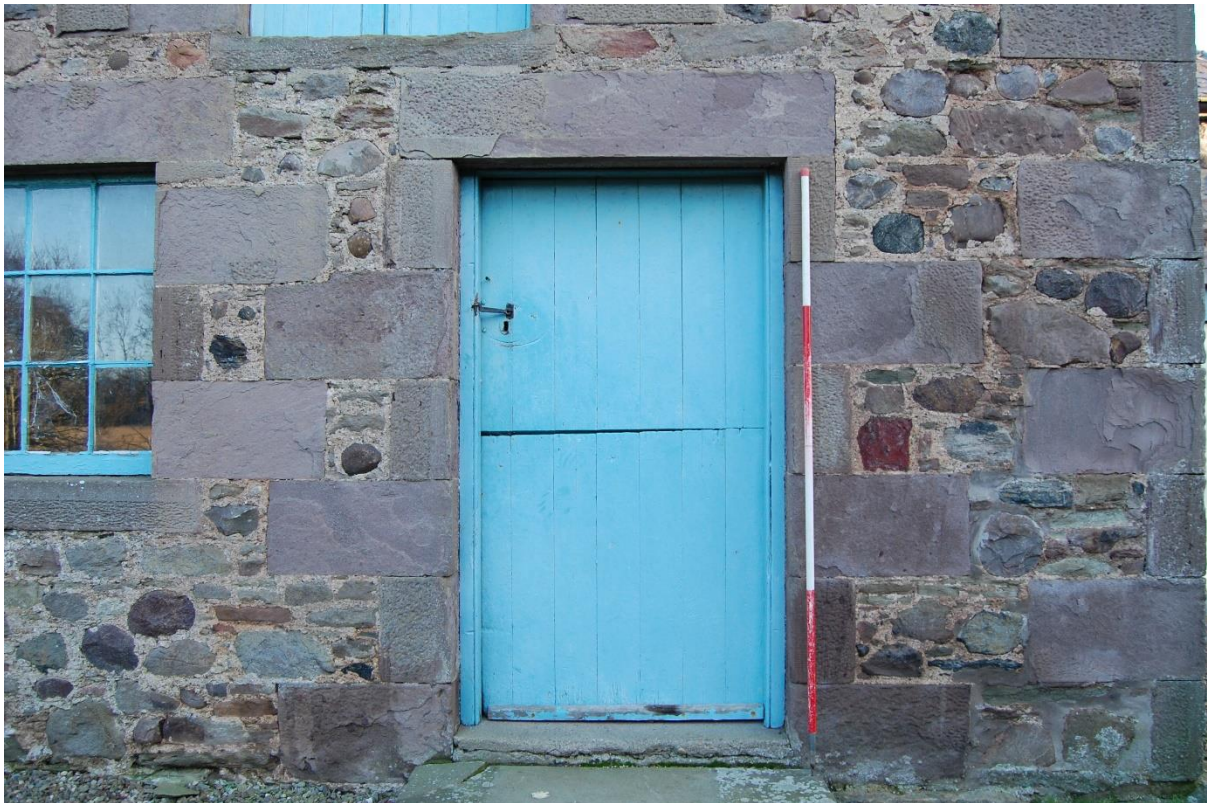
The steading is 21m NW-SE and 29m NE-SW (Illus 3). The steading has developed over from a group of separate buildings on the First Edition OS map (Illus 8) and there is use of ashlar sandstone tooled blocks (SW wall), granite fieldstone and brick.



Illus 3 Plan of Building 1 with features recorded (*from copyright AB Roger & Young*)

The earliest section of the building may date to the 18th-century (Phase 1 Illus 4-7). The Phase 1 farmhouse on the SW side of the current steading was once a separate building (see First Edition map Illus 7). It has tooled ashlar sandstone blocks for quoins, jambs and lintels (Illus 4). Walls of granite fieldstones were added to the NW and SE walls to incorporate this building into the steading and a new farmhouse built after the 3rd Edition OS (c1923).

The steading constructed by the late 19th century was formed around a central courtyard with an opening on the SE side. The courtyard walls are partly formed in granite fieldstones and brick (Illus 5).



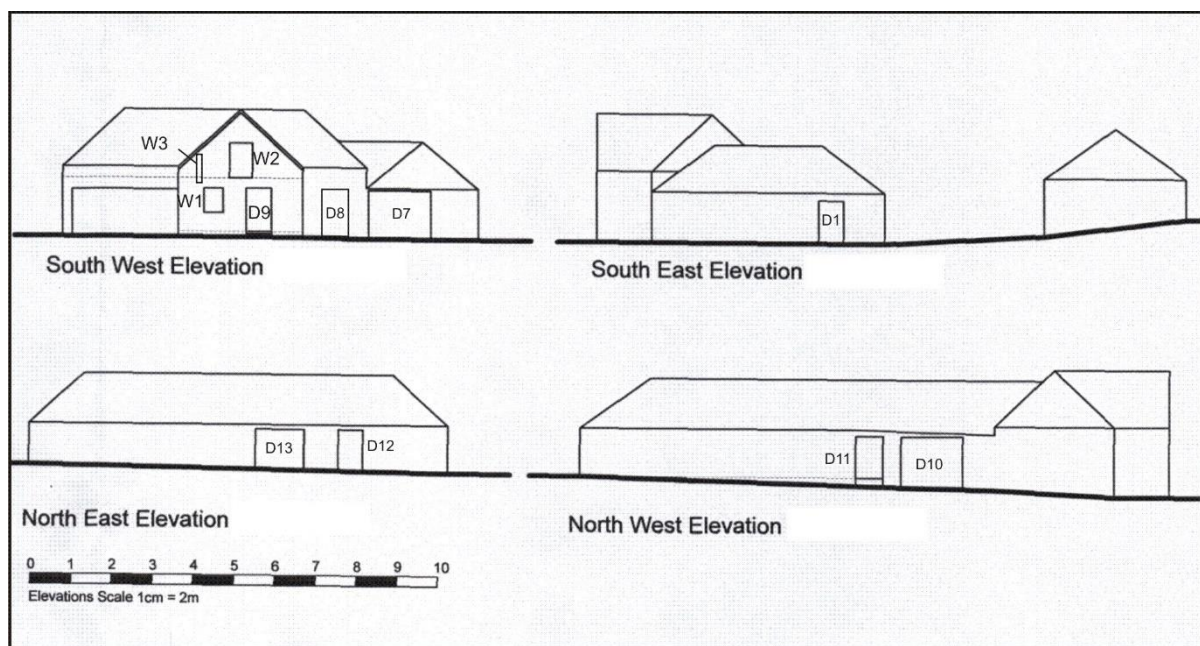
Illus 4 Phase 1 farmhouse façade with Door 9 on SW façade showing tooled sandstone blocks for jambs, lintel and quoins; facing NE



Illus 5 SW wall of courtyard with (l-r) Doors D2, D3, D4, D5 showing stone and brick sections of construction



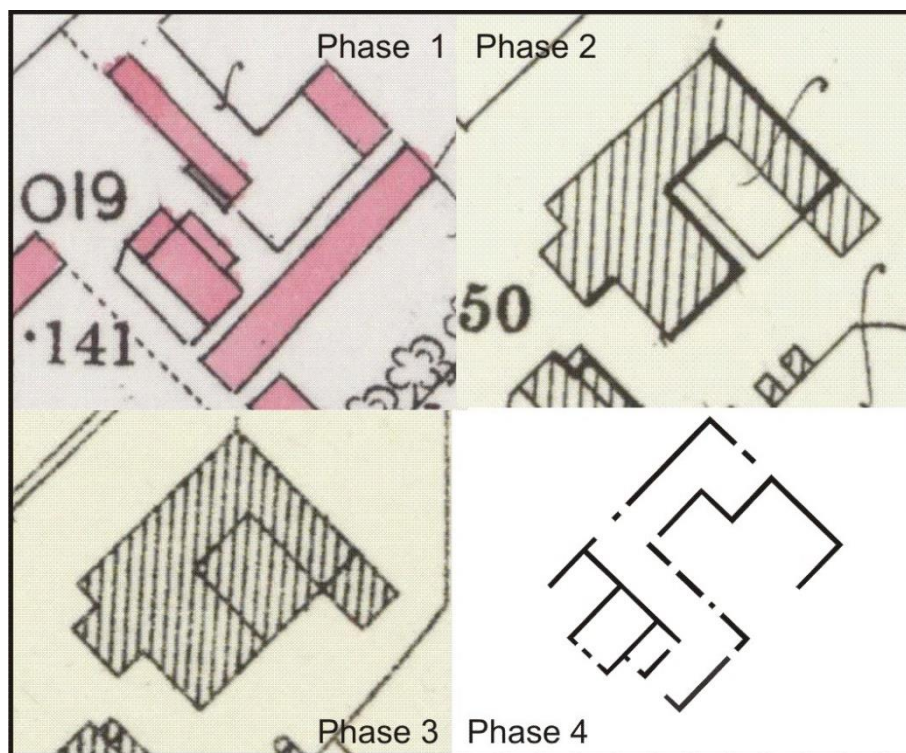
Illus 6 NE wall showing Phase 1 section of wall (left); facing SW



Illus 7 Elevations of steading annotated with aperture numbers (from copyright AB Roger & Young)

2.2 The other buildings

There are three other buildings at the site including a large modern farmhouse (Building 2), an 18th-century mill (Building 3) and a modern farm cottage (Building 4) which were recorded photographically as part of this survey. All details appear in archive.



Illus 8 Phase plan showing development of Building 1 on the Ordnance Survey and the modern plan. Top left First Edition OS Forfar Sheet XXVIII.1, 1865 (top right) Forfarshire, Sheet 028.01, 1904 (bottom left) Forfarshire, Sheet 028.01, 1924 (*all copyright National Library of Scotland*); (bottom right modern plan (*from copyright AB Roger & Young*))

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

A Level 1 standing building survey was carried out on 15 December 2014 and it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current planning application.

4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Louise Rae, A.B. Roger and Young Ltd for commissioning this project and to Claire Herbert for her advice during the work.

5 REFERENCES

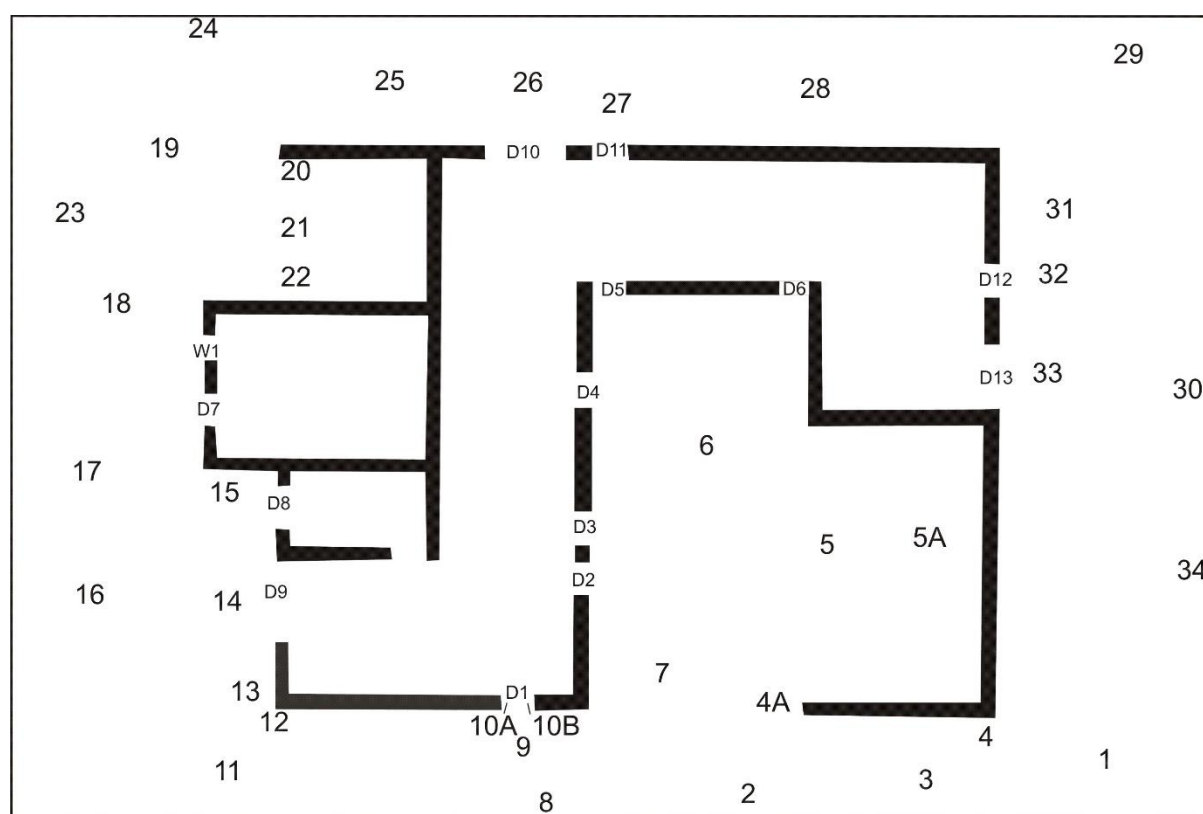
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APPENDIX 1 FEATURES RECORDED IN THIS SURVEY

Feature no	Description	Size
D1	SE wall	1.2m wide, 2.1m high
D2	SW wall courtyard	1.2m wide, 2.1m high
D3	SW wall courtyard	1.2m wide, 2.1m high
D4	SW wall courtyard	1.2m wide, 2.1m high
D5	NW wall courtyard	c1.2m wide, 2.1m high
D6	NW wall courtyard	c1.2m wide, 2.1m high
D7	SW wall	3m wide, 2.1m high
D8	SW wall	1.65m wide, 2.1m high
D9	SW wall	1.25m wide, 2.1m high
D10	NW wall	3m wide, 2.1m high
D11	NW wall	1.3m wide, 2.1m high
D12	NE wall	1.7m wide, 2.1m high
D13	NE wall	2.4m wide, 2.1m high
W1	SW wall ground floor house	0.95m wide, 1.2m high
W2	SW wall first floor house	1m wide, 1.2m high
W3	SW wall slit on first floor house	C0.25m wide, 1m high

APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS

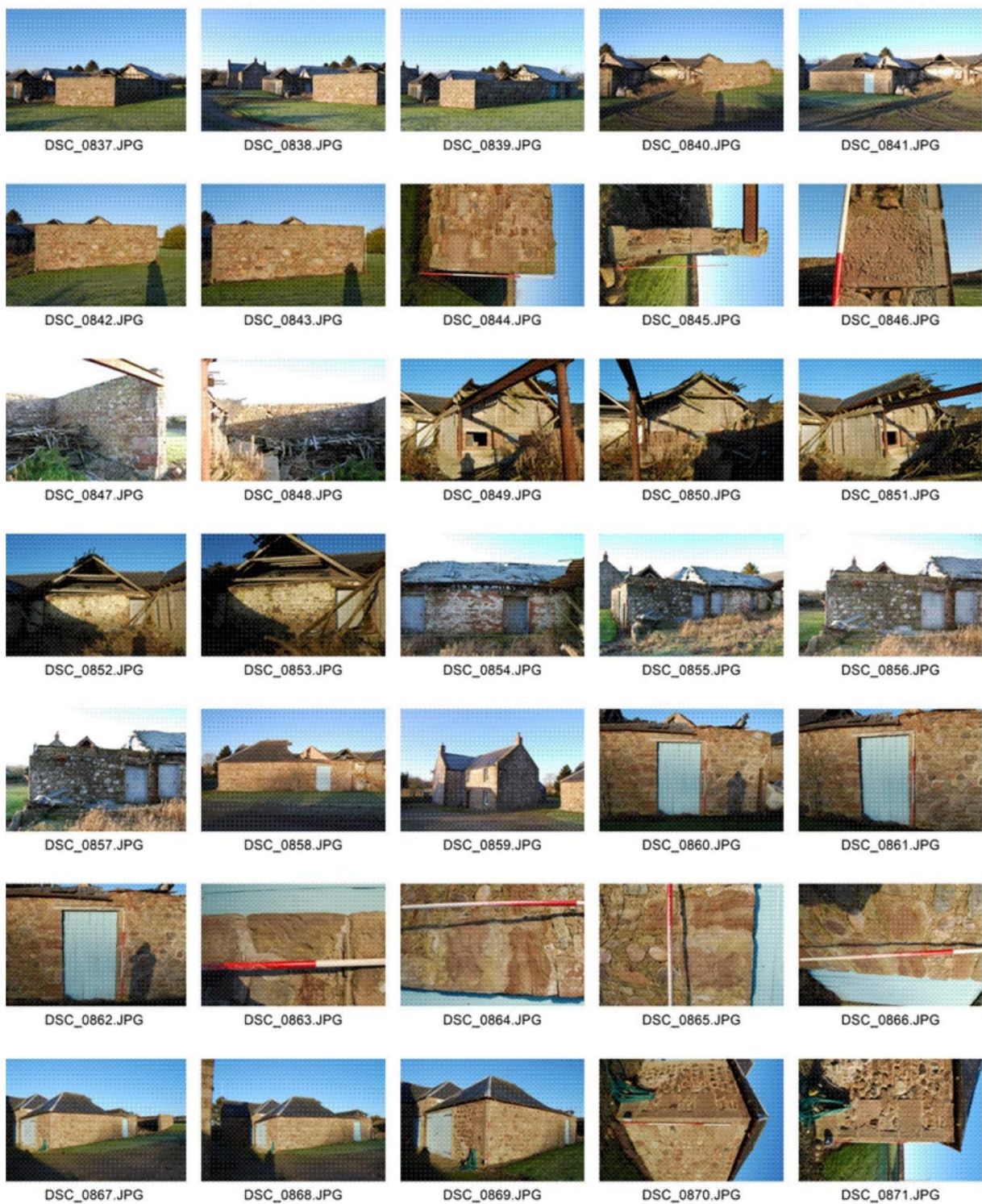


Illus 9 Camera points used in this survey (from copyright AB Roger & Young)

Photo no	Description	Facing	Camera point
DSC_0837	Building 1 steading SE wall	W	1
DSC_0838	Building 1 steading SE wall with farmhouse Building 2 (left)	SW	1
DSC_0839	Building 1 steading SE wall	W	1

DSC_0840	Building 1 steading SE wall	NW	2
DSC_0841	Building 1 steading SE wall	WNW	2
DSC_0842	Building 1 steading SE wall NE end	NW	3
DSC_0843	Building 1 steading SE wall NE end	NW	3
DSC_0844	Building 1 steading SE wall NE end	NW	4
DSC_0845	Building 1 steading SE wall NE end	NE	4A
DSC_0846	Building 1 steading SE wall NE end	NE	4A
DSC_0847	Building 1 steading SE wall NE corner	ENE	5
DSC_0848	Building 1 steading NE wall interior	NE	5
DSC_0849	Building 1 steading showing collapsing roof and internal rubble	NNW	5
DSC_0850	Building 1 steading showing collapsing roof and internal rubble	N	5A
DSC_0851	Building 1 steading showing collapsing roof and internal rubble	NNW	5
DSC_0852	Building 1 steading Doors D5 (left) and D6 (right)	NW	5
DSC_0853	Building 1 steading Doors D5 (left) and D6 (right)	NW	5
DSC_0854	Building 1 steading D3 (left) D4 (right)	SW	6
DSC_0855	Building 1 steading D2, D3, D4 (l-r)	SW	7
DSC_0856	Building 1 steading D2 (left) D3 (right)	SW	6
DSC_0857	Building 1 steading D2 (left) D3 (right)	SW	6
DSC_0858	Building 1 steading SE wall D1	NW	8
DSC_0859	Building 2 farmhouse	SW	8
DSC_0860-62	Building 1 steading D1	NW	9
DSC_0863	Building 1 steading D1 tooling on NE jamb	NW	10A
DSC_0864-66	Building 1 steading tooling on SW jamb	NW	10B
DSC_0867	Building 1 steading south corner	NNW	11
DSC_0868	Building 1 steading south corner	NNW	11
DSC_0869	Building 1 steading south corner	NNW	12
DSC_0870	Building 1 steading south corner	NNW	12
DSC_0871	Building 1 steading SW wall	NE	13
DSC_0872	Building 1 steading SW wall with Door D7 (left)	NE	14
DSC_0873	Building 1 steading SW wall with Door D7 (left)	NE	14
DSC_0874	Building 1 steading D8	NE	15
DSC_0875	Building 1 steading tooling between D7 (right) D8 (left)	NE	15
DSC_0876	Building 1 steading D7 (right) D8 (centre) D9 (left)	NNE	16
DSC_0877	Building 1 steading D8	NE	15
DSC_0878	Building 1 steading D8 (right)	NW	13
DSC_0879	Building 1 steading W3, W1, W3, D9, D8, D7 (l-r)	NNE	17
DSC_0880	Building 1 steading W3, W1, W3, D9, D8 (l-r)	NE	18
DSC_0881	Building 1 steading W3, W1, W3, D9, D8 (l-r)	NE	18
DSC_0882	Building 1 steading D9	NE	17
DSC_0883	Building 1 steading W2	NE	17
DSC_0884	Building 1 steading W1	NE	18
DSC_0885	Building 1 steading W3 above	NE	18
DSC_0886	Building 1 steading	SE	19
DSC_0887	Building 1 steading	SE	19
DSC_0888	Building 1 steading exterior NW wall (car port/cart shed)	NE	20
DSC_0889	Building 1 steading exterior NW wall (car port/cart shed)	NE	20
DSC_0890	Building 1 steading exterior NW wall (car port/cart shed)	E	20

DSC_0891	Building 1 steading exterior NW wall (car port/cart shed)	NE	21
DSC_0892	Building 1 steading exterior NW wall (car port/cart shed)	NNE	22
DSC_0893	Building 1 steading exterior NW wall (car port/cart shed)	NE	23
DSC_0894	Building 2 farmhouse		24
DSC_0895	Building 2 farmhouse		24
DSC_0896	Building 2 farmhouse (Left) Building 3 (mill, right)		24
DSC_0897	Building 1 steading NW wall with D10, D11 (centre)	NE	24
DSC_0898	Building 1 steading D10 (left)	SE	25
DSC_0899	Building 1 steading D10 (right) D11 (left)	SE	26
DSC_0900	Building 1 steading D10 (right) D11 (left)	SE	26
DSC_0901	Building 1 steading D11	SE	27
DSC_0902	Building 1 steading NW wall NE end	SE	28
DSC_0903	Building 1 steading NW wall	SSW	29
DSC_0904	Building 1 steading NE wall	SE	29
DSC_0905	Building 1 steading NW wall	SSW	29
DSC_0906	Building 1 steading NE wall	SW	30
DSC_0907	Building 1 steading NE wall	SW	30
DSC_0908	Building 1 steading NE wall D12 (left)	SW	31
DSC_0909	Building 1 steading NE wall tooling quoin NW end	SW	31
DSC_0910	Building 1 steading NE wall D12	SW	32
DSC_0911	Building 1 steading NE wall D13	SW	33
DSC_0912	Building 1 steading NE wall SE end	SW	34
DSC_0913	Building 1 steading NE wall	WSW	34
DSC_0914	Modern cottage Building 4		
DSC_0915-45	Building 2 Spear Mill farmhouse NO66NE 39		
DSC_0946-999	Building 3 Spear Mill NO66NE 49		
DSC_0001-0122	Building 3 Spear Mill NO66NE 49		







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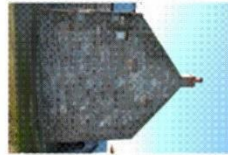
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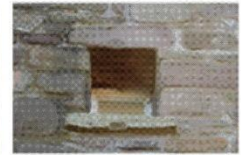
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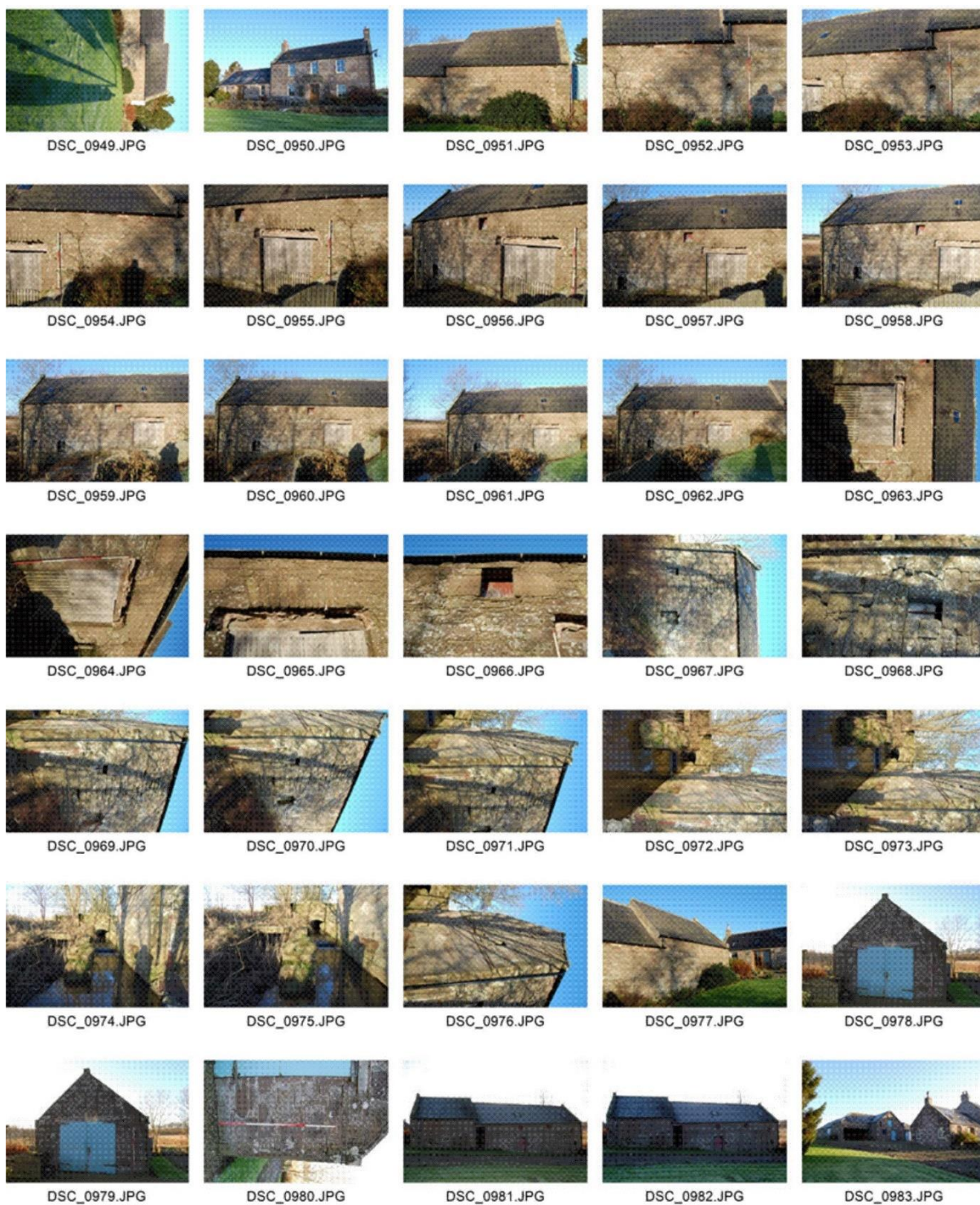
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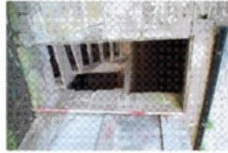
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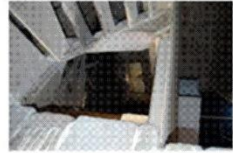
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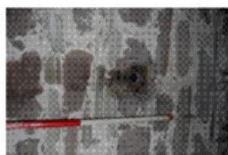
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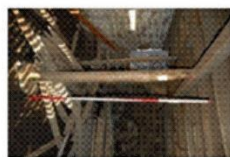
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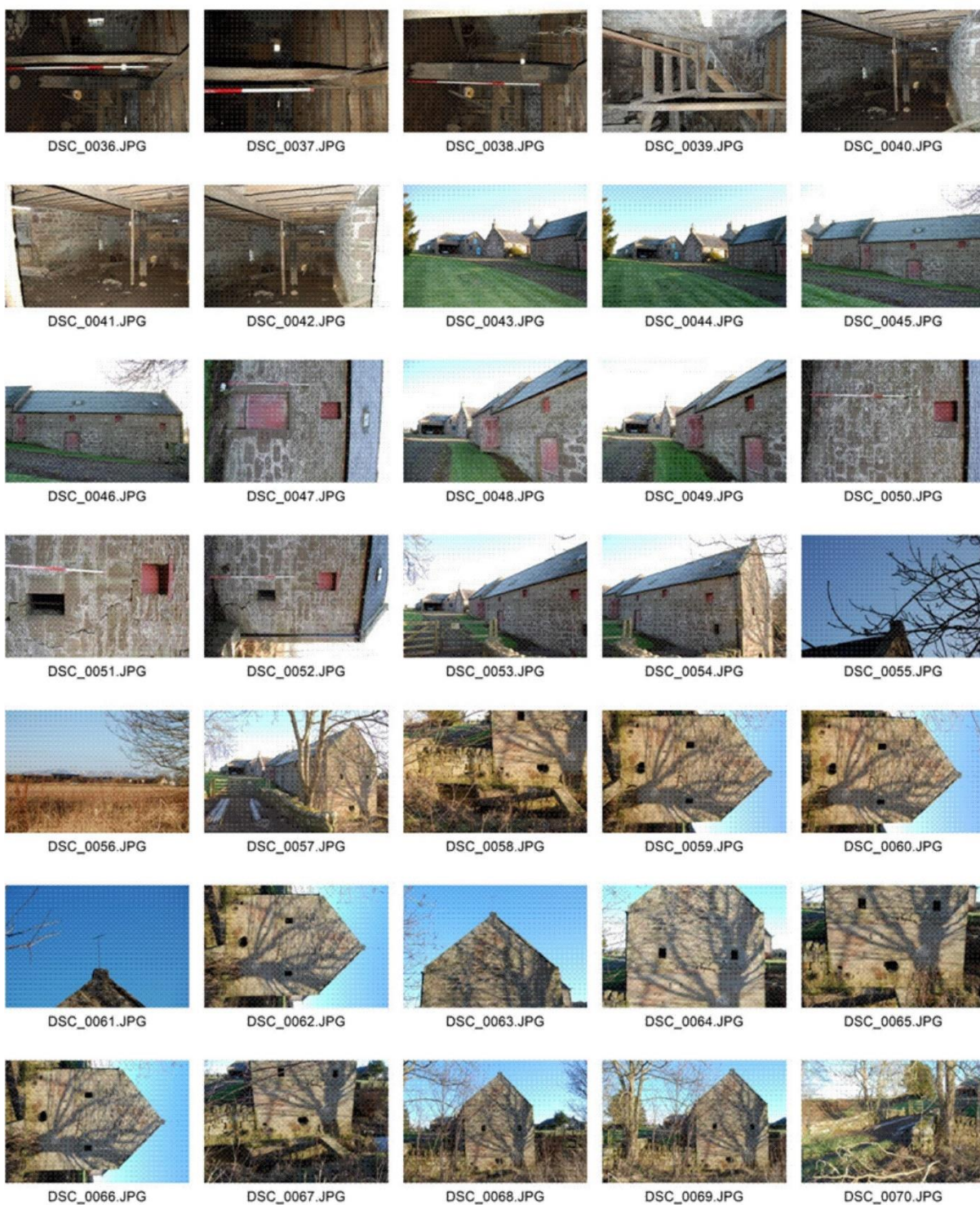
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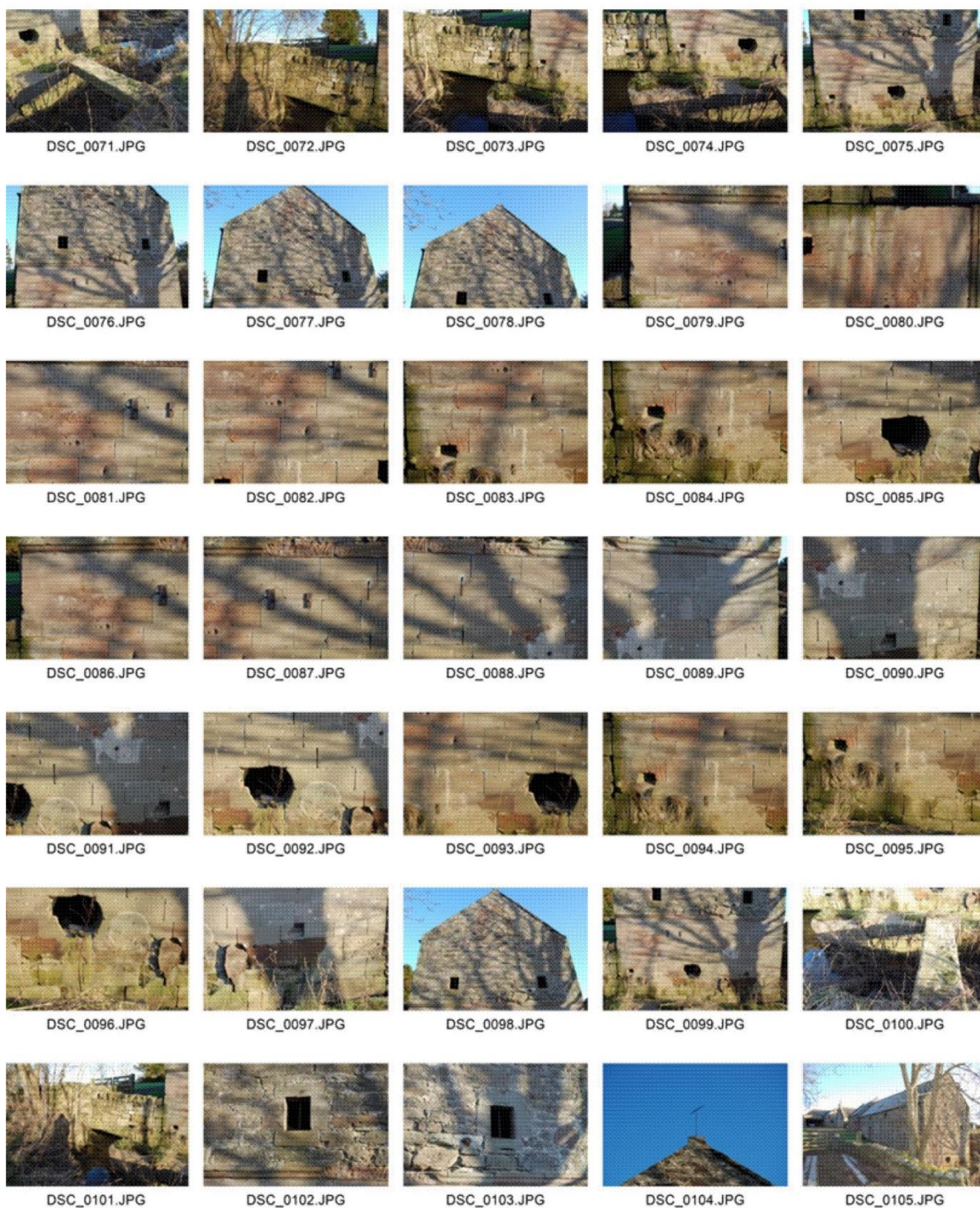


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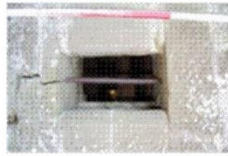




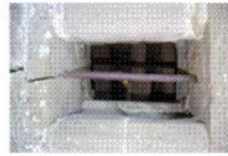
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