

**Spear Mill, Balmaleddie, Marykirk, AB30 1XL
Report on Level 2 Standing Building Survey**



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SUMMARY

A Level 2 standing building survey was carried out on 15 December 2014 and 20 February 2015 and two phases of the mill were recorded. It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current development.

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 65065, 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 APP/2014/3060 and Listed Building consent APP/2014/3064 for conversion of the mill for holiday lets was passed on 13.11.14 with an archaeology condition (condition 2) for a Level 2 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.



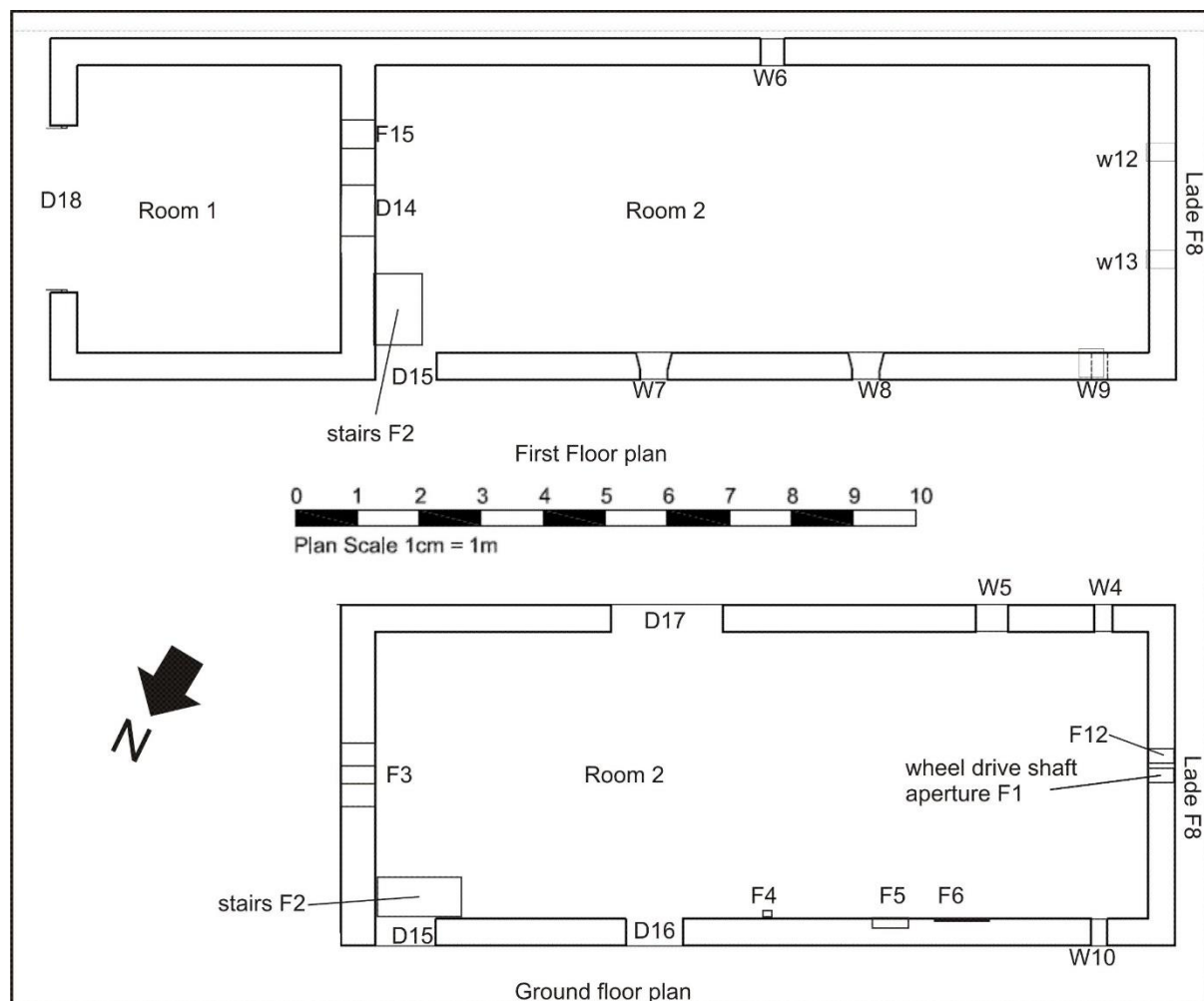
Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2015)

2 THE LEVEL 2 STANDING BUILDING SURVEY

The site is occupied by the 19th-century Spear Mill farmhouse (NO66NE 39) Listed Category C and its associated unlisted steading (surveyed previously Cameron 2014) 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).

There are no early, pre-Ordnance Survey maps showing the Spearmill (or Balmaleddie) and only a single record in The National Archives of Scotland for 1834 when a William Mowat, wood sawyer of Spearmill, Marykirk was accused of the 'crime of forgery' and 'uttering a forged writing' (AD14/34/321).

The Level 2 standing building survey of the Spear Mill took place on 15 December 2014 and 20 January 2015; the weather was clear and bright. All exterior walls were recorded photographically and architects plans were annotated and measurements taken. There was no access to the SW gable as the lade was not accessible. The interior of Room 2 was covered in a deep layer of mud from a recent flooding and there was limited access to this room and the floor in the upper room was in poor condition but the NE end was accessible whereas the SW end was boarded off and inaccessible.



Illus 2 Plan of ground and first floors of Spear Mill (from copyright AB Roger & Young)

The former mill building consists of two rooms, both of which have been converted for agricultural use many years previously. Room 1 at the NE end of the building is 4.75m NW-SE and 4.35m NE-SW internally and the walls are 0.6m thick. It is constructed of sandstone blocks and rubble with one large door (D18) in the NE gable. Room 2 (Illus 3) at the SW end is the earlier part of the structure and is 12.75m NE-SW and 4.7m NW-SE internally. There is a large door on the SE wall (D17) with sandstone arched lintel (Illus 5, 7) and two smaller doors in the NW wall (D15, D16).

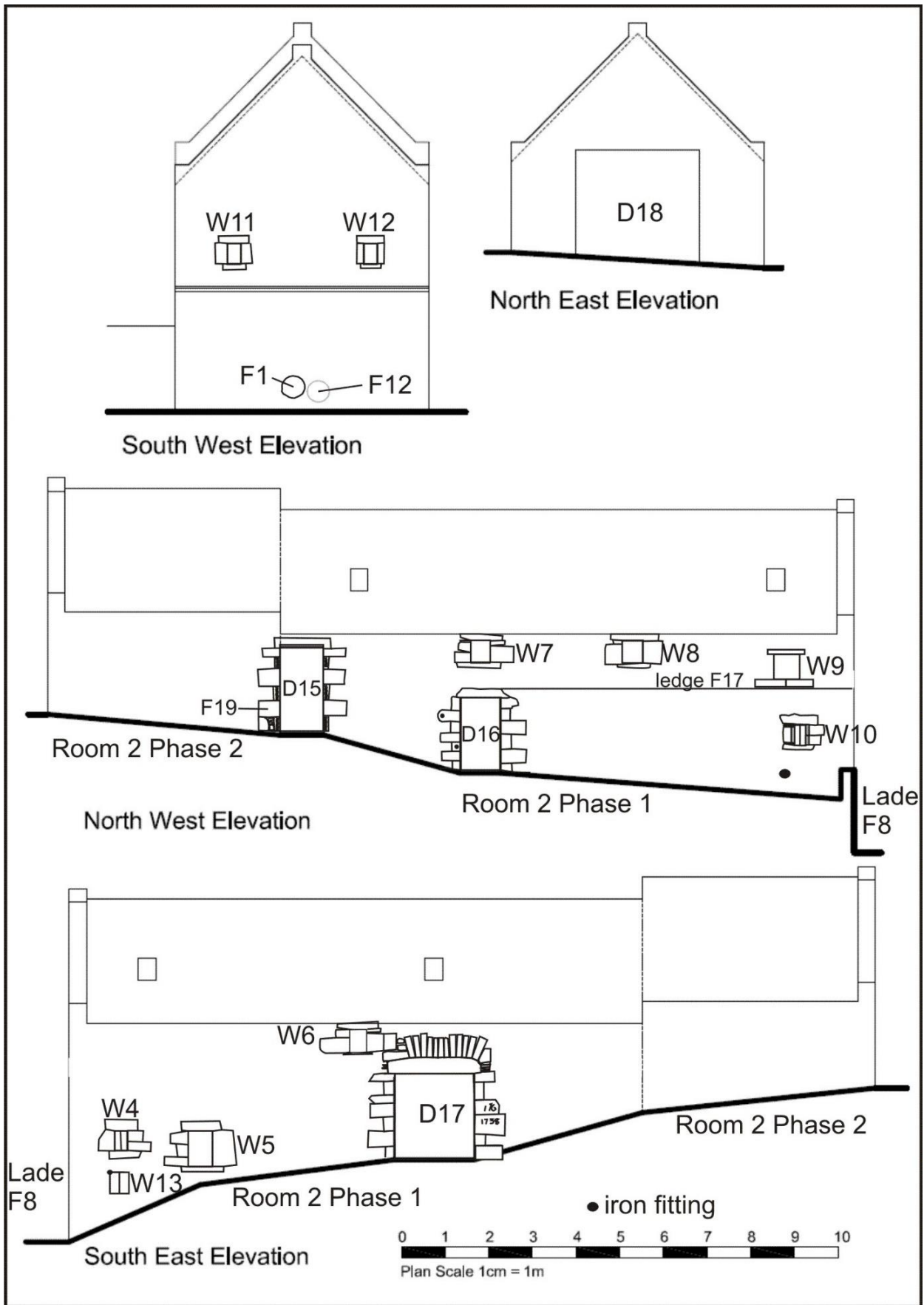
There are small upper windows in the NW wall (W7 and W8), an upper aperture in the SE wall (W6) and two in the gable (W11 and W12). There is an upper door in the NE gable (D14) but this has been blocked when the Phase 2 room 1 was added.

The wheel (which has been removed) was situated at the SW gable the lower half of the gable is constructed of ashlar sandstone and the upper half from sandstone rubble. There is a circular aperture in the centre of this wall for the driveshaft (F1; Illus 9-11) and another circular blocked aperture adjacent (F12). There are small apertures adjacent to the wheel on the NW and SE walls (W4, W5, W9, W10, W13). There are at least 8 mason's marks (Illus 15, 16) on the sandstone ashlar of at least 7 designs. These are all based on an X.

The lade (F8) at the SW is extant but at least three buildings had originally been constructed on the SW side of the lade and these have since been demolished. The lade has recently been subjected to serious flooding.



Illus 3 Phase 1 room 2 NE elevation with the lade (right); facing SE



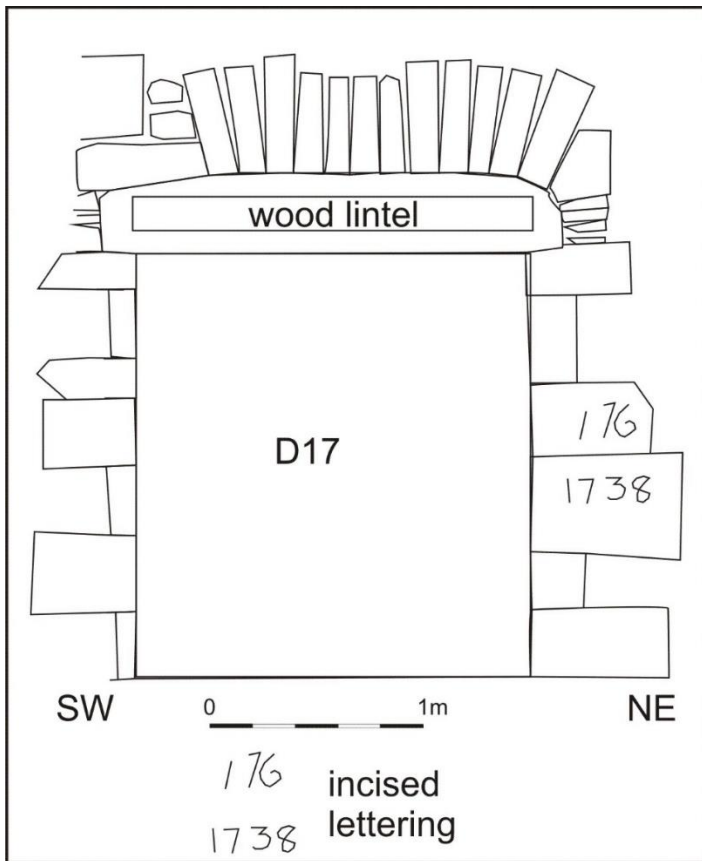
Illus 4 Architects elevations annotated with features recorded during this survey (from copyright AB Roger & Young)



Illus 5 Phase 1 SE wall with lade (left) and Door D17 (right); facing W



Illus 6 Door D17 date stone detail; facing NNW



Illus 7 Door D17



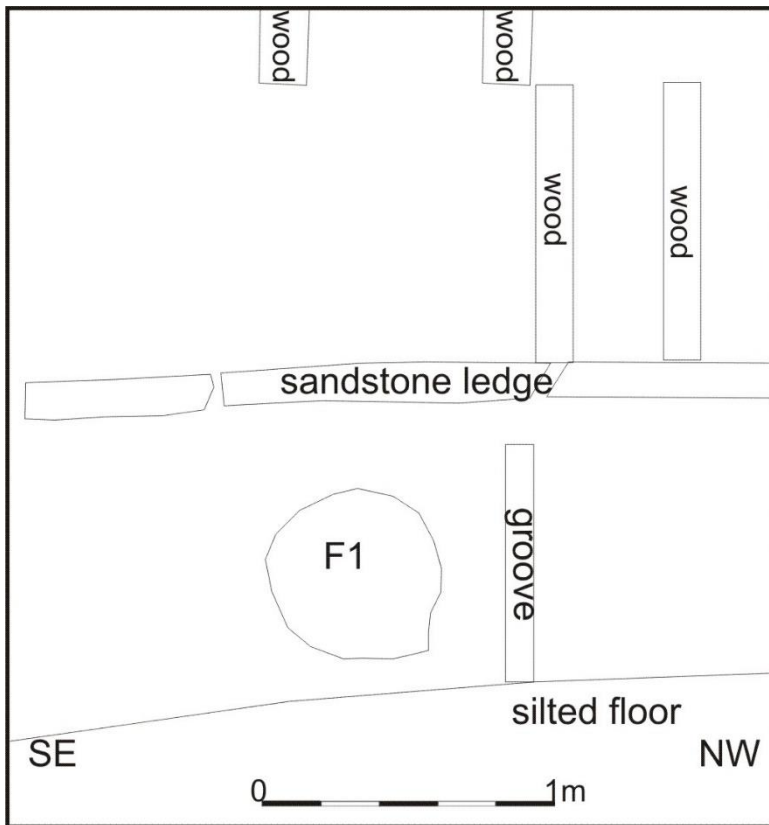
Illus 8 Phase 1 room 2 SW gable showing sandstone ashlar lower courses and sandstone rubble upper courses; facing NE



Illus 9 Wheel driveshaft F1 in Phase 1 room 2 SW gable; facing NE



Illus 10 Detail of F1, mill wheel drive shaft aperture SW gable



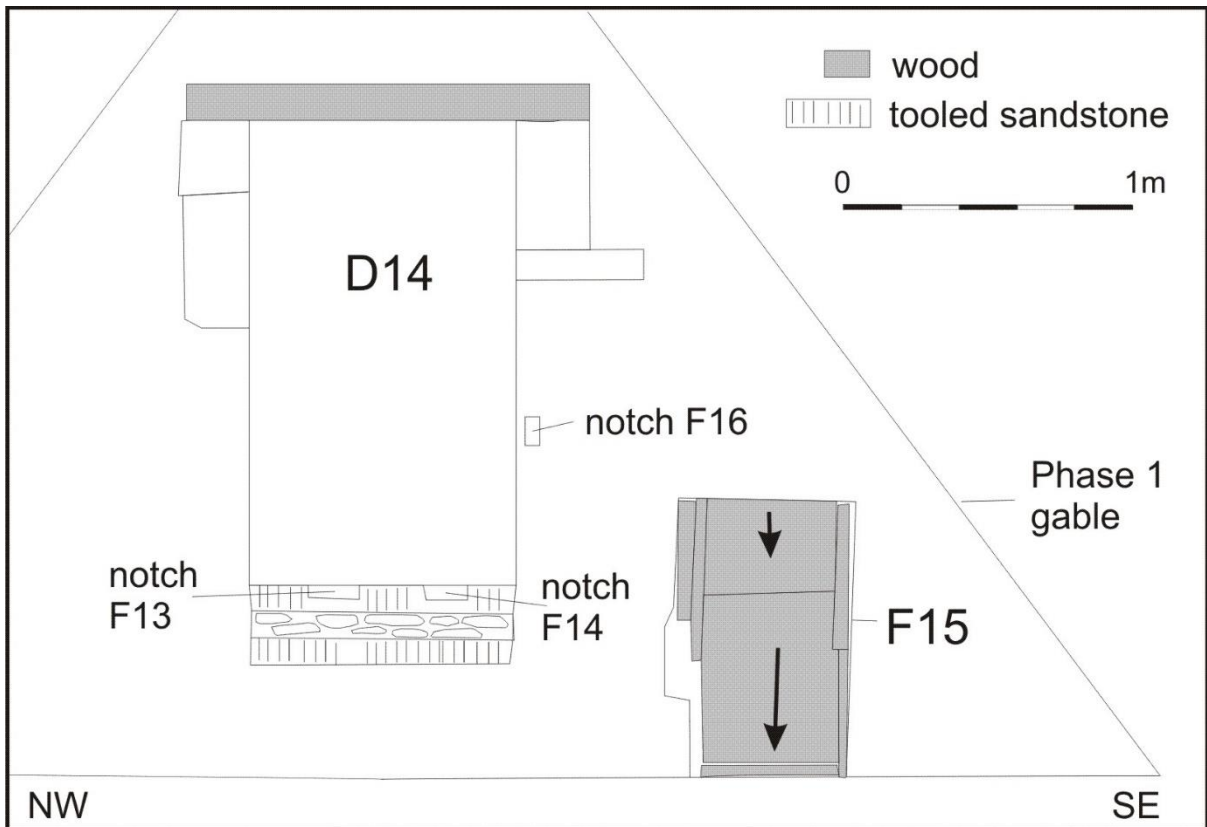
Illus 11 Detail of F1, mill wheel drive shaft aperture SW gable



Illus 12 Interior of SW gable, not accessible and visible through a hole in plastic sheeting; facing SW



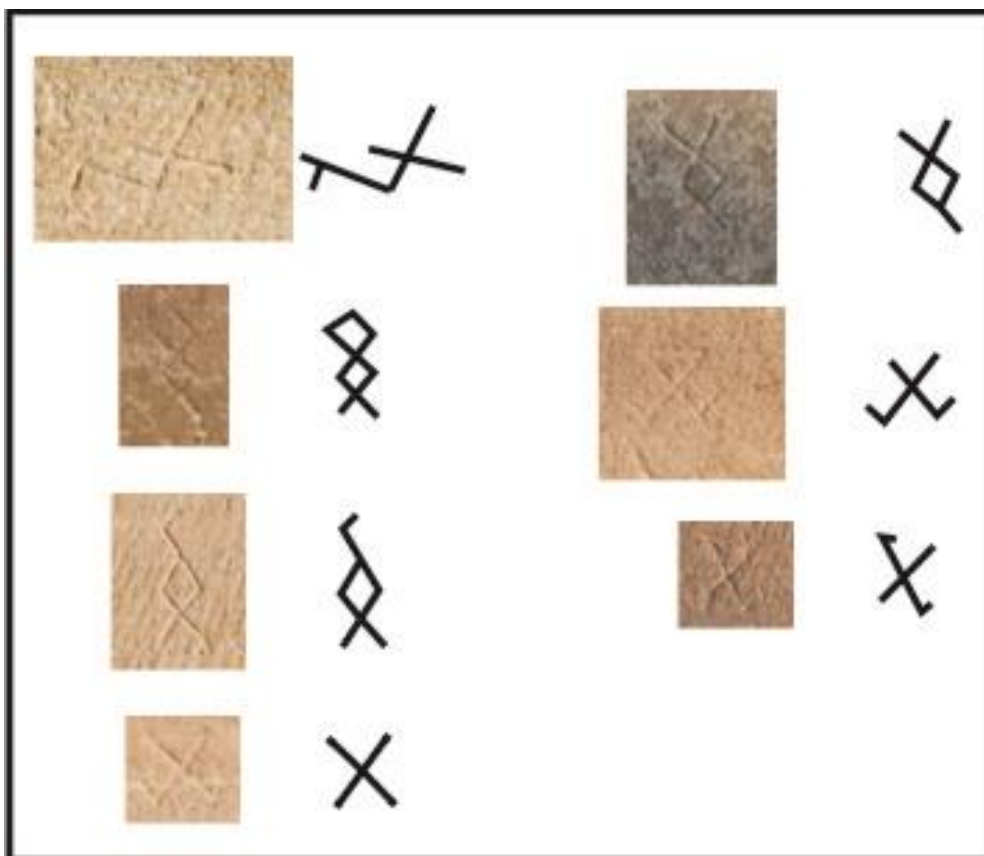
Illus 13 Room 2 NE gable with Door D14 and wood-lined grain chute F15; facing NE



Illus 14 Room 2 NE gable with Door D14 and wood-lined grain chute F15



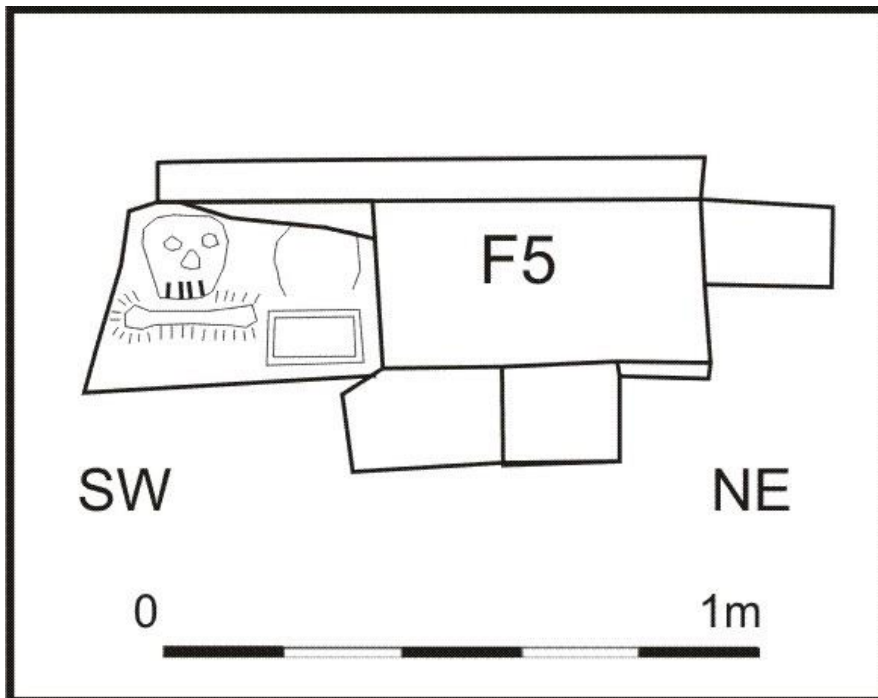
Illus 15 Detail of section of ashlar sandstone SW gable with at least eight mason's marks (arrowed); facing NE



Illus 16 Details of at least seven different mason's marks all based on an X

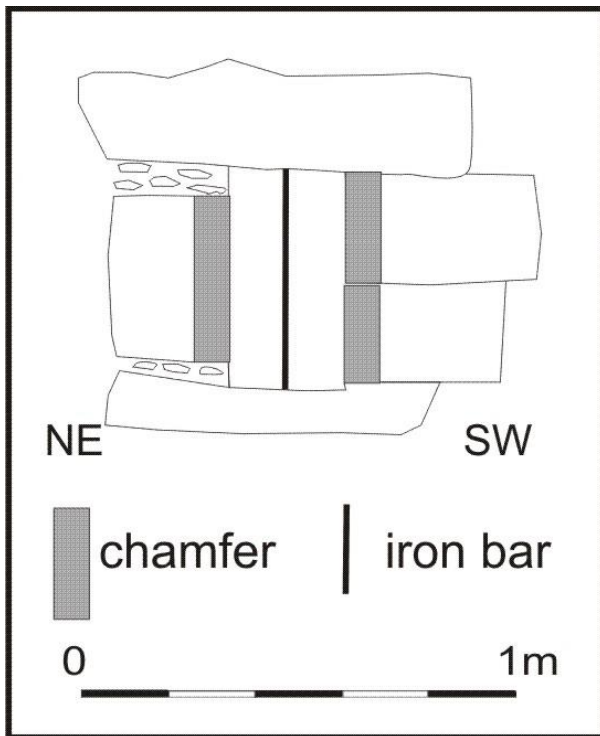


Illus 17 Alcove F5 with reused gravestone (left)



Illus 18 Alcove F5 with gravestone fragment

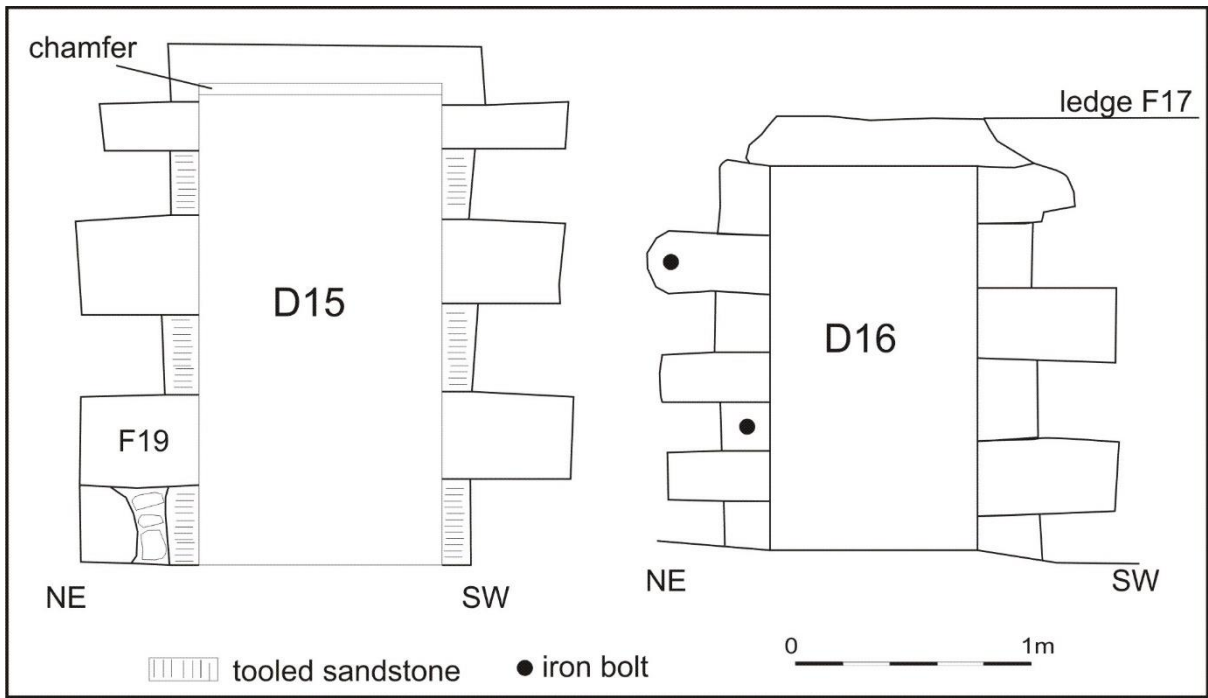
Alcove F5 on the interior of the NW wall of Room 2 (Illus 17, 18) includes a section of broken gravestone. This probably dates to the 17th or early 18th century and may come from the nearby Marykirk Church.



Illus 19 Window W10 in ground floor NW wall Room 2



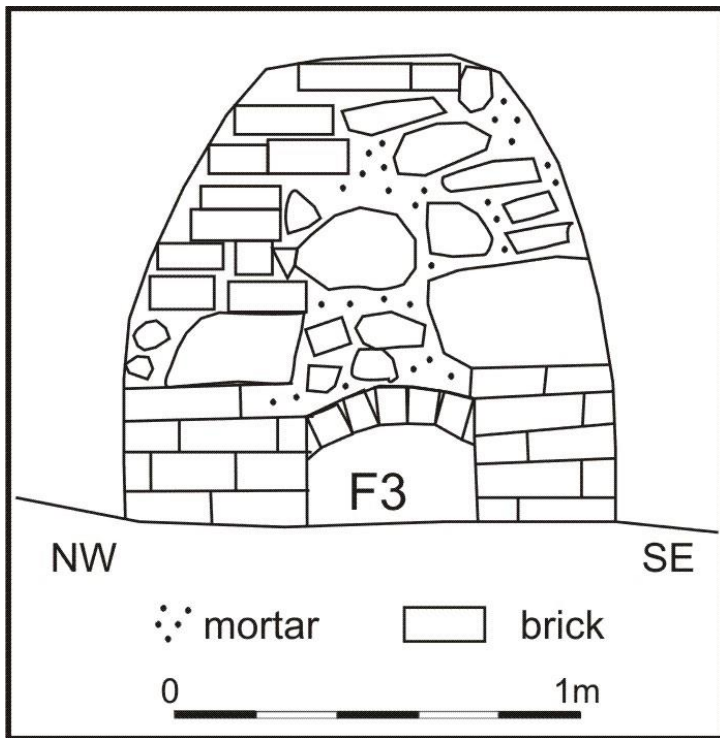
Illus 20 Room 2 north corner with door D15 (left of centre), flue F3 (right) and stairs F2 (centre); facing N



Illus 21 Doors D15 and D16 Room 2 SW wall



Illus 22 Brick flue F3 inserted into the stone NE gable Room 2



Illus 23 F3 flue detail



Illus 24 Room 2 interior SE gable with F1 aperture for mill wheel drive shaft (centre) and window W12 (top left) and wooden beam supports for upper floor; there is a thick layer of mud on the floor from a recent flood; facing SW



Illus 25 Wood-lined grain chute, F15 in first floor Room 2 NE gable; this chute would have carried grain from the upper Room 1 to the grinding floor; facing NE



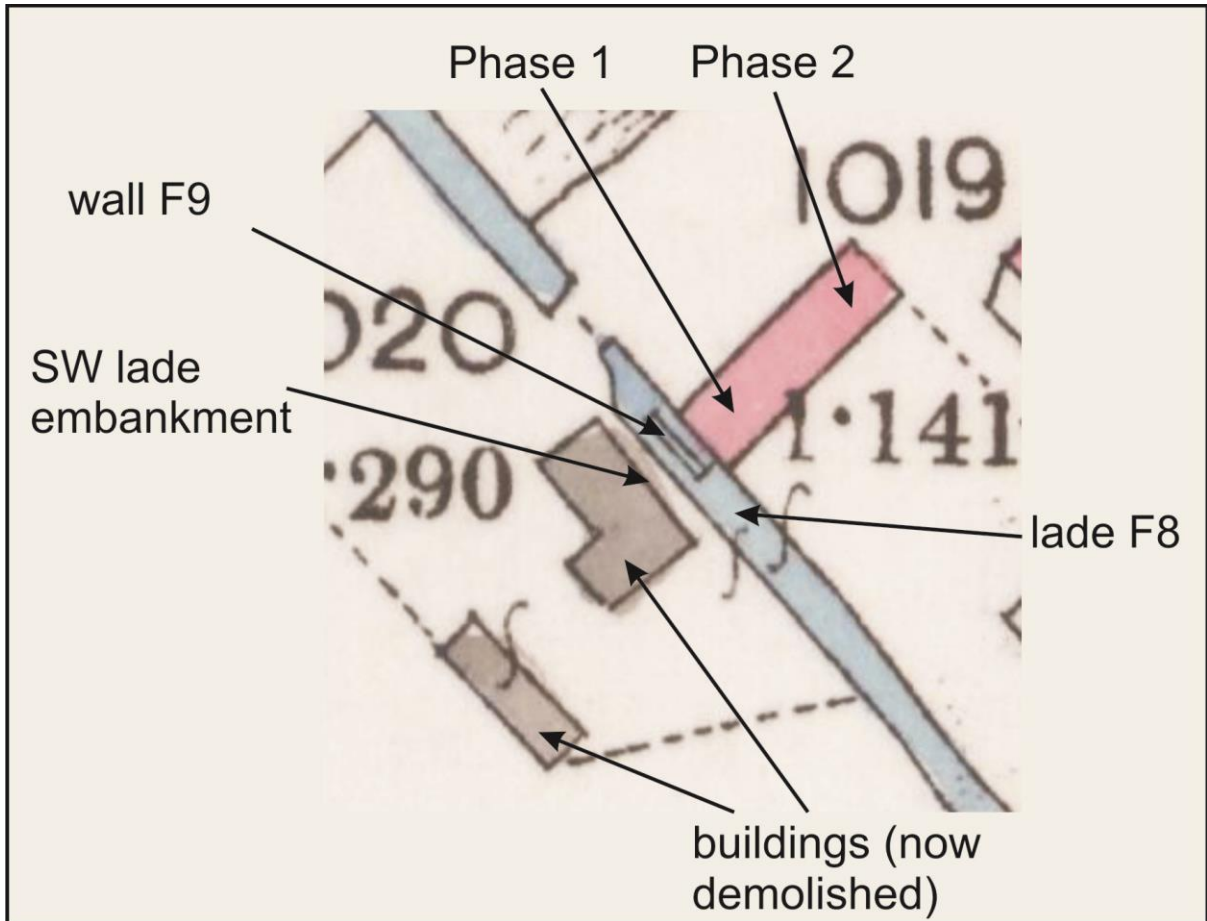
Illus 26 Room 2 exterior gable (now within room 1) showing Phase 1 gable F11 (centre) and Phase 2 gable and walling; facing SW



Illus 27 Phase 1 door D15 (right) and Phase 1 NE gable wall F19 (centre) built into Phase 2 wall (left); facing SE

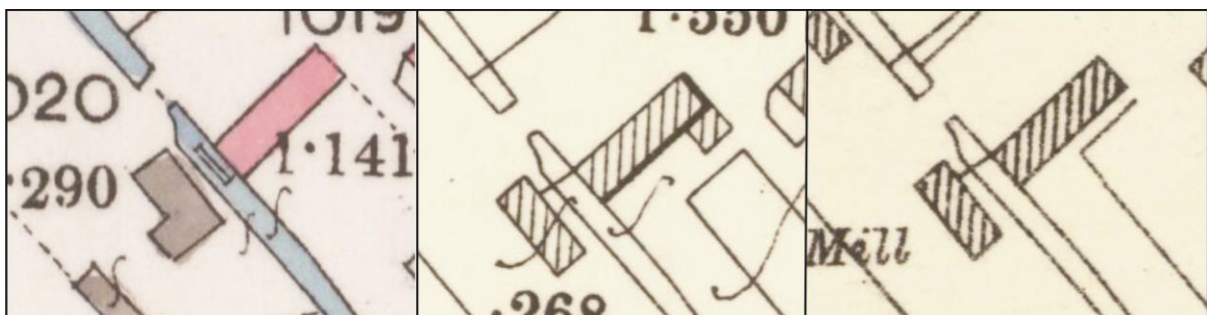


Illus 28 SW gable of mill (right) with lade F8 (centre) and SW embankment F10 (left) showing limited access to the NW gable; facing NW

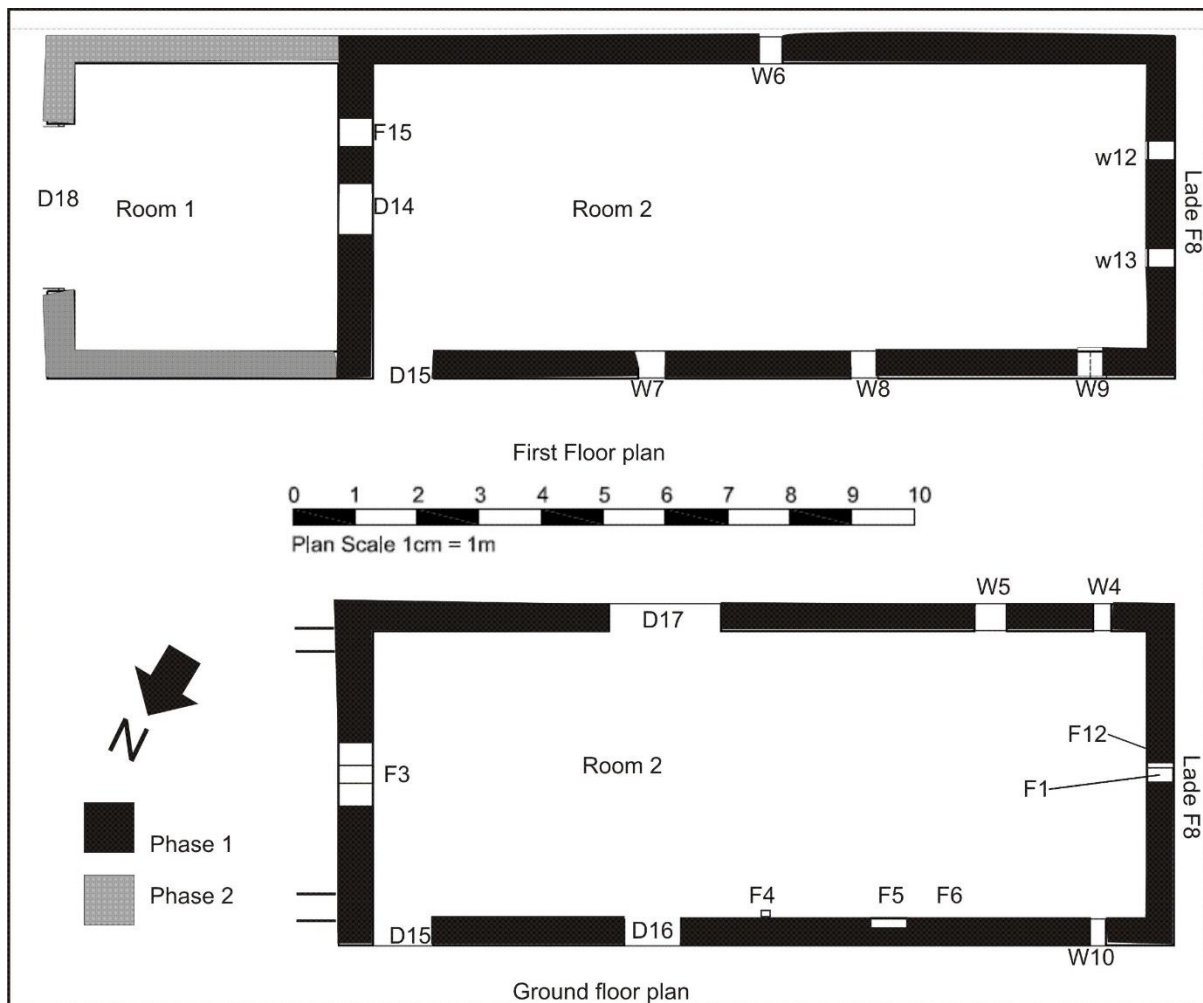


Illus 29 First Edition OS map showing elements of mill extant and recorded in this survey based on Forfar Sheet XXVIII.1, 1865 1924 (copyright National Library of Scotland)

Phase 1 probably dates to the early 18th century (Geddes 2001, 43), possibly 1738; during this phase it is probable that a small extension was located on the NE end of the building, represented by roof line F11. This room was probably a kiln, which may have burnt down or been replaced by a larger building, possibly when the building was converted for agricultural use. Room 1 was added prior to 1865 (Illus 16).



Illus 30 Ordnance survey maps (left) First Edition OS map Forfar Sheet XXVIII.1, 1865 (middle) Forfarshire, Sheet 028.01, 1904 (right) Forfarshire, Sheet 028.01, 1924 (all copyright National Library of Scotland).



Illus 31 Phase plan (from copyright AB Roger & Young)

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

A Level 2 standing building survey was carried out on 15 December 2014 and 20 February 2015 and recognized at least two phases of the building. Architectural elements were drawn and architects plans were annotated. 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

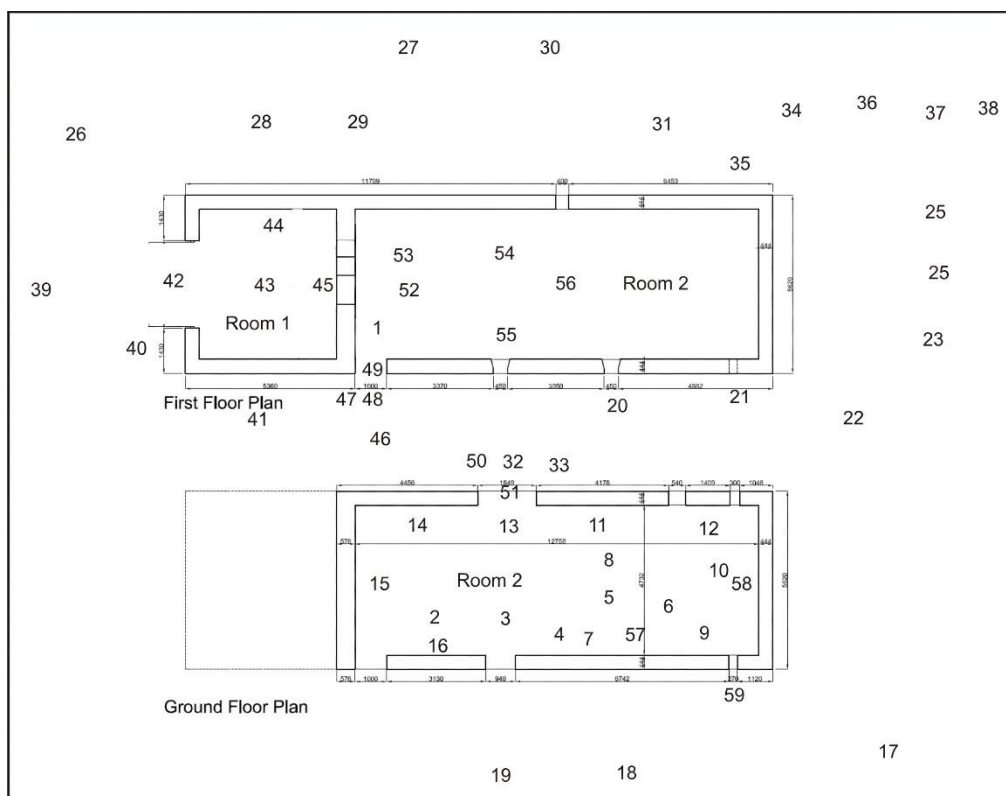
Cameron, AS 2014 'Balmaleddie Steading'. Report submitted to Aberdeenshire Council.

Geddes, J 2001 Deeside & Mearns: an architectural guide. Rutland Press.

APPENDIX 1 FEATURES RECORDED IN THIS SURVEY

Feature no	Description	Size
D14	Door in first floor Room 2 NE wall; blocked from Room 1	0.8m wide
D15	Door NW wall Phase 1 room 2	1m wide, 2m high
D16	Door NW wall Phase 1 room 2	0.94m wide, 1.7m high
D17	Door SE wall Phase 1 room 2	1.85m wide, 1.95m high
D18	Door NE wall Phase 1 room 1	1.76m wide, 2.1m high
W4	Window SE wall Phase 1 room 2	0.3m wide, 0.46m high
W5	Window SE wall Phase 1 room 2	0.54m wide, 0.85m high
W6	Window SE wall Phase 1 room 2	0.4m wide, 0.52m high
W7	Window NW wall Phase 1 room 2	0.45m wide; 0.5m high
W8	Window NW wall Phase 1 room 2	0.45m wide; 0.5m high
W9	Window NW wall Phase 1 room 2	0.35m wide; 0.5m high
W10	Window NW wall Phase 1 room 2	0.35m wide; 0.5m high
W11	Window SW gable phase 1 room 2	0.44m high, 0.2m wide
W12	Window SW gable phase 1 room 2	0.44m high, 0.2m wide
W13	Window SE wall Phase 1 room 2	0.3m wide, 0.3m high
F1	Circular aperture SW gable, aperture for mill wheel driveshaft	C 0.3m diameter
F2	Wooden steps to first and ground floor Phase 1 room 2 inside D15	
F3	Brick arched aperture between rooms 1 and 2, added Phase 2	0.4m wide, 0.22m high set in aperture 1.2 x 1.2m
F4	Metal fitting interior phase 1 room 2 NW wall	
F5	Blocked aperture interior phase 1 room 2 NW wall	
F6	Blocked aperture interior phase 1 room 2 NW wall	
F7	Footing for SW gable phase 1 room 2 wall	Not accessible
F8	Lade	Not accessible
F9	Stone wall in centre of lade F8 parallel to gable	Not accessible
F10	Stone embankment forming SW edge lade F8	Not accessible
F11	Scar on exterior NE wall Phase 1 (room 2), building demolished when Room 1 constructed. Probably the remains of a kiln.	
F12	Blocked circular aperture SW gable, aperture for mill wheel driveshaft	
F13	Notch in sandstone step below Door D15; joist notches for former roof?	0.15 x 0.03 x 0.03m
F14	Notch in sandstone step below Door D15; joist notches for former roof?	0.15 x 0.03 x 0.03m
F15	Wood lined grain chute from First floor Room 1 to Room 2	60cm wide 1m high,
F16	Notch in wall on SE side Door D14	0.07 x 0.04m; 0.03m deep
F17	Ledge 5cm wide along exterior NW wall Room 2	
F18	Decorated Stone forming SW edge alcove F5	0.45-0.5m wide, 0.3m high
F19	NE gable wall Room 2 on NE side D15 built into Phase 2 wall Room 1	0.58m wide, 2m high

APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS



Illus 32 Camera points used in this survey (from copyright AB Roger & Young)

Photo no	Description	Facing	Camera point
DSC_0001	Spear Mill first floor Room 2 with D14	ESE	1
DSC_0002	Spear Mill first floor Room 2 SE wall	SE	1
DSC_0003	Spear Mill first floor Room 2 SW gable	SW	1
DSC_0004-5	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 with Door D15 (centre top) and wooden stairs F2 below and		2
DSC_0006	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 with Door D15 (right) Door D16 (left)	NW	2
DSC_0007	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 Door D16	NW	3
DSC_0008	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 F4 iron fitting	NW	4
DSC_0009	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 Door D16 (centre)	NNW	5
DSC_0010	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 F6, F5, Door D16 (right)	NW	6
DSC_0011	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 F6, F5	WNW	6
DSC_0012	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 F5	NW	7
DSC_0013	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 SW gable with window W12 (top left) wheel drive shaft aperture F1 (centre)	NW	8
DSC_0014	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 SW gable with wheel drive shaft aperture F1 (bottom left)	NW	6
DSC_0015	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 W9 (top right)	SW	9
DSC_0016-17	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 W9 (bottom right) W9 (top right)	SW	9
DSC_0018	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 wheel driveshaft aperture F1	SW	10

DSC_0019-20	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 SW gable with wheel drive shaft aperture F1	SW	8
DSC_0021-22	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 SW gable with wheel drive shaft aperture F1	WSW	11
DSC_0023	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 SW gable with window W12 (top left) wheel drive shaft aperture F1 (centre)	SW	11
DSC_0024	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 SW gable with wheel drive shaft aperture F1	WSW	11
DSC_0025	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 SW gable	WSW	11
DSC_0026	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 SW gable	SW	11
DSC_0027-29	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 SE wall with window W5 (centre) and W4 and W13 blocked apertures (left)	SE	12
DSC_0030	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 SE wall door D17	SE	13
DSC_0031	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 NE wall with F3 brick flue inserted into wall	NNE	14
DSC_0032	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 NE wall with F3 brick flue inserted into wall	NE	8
DSC_0033-34	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 NE wall with F3 brick flue	NE	15
DSC_0035	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 wooden beam support with stairs F2 (background)	NNE	2
DSC_0036-37	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 wooden beam supports	SSW	8
DSC_0038	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 wooden beam supports	SSW	12
DSC_0039	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2 wooden stair F2	NE	16
DSC_0040-42	Spear Mill ground floor Room 2	SSW	16
DSC_0043-4	Spear Mill (right) farmhouse and steading (left)	E	17
DSC_0045	Spear mill room 1 (left) Room 2 (right) NW wall	ESE	18
DSC_0046	Spear mill Room 2 NW wall	SE	18
DSC_0047	Spear mill Room 2 NW wall door D16 with W7 above	SE	19
DSC_0048-9	Spear mill Room 2 NW wall door D16 (right) D15 (open) and steading (top)	ENE	19
DSC_0050	Spear mill Room 2 NW wall W9	SE	20
DSC_0051-2	Spear mill Room 2 NW wall W9 (above) W10 (below)	SE	21
DSC_0053	Spear mill Room 2 NW wall	ENE	22
DSC_0054	Spear mill Room 2 NW wall	E	22
DSC_0055	Spear mill Room 2 SW gable finial with 'spear'	ESE	22
DSC_0057	Spear mill Room 2 NW wall	E	22
DSC_0058	Spear mill SW gable with stone footing F7 and lade F8 (foreground)	NE	23
DSC_0059-60	Spear mill SW gable with lower section in sandstone ashlar with rubble above	NE	24
DSC_0061	Spear mill SW gable with 'spear'	NE	24
DSC_0062	Spear mill SW gable with lower section in sandstone ashlar with rubble above	NE	24
DSC_0063	Spear mill SW gable upper rubble section	NE	24
DSC_0064-69	Spear mill SW gable	NE	24
DSC_0070	Bridge over lade	NNW	23

DSC_0071	Spear mill SW gable stone footing F7 (left) lade F8 (centre)	ESE	23
DSC_0072-3	Spear mill SW gable stone footing F7 (right) lade F8 (bottom)	NNE	23
DSC_0074	Spear mill SW gable stone footing F7 (right) lade F8 (bottom)	NE	24
DSC_0075-78	Spear mill SW gable	NE	24
DSC_0079-97	Spear mill SW gable details of masons marks and F1 driveshaft aperture from SW bank of lade F8.	NE	24
DSC_0098-99	Spear mill SW gable	NE	24
DSC_0100	Spear mill SW gable stone footing F7 (right) lade F8 (bottom)	NE	24
DSC_0101	Spear mill SW gable stone footing F7 (right) lade F8 (bottom)	NNE	23
DSC_0102	Spear mill SW gable W11	NE	23
DSC_0103	Spear mill SW gable W12	NE	25
DSC_0104	Spear mill SW gable with 'spear'	NE	24
DSC_0105-7	Spear mill Room 2 NW wall	E	22
DSC_0108-110	Spear mill Room 2 NW wall W10	SE	21
DSC_0111-114	Bridge over lade	NNW	22
DSC_0115-118	Spear mill NE gable footing F7 (left) lade F8 and edge of wheel pit F11 (bottom left)	SSE	22
DSC_0119	Footing for lade bridge with embankment on SW side of lade F8	W	22
DSC_0120	Footing for lade bridge with embankment on SW side of lade F8	WNW	22
DSC_0121-2	Spear mill NE gable footing F7 (left) lade F8 and edge of wheel pit F11 (bottom left)	S	22
DSC_0123	Spear mill Room 2 NW wall	E	17
DSC_0124	Spear mill Room 2 NW wall	ENE	17
DSC_0667-671	Spear mill Room 2 SE wall D17 date stone detail	NW	50
DSC_672	Spear mill Room 2 SE wall D17	NNW	33
DSC_673	Spear mill Room 2 SE wall D17	NW	32
DSC_0674-679	Spear mill Room 2 SE wall D17 date stone detail	NW	50
DSC_0680-682	Spear mill Room 2 SE wall D17	NW	33
DSC_0683-684	Spear mill Room 2 SE wall D17 date stone detail	NW	50
DSC_0685-687	Spear mill Room 2 SE wall D17 detail of tooling on SW jamb	51	SW
DSC_0688-689	Spear mill Room 2 SE wall D17 detail of tooling on NE jamb	51	NE
DSC_0690-692	Spear Mill Room 2 Door D14	52	NE
DSC_0693-697	Spear Mill Room 2 grain chute with wooden lining F15	53	NE
DSC_0698-699	Spear Mill Room 2 NE gable interior first floor	54	NE
DSC_0700	Spear Mill Room 2 NW wall	54	NW
DSC_0701-702	Spear Mill Room 2 W9	55	NW
DSC_0703-707	Spear Mill Room 2 SW gable interior (through partition plastic)	56	SW
DSC_0708	Spear Mill Room 2 SE wall interior	54	SE
DSC_0709-11	Spear Mill Room 2 NE gable interior ground floor F3	15	NE

DSC_0712-14	Spear Mill Room 2 NW wall alcove F5 with decorated stone	7	NW
DSC_0715	Spear Mill Room 2 NW wall D16 (right) F4, F5 (left)	8	NNW
DSC_0716-17	Spear Mill Room 2 NW wall F5 (centre) F6 (left)	8	NW
DSC_0718-19	Spear Mill Room 2 NW wall stone detail F6	57	NW
DSC_0720-21	Spear Mill Room 2 NW wall alcove F5 with decorated stone	4	NNW
DSC_0722-24	Spear Mill Room 2 SW gable ground floor mill wheel drive shaft aperture F1	58	SW
DSC_0725-31	Spear Mill Room 2 SW gable ground floor wooden structure holing mill wheel	58	WSW/SSW
DSC_0732	Spear Mill Room 2 W10	59	SE
DSC_0733	Spear Mill Room 2 D16	19	SE
DSC_0734	Spear Mill Room 2 D16 (below) W7 (above)	19	SE
DSC_0735-6	Spear Mill Room 2 D15	46	SE
DSC_0737-8	Spear Mill Room 2 D15 with NE gable wall Phase 1 built into Phase 2 wall (F19)	46	SE
DSC_0946	Spear mill Room 1 foreground	W	26
DSC_0948-9	Spear mill Room 1 (right) Room 2 (left)	NW	27
DSC_0951	Spear mill Room 1 (right) Room 2 (left)	NW	28
DSC_0952-3	Spear mill Room 1 (right) Room 2 (left)	NW	29
DSC_0954	Spear mill Room 2 SE wall with Door D17	NW	30
DSC_0955	Spear mill Room 2 SE wall with Door D17	NNW	30
DSC_0956	Spear mill Room 2 SE wall with Door D17	WNW	30
DSC_0957	Spear mill Room 2 SE wall with Door D17 (right) W16, W5	NW	31
DSC_0958-62	Spear mill Room 2 SE wall with Door D17 (right) W16, W5	NW	31
DSC_0963	Spear mill Room 2 SE wall Door D17	NW	32
DSC_0964	Spear mill Room 2 SE wall Door D17	NNW	33
DSC_0965	Spear mill Room 2 SE wall above Door D17	NW	32
DSC_0966	Spear mill Room 2 SE wall window W16	NW	33
DSC_0967	Spear mill Room 2 SE wall W16 (right) W5 (left)	NW	34
DSC_0968	Spear mill Room 2 SE wall W16 (right) W5 (left)	WNW	35
DSC_0969-71	Spear mill Room 2 SE wall W16 (right) W5 (left)	N	36
DSC_0973-75	Spear Mill SW gable and lade F8	NNE	37
DSC_0976	Spear Mill SW gable	N	37
DSC_0977	Spear Mill SE wall with farmhouse (right)	N	31
DSC_0978-9	Spear Mill Room 1 NE gable with door D18	SW	39
DSC_0980	Spear Mill Room 1 NE gable with door D18	SW	40
DSC_0981-2	Spear Mill Room 1 NE gable with door D18NW wall	SE	18
DSC_0983-4	Mill (right) with farmhouse and steading (left)	E	18
DSC_0985	Spear Mill Room 1 NW wall	SE	41
DSC_0986	Spear Mill Room 1 NE gable with door D18	SW	40
DSC_0987	Spear Mill Room 1 SE wall	SE	43
DSC_0988	Spear Mill Room 1 SW gable with roof line from demolished building	SW	43
DSC_0989	Spear Mill Room 1 NW wall	NW	43
DSC_0990-92	Spear Mill Room 1 NE gable	NE	43

DSC_0993	Spear Mill Room 1 SE wall with metal fitting	SE	44
DSC_0994	Spear Mill Room 1 SW gable sandstone detail	SW	43
DSC_0995	Spear Mill Room 2 NW wall door D15	SE	46
DSC_0996	Spear Mill Room 2 NW wall door D15 with wooden stair F2	S	47
DSC_0997	Spear Mill Room 2 NW wall wooden stair F2	SE	48
DSC_0998	Spear Mill Room 2 NW wall wooden stair F2	S	47
DSC_0999	Spear Mill Room 2 NW wall door jamb D15	SW	49



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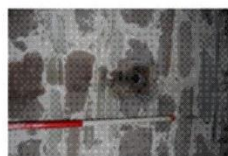
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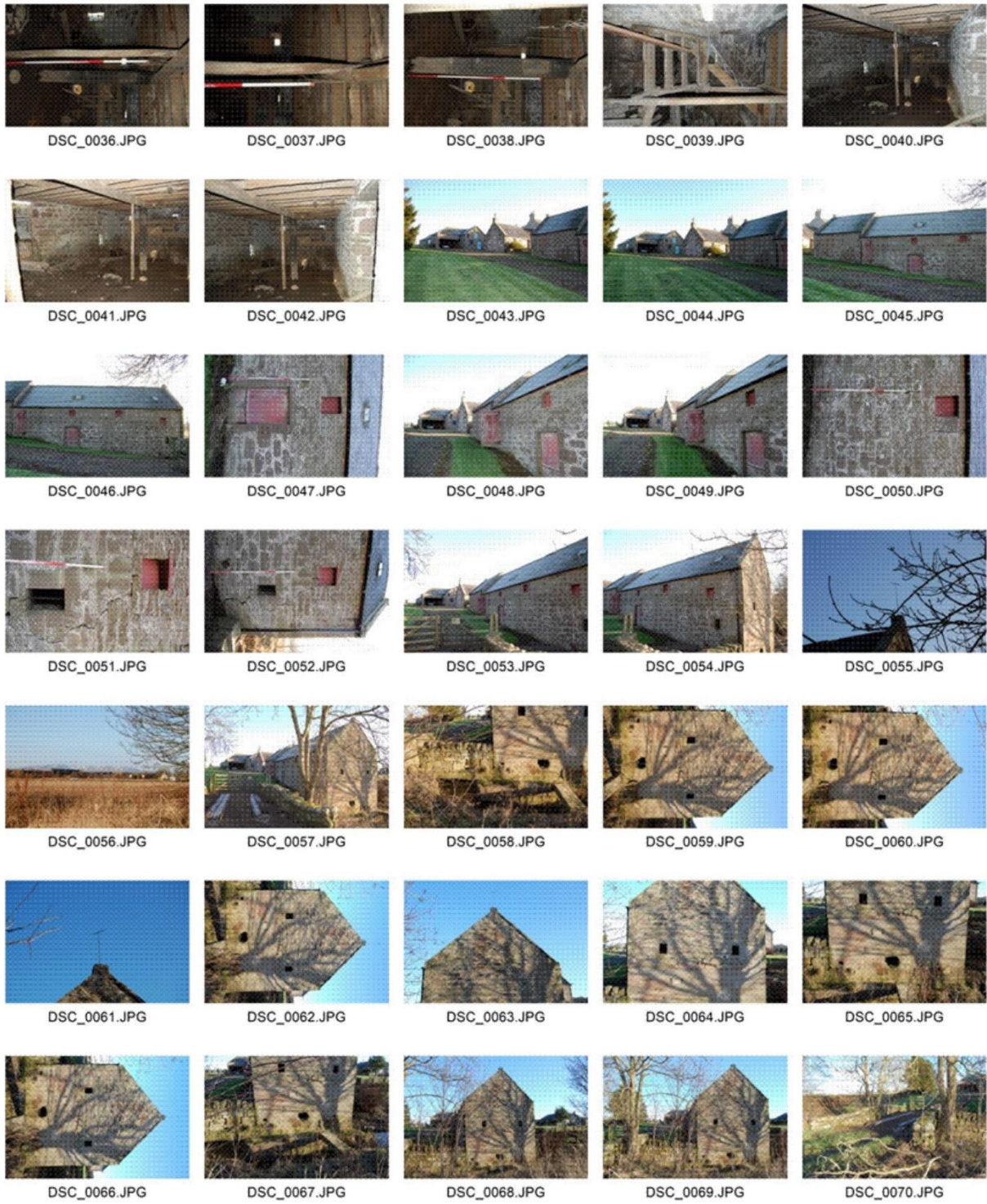
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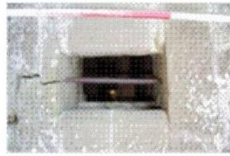
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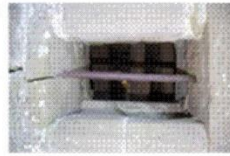
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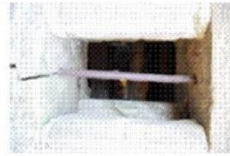
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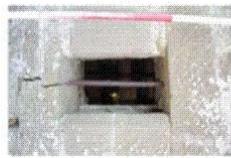
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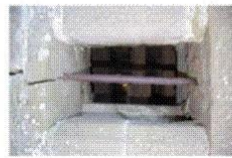
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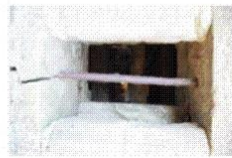
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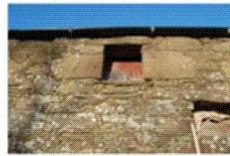
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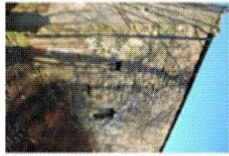
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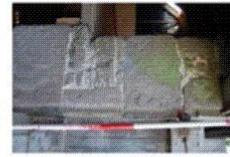
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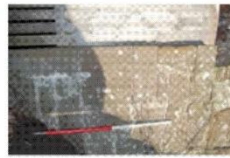
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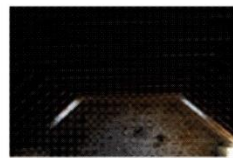
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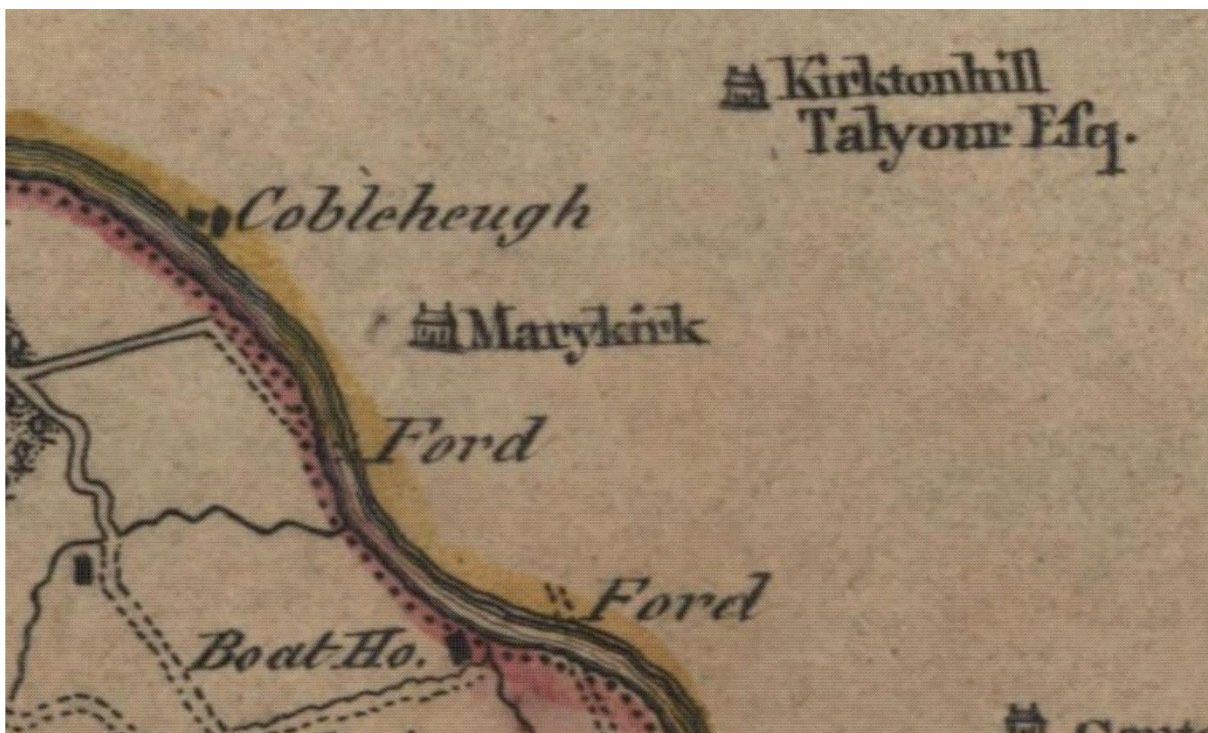


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APPENDIX 3 MAPS



Illus 33 Robert Gordon map c 1636-52 (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 34 Ainslie map of the county of Forfar, 1794 (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 35 Garden map of Kincardineshire, 1774 (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 36 Thomson map of Kincardineshire 1822; the Spear Mill may be the two rectangular buildings (circled in red) directly south of Marykirk (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 37 Thomson Northern part of Angus Shire, 1825 (copyright National Library of Scotland)

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