

Gowkstone Croft, Millbank, Sauchen, Inverurie, AB51 7RB

Report on Level 1 Standing Building Survey

Aberdeenshire planning application no APP/2018/1347



**Alison Cameron
Cameron Archaeology
31 July 2018**

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SUMMARY

A Level 1 standing building survey was carried out on 27 July 2018. Three phases of development were identified with Phase 1 being an early 19th-century cottage, with a small stone steading added in Phase 2 and an unroofed enclosure in Phase 3. All were completed by the date of the First Edition OS map. It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current planning application.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located on the SE side of the B993 just S of Millbank. It is centred on NGR NJ 65967 10438, at 155-160m OD (Illus 1) and in the parish of Midmar.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Robert Murray. A planning application APP/2018/1347 for a replacement house is awaiting decision. There is a requirement 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 Scotland's Policy Statement (HESPS), which state that archaeological remains should be regarded as part of the environment to be protected and managed.



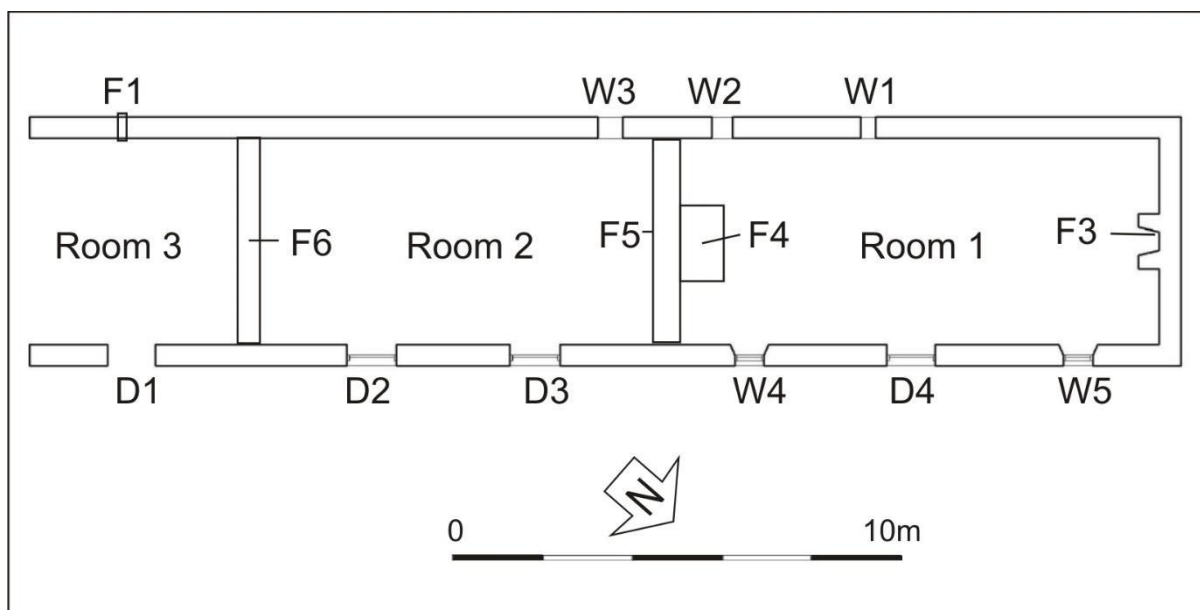
Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018)

2 BACKGROUND

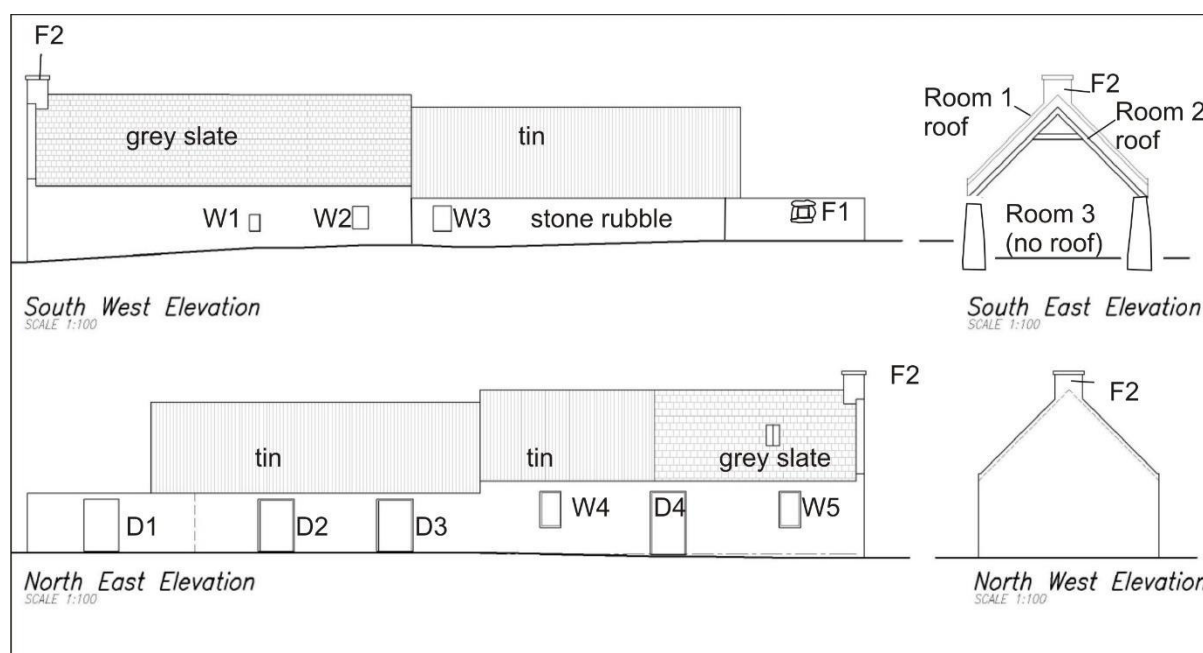
The building does not appear on the Aberdeenshire Sites and Monuments Record or on the Historic Environment Scotland National Monument Record. On the First Edition OS map (Illus 14) the three rooms are recorded with the SE Room 3 being unroofed. By the 2nd Edition OS map (Illus 15) the building is on the same proportions divided into two rooms (probably inaccurately recorded) with a small building to the NE which has since been demolished.

3 THE LEVEL 1 STANDING BUILDING SURVEY

A level 1 standing building survey was carried out on 27 July 2018. The weather was hot and sunny. A full photographic record was taken, architects plans and elevations checked and amended and measurements recorded.



Illus 2 Plan of the features recorded during this survey (copyright Gordon Gauld)



Illus 3 Elevations showing features recorded during this survey (copyright Gordon Gauld)

Phase 1

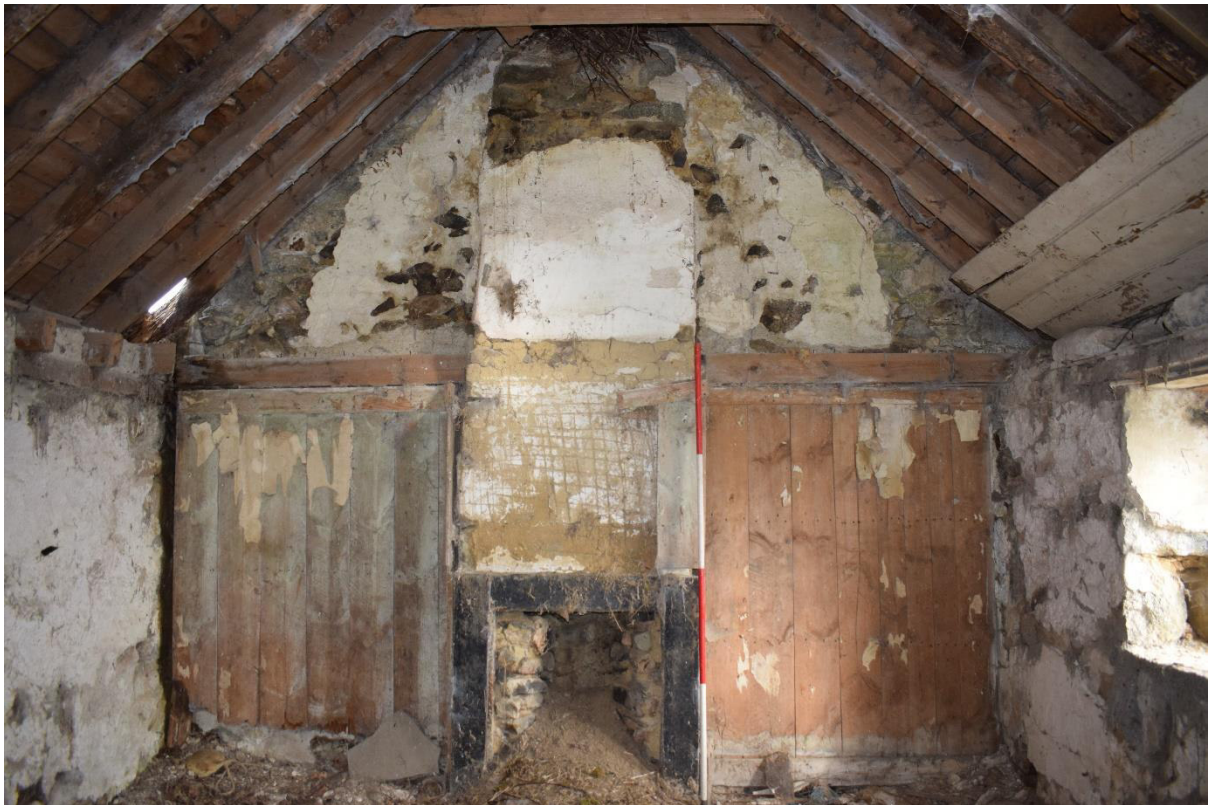
In Phase 1 a cottage was constructed 5.2m wide and 11.25m long (Illus 4). It has a central door and windows on the NE façade and two small windows on the SE end of the SW façade (W1, W2; Illus 5). The cottage was roofed in grey slate but some of the NE facing roof has been replaced with corrugated tin. The cottage is constructed of red and grey granite with grey granite door and window dressings and fieldstone rubble. The walls are 0.5m thick. The interior walls have been removed but the scar of the SE gable wall can be seen (F5 and there is a fireplace in the NW end of the building (F3; Illus 6) and a fireplace has been removed from the SE end of the building (F4). The floor has been concrete but some has been removed revealing the earthen surface underneath.



Illus 4 Phase 1 cottage NE façade; facing SW



Illus 5 Phase 1 cottage SW façade; facing NE



Illus 6 Phase 1 NW gable interior with wooden paneling and fireplace F3; facing NW

Phase 2

Phase 2 was a room (Room 2) butted on to the SE wall of Room 1. Room 2 is 5.2m wide and 8.3m long. It is made of stone rubble, grey and pink granite and grey granite sills and lintels. There are two doors on the NE wall (D2, D3; Illus 7) and one small window in the SW wall (W3; Illus 8). There has been a cobbled stone floor (Illus 9) some of which has been removed suggesting that this would have been a room for housing animals. The roof is corrugated tin and the SE wall has been removed but the scar is visible (F6).



Illus 7 Phase 2 (right) and Phase 3 (left); facing SE



Illus 8 Phase 2 SW façade; facing NE



Illus 9 Phase 2 Room 2 cobbled floor; facing SW

Phase 3

In Phase 3 a small unroofed extension was butted onto the SE end of Room 2. It is 4.8m long and 5.2m wide and the SW wall is 0.4-0.55m wide and survives to 1.35m high whereas the NE wall is 0.4-0.5m wide and survives to 1.6m high (Illus 12). The walls are of granite rubble and fieldstone. There is a door in the NE wall (D1) and an aperture F1 (Illus 10, 11) in the SW wall. This aperture is constructed of grey granite lintel and sill and has a large grey granite blocked wedged into the aperture; the block has four drill holes on the internal façade. This aperture may have originally been a window and been blocked with a stone which may have been associated with a fitting such as a cheese press.



Illus 10 Phase 3 Room 3 SW wall F1 exterior; facing NE



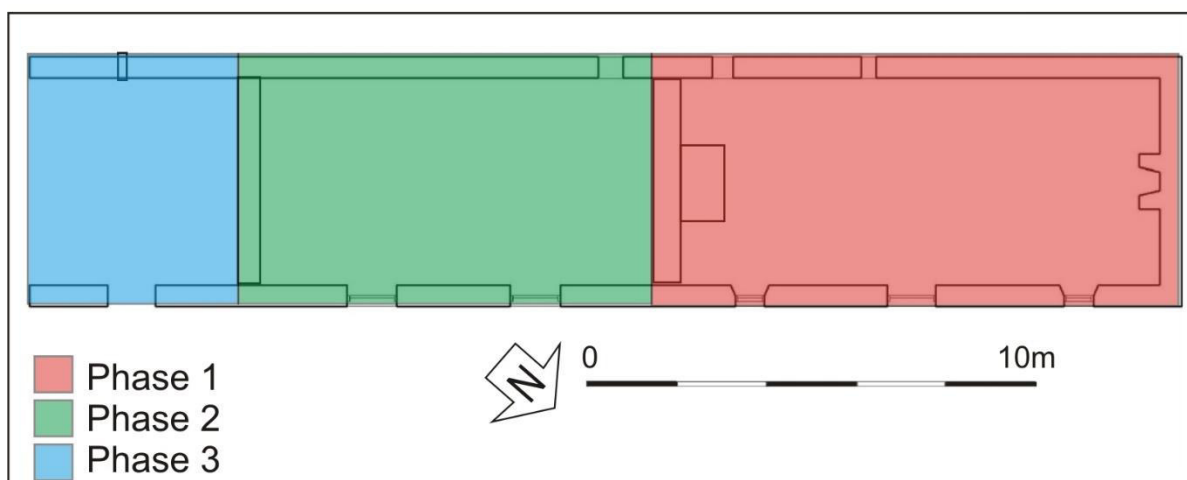
Illus 11 Phase 3 Room 3 SW wall F1 interior; facing SW



Illus 12 Phase 3 SE end of building showing walls of unroofed Room 3; facing NW

4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A Level 1 standing building survey was carried out on 27 July 2018. Three phases of development were identified with Phase 1 being an early 19th-century cottage, with a small stone steading added in Phase 2 and an unroofed enclosure in Phase 3 (Illus 13). All were completed by the date of the First Edition OS map. It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current planning application.



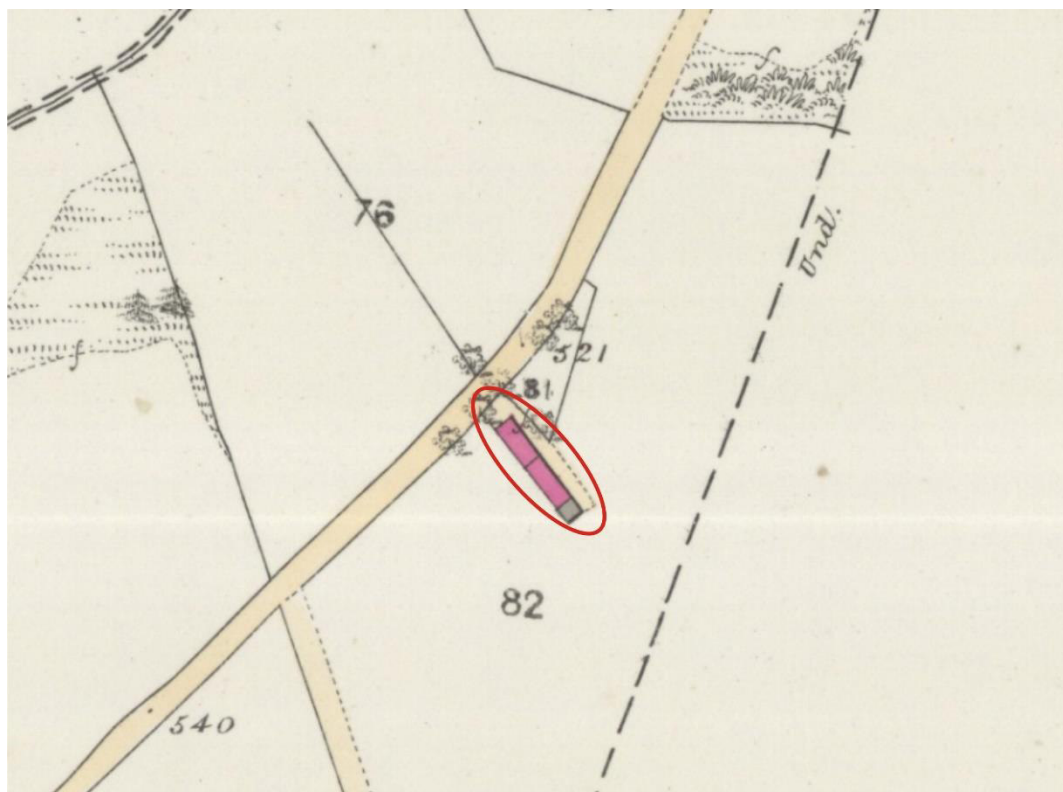
Illus 13 Phase plan showing main phases of development of the building (copyright Gordon Gauld)

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

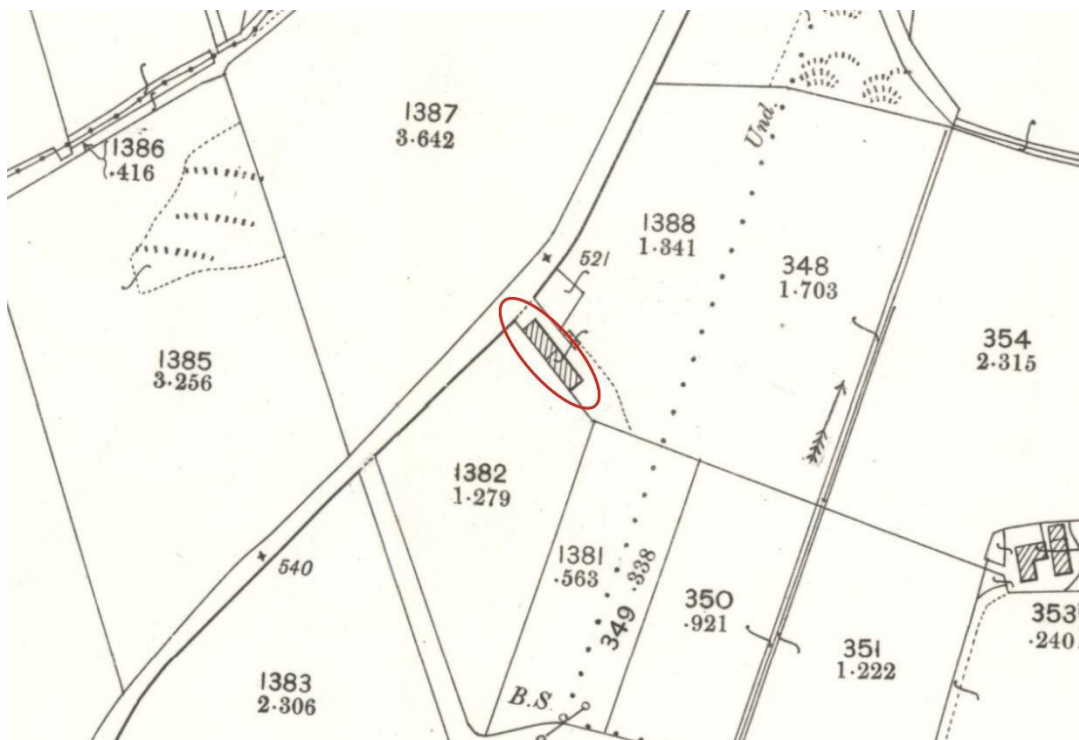
Thanks to Robert Murray for commissioning this project and to Claire Herbert, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service for her advice during the work.

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

APPENDIX 1 MAPS

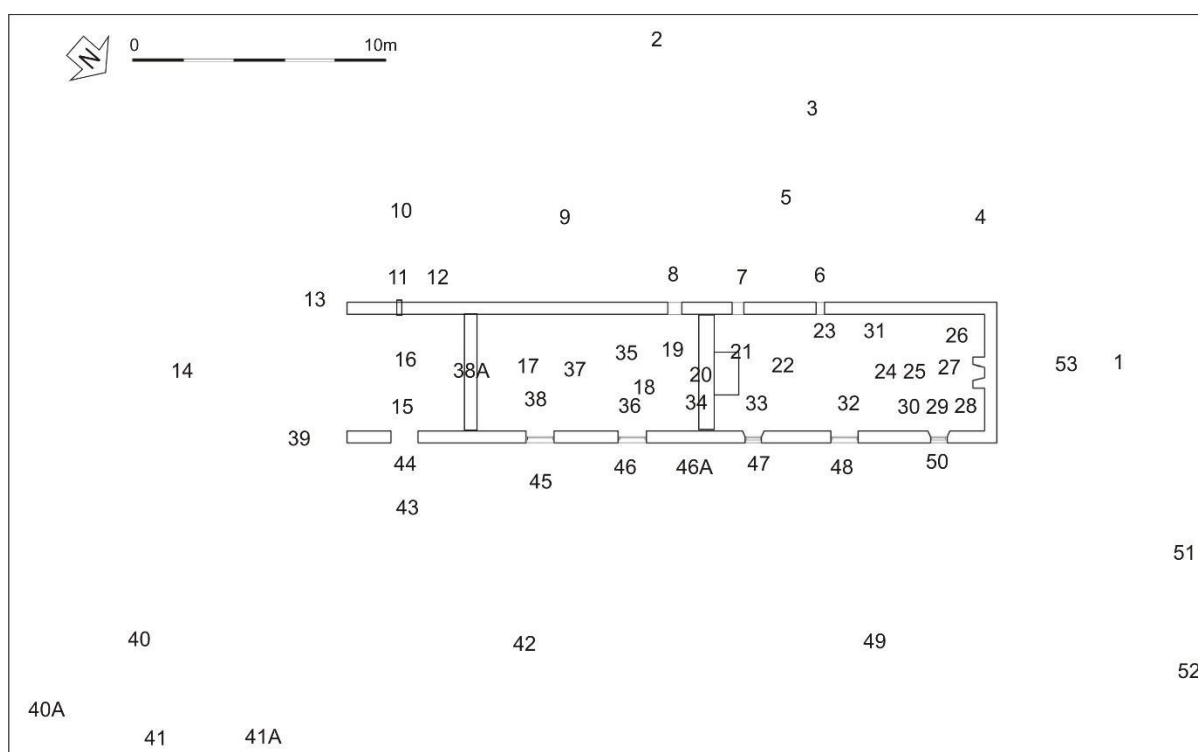


Illus 14 First Edition Ordnance Survey map with Gowkstone Croft circled in red (copyright National Library of Scotland) Aberdeenshire LXXII.3 (Midmar) Survey date: 1865 to 1866 Publication date: 1866



Illus 15 Second Edition Ordnance Survey map with Gowkstone Croft circled in red (copyright National Library of Scotland) Aberdeenshire LXXII.3 (Cluny; Midmar) Publication date: 1900 Revised: 1899

APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS



Illus 16 Camera points used in this survey

Photo no	Description	Camera point	Facing
611	NW gable	1	SE
612	SW facade	2	NE
613	SW facade	2	NE
614-15	Room 1 SW wall	3	NE
616-17	Room 1 W corner showing damage from trees	4	NE
618	Room 1 SW wall W1 (left) W2 (right)	5	NE
619	Chimney stack F2	5	N
620	W1	6	NE
621	W2	7	NE
622	W3	8	NE
623	Room 2 (right) butted on to Room 1	8	N
624	Room 1 (left) Room 2 (right)	9	N
625	Room 2 SW wall W3 (left)	9	NE
626	Room 3 SW wall F1 (centre)	10	NE
627	F1	11	NE
628	Junction Room 2 (left) with Room 3 (right) butted on	12	N
629	Room 3 SW wall SE end	13	NW
630	Room 3 SW end	14	NW
631	Room 3 SW wall F1 (centre)	15	SW
632	Room 3 SW wall F1 (centre)	16	SW
633	Room 2 and Room 1 interior	16	NW
634	Room 3 SW wall (left) Room	16	SSE
635	Room 2 SW wall	17	SW

636	Rooms 2 and 3 SW wall	17	S
637	Room 2 SW wall W3	18	SW
638-9	Cobbled surface floor Room 2	18	SW
640	Cobbled surface floor Room 2	19	SW
641-2	W3 with wall scar F5 (right)	19	SW
643	Wall scar F5	20	SW
644	W2	21	SW
645	F4 fireplace base	20	NW
646	Room 2, Room 3 interior	20	SE
647	W2 (left) W1 (right)	22	SW
648	W1	23	SW
649	Room 1 SW wall	24	SW
650	SW wall	24	SE
652	Interior NW gable fireplace F3	24	NW
653	Wood panelling SW of fireplace F3	26	NW
654-6	F3	27	NW
657	Wood panelling NE of fireplace F3	28	NW
658	W5	29	NE
660	W5 (left) D4 (right)	24	NE
661	D4	32	NE
662	W5 (left) D4 (right)	32	N
663	NE wall	32	SE
664	W4 with wall scar F5 (right)	33	NE
665	wall scar F5	34	NE
666	D3 and cobbled floor	36	NE
667	D3	36	NE
668	Interior	36	NW
669	NE wall D3 (left) D2 (right)	37	NNW
670	D2	38	NE
671	Room 2 (left) Room 3 (right)	38A	NE
672-3	Room 3 NE wall D1	16	NE
674-5	D1	15	NE
676	Room 3 NE wall SE end	39	NW
677	Room 3	40	WSW
678	Room 3	40A	WSW
679	NE facade	41	NW
680	NE facade	41A	WNW
681	NE facade	41B	SW
682	Room 3 (left) Room 2 (centre) Room 3 (right)	42	SW
683	Room 3 NE wall	43	SW
684	D1	44	SW
685	D2	45	SW
686	D3	46	SW
687	Junction Room 2 (left) Room 1 (right)	46A	NW
688	W4	47	SW
689	D4	48	SW

690	Room 1 cottage	49	SW
691	NE facade	49	SSE
692	W5	50	SW
693-4	Building from road	51	SSE
695-8	Building from road	52	SSE
699	NW gable	1	SE
700-1	NW gable	53	SE



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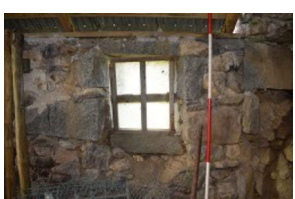
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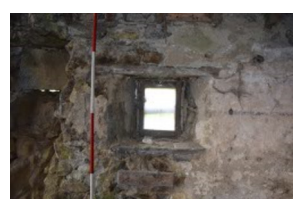
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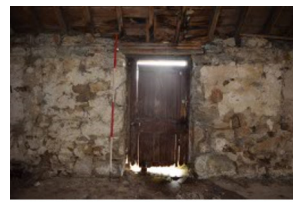
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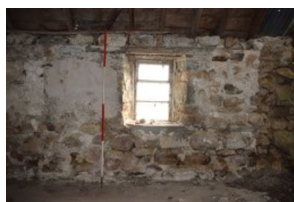
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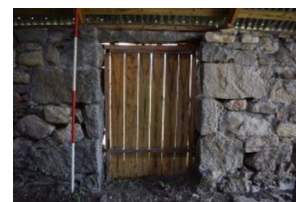
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