

**Land at Drummargettie North of Mains of Monaltrie  
Crathie, Aberdeenshire CA368  
Report on a Level 1 Standing Building Survey**



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27-10-2017**

## CONTENTS

1	BACKGROUND .....	4
2	THE STANDING BUILDING SURVEY .....	5
3	CONCLUSIONS .....	14
4	REFERENCES .....	16
5	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	16
	APPENDIX 1 MAPS .....	17
	APPENDIX 2 PHOTOS .....	18

## ILLUSTRATIONS

**Cover:** Possible byre or outbuilding attached to Longhouse B (top) and NW corner of Longhouse A (bottom).

Illus 1	Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017) .....	4
Illus 2	Site plan showing proposed development area in red. (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017) .....	5
Illus 3:	General site plan of Drummargettie at time of walkover, showing foundations of former township structures set within modern property boundary. Drystone dyke is represented to left but sits immediately outside property boundary. ....	6
Illus 4:	Plan of Longhouse A and associated Sheep fank A .....	7
Illus 5:	Elevations for Longhouse A, Drummargettie. ....	8
Illus 6:	Elevations for Sheepfank A, south of Longhouse A. ....	8
Illus 7:	WNW view looking across the sheep fank .....	9
Illus 8:	Longhouse A – view looking W. Note central window on NW facing wall .....	9
Illus 9:	Longhouse B - view looking SW. ....	10
Illus 10:	NE extension or possible byre connected to Longhouse B. ....	10
Illus 11:	Enclosure to south-west of Longhouse B, looking north-west .....	11
Illus 12:	Plan of Longhouse B and remains of enclosure to W. Loose stone indicated by mottled grey areas. ....	11
Illus 13:	Elevation for Longhouse B and remains of probable enclosure B to W. ....	12
Illus 14:	Camera points used in report. ....	12
Illus 15:	Phases: possible later or subsequent modification of NE end of Longhouse B as a windbreak/shelter ('wings' indicated by blue arrow) stands out as the only reliably identifiable indication of secondary modification to the layout at Drummargettie. Apparent robbing of stone, particularly Longhouse B and enclosure B, has greatly reduced the remaining structures. ....	13
Illus 16:	Detail of 'Drumagad' depicted as five structures on the Roy Military Map of 1747-55. Note Monaltrie farm below. (copyright National Library of Scotland). ....	15
Illus 17:	Detail of Roy Map indicating high settlement density in the mid-18 <sup>th</sup> century around Drummargettie, especially along the Feardar Burn to the west (copyright National Library of Scotland) .....	15
Illus 18:	Aerial view of Drummargettie. This photo indicates that several grass-covered foundations exists in the lower right of the frame (outside of the project area) which are not currently on any records. ....	16

Illus 19: Roy Military Map of 1747-55 showing 'Drumagad' - red arrow. (copyright National Library of Scotland). ..... 17

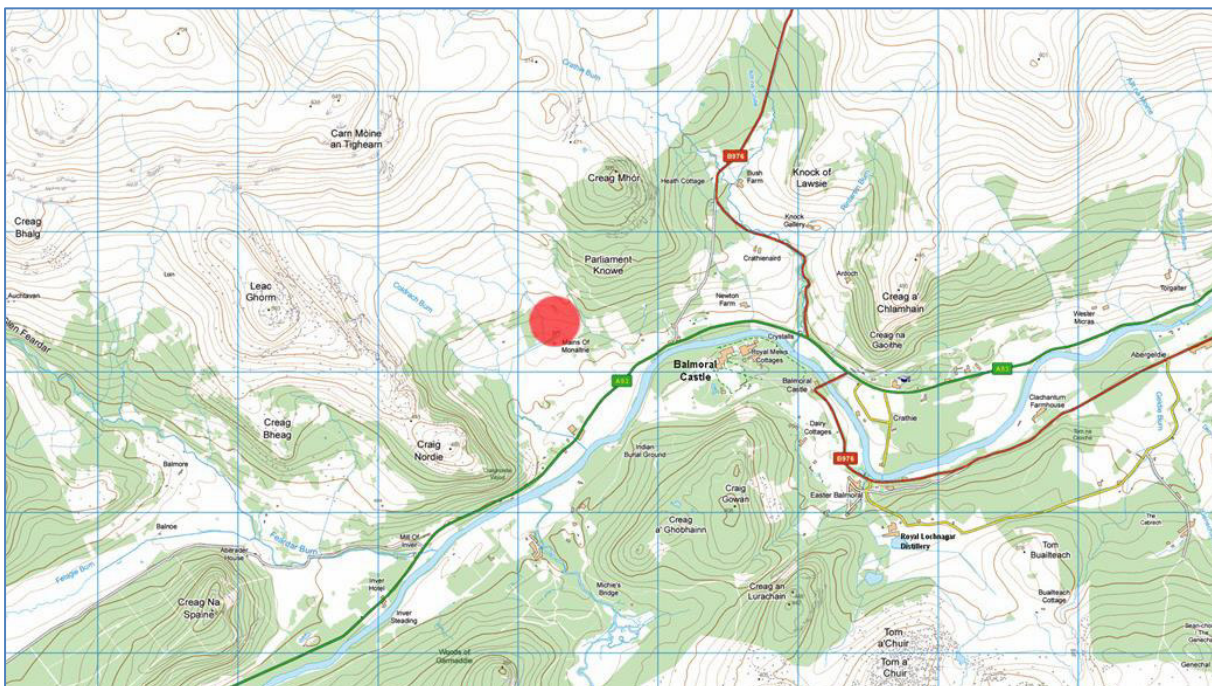
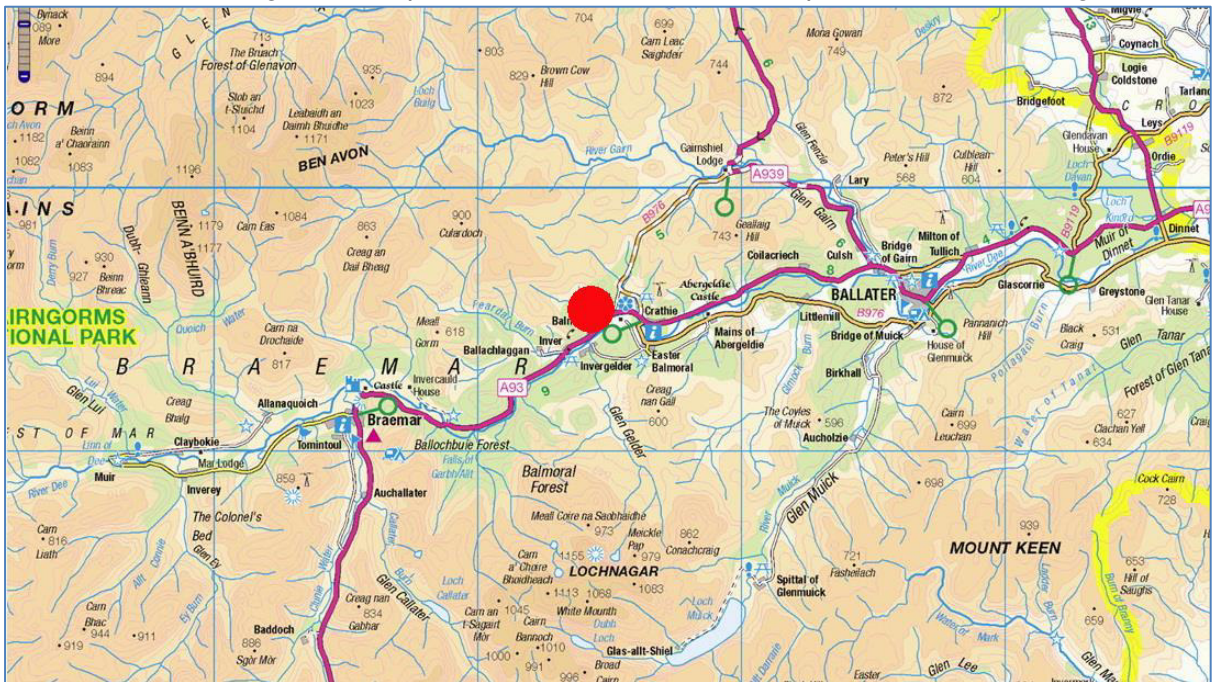
## **SUMMARY**

A Level 1 standing building survey was carried out at Drummargettie on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, which examined and recorded several remaining structures consisting of two longhouses and two enclosures from Drummargettie Township (NO29NW 12) in advance of construction of a lodge. No other archaeological features or finds were noted during the walkover, though the Roy Map of 1747-55 indicates a strong possibility of additional foundations.

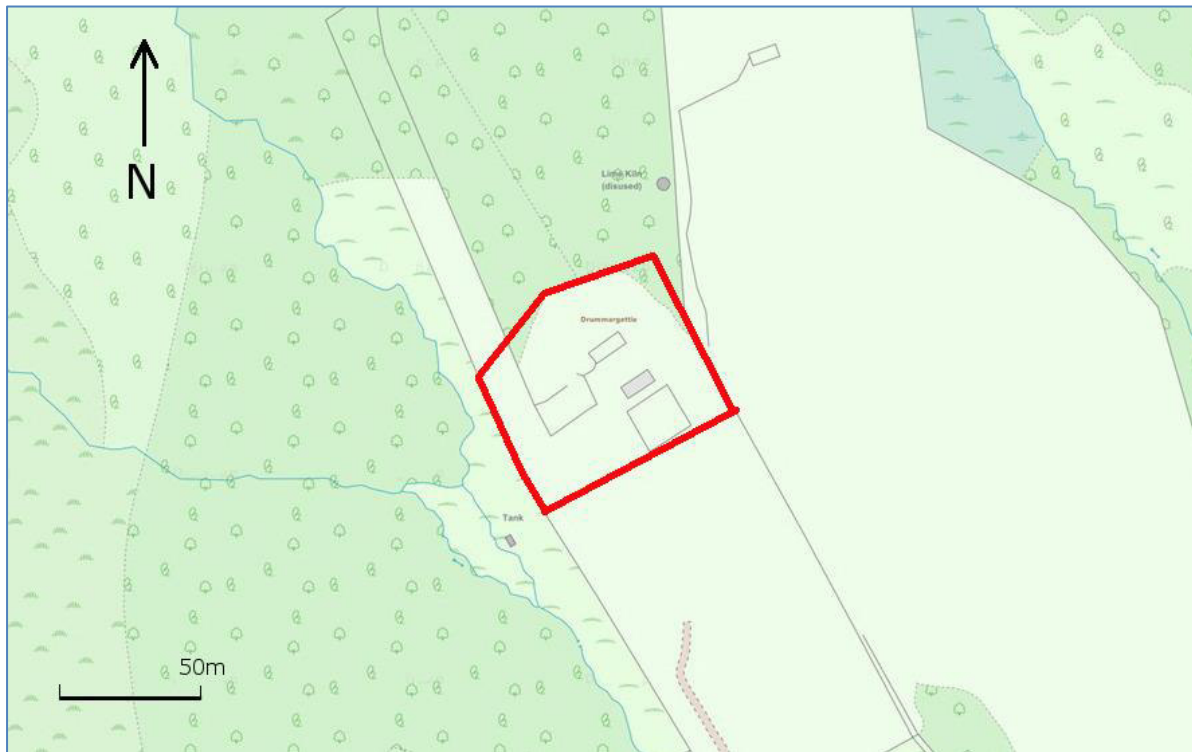
There is a requirement from Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service for a watching brief on all the groundworks associated with development.

# 1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1-3) is located approximately 950m NNW of the A96 some 2km west of Crathie. It is centred on NGR NO 24122 95588, at 351-357m OD in the parish of Crathie and Braemar.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Katy Fennema. A pre-application APP/2016/2624 to Aberdeenshire Council has requested a standing building survey in advance of any construction or groundworks; there is a requirement for a watching brief on all the groundworks associated with development.
- 1.3 All the archaeological work was carried out in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) Planning Advice Note (PAN 2/2011) and 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 2017)



Illus 2 Site plan showing proposed development area in red. (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017).

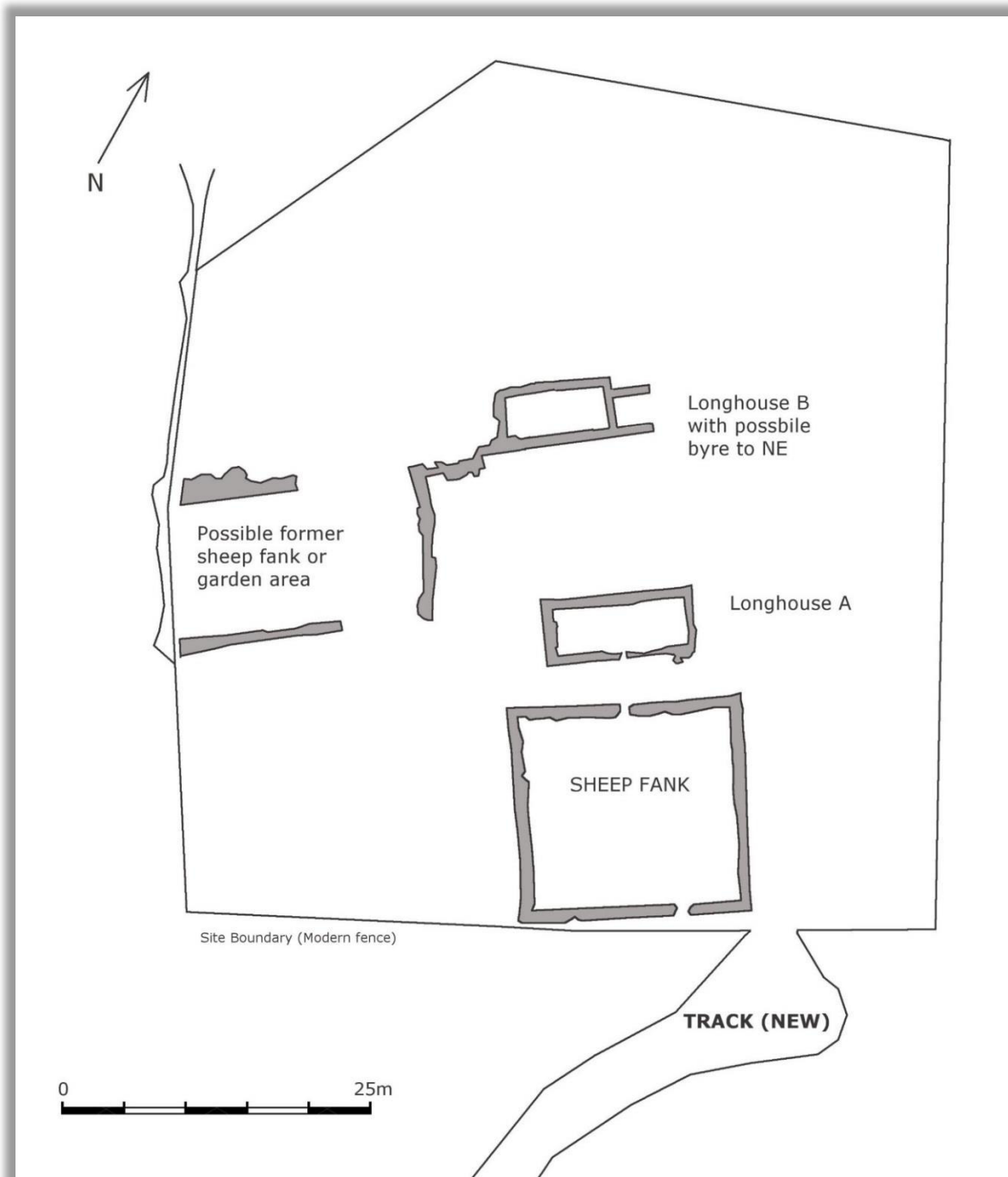
## 2 THE STANDING BUILDING SURVEY

The site of the proposed development lies at the southern end of the abandoned Drummargettie Township, at the end of an unpaved single track running past Mains of Monaltrie Farm. Currently the land appears to be used as rough grazings, and gradually rises beyond the project area to the north towards the east flank of Creag Mhor (506m). The parcel of land measures approximately 85m SW-NE by 70 SE-NW with a tapered boundary in the NW corner.

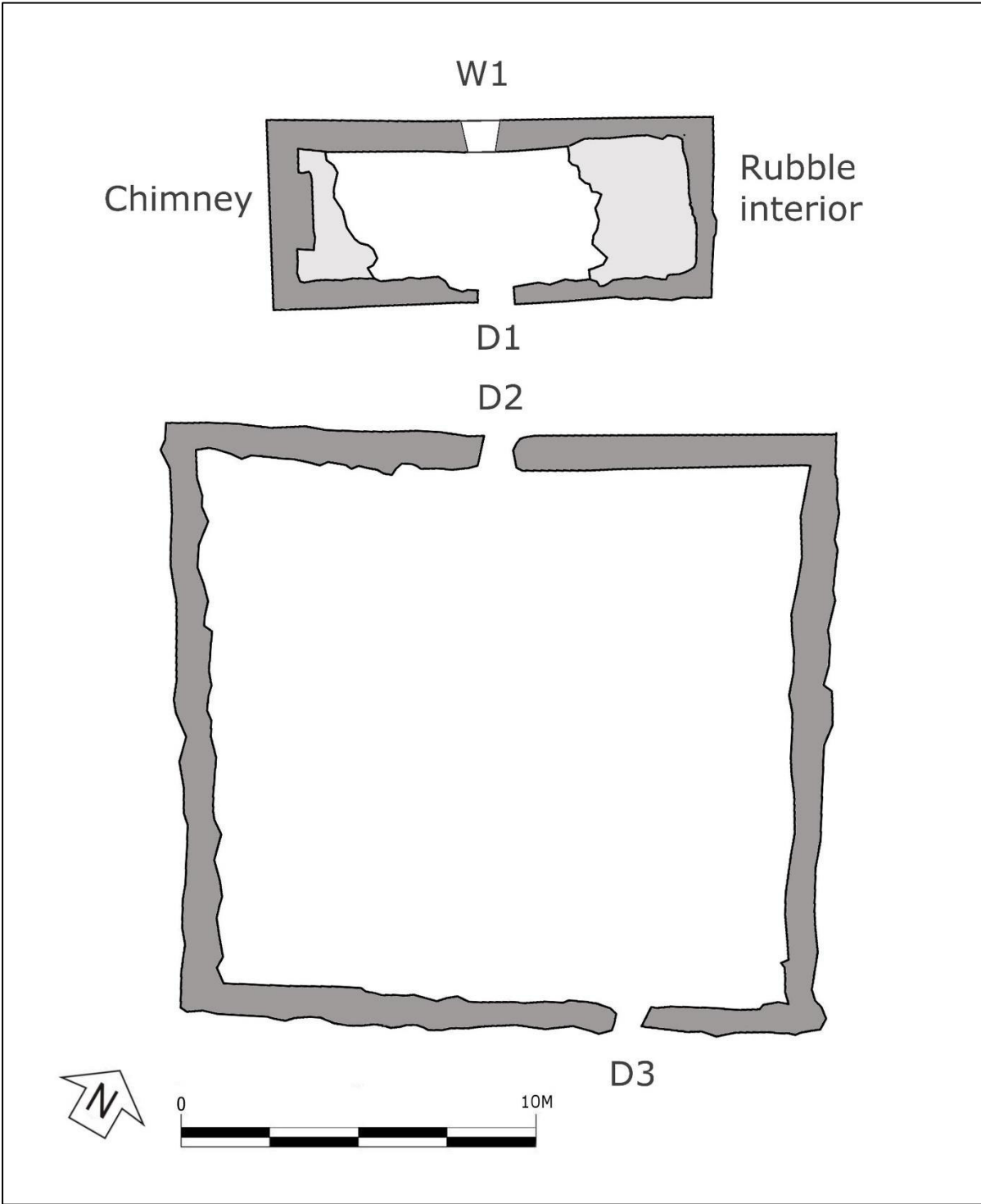
Within the area lies three distinct structures from the former township. First is the drystone sheep 'fank' or holding pen, roughly square, which measures 18.6m on the SW-NE axis by 19.8m on the SE-NW axis. The walling is composed of coarse drystone standing to a maximum height of 0.7m with a basal width averaging 0.8m. Stone tumble is most evident at the SE corner and two small sections on the S and N wall are reduced to near ground level, likely for foot access.

Longhouse A (Illus 4&8) survives as the better preserved of the two house structures. The longhouse is aligned roughly parallel with the sheep fank, and sits 3-4m to the NW. The rectangular structure measures 12.5m on the long axis by 5.25m on the short axis, and stands to a maximum height of 3.2m on the SW short axis. On the SW axis is a hearth and chimney, surrounded by tumbled stone and moderate vegetation which prevents a full examination of the internal walling in that particular part of the house. The walling (a double-wall infilled construction) consists of a mix of both rough-worked rectangular sandstone blocks and natural unworked rounded stones of local origin with lime mortar pointing and flat, tabular stonework 'chinking' used as shims in any gaps too large to fill with mortar alone. The finer examples of stonework can be seen on the corner sections, particularly the W corner. The walling averages 0.8m in width, up to

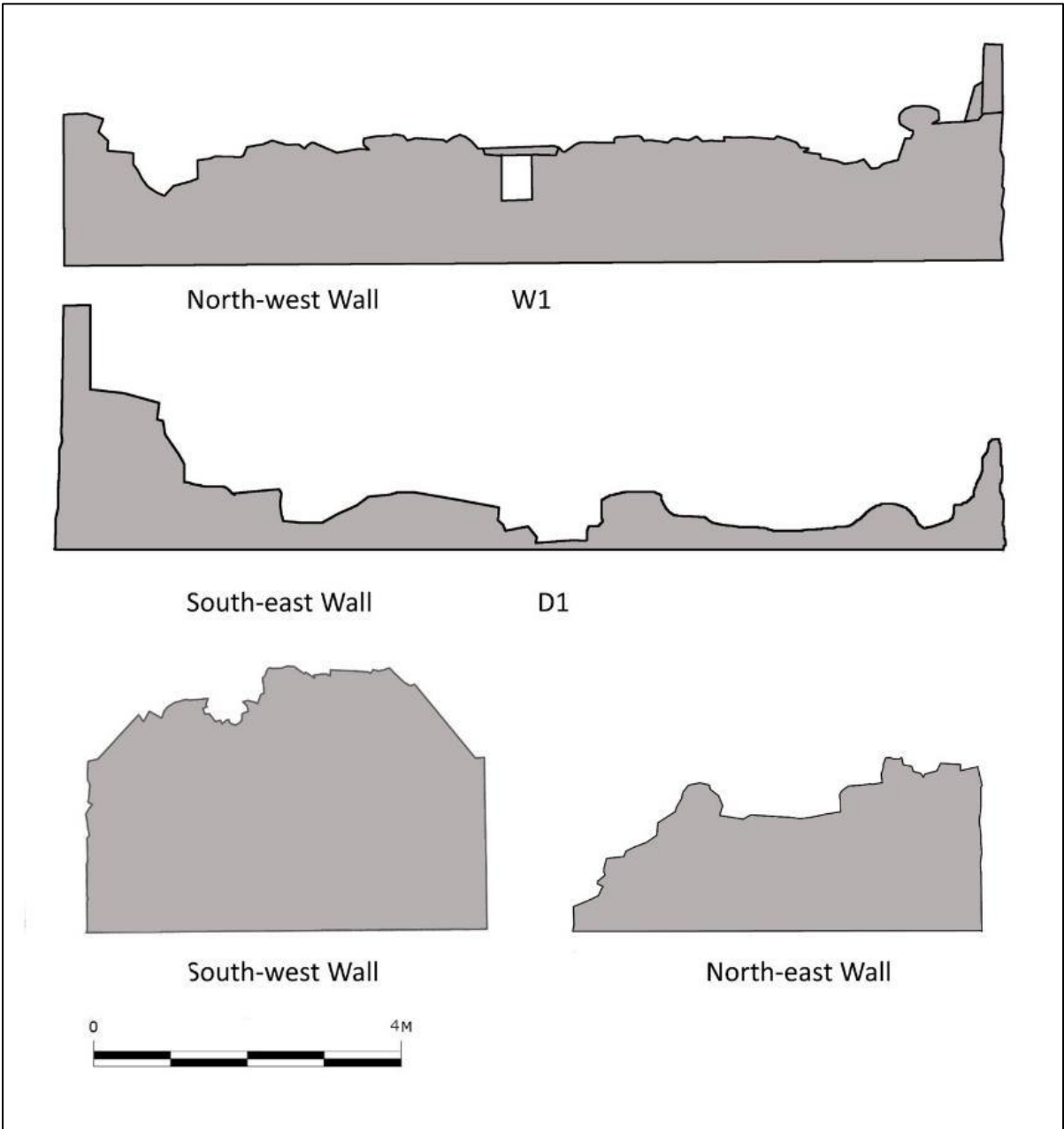
1.0m around the chimney area. The NW wall on the long axis stands some 1.5m in maximum height, with a centrally located single window 0.63m high by 0.4m wide with a lintel still in place, though no walling survives above the lintel. The NE wall on the short axis of Longhouse A is now reduced to 1.5m high with a considerable amount of collapsed rubble piled up inside against the wall. This may have been intentional to prevent collapse onto any people or livestock. The stone rubble appears to come from the SE wall on the long axis, which is now largely robbed out to ground level with the exception of the SW corner where 5-6 courses of stone still remain.



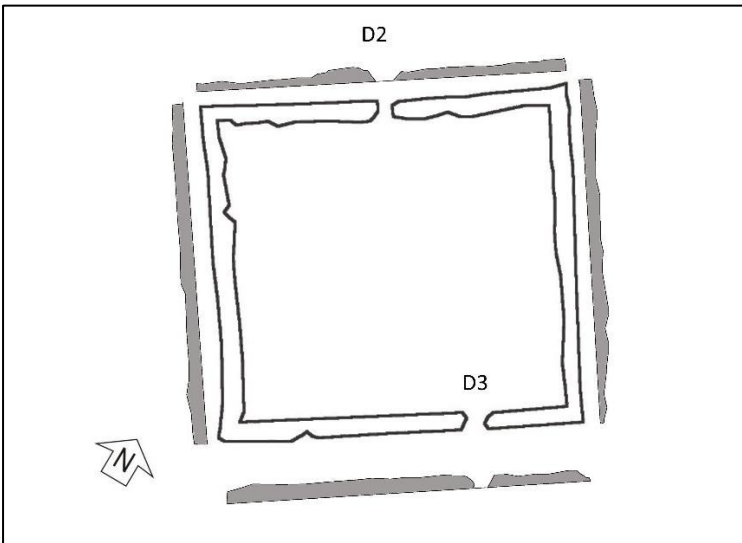
Illus 3: General site plan of Drummargettie at time of walkover, showing foundations of former township structures set within modern property boundary. Drystone dyke is represented to left but sits immediately outside property boundary.



Illus 4: Plan of Longhouse A and associated sheep fank or enclosure A.



Illus 5: Elevations for Longhouse A, Drummargettie.



Illus 6: Elevations for sheep fank A, south of Longhouse A.





Illus 7: WNW view looking across the sheep fank.



Illus 8: Longhouse A – view looking W. Note central window (W1) on NW facing wall and infilled double-wall construction visible in foreground corner.



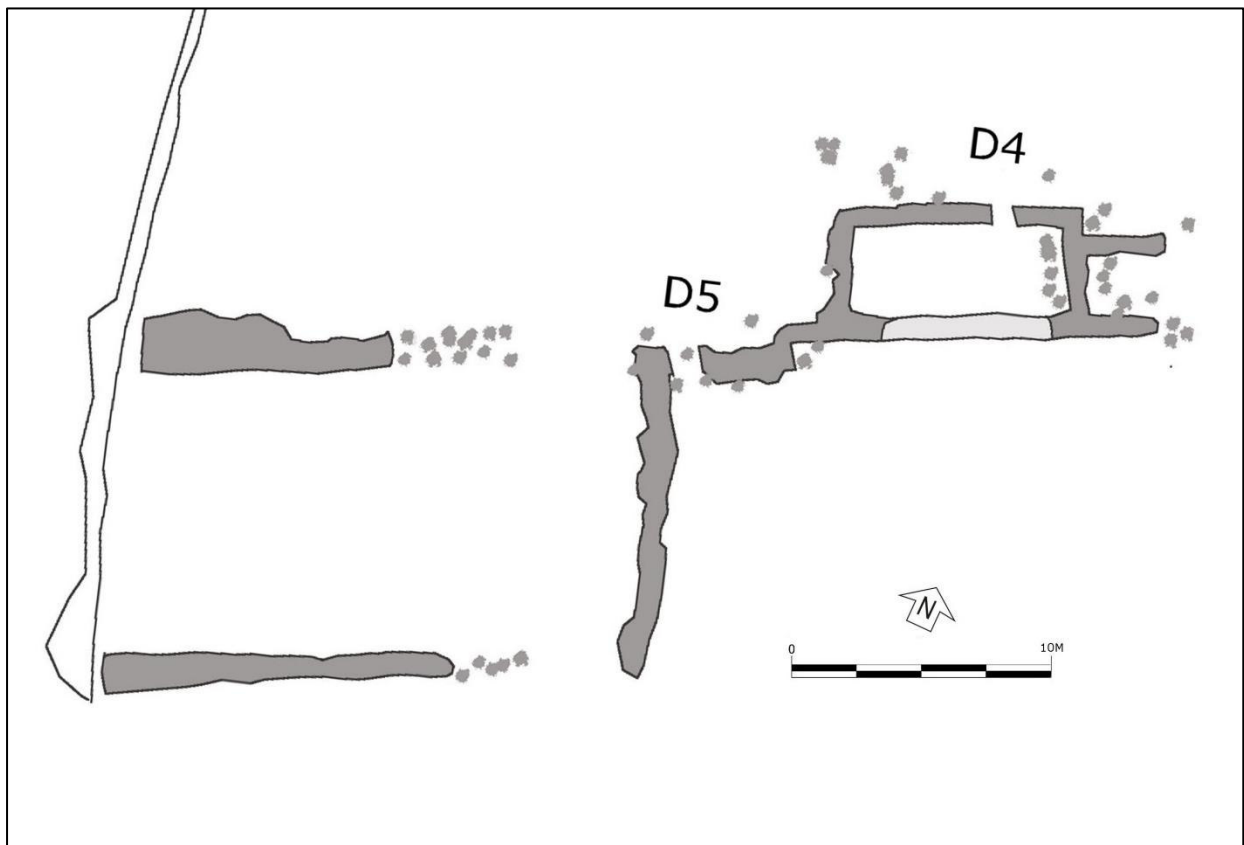
Illus 9: Heavily robbed-out Longhouse B - view looking SW.



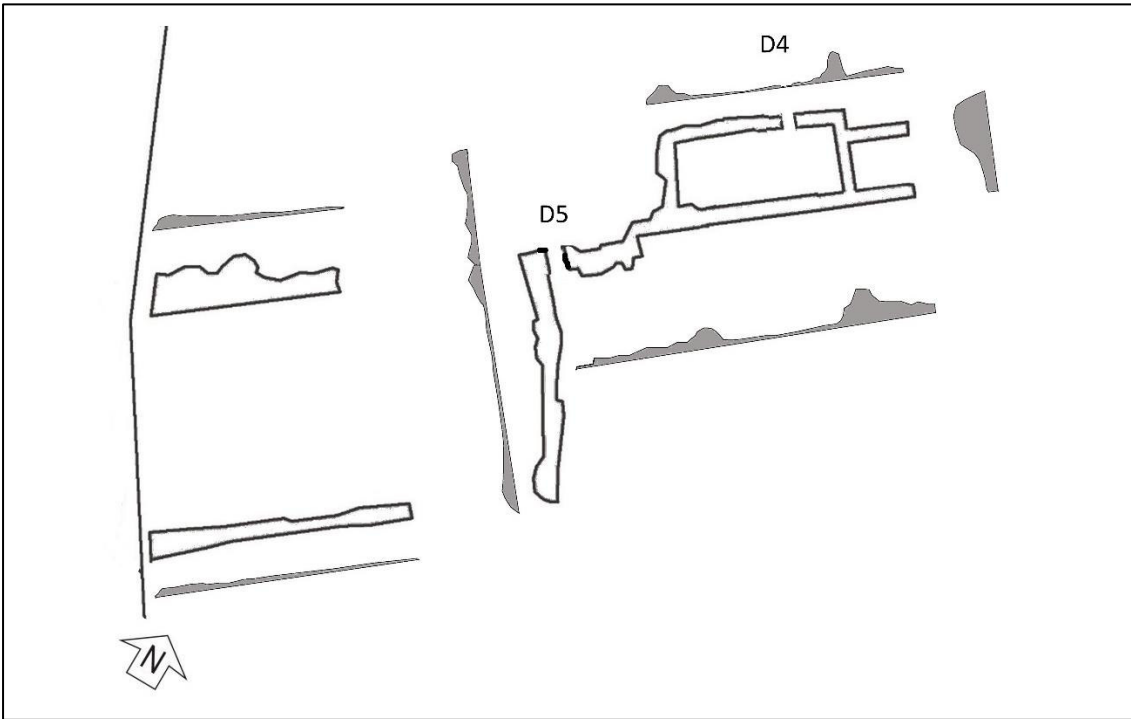
Illus 10: NE extension or possible byre connected to Longhouse B – possible 'Phase II'.



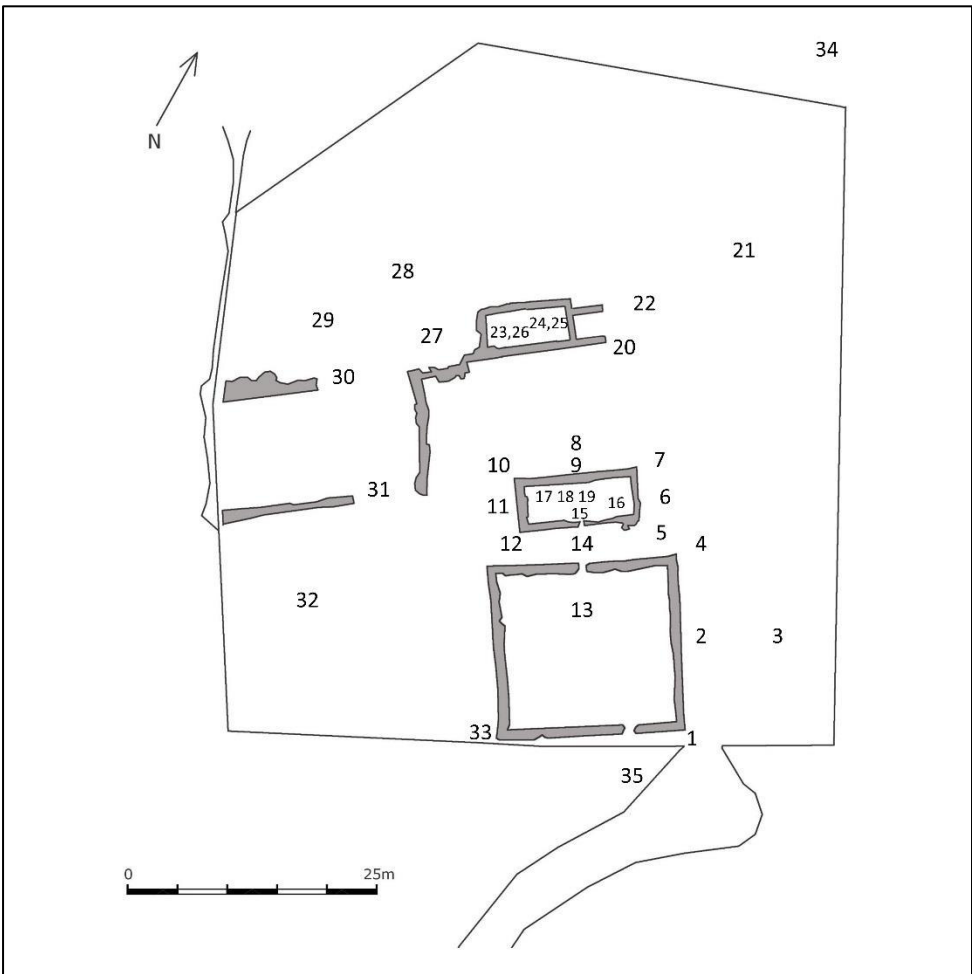
Illus 11: Enclosure to south-west of Longhouse B, looking north-west.



Illus 12: Plan of Longhouse B and remains of enclosure to W (Loose stone tumble roughly indicated by mottled grey areas).



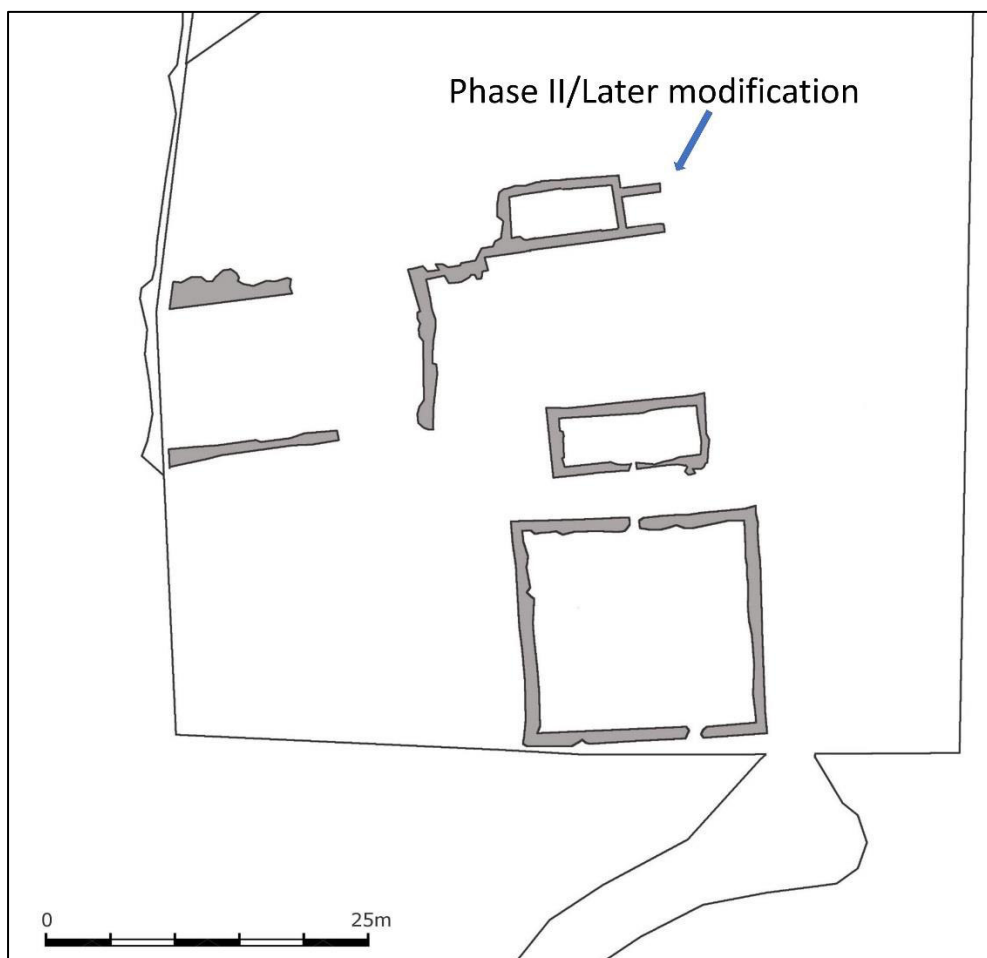
Illus 13: Elevations for heavily-robbed out Longhouse B (shaded in grey) and remains of enclosure to W.



Illus 14: Camera points used in this report.

To the NE, a series of low kerbing abuts Longhouse B, which, in comparison to Longhouse A, now survives in largely ruinous condition, with the majority of stonework robbed out, perhaps for the repair of Longhouse A or the repair or construction of the stone dyke which stands just outside the property boundary on the west side.

Longhouse B (Illus 10 & 12), along with Longhouse A and a small outbuilding to the west, are shown as roofed on the 1866 first edition map, with Longhouse B the larger of the two structures. This appears to include the possible byre at the NE end of Longhouse B which in combination measures 15m on the long axis by 5.25m again on the short axis, indicating that both longhouses were built to the same width, but the length of B was extended by the addition of the outbuilding. Immediately to the SW lies the low foundations of a second sheep fank or enclosure (Illus 8) measuring 12.5m wide by 21.5m on the long axis. It is either truncated or intentionally abuts the drystone dyke on the west boundary, which now lies immediately beyond the barbed wire fence marking the modern plot boundary. This enclosure now stands as a single course of stone measuring 0.75m in width and c. 0.25m high, and is now incomplete and missing at the end closest to Longhouse B. There is however a low connecting wall of equal height which continues past the enclosure to connect to the SW corner of Longhouse B, indicating that at some point there was a passage or doorway, which is borne out by a slight gap in the stonework.



Illus 15: Phases: possible later or subsequent modification of NE end of Longhouse B as a windbreak/shelter ('wings' indicated by blue arrow) stands out as the only reliably identifiable indication of secondary modification to the layout at Drummargettie. Apparent robbing of stone, from Longhouse B and enclosure B, in addition to stone tumble, has greatly reduced these remaining structures' overall visibility.

### 3 CONCLUSIONS

While it is interesting to note that three structures are depicted as having roofs on the first edition Ordnance Survey map from the 1866 survey, the current condition indicates that the southern-most structure Longhouse A and the sheep fank to the south were kept in use much later than Longhouse B and its associated enclosure. This was largely confirmed by a brief conversation with the farmer at Mains of Monaltrie, whose wife was born in the cottage to the NE of Drummargettie sometime in the early 1950s. The farmer remarked that Longhouse A was still roofed and used as storage for hay until that time, as were many former longhouses in the surrounding glens, when it caught fire and was finally abandoned around 1952.

By the revision date of 1900 for the second edition map, the enclosure next to Longhouse B is now depicted as unroofed. The possible byre in Illustration 7 is poorly made and lacks mortar, suggesting that the structure visible at the time of this survey is perhaps a later construction or, if contemporary with Longhouse B, indeed a roughly constructed byre not intended for human habitation, rather more as a windbreak or shelter for livestock.

The site overall does not indicate clear evidence for multiple phases for the structures, though it would be surprising if no changes to the layout took place over the lifespan of the structures. Given the level of stone removal for Longhouse B and its related enclosure, this interpretation is difficult to reliably make. The only probable exception are the later 'wings' on the NE end of Longhouse B, which are roughly constructed without mortar and are loose with considerable gaps and only a single course of stone, rather than the infilled double-wall construction which typifies both longhouses.

Finally, what is particularly interesting about Drummargettie is that it is depicted on Roy's Military Survey maps from 1747-55 as a settlement with five structures. While absolute accuracy within this map is of course not a guarantee, it indicates the possibility that several more longhouses once existed here, or at least a different series of older structures not visible during the walkover. The drystone dyke which is now just outside the modern plot boundary may also be part of the red line depicted west of Drumagad on the Roy Map, and may have once been considerably more substantial than what is visible today.

Current records from both Historic Environment Scotland (Canmore ID 155262) and the Historic Environment Record (NO29NW0004) do not provide additional details on Drummargettie. It is also worth noting that because these structures were still depicted as being roofed on the first edition OS maps, they were not presumably included in the ongoing First Edition Survey Project (FESP) which focusses upon unroofed remains, although there is strong evidence to indicate that portions of these structures were well-established by the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century.

It is recommended that a watching brief take place during future groundworks to identify any earlier foundations that may exist around Longhouse B and the west enclosure, and clarify those in existence beyond Longhouse A.

There is a requirement from Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service for a watching brief on all the groundworks associated with development.





Illus 18: Aerial view of Drummargettie. This photo indicates that several grass-covered foundations exist in the lower right of the frame (outside of the project area) which are not currently on any records.

#### **4 REFERENCES**

Aberdeenshire SMR. 2017. 'Drummargettie' accessed at:

<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/smrpub/master/detail.aspx?Authority=ASH&refno=N029NW0004> as of 27-10-2017

Historic Environment Scotland. 2017. 'Drummargettie' accessed at:

<https://canmore.org.uk/site/155262/drummargettie> as of 27-10-2017.

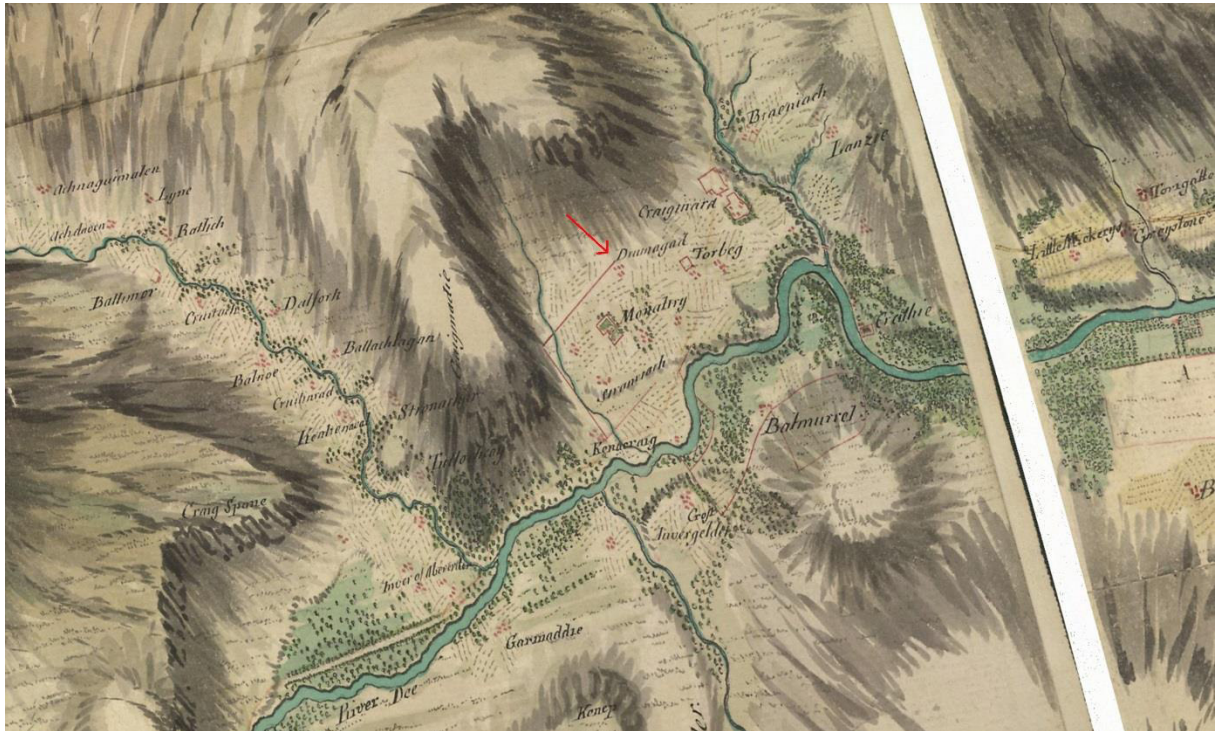
#### **5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thanks to Katy Fennema for initiating this project and to Claire Herbert, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service for her advice during this work.

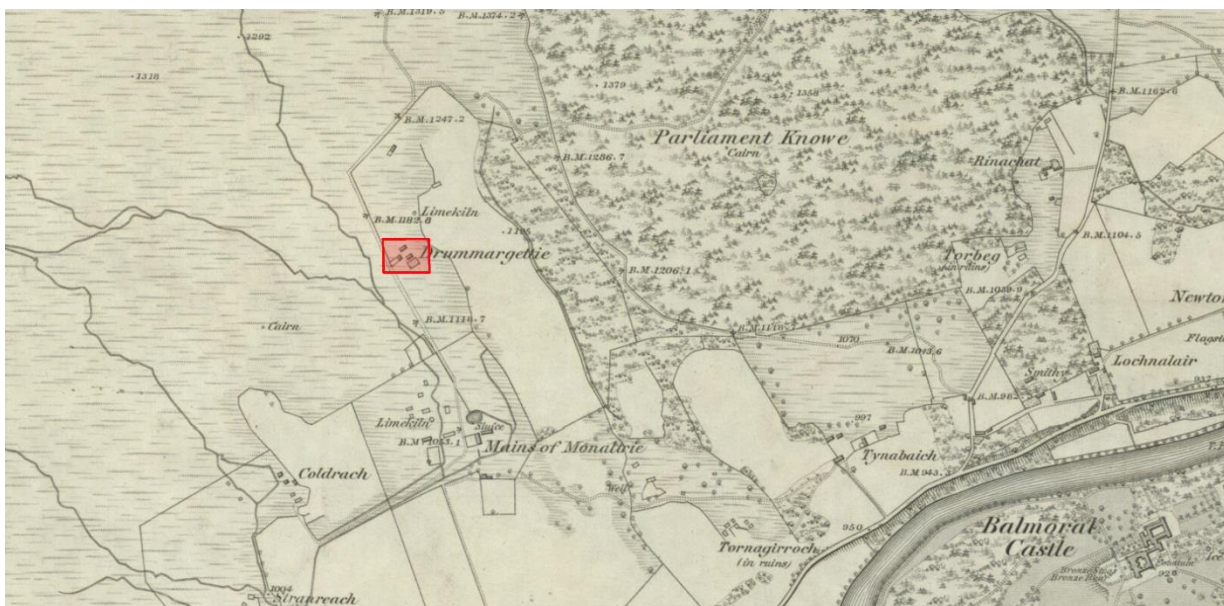
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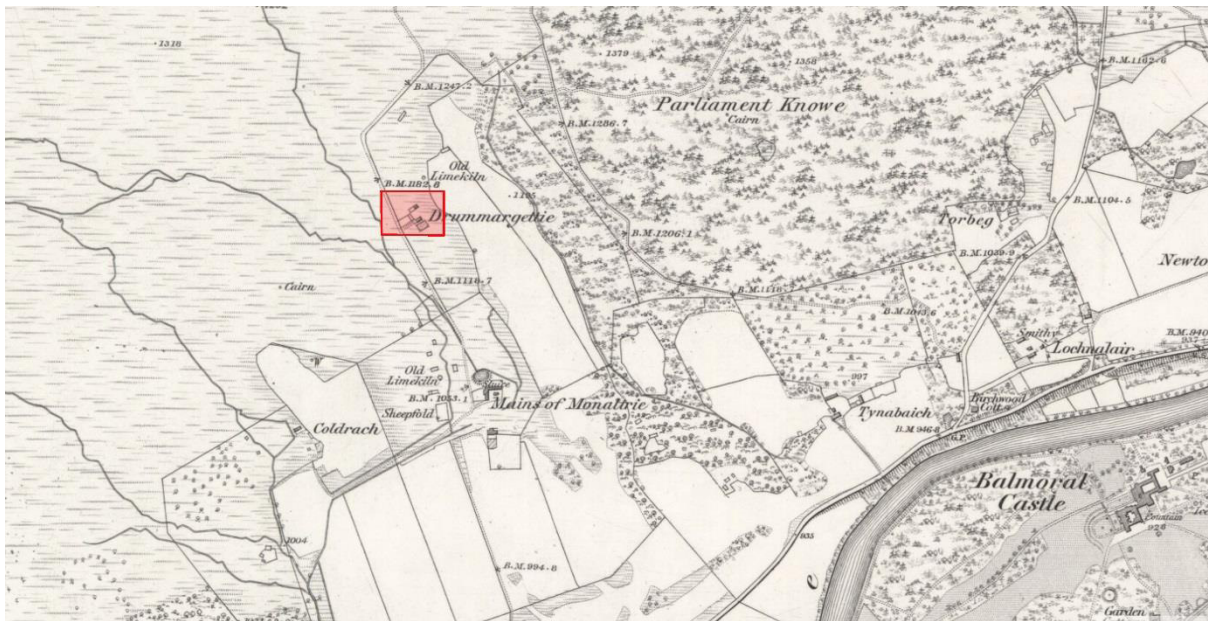
## APPENDIX 1 MAPS



Illus 19: Roy Military Map of 1747-55 showing 'Drumagad' - red arrow. (copyright National Library of Scotland).



Illus 5 First Edition OS map, Sheet XC, surveyed 1866 – published 1869, showing site outline in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 6 Second Edition OS map, Sheet XC, updated 1900 – published 1903, showing site outline in red (copyright National Library of Scotland).

## APPENDIX 2 PHOTOS

Photo ID	Direction Facing	Comments	Camera Point
DSC3792	W	Sheep fank or enclosure with stone tumble	1
DSC3798	NW	Section view of enclosure walling	2
DSC3799	NW	Section view of enclosure walling (wide-angle)	3
DSC3800	S	South facing view of sheep fank/enclosure	4
DSC3805	W	Longhouse A with remains of NE wall in foreground	5
DSC3807	SW	Detail of NE wall, Longhouse A	6
DSC3808	S	Detail of NE wall, Longhouse A	7
DSC3812	SE	Detail of NW wall, Longhouse A	8
DSC3814	SE	Detail of window in NW wall, Longhouse A	9
DSC3816	E	NW corner of Longhouse A	10
DSC3817	NE	SW facing wall of Longhouse A	11
DSC3819	N	SW corner of Longhouse A	12
DSC3822	NW	General view, Longhouse A with sheep fank in foreground	13
DSC3823	NW	Interior of Longhouse A	14
DSC3826	NW	Interior of NW wall, Longhouse A	15
DSC3827	W	Interior of Longhouse A looking towards hearth at far wall.	16

DSC3829	SW	Remains of hearth and chimney, Longhouse A	17
DSC3831	NE	NE interior wall with rubble	18
DSC3832	NE	Detail of NE interior wall	19
DSC3833	SW	Possible byre or addition to Longhouse B	20
DSC3837	S	Possible byre or addition to Longhouse B	21
DSC3838	S	Possible byre or addition to Longhouse B	22
DSC3842	NE	Interior of heavily-robbed out Longhouse B	23
DSC3847	SW	Interior of heavily-robbed out Longhouse B	24
DSC3853	S	Extension off Longhouse B towards west enclosure	25
DSC3860	NE	View of Longhouse B from SW	26
DSC3862	S	View of Longhouse B from N	27
DSC3874	SE	General site view from NW	28
DSC3878	SW	North wall of W enclosure	29
DSC3880	SW	South wall of W enclosure	30
DSC3882	NW	Section view of south wall of W enclosure	31
DSC3890	NE	SW corner of sheep fank	32
DSC3908	S	General view of site from lime kiln to N	33
DSC3936	NW	General site view from south	34



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\_DSC3798.jpg



\_DSC3799.jpg



\_DSC3800.jpg



\_DSC3805.jpg



\_DSC3807.jpg



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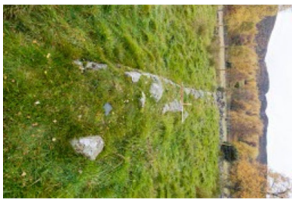
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