

Plot 3, Site At Middlemuir, St Combs, Aberdeenshire Report on Level 1 Standing Building Survey

Aberdeenshire Council planning reference APP/2019/2023



Alison Cameron
Cameron Archaeology
14 January 2020

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	3
2	BACKGROUND	4
3	THE LEVEL 1 STANDING BUILDING SURVEY	4
4	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	10
5	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	10
	APPENDIX 1 MAPS.....	11
	APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS	12

ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover: top Building 1 S façade; facing N; bottom Building 2 E façade; facing W

Illus 1	Location plan	3
Illus 2	Plan of Buildings 1 and 2	4
Illus 3	Elevations of Buildings 1 and 2	5
Illus 4	Building 1 E gable with W7 and N facade; facing SW	6
Illus 5	Building 1 Room 1 interior of W gable showing collapsed roof and rubble interior.....	6
Illus 6	Building 1 Room 2 E wall range F2 on E wall with window W7 (left)	7
Illus 7	Pantile roof on Building 2 N end Room 1; facing W.....	8
Illus 8	Pantile roof detail above D3; facing W	8
Illus 9	Building 2 Room 1 cobbled surface F7 with F6 (left); facing N	9
Illus 10	Building 2 Room 1 cobbled surface F8; facing S.....	9
Illus 11	Building 2 Room 2 S wall with clay wall plaster; facing S	10
Illus 12	First Edition Ordnance Survey map	11
Illus 13	Second Edition Ordnance Survey map	11
Illus 14	Camera points used in this survey	12

SUMMARY

A Level 1 standing building survey was carried out on 8 January 2020. Two buildings were recorded which are the remains of a small unnamed farm probably constructed in the early 19th century. Building 1 was a farmhouse with fireplace, range and chimneys and Building 2 an agricultural building with cobbled floors. 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 SW side of St Combs on Middlemuir Farm. It is centred on NGR NK04156148, at 25-30m OD (Illus 1) and in the parish of Lonmay.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Jordan Jamieson. A planning application to Aberdeenshire Council APP/2019/2023 was approved on 29 Oct 2019 with a condition requiring this 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.



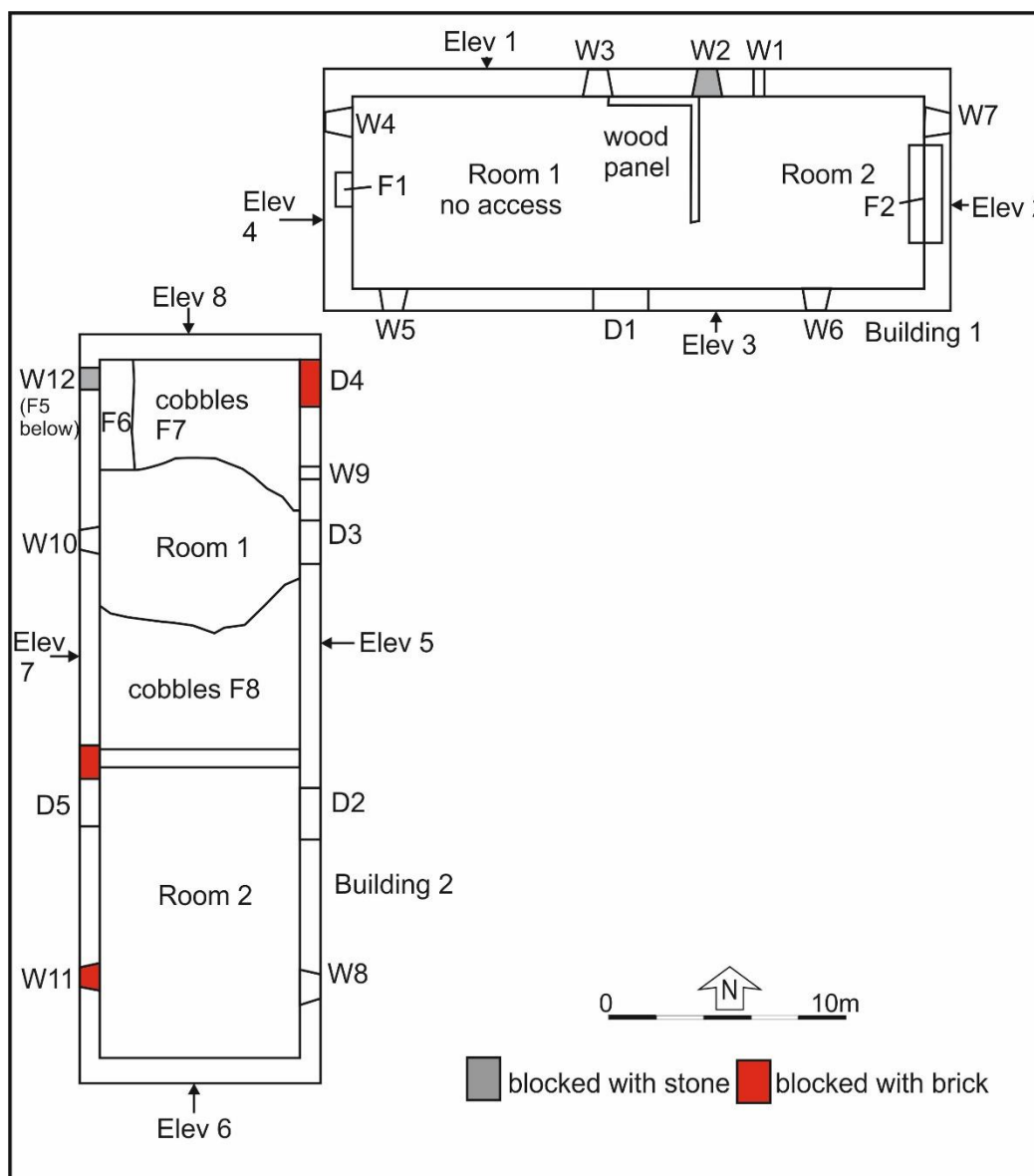
Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020)

2 BACKGROUND

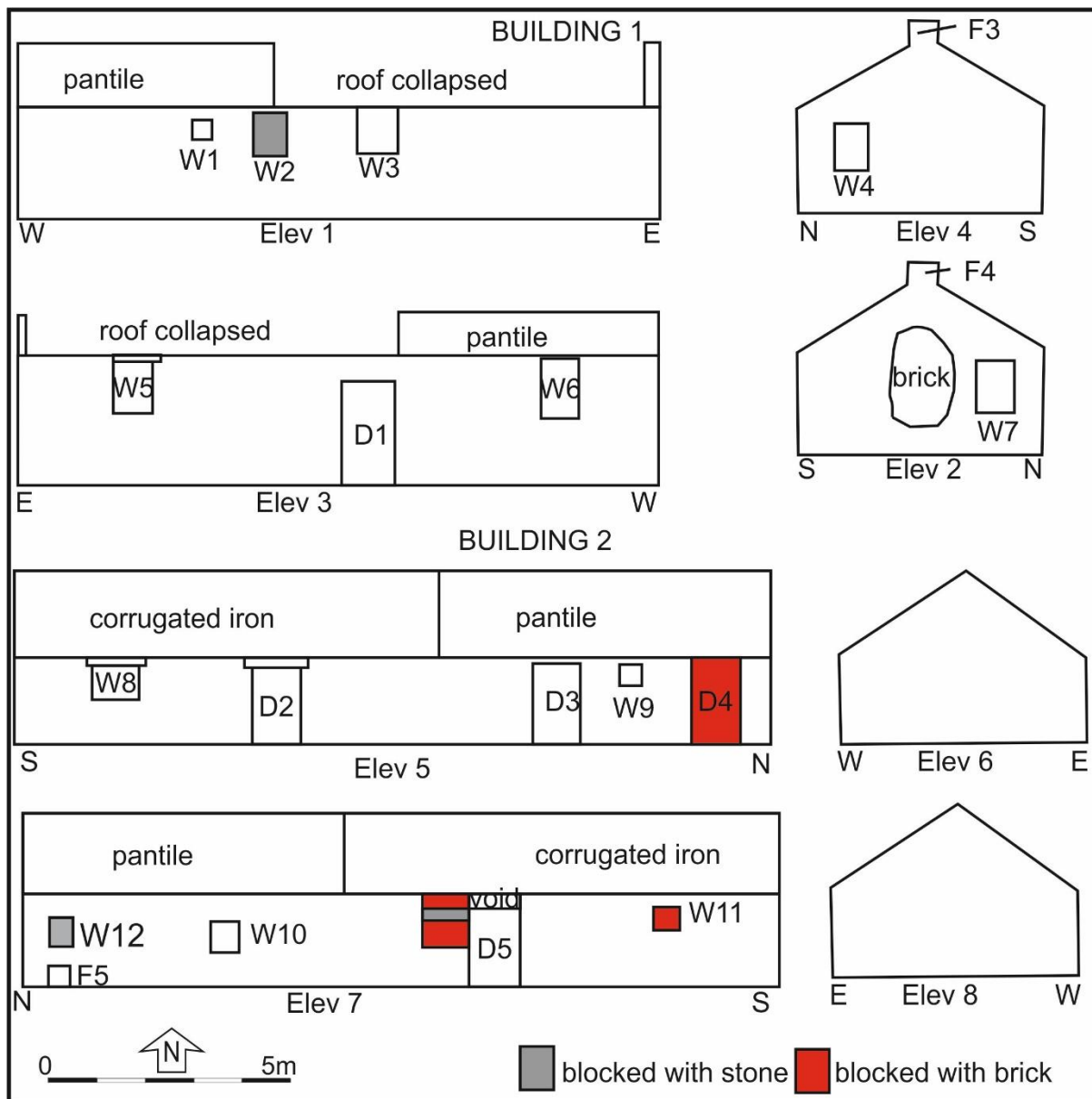
Middlemuir is on both the HER (NK06SW0069) and HES (NK06SW 157) databases. The OS maps of 1867 and 1888 depict two buildings at this location. One is oriented E-W and the other N-S; their NE and SW corners are set close together.

3 THE LEVEL 1 STANDING BUILDING SURVEY

A level 1 standing building survey was carried out on 8 January 2020; the weather was strong winter sun and cold. There were piles of stone and tile demolition material around the buildings making some areas difficult to access. Two buildings (Building 1 and Building 2) were recorded which are the remains of a small unnamed farm probably constructed in the early 19th century. The interior of Building 1 was in poor condition with rubble and collapsed roof and so the W end of this building was not accessed. A photographic survey was carried out of all accessible areas and a plan (Illus 2) and elevations (Illus 3) drawn.



Illus 2 Plan of Buildings 1 and 2



Illus 3 Elevations of Buildings 1 and 2

Building 1 is oriented W-E and is 13.1m long and 5m wide constructed of large stone foundation with fieldstone walls and granite lintels and sills. On the 1st edition OS map (Illus 12) there is a roofed enclosure with rounded end but this building has been removed by the 2nd Edition OS (Illus 13) and the boundary wall has since been removed. The building has been divided into two rooms with a wooden screen but there may have been a stone wall but there is now no evidence. The roof has collapsed at the W end and that area of the room is inaccessible. There is a fireplace (F1; Illus 5) on the W wall with chimney (F3) above which was photographed from a distance and there are windows in the W wall (W4), N wall (W3) and S wall (W5) and door (D1). In the E Room 2 there is a cast iron range with wood surround (F2; Illus 6) on the E wall with chimney (F4) and wood paneling which has been covered in wallpaper, windows (W1 and W2) on the N wall, W7 on the E wall and W6 on the S wall. There is a brick repair on the exterior of the E wall (Illus 3, 4) suggesting that either the wall collapsed or there was another fireplace in the room on the exterior of this wall which was removed possibly between the dates of the 1st and 2nd Edition OS maps. The walls are 0.6m thick. There is a wooden floor with attic space above but there is no access and there is a pantile roof above Room 2 which has collapsed over Room 1. This building has been a farmhouse with fireplaces in both rooms.



Illus 4 Building 1 E gable with W7 and N facade; facing SW



Illus 5 Building 1 Room 1 interior of W gable showing collapsed roof and rubble interior; facing W



Illus 6 Building 1 Room 2 E wall range F2 on E wall with window W7 (left) showing wood paneling and wallpaper; facing E

Building 2 is oriented N-S, 15.5m long and 5m wide. It is also constructed on a large stone foundation with fieldstone and granite walls, granite sills and lintels. The walls are 0.5-0.55m thick. It is divided into two rooms with a stone dividing wall. Room 1 in the north has doors on the E wall (D3 and D4 now fully blocked with brick) and window (W9) and windows on the W wall (W10 and W12). There is also a small aperture in the bottom of the N end of the W wall under W12 (F5) which may be associated with ventilation or drainage. There are stone cobbled floors surviving in the N (F7; Illus 9) and S (F8; Illus 10) of the room and a low wall (F6; Illus 9) in the NW corner probably the base for animal feeders. Room 2 had a door (D2) and a window (W8) on the E wall and door (D5) and window (W11) on the W wall. There is clay wall plaster on the S interior wall of Room 2 (Illus 11). There are pantiles on the N end of the building (Illus 7, 8) but the roof of the S of the building has been replaced with corrugated iron. There are no fireplaces or chimneys and Room 1 has a cobbled floor suggesting that this has been an agricultural building.



Illus 7 Pantile roof on Building 2 N end Room 1; facing W



Illus 8 Pantile roof detail above D3; facing W



Illus 9 Building 2 Room 1 cobbled surface F7 with F6 (left); facing N



Illus 10 Building 2 Room 1 cobbled surface F8; facing S



Illus 11 Building 2 Room 2 S wall with clay wall plaster; facing S

4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

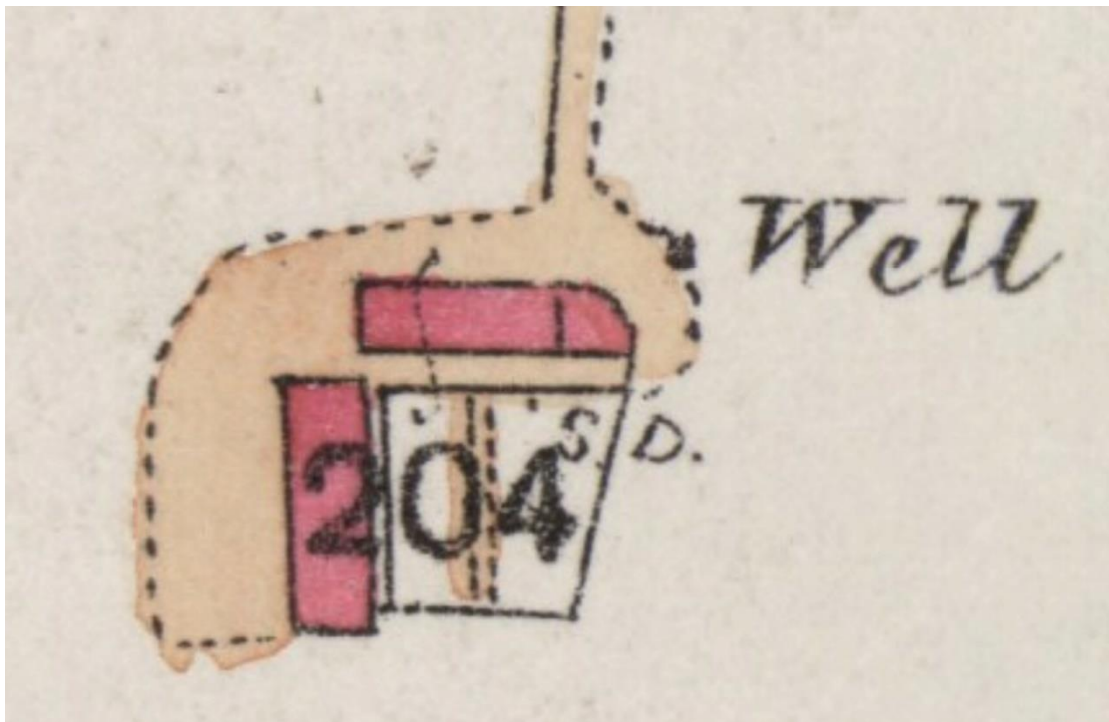
A Level 1 standing building survey was carried out on 8 January 2020. Two buildings were recorded which are the remains of a small unnamed farm, probably part of Middlemuir and probably constructed in the early 19th century. It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current planning application.

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

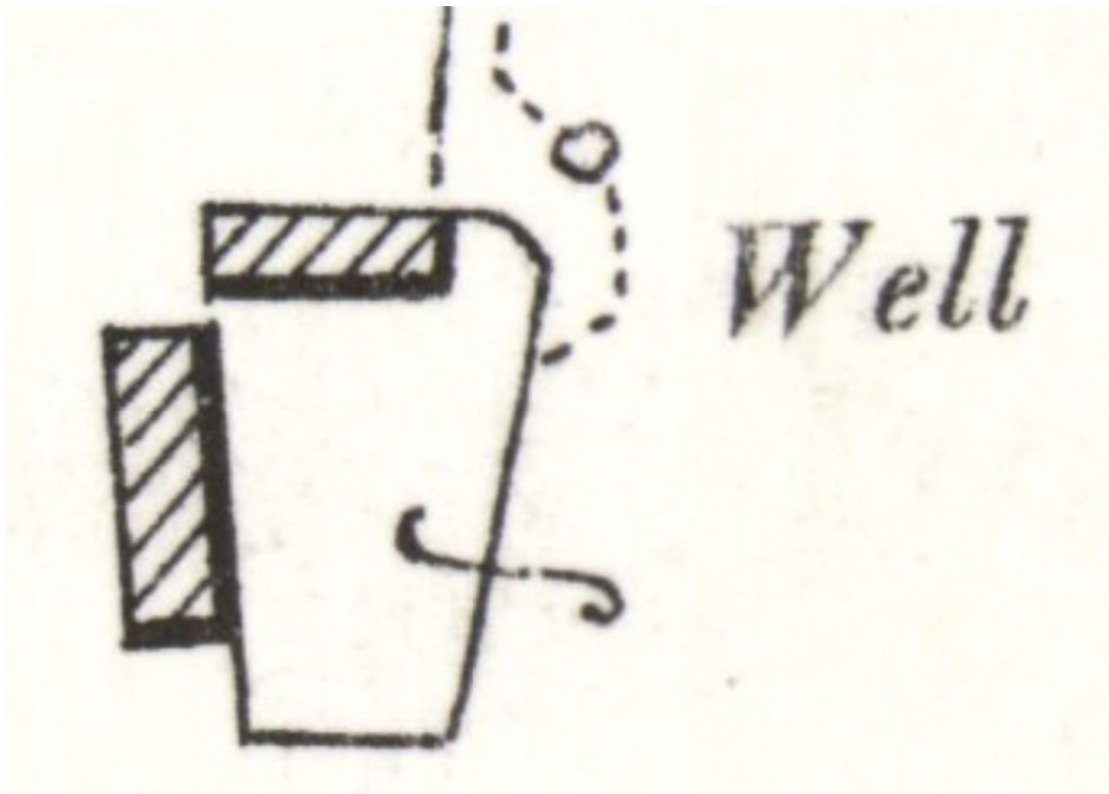
Thanks to Jordan Jamieson for commissioning this project and to Claire Herbert, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service for her advice during the work.

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

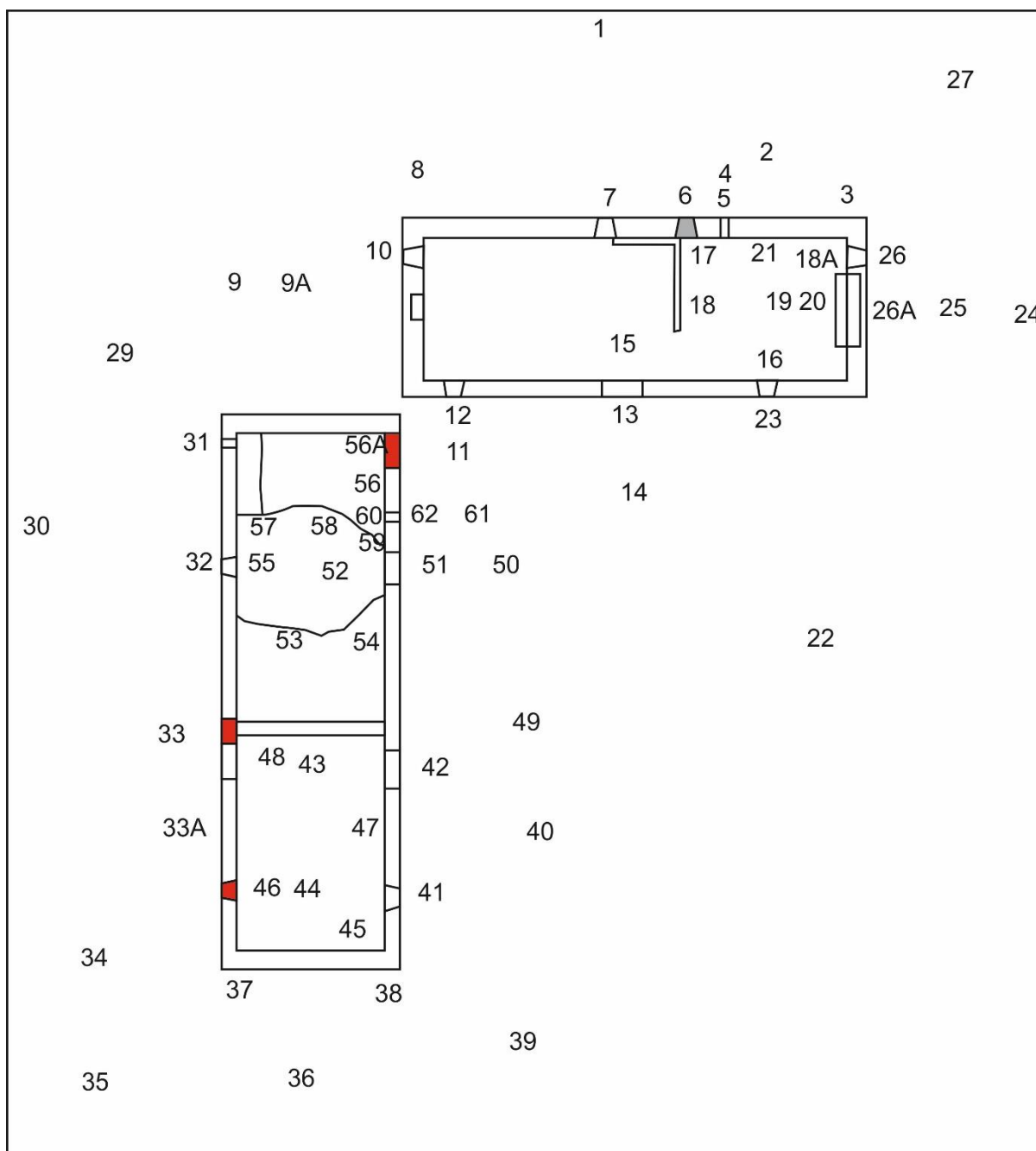


Illus 12 First Edition Ordnance Survey map Aberdeenshire VIII.3 (Lonmay & Rathen - Combined) Survey date: 1870 Publication date: 1874 (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 13 Second Edition Ordnance Survey map Aberdeenshire VIII.3 (Lonmay; Rathen) Publication date: 1902 Revised: 1900 (copyright National Library of Scotland)

APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS



Illus 14 Camera points used in this survey

Photo no	Description	Camera point	Facing
1151	Building 1 N wall	1	S
1152	Building 1 N wall E end	2	S
1153	Building 1 N wall E end with chimney F4 above	3	S
1154	Building 1 N wall E end and pantile roof	4	S
1155	Building 1 W1 with pantile roof above	5	S
1156	Building 1 W1 with pantile roof detail	5	S
1157	Building 1 W2 blocked with stone	6	S
1158	Building 1 W3 with roof collapsed above	7	S

1159	Building 1 N wall W end	8	S
1160	Building 1	8	S
1161	Building 1	8	SSE
1162-3	Building 1 pantiles fallen off roof		
1164	Building 1 W gable	9	E
1165	Building 1 W gable	9A	E
1166	Building 1 W gable with chimney F3 above	9A	E
1167	Building 1 W4	10	E
1168	Building 1 F3	10	SE
1169-70	Building 1 S wall W5	11	NE
1171	Building 1 S wall	11	NE
1172	Building 1 W5	12	N
1173-4	Building 1 D1	13	NNE
1175	Building 1 S wall W5 (left) D1 (right)	14	NNW
1176	Building 1 S wall D1	14	N
1177	Building 1 S wall E end D1 (left) W6 (right)	14	NE
1178	Building 1 D1 interior	15	S
1179	Building 1 Room 1 no access S wall	15	WSW
1180	Building 1 Room 1 no access W gable	15	WSW
1181	Building 1 Room 1 no access N wall	15	NW
1182	Building 1 Room 1 wood panelling room divide	15	N
1183	Building 1 Room 2 N wall wood partition between rooms	18	N
1184	Building 1 Room 2 N wall W2 (left)	16	N
1185-6	Building 1 Room 2 W2	17	N
1187	Building 1 Room 2 E wall fireplace F2	18	E
1188-9	Building 1 Room 2 floor and roof above F2	18	E
1190	Building 1 W7	18A	E
1191	Building 1 Room 2 W7 (left) E wall fireplace F2	18	E
1192-4	Building 1 Room 2 floor and roof above F2	18	E
1195	Building 1 F2	19	E
1196	Building 1 chimney above F2	19	E
1197	Building 1	18	E
1198-99	Building 1	19	E
1200-01	Building 1 wallpaper on wood panelling above F2	20	E
1202-3	Building 1 F2 details	20	E
1204	Building 1 S wall W6	21	SSE
1205	Building 1 W6 (left) D1 (right)	21	S
1206	Building 1 W6 (left) D1 (right)	16	S
1207	Building 1 wood panelling between rooms 1 and 2	20	W
1208	Building 1 W6 (left) D1 (right)	18	S
1209	Building 1 roof above	18	S
1210	Building 2 E wall	22	W
1211, 14	Building 1 S wall	22	NW
1212-3	Building 1 W6	23	N
1215	Building 1 E gable (right)	24	W
1216-19	Building 1 E gable with chimney F4 above	25	W

1220-21	Building 1 hole in brick infill behind fireplace F2	26A	W
1222-23	Building 1 W7	26	W
1224	Building 1 from the NE	27	SW
1225-6	Building 2 N gable	9A	S
1227	Building 2 from NW	29	SE
1228	Building 2 W wall N end with Building 1 (left) with blocked window W12 with F5 underneath (left) and W10 (right)	30	ENE
1229	Building 2 W wall N end blocked window W12 with F5 underneath (left) and W10 (right)	30	E
1230	Building 2 F5	31	E
1231-32	Building 2 W10	32	E
1233	Building 2 W wall N end	33	NE
1234-36	Building 2 D5 with brick infill and infill above to left	33	E
1237	Building 2 W wall N end	33A	NE
1238-39	Building 2 W wall	34	ENE
1240	Building 2 W wall	34	NE
1243	Building 2 from SW	35	NE
1244-45	Building 2 S gable	36	N
1246-7	Building 2 S gable W end	37	N
1248	Building 2 S gable E end	38	N
1249-50	Building 1 S wall	39	N
1251	Building 2 from SE	39	NE
1252	Building 2 E wall W8, D2	40	W
1253	Building 2 W8	41	W
1254-5	Building 2 W8	41	W
1256-9	Building 2 D2	42	W
1260	Building 2 D2 interior	43	E
1261	Building 2 Room 2 E wall	44	E
1262	Building 2 W8	46	E
1263	Building 2 S wall	43	S
1264-65	Building 2 S wall	44	S
1266	Building 2 S wall clay wall plaster	45	S
1267-71	Building 2 clay wall plaster details		
1272	Building 2 W wall	44	W
1273	Building 2 W11	46	W
1274	Building 2 D5 (right)	47	W
1275	Building 2 D5 (left)	47	WNW
1276	Building 2 D5	48	W
1277	Building 2 Room 2	44	N
1278-79	Building 2	43	N
1280-81	Building 2	43	S
1282	Building 2 E wall	49	SW
1283	Building 2 D2 (left) D3 (right)	49	W
1284	Building 2 D3, W9, D4	49	NW
1285-6	Building 2 D3	50	W
1287	Building 2 pantile roof above D3	51	W

1288	Building 2 D3 interior	52	E
1289	Building 2 D3 and E wall	53	E
1290	Building 2 cobbles F8	53	S
1291	Building 2 Room 1 S wall	54	S
1292	Building 2 Room 1 W wall W10	54	W
1293	Building 2 W10	55	W
1294	Building 2 Room 1 W wall	56	W
1295	Building 2 pantile roof above D3	56	W
1296-97	Building 2 Room 1 N wall	53	N
1298	Building 2 F6	57	N
1299	Building 2 cobbled surface F7	58	N
1300	Building 2 F7 along E wall	59	N
1301	Building 2 D4 blocked with brick	56A	E
1302	Building 2 Room 1 E wall D4 (left) W9, D3 (right)	57	E
1303	Building 2 roof above	57	E
1304	Building 2 W9	60	E
1305-6	Building 2 D3 (left) W9, D4 (right)	61	W
1307	Building 2 (left) Building 1 (right)	11	WNW
1308	Building 2 W9	62	W
1309	Building 2 (left) Building 1 (right)	12	W
1310	Building 2 from NE	12	SW
1311	Building 2 from NE	12	SSW