

**WESTERTON
GLENBUCHAT
STRATHDON
ABERDEENSHIRE**



Standing Building Survey

Carried out June 12th 2013

by

Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2013-16

by

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- Standing Building Survey -

1. Background
 - 1.1 A standing building survey was required for a ruined croft at Westerton, Glenbuchat, Strathdon, Aberdeenshire, prior to the erection of a holiday chalet and storage building on the adjacent ground.
 - 1.2 The archaeological condition was applied in the context of planning legislation (PAN 2/2011, SPP, SHEP), which states that it is necessary for developers to arrange for archaeological work to take place prior to development, in appropriate circumstances. Planning Application Number: APP/2007/4878 and planning appeal reference: P/PPA/001/011.
 - 1.3 In consultation with Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service a Method Statement for the archaeological work was agreed. This comprises two elements:
 1. A Level 1 Standing Building Survey which includes measured floor plans, a written account of building's plan, form, function, age and development sequence in addition to a photographic survey.
 2. An archaeological watching brief during the soil strip of the footprint of the new building and the relevant section of the access road.
 - 1.4 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned to undertake the work by Andrew Keir, Architect. The Standing Building survey element of the work

was undertaken on June 12th 2013. The watching brief will be undertaken when site work commences.

2. Desk-top survey

2.1 A search was carried out in the Sites and Monuments Record, Archaeology Service, Aberdeenshire Council and in the Sites and Monuments Records of the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments in Scotland (RCAHMS) through Canmore, Canmap and Pastmap.

2.2 The 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps were consulted.

3. The Site

The site lies on the N side of the Burn of Deochry, between Corlich Hill and Tom na Gabhar some 2km NNE of Strathdon. The ruins lie on a low terrace above the burn.

Parish: Glenbuchat

NGR: NJ 3692 1448

RCAHMS No: NJ31SE 68 (Alternative name Burn of Deochry)

Aberdeenshire SMR NJ31 SE0075



Illus 1 The site, general view looking W, Building 1 in foreground

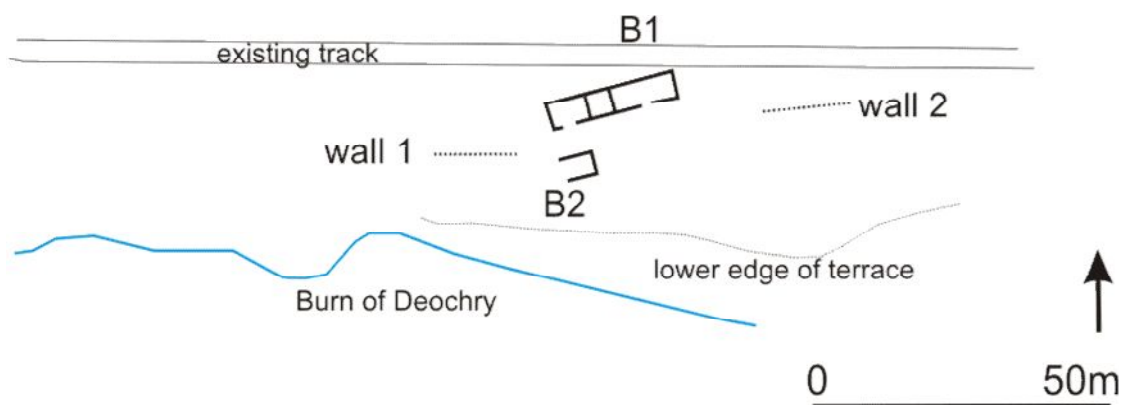
4. Documentary evidence

4.1 Roy's Military Map of 1747/55 does not indicate a settlement on the site.

4.2 The 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6"/mile map, surveyed in 1867 (published 1869. Aberdeenshire Sheet LX) shows an L shaped building with an enclosure to the N of it, lying N of the track.

4.3 By the 2nd edition 6"/mile Ordnance Survey of 1900 (published 1903. Aberdeenshire Sheet LX), a long rectangular building (Building 1 below) is shown N of a new track but slightly to the E of the earlier building. The earlier enclosure remains but is to the S of the new track. Another enclosure (possibly relating to Building 2 below) and a small L-shaped structure also lie S of the new track and directly S of the new building.

4.4 The present track lies further N, skirting the N side of the building shown in 1900 (Illus 2).



Illus 2 Plan of structures surveyed

5 Methodology

- 5.1 The ruins were plotted using a Magellan MobileMapper CX. The ground plans of Buildings 1 and 2 were drawn in detail (Illus 4).
- 5.2 The areas recorded were photographed. The full set of photographs will be supplied on CD for the archive and an annotated plan in the present report indicates the position of each (Illus 9).

6 The Buildings

6.1 Building 1

Plan Illus 4

Description

Building 1 appears to be the building shown on the OS map of 1900, lying on the N side of the c 1900 track. Building 1 must have been constructed between 1867 (the date of the 1st OS map) and 1900; however, the E part of the building (B1a) had clearly been constructed earlier than the W half (B1 b) which had been built abutting its W gable.



Illus 3 N wall of B1b abutting NW corner of wall of B1a

B1a was a simple rectangular plan with a central doorway (W: c. 0.9m) in the S long wall. B1b had two rooms. The slightly larger W room (B1b, room 2) had a doorway in the S wall (W: c. 1.10m) but the doorway of the E room was unclear due to rubble. The walls did not survive to a sufficient height for windows or fireplaces/chimneys to remain.

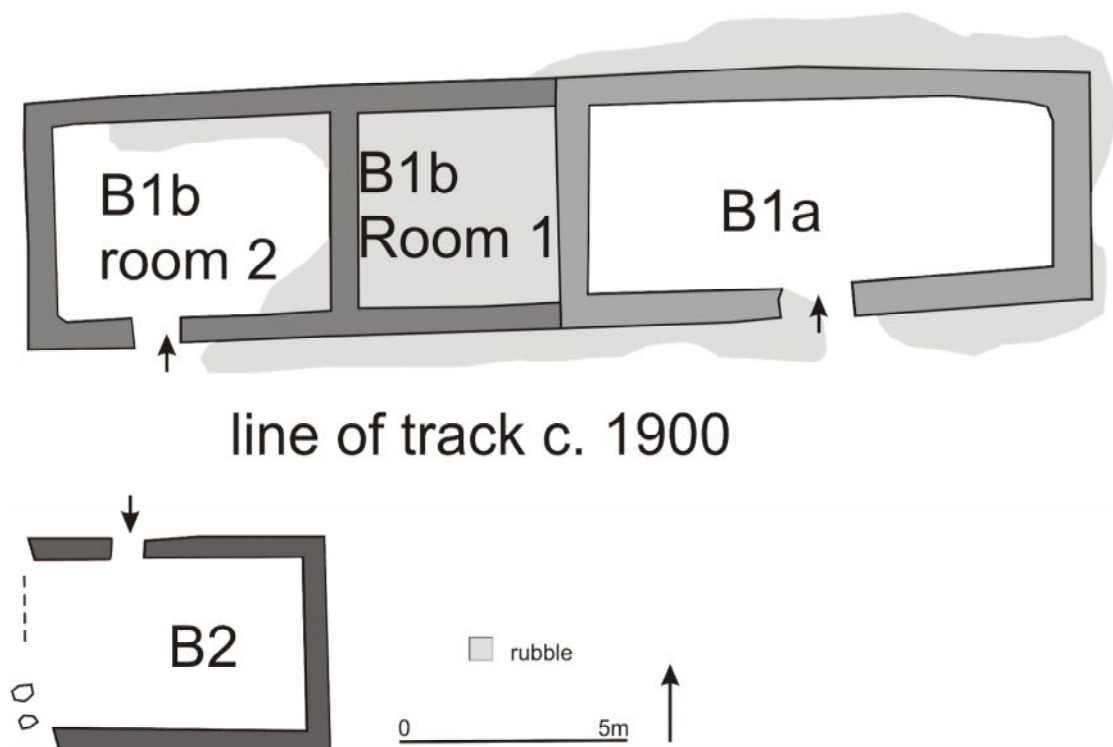
Walls The walls were of locally sourced rubble stone, with better stone used in the earlier E part of the building. W: c. 600mm. The wall survived in places to a maximum of 1.20m in height.

Dimensions

Overall: N-S: 23m and E-W: < 5.45m externally

B1a 11.45 x 4.66m externally

B1b 11.9 x 5.45m externally



Illus 4 Plan of Buildings 1 and 2



Illus 5 Building 1 looking E

6.2 Building 2

Plan Illus 4

Description

Building 2 lay to the S of the c.1900 track but is not shown as a building on the 1900 OS map. It appears to have been constructed in the angle of the walls of an enclosure shown at this point on the 1900 OS map and must therefore post-date 1900 (Illus 6). RCAHMS (visited 1998) described this as a triangular enclosure but the present survey indicates a rectilinear form, possibly with an open W end, or possibly rubble along the W end may indicate a wall line. There appeared to be a narrow opening (W: c. 0.70m) in the N wall.



Illus 6 Detail of 1900 OS map. Arrow indicates position of Building B2 (www.nls.ac.uk)

Walls

Rubble stone (W: c. 0.50m) surviving to 4 courses.

Dimensions

E-W: 6.5m x N-S: 4.5m



Illus 7 Building 2 looking E

6.3 Wall 1. N wall of earlier enclosure

Plan Illus 2

Description

Some 20m of an E-W wall lying W of the surviving ruins appears likely to be the N wall of the enclosure shown on the 1867 OS map. It survives to 4 courses and c. 0.80m in height, revetting the S side of the higher ground to the N.



Illus 8 Wall 1, looking W from B2

6.4 Wall 2

Description

A single line of stones running roughly E-W to the E of Building 1 may mark the edge of the track in its c. 1900 alignment.

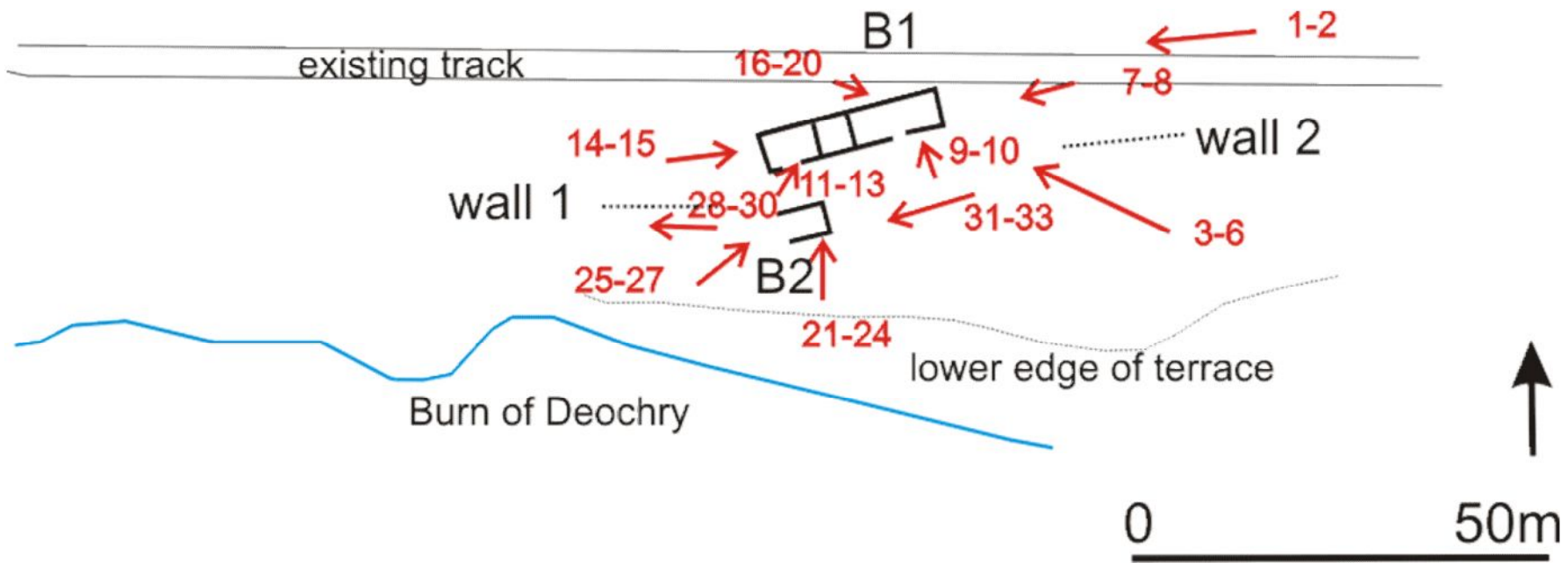
8 Archive

A full set of photographs with the photo location plan will be supplied on CD to the Aberdeenshire SMR in Aberdeen and to the NMRS.

Appendix 1: Photographic archive

The positions of all photographs are indicated on Illus 9.

Frame no	Content
01-02	B1 general view looking W
03-06	B1a looking NW
07-08	B1 E gable looking W along building
09-10	B1a doorway in S wall
11-13	B1b door into room 2, looking N
14-15	B1 general view from W gable looking E
16-20	B1b abutting B1a, looking E
21-24	B2 looking E
25-27	B1 and B2 looking NE
28-30	Wall 1 from B2, looking W
31-33	Wall 1, looking W
34-35	General views looking E



Illus 9 Key to photographs