

**MOSSTOWN BRAES  
LOGIE COLDSTONE  
ABERDEENSHIRE**



**Standing Building Survey**

Carried out 21<sup>st</sup> February 2015

by

**Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**



**Report No: MAS 2015-13**

by

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**MOSSTOWN BRAES  
LOGIE COLDSTONE  
ABERDEENSHIRE**

**- Standing Building Survey -**

1. Background
  - 1.1 A standing building survey was required for a derelict dwelling house at Mosstown Braes Logie Coldstone, Aberdeenshire, prior to its demolition (note Mosstown Braes is name on planning application. OS map uses Mosstown). A steading to the N, although part of the original property was not part of the planning application.
  - 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/2013/3464
  - 1.3 A Level 1 Standing Building Survey was required which includes measured plans and elevations, a written account of the building's plan, form, function, age and development sequence in addition to a photographic survey of the interior and exterior of the building.
  - 1.4 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned to undertake the work by Gerry Robb Architectural Design Services for Findrack (Investment) Ltd. The site element of the survey was completed on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2015.
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 and Pastmap.

- 2.2 The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps were consulted.
- 2.3 Plans and elevations prepared by Gerry Robb Architectural Design Services have been annotated as necessary.



**Illus 1 Location plan Crown copyright © (2010). All rights reserved. License number (100049810)**

### 3. The Site

- 3.1 The site lies on a private farm road c 1.5km WNW of Logie Coldstone. It is situated on a small ridge at around 190m OD on the lower slopes of Morven.

Parish: Logie Coldstone

NGR NJ 4229 0475

(GPS reading outside centre of building: 342280, 804752)

NMRS No: NJ40SW 39 (NJ4225 0476: named as Mosstown)

Aberdeenshire SMR: NJ40SW0105

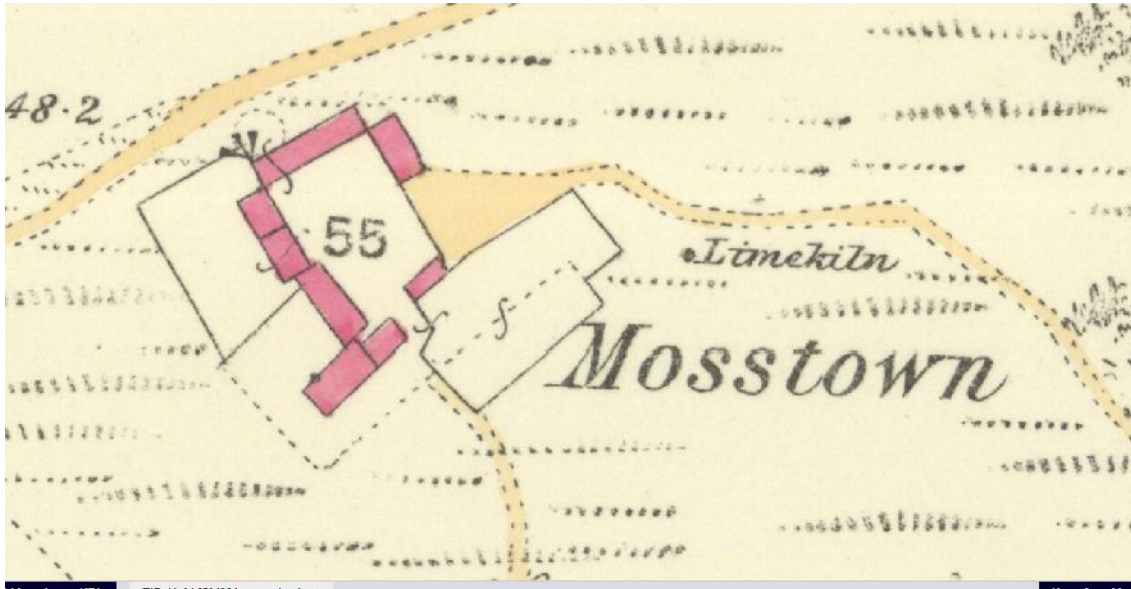


**Illus 2 The buildings looking W. The steading lies to the LHS of track, the house to the RHS**

#### 4. Documentary evidence

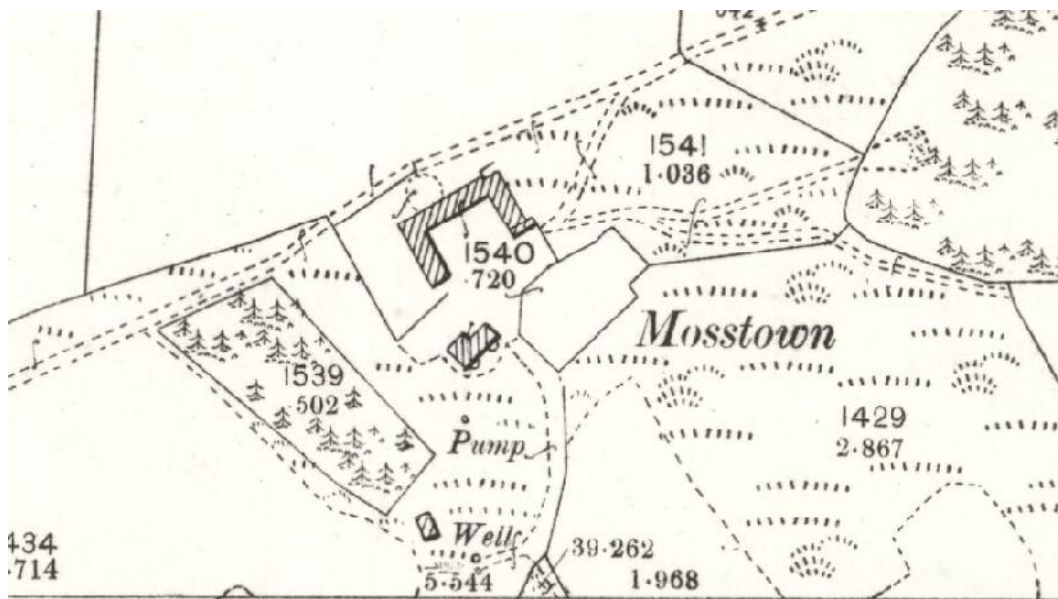
4.1 **Aberdeen Sheet lxxxi.13 (Glenmuick, Tullich and Glengairn) 1868 (pub 1870)** shows a group of eight buildings around a rectangular yard open to a track to the E and with a walled garden area to the SE of the yard. The four northern buildings set in a U-plan are on the footprint of the U-shaped steading shown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> OS map although in 1868 they were not joined up. A further building extended on the S side of the yard and was at right angles to two buildings, the westernmost of which is on the footprint of the present structure. These may have been the original dwelling.





Illus 3 Detail of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 25" map, surveyed in 1868 (published 1870) Sheet lxxxi.13 (Glenmuick, Tullich and Glengairn) [www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk)

4.2 By the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 25"/mile Ordnance Survey of 1900 (published 1902. Aberdeenshire Sheet 070.14) the plan has been simplified with the steading a classic U-plan and the dwelling, now with its outshot, separated from the farm buildings.



Illus 4 Detail of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 25"/mile Ordnance Survey of 1900 (published 1902. Aberdeenshire Sheet 070.14 (includes Logie-Coldstone) [www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk)

## 5 Methodology

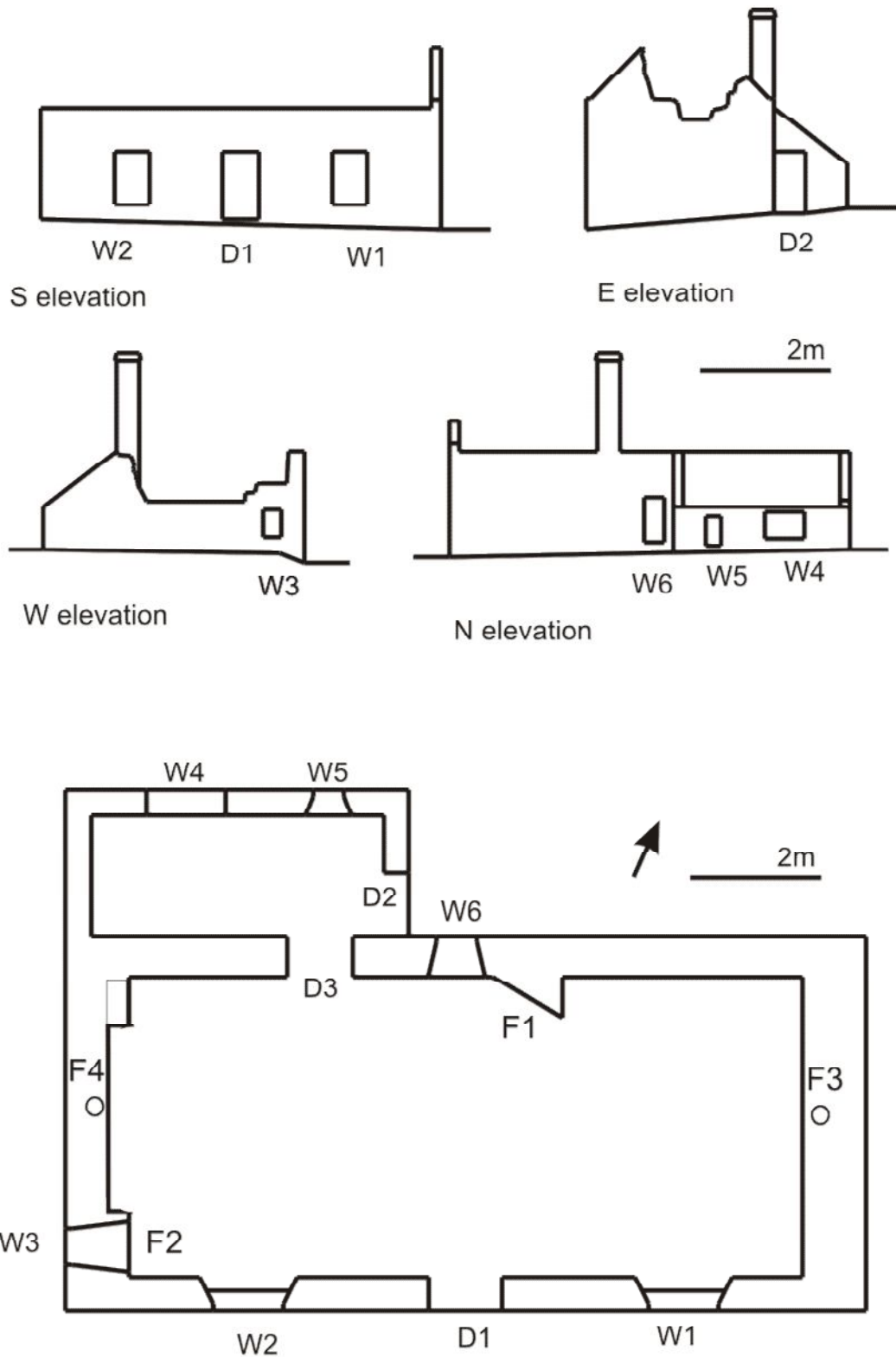
- 5.1 The ground plan and elevations (Illus 6) have been annotated to show details which may help in understanding the development and history of the building.
- 5.2 The areas recorded were photographed. The full set of photographs will be supplied for the archive and an annotated plan in the present report (Illus 21) indicates the position of each.

## 6 The Buildings

The house comprises a main building with a small outshot on the W end of the N wall. Both building were roofless at the time of survey, with both gables of the main building substantially tumbled within the building, obscuring some internal detail. All surviving timber was charred and the structures had clearly been destroyed by fire.



**Illus 5 Building. E elevation.**



Illus 6 Plan and elevations annotated from plan courtesy of Gerry Robb Architectural Design Services

## 6.1 MAIN BUILDING

Dimensions 12.3m E/W 5.75m N/S externally. With outshot to W end of N wall 5.28m E/W x 2.23m N/S.

Originally 1 ½ storeys but roof and gables missing; loft floor indicated by joist holes above lintel level in N and S walls.

Present/recent use Derelict

Original use Domestic dwelling

Walls Rough-faced squared fieldstone in good horizontal courses. Dressed pink/grey granite rybats. N and S walls: 530mm thick. Gables c 970mm thick but the inner face of the W gable appeared to have additional c 300mm thickness on inside at either end. The side and back walls had thick external concrete render.

Roof Missing but scar of cement at E gable suggests slate although the only fallen slate observed was in the outshot.



**Illus 7 Chimney F1 abutting inside of N wall.**

### Chimneys

Chimneys had existed at the centre of each gable. Although none of the upper gable survived, ceramic chimney lining pipes (F3, F4) were in situ in both gable walls and blocked fireplaces were just visible behind the rubble.



A third chimney in the centre of the N wall (F1) was a secondary insertion against the inner face of the N wall. It was square and built of pink granite with an angled table.

### Doors and windows

#### *S wall*

W1 H: 1.63m W: 1.08m Lintel, sill and rybats of dressed pink/grey granite. Sides have rebate 80mm deep at 120mm from outer face of window surround. Interior splayed to 1.45m width.

D1 H: 2.10m+ (build up of soil) W: 1.12m Lintel, sill and rybats of dressed pink/grey granite.

W2 H: 1.64m W: 1.07m As W1.



**Illus 8 Door D1**



**Illus 9 Window W1 exterior**



**Illus 10 Window W1 interior**

*W wall*

The centre of the W wall appeared rougher as if it had been rebuilt but traces of the cement render that was elsewhere on the wall suggest this appearance was due to the fire.

W3 Opening blocked with pink granite. H: 0.84m. W: 0.56m. Rybats and lintel of field stone.



**Illus 11 W wall**





**Illus 12 W wall detail of W3**

*N wall*

W6 H:1.38m W: 1.61m. Dressed pink granite lintel and sill. Splays internally.

*E wall*

No features



**Illus 13 Interior of E end of building. Arrow to fireplace**



### *Interior*

The interior was full of rubble but some features were partially visible.

D2 Door into outshot. W: 1.05m. No surviving lintel.

E gable: the lintel of a fireplace could be seen in the centre of the E gable wall, corresponding to the position of the flue lining within the wall (Illus 13). The fireplace was obscured by rubble.

W gable: The top of a brick blocking of a fireplace could be seen behind rubble in the centre of the W gable, corresponding to the position of the flue lining within the wall.

To the N of the fireplace the wall was c300mm thicker (Illus 14: a), this was possibly a secondary inner feature but it was too obscured by rubble to interpret further.

To the S of the fireplace, there was a similar and clearly secondary additional 300mm thickness to the inner face of the wall, which formed an arch (Illus 14: F2, Illus 15) across the blocked window opening W3. This may have been a cupboard utilising the earlier window space.



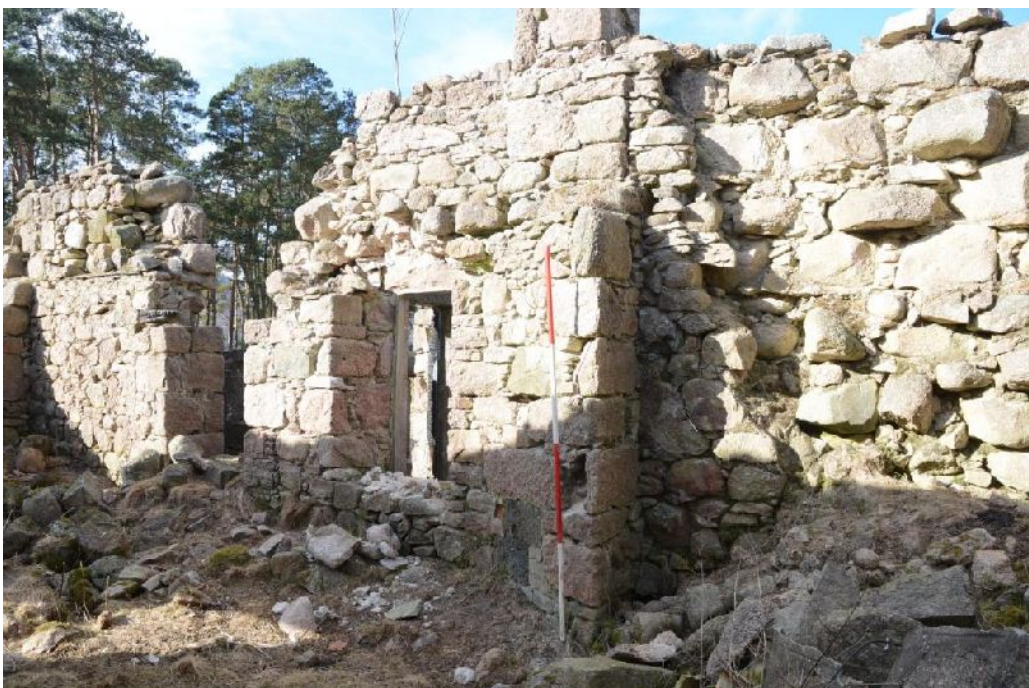
**Illus 14 Interior of W end of building**





**Illus 15** Detail of F2 at W end of building. Note the slightly smaller blocking of W3 partly hidden by F2.

F1 The secondary chimney F1 had been built at an odd angle (1.47m x 0.62m) abutting the inner face of the centre of the N wall. The fireplace using this chimney was in the W facing side of this triangle and was 0.60m wide and 0.41m from the E edge. It was blocked with cement blocks and brick and had a granite lintel (Illus 7, 16, 17)



**Illus 16** Interior of N wall, chimney F1





**Illus 17** Detail of blocked fireplace at base of F1

OUTSHOT

Dimensions 5.28m E/W x 2.23m N/S.

Present/recent use Derelict

Original use Possibly toilet



**Illus 18** Outshot looking S

Roof Missing. Lean-to roof. Had been slate. Slates in rubble and in concrete at gable.

Walls As main building.

*N wall*

W4 H: 0.80m W: 1.22m Cement lintel and sill. Plastic water pipe goes out through wall below window.

W5 H: 0.92m W: 0.46m. Dressed granite lintel, sill and rybats.

*E wall*

D2 H: 1.70m W: 0.93m

*Interior*

Plastered internally. Vertical raggle 150mm wide in N wall plaster at 1.70m from inside of E wall indicates this had been partitioned into two rooms.



**Illus 19** Outshot looking W. D3 on LHS. Raggle of partition on RHS

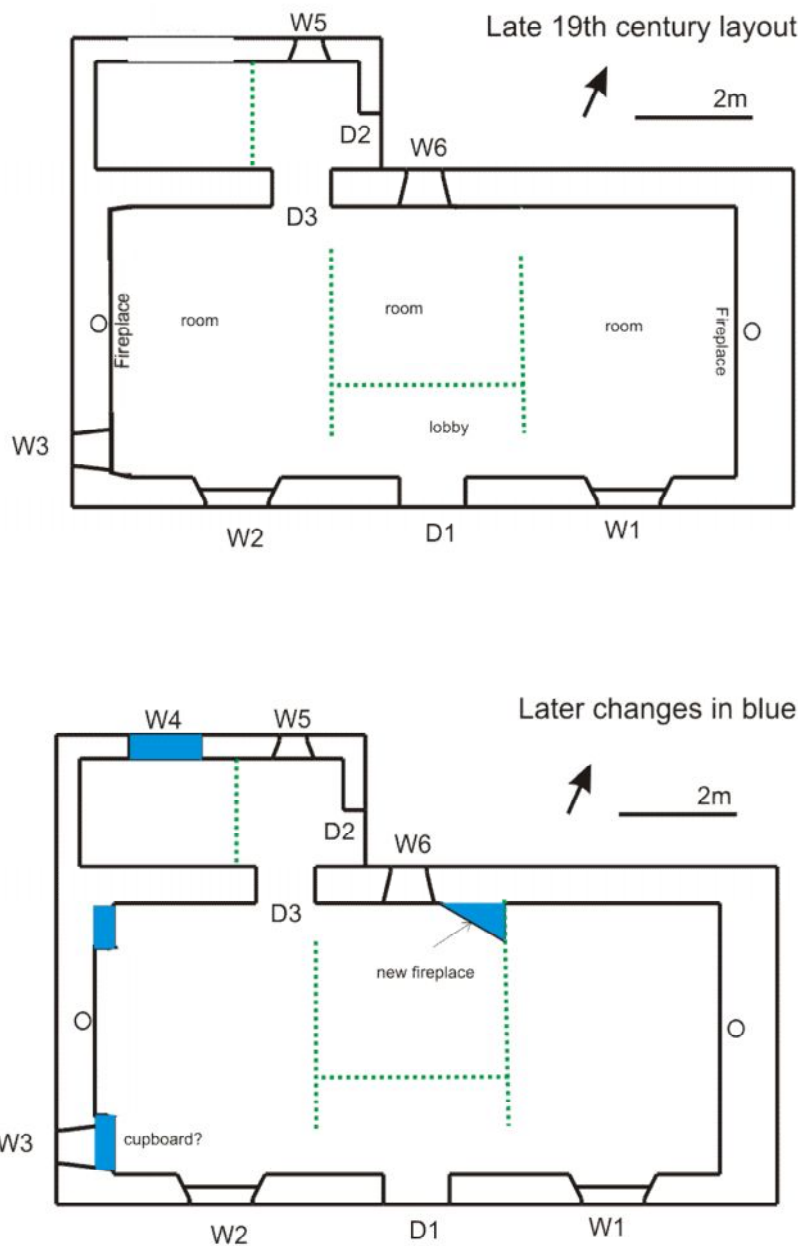
## 7 Discussion

The buildings shown in the 1868 OS give the impression of the fairly organic growth of a pre-Improvement cluster. By the 1900 map the dwelling and steading



are separate and although both appear to be on the footprint of the earlier buildings, there is a probability that there had been extensive re-building or replacement in the period between 1868 and 1900.

The large windows and door in the front E facade of the house and the use of dressed granite looks more likely to date from such a re-building in the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, than to be an earlier structure. They are unusually large for a building of this size.



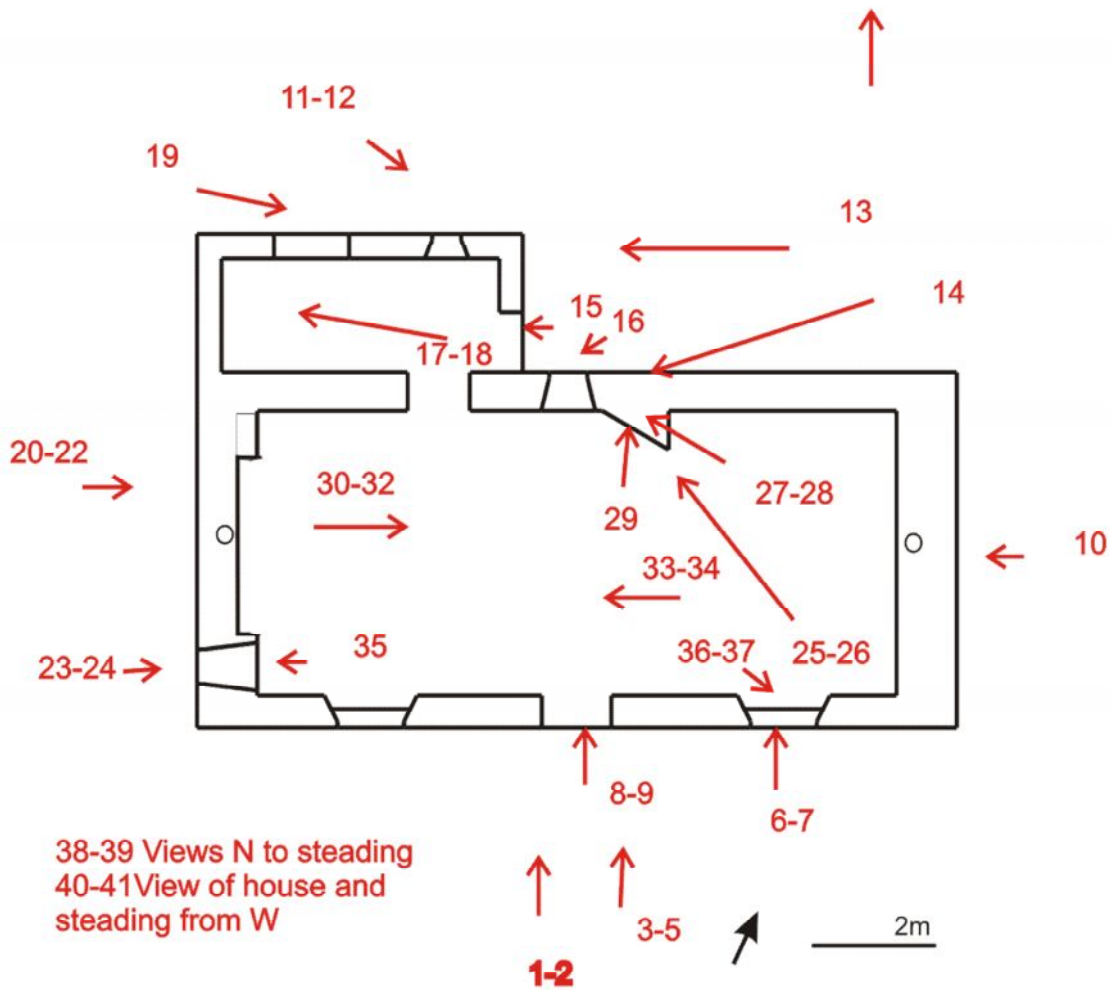
Illus 20 Suggested interpretation of original layout and later changes. Green lines suggest room layout.



The internal changes, especially in regard to the chimneys, suggest that at some point the building had been modified, possibly simply adding heat to the back room, or possibly opening the interior for non-domestic use. The outshot appears to have been a toilet/dry toilet; certainly there was a late water pipe outflow below W4. The suggested original layout is shown in Illus 20.

## 8 Archive

A full set of photographs with the photo location plan (Illus 21) will be supplied to the Aberdeenshire SMR in Aberdeen and to the NMRS.



Illus 21 Key to photographs