

MONYMUSK HOME FARM
MONYMUSK
ABERDEENSHIRE



Standing Building Survey

Carried out 4th March 2016

by

Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2016-10

by

H K Murray and J C Murray

H K Murray BA, PhD, MCifA, FSA Scot

J C Murray BA, MCifA, FSA Scot, FMA

Hill of Belnagoak, Methlick, Ellon, Aberdeenshire AB41 7JN

Telephone: (01651) 806394 e-mail: cmurray@btinternet.com

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- Standing Building Survey -

1. Background
 - 1.1 A standing building survey was required for part of the steading, No. 1 and No. 2 Home Farm, Monymusk , Inverurie, Aberdeenshire which is the subject of a planning application for alterations to a dwelling house and reinstatement of a derelict dwelling house .
 - 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 Numbers: APP/2015/3498 and APP/2015/3499.
 - 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 Morris Tait Architectural Design, on behalf of his client Monymusk Land Company. The site element of the survey was completed on the 4th March 2016.
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, now HES) through Canmore and Pastmap.

- 2.2 The 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps were consulted.
- 2.3 Plans and elevations were supplied by Morris Tait Architectural Design and annotated by MAS Ltd.



Illus 1 Detail of OS map. Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright (2002) All rights reserved. Licence number (100049810). Site indicated by red circle.

3. The Site

- 3.1 The Monymusk Home Farm lies to the SE of the House of Monymusk and N of the B993 between Kemnay and Monymusk.

Parish: Monymusk NGR: NJ 69092 15306

GPS in front of Nos 1 and 2 Home Farm: 369016, 815286

Aberdeenshire SMR: NJ61NE0037 RCAHMS: NJ61NE 5.2

Listed Building (Category B): LB15968



Illus 2 General view looking E along front of Home Farm range. Stable at RHS

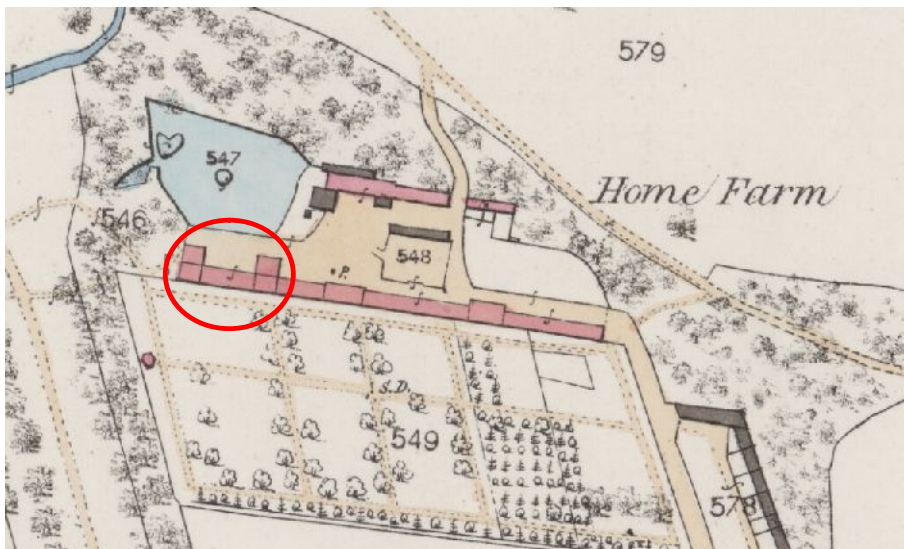
3.2 Background

The buildings form part of the W end of a long range of buildings. The E end of the range, which is dated c1720-50, comprises a single-storey range between two 2-storey blocks. The W range, which abuts the E range, is dated to c1830, and comprises a 2-storey range with a central pediment, flanked by 2-storied blocks, the one to the W being the stables (Historic Scotland listing).

Originally the building comprised two coach sheds with coachman's accommodation on either side. The stables were in the W wing. From c1920, the coach sheds were used as garages. In the 1950s the ground floor of the E accommodation (No 2) was converted to an agricultural shed and a large new doorway opened in the front wall. No 2 burnt down in a fire c1995 and at the time of the survey was a shell. The W accommodation (No 1) has been in use as a dwelling until recently and had been extended over the W coach house in the 1970s (M Tait, 2015, *Simplified design statement for existing building*).

4. Documentary evidence

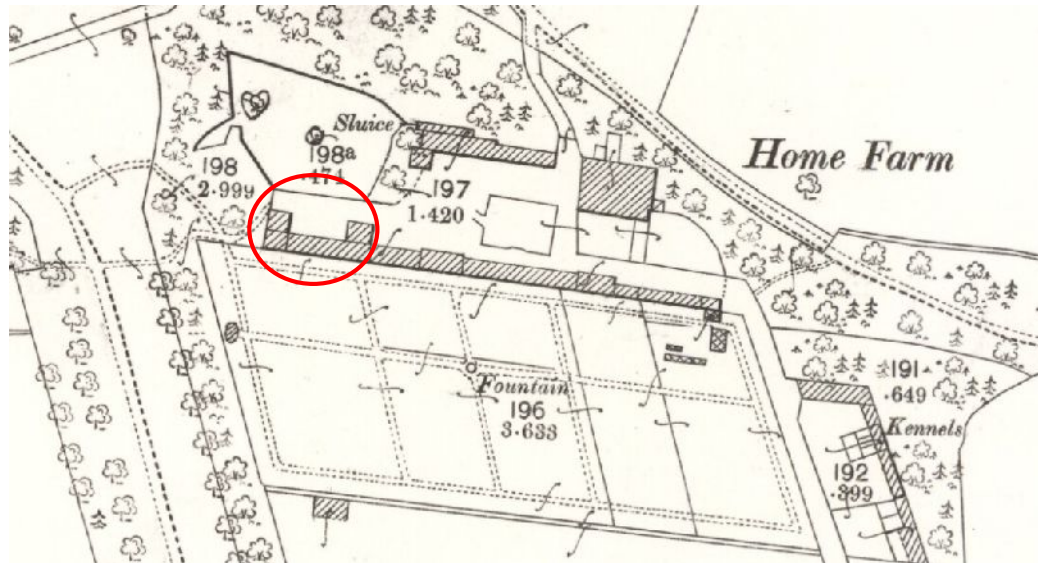
4.1 **Aberdeen Sheet LXIV.5 of 1864 (published 1869)** shows the buildings on their present footprint.



Illus 3 Detail of the 1st edition 25"/>" data-bbox="117 797 842 828"/>

4.2 The 2nd edition 25"/mile Ordnance Survey of 1899 (published 1900).

Aberdeenshire Sheet 064.05 shows no change.



Illus 4 Detail of the 2nd edition 25"/mile Ordnance Survey of 1899 (published 1900). Aberdeenshire Sheet 064.05 www.nls.ac.uk

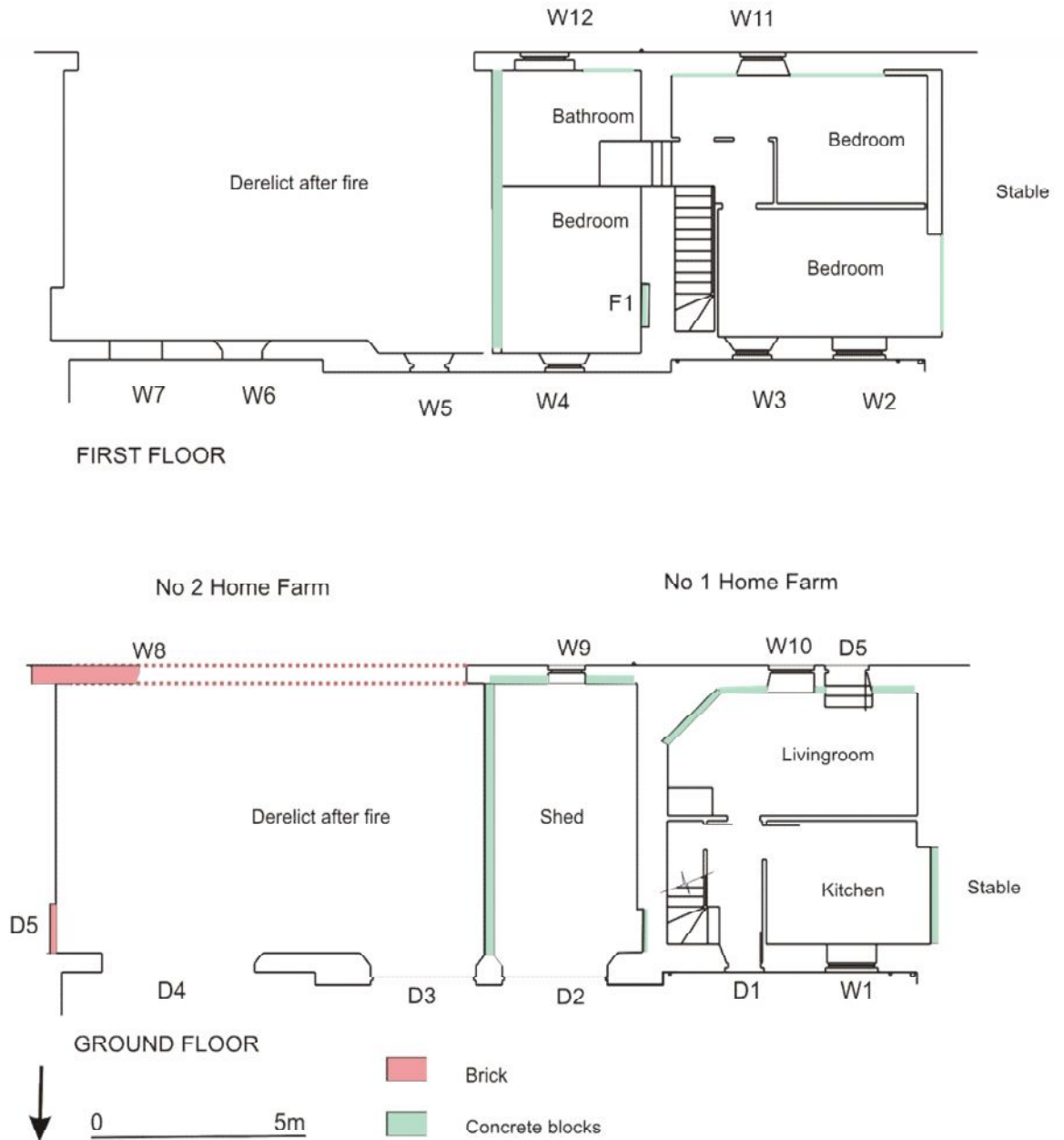
5 Methodology

- 5.1 The ground plan (Illus 6) and elevations (Illus 11) 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 annotated plans in the present report (Illus 16) indicate the position of each.



Illus 5 Front of building

6 The Buildings



Illus 6 Plans courtesy of Morris Tait Architectural Design and annotated by MAS Ltd.

Orientation E/W, facing N

Dimensions 20m x 7m externally

Present/recent use Derelict. No 1 was recently a dwelling. No 2 burnt out.

Original use Coach house with accommodation for coachman, later garage. Then agricultural shed and accommodation units.

Walls The front (N) wall is of rustic dressed granite blocks with stacks of small pinnings; this is true of the frontage of the whole mid-19th century W range but not of the earlier E range. The facade has a central pediment over the coach house door arches and projects 300mm in front of the main wall line.



Illus 7 Detail of front (N) wall



Illus 8 Back (S) wall of Stable (LHS) and No 1 (RHS)

The back (S) wall of No 1 appears to have been considerably rebuilt using salvaged stone. The rectangular blocks are of more varied stone and appear less regular than the wall of adjoining stable (Illus 8). The demolished S wall of No 2, of which only the base remains, appears to have been all or largely, built of (old) brick. This extends further E and appears to have been an earlier repair (Illus 9). As a result of stabilisation after the fire in No 2, and the conversion of No 1, many internal walls are of concrete block construction (Illus 6).



Illus 9 Back (S) wall of range adjoining No 2, showing brick infill

Roof Slate with ceramic ridge. Slates graded- smaller at ridge, larger below.
Chimney At E end of No1; any matching chimney for No 2 has been destroyed by the fire. Rectangular of granite blocks with flat table. Ceramic pots (Illus 10).



Illus 10 Chimney from S

Doors and windows

N (front) wall

D1 W: 0.92m H: 2.7m. Granite lintel and rybats. Wooden door with 3 pane fanlight above.

D2, D3 (Coach doors) W: 2.45m H: 2.7m to base of arch. Granite rybats. Wooden doors.

D4 W: 3.54m H:2.72m. This is a break-through to form a cart entrance with a steel beam as a lintel. The sides of the opening appear to be the outer sides of a door and window mirroring D1 and W1.

W1 W: 1.23m H:1.84m. Sash window 6/6 panes. Granite lintel and rybats.

W2 W: 1.22m H: 1.10m. Swivel. 12 pane. Granite lintel and rybats.

W3 W: 1.12m H: 1.00m Swivel. 9 pane. Granite lintel and rybats.

W4 W: 0.90m H: 1.55m Sash 6/6 Granite lintel and rybats.

W5 Granite lintel and rybats. Not measured. Appears same as W4

W6 Granite lintel and rybats. Not measured.

W7 Granite lintel and rybats. Not measured.

S (back) wall

D5 W: 1.02m H: 2m. Granite lintel and rybats. Modern door

W8 E side of probable window in destroyed part of S wall of No 2

W9 W: 0.90m H: 0.61m 3 pane fixed window. Granite lintel and rybats.

W10 W: 1.01m H: 1.61m Sash 6/6 Granite lintel and rybats.

W11 W: 1.17m H: 1.10m Granite lintel and rybats.

W12 W: 1.04m H: 0.72m Swivel 6 pane. Granite lintel and
rybat



Illus 11 Elevations. courtesy of Morris Tait Architectural Design and annotated by MAS Ltd.

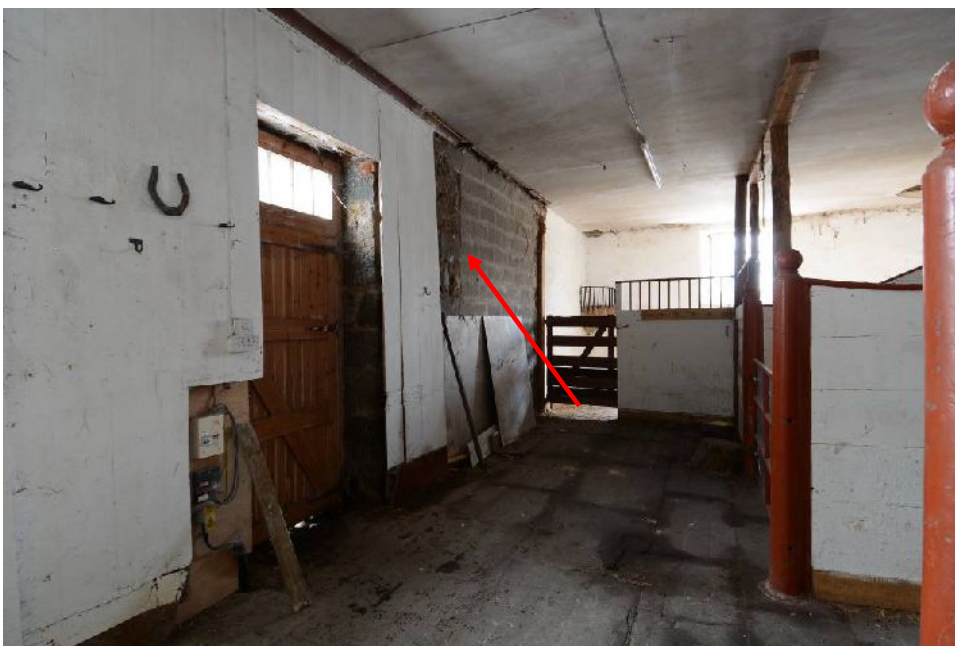
Interior

The interior of No 1 had been completely restructured when it was previously modernised. However as much of the internal wall lining had been removed, a few features of interest were visible.

At ground floor there was a concrete blocking between the front (N) room and the stable block; this appear originally to have been open (Illus 12, 13). Possibly there was originally more stabling at ground level with the coachman's accommodation above.



Illus 12 Concrete blocking at ground floor between No 1 kitchen and stable



Illus 13 Concrete blocking between stable and No 1

In the E bedroom at the front of the building on the first floor, there was a blocked fireplace in the E face of the W wall (Illus 14, 15).



Illus 14 Location of blocked fireplace



Illus 15 Detail of blocked fireplace

Few details survived within the coach house or in the shell of the derelict No 2.

There was a blocked entry between the W coach house and No 1. As it had a concrete lintel it is not clear if this was an original feature or of the original height. It would make sense to have had direct access to the coach house if the ground floor of No 1 had originally been part of the stable.

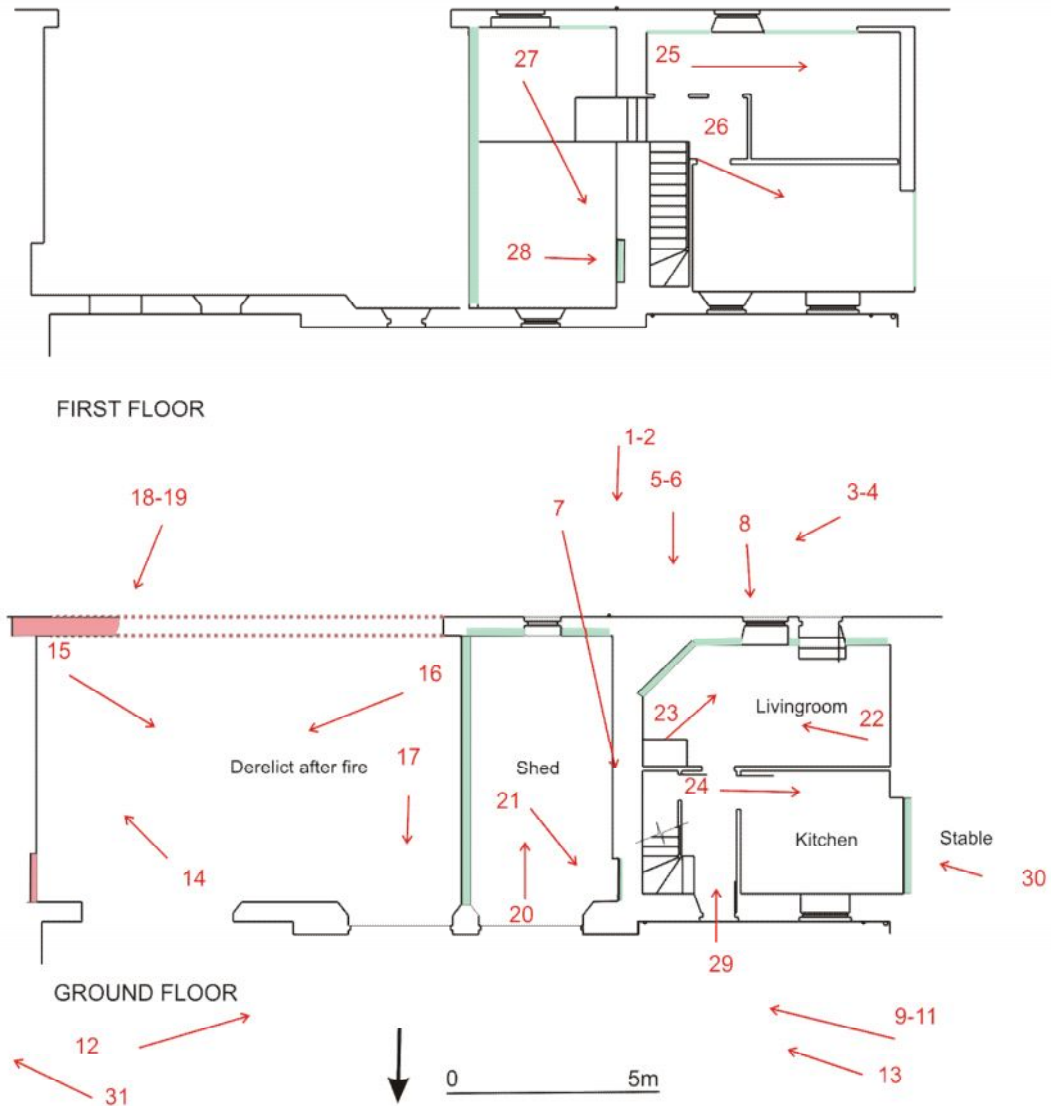
In the shell of No 2, there was evidence of a blocked doorway (D5) through to the E block of this range (not part of the present project).

There was also one side of a former window in the destroyed S wall (W8).

7 Discussion

This is a nice example of mid- 19th century estate farm architecture although lacking much internal detail as a result of its continuing and changing uses and its partial destruction by fire.

8 Archive: A full set of photographs with the photo location plan (Illus 16) will be supplied to the Aberdeenshire SMR and to the HES archive.



Illus 16 Photo reference plan- plan courtesy of Morris Tait Architectural Design and annotated by MAS Ltd.