

**WEST MUIRTON
SAUCHEN
ABERDEENSHIRE**



Standing Building Survey

Carried out 22nd March 2016

by

Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2016-13

by

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- Standing Building Survey -

1. Background
 - 1.1 A standing building survey was required for a small steading at West Muirton, Sauchen, Aberdeenshire, prior to its demolition and the erection of two dwelling houses.
 - 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//2008/2797, APP/2014/3053
 - 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 Mr Andrew Smith. The site element of the survey was completed on the 22nd 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) through Canmore and Pastmap.
 - 2.2 The 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps were consulted.

2.3 Plans and elevations were supplied courtesy of Martyn Skinner Architectural Services and have been annotated by MAS Ltd..

3. The Site

3.1 The site lies on a private road to the N of the A944 Aberdeen to Alford road. It is c.1km W of Sauchen. The house stands to the SE of the steading but is not part of the present project.

Parish: Cluny NGR NJ 6849 1094

GPS in front of steading: 368488, 810938

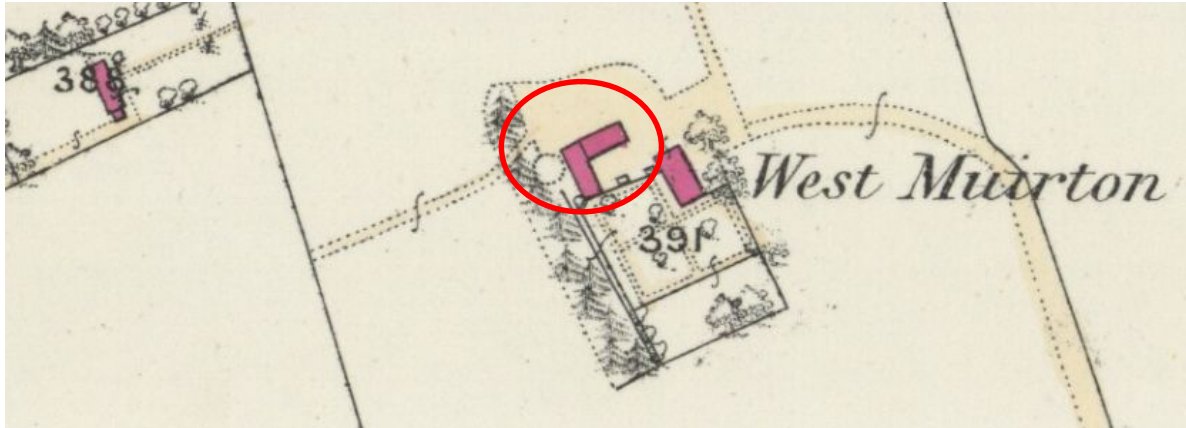
NMRS No: NJ61SE 90



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

4. Documentary evidence

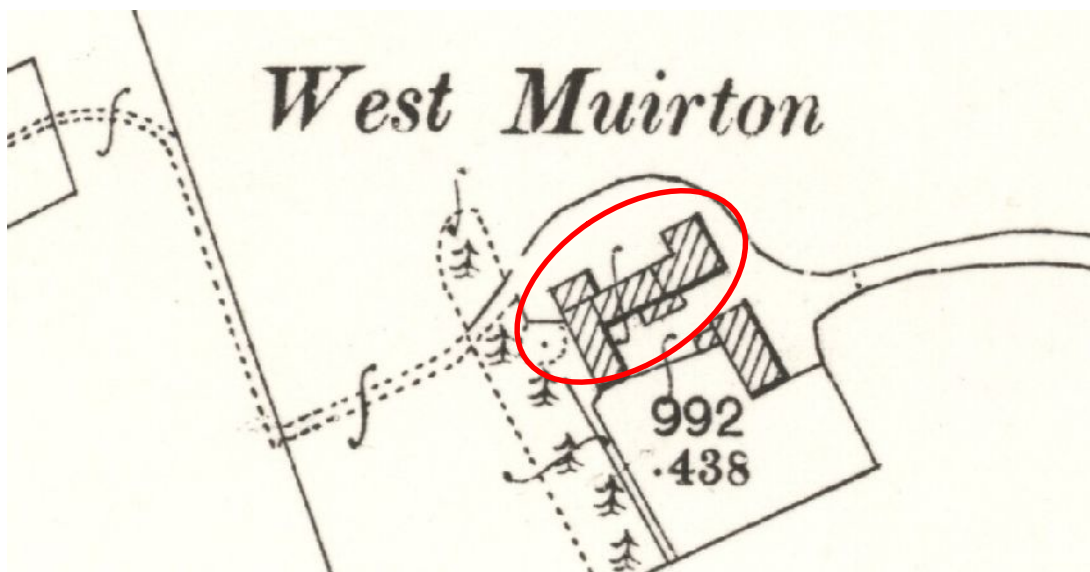
4.1 **Aberdeen Sheet LXIII.16 1865 (pub 1869)** shows a small L-shaped steading, with a horse mill beside the N end of the W wall of the W range.



Illus 2 Detail of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 25" map, surveyed in 1865 (published 1869) Aberdeen sheet LXIII.16 www.nls.ac.uk

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

Aberdeenshire Sheet 063.16) the building had been extended at the E end of the N range with a short arm of the extension on the N side. A further building abutted the W end of the N wall and a narrow building abutted the centre of the S wall of the N range. The horse mill remained in its original position.



Illus 3 Detail of the 2nd edition 25"/mile Ordnance Survey of 1899 (published 1900. Aberdeenshire Sheet 063.16) www.nls.ac.uk

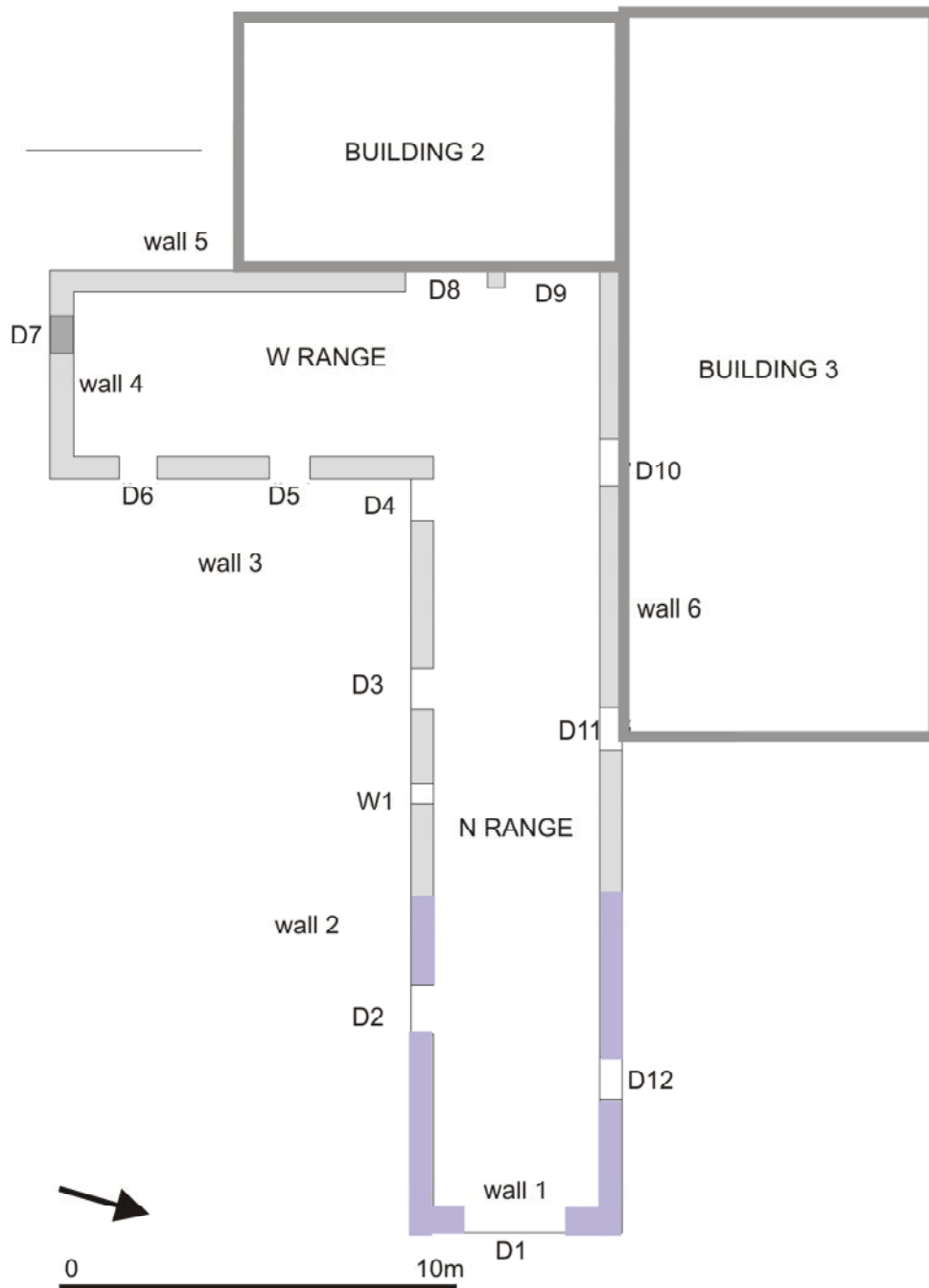
5 Methodology

- 5.1 The ground plan (illus 5) and elevations (illus 12) 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 13) indicates the position of each.

6 The Steading



Illus 4 N Range. Wall 1.



Illus 5 Plan courtesy of Martyn Skinner Architectural Services and annotated by MAS Ltd. (Lilac indicates difference in wall material)

Dimensions W range 14.4 x 5.3m externally. N range (to junction with W range) 19m x 5.3m (originally 10m long, extended to 19m)

Present/recent use Derelict,

Original use Livestock

Walls The W range and the W end of the N range had rubble stone walls with buff, light grey and pink stone. The E end of N range was of large squared blocks of dark grey speckled granite.

Roof Corresponding with the difference in wall structure, the W range and the W end of the N range were roofed with smaller blue-grey slate with tin ridging. The E end of the N range had larger paler grey slates and a tiled ridge. The S end of the W range was hipped.



Illus 6 N Range. . Wall 2. The ranging rod indicates the difference between the roof and wall materials of the E and W ends of the structure (marked by arrow)

Doors and windows

Wall 1

D1 W: 2.6 m H: 2.85m Gable opening widened and raised. Wooden replacement lintel. Concrete block sides. Collapsing.



Illus 7 Wall 2. D2. Note dark grey lintel and stonework

Wall 2

D2 W: 1.23m H: 1.70m (Ground externally raised). Dark grey granite lintel

D3 W: 1.06m H: 2.05m Buff granite sill and roughly cut rybats. No surviving lintel

D4 W: 1.10m H: 1.75m Buff rybats to E. Stone sill. Wooden lintel. W side is wall of W range.

W1 W: 0.54m H: 0.80m Buff granite sill and rybats. Wooden lintel



Illus 8 Wall 2. D3. Note buff coloured stonework

Wall 3

D5 W: 1.04m H: 2.00m (projects slightly into roof). Height possibly indicates used for horses. Stone step. Buff granite rybats. Wooden lintel.

D6 W: 0.96m H: 1.70m Stone step. Buff granite rybats

Wall 4

D7 W: 0.95m H: 1.62m (partly obscured by earth build-up. Blocked doorway. Stone blocking. Wooden lintel. Buff granite rybats

Wall 5

D8 W: 2.04m H: 2.00m

D9 W: 3.30m H: 2.00m

D8 & D9 are modern break-throughs with concrete lintels, concrete sides and a concrete pillar between them. They have since been blocked with corrugated iron.

Wall 6

D10 W: 1.20m H: collapsed. Concrete blocked & blocked by Building 3.

D11 W: 1.10m H: 2.10m Stone lintel, buff granite rybats. Wooden door.

D12 W: 1.07 m H: 2.10m but lower part blocked to form window 1.50m high. Blocking of concrete blocks. Dark grey granite rybats. Wooden lintel.

Interior With the exception of a wooden hay hake along the inside of the W wall of the W range, the interior of the building retained no original features.



Illus 9 Interior of N range



Illus 10 Building 2 abutting W range of steading

Building 2

6.28m x 9.6m.

Concrete block walls, abutting N wall of N range of steading. Corrugated iron across openings D8 and D9. Roof missing but debris indicates that it was corrugated asbestos.

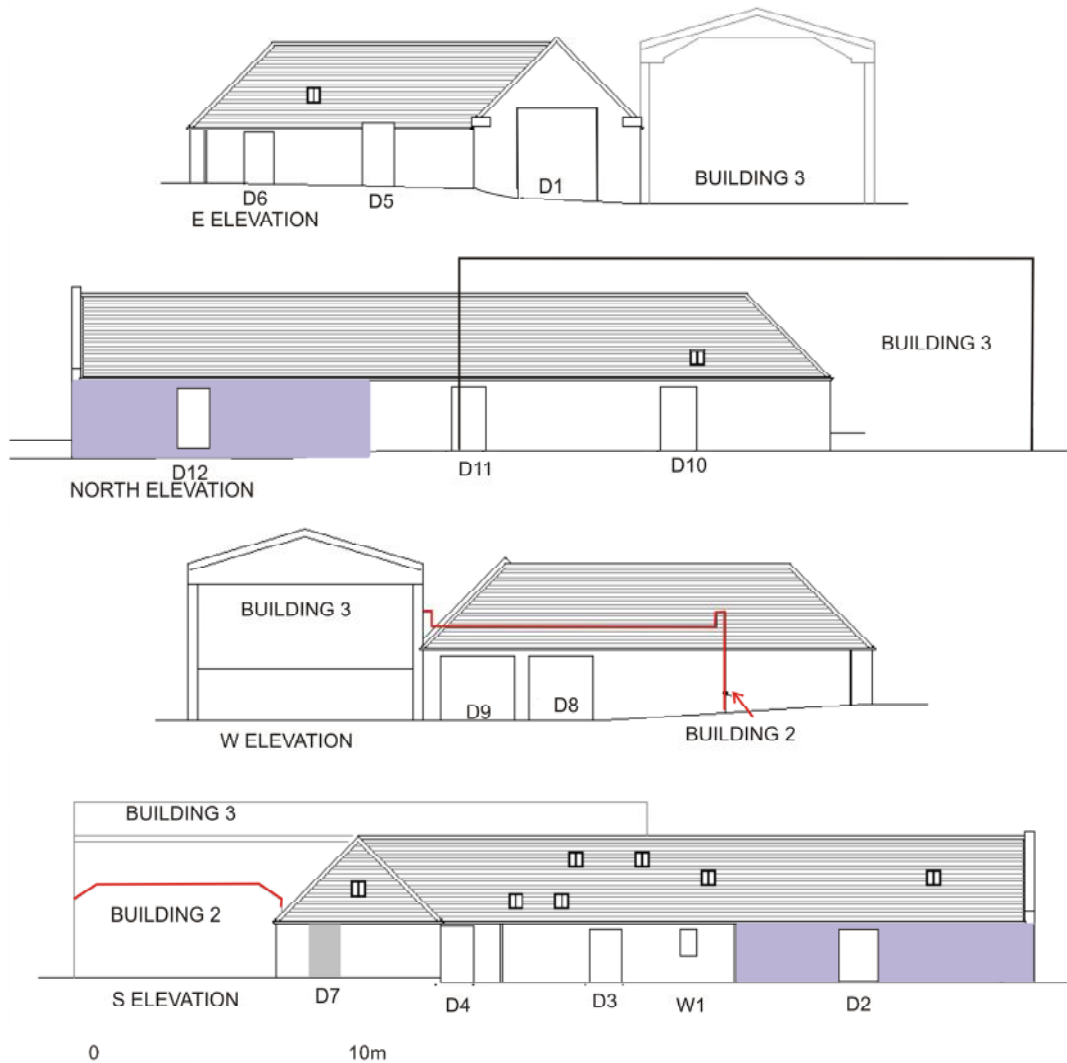


Illus 11 Building 3 abutting N wall of N range

Building 3

7.8m x 18.25m

Steel frame barn. Walls tin over concrete. Roof corrugated asbestos.



Illus 12 Elevations courtesy of Martyn Skinner Architectural Services and annotated by MAS Ltd. (Lilac indicates difference in wall material)

7 Discussion

The W end of the N range and the W range, which have buff/light grey rubble stone and buff stone rybats, can be identified as the earliest part of the steading, as shown on the 1865 OS map (illus 2). Unfortunately, any blockings which might have indicated the position of the former horse mill would have been cut away by doors D8 and D9.

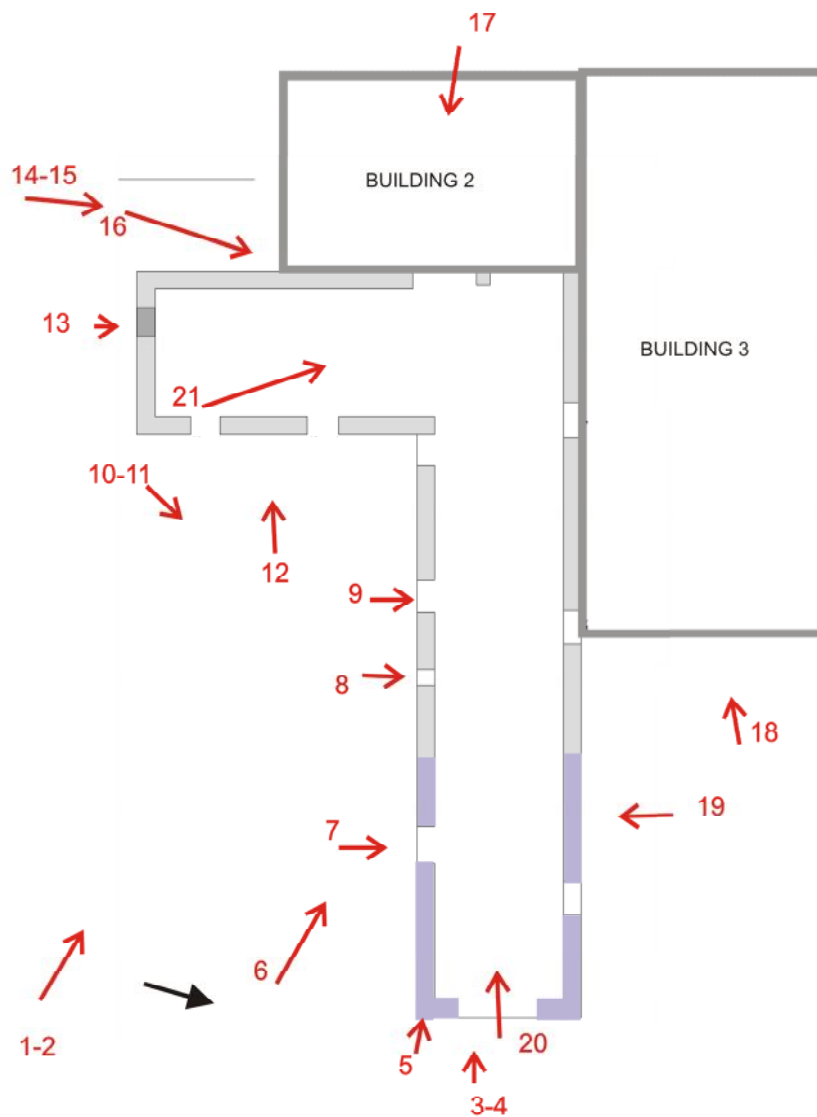
The E end of the N range is on the footprint of part of the extension of the steading shown on the 1899 map (illus 3), but appears to have been restructured; there was no evidence of the N extension of the 1899 addition.

Building 3 obscured any evidence of the building shown abutting the W end of the N wall of the original steading.

There is too little remaining internally to indicate details of the functions of different areas. However, the tall doorway D5 and the wooden hay hake together may indicate that the W range was used for horses.

8 Archive

A full set of photographs with the photo location plan (Illus 13) will be supplied to the Aberdeenshire SMR in Aberdeen and to the NMRS.



Illus 13 Photo reference plan