

**HILLOCKHEAD
HUNTLY
ABERDEENSHIRE**



Standing Building Survey
Carried out 17th November 2016
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2016-33
by
H K Murray and J C Murray

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- Standing Building Survey -

1. Background
 - 1.1 A standing building survey was required for a steading at Hillockhead, Huntly, Aberdeenshire, prior to its conversion to 3 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/2009/1654
 - 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 the owner Mr Richard Cox. The site element of the survey was completed on the 17th November 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 National Monuments Records of Scotland at the Historic Environment Scotland (HES) through Canmore and Pastmap.

- 2.2 The 1st, 2nd and 3rd edition Ordnance Survey maps were consulted.
- 2.3 Further information about the farm has been accessed from the British Newspaper Archive.
- 2.4 The plans and elevations were originally drawn by Annie Kenyon Architect and have been accessed from the Aberdeenshire Planning website. They have been annotated by MAS Ltd.

3. The Site

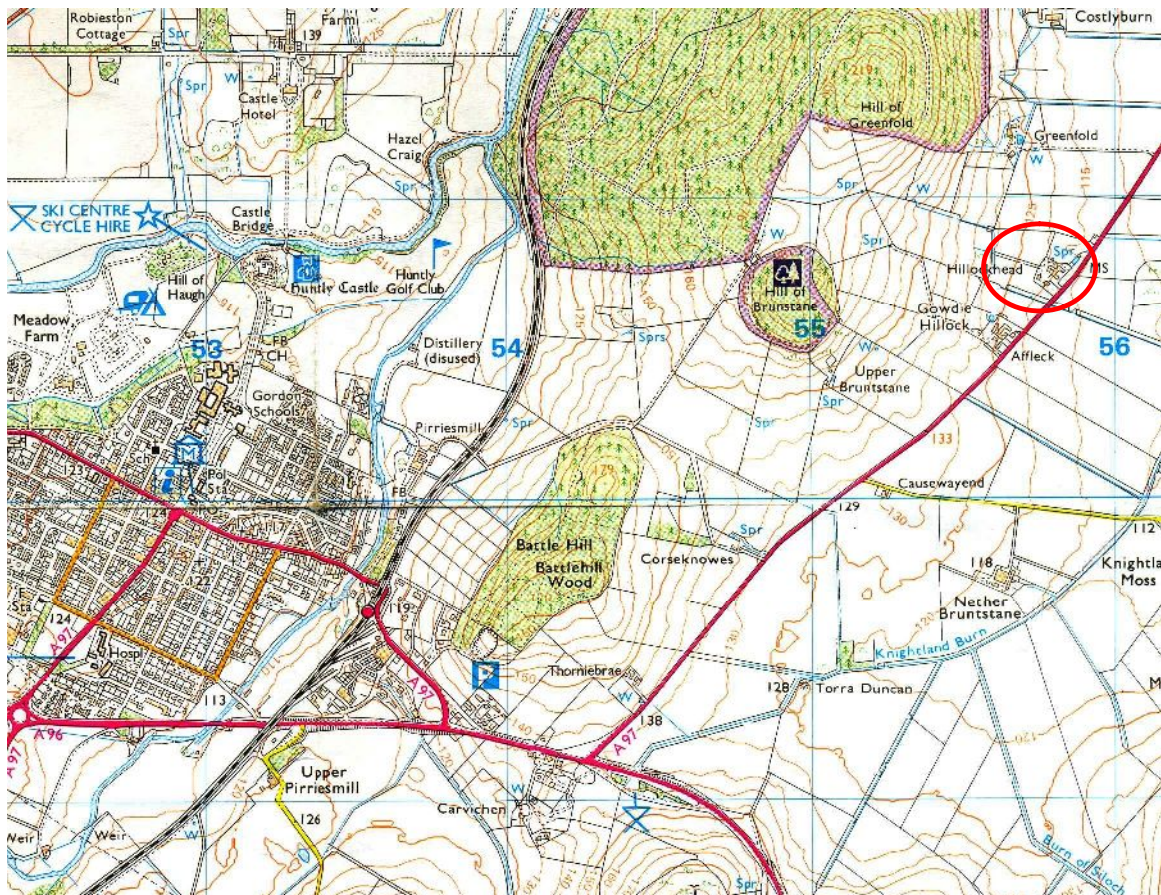
- 3.1 The steading and the associated farmhouse lie on the W side of the A97 Banff to Huntly road, c 1.4miles N of its junction with the A96.

Parish: Huntly NGR NJ 5581 4073

GPS in front of steading: 355812, 840741

NMRS No: None

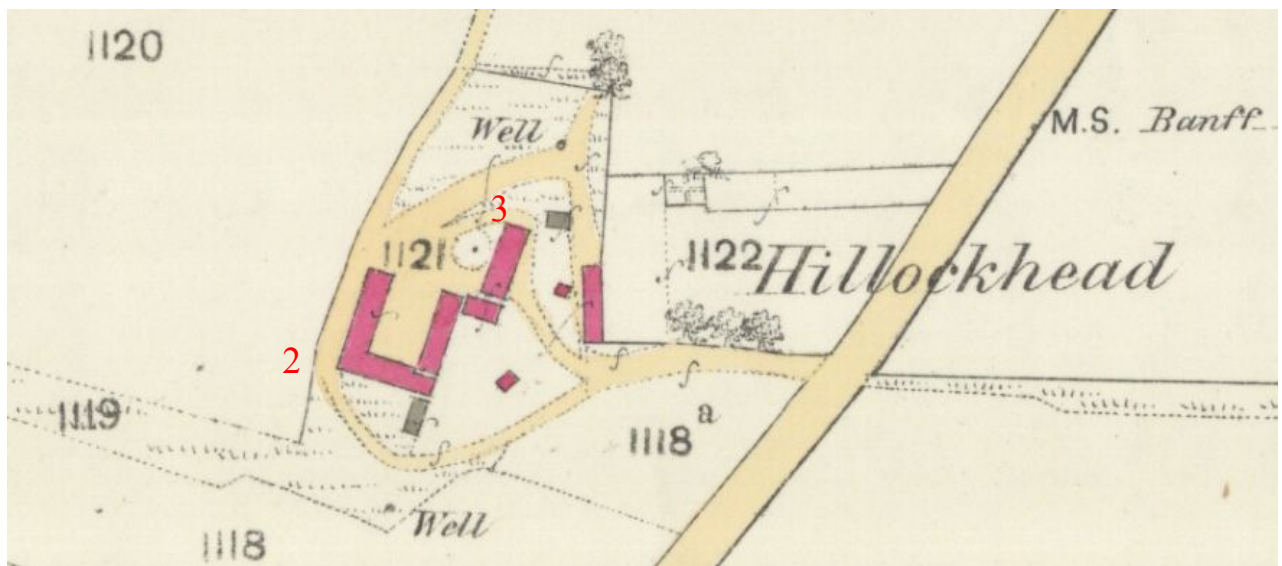
Aberdeenshire SMR: NJ54SE0087 Farmstead.



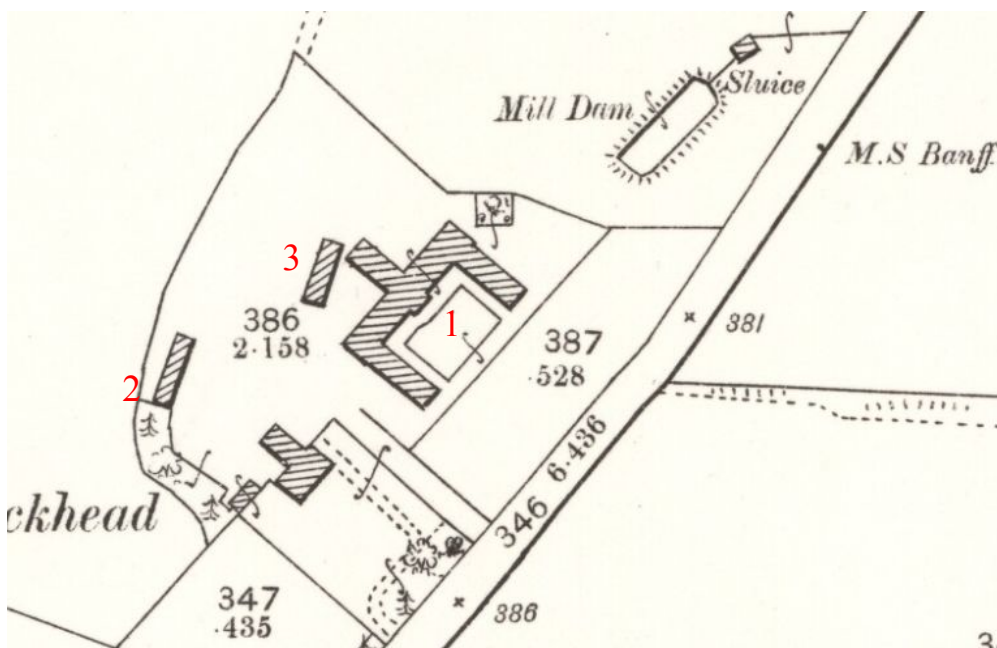
Illus 1 Detail of OS map. Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright (2007) All rights reserved. Licence number (100049810). Site indicated by red circle.

4. Documentary evidence

4.1 **Aberdeen Sheet XXVI.7 (Huntly) 1871 (pub 1874)** shows an L-plan steading with a separate E building forming a U plan steading open to the N. A long rectangular building (3) with a horse mill on the W wall continued the line of the E side of the steading, with a small building between the two areas. A separate building lying N/S lay to the E, with two other small roofed structures. Two unroofed structures are also shown.



Illus 2 Detail of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 25'' map, Aberdeen Sheet Aberdeen Sheet XXVI.7 (Huntly) 1871 (pub 1874) www.nls.ac.uk (Nos are the building numbers used in report)



Illus 3 Detail of the 2nd edition 25''/mile Ordnance Survey of 1900 (published 1901, Aberdeenshire Sheet 026.07) www.nls.ac.uk (Nos are the building numbers used in report)

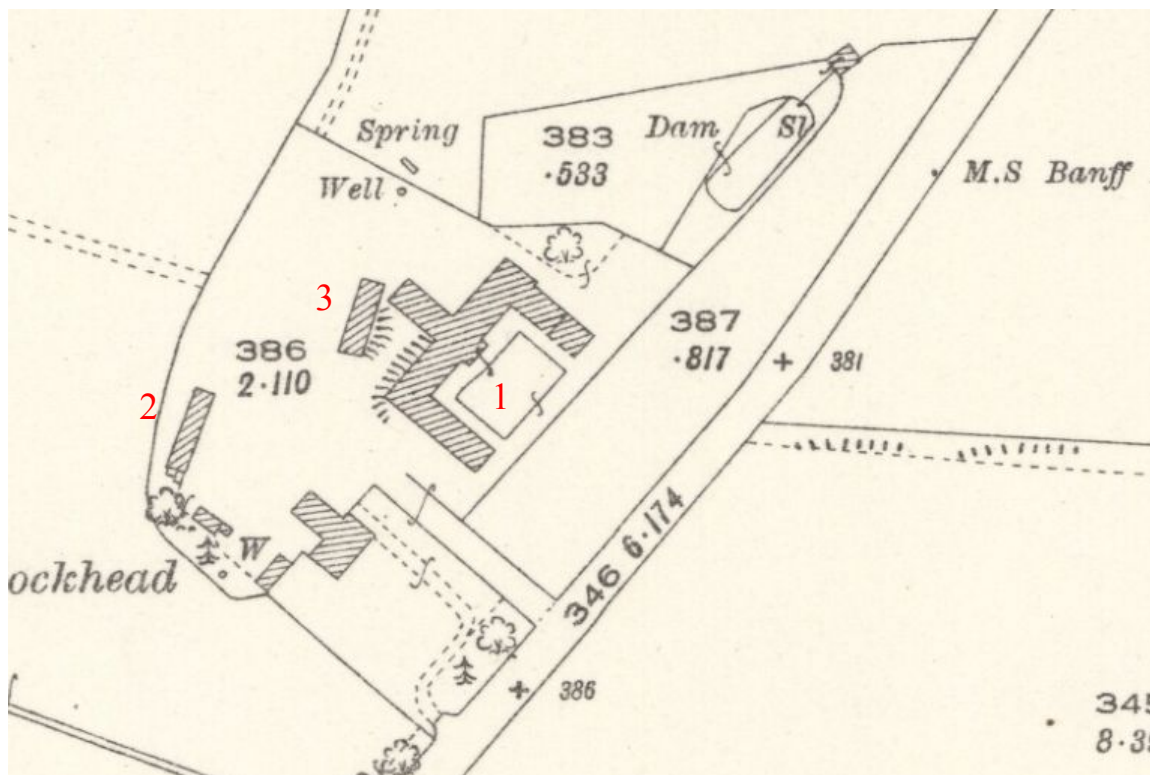
4.2 By the 2nd edition 25"/mile Ordnance Survey of 1900 (Published 1901)

Aberdeenshire 026.07) the former steading had been removed, with the exception of the building (3) which had previously had the horse mill. A new U-shaped steading (1) had been built; open to the SE and with a central range extending to the NW.

A new L-plan house had been built to the SW of the steading. A further freestanding building (2) lying NW of the farmhouse may incorporate part of the earlier steading W range, but this is not certain. Instead of the horse mill, power for the mill was supplied by water power from a mill dam to the NE of the steading. (Water for this mill pond was supplied by an underground lade that supplied water for Affleck, the neighbouring farm, and then Hillockhead (pers. comm. R Cox)

4.3 By the 3rd edition 25"/mile Ordnance Survey of 1925 (published 1926.

Aberdeenshire Sheet 026.07) the only apparent change is the addition of a small structure between the house and Building 2.



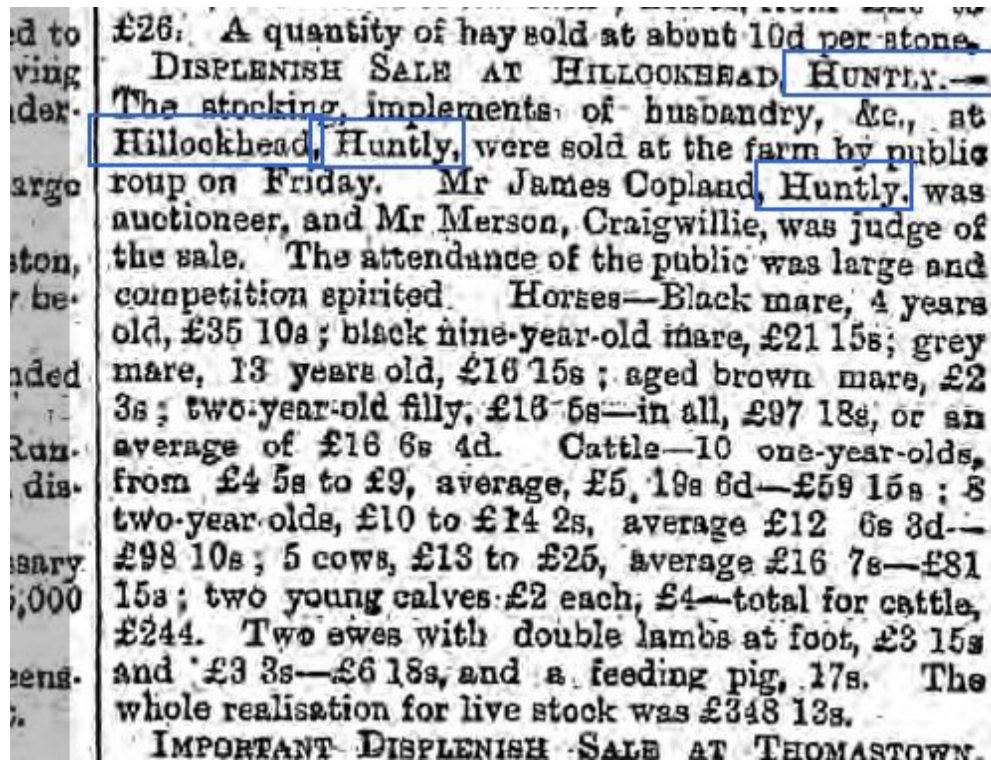
Illus 4 Detail of the 3rd edition 25"/mile Ordnance Survey of 1925 (published 1926. Aberdeenshire Sheet 026.07) www.nls.ac.uk (Nos are the building numbers used in report)

4.4 Timeline primarily based on newspaper accounts.

1871 1st OS map (above)

1886 Displenish sale (*Aberdeen Press and Journal* 19 May 1886). The name of the outgoing tenant was not printed.

At the point of sale there were 4 adult work horses and a young horse, presumably being bred as a replacement; 10 x 1 year old cattle; 8 x 2 year old cattle; 5 cows and 2 young calves. Two ewes with lambs at foot and a feeding pig were also sold.



ed to £26. A quantity of hay sold at about 10d per stone.
ving DISPLENISH SALE AT HILLOCKHEAD HUNTLY.—
der. The stocking, implements of husbandry, &c., at
Hillockhead, Huntly, were sold at the farm by public
argo roup on Friday. Mr James Copland, Huntly, was
ston, auctioneer, and Mr Merson, Craigwillie, was judge of
r be. the sale. The attendance of the public was large and
competition spirited. Horses—Black mare, 4 years
old, £35 10s; black nine-year-old mare, £21 15s; grey
mare, 13 years old, £16 15s; aged brown mare, £2
3s; two-year-old filly, £13 6s—in all, £97 18s, or an
average of £16 6s 4d. Cattle—10 one-year-olds,
Run- from £4 5s to £9, average, £5, 19s 6d—£59 15s; 8
dis- two-year-olds, £10 to £14 2s, average £12 6s 3d—
£98 10s; 5 cows, £13 to £25, average £16 7s—£81
15s; two young calves £2 each, £4—total for cattle,
£244. Two ewes with double lambs at foot, £3 15s
and £3 3s—£6 18s, and a feeding pig, 17s. The
whole realisation for live stock was £348 13s.
IMPORTANT DISPLENISH SALE AT THOMASTOWN.

Illus 5 <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>

1891 Gordon-Richmond Estate advertise for labour for building works including ‘byre and shed’ at Hillockhead. 19th May. Mason W Cormack and Slater Alexander Barclay employed.

Peter Henry c. 1893- 1912

By 1893 Peter Hendry had the tenancy and was exhibiting at Aberdeen Spring shows and Huntly Mart shows regularly until 1910. A selection of the newspaper entries are noted below.

- 1893 1st prize for fresh butter and 2nd prize for cured butter (*Aberdeen Evening Express* 20 July 1893)
- 1895 1st prize sandy oat seed at Aberdeen Spring Show. (*Dundee Courier* 9 March 1895)
- 1905 Aberdeen Spring Show. 1st prizes for seed grain of sandy oats and sandwich oats. 2nd prize for perennial rye grass seed.

3rd prize for best truss of clover hay grown in 1904. (*Aberdeen Press and Journal* 2 March 1905)

- 1908 Aberdeen Spring Show results. 1st prize for seed grain- sandy oats
5th prize purple topped yellow turnips (*Aberdeen Press and Journal* 5 March 1908)

Peter Hendry died in 1912. At this point his son was farming at the neighbouring property, Affleck.

Peter's wife Isabella (Milne) died in 1916.

Miss King c 1920 (possibly 1912?) – 1945

During the King's tenancy, the farm was primarily producing fat cattle and sheep. The advertisements for labourers between 1937 and 1944 reflect the change from reliance on heavy horses to tractors.

- 1920 From 1920 the Misses King were showing and selling livestock at both Kittybrewster and at Huntly marts. In 1920 they gained a 2nd prize for a pair of Irish cattle at the Huntly Christmas show and sale (*Aberdeen Press and Journal* 9 December 1920)

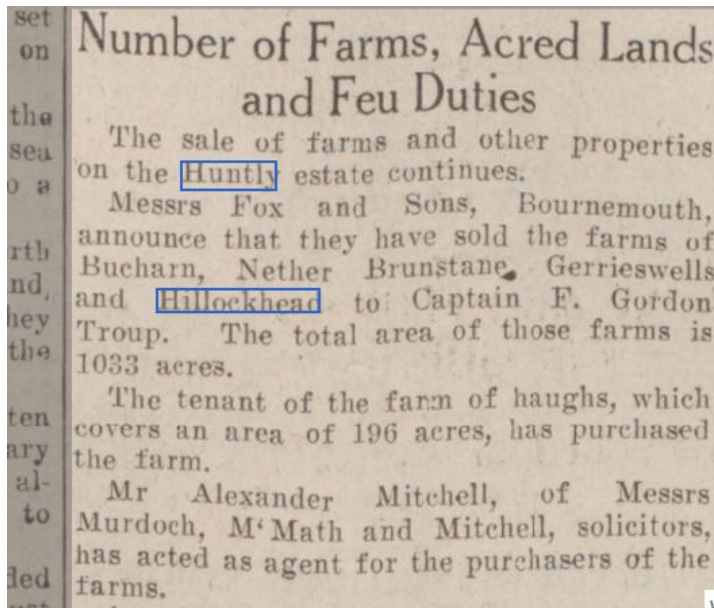
The elder Miss Isabella King (described as elder daughter of the late Andrew King of Conland, Forgue) died in 1922. (*Aberdeen Press and Journal* 23 December 1922)

Her sister Annie King continued farming at Hillockhead. In 1932 she was selling Suffolk X lambs, in 1934 Oxford X lambs, in 1934 and 1935 she was selling fat cattle (*Aberdeen Press and Journal* 22 November 1934). Also in 1933 she was selling fat pigs at Kittybrewster mart in Aberdeen (*Aberdeen Press and Journal* 6 May 1933)

In 1933 she got a 3rd prize at the Strathbogie show at Huntly mart for an 'attractive pair of black polled bullocks, bred on the farm' (*Aberdeen Press and Journal* 20 April 1933). In 1937 she got 1st and 2nd prizes for Oxford x lambs (*Aberdeen Press and Journal* 16 December 1937).

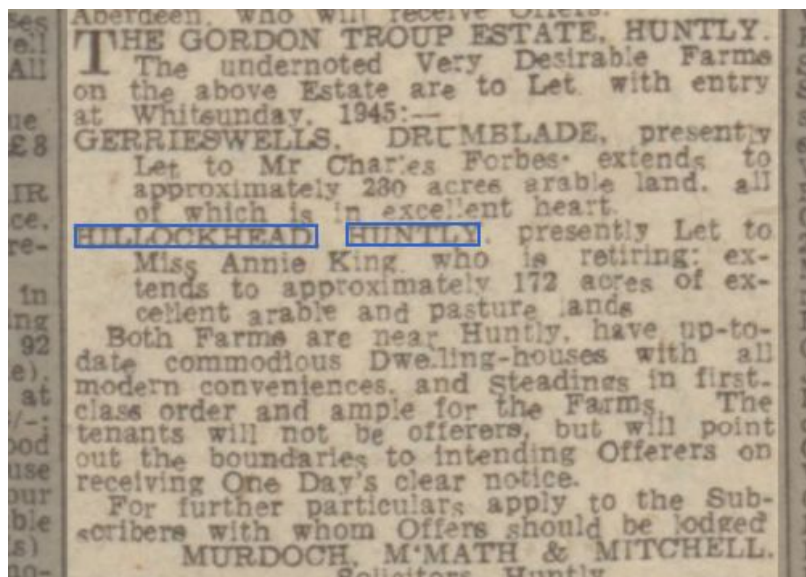
- 1936 Huntly estate, originally possessed by Dukes of Gordon, then by Dukes of Richmond and Gordon, sold off. (*Aberdeen Press and Journal* 4 August 1936 and 2 Nov 1936)

2 Nov 1936 Hillockhead was one of a number of farms bought by Captain F Gordon Troup.



Illus 6 <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>

- 1937 'Wanted for Hillockhead Farm, Huntly Grieve/cattleman, experienced. House and usual perquisites. Apply King Conland, Forgue' (Had Miss King moved back to the family farm at Conland?) (*Aberdeen Press and Journal 12 March 1937*)
- 1942 Miss King advertised for a horseman (single). (*Aberdeen Press and Journal 1 April 1942*)
- 1944 Miss King advertised for a grieve/cattleman (single) experienced in tractor work (*Aberdeen Press and Journal 12 June 1944*)
- 1944 Annie King retired in 1944. Farm described as 172 acres. It was still owned by the Gordon Troup estate at this point. (*Aberdeen Press and Journal 14 November 1944*)



Illus 7 <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>

1945 Displenish sale for Annie King. (*Aberdeen Press and Journal* 14 May 1945).

At the point of sale there were 4 large work horses, 17 x 2 year old cattle, 20 x yearling cattle, 3 cows with calves at foot and 4 dairy cows.



Illus 8 <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>

5 Methodology

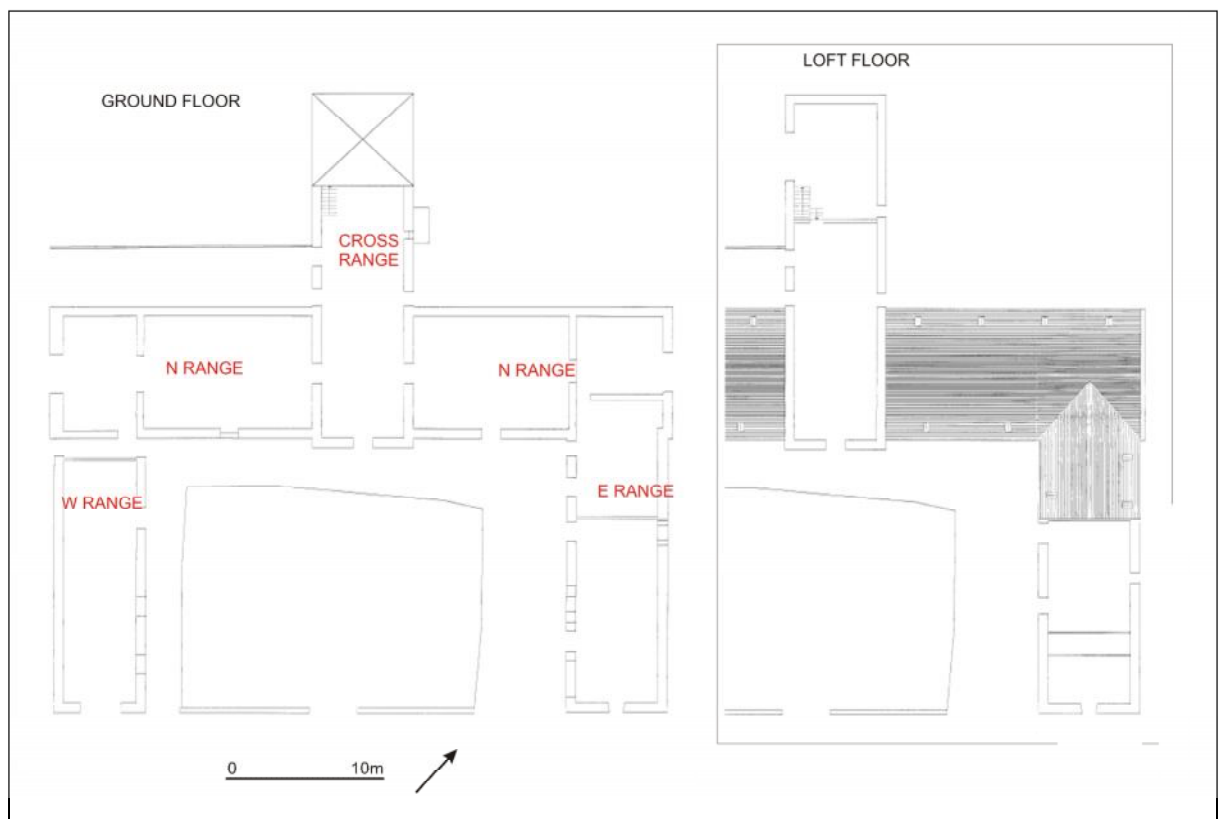
- 5.1 The ground plans and elevations (illus 9, 11, 12, 19) have been annotated to show details which may help in understanding the development and history of the building.

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 37-39) indicate the position of each.

6 The Buildings

The Steading: Building 1

The building faces SE but for the purposes of this report the components of the building are described as the E Range, W Range, N Range and Cross Range (illus 9).



Illus 9 Main areas of steading (Original drawings from Aberdeenshire planning website, annotated by MAS Ltd)

Dimensions E/W 39.7m maximum

N/S 25.67m.

Cross Range 22.57m maximum

Present/recent use Derelict. Part of cross range had been used for horse stables within last c10 years.

Original use E range: Stables and cart bays with chaumer above. (More recently used for pigs and cattle).

W range Cattle

N Range Cattle

Cross Range Threshing, with chaff and straw storage, grain above.

Lean-to Some sort of lean-to tin roof appears to have covered the gap between the higher ground leading to D17 and the N wall of the E end of the N range. This was completely collapsed and could not be interpreted further.

Dung court Dung court between N, E and W ranges. Stone wall along S side, 1.5m high with additional rounded concrete capstones 150mm high. Central opening. Secondary break at W end for insertion of water trough. The dung court appeared to be stone lined and c 700mm deep.

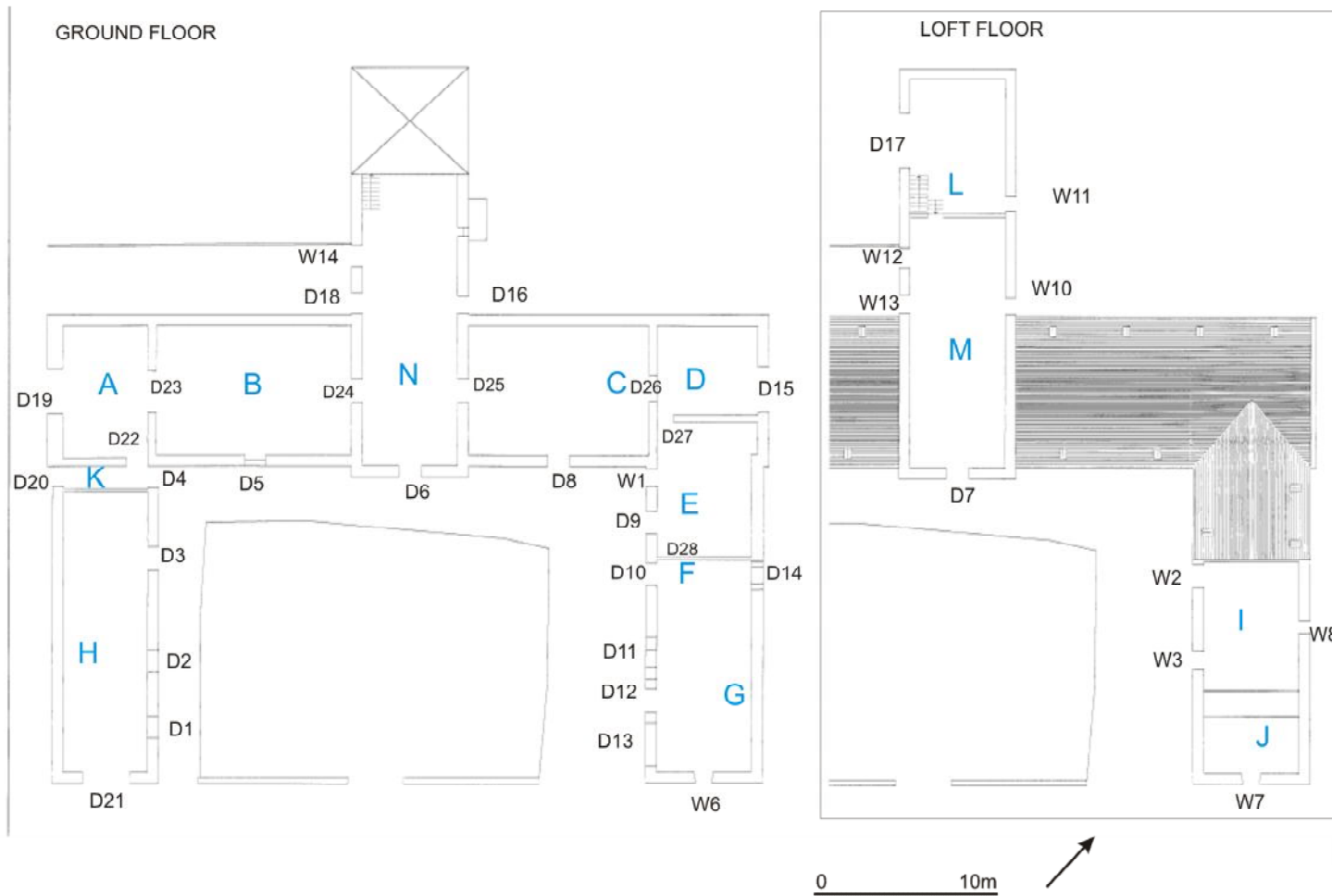
Walls Well-faced, roughly squared grey-dark grey stone with small well stacked pinnings. External wall thickness: 600mm. Internal wall thickness: 450mm). Between D11 and D13 cart bays and D12 stair to chaumer the columns of stonework had dark grey stonework (as used in the walls) set decoratively between the granite rybats.



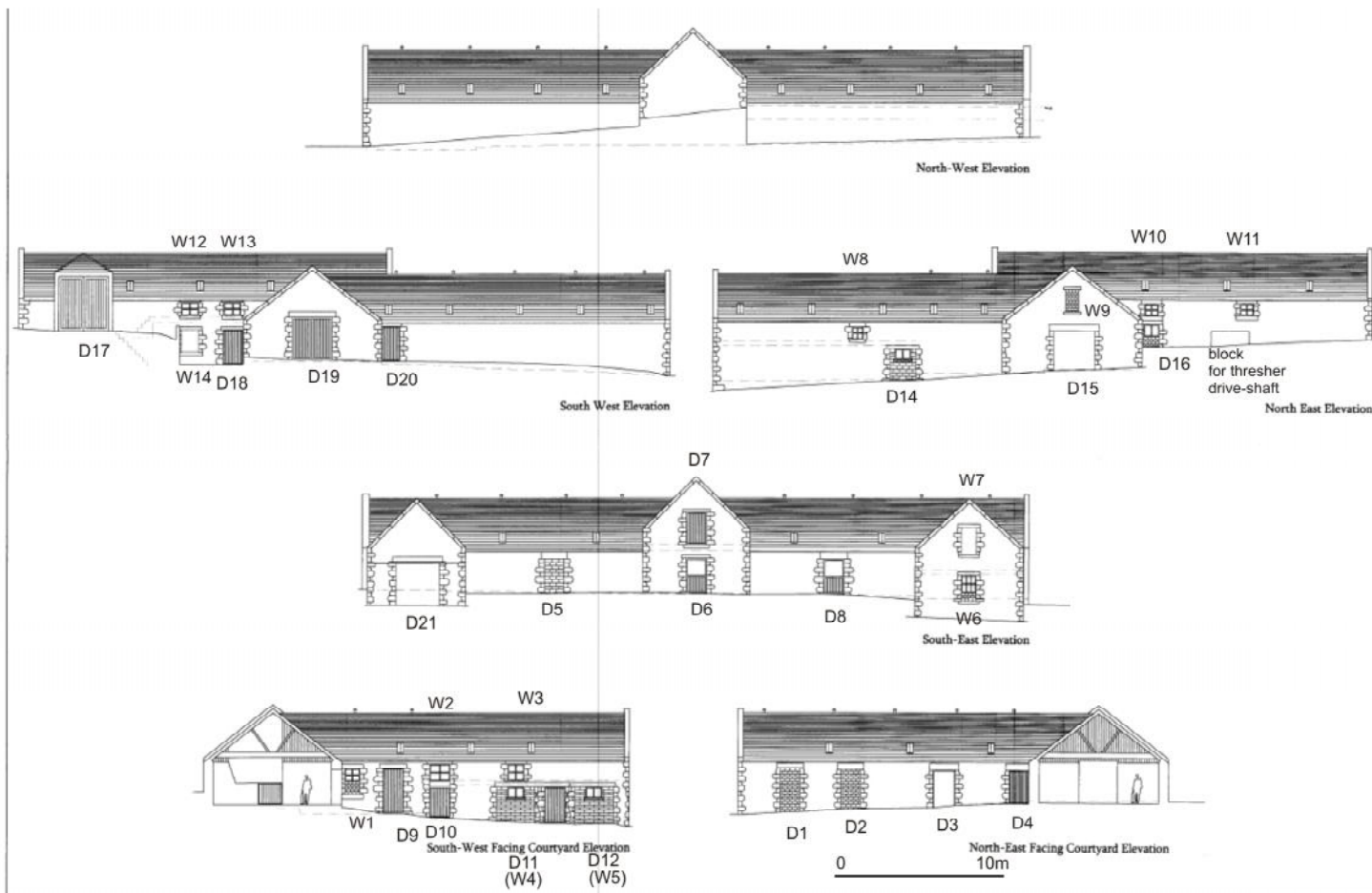
Illus 10 Detail of stonework on either side of D12

This decorative feature is also used in the front (S) facade of farmhouse and the general stonework of steading is matched by the stonework of the other walls of the farmhouse; confirming the impression of the map evidence that both house and steading were re-built at the same time.

Roof Slate over sarking. Ceramic ridges. Inserted metal ridge ventilators. Metal skylights.



Illus 11 Plan of steading: Building 1 (Original drawings from Aberdeenshire planning website, annotated by MAS Ltd)



Illus 12 Elevations of steading: Building 1

(Original drawings from Aberdeenshire planning website, annotated by MAS Ltd)

Doors and windows

E wall W range

- D1 W: 1.2m H: 2.6m. Grey granite rybats and lintel. Concrete block blocking.
- D2 W: 1.2m H: 2.3m. Grey granite rybats and lintel. Concrete block blocking.
- D3 W: 1.23m H: 2.1m. Grey granite rybats and lintel. Wooden frame.
- D4 W: 1.10. H: 2.05m. Grey granite rybats on S and lintel. Wooden door.

S wall N Range and Cross Range

- D5 W: 1.2m H: 2.1m. Grey granite rybats and lintel. Concrete block blocking.
- D6 W: 1.23m H: 2.14m. Grey granite rybats and lintel. Plank ½ doors
- D7 W: 1.23m H: 1.8m Grey granite rybats, sill and lintel. Plank door to loft.
- D8 W: 1.22m H: 2.1m. Grey granite rybats and lintel. Plank ½ doors.



Illus 13 S wall N Range and Cross Range

E wall E range

- W1 W: 0.92m H: 1.53m. Grey granite rybats, sill and lintel. Partially blocked with concrete blocks and secondary smaller window in upper part.
- D9 W: 1.23m H: 2.65m. (Height for horses) Grey granite rybats and lintel. Plank door.
- D10 W: 1.23m H: 1.66m Grey granite rybats. Lintel obscured . Slightly odd as there is no break in rybats between D10 and W2 window into loft.



Illus 14 E wall of E range



Illus 15 Detail of blocked cart bays D11, D13 and door to loft D12

- W2 W: 1.23m H:1.2m (into loft)
W3 W: 0.92m H: 1m (into loft)
D11 W: 2.33m H: 2.15m. Blocked cart bay. Grey granite rybats and lintel.
Concrete block blocking. With secondary window W4 (W: 1.00m H: 0.65m) set
in the blocking.
D12 W: 1.24m H: 2.1m. Grey granite rybats and lintel. Opens to stair.
D13 W: 2.31m H: 2.10m. Blocked cart bay. Grey granite rybats and lintel.
Concrete block blocking. With secondary window W5 (W:1.00m H:
0.65m) set in the blocking.

S gable E range

- W6 W: 0.92m H: 1.53m Granite lintel, sill and rybats
W7 (into loft) W: 0.92m H: 1.53m Granite lintel, sill and rybats

E wall E range

- W8 (into loft) W: 0.92m H: 1.53m Granite lintel, sill and rybats
D14 W: 1.53m H: 1.85m. Grey granite rybats and lintel. Blocked with
concrete blocks with window

E gable N range

- D15 W: 2.45m H: 2.3m. Grey granite rybats and lintel. Sliding wooden door
on inside
W9 (into loft) W: 0.80m H: 1.28m Granite lintel, sill and rybats. Concrete
blocked

E wall Cross Range

- D16 W: 0.92m H: 1.60m. Grey granite rybats and lintel. Partially concrete
blocked with secondary window.
W10 (into grain loft) W: 0.76m H: 0.75m Granite lintel, sill and rybats
W11 (into grain loft) W: 0.76m H: 0.75m Granite lintel, sill and rybats
Drive shaft for threshing machine (break-through: W: 350mm H: 430mm) with
shaft through onto concrete base (2.18m x 1.34m x 0.74m high)



Illus 16 E wall of Cross Range with drive-shaft for thresher (red arrow)

W wall Cross Range

D17 W: 3.04m H: 3.0m. Grey granite rybats and lintel. Had had sliding wooden door on inside, now collapsed outside. Had slate-roofed outshot above door. Opens just below loft level.

W12 (into grain loft) W: 0.76m H: 0.75m Granite lintel, sill and rybats

W13 (into grain loft) W: 0.76m H: 0.75m Granite lintel, sill and rybats

W14 W: 0.92m H: 1.57m originally but base blocked with concrete and timber. Present height 1.30m. Granite lintel, sill and rybats

D18 W: 1.23m H: 2.10m. Grey granite rybats and lintel. Plank ½ door

W gable N range

D19 W: 2.43m H: 2.50m. Grey granite rybats and lintel. Sliding wooden door on inside

W wall W range

D20 W: 1.07m H: 2.05m. Grey granite rybats and lintel

S gable W range

D21 W: 2.60m H: 2.55m. Iron H-bar lintel, concrete block sides. Either complete break-through or widening for modern tractor access for mucking out.

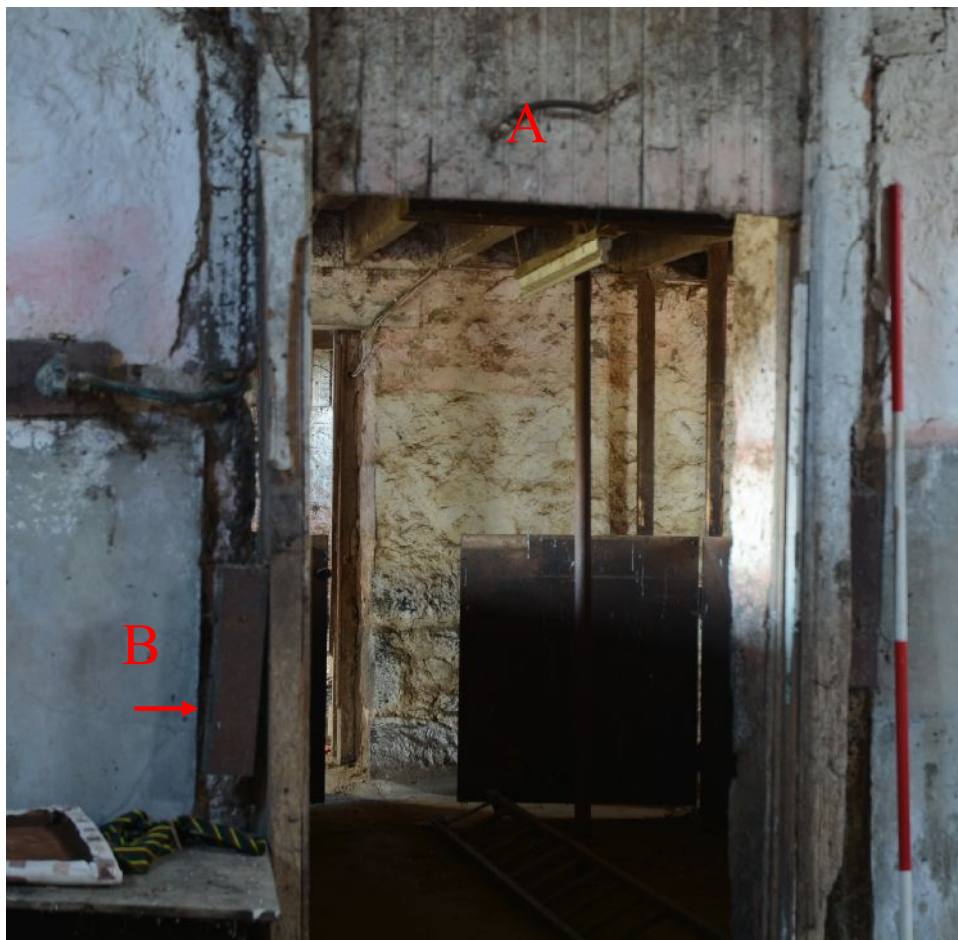
Internal doors

D22 W: 1.2m H: 2.10m. Plank door

D23 W: 2.25m H: Full wall height.

D24 W: 1.22m H: 2.2m. Vertically sliding shutter door with iron counter-weights. Opens between cattle byre and straw barn.

D25 W: 1.22m H: 2.2m. Vertically sliding shutter door with iron counter-weights. Opens between cattle byre and straw barn.



Illus 17 Door D25 with wooden vertical shutter (A) and counter weight (B) on chain

- D26 W: 1.4m H: Broken out.
D27 W: 0.84m H: 1.68m. Up stair into grain loft.
D28 W: 0.96m H: 1.80m. Two steps down from stable to original cart bays
etc

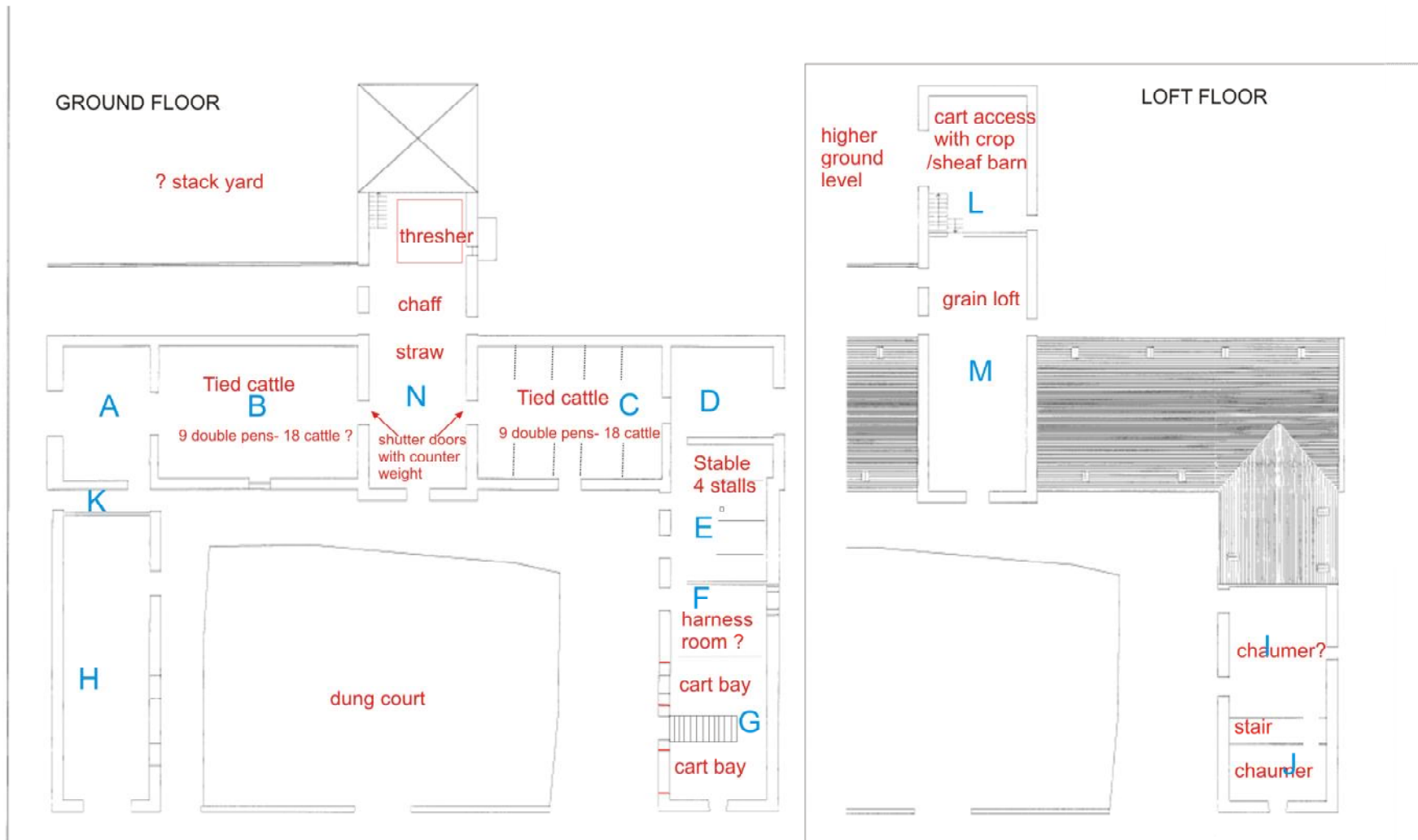
Interior

W Range (H, K)

The W range was an open court for cattle with a hay rack along the inside of the W wall. The former presence of three doors (D1-D3) opening to the dung court would indicate the possibility that this area had originally been subdivided but no trace of partitions remained. Broken stone on the floor suggests it had been cobbled but this would have been destroyed by mechanical mucking out after the insertion/widening of the door (D21) in gable. A wooden partition separated this area from a narrow passage (K).



Illus 18 W Range interior, looking N



Illus 19 Interpreted plans of steading/ Building 1 (Original drawings from Aberdeenshire planning website, annotated by MAS Ltd)



Illus 20 Interior of N Range Area B (W byre) looking E.



Illus 21 Trevis hind-post base in Area B (W byre)

N Range (A, B, C, D)

The N range had originally comprised identical layout A/B and D/C either side of the central cross range. However, at some point, area D had been narrowed by the

insertion of a full height wall c 1.8m N of the S wall line. The most likely reason for this would have been a need for an additional horse stall as the original gable line can be seen at the S side of the northernmost horse stall (illus 22).



Illus 22 Truncated S end of gable of N range (Area D) now visible in stable Area E

Both area A and area D had cart width doorways with internal sliding wooden doors. Both areas retained cobbled floors. There was no direct evidence of function; it is possible that one may have been a turnip store.

Areas B and C both appear to have been cattle byres with double tied cattle pens. However, while the pens survive (or have been replaced in concrete) in area C, only the stone bases for the end posts for wooden trevis hind posts survive in area B. Both floors have been concreted, probably to comply with modern practise, but breaks in the concrete in area B indicate that there had originally been cobbles. The concrete trevise in area D comprise 5 at 1.86m width along the N wall and 4 at 2.04m long along the S wall. This would have accommodated 18 cattle in each byre.



Illus 23 Interior of N Range Area C (E byre) looking W

E Range (E, F, G at ground level; I, J at loft level)

Area E had been a stable for working horses. Timber trevises remain although the stalls had been adapted to each form a double tied-cow stall. The original horse stalls were 1.70m wide and 2.75m long from the front to the hind post. There was a drain behind. The concrete trough at the head was probably put in for the cattle. As noted above, it is possible that the N horse stall was an addition.



Illus 24 Stable (Area E) interior looking S

The blocked cart bays (D11, D13) indicate that area G had originally been two open cart sheds. The area (F) with door D10 may have been a harness room. However, the interior of areas F and G had been gutted in the recent past (? 1970s/80s) and concrete and metal pig pens (6 sow units and one unit for weaners or boar) built into the space. It is probably at this point that the cart bays were concrete blocked.



Illus 25 Area F cart bays converted to piggery. Note base of loft stair



Illus 26 Area J Chaumer

Above the stable/cart block, door D12 led up a pine walled staircase to a small lobby dividing the loft into a S room (J) with pitch pine lining to 1.2m and a coombed plaster ceiling and a N room (I) which had no lining or plaster. Area J, albeit there was no evidence of a chimney, was almost certainly a chaumer for one of the farm servants, probably the horseman. It is possible that area I was also accommodation; the lack of easy access for any other use would suggest this.



Illus 27 Area I. Loft/ chaumer (?)

Cross Range (N at ground level; L, M at loft/upper level)

At ground level the cross range (N) comprised a long barn with the threshing machine at the E side of the N end beside a stair up to the higher level (L).



Illus 28 Door (A) into grain loft from sheaf barn Area L. On RHS stair down to straw barn (B) Arrow to thresher feed-in.

The thresher could not be directly accessed or photographed as it was blocked off. Originally this area would have comprised the chaff and straw barn, with the shutter doors into both cattle byres (B, C). In the recent past the interior had been subdivided into loose boxes for leisure horses. The upper level of the cross range comprised the sheaf barn (L) with a high cart access from terraced higher ground to the W, where it is possible that corn stooks would have been built. Inside L there was a stone floor, with access at the S side (now covered) to feed the crop into the thresher below. One wooden stair went down into the straw barn (N), another led up into the grain loft (M) which was above barn N. A fairly complex system of wooden chutes remain which would have taken grain up on belts from the thresher and into the grain loft.



Illus 29 Grain loft (Area M) looking N. Ranging rod beside vertical grain chute



Illus 30 Grain chutes and pulley belts

Building 2 (also described as cart shed)

A small building NW of the main steading is described in the planning application as the cart shed. While this may have been a recent usage, it was not necessarily its original function as there were two cart bays in the main steading. The alignment of this structure suggests that part of it may have been part of the earlier steading shown on the 1st OS map of 1871 (illus 2).

Dimensions E/W 17.05m N/S 5.5m

Present/recent use Storage

Original use Unknown

Walls Rubble stone construction. There is a clear raggle in the W wall at 8m from the N end, showing this was constructed in two stages. Overlays of the historic maps suggest that the N end was the S end of the original steading shown on the 1871 map, with the new S end added by 1900. The break could not be seen in the front (E) wall, where it would have been at the N side of D2 and thus possibly broken out when the door was built.

Roof Corrugated tin

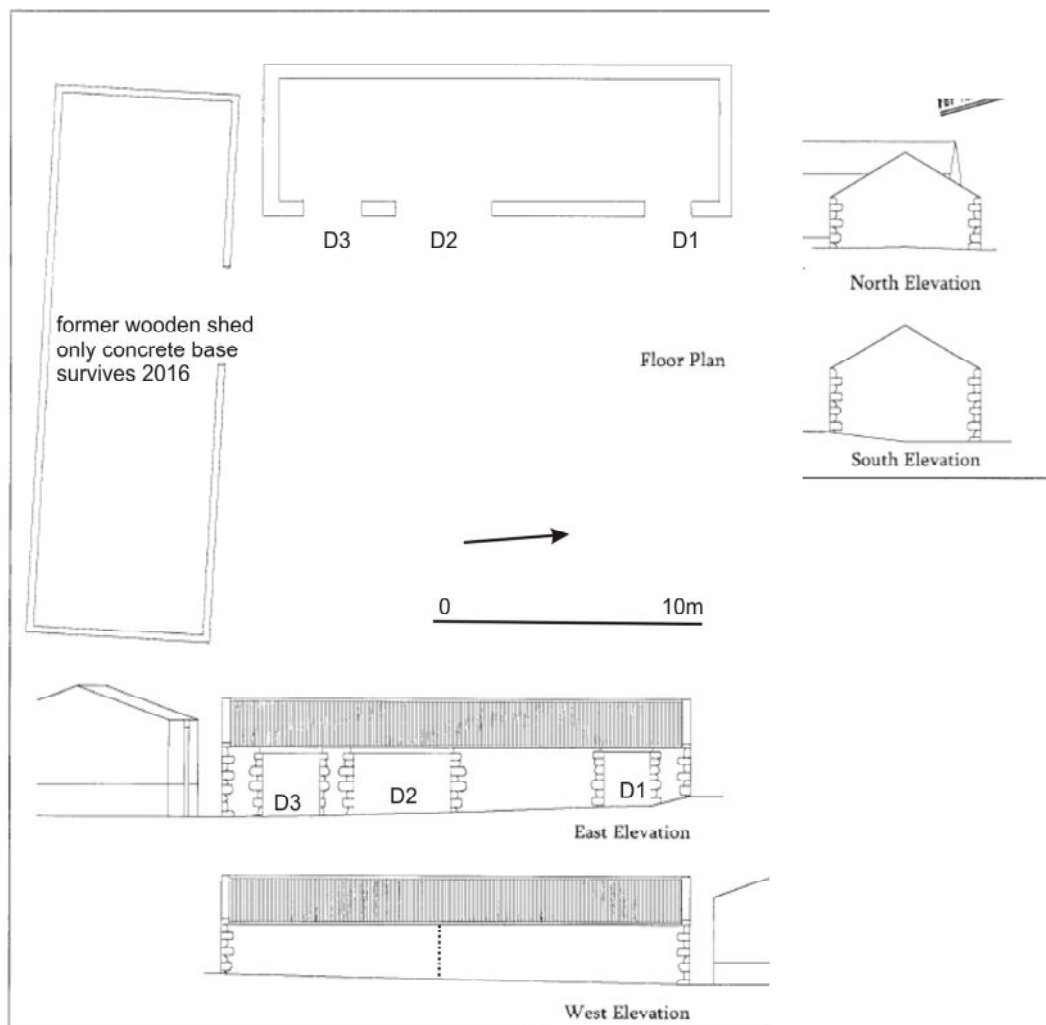
Doors

D1 W: 1.74m H: 1.97m Wooden lintel. Blocked with tin with window inserted

D2 W: 3.55m H: 2.2m Wooden lintel. Stone rybats

D3 W: 2.17m H: 2.2m Wooden lintel.

Interior Not possible to enter.



Illus 31 Building 2 plan and elevations. (Original drawings from Aberdeenshire planning website, annotated by MAS Ltd)



Illus 32 Building 2 from S



Illus 33 Building 2 from back. Arrow marks raggle which was probably W end of original steading as on 1871 OS map

Building 3

Not part of the present survey, Building 3 has been converted to a dwelling some years ago. Overlays of the historic maps show that this was originally the mill with a horse mill attached to the N wall (see 1871 OS map illus 2).

Farmhouse



Illus 34 The farmhouse viewed from SE, from driveway between house and steading. Building 2 (cartshed) visible in background.

The farmhouse is not part of the present application but will be briefly described as it appears to have been built at the same time and by some/all of the same craftsmen as the main steading. The frontage has granite ashlar alternating with ornamental stacks of dark grey stone (as seen in the steading doors D11-D13). The remaining walls are of similar stonework to the main walls of the steading. Corner rybats and window surrounds of granite.

It is T-plan. The front is 1 ½ stories. The ground floor windows are granite bays with a flat roof on either side of the central door with a narrow stone pediment. The front dormers are tall, stone faced and slated with ornamental iron finials.

There are rectangular granite chimneys at gables, each with flat tables and ceramic pots.

The N kitchen range is lower, also with a granite chimney.



Illus 35 Aerial photograph (date on back 15/11/2012). Photograph courtesy of R Cox

7 Discussion

This is a very good example of a late 19th-century Aberdeenshire stading of estate construction. At 172 acres (c70ha) (acreage taken from end of Miss King's tenancy) it falls well into the range of c 40-80ha for moderately large farms in Aberdeenshire at the period (Glendinning and Wade-Martin, 2008, 121). During at least the latter part of Peter Hendry's tenancy, it seems to have been farmed with Affleck, the neighbouring property tenanted by Hendry's son.

The map evidence shows a smaller stading with a horse mill in 1871. This would be the stading that existed at the dispenish sale of 1886, when 18 store cattle and 5 cows with calves were sold, as were 4 work horses and a young horse. The name of the outgoing tenant was not included in the newspaper account and it is not certain who took on the tenancy. However in 1891 the Gordon-Richmond estate, who owned the property, were advertising and appointing masons and slaters for the stading. As the new stading was built away from the original stading it appears probable that

the old steading continued in use while building work was in progress. After the new steading came into use, only the old horse mill building (but not the mill) and part of the steading incorporated into Building 2 were retained. By the map of 1900 the remainder of the old buildings had been removed – the relatively small scale and height of the earlier steading is however indicated by both of the surviving fragments. In 1900 the mill appears to have been water-powered from the mill to the E- presumably also part of the late 19th-century works.

By 1893 Peter Hendry was the tenant and he farmed there until his death in 1912. The newspaper accounts show that he was successful in exhibiting seed grain of sandy oats¹, sandwich oat and potato oats, as well as seed for perennial rye grass. Production of high quality seed would have required careful screening of the grain after threshing. The threshing machine at Hillockhead was probably in use during Hendry's tenancy.

There were also clearly at least a few dairy cows on the farm at the time, as well as fattening beef cattle and work horses.

At some point after Peter Hendry's death, possibly after the death of his wife in 1916, the tenancy changed hands.

From at least 1920, Hillockhead was farmed by Annie and Isabella King, whose family farmed at Conland, Forgue. Although the elder sister, Isabella, died in 1922, Annie continued to run the farm until she retired in 1944. The displesh sale in 1945 sold 37 store cattle, 3 cows with calves at foot and 4 dairy cows. There were still 4 work horses used on the farm at the time- fitting the number of stalls in the stable. This was however the beginning of change as Miss King had advertised in 1944 for a griever with tractor experience. The farm then had 172 acres.

It was during the King tenancy that the Huntly properties of the Gordon-Richmond estate were sold off and, in 1936, Hillockhead had been sold to the Gordon Troup estate.

There had been little change to the steading through the late 19th-mid 20th century. Subsequently, since 1945, changes in the buildings have reflected the increase in

¹ [Sc. 1865 [Jnl. Agric. 606](#):

The Sandy oat. Mr Lawson states that this variety was discovered in 1824–5 on the farm of Miltown [Rhyndie] in Aberdeenshire, by a herd-boy named Sandy Tampson, who first saw it growing upon a recently formed bank of soil. The Sandy oat is better for late districts than the potato, and although it does not yield so much in meal, it is nevertheless esteemed by the millers. The grain is smaller than the potato oat, the straw is stiff, tall, and not easily lodged, and the grains are not so apt to be shed. (Dictionary of the Scots Language)]

mechanisation- for example the large door in the S gable of the W range and the change from water power to engine power for the threshing machine. The move away from horses was also shown by the conversion of the horse stalls in the stable into more tied-cow stalls. Generally however there still appears to have been a fairly traditional emphasis on store cattle which has preserved much of the detail of the steading. Only the conversion of the E range into a pig unit indicates a new enterprise.

By 2005 a horse manège was built to the N and part of the buildings converted to loose boxes for leisure horses.



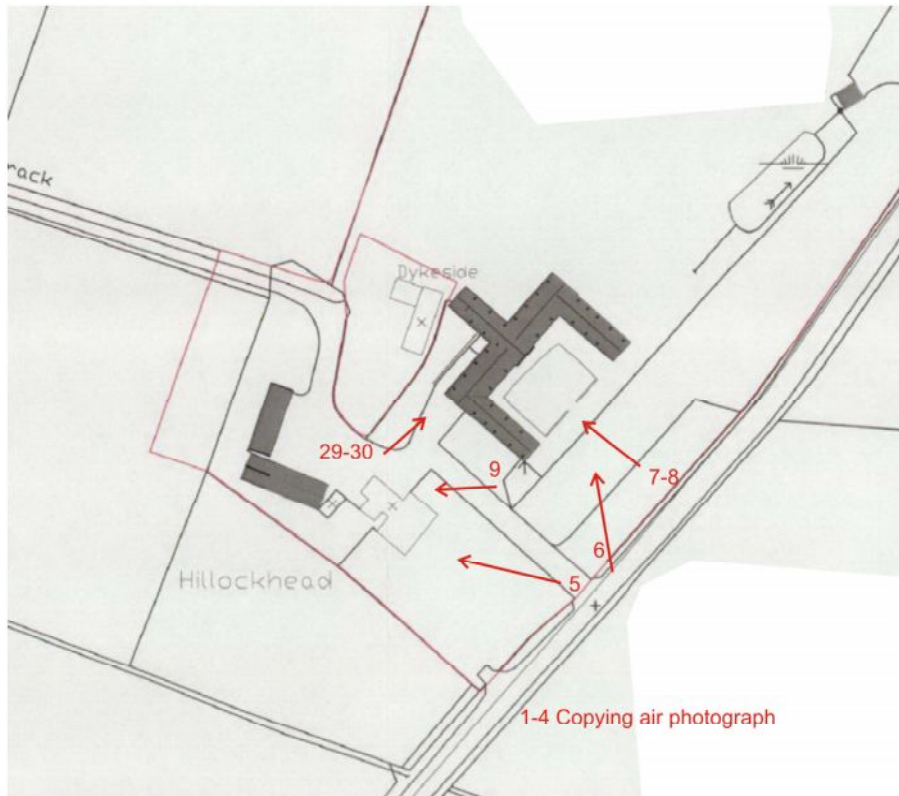
Illus 36 Steading from W. Higher ground on LHS leading to entry to threshing mill may have been used as stook yard.

References

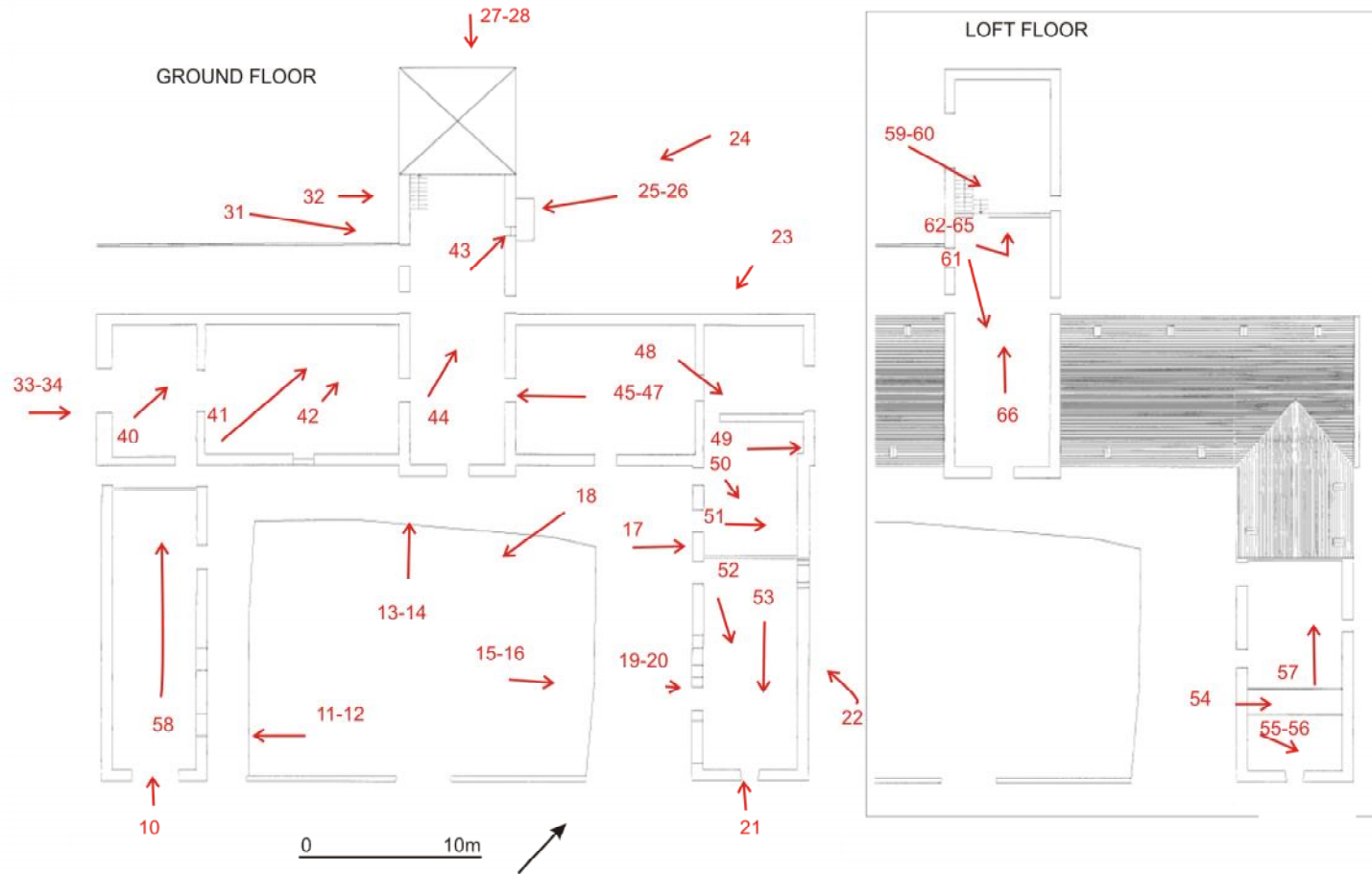
Glendenning, M and Wade-Martins, S 2008 Buildings of the land. RCAHMS:
Edinburgh.

Archive

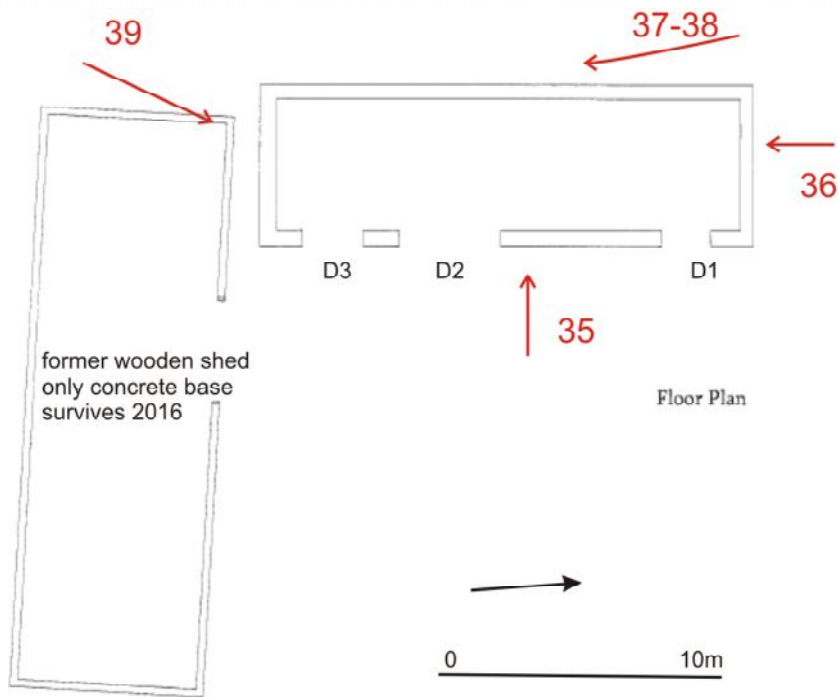
A full set of photographs with the photo location plan (illus 37-39) will be supplied to the Aberdeenshire SMR in Aberdeen and to the NMRS.



Illus 37 General photographs



Illus 38 Steading (Building 1) photographs



Illus 39 Building 2. Photographs