

**BROAD MOSS  
ROSEHEARTY  
ABERDEENSHIRE**



**Standing Building Survey**

Carried out 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017

by

**Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**



**Report No: MAS 2017-15**

by

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**BROAD MOSS**  
**ROSEHEARTY**  
**ABERDEENSHIRE**

**- Standing Building Survey -**

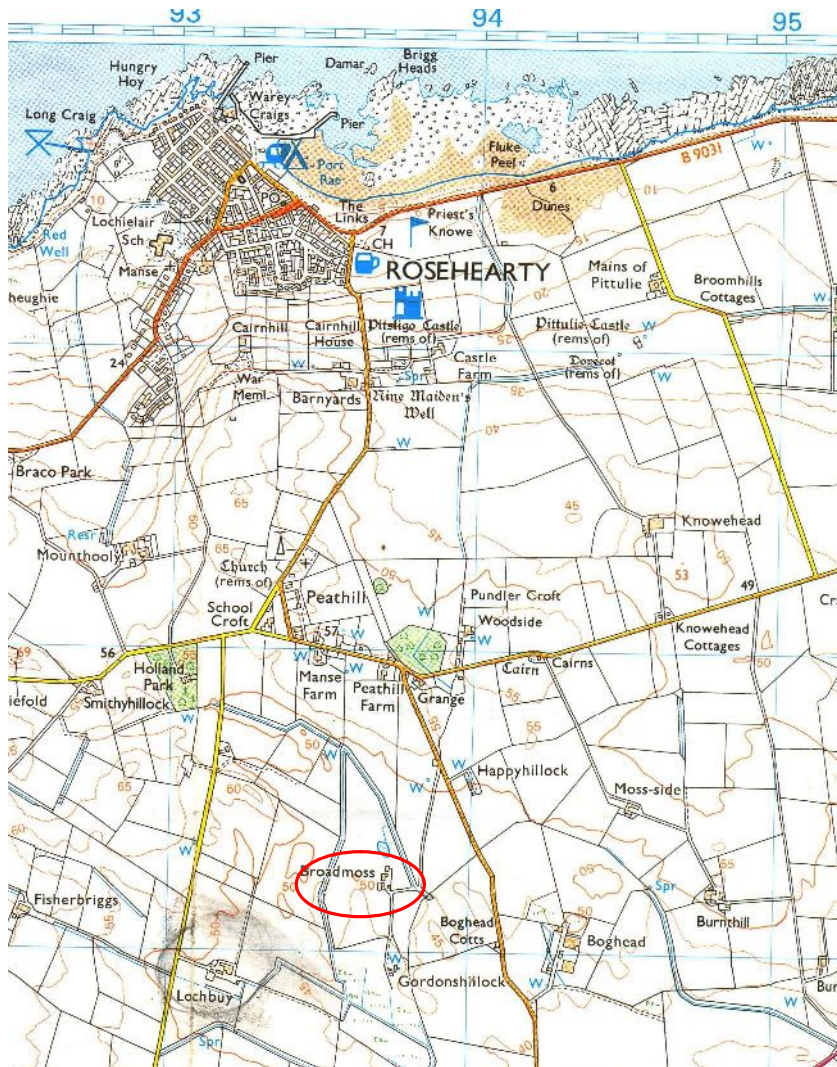
1. Background

- 1.1 A standing building survey was required for a farm steading at Broad Moss, Rosehearty, Aberdeenshire, prior to its demolition and the erection of a new dwelling house (Broad Moss steading plot 2).
- 1.2 The archaeological condition (Condition 10) was applied in the context of planning legislation (PAN 2/2011, SPP, HESPS), 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/2017/0484, APP/2012/3604.
- 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 Stuart Rennie. The site element of the survey was completed on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps were consulted.

2.3 Plans and elevations have been drawn and annotated as necessary by MAS Ltd.



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

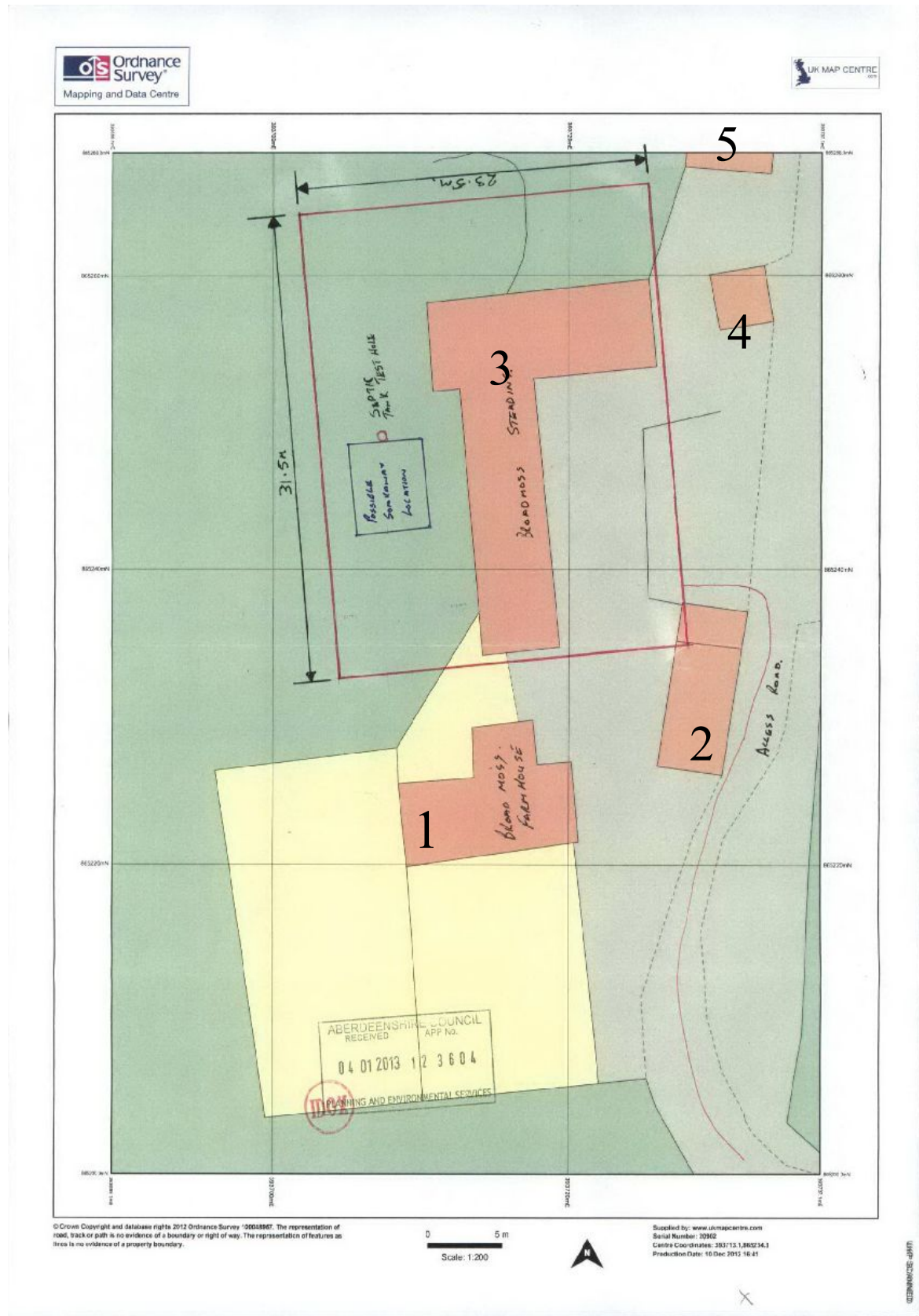
### 3. The Site

3.1 The site lies some 2km S of Rosehearty and S of Peathill, to the W of a minor road in the middle of grass fields. The buildings are clustered on a small ridge with boggy ground to the E.

Parish: Pitsligo NGR: NJ 9372 6525 (farm general)

GPS 393723, 865229 (between steading and house)

Aberdeenshire SMR: NJ96NW0069



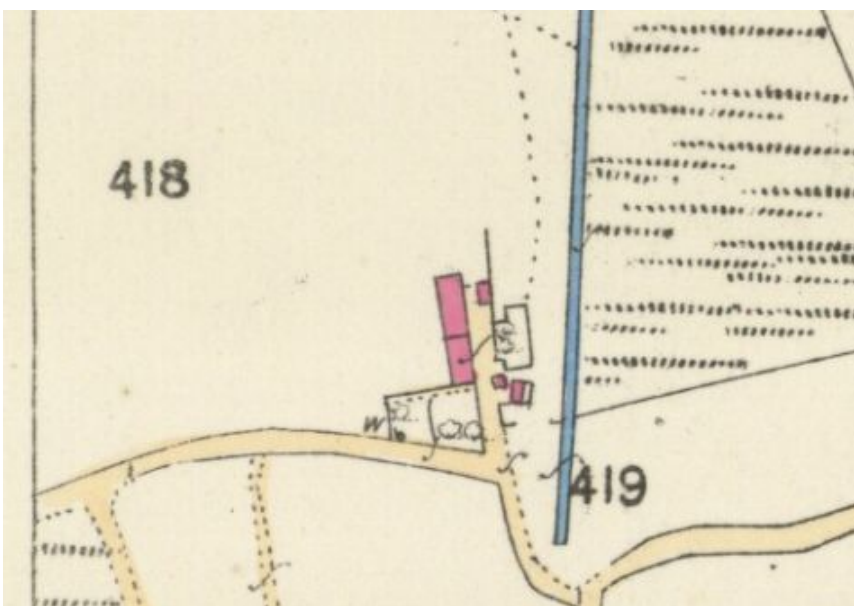
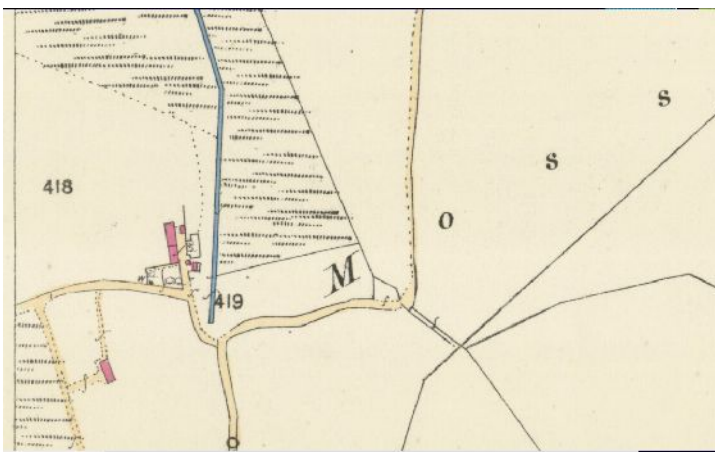
Illus 2 Site plan annotated with building reference numbers used in this report

#### 4. Documentary evidence

**1871** 25" OS map Aberdeen sheet II.7 (Pitsligo) surveyed in 1871, published in 1874 shows a narrow rectangular building of two equal compartments (possibly a house and attached byre), lying roughly N/S to the W of the farm track. Three small structures are shown E of the track. At this stage the property appears to be named 'Moss' and is described in the *OS Name Book* as '*Applies to 3 Small Crofts occupied by separate tenants. Propy [Property] of D. Fordyce Brucklay Castle*'. The tenant of one of the crofts is named as Mr Birnie. It is probable that the small building SW of the present site may have been another of the three crofts named 'Moss'.

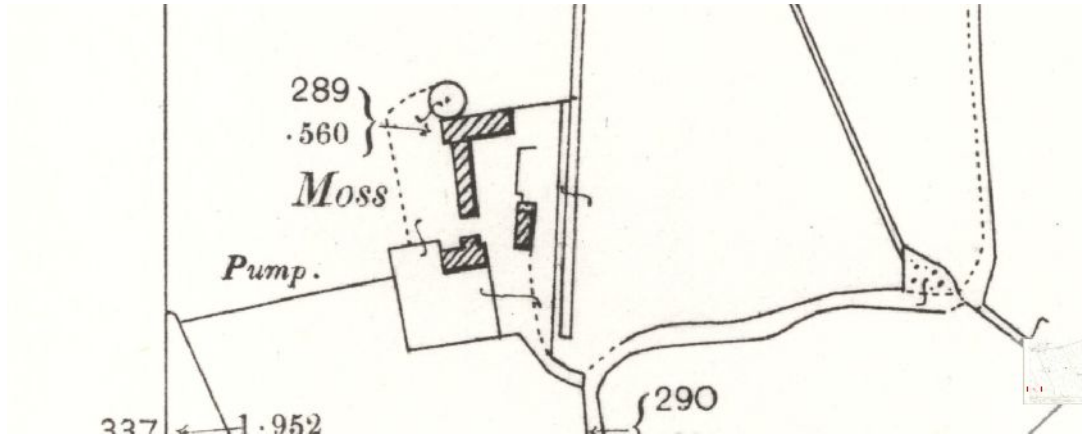
<https://scotlandspplaces.gov.uk/digital-volumes/ordnance-survey-name-books/aberdeenshire-os-name-books-1865-1871>

(OS1/1/74/33)



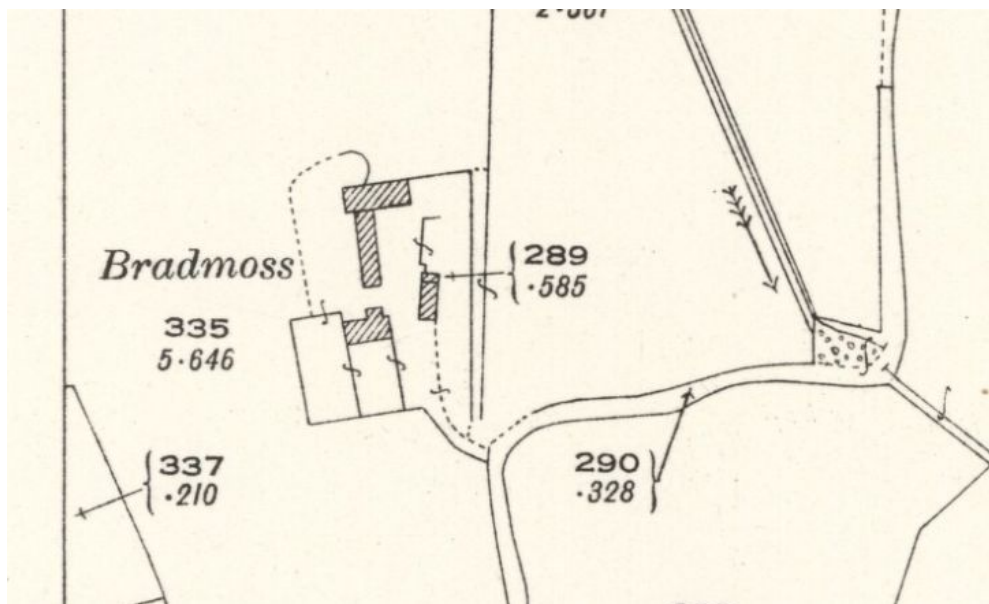
Illus 3 Detail of 25" OS map Aberdeen sheet II.7 1871, published 1874 [www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk)

**1900** The OS map of 1900 (Aberdeenshire 002.07 published 1902) shows the steading extended, forming an L-plan by the addition of an E/W range at the N end. A horse mill is shown beside the W end of the N wall of the N range. A new dwelling house with garden lies to the S of the steading. One structure lies to the E.



Illus 4 OS map of 1900 (Aberdeenshire 002.07 published 1902) [www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk)

**1925** The OS map of 1925 (Aberdeenshire 002.07 published 1926) shows the same layout, but the horse mill appears to have been removed. The property is, by this time, named Bradmoss.



Illus 5 Detail of 25" OS map of 1925 (Aberdeenshire 002.07 published 1926) [www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk)

## 5 Methodology

- 5.1 The ground plans (illus 10, 18) and elevations (illus 11, 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 an annotated plan in the present report (illus 38) indicates the position of each.

## 6 The Buildings

### Building 1: House

The house was not part of the planning condition. I ½ storey farmhouse with chimneys at each gable. It is briefly described here in relation to the steading.



**Illus 6 Building 1: House. S and E walls.**

Orientation S facing

Dimensions 11.70 x 5.85m ext.

Present/recent use Derelict (entry not possible).

Original use. Dwelling

Walls Rubble stone. Stonework very like N wing of steading Building 3.

Roof Slate. 3 metal skylights to S. Square chimneys to E and W gables each with 2 ceramic pots and smaller square chimney in centre of N wall. Granite. Flat tables.



**Illus 7 Building 1: House. W wall.**

S wall. Central door flanked by windows on either side. Granite lintels but rubble rybats.

E wall Window to ground floor. Small window into loft.

W wall. Window to ground floor.

N wall Central chimney. Ground floor window to W of it.

Small outshot porch and toilet with stone wall and lean-to slate roof against N wall.





**Illus 8 Building 1: House. N wall and outshot**

## Building 2

Orientation NNE/SSW

Dimensions Main structure: 8.2 x 4m. Total length including lean-to at N end: 11.2m. W side built into slope. (Illus 10, 11).

Present/recent use Derelict

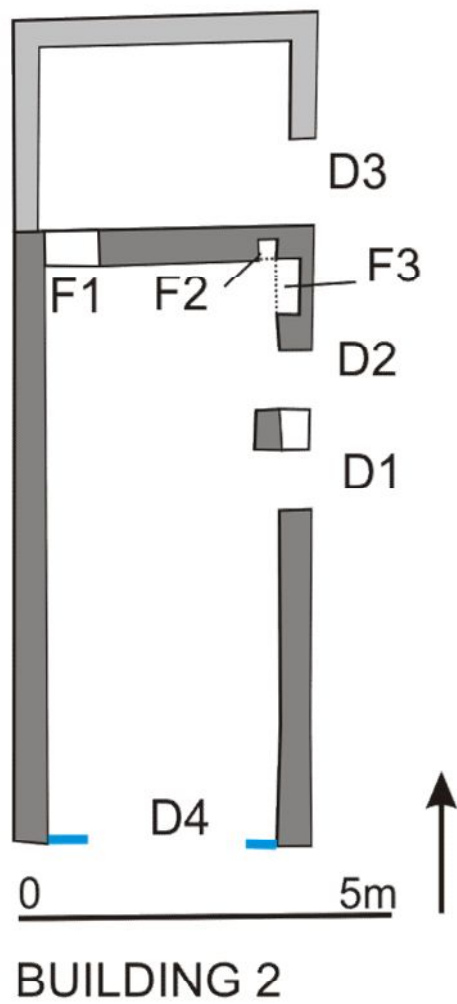


**Illus 9 Building 2. E wall**

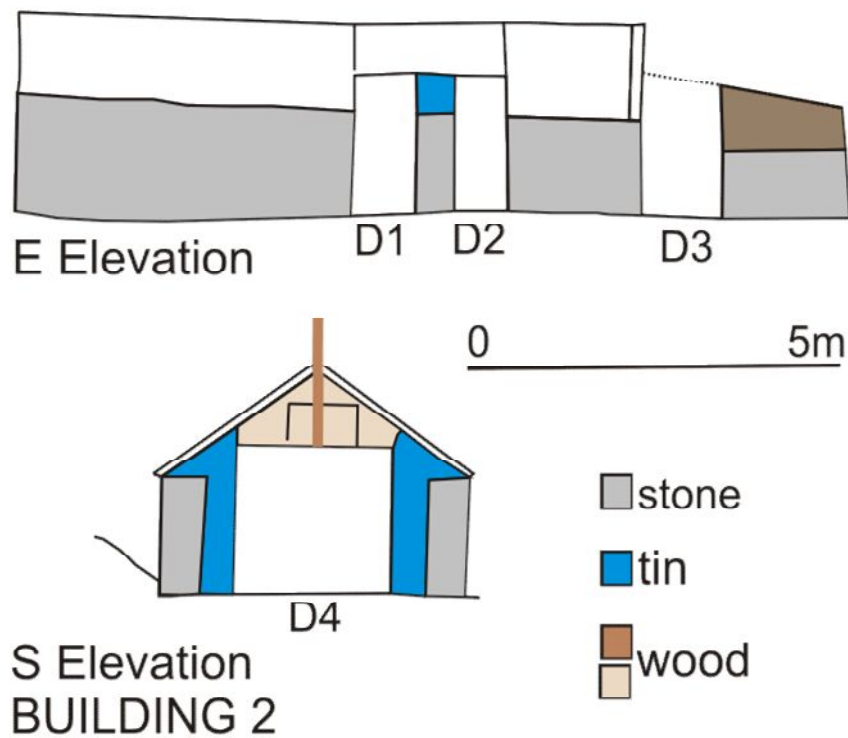
Original use. S room possibly poultry. N room possibly pigs.

Walls Rubble stone with tin and some timber at S gable and in lean-to at N end.

Roof Corrugated iron over A frame couples. Lean-to corrugated, sloping down to N.



Illus 10 Building 2 plan.



**Illus 11 Building 2 elevations**

Doors and windows

*N wall*

**D1** W: 0.80m. H: 1.80m, projects into roof line. Wooden door.

**D2** W: 0.83m. H: 1.85m, projects into roof line. Wooden door.

**D3** Into N lean-to. W: 1.24m H: Broken c. 1.80m

*S wall*

**D4** W: 2.11m H: 1.90m. Hinges remain of a pair of door. This appears to be a secondary door opened to convert the use of the building.



**Illus 12 Building 2. S wall, D4**



**Illus 13 Building 2, W wall built into slope of hillside**

Interior

The main structure is a single open space but a stub of wall between the two doors in the E wall (D1 & D2) indicates that it was originally divided into two.



**Illus 14 Building 2. Interior looking N**

In the NE corner of the main part of the structure, there were three alcoves built into the inner face of the wall (F2, F3), all wood framed with a cement skim over the wood.

F2 W: 360mm H: 330mm. Depth into wall: 260mm. Height of base above present floor: 400mm.

F3 Two alcoves one above the other. Top: W: 670mm H: 360mm

Lower W: 670mm H: 360mm. Depth into wall: 260mm.

The size and height of the alcoves suggests that they may have been nesting boxes.



**Illus 15** Alcoves, F2 and F3. Probable hen nest boxes

There was also a low, shuttered, opening (F1) in the W end of the N wall between the main structure and the N lean-to.

**F1** W: 700mm. H: 1.05m. Wood framed, with wooden shutter. This is blocked on the N side into the lean-to.



**Illus 16.** Detail of F1

### N Lean-to

The lean-to (c 2.4 x 3.4m) was ruinous. The walls were only c. 800mm high with a maximum roof height of c. 2m. The shuttered opening between the lean-to and the main structure indicates that livestock could be allowed access between the two areas.

The lean-to may have been used for a pig.

## Building 3

Orientation L plan building with the S arm of the building built of far rougher stonework. (Illus 18, 19).



**Illus 17 Building 3 general view from S end of S range**

Dimensions N Range: 13.8m x 5.5m. S range: 18.5m x 5m.

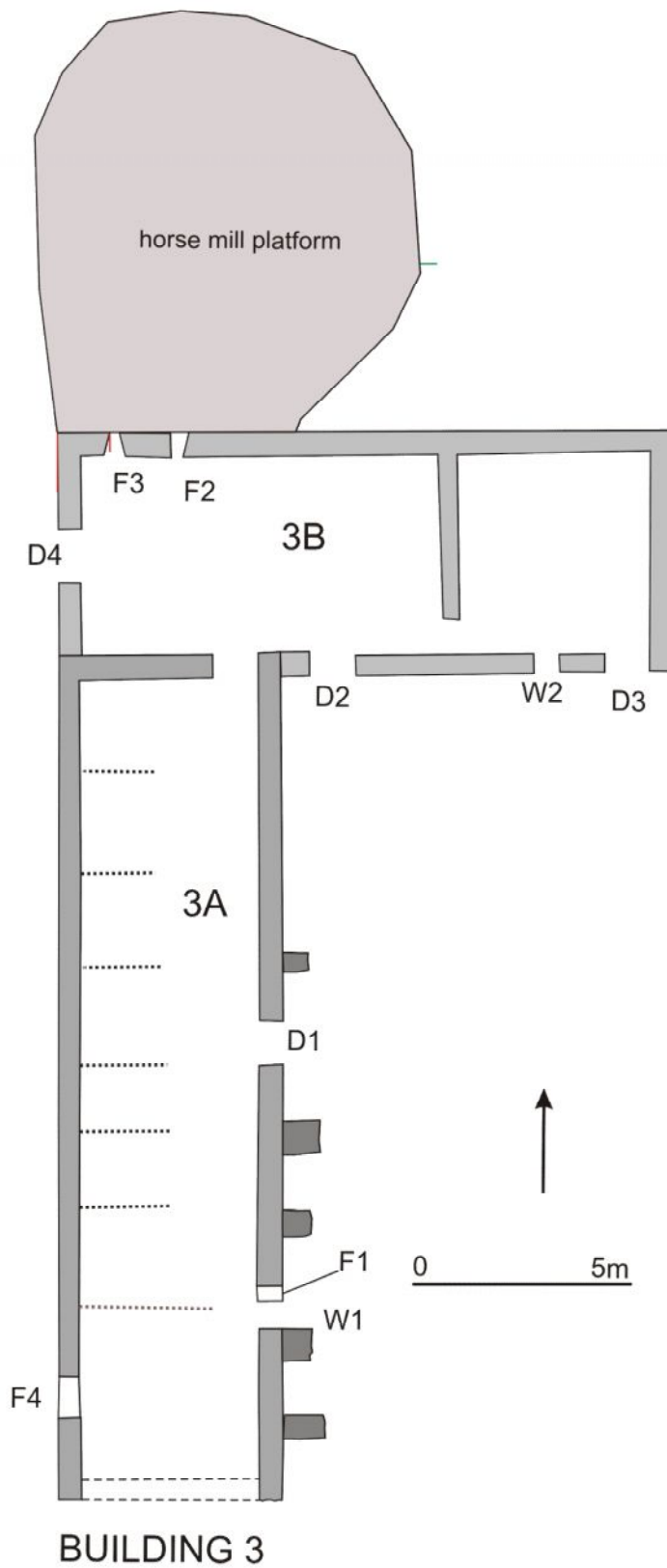
Present Derelict

Original use /recent use N range mill and stable. S range cattle byre

Walls N range. Rubble stone in good horizontal courses. Granite quoins, skews and rybats.

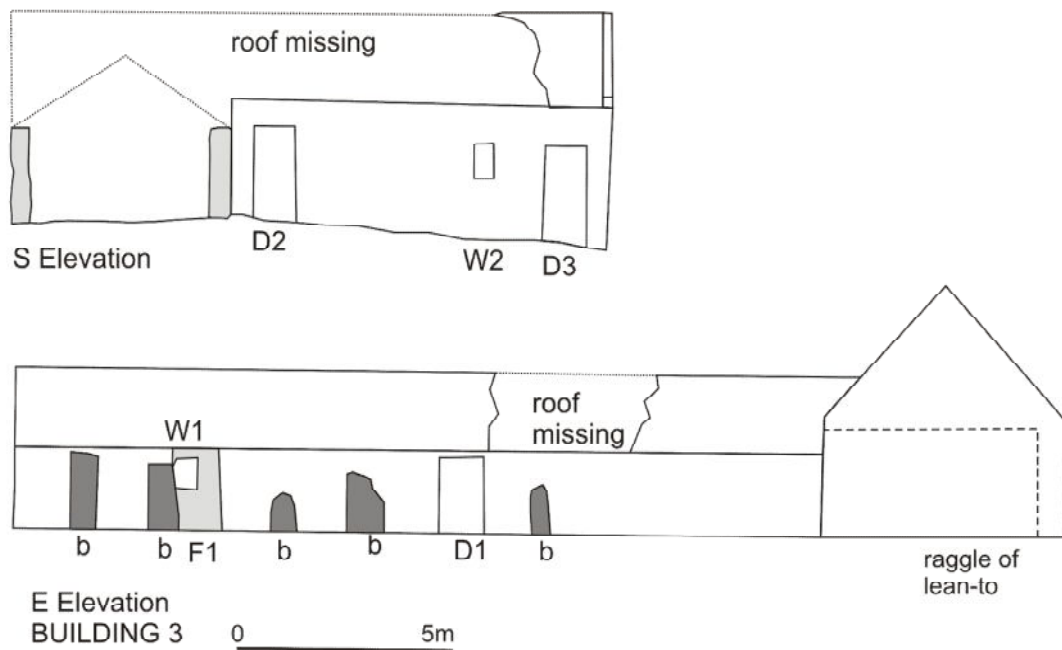
S range. Much rougher rubble stone, with irregular buttresses along E face of E wall (Elevations, Illus 19: b).

Roof N range: Slate. S range: Pantiles.



Illus 18 Building 3 plan.





**Illus 19 Building 3. Elevations**



**Illus 20 Building 3 from W with house (Building 1) on RHS background.**

Doors and windows – N range (3B)

*N wall*

**F2** At ground level externally near centre of horse mill platform, internally c1m above floor level. W: 250mm H: 250mm. Stone blocked.

**F3** At top of wall. Externally W: 300mm splays to 550mm internally. H: 300mm. c2m above internal floor.



**Illus 21 Building 3. N range, general view looking W to door D4. Ranging rod beside F2 (mill shaft hole)**



**Illus 22 Building 3. N range F2 and F3 (RHS by rod).**

*W wall*

**D4** W: 1.21m H: 1.95m. Granite lintel and rybats. Ground outside is higher than interior with base of D4 0.76m above internal floor. Wooden steps.

*S wall*

**D2** W: 1.12m H: 2.08m Granite lintel, sill and rybats

**D3** W: W: 1.13m H: 2.20m Granite lintel, sill and rybats. Plank door

**W2** W: 0.56m H: 0.93m. Granite lintel, sill and rybats



**Illus 23** Building 3 N range S wall



**Illus 24** Building 3. N range, E wall with raggle of a lean-to.



**Illus 25** Building 3. N range W wall and door D4

Interior

The interior of the N range is divided by a rubble stone wall into two unequal rooms. The W room was the mill with the opening F2 being for the shaft drive from the horse mill, and the higher F3 related to it. The E room may have been a stable, with loft above.



**Illus 26 Building 3. Interior of N range (Mill) looking W. Arrow marks mill position (F2)**



**Illus 27 Building 3. Interior of N range looking E to partition**



**Illus 28 Building 3. N range, E room- probable stable with loft above.**

Doors and windows – S range (3A)



**Illus 29 Building 3. S range E wall**

*E wall*

**D1** W: 1.05m H: 1.75m. Rubble rybats. Wooden lintel.

**W1** W: 0.74m H: 0.70m Rubble sill and rybats. Wooden lintel.

**F1** W1 was set into a blocking of an earlier door (F1) W: 0.97m H: 1.90m. Clear internally. Position suggests this was blocked when the internal wooden partition erected.

*S wall*

The S wall had been broken through.

*W wall*

**F4** W: 1.75m enclosing a wooden frame W: 0.67m H: 0.87m. Blocking of stone and tile.



**Illus 30 Building 3. S range S wall broken through.**

*Interior*

The S range was divided into two areas. The S end, entered originally from door F1 was 4m long and had had a window in the W wall. The N end, entered through door D1, had been divided by wooden trevises into 7 double tied-cow stalls 1.65 to 2.30m wide. Parts of a wooden feed trough and a wooden hay hake survived. A ceramic drain segment set in the W wall would have provided some ventilation.

There was access between the two areas of the S range and between the cattle byre at the N end and the mill (Building 3B).



**Illus 31 Building 3. S end of S range**



**Illus 32 Building 3. Cow stalls in N end of S range, looking N**



### Building 3 horse mill platform

Outside the W end of the N wall of the N range there was a surviving stone-revetted roughly circular platform 8.8-9.6m in diameter that would have housed the horse mill. The revetting survived to 1.10m in places.



**Illus 33 Platform of horse mill, looking W**



**Illus 34 Platform of horse mill with Building 3 behind. Ranging rod stands beside shaft hole F2**

### Building 4

Only a concrete floor remained of this building.



**Illus 35 Concrete floor of Building 4**

## Building 5

Barn with arched asbestos roof over concrete block walls.



**Illus 36 Building 5 looking N**

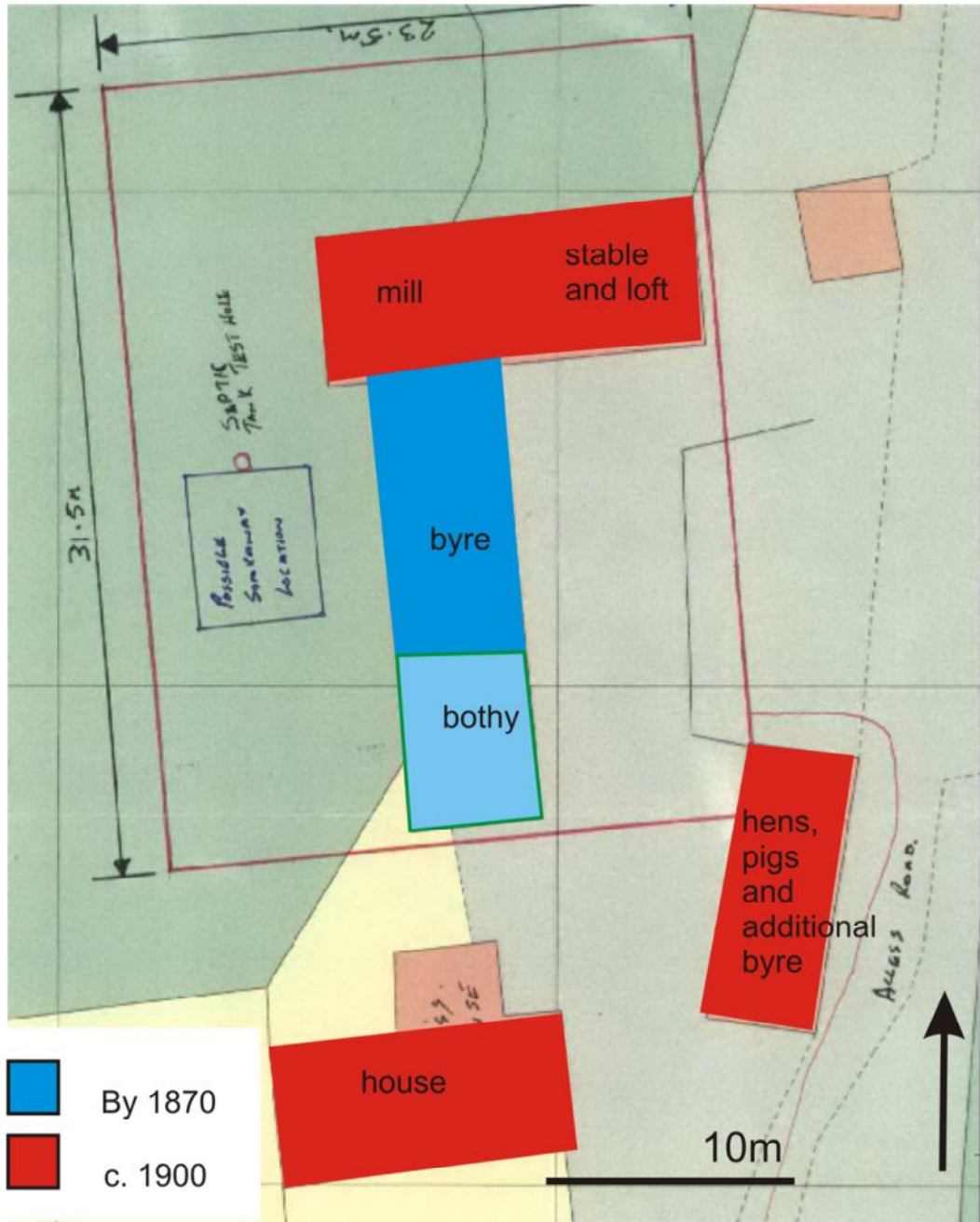
## 7 Discussion

The documentary evidence suggests that in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Broad Moss consisted of a dwelling and byre in a single range (Building 3 S range) with a small enclosed garden to the S. Small sheds to the E completed the range of buildings. The structural evidence is limited as the S gable of building 3 S range had totally collapsed, so there is no evidence of a chimney. However the blocked door (F1) and window (F4) are consistent with this having been a small bothy, with the N end of the S range being a byre.

At some point prior to 1900, the farm was transformed (Illus 37). A new freestanding 1 ½ storey farmhouse (Building 1) was built in the former garden. A mill and stable (N range of Building 3) was built adjoining the original byre- with very similar stonework suggesting this was done at the same time as the house. To the E, Building 2 seems to have been built to replace the small earlier sheds.

A number of later additions were made (Buildings 4 and 5 and outshot toilet etc at the back of Building 1).

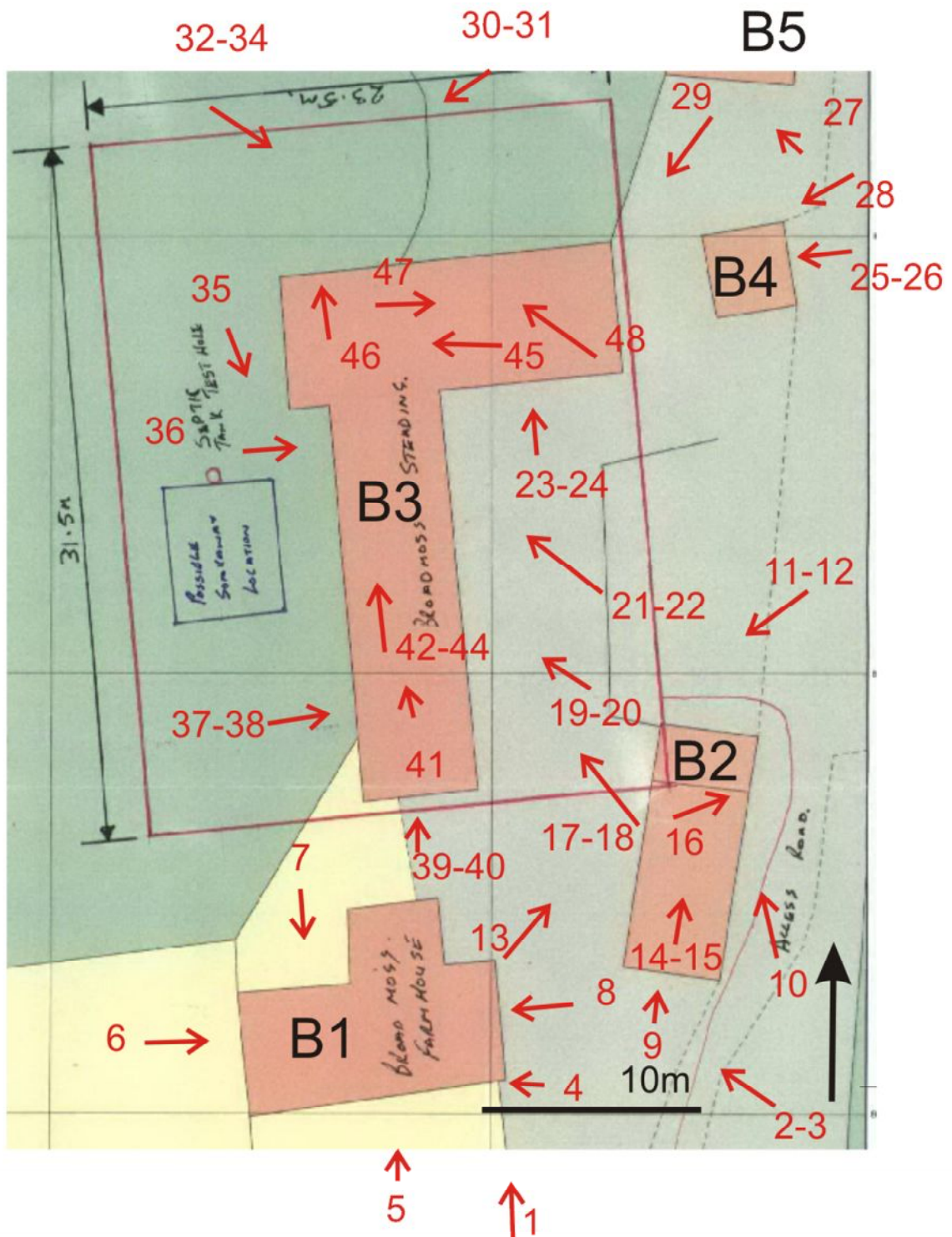
This is an interesting example of the development of a small farm; it is also a fairly unusual survival of a horse mill platform.



Illus 37 Development of Broad Moss.

## 8 Archive

A full set of photographs with the photo location plan (Illus 38) will be supplied to the Aberdeenshire SMR and to the HES archive.



Illus 38 Photo location plan

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<b>Photo number</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	General view looking N
2-3	General view looking NW
4	Building 1, E wall
5	Building 1 S wall
6	Building 1 W wall
7	Building 1 N wall
8	Building 1 E wall
9	Building 2 S wall
10	Building 2 E wall looking N
11-12	Building 2 N wall
13	Building 2 W wall looking NE
14-15	Building 2 interior looking N
16	Building 2 interior, detail of F2 & F3
17-18	Building 3 looking NW
19-20	Building 3 E wall S wing
21-22	Building 3 S wall, N wing
23-24	Building 3 S wall, N wing
25-26	Building 3 E wall
27	Building 5
28-29	Building 4 foundation in front of Building 3 E wall
30	Building 3 horse mill platform looking SW
31-32	Building 3 horse mill platform and Building 3 N wall
33-34	Horse mill platform and rod beside Building 3 F2 and F3
35	Building 3 W wall looking SE, house Building 1 in background
36	Building 3 W gable, N wing
37-38	Building 3 W wall Swing
39-41	Building 3 S end S wing
42-44	Building 3 interior, stalls looking N
45	Building 3 interior N wing looking W
46	Building 3 interior N wing, F2 & F3
47	Building 3 interior of W room looking E
48	Building 3 interior of E room looking N