

**LOANHEAD COTTAGE
DRUMBLADE
HUNTLY
ABERDEENSHIRE**



Standing Building Survey

Carried out 1st August 2018

by

Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2018-18

by

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- Standing Building Survey -

1. Background

1.1 A standing building survey was required for a small cottage prior to its demolition and replacement by a new replacement dwellinghouse.

1.2 The archaeological condition 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/2018/1726

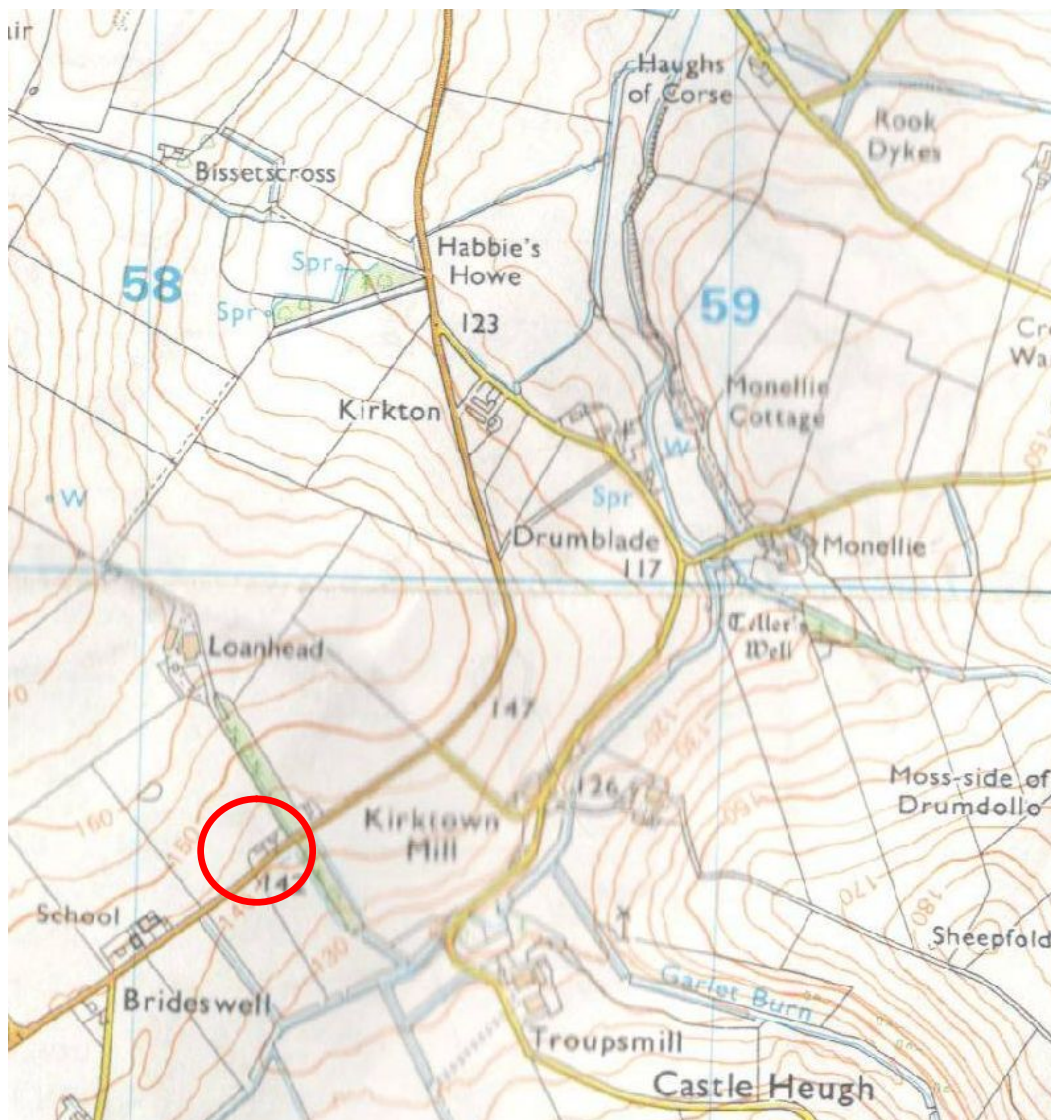
1.3 A Level 2 Standing Building Survey of the extant buildings and structures was required which comprises a full analytical record, to ‘include detailed photographs of decorative and structural elements, a detailed written description and account of the building’s origins, development, use and the evidence on which this has been based. Readily available historic documentation will be examined and measured drawings will be made of relevant sections, elevations and key architectural features’.

1.4 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned to undertake the work by John Wink Design. The site element of the survey was completed on the 1st August 2018.

2. Desk-top survey

2.1 A search was carried out in the Aberdeenshire 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. The Ordnance Survey Name Book was consulted on-line at <https://scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/digital-volumes/ordnance-survey-name-books>
- 2.3 The British Newspaper archive was searched for references to the property. www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk



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

3 Methodology

- 3.1 The ground plan (Illus 9) and elevations (Illus 32-35 have been supplied courtesy of John Wink Design and annotated to show details which may help in understanding the development and history of the building.
- 3.2 The building recorded was photographed. The full set of photographs will be supplied for the archive and a table and an annotated plan in the present report (Illus 31) indicates the position of each.

4. The Site

- 4.1 Loanhead cottage lies c. 1km SW of Drumblade on a minor road S of the A97. It is one in a pair of cottages that lie at the roadside, beside the track up to Loanhead Farm.
- 4.2 The cottage faces SE across open countryside, with a small area of garden between the cottage and the road. The garage lies SW of the cottage, beside the road.

Parish: Drumblade

NGR: NJ 5820 3950

Aberdeenshire SMR: NJ53NE0066



Illus 2 S elevation of cottage from road

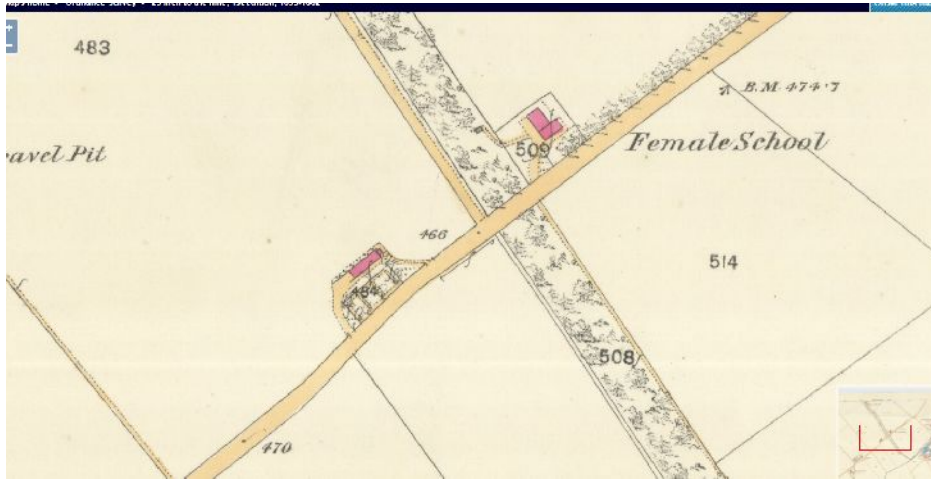


Illus 3 Site plan, courtesy of John Wink Design

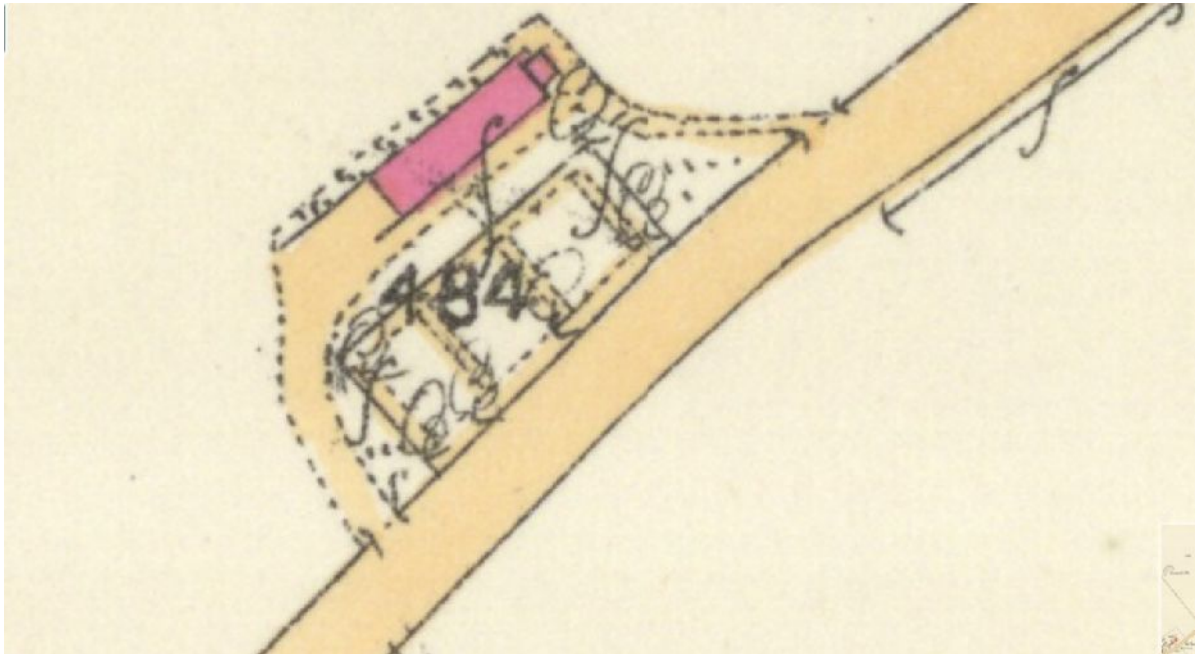
5 Documentary evidence

1865-71 The Ordnance Survey Name Book Aberdeenshire Vol 25 (OS1/1/25/50 www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk) describes Loanhead farm but does not list the associated cottages. Loanhead was the property of the Duke of Richmond, and the tenant at the time of the survey was James Lobban.

1871 The 25"/mile OS map Aberdeenshire XXVI.12 1871 (published 1872) shows the cottage on its present footprint with a small outshot or lean-to against the E gable (Illus 4, 5). Solid lines extending the N and S walls to the W would indicate walls extending W of the gable (Illus 5).

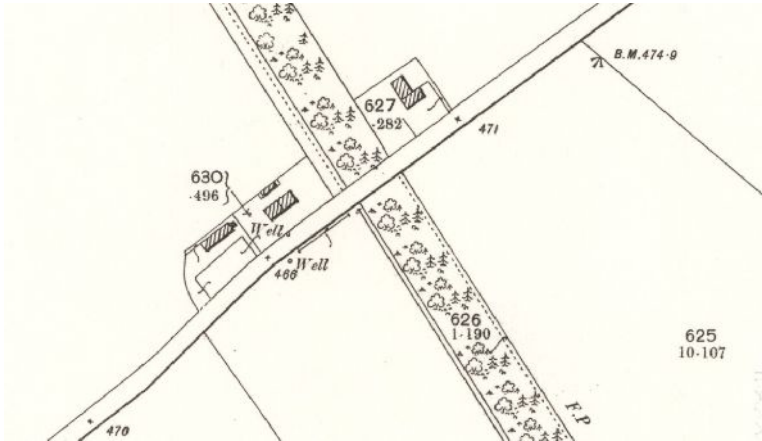


Illus 4 25"/mile OS map Aberdeenshire XXVI.12 1871 (published 1872) www.nls.ac.uk



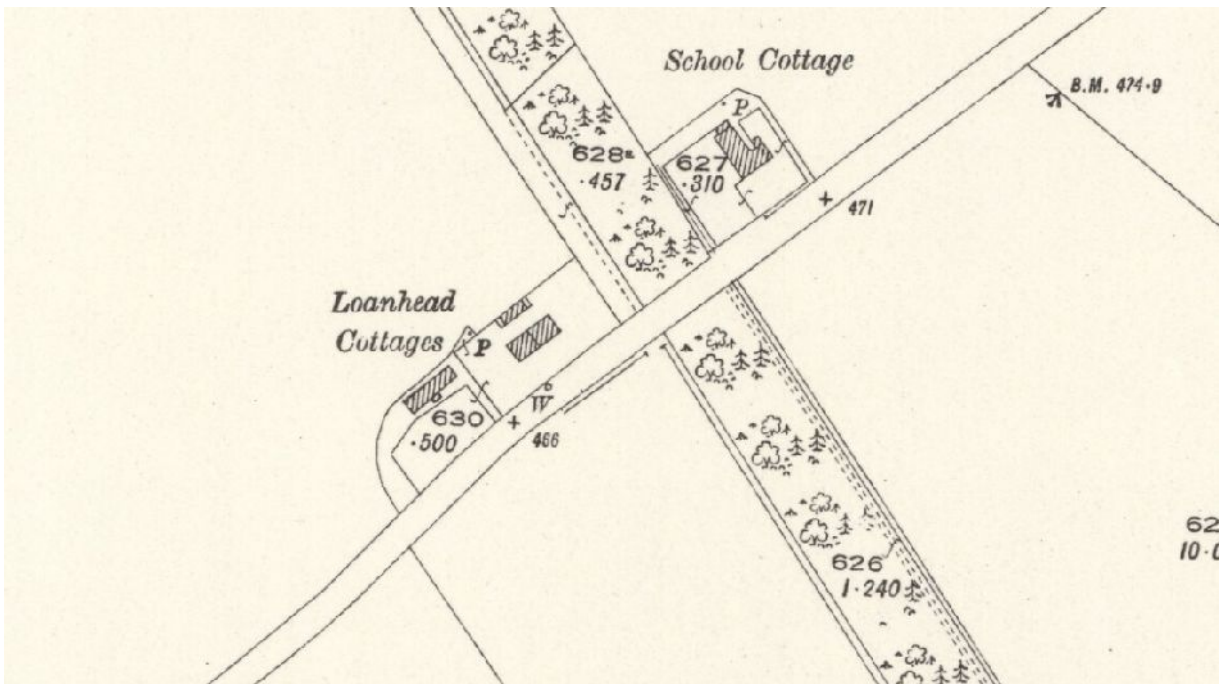
Illus 5 Detail of 25"/mile OS map Aberdeenshire XXVI.12 1871 (published 1872) www.nls.ac.uk

1899-1900 The 25"/mile OS map Aberdeenshire XXVI.12 1899-1900 (published 1901) shows the present building unchanged, but an additional cottage built to the E (Illus 6).



Illus 6 The 25"/mile OS map Aberdeenshire XXVI.12 1899-1900 (published 1901) www.nls.ac.uk

1925 The 25"/mile OS map Aberdeenshire XXVI.12, 1925 (published 1926) shows the addition of the porch in the S elevation. For the first time the cottage and the neighbouring property are named as 'Loanhead Cottages' (Illus 7).



Illus 7 The 25"/mile OS map Aberdeenshire XXVI.12 1925 (published 1926) www.nls.ac.uk

6 The Cottage

Plan Rectangular. The E end of the building was roofless and with only partial survival of the walls. While the junction of the main cottage and the E end was obscured by render on the front (S) wall, there was good evidence of stones running across the junction of the N wall, suggesting that the E end was part of the original plan (Illus 8). There was no evidence of any direct access between the main cottage and the E end but the wall was obscured on both sides so this is indefinite.



Illus 8 N wall. Junction between main cottage and E end.

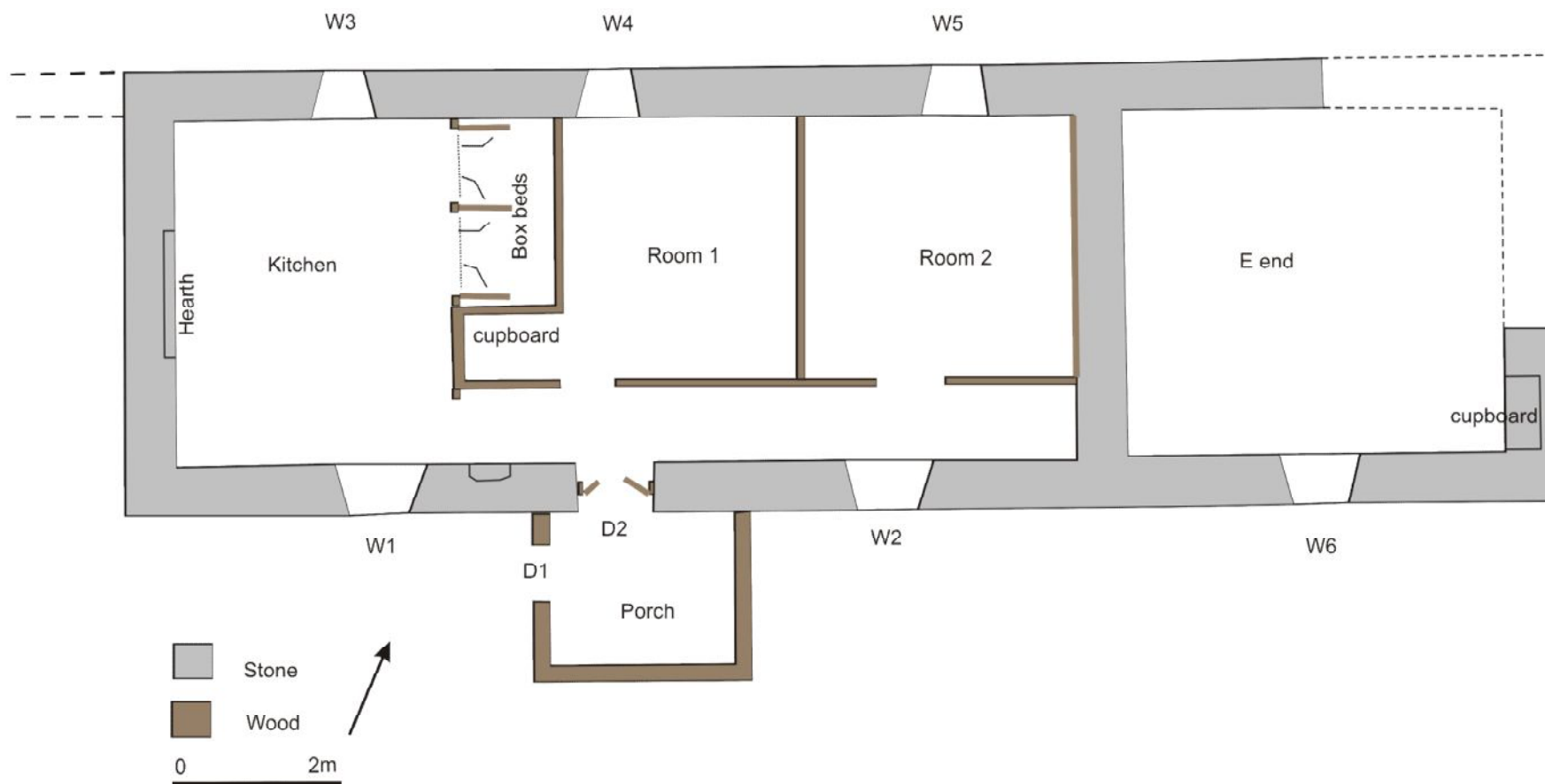
At the W end an area of rubble, render on the W gable and the continuation of the N wall at ground level all suggest there had been an extension at the W gable.

A small wooden porch sheltered the door in the S facing wall.

Dimensions 11.8 x 5.3m externally; 17m including the ruin at E end. Porch 2 x 2.6m.

Present/recent use Derelict

Former use Farm worker's cottage



Illus 9 Ground plan courtesy of John Wink Design and annotated by MAS Ltd.

Walls Rubble stone. Some render on exterior obscures detail but S elevation where render has worn shows split rubble with small angular pinnings. Large boulders in basal course.



Illus 10 Detail of W end of S wall showing detail of stonework

Internally the outer walls were plastered. Internal partition walls were of pine and had been papered.



Illus 11 Inside door D2, looking E along passage, showing plaster on inner face of main wall.



Illus 12 Inside room 2 looking towards passage and W2, showing wallpaper on internal wooden partition wall.

Roof Corrugated iron. The roof framework comprised A-frame couples of fairly rough timber with some bark remaining; these had been augmented and propped by more recent squared timber.

A ceiling of thin planks survived in some places, with traces of it having been painted or papered over in the kitchen (Illus 16)

Observation of the underside of the roof from inside the cottage shows a layer of turves lying below the tin over horizontal rough plank sarking (Illus 13, 14). For safety reasons these could not be examined more closely.



Illus 13 Underside of roof from within cottage



Illus 14 Detail of turves below corrugated iron



Illus 15 Roof structure in Room 1



Illus 16 Ceiling in kitchen

Chimney Only a few stones at the apex of the W gable (Illus 17) survived of the chimney that is implied by the position of the kitchen hearth. There was no other evidence for fireplaces or chimneys.



Illus 17 Remnant of stone chimney at W gable

Floor

Throughout the building, the floor was made of large stone flags.

Doors and windows

Note: all windows have been measured to the original lintel. Some had smaller, dilapidated modern frames within the original setting.

S wall

D1 (to porch) W: 0.78m H: 1.65-1.80m (into slope of lean-to porch). Plank door. (Illus 18).

D2 (from porch to house) W: 1m H: 2.04m. Slate lintel. Two-leaf plank door with small glazed light above.



Illus 18 D1

-
- W1** W: 0.78m H: 1.14m Slate lintel and sill, rubble rybats. Splays internally to 0.90m.
W2 W: 0.77m H: 1.11m Slate lintel and sill, rubble rybats. Splays internally to 0.96m
W6 (into E ruin) W: 0.78m H: 1.14m Slate lintel and sill.



Illus 19 S wall, W1.



Illus 20 S wall, W6

N wall

W3 W: 0.43m H: 0.63m Slate lintel, sill missing, rubble rybats. Splays internally.

W4 W: 0.43m H: 0.63m Slate lintel and sill, rubble rybats. Splays internally.

W5 W: 0.57m H: 0.78m Slate lintel and sill, rubble rybats. Splays internally.



Illus 21 N wall, W5

Interior

Much of the interior was filled with discarded furniture and rubbish so it was difficult to photograph. Some areas were unsafe because of the very unstable roof timbers.

Kitchen

Internal partition walls had been used to form a recessed area c 2.2 x 1.2m at the NE corner of the room. This is likely to have enclosed a box bed that could have been closed off from view with the doors that survived. The interior of this recess had been wall papered. The plank ceiling was lower than that of the main kitchen area.



Illus 22 NE corner of kitchen with box bed recess (A)

On the opposite side of the room, on the inner side of the W gable, there was a large hearth (estimated width 1.5m) with a wide stone lintel. The hearth itself was filled with a tangle of branches so was difficult to photograph but it was clear that the original iron swey and pot chains survived.

There was no evidence of power or water in the building. A Tilly lamp remained in the kitchen (Illus 23).



Illus 23 Tilly lamp in kitchen



Illus 24 Kitchen. Hearth at W end



Illus 25 Hearth. Light used to highlight swey and chains



Illus 26 Detail of swey and pot chains

Room 1

Room 1 opened from the passage and had a window in the N wall. The framing of the kitchen box beds formed a large cupboard at the SW corner of the room.

Room 2

Room 2 opened from the passage and had a window in the N wall.

Passage

The passage extended along the front of the building from the kitchen, giving access to Rooms 1 and 2. It was not possible to determine if it also gave access to the E end of the building. Just inside the main door (D2) and partially obscured by the kitchen door when it was open, there was a low alcove on the inner face of the wall. There was no evidence of its function- possibly a cool place to store a milk can.



Illus 27 Passage, looking towards kitchen showing alcove on inner face of the front wall (A). Room 1 on RHS

E end

The E end of the building was a ruin so few details survived. However a cupboard built into the thickness of the E gable (Illus 28) suggests that this was additional accommodation, rather than a byre. The collapse of the gable made it impossible to determine if there had been a hearth at this end of the building. Corrugated iron and wood

had been used to insulate the outer face of the party wall between the main cottage and this end of the building, obscuring any evidence of a communicating door (Illus 29)



Illus 28 Cupboard on inner face of W gable



Illus 29 E end of building looking towards the party wall with the main part of cottage

6 The Garage

Plan Rectangular.

Dimensions 5 x 2.8m externally.

Present/recent use Derelict

Former use Garage

This is a small timber building of no significance.



Illus 30 Garage

8 Discussion

This cottage appears to have been built in the second half of the 19th century before the 1st OS map of 1871. In plan it has been changed little since; a small outshot that stood against the E gable had disappeared by 1925. The wooden porch was built between c 1900 and 1925. There is evidence of the continuation of the walls at the W end of the cottage but at no point are these walls shown as part of a roofed structure.

The plan, and the surviving internal details such as the kitchen hearth and the box beds, are typical of 19th and early 20th century farmworkers' cottages in Aberdeenshire. The E end may have been additional accommodation for a single man, the cupboard indicating that it was probably domestic rather than a small byre.

The use of turves below the corrugated iron of the roof is interesting; they may have been intended as insulation, or may be a relict from a thatched roof, as thatch (which could be reeds, straw, heather or even broom) was often laid on a bedding of turves. Fenton and Walker 1981, fig 42) illustrate a very comparable example of turf under corrugated iron from Hill of Hatton, Auchterless, Aberdeenshire.

9 References

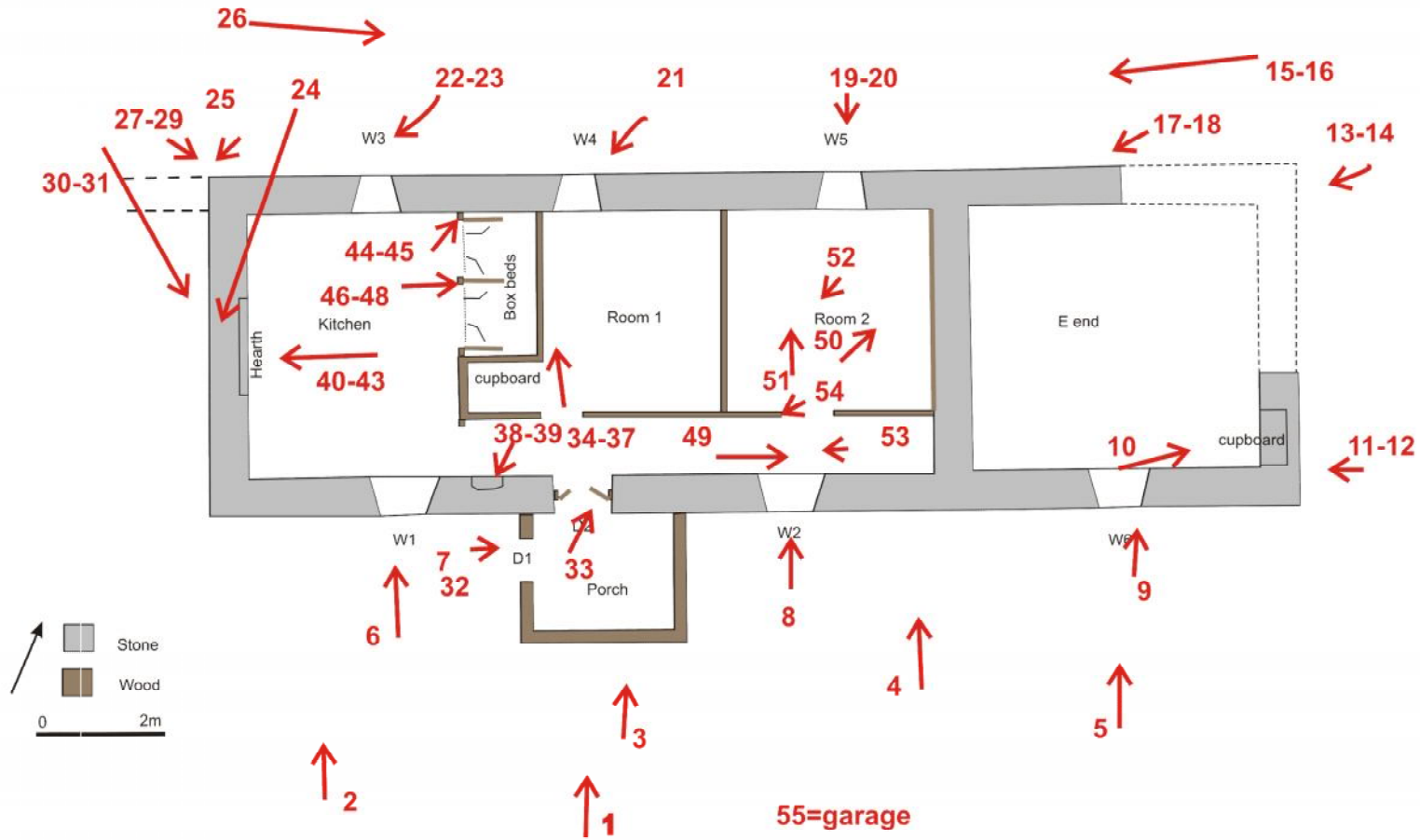
Fenton, A and Walker, B 1981 *The Rural Architecture of Scotland*. John Donald: Edinburgh.

10 Archive

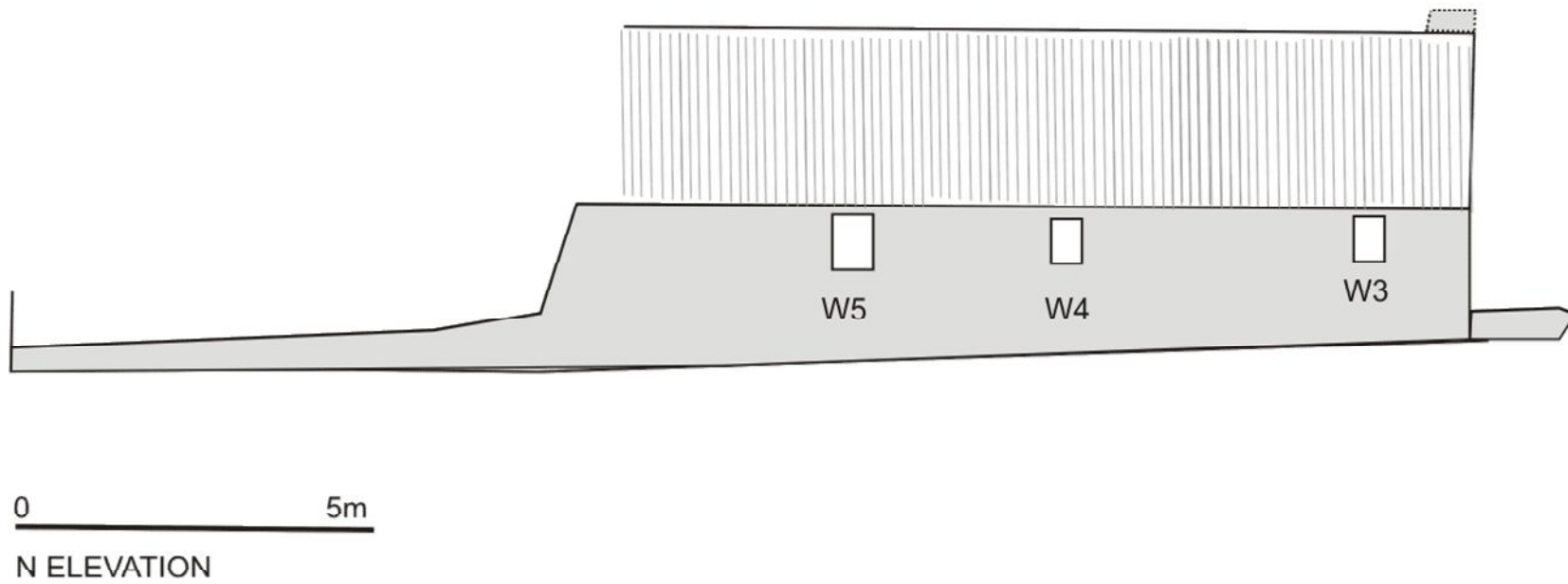
A full set of photographs with the photo location plans (Illus 31) will be supplied to the Aberdeenshire SMR and to the HES archive.

Photo number	Content
Loanhead Cottage	
1	S elevation general
2	S elevation W end
3	S elevation porch
4	S elevation E end
5	S elevation E room
6	W1

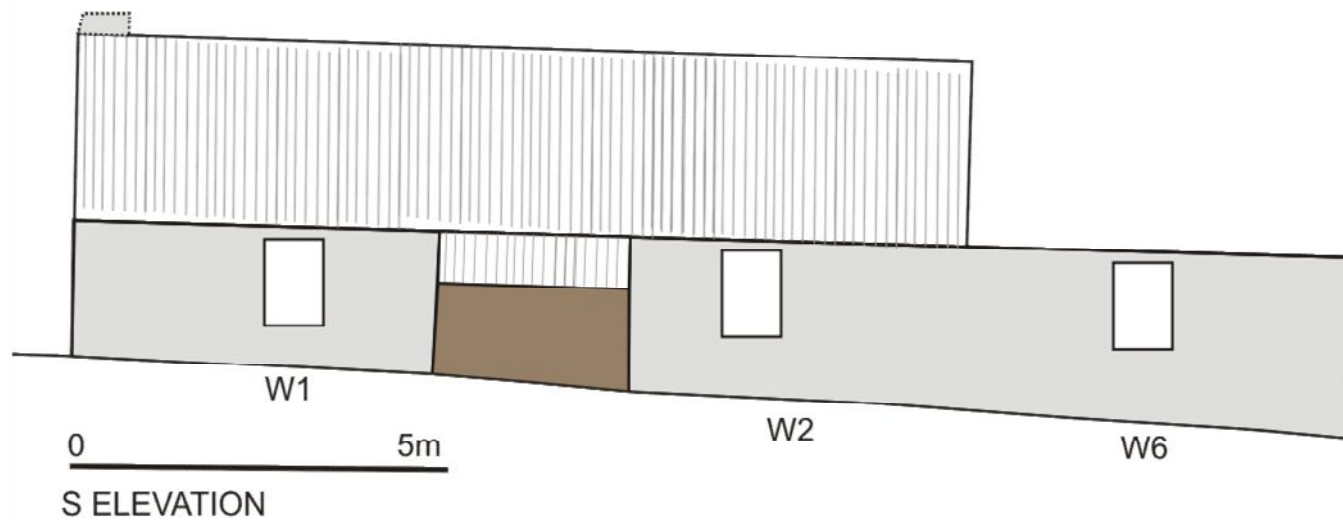
7	D1
8	W2
9	W6
10	Cupboard in inside E room E gable
11-12	E gable ruin
13-14	E gable and E room looking W
15-16	N wall looking W
17-18	Junction E room and main cottage
19-20	W5
21	W4
22-23	W3
24	W gable chimney stub
25	W end N wall main cottage with wall continuation to W looking W
26	N wall looking E
27-29	W end N wall main cottage with wall continuation to W looking E
30-31	W gable chimney stub looking SE
32	D1
33	D2
34-37	Looking N into room 1
38-39	Looking W from passage to alcove behind kitchen door in passage
40-43	Kitchen. Hearth looking W
44-45	Kitchen E end of N wall, alcove and edge of box bed
46-48	Kitchen. E wall box bed
49	Passage looking E
50	Room 2 looking NE
51	Room 2 ceiling and turves in roof
52	Room 2 looking towards passage and W2. wall paper on W wall of Room 2
53	Passage looking W from Room 2 doorway
54	Room 2 Door fitting
55	Garage looking S towards road



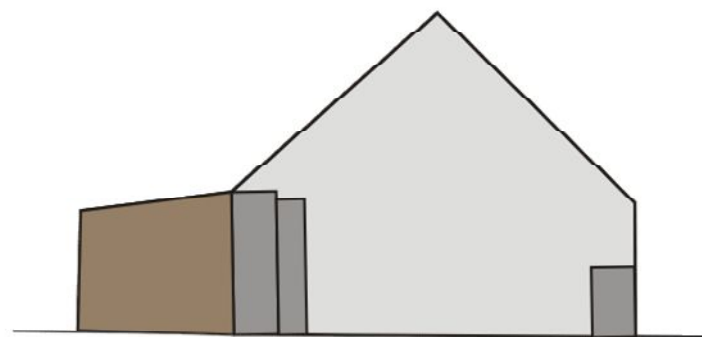
Illus 31 Photo location plan. Plan courtesy of John Wink Design, annotated by MAS Ltd



Illus 32 N Elevation courtesy of John Wink Design, annotated by MAS Ltd

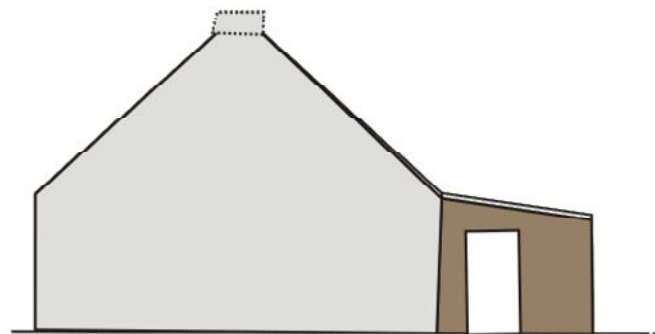


Illus 33 S Elevation courtesy of John Wink Design, annotated by MAS Ltd



0 5m

E ELEVATION

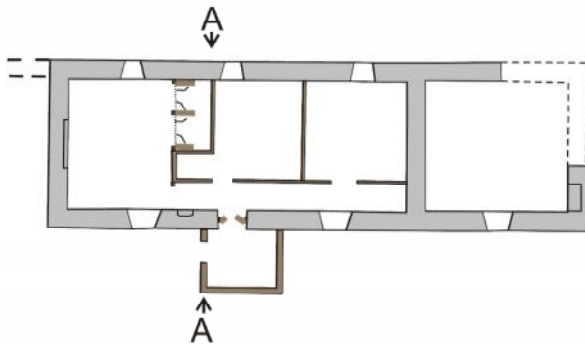


W ELEVATION

Illus 34 E and W Elevations courtesy of John Wink Design, annotated by MAS Ltd



0 5m
SECTION A-A



Illus 35 Section courtesy of John Wink Design, annotated by MAS Ltd