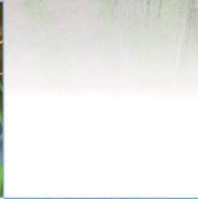
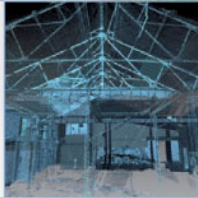


Millhill Steading, Arbirlot

Historic Building Recording

Report

AOC 21150
13th February 2009



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Millhill Steading, Arbirlot, Angus Historic Building Recording Report

On Behalf of: The Voigt Partnership
Design Studio
66 High Street
Arbroath
DD11 1AW

National Grid Reference (NGR): NO 600 405

AOC Project No: 21150

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Illustration by: Diana Sproat

Date of Fieldwork: 9th February 2009

Date of Report: 13th February 2009

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Date: 13th February 2009

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Summary

A Level 1 historic building survey was required of the steading range at the former barns and stables at Millhill Steading in Arbilot, Angus.

The range of seven farm buildings on the site probably dating from the late 18th and early 19th century with the present layout – with the exception of one larger barn and some minor extensions – remaining as it was in the 1850s.

No further historic building recording is recommended.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 The Voigt Partnership commissioned AOC Archaeology Group to undertake a Level 1 historic building survey at Millhill Steading, Arbirlot prior to the development of the property. These works were recommended by the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeological Service who advise the Angus Council on archaeology matters.

1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 Millhill Farm and its associated steadings are located to the north-west side of the small village of Arbirlot approximately 3.5 miles to the west of the town of Arbroath, Angus and is centred on National Grid Reference NO 600 405 (**Figure 1**). The steading is bounded by farmland with a steep bank to the east side of the property where the land slopes down sharply to meet the houses within the village of Arbirlot itself.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of this survey were to make a general record of the buildings on site through photography and written descriptions prior to their redevelopment.

3 Methodology

3.1 Archive research

- 3.1.1 A simple map regression was undertaken on the site using publicly accessible maps from the National Map Library of Scotland to place the site into context. These are represented chronologically (**Figures 3 – 6**).

3.2 On site inspection

- 3.2.1 An on site inspection was undertaken of the buildings which consisted of a written record of the exterior and interior of the buildings (where access allowed) using pro-forma recording sheets. A general and detailed photographic record of the exterior and interior of the buildings in black and white print using a 35 mm single-lens reflex camera was also compiled. A colour digital photo record accompanied the black and white photographic record and some of the photographs have been used to illustrate this report. A list of all those photographs taken can be found Appendix 1.

4 Architectural Appraisal

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Millhill steading consists of a range of seven buildings (A – G) located to the south of the main farmhouse (**Figure 1**). For the purposes of this report, each building was given a unique letter reference which can be cross-referenced with **Figure 2**.

4.2 Building A (Plates 1 – 7)

4.2.1 Located to the south of the steading range, this former cow barn is a two-by-one bay, two-storey barn constructed of stone rubble with a hipped modern corrugated steel roof. The south elevation consists of a two-bay elevation with a breeze-blocked door to the west and a smaller first floor window to the east. Both have a pronounced chisel-dressed surround (**Plate 1**). The west elevation is a plain gable with a large structural crack along the northern side (**Plate 2**). To the north elevation is access to the main cow stalls, through a plain timber plank stable door (**Plates 3 & 4**). To the east of this (west-facing) is a tall timber doorway leading to the first floor timber stair (**Plate 5**). To the rear (east) elevation of this barn, there appears to be a clear distinction between Buildings A and B, with a possible phase line denoted by the appearance of larger quoin stones between the buildings (**Plate 6**). There is also a small timber framed window with large pronounced chisel-dressed surround at ground floor level (**Plate 7**).

4.3 Building B (Plates 8 – 11)

4.3.1 This building is abutted to the south by Building A and consists largely of a two bay barn, open to the front (west) (**Plate 8**). A large stone lintel is supported by a central timber column, another column being added to the southern side to support the area beneath another crack that has appeared. The stone lintel (and roof for the first floor) is further supported by a thin reinforced steel beam to the interior. To the first floor, are two windows? One is probably an insertion suggested by the brick blocking to the north. The second is a smaller window to the south. Originally obscured by Building C, the north elevation is a plain gable (**Plates 9 & 10**); although the appearance of some former roof lines indicates that the wall has undergone several phases of construction.. There is a much smaller stone rubble building of a smaller barn seen clearly in this wall, with a pitched roof. The larger more red sandstone build of Building B is then seen above this and the roof line of Building C (now demolished) can be identified towards the top of the gable. The wall itself is in a bad state of repair and bulges slightly to the centre. There is also a hole in the stonework which has been temporarily filled with stone and brick. Internally, the area is a former stables divided by a simple timber partition (**Plate 11**) with another timber column adding support to the north/south ceiling beams.

4.4 Building C (Plate 12)

4.4.1 Building C had collapsed prior to the survey being undertaken and, as a result, little could be identified of the nature and extent of this barn. It is clear, however, that the building had a slate roof (**Plate 12**).

4.5 Building D (Plates 13 – 16)

4.5.1 This barn is the most well preserved building in the steading range and is still currently being used as a stables and store. The main entry is through either door in the west elevation which is a coursed stone rubble construction with weathered, chisel-dressed quoins. There are two entrances – to the south, a corrugated-iron doorway and to the north a larger double sliding corrugated-iron door (**Plate 13**). The rear east elevation has been

exposed after the collapse of Building C and is constructed of stone rubble with two corrugated iron doorways (**Plate 14**). The north elevation consists of plain gable end (**Plate 15**). The north elevation was a plain wall with the smaller remains of the north elevation of Building C behind (**Plate 16**).

- 4.5.2 Internally, the stables are divided by a large timber partition and the southern room had a well preserved brick paved floor to the entranceway opposite a splayed window (**Plate 17**).

4.6 Building E (**Plate 18**)

- 4.6.1 This small cow stall abuts Building F to the south and is constructed of dry stone against the bank to the west. It is open to the front (east) side with three timber columns supporting the roof beam. The roof itself is a lean-to with corrugated asbestos sheeting (**Plate 18**).

4.7 Building F (**Plates 19 & 20**)

- 4.7.1 This barn is a single-storey three-by-one bay hay storage barn constructed of stone rubble, heavily whitewashed, with a pitched corrugated asbestos roof (**Plates 19**). The east elevation has an inserted large corrugated iron sliding door which has partially obscured one of the original windows to the south end. Both windows are now blocked. To the south, the building is abutted by Building E, and also features another bricked-up window. The north elevation is obscured by the abutment of the garage, or Building G (**Plate 20**).

4.8 Building G (**Plates 21 & 22**)

- 4.8.1 This small garage is a single-storey building, formerly used as a barn, constructed of stone rubble and abutting Building F to the south (**Plates 21 & 22**). It has a small lean-to to its north-east side.

5 Discussion

- 5.1 A settlement at Millhill has been recorded as far back as the late 18th century. John Ainslie's map of 1794 identifies a settlement called Millhill, probably so named as it was located on a rise of ground to the west of an established water mill (**Figure 3**). Buildings can be identified although the map is too schematic to identify the layout of the steading buildings at this time.

- 5.2 The earliest cartographic sources which show the buildings in any detail are the Ordnance Survey maps. The First Edition (1858-6) map shows how the steading range looked in the mid-19th century. It shows Buildings E, F & G (although without the extension to the north-east side) as well as Buildings A & D (**Figure 4**). Building C has not yet been constructed and there is a much smaller barn in its current location which is likely to be the original single-storey barn, the gable of which can be seen in north elevation of Building B (see **Plate 10**). Because the gable appears to pre-date the remainder of this wall, it can be presumed that this smaller barn pre-dates Building B.

- 5.3 The 1903 Ordnance Survey map (**Figure 5**) shows that some time in the mid to late 19th century the single-storey barn was demolished and Building C was constructed. It is also during this time that several extensions were added, including a large extension to the south elevation of Building A and smaller extensions to the north elevations of Buildings C & D.
- 5.4 Little had changed by the publication of the 1923 Ordnance Survey map (**Figure 6**) although the extension to the north of Building D has been removed and the extension to the north of Building C has been extended. The lean-to to the north-east of Building G has also been established by this date.
- 5.5 During the 20th century, little changed in the layout of the buildings, as can be seen in the 1967 Ordnance Survey map (**Figure 7**). Most recently, however, the extension to Buildings D and A have been removed and Building C (and the southern brick extension to Building D) have collapsed or been demolished.
- 5.6 In terms of function, the buildings appear to have always been used as stables (Buildings B, C, D & F), a cart shed (Building G) and cow stalls (Buildings A & E) although some alternative uses have been employed (hay storage in Building F and Building G is now a garage). Building D displays a fine well-maintained brick paved floor suggesting this use has been continued throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

6 Conclusions and recommendations

- 6.1 The steading range at Millhill is a good example of an early to mid 19th century animal range associated with a larger country house.
- 6.2 No further historic building recording is recommended.

7 References

7.1 Cartographic References

1794	John Ainslie	Map of the County of Forfar or Shire of Angus
1858	Ordnance Survey	1:2500 Forfarshire XLVI.13
1903	Ordnance Survey	1:2500 Forfarshire XLVI.13
1923	Ordnance Survey	1:2500 Forfarshire XLVI.13
1967	Ordnance Survey	1:2500 Sheet NO 6040

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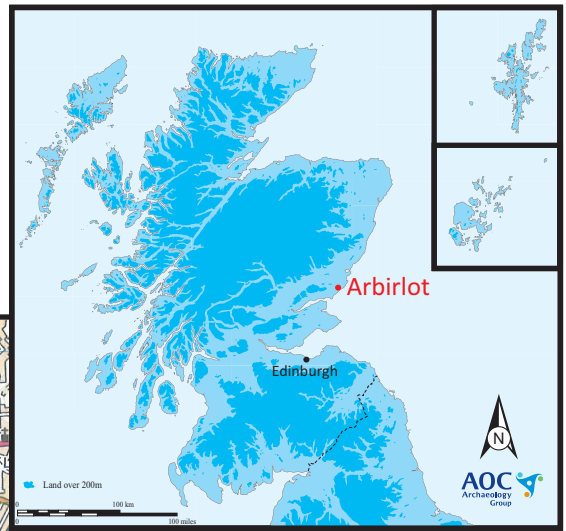
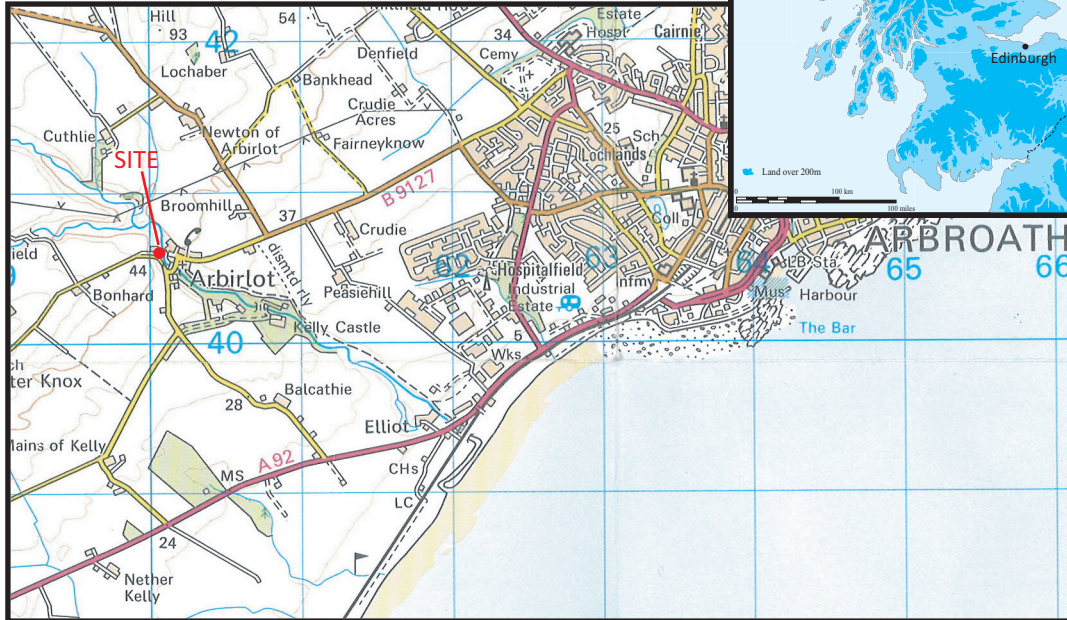
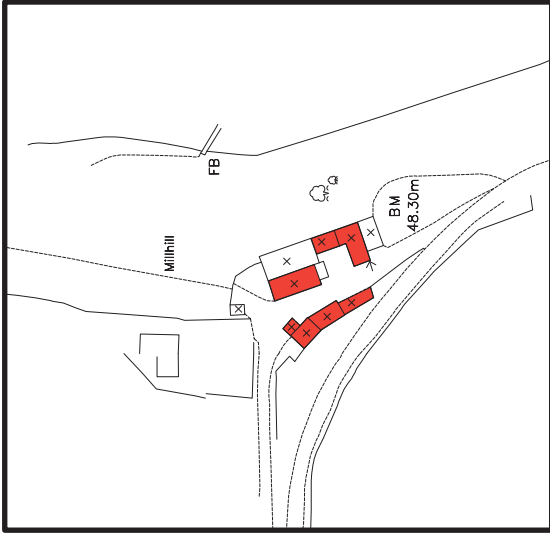


Figure 1: Site location plan



Building C collapsed

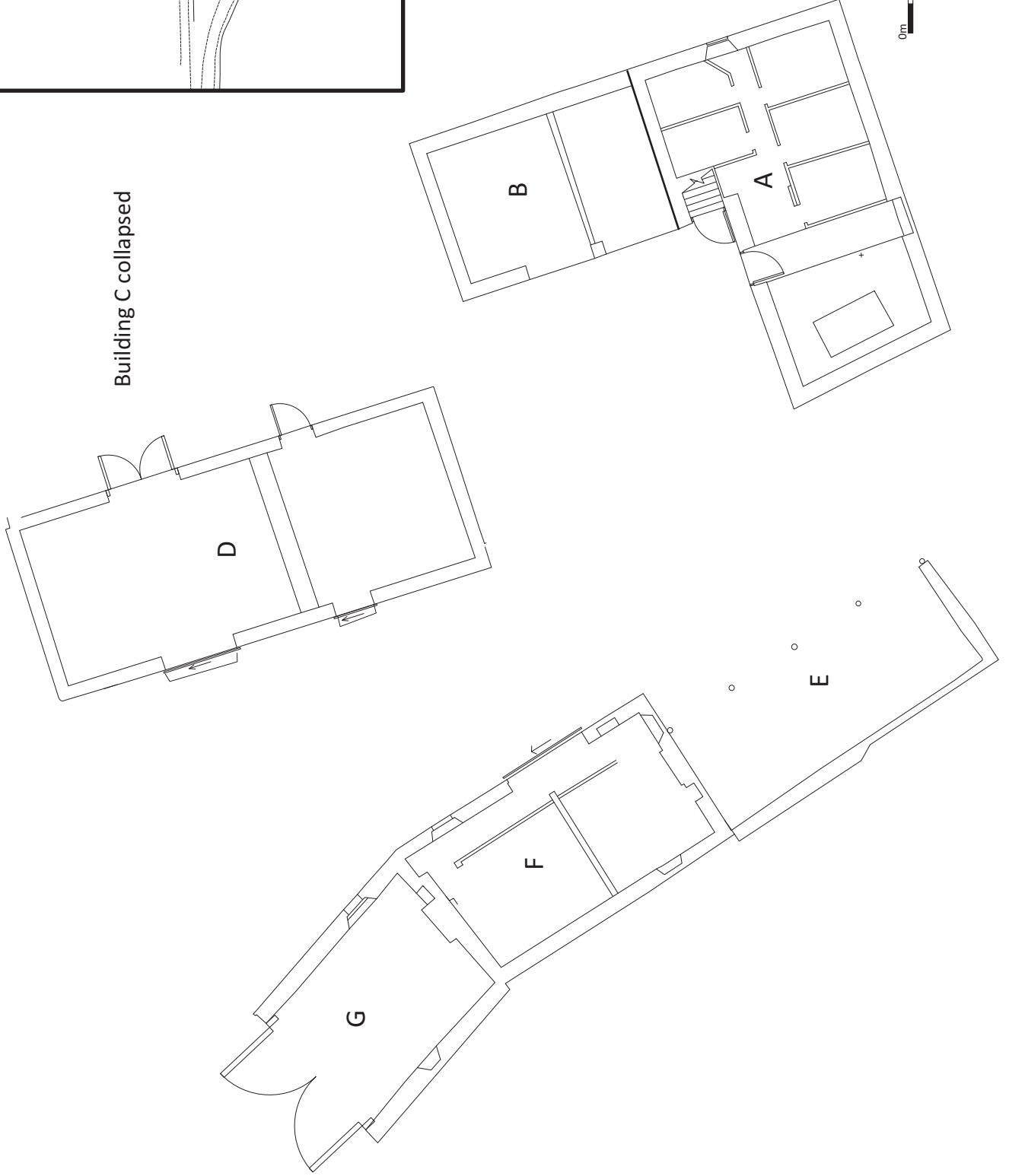
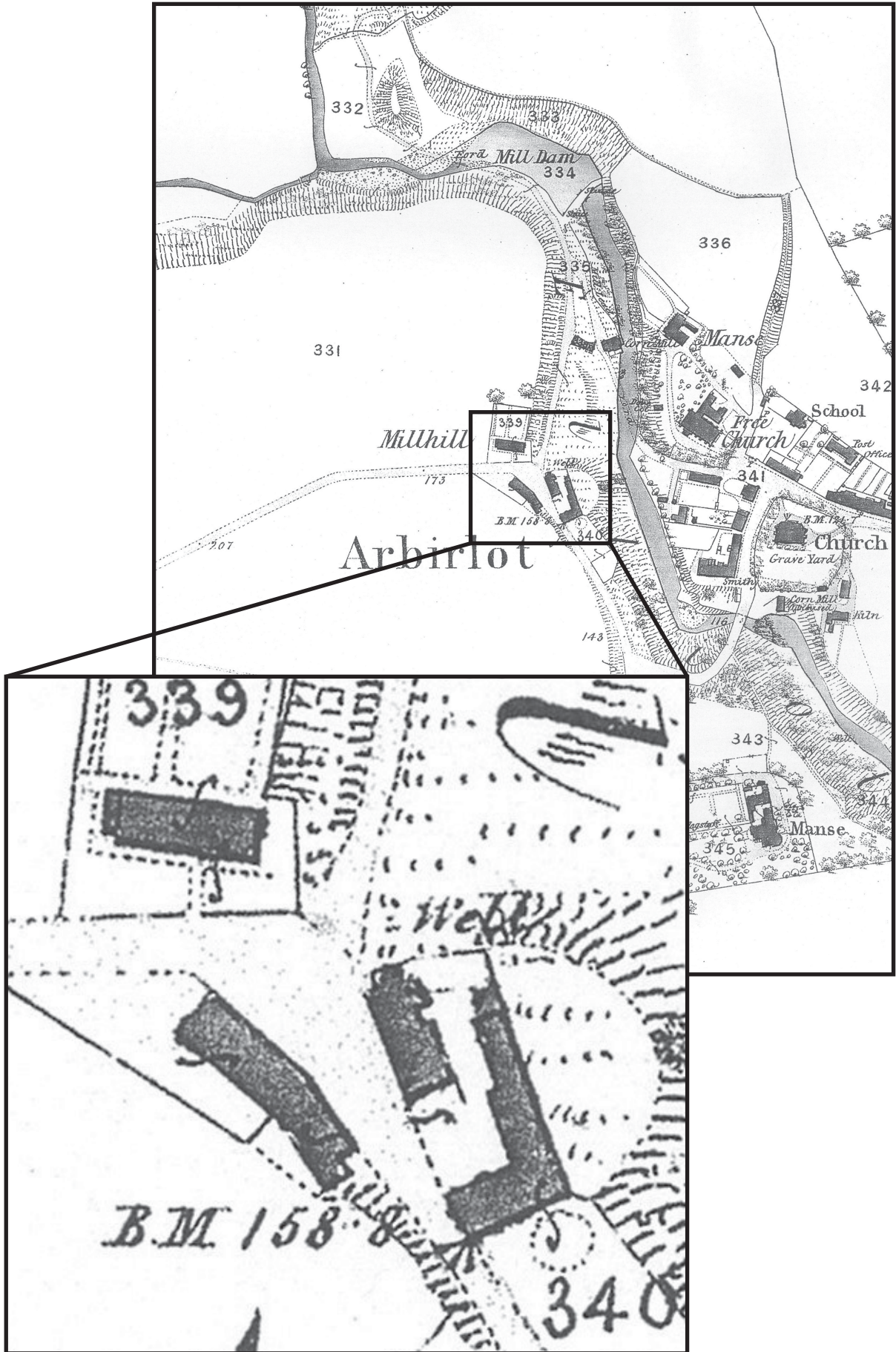


Figure 2: Site plan



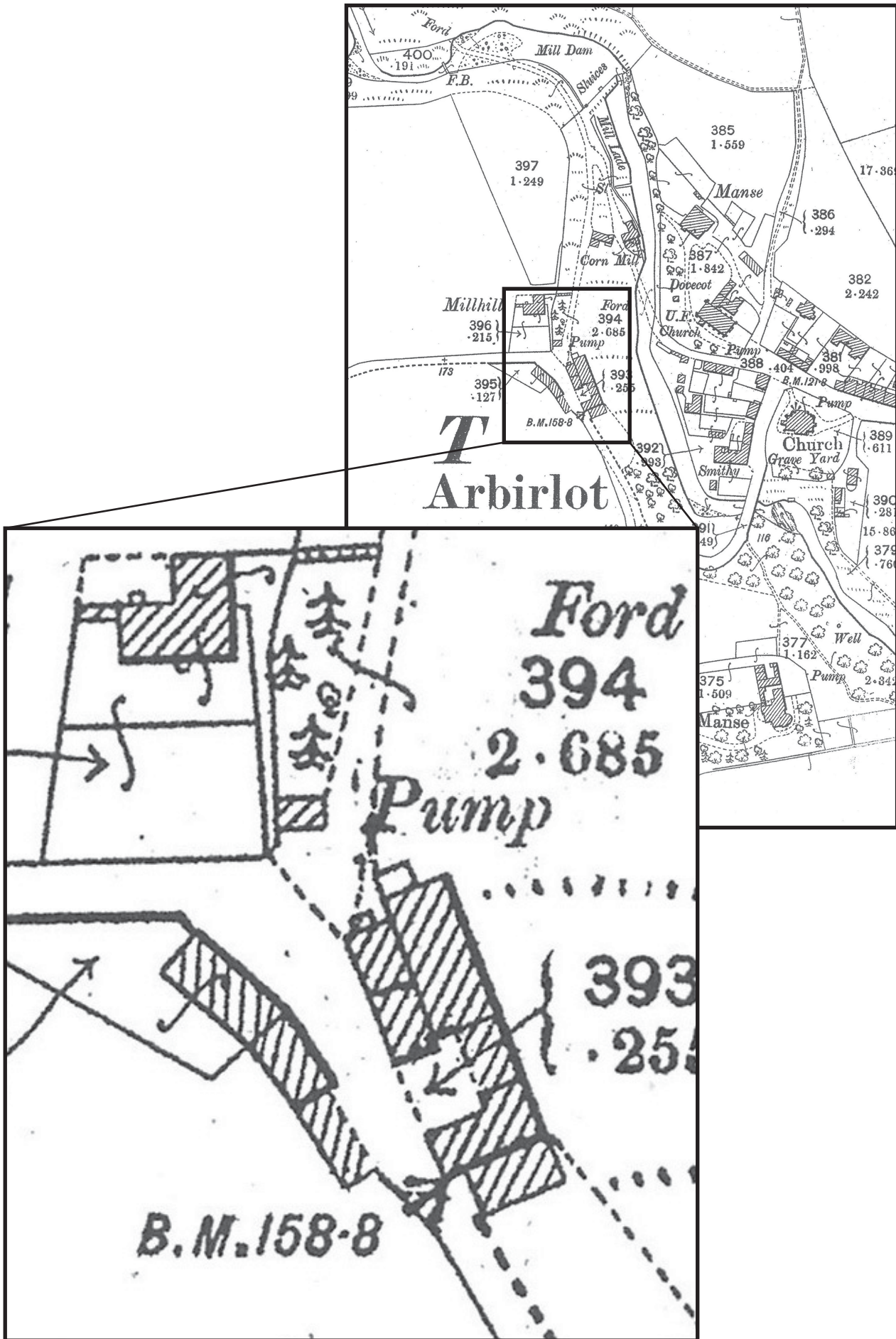
(map reproduced by kind permission of the National Map Library of Scotland)

Figure 3: Extract from Ainslie's map, 1794



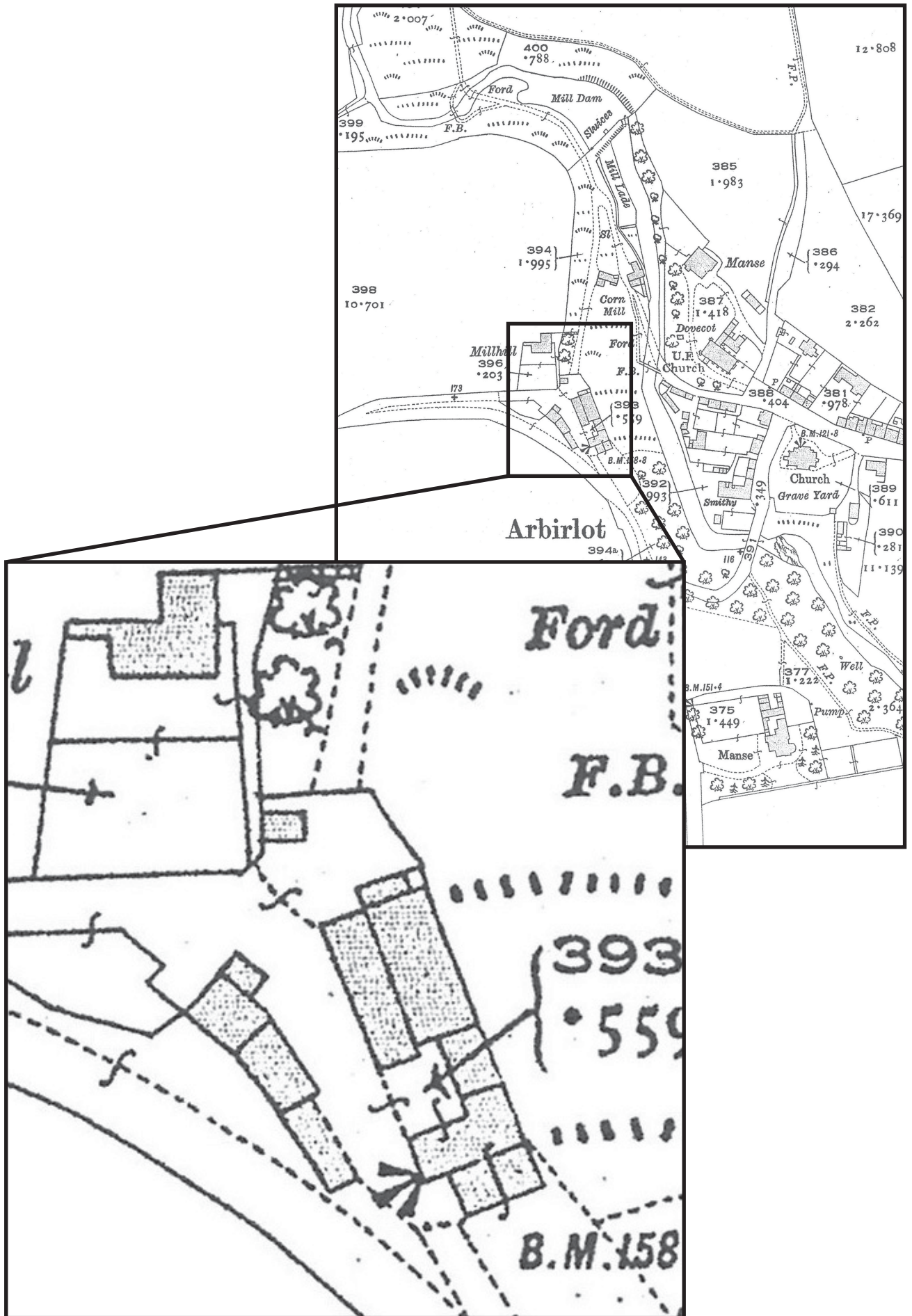
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Figure 4: Extract from Ordnance Survey map. 1858



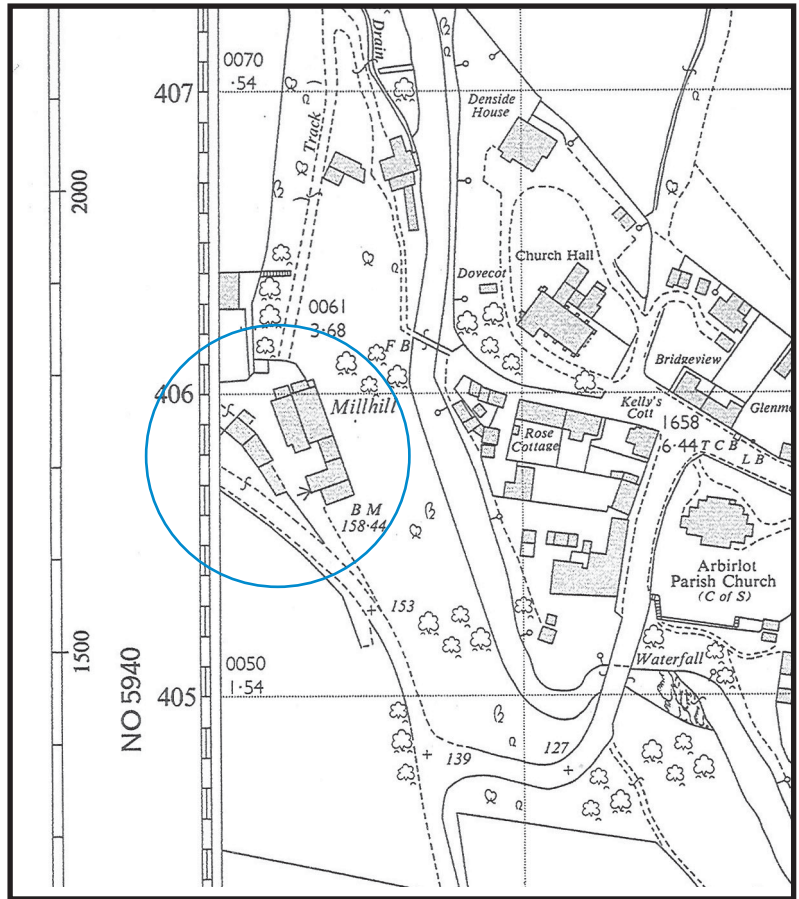
(map reproduced by kind permission of the National Map Library of Scotland)

Figure 5: Extract from Ordnance Survey map. 1903



(map reproduced by kind permission of the National Map Library of Scotland)

Figure 6: Extract from Ordnance Survey map. 1923



(map reproduced by kind permission of the National Map Library of Scotland)

Figure 7: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1967



Plate 1: Building A, general view of south elevation



Plate 2: Building A, general view of west elevation



Plate 3: Building A, general view of north elevation



Plate 4: Building A, detail of door in north elevation



Plate 5: Building A, detail of west-facing door to first floor



Plate 6: Buildings A & B, detail of phase line in east elevation



Plate 7: Building A, detail of window in east elevation



Plate 8: Building B, general view of west elevation



Plate 9: Building B, general view of north gable



Plate 10: Building B, general view of north gable



Plate 11: Building B, general view of interior from north-west



Plate 12: Building C, general view of collapsed building from the south-west



Plate 13: Building D, general view of west elevation



Plate 14: Building D, general view of east elevation



Plate 15: Building D, general view of the north elevation



Plate 16: Building D, general view of north elevation



Plate 17: Building D, detail of brick paving to the interior from the west



Plate 18: Building E, general view from the east



Plate 19: Building F, general view of north-east elevation



Plate 20: Building F, general view of south-east gable



Plate 21: Building G, general view from the east



Plate 22: Building G, general view from the north



**Loanhead Farm Steading
Appendix 1**

**Black and White Print
Photographic record**

Film	Frame	Building	Description	From	Date
1	1-8	-	Unassigned	-	-
1	9	A	Detail of the window on the E elevation	NE	09/02/09
1	10	A & B	Detail of the phase line on the E elevation	E	“
1	11	G	General view	E	“
1	12	D	Interior, detail of brick paved floor	W	“
1	13	D	Interior, general view	W	“
1	14	A	General view of E elevation	SE	“
1	15	A	Interior, general looking up at first floor doorway	SW	“
1	16	F	General view of NE elevation	E	“
1	17	D	General view of W elevation	SSW	“
1	18	F	General view of SE elevation	SE	“
1	19	E	General view	E	“
1	20	B	Interior, general view of ground floor	SW	“
1	21	B	Interior, general view of ground floor	NE	“
1	22	A	Interior, general view of ground floor	E	“
1	23	A	Interior, general view of ground floor	W	“
1	24	B	General view of the N elevation	NW	“
1	25	D	General view of the W elevation	SE	“
1	26	C	General view of the collapsed building	SW	“
1	27	D	General view of the S elevation	S	“
1	28	B	General view of the W elevation	W	“
1	29	A	Detail of the door in the W elevation	W	“
1	30	A	Detail of door in the N elevation	N	“
1	31	A	General view of the N elevation	N	“
1	32	E & F	General view	SE	“
1	33	E	General view	SE	“
1	34	A	General view of W elevation	SW	“
1	35	A	General view of S elevation	S	“
1	36		Registration		“

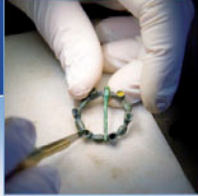


Millhill Steading

Appendix 2

Discovery and Excavation (DES) Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Angus Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Millhill Farm Steading
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21150
PARISH:	Arbirlot
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Diana Sproat
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Historic Building Recording
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Farmstead
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None.
NGR	NO 6000 4050
START DATE	February 2009
END DATE	February 2009
PREVIOUS WORK	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:	A historic building survey was undertaken at Millhill Steading in the village of Arbirlot near Arbroath prior to the partial demolition and conversion of the range to dwellings. Six of the barns were established in the late 18 th /early 19 th century with a later barn established in the late 19 th
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	The Voigt Partnership
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocscot.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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