

MEIKLE RIG STEADING, STENTON, EAST LoTHIAN

BUILDING APPRAISAL



MARCH 2016

CARRIED OUT ON BEHALF OF MR J. KINNAIRD

 **archaeology**
Connolly Heritage Consultancy

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ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Location plan

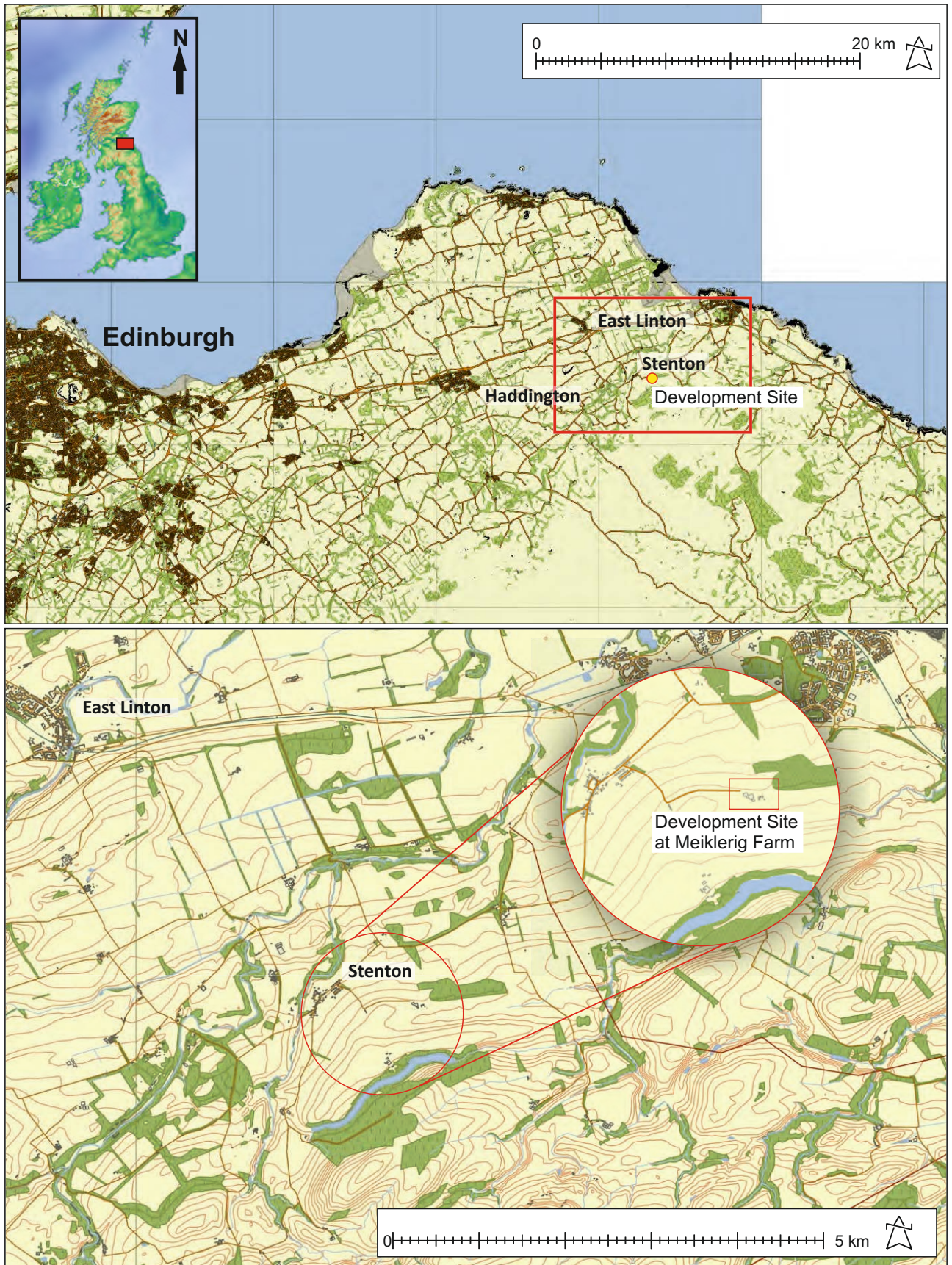
Figure 2: Historic Map regression

Figure 3: c. 1870 architectural plan of Meiklerig Farmstead

Figure 4: Annotated plan of Meiklerig Farmstead, showing basic phasing and location of associated photographs

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological Level 1 building appraisal and concomitant desk-based assessment was required due to the proposed development– alterations and extensions– of the agricultural buildings at Meiklerig Steading, Stenton, Dunbar, East Lothian EH42 1TF (Planning application: 08/00768/FUL).
- 1.2 The appraisal was commissioned and carried out on behalf of Mr J. Kinnaird and consisted of initial desk-based assessment, followed by field visit and on site basic building recording undertaken on 3rd March 2016.
- 1.3 The desk-based valuation consisted of the initial brief archive and documentary research and included historic maps examination, as well as other readily available cartographic and historical information on pre-recent land use within the development area.
- 1.4 The fieldwork component involved a visual inspection of the upstanding historic structures to be affected by the development; photographic survey and level one building appraisal– including production of written record (field notes) and annotation of existing architectural plans and elevations.
- 1.5 This work will enable the archaeological officer for East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS) to decide on any further archaeological/ heritage work requirements for the site. Mr Andrew Robertson, Archaeological Officer of the East Lothian Council (ELCAS) was kept apprised of all on site activities during the process.
- 1.6 No further archaeological works are deemed necessary; however this requires confirmation and approval from ELCAS.
- 1.7 The OASIS ID for this project is: connolly1-245532



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Figure 1: Site Location Map

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1.1. The site (**Canmore ID:** 278822; **Site Number:** NT67SW 113) is located at Meiklerig Steading, Stenton, Dunbar, East Lothian, EH42 1TF (**Figure 1**). It is centred on NGR Grid reference NT 63229 74115 and lies within extensively farmed area of arable that was substantially developed in the nineteenth century.

2.2. SITE HISTORY

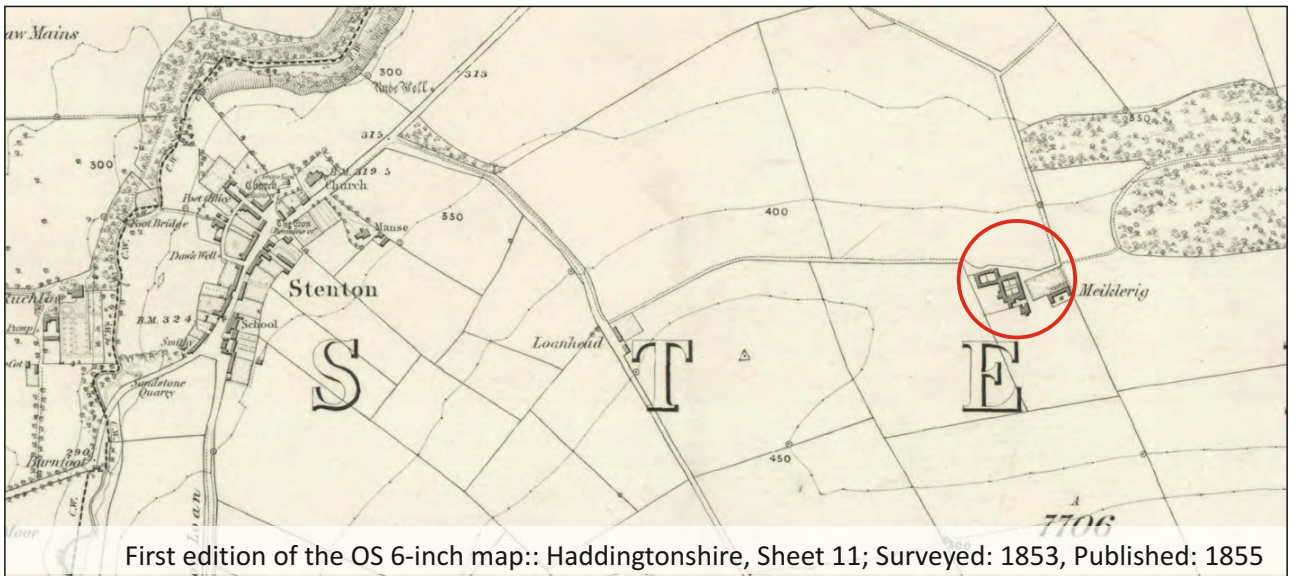
- 2.2.1. Map regression research (**Figure 2**) identified a farm at that location on the General William Roy's military survey map of the Lowlands of Scotland in the 1750s (1752-1755). The site is acknowledged as 'Muclerig' and depicted as a series of separate buildings— three clear long linear structures and one shorter one in an arrangement resembling an opened yard farmstead typical of the 18th century open ended yard farm. The area around the farm is depicted as covered with rig and furrow, suggesting the land was already under cultivation, as well as confirming the farmstead's existence by this time (i.e. mid eighteenth century).
- 2.2.2. Correspondingly, Johanne Adair's earlier manuscript map (created 1682) portrays the area where the site is located as very marginal land— most likely rough grazing. As he also notes other farms and settlements in the vicinity, such as Pressmennan (spelt as *Prefminnen*); Stenton or Newbarns, this strongly suggests that the original farmstead of Meiklerig was built in a period between the survey and publication of Adair's and Roy's maps (ie between 1680s and 1750s).
- 2.2.3. The farmstead next appears on the OS six inch map (1843-1882), where it is portrayed as two enclosed yards, joined together at one corner and associated with a freestanding farmhouse and a row of cottages, with adjacent enclosed vegetable garden (**Figure 2**). This appears largely unchanged on the Second Edition OS 6 inch map (1888-1913; **Figure 2**), and on the 25-inch map (1892-1905) (**Figure 4**). The nineteenth century alterations, associated with the industrial and agricultural improvements at the time, included addition of steam-engine house, complete with chimney stack and the general enlargement of the farm, as seen on these successive maps.
- 2.2.4. To these maps can be added a c. 1870 architectural plan of the farm (courtesy of the developer), produced for nineteenth century alterations of the site (**Figure 3**). However, in several areas the plan does not seem to match the resultant refurbishment. A case in point are the two blocked openings/entries in the north end of the eastern exterior wall. The plan appears to suggest that the entry to the south is added/inserted later. However, from the present visual survey of the site, the two entries are clearly contemporary (**Plate 1**).

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- 2.2.5. Canmore site (RCAHMS) entry suggests that none of the (original) eighteenth century buildings survive— being replaced by the nineteenth century alterations and more recent developments. Nevertheless, the current survey at least admits the possibility that some of the eighteenth century structures may have partially survived within the current layout (see below).
- 2.2.6. There have been no previous recorded archaeological investigations of the Meiklerig steading and the buildings are not listed.



William Roy. The Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-55 ©The British Library. Licensor NLS



First edition of the OS 6-inch map:: Haddingtonshire, Sheet 11; Surveyed: 1853, Published: 1855



Second edition of the OS 6-inch map: Haddingtonshire Sheet XI.NE, Surveyed: 1906, Published: 1908



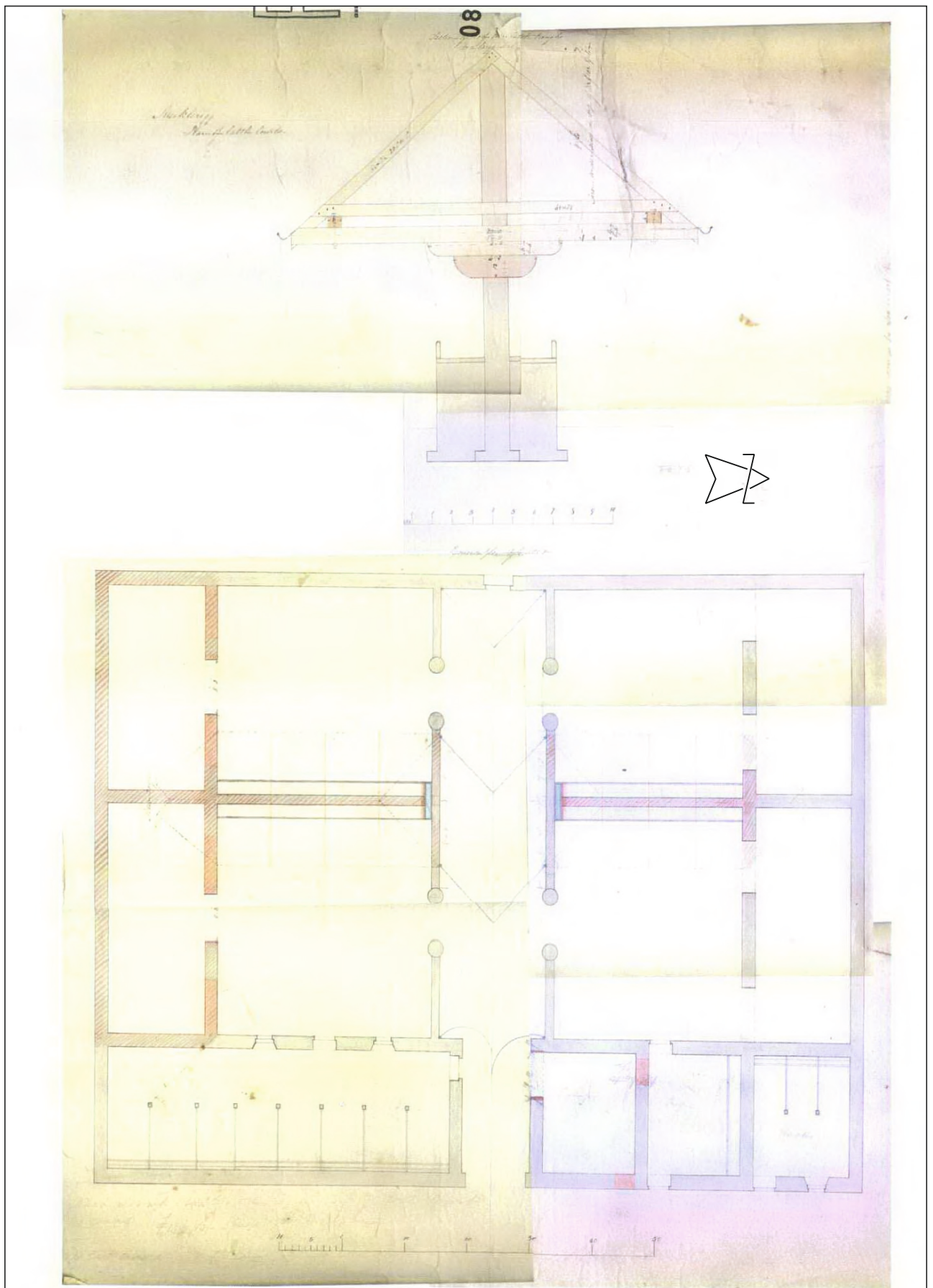


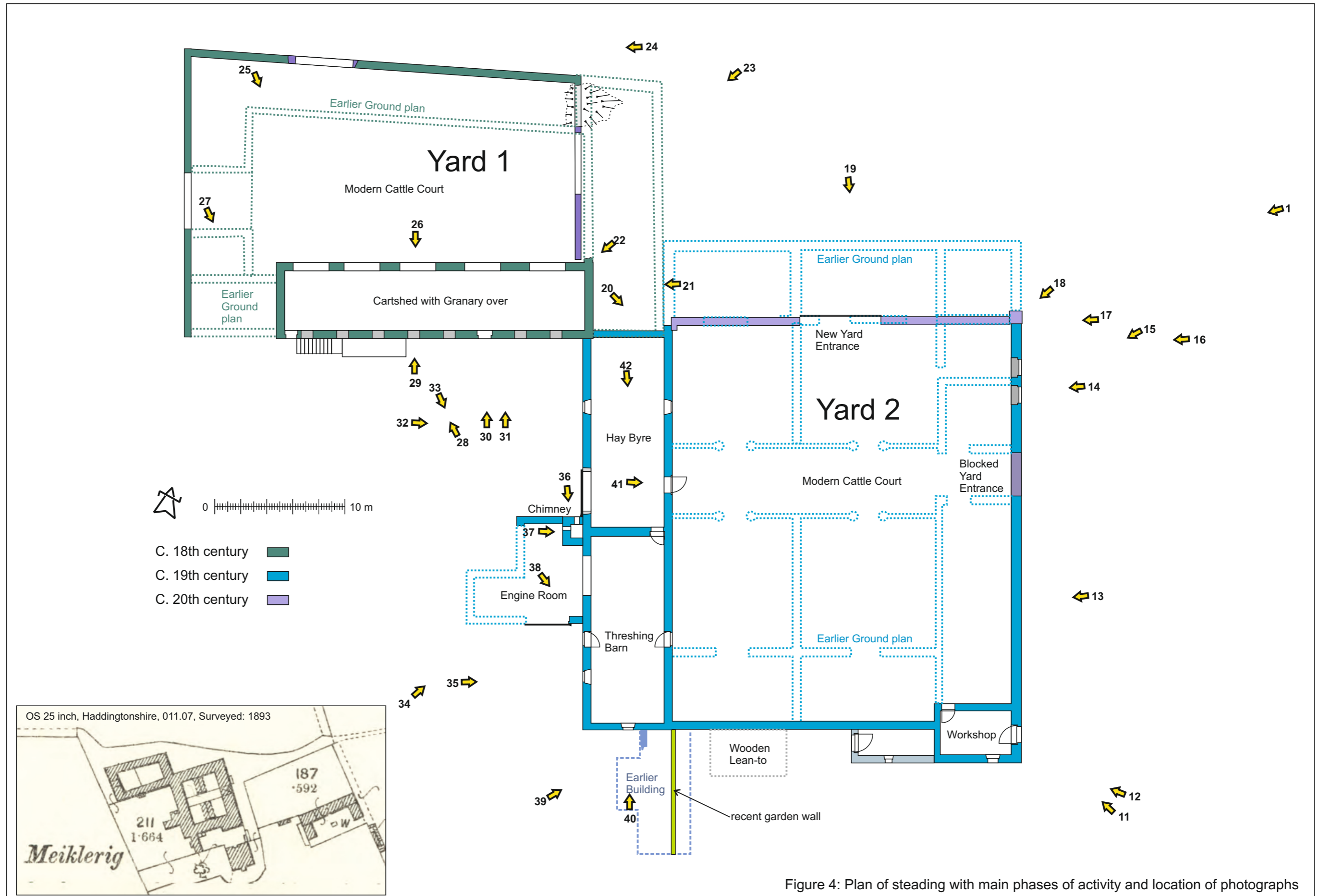
Figure 3: Historic estate map architectural alterations (circa 1870?)

3. OBJECTIVES

- 1.0 The objectives of the assessment were: To record the phasing and current state of the buildings to be affected by the development, while adding or collating the known history of the site.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 In keeping with the format and approved guidance on carrying out a Basic Level of Building record, supplied by ELCAS, the following methodology was followed:
- 4.2 The methodology consisted of field survey, based on visual inspection of the site, accompanied by production of written data record (field notes) and including annotation of existing architectural plans. The aim was to show the main phasing of the site and therefore its constructional/architectural history.
- 4.3 A series of digital images were generated with aim to record the site and features of particular architectural and historical interest.



5. RESULTS

5.1. EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR ASSESSMENT

- 5.1.1 Starting in the external south-east corner of the site, the first structure encountered is a workshop, associated with the second phase of the farm's development (i.e. Yard 2). It consists of a rectangular structure with gabled/ pitched roof. The principal highest elevation is to the east. The workshop is roofed over with modern (twentieth century) corrugated iron sheeting, with small portion of the original pantile roof surviving in the south-east and north-east gabled end. All elevations are made of coursed roughly squared red sandstone. The door/entry is located within the principal east elevation, offset to the south. The one visible window is located in the south elevation.
- 5.1.2 The east exterior wall of Yard 2, which abuts the workshop structure, is made of roughly squared coursed sandstone up to half way along its length, where it gives way to clearly more recent (twentieth century) masonry section. This consists of squared coursed masonry of various stone types. The wall head of both, the modern and the nineteenth century wall sections is coped with pantiles over which a corrugated metal barn superstructure has been erected. The nineteenth century masonry survives in the north end of the upstanding east elevation and includes two blocked entries/doors (**Plate 1**).



Plate 1: View of the east exterior elevation of Yard 2 – with two blocked entries; pier; pantile coped wall and the corrugated barn structure. Note also the differential masonry sections.

- 5.1.3 At the very north end of the east wall is a masonry pier (**Plate 1**) made of well-dressed rectangular blocks of sandstone. The pier projects from the main wall line towards east and north and the wall appears to have been erected subsequently to the pier's construction. Although it was initially interpreted as part of the yard gate, its more detailed examination disapproved this and there appears no readily apparent purpose for the pier's original function. Its make-up/finish and character is different from the rest of the wall and it is not clear when or for what purpose it has

been erected. Correspondingly, there is no evidence of any second pier, which would have formed the other side of the gate.

- 5.1.4 The north range (Yard 2) has a single wide entrance set into a coursed rubble wall, which differs in character from the other remains within the same compound (**Plate 2**). The more recent northern entry replaced one which originally allowed access into the cattle courts of YARD 2 from the east the blocked opening is still visible in the east exterior wall as a modern infill blocking (**Figure 4**). The wall head is coped with pantiles, but the main surviving pitched roof superstructure is composed of metal sheeting. The floor of the interior is a concrete surface. Most of the nineteenth century structures of the north range have been removed— apart from at the very western limit.



Plate 2: Yard 2— view of portion of the north exterior elevation, with wide entry and coursed rubble wall.

- 5.1.5 The junction between Yard 2 (nineteenth century) and Yard 1 (possibly eighteenth century), located approximately midway along the current northern range, is obvious from the remains of flashing and joist holes visible on the façade of gable wall of the original south range of Yard 1 (**Plate 3**). This, along with the but joint of YARD 2 to this structure provides the evidence that the YARD 1 range of buildings predates the YARD 2 structures. The north-east corner of the original YARD 1 includes a wall stump running north, which represents almost the sole evidence for the north range of the earlier steading (eighteenth century). It is now almost completely rebuilt as a cattle court, complete with reconstructed stone wall and girder and sheet metal barn superstructure above (**Figure 4**).



Plate 3: View of the east and partial north elevation of Yard 1– with flashing and joist holes in gable end of south range, wall stump and metal girder superstructure over the cattle court.

- 5.1.6 The Yard 1 consists of surrounding east, north and west walls, most likely a modern twentieth or possibly nineteenth century rebuilds– probably utilising material from the earlier walls. Surviving remnants of the original Yard 1 are represented by the south range– consisting of five shallow arched cart openings (**Plate 4**). These are constructed of red sandstone, corresponding to the rest of the surviving nineteenth and eighteenth century structures. The ground level and the bedrock beneath the courtyard area has been significantly levelled/reduced in recent history, by approximately 0.40-0.50 m.



Plate 4: Yard 1– detail of five arched cart openings set into the south range. Note also the modern metal girder superstructure.

- 5.1.7 The west gable end of the south range of Yard 1 bears traces of a previous structure, in form of wall scars, and the ghost of a pitch roof as a render remains on the existing façade.
- 5.1.8 The south range of original steading – YARD 1 which would have been the Cartshed with granary over (**Plate 5**), is built of coursed red sandstone, and shows clear signs of rebuilding with the three upper storey windows having surrounds of different character to the lower four blocked windows. Their setting within the façade also disagrees with the fenestration of the lower level. The ground floor blocked

openings still retain the latch and hinge pins for shutters. A dormer door with cat-slide dormer, located centrally within the upper floor level, has a concrete platform/porch in front (originally of stonework which is still visible beneath, ascended by a set of concrete steps). The platform/porch has been built against the existing elevation and as such, it clearly represents later addition to the elevation – perhaps related to the same phase of works as the upper storey windows. Correspondingly, the lower ground level entrance is also a later insertion, providing access from the newly formed courtyard of the Yard 2. Its surrounds are similar in character to the upper level windows.



Plate 5: Yard 1; South range– detail of south exterior elevation with blocked ground floor windows, ground floor entrance, upper floor windows and cat-slide dormer door.

- 5.1.9 Although the masonry part of south range of Yard 1 survives to a reasonable original degree, its entire roof is a recent (twentieth century) construct, made of corrugated iron and including roof lights (**Plate 5**). The roof skeleton is also recent—being constructed of machine sawn square timbers, as are the floor-boards of the upper floor level.
- 5.1.10 The west range of Yard 2 is built of red sandstone with fine droved quoins. The north portion (**Plate 6**) of the west range is topped by pitched partially collapsed red pantile roof and has one wide entry in its south end, adjoining a chimney stack base. It also includes single tall window, situated north of the entry (see also interior notes). The interior of this range section is badly overgrown and covered by debris but includes in the east wall what appears to be an original entry with door still in place (**Plate 7**).



Plate 6: Yard 2; west exterior range– with partially collapsed pantile roof; wide entry and a tall window.

- 5.1.11 The south internal elevation of the hay byre (north wall of threshing barn) includes one ground floor entry, in the bottom east corner of the elevation, complete with an original door. On its upper level are two openings, one smaller and narrow slightly west off the ground floor entry and another larger and wider one next to it. The eastern one still retains inset timber door; the west one has no timber furniture left. Further tall opening is located approximately in the middle of the west elevation, as noted on the exterior, but from inside appears to have been originally a narrow door/entry, later turned into a window.



Plate 7: Detail of original door within the north portion of west range of Yard 2.



Plate 8: View of chimney stack, with raggle line scar on its west face and joist holes on its south face.

- 5.1.12 The south end of the west range has modern (20th century) corrugated iron roof and includes one upper storey large opening and a single door with adjacent tall window on the ground level. The south end of the range also displays different character: its north end being rendered and made of less fine dressed sandstone, than its south half, which has no render and is made of well-dressed coursed sandstone. The practical reason for this is probably that the render part of the wall would have been within the Engine House, whereas the southern half was external. The southern end of the range is still occupied/used but would have originally received the threshing machine, powered by the steam engine.
- 5.1.13 Approximately in the middle of the existing west range of Yard 2 is now much reduced footprint of a former engine house (extending to the west), complete with a tall sandstone chimney stack base and brick chimney. The roof of the engine house is evidenced as a raggle line scar on the west face of the chimney base and as joist

holes on the south elevation of the chimney base (**Plate 8**). The larger opening in the dividing wall between the north and south rooms (portions) of the west range would have held chutes to transport the grain into carts. The chimney base includes two openings– the first set within the north face represents an ash hole topped with large flat red sandstone lintel; while the second, with partially bricked arch, sits within the west face and represents former fire hole (**Plate 9**).



Plate 8: Yard 2; west range– detail of fire hole within the base of the chimney stack.

- 5.1.14 The extant south exterior wall of the west range of Yard 2 has two centrally located windows. A raggle line scar of a former pitched roof is visible on the same façade– on its east terminal and corresponds to the location of a wall stump extending from the façade towards south (**Plate 10**). The same wall is also manifested as a scar line on the façade. This now largely demolished structure does not appear to have been part of the original design for the Yard 2, as it covered the fine worked quoins on the east edge of the southern external façade of the west range. The quoins were clearly built as a corner prior to the erection of the now demolished structure confirming it was added after the initial construction of the Yard 2 has been completed. As it appears on the earliest OS maps of the 1840s, this again points to Yard 2 being a pre 1840s build and as this addition was not planned as part of the original Yard 2 construction then it must be early 19th century/late 18th century, given that the steam engine house was integral with the Yard construction. .



Plate 9: Yard 2; south range—detail of raggle line scar of a former pitched roof and wall scar visible on the same façade; note also turf covered wall stump extending from the façade towards south.

- 5.1.15 No architectural features of outstanding mention were noted during the assessment.
- 5.1.16 The remains of Yard 1 and 2 (i.e. the proposed site development area) are accompanied by the surviving well preserved farmhouse to the south and a range of farm cottages to the south-east.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1** The present programme of archaeological level 1 building assessment and recording has uncovered remains of two successive steadings: Yard 1, possibly dating to the mid eighteenth century; and Yard 2 of nineteenth century provenance, associated with a period of significant agricultural improvements. Both have been heavily impacted by later 20th century development with most of the ranges removed during modernisation of the cattlecourts
- 6.2** With no significant earlier features within the area to be impacted by development, there is no compelling case for further archaeological works. The final decision will of course lie with the Archaeologist for East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS).

REFERENCES

- Addair, Johanne 1682. *Map of East Lothian* (manuscript map).
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- Anonymous. Meiklerig Farm Architectural plan c. 1870
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- *Ordnance Survey Map (first edition) 1855. Haddingtonshire*
<http://maps.nls.uk/view/74426943> (Last accessed on 08/03/2016)
- *Ordnance Survey Map (second edition) 1908. Haddingtonshire*
<http://maps.nls.uk/view/75632170> (Last accessed on 08/03/2016)
- Roy, William 1747-55. *The military survey of Scotland (Lowlands)*.
<http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=14&lat=55.9583&lon=-2.6091&layers=4>
(Last accessed on 08/03/2016)

APPENDIX 1 - PHOTO REGISTER (DIGITAL)

PHOTO	DESCRIPTION	DIR. to	DATE
MRS_1	General view of the farmstead exterior	W	03/03/2016
MRS_2	General view of the farmstead exterior	S	03/03/2016
MRS_3	General view of the farmstead exterior	S	03/03/2016
MRS_4	General view of the farmstead exterior	SW	03/03/2016
MRS_5	General view of the farmstead exterior	E	03/03/2016
MRS_6	General view of the farmstead exterior	E	03/03/2016
MRS_7	General view of the farmstead exterior	NE	03/03/2016
MRS_8	General view of the farmstead exterior	NE	03/03/2016
MRS_9	General view of the farmstead exterior	NE	03/03/2016
MRS_10	General view of the farmstead exterior	NE	03/03/2016
MRS_11	Oblique view of the workshop structure	NW	03/03/2016
MRS_12	Oblique view of the workshop structure	NW	03/03/2016
MRS_13	Yard 2: east exterior wall portion (north of the workshop)	W	03/03/2016
MRS_14	Yard 2: Detail of blocked entries/ doors within the east wall (north end)	W	03/03/2016
MRS_15	Yard 2: detail of gate pier, blocked doors and recent masonry within the north end of east wall	SW	03/03/2016
MRS_16	Yard 2: general view of gate pier, blocked doors and recent masonry within the north end of east wall	SW	03/03/2016
MRS_17	Yard 2: detail of gate pier within the north end of east wall	W	03/03/2016
MRS_18	Yard 2: detail of gate pier within the north end of east wall	SW	03/03/2016
MRS_19	Yard 2: general view of the north elevation, with large principal opening and possible rebuilt wall to the south	S	03/03/2016
MRS_20	Yard 2: detail of wall stump and metal flashing situated at the west end of the north elevation	E	03/03/2016
MRS_21	Yard 1: east gable wall of the south range—with falshin and joist holes	W	03/03/2016
MRS_22	Yard 1: south range, detail of wall stump	SW	03/03/2016
MRS_23	Yard 1: general view of east elevation	W	03/03/2016
MRS_24	Yard 1: detail of steel girder superstructure	SW	03/03/2016
MRS_25	Yard 1: oblique view of arched cart openings within the south range	SE	03/03/2016
MRS_26	Yard 1: detail of arched cart opening within the south range, with evidence of substantial undermining	S	03/03/2016
MRS_27	Yard 1: west gable end of the south range, with shadow of a pitched roof and wall scars	SE	03/03/2016

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PHOTO	DESCRIPTION	DIR. to	DATE
MRS_28	Yard 1: rear of the south range, view of platform and a cat-slide dormer door	N	03/03/2016
MRS_29	Yard 1: rear of the south range, detail of lower blocked window with surviving furniture	N	03/03/2016
MRS_30	Yard 1: general view of the south wall of south range	N	03/03/2016
MRS_31	Yard 1: general view of the south wall of south range (east portion), with roof lights; upper story windows and ground floor entry	N	03/03/2016
MRS_32	Yard 2: general view of north end of west range	E	03/03/2016
MRS_33	Yard 2: west range, detail of the chimney stack (north face) with raggle line at the base wall	SE	03/03/2016
MRS_34	Yard 2: west range, detail of the chimney stack (south and east face) with joist holes	NE	03/03/2016
MRS_35	Yard 2: general view of the south end of west range	E	03/03/2016
MRS_36	Yard 2: west range, detail of external ash hole at the north side of the chimney stack	S	03/03/2016
MRS_37	Yard 2: west range, detail of fire hole on the west side of the chimney stack (initially inside the engine house)	E	03/03/2016
MRS_38	Yard 2: south end of west range– detail of demolished wall line	E	03/03/2016
MRS_39	Yard 2: south end of west range– with raggle line on the south face of west range and wall stump of former south extension	NE	03/03/2016
MRS_40	Yard 2: south end of west range– with raggle line on the south face of west range and wall stump of former south extension	N	03/03/2016
MRS_41	Yard 2: west range; detail of partition wall within west range (i.e. north wall of the threshing barn)	S	03/03/2016
MRS_42	Yard 2: west range; detail of original door/entry within the east wall of straw barn	E	03/03/2016
MRS_43	General view of the Meiklerig steading	NE	03/03/2016

DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION SCOTLAND ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Lothian
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Meiklerig Steading, Stenton
PROJECT CODE:	MRS16
PARISH:	Stenton
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Hana Kdolska
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	(Connolly Heritage Consultancy)
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Level 1 building appraisal
NMRS NO(S):	NT67SW 113
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Farm yards, Farmstead
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	-
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 63229 74115
START DATE (this season)	3 rd March 2016
END DATE (this season)	3 rd March 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	-
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	The assessment of the Meiklerig steading consisted of desk-based research followed by visual inspection of the site accompanied by compilation of a basic photographic and written record of both the interior and exterior of the relevant structures. The site was inspected prior to the development/conversion of the site into flats. The assessment of the structures demonstrate that portions of at least two yards survive– one possibly from at least the mid eighteenth century and the second from nineteenth century. Nonetheless, the site is significantly affected by modern (twentieth century) alterations and no architecturally outstanding features seem to have survived.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	-
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	-
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr J. Kinnaird
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Thornton Mill Cottage, Innerwick, Dunbar, EH42 1QT
EMAIL ADDRESS:	info@bajr.org
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposi	RCAHMS (int), CHC



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