

Polwarth Crofts Near Duns, **Scottish Borders**

Standing Building Survey

Report No. 2001







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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of a standing building survey carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in January 2012 at Polwarth Crofts steading, near Duns, Berwickshire (NGR: NT 74519 50199 centred, Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Sir John McEwen to fulfil a planning condition. The work was based on a Written Scheme of Investigation for a building survey that was approved by the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Officer, Dr Christopher Bowles.

Polwarth Crofts are part of a Group Category B Listed complex including the farmhouse and agricultural buildings. Situated at the south end of the now converted cartshed and stable block is a single storey derelict barn. Two livestock enclosures are situated on the west side of the barn divided by a partition wall that originally carried the trusses of a double M-shaped roof arrangement. A feed store, now converted into an office, still survives on the west side of the building.

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of the programme of archaeological work were:

- 1. To carry out a rapid desk-based assessment of the barn
- 2. To carry out a Level 2 standing building survey of the barn to include photographic and written records of the barn prior to its conversion;
- 3. To produce a Historic Building Survey report outlining the results of the work.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 General

An effective standard for this type of project has been established by previous building recording conducted by CFA. Recording of all elements was carried out following established CFA methodology and included the use of standard standing building record sheets, sketch drawing, and photographic recording. CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Historic Building Surveys and the recording conventions of English Heritage (2006).

2.2 Desk-based assessment

CFA conducted a desk-based assessment prior to fieldwork. Sources consulted are outlined below.

- National Monuments Record of Scotland. All relevant records relating to the site and its immediate vicinity were checked and bibliographic sources followed up.
- Early map coverage for the area. An examination of the Ordnance Survey 6" map editions was made. Maps consulted are listed in Section 8.2.
- *Aerial photographic coverage*. Historical aerial photographs owned by the client were made available to CFA and these have been produced as Plates 1-3.
- Historic Scotland's statutory List was examined to assess the architectural information on the byre.

2.3 Building recording

A Level 2 survey as defined by English Heritage (2006) was carried out. This is essentially a descriptive record required to identify the buildings' form and architectural character.

A measured ground floor sketch plan of the barn was made (Fig. 3). The interior of the barn has been divided into two individual rooms. These have been annotated as Units 1 & 2 to allow cross-reference with the photographic survey.

Photographic survey

CFA used a digital Nikon D300 during the photographic survey. A photographic record was made of all internal and external elevations of the building. A full list of all the photographs taken is appended in the rear of the report (Appendix 1). A full set of thumbnail prints is included at the rear of the report.

3. DESK-BASED SURVEY RESULTS

3.1 Cartographic sources

The cartographic sources examined are listed in Section 7.

The 1826 map by Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler (Fig. 2a) shows Polwarth as a dispersed settlement comprising a series of rectangular buildings within four property boundaries. Polwarth Crofts does not appear on this map.

Polwarth Steading is depicted on the 1856 First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 2b) as a courtyard steading. The west range is depicted as a rectilinear building with a horse gin on its north-west corner. The L-shaped building on the east is the farmhouse. The rectilinear building immediately north is probably represents the existing north range. The barn had yet to be built.

Polwarth Steading is named as *South Crofts* on the 1898 Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 2c). The farmhouse forms a separate detached building on the east range. The west range is shown as a rectilinear block that now extends to the boundary of the steading.

The 1906 Third edition map (Fig. 2d) shows that the north and west ranges are now united and the farmhouse is now also attached to the west range. The block layout plan depicted on this map shows that the west range has been enlarged by the addition of a series of roofed structures (see also Plate 3 below).

3.2 Aerial photographic survey

The circa 1967 oblique aerial photograph (Plate 1) shows the steading from the south-east. The east-facing elevation of the barn can be seen with three adjoining pitched roofs aligned east to west and forming a double-M arrangement on its west side. A pig sty with a slated lean-to roof is present on the south gable of the barn. Two of the cattle court roofs adjoin a rectangular building interpreted as a feed store. The stable and cartshed is shown as it was prior to conversion into a modern dwelling.

The circa 1978 oblique aerial photograph (Plate 2) is taken from the east and shows the east-facing elevation of the barn and the roofed cattle sheds on its west side. A small lean-to building can be seen built against the north gable of the barn

The circa 1998 oblique aerial photograph (Plate 3) shows the roof configuration of the cattle sheds on the west side of the barn. The west-elevation of the adjoining feed store is also shown. The shed on the south side of the former feed store has wooden slats on its gable to provide ventilation to the interiors. The aforementioned lean-to structure is just visible on the north end of the barn.

3.3 National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS)

The NMRS holds eight records for Polwarth Crofts (NT75SW 44.00 to NT75SW 44.07) but no descriptions or bibliographic details are provided for the barn.

3.4 Statutory List

Historic Scotland's Statutory List shows that Polwarth Crofts is Category Group Listed B (HB Number 46329). The steading is described as constructed of harl-pointed red rubble sandstone with tooled and droved dressings. The barn is not described but the entry does mention the presence of 'various gabled projections running east-west on the west side of the cartshed and stable'.

3.5 Documentary sources

The Statistical Accounts for Polwarth Parish provide no historical information for Polwarth Crofts steading.

4. BUILDING SURVEY RESULTS

4.1 General

The internal layout of the barn is described first followed by the external elevations. The internal features are described according to their Unit number (shown in plan on Fig. 3). The north-facing gable and east-facing external elevations are shown on Fig. 4a-b.

4.2 Layout plan (Fig. 3)

The barn is rectangular in plan measuring 12.7m by 4.6m. A partition wall surmounted by timber slats divides the building into two compartments (Units 1 and 2). The doorways to each unit are situated on the west-facing elevation and are c.2.2m wide.

Following the same alignment as the partition wall between Units 1 and 2 is an exterior wall measuring 8.7m long that is constructed of coursed rubble and whinstone with clear evidence it has been heightened (Plate 8). This wall forms the central supporting wall that carried the roof arrangement seen on the aerial photographs (Plate 3). This former load bearing wall abuts a rectangular former feed store.

Attached to the barns south gable are two pigsties which have a slate lean-to roof. The pigsties measure c. 1.8m x 1.8m with small doorways measuring 0.8m wide on their east and west-facing elevations. The sty on the east side of the gable has a small stone-built pen.

Internal walls

The internal walls are featureless and comprise coursed sandstone rubble with droved ashlar quoins surrounding the doorways on the interior east-facing elevation. A wooden feed stall has been built against the north-facing gable. The south-facing gable has been built onto the gable of the stable, its quoins and skew stone is visible on the interior south-facing gable. The barn's gable has been crudely keyed in with the stable gable using a large boulder (Plate 10).

Roof truss details

The roof comprises a series of A-framed scarfe-jointed trusses resting directly on the wall head (Plate 9). The softwood timbers are machine cut and covered with pine sarking boards.

4.3 Exterior details

North-facing gable (Fig. 4a, Plate 4)

The north-facing gable measures c.4m wide and 6m high and is constructed of coursed sandstone rubble with droved ashlar quoins and ridge stones. The lower third

of the gable has been rendered with cement. Approximately 0.3m above the render is a horizontal roof line from a lean-to structure.

East-facing elevation (Fig. 4b, Plate 5)

The east-facing elevation measures 14.4m long and is c.6m high. The elevation is featureless and is constructed from coursed sandstone rubble with droved ashlar quoins. The pitched slate roof is intact and has four roof lights.

South-facing gable (Plate 6)

The south-facing gable is constructed of coursed sandstone rubble with ridge stones only surviving on its east side. Occupying about one third of the elevation is the slate lean-to roof of the pigsties. The timber sarking boards of the pigsty roof are exposed where the slates have been removed.

West-facing elevation (Plate 7 and 8)

The west-facing elevation has rubble-built walls measuring 2.2m high. Two rectangular doorways are framed by rough-dressed sandstone blocks. Both doors measure 2.2m wide and are surmounted by the A-frame rafters of the former M-shaped roof. The central spine wall carried the middle hipped truss, the outline of which can be seen in the exposed sarking boards.

5. DISCUSSION

The barn is clearly later than the stable and cartshed that adjoins its north end. The building may have started life as an open plan barn in the late 19th century but was then converted into an animal house with the installation of a central partition wall to form two individual rooms. The wall extended westwards and was heightened to carry the central pitched roof that ran its full length. The double-M roof arrangement ensured that both stock enclosures (cattle courts) were covered, providing shelter for overwintering cattle. The attached feed store or turnip house allowed animal feed to be pitched directly into wooden troughs that would have lined both sides of the central spinal wall. This arrangement is very typical of Scottish livestock houses and a similar arrangement was seen at Spital Mains Farm, near Paxton (Cressey 2008). During the late 19th century and the first half of the the 20th century over-wintering provided large quantities of manure which, in the days before chemical fertilisers, was much needed for improving arable land. Another benefit of having cattle courts is that the size of the herd could be increased well above the capacity to house them all in a single shed (Davey 2001)

6. CONCLUSION

The standing building survey has recorded the main architectural features of the barn at Polwarth Crofts steading. The buildings footprint has remained unaltered since its construction sometime during the late 19th century. Two covered cattle courts were later created on its western side for overwintering cattle and feed was supplied from the adjoining feed store.

The building survey has been carried out to a Level 2 standard and has obtained sufficient architectural details and created a detailed photographic record of the barn prior its conversion. No further building recording is recommended, but the decision on any additional work requirements rests with Scottish Borders Council.

An entry in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* is considered sufficient to disseminate the results of the survey. The project will also be reported through the OASIS protocol.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the Scottish Borders Council Sites and Monuments Record within six months from completion of the project.

7. REFERENCES

7.1 Bibliographic

Cressey, M 2008 Spital Mains Steading, Nr Paxton, Borders Standing Building Survey. Report No. 1451, Unpublished CFA Report.

Davey, A 2001 *The Conversion of Redundant Farm Steadings to Other Uses*. Scottish Executive Central Research Unit, Edinburgh.

English Heritage 2006 Understanding Historic Buildings – A Guide to Good Recording Practice. London.

The Old Statistical Account of Scotland (1791-99).

The New Statistical Account of Scotland (1834-45).

7.2 Maps

T. Sharp, C. Greenwood & W. Fowler 1826 The County of Berwick

Ordnance Survey 1856 1st Edition. 25" (Polwarth) Sheet XXII.1

Ordnance Survey 1898 2nd Edition 6" Berwickshire Sheet XXII.NW

Ordnance Survey 1906 3rd Edition 6" Berwickshire Sheet XXII.NW

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APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Shot No	Summary description	Facing
1-15	Consecutive overlapping shots of the east-facing elevation	West
16-23	Partially masked quoins on the north-facing gable	West
24-27	General view of the north-facing gable	South
28-41	Consecutive overlapping shots of the south enclosure wall and gable	North
42	Detail shot of the south-facing boundary wall	North
43-44	General shot of the pigsty roof	North
45-47	General shot of the rubble built walls of the pigsty	North
48	South-west corner of the pigsty wall	North-east
49-50	West-facing doorway of the pigsty	East
51-54	Entrance and roof trusses above Unit 2	East
55	Central spine wall between the cattle courts	East
56-60	Overlapping shots of the west-facing elevation, south end	East
61-69	Overlapping shots of the west-facing elevation, north end	East
70-73	Fabric detail and roof remains above Unit 1	East
74	Roof trusses above the doorway into Unit 1	East
75	Refurbished roof of the adjoining former stable	East
76	General view of the central spinal wall	East
77-78	Interior shot of the south-facing gable wall	North
79-81	Interior shot of the west-facing elevation in Unit 1	East
82	Interior partition wall between Units 1 & 2	South
83-85	Unit 1, east facing entrance in Unit 1	West
86-87	General shot of the roof trusses	North
88-89	General shot of the exterior spine wall between the cattle courts	South
90-91	General view of the exterior spine wall between the cattle courts	East
92	Partition wall between Units 1 & 2	North
93-96	Interior west-facing elevation in Unit 2	East
97	East-facing elevation of the former feed storage shed	West
98	South-facing external spine wall between the cattle courts	North
99-100	East-facing elevation of the former feed storage shed	West
101	North-facing elevation of the southern enclosure wall	South
102	General view of the south gable and pigsty doorway	East
103	Interior north-facing gable wall and feeding stall	South
104-105	Internal shots of the roof trusses	North
106-107	Interior, east facing elevation/doorway of Unit 2	West
108-109	Distance shot of the west-facing elevation	North-east
110-111	General shots of the south gable	North
112-113	General shots of the north gable and east-facing elevation	South-west
114-117	General shots of the north gable	South
118-119	General shots of the east-facing elevation	West
120	Close-up shot of the pigsty doorway, east-facing elevation	West
121-131	Consecutive overlapping shots of the east-facing elevation	West
132	Quoin detail on the north gable	West
133-134	Interior shots of the partition wall between Units 1 & 2	South
135	Interior shot of the east-facing doorway in Unit 1	West
136-137	Interior shot of the south-facing side of the north gable showing the	North
	droved stonework of the adjoining former stable	

APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders		
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Polwarth Steading, near Duns		
PROJECT CODE:	POLC		
PARISH:	Polwarth		
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	M Cressey		
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd		
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Buildings Survey		
NMRS NO(S):	NT75SW 44.00 - NT75SW 44.07		
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Barn/Animal House		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/a		
NGR	NT 74519 50199		
START DATE (this season)	January 2012		
END DATE (this season)	January 2012		
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None		
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A Level 2 standing building survey was carried out on a derelict barn prior to its conversion into a modern dwelling. The barn occupies a rectangular plan and was constructed of coursed sandstone rubble with droved ashlar dressings. Two pigsties were present on its south gable. The main entrances were on its west-facing elevation where a double M-shaped roof arrangement was formerly carried on a central wall to form two covered cattle courts. These were connected to a feed store. This arrangement is typical of 19th century farmsteads where cattle were overwintered in order to provide better living conditions whilst maintaining a good supply of manure for the arable fields.		
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None		
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/a		
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Sir John McEwan		
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.		
EMAIL ADDRESS:	mcressey@cfa-archaeology.co.uk		
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS, Reports lodged with SMR and NMRS.		



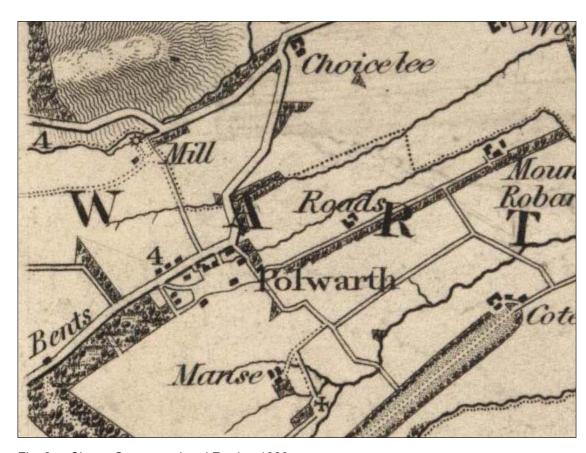


Fig. 2a - Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler, 1826 map

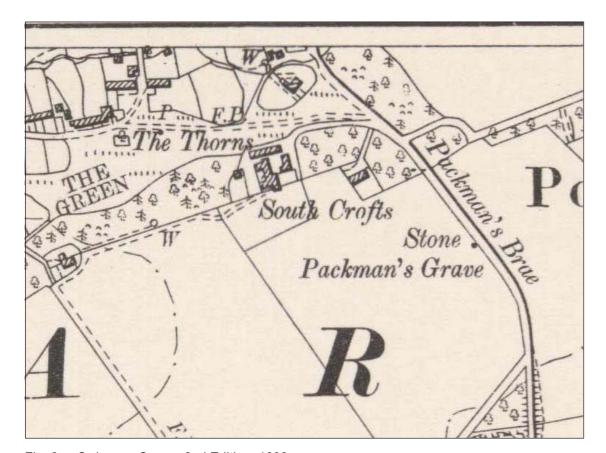


Fig. 2c - Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition, 1898

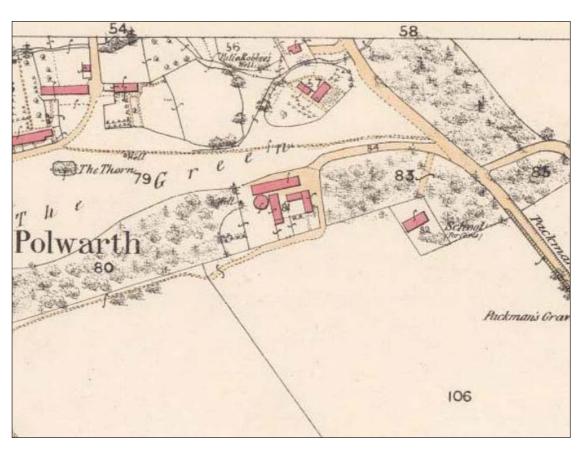


Fig. 2b - Ordnance Survey 1st Edition, 1856

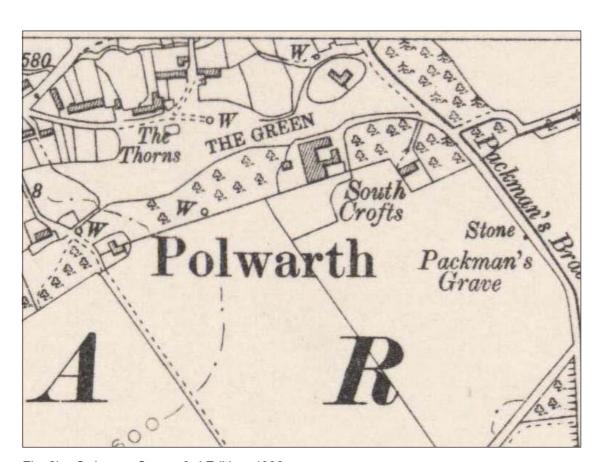


Fig. 2b - Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition, 1906





Historical Map Regression

Polwarth Crofts Barn Standing Building Survey

Scale at A3:



Sir John McEwen

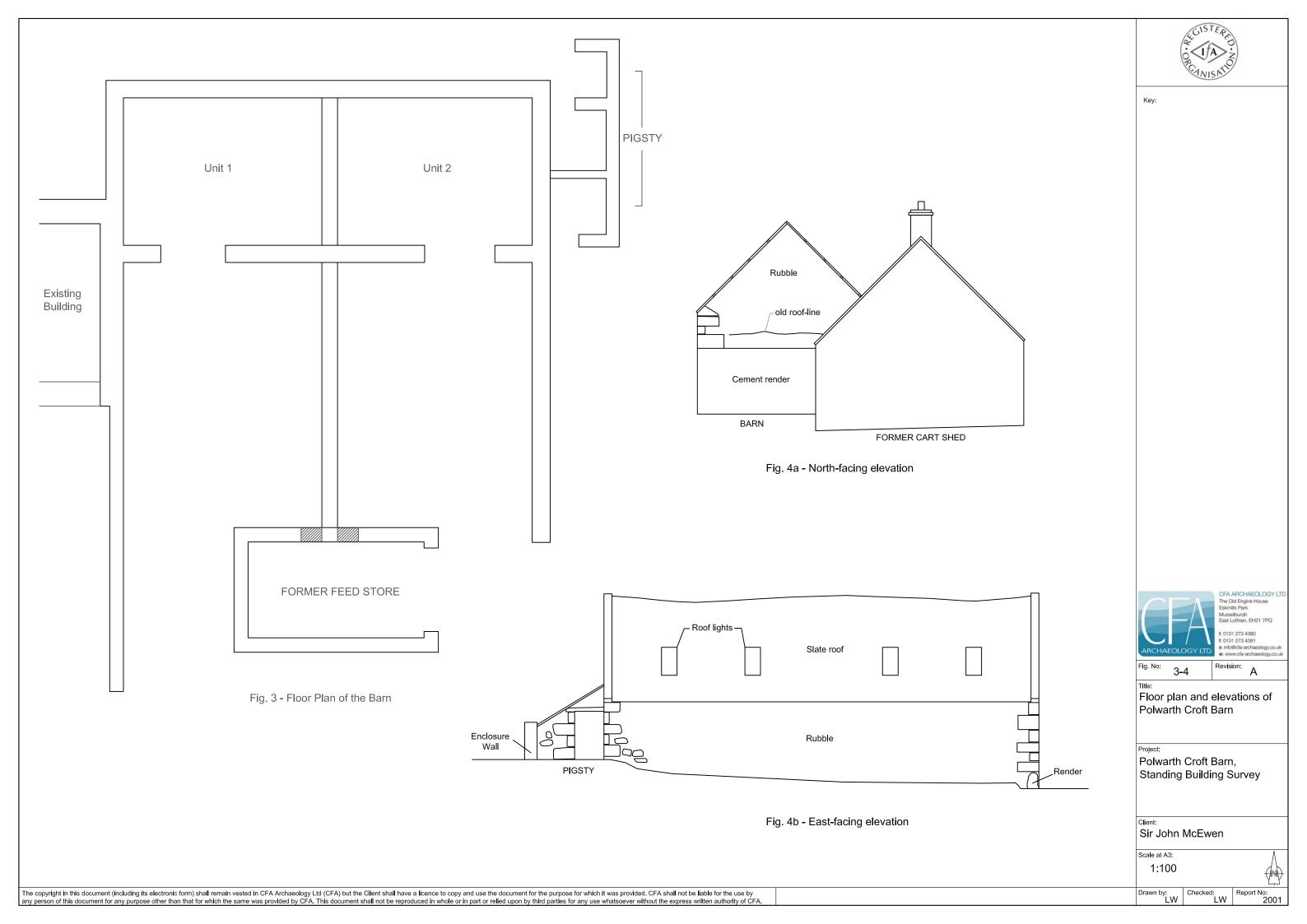






Plate 1 - A circa 1967 oblique aerial photograph of Polwarth Steading with the barn at its south end



Plate 2 - A circa 1978 oblique aerial photograph of Polwarth Steading showing the east-facing elevation of the barn and adjoining stables and cartshed



Plate 3 - A circa 1998 oblique aerial photograph of Polwarth Steading prior to the conversion of the outbuildings. The double M-shaped roof arrangement can be seen on the west side of the barn

Key:	Fig. No: Revision	on:	Client: Sir John McEwen			ARCHAEOLOGY LTD Old Engine House
	Plates 1-3	Title: Plates 1-3			Muss East t: 01:	Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, Eh21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381
	Project: Polwarth Crofts Barn Drawn by: Checked:		DGY LTD e: inf	info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk : www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk Report No:		





Plate 4 - North-facing elevation of the barn



Plate 5 - East-facing elevation of the barn

Key:

| Fig. No: | Revision: A | Client: Sir John McEwen | Title: | Plates 4-5 |
| Project: | Project: | ARCHAEOLOGY LTD | CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD | CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD | The Old Engine House | Establish Park | Musselburgh | East burgh | East

Drawn by:

Report No:

Polwarth Crofts Barn Standing Building Survey





Plate 6 - South-facing gable and lean-to roof of the pigsties



Plate 7 - General view of the west-facing elevation and south gable

Fig. No: Revision: A Client: Sir John McEwen

Title:
Plates 6-7

Project:
Polwarth Crofts Barn
Standing Building Survey

Fig. No: Revision: A Client: Sir John McEwen

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2001





Plate 8 - Interior of the cattle court showing the entrance to Unit 1

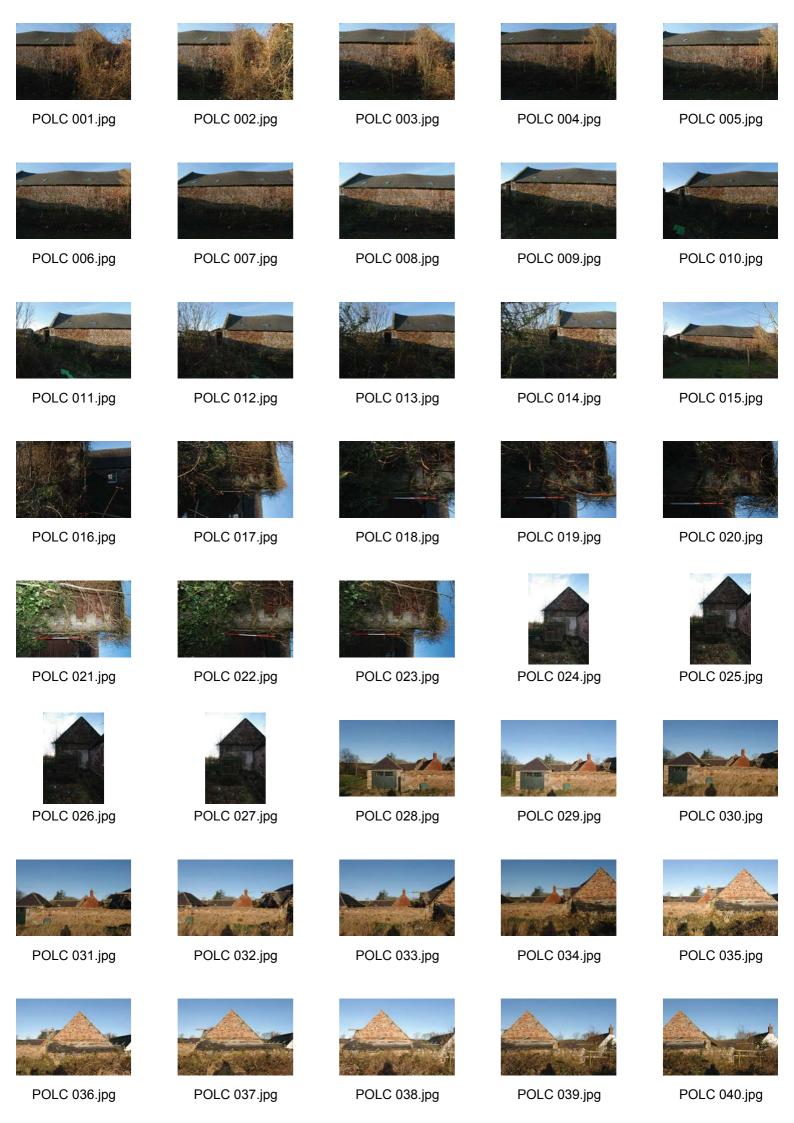


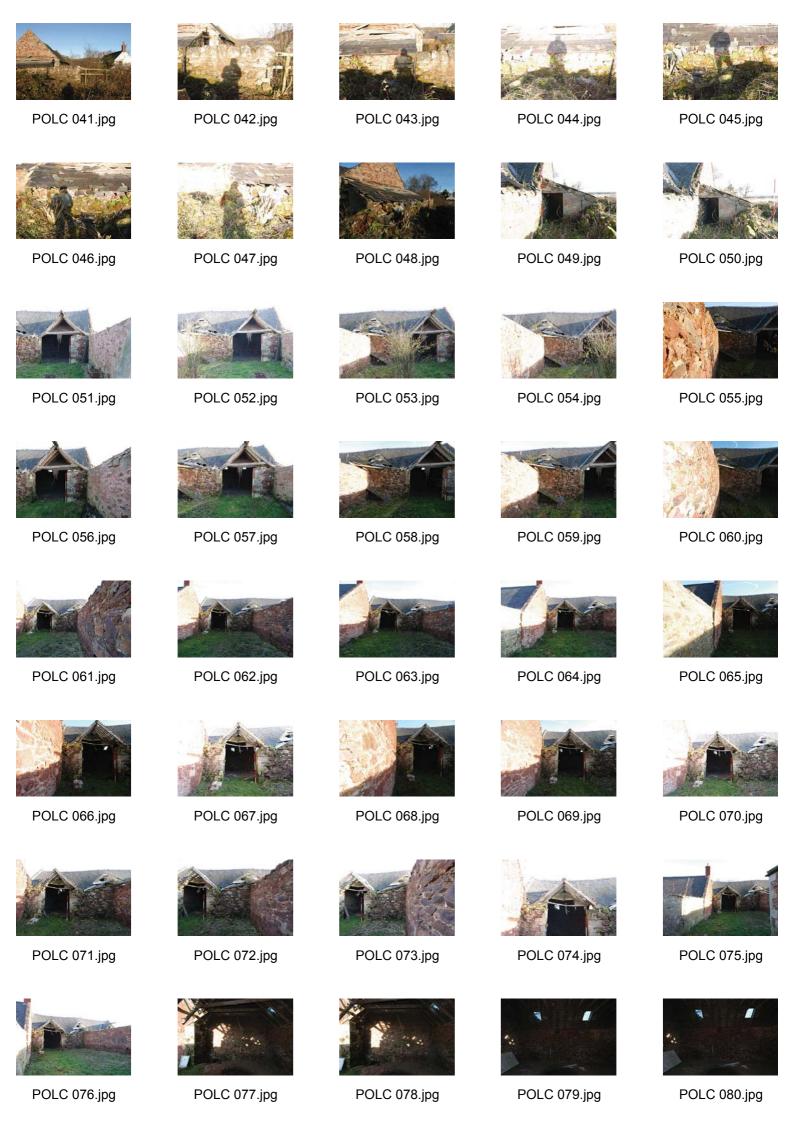
Plate 9 - A-frame roof joists resting on the wall heads and the partition wall

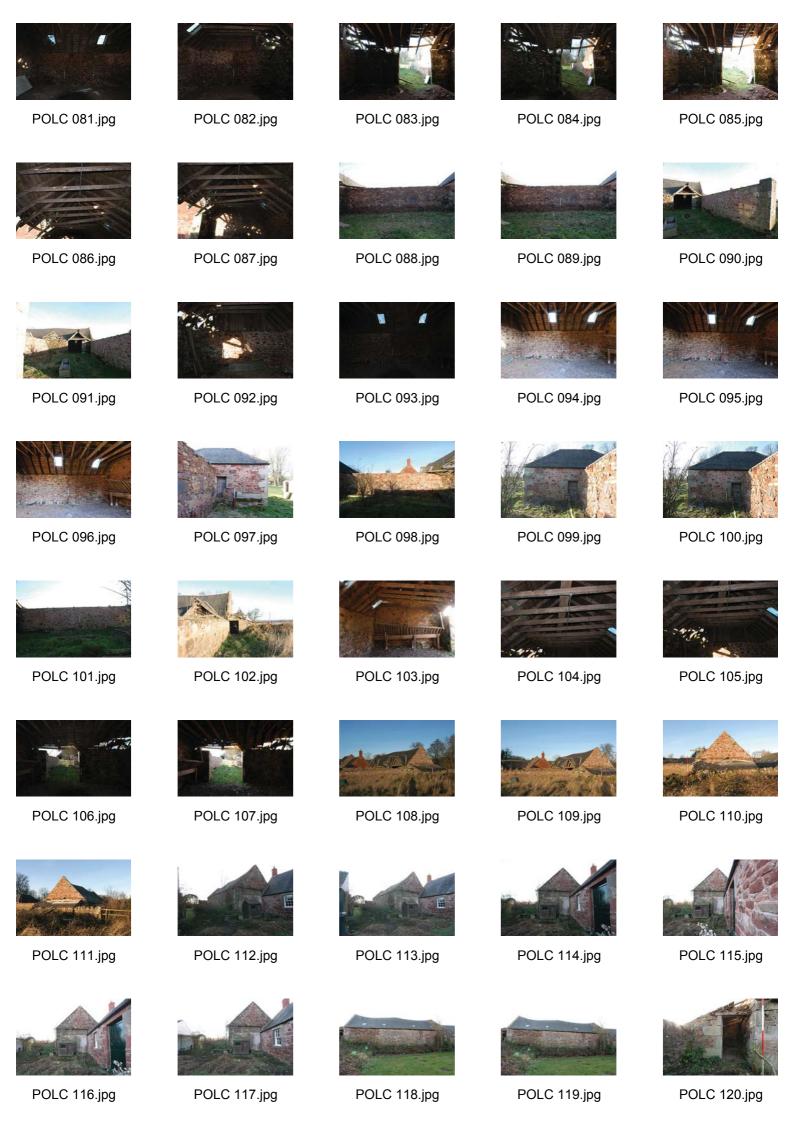


Plate 10 - Quoins of the adjoining stable block keyed into the fabric of the gable of the barn

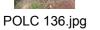
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