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Historic Building Recording


Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

The Boathouse, Pitcastle Estate, Strathtay, Perth & Kinross

Historic Building Survey

Report No. 3296

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**The Boathouse, Pitcastle Estate,
Strathtay, Perth & Kinross**

Historic Building Survey

Report No. 3296

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of a basic historic building survey carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd in May 2015 on a boathouse situated to the south of Ardrennich Farm, on the Pitcastle Estate, Strathtay (NGR: NN 90803 52903)(Fig 1). The work was carried out for Natural Power Consultants Ltd on behalf of Pitcastle Estate.

Planning permission has been granted for the demolition of the boathouse as part of the Pitcastle Hydro Scheme. The boathouse dates to the first half of the 20th century and is considered to be a local heritage asset. Under the Terms of Reference produced by Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust a *Basic* photographic record (ALGAO 2013) was required before the building was demolished.

1.2 Topographical Setting

The boathouse (otherwise known as the fishing hut) (Fig. 3) was situated on the north bank of the River Tay close to a large derelict headrace of a 1920s hydro-electric scheme¹. A small wooden bridge crossed the headrace allowing access to the 'boat pool'. A steep river terrace was present on the north side of the boathouse.

1.3. Objectives

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were:

1. To carry out a *Basic* building recording survey of the boathouse.
2. To produce an illustrated historic building survey data structure report on the boathouse.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 General

An effective standard for this type of project has been established by previous building recording surveys conducted by CFA. CFA follows the Codes and appropriate Standards set down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

A desk-based assessment has already been undertaken as part of a walkover survey (Robertson 2010) and therefore additional desk-based research was not required.

2.2 Building Recording

The recording conventions are based on the ALGAO 2013 guidelines for a *Basic* historical survey which is mainly a photographic record supported by a ground plan.

¹ The hydro-electric scheme was built by John N. Kyd a retired Jute manufacturer who bought the Pitcastle Estate in 1919.

Photographic Survey

A Nikon D300 was used to take digital photographs of the boathouse and specific architectural features. A detailed photographic record was made of all external and internal elevations of the building. A full list of all the photographs taken is appended to the rear of this report (Appendix 1). A full set of thumbnail prints is included at the rear of this report. The ground plan shows the orientation at which each photograph was taken.

Metric Survey

A plan of the building was created using a hand held Leica distometer and drawn up to a scale of 1:50 (Fig. 2).

Recording methods

Recording methods also included the completion of CFA's pro-forma building recording sheets. Notes on the building's architectural plan form, including fabric descriptions and finishings were made and cross-referenced to the photographic record.

3. BUILDING SURVEY RESULTS

3.1 Ground Plan (Fig. 2)

The brick-built boathouse was aligned north-south and occupied a rectangular footprint measuring 5.9m by 3.5m. The roof was hipped and covered with a slate-effect bitumen roofing felt. The exterior elevations were covered with a cream-coloured wet-dash render.

3.2 External Elevations

North-facing gable (Fig. 4)

The only feature on the north-facing gable was a central chimney stack with a single terracotta chimney pot.

East-facing elevation (Fig. 5)

The east-facing elevation contained a centrally placed single arched wooden window containing 14 panes. Fixed within the interior of the window opening was a set of black-painted steel window bars containing three equally spaced vertical fish motifs.

South-facing elevation (Fig. 6)

The south-facing elevation contained a pair of grey-painted plank-built double-leaved doors suspended on steel door hangers. The doors measured 2m high and c.1.2m wide. The door handle was fashioned as a curved wrought-iron fish embellished with diamonds and rivets to represent the scales of a salmon.

West-facing elevation (Fig. 7)

The west-facing elevation mirrored the east-facing elevation.

Roof

The roof was hipped and covered with bitumen felt embossed with a slate pattern.

3.3 Interior Description

South-facing elevation (Fig. 8)

The south-facing interior elevation contained a central fireplace with black slate fire surround and mantelpiece. The wall was clad with pine tongue-and-grooved planks. The fireplace was flanked by two pine shelves and an over-mantle shelf. The hearth and its fender were made of common brick. The flue was also lined with common brick.

The ceiling was coombed. Mounted on the sloping ceiling were two replica salmon below which were a series of prints of salmon flies and a collection of historical fishing photographs mounted within a single frame.

West-facing elevation

The west-facing elevation contained the aforementioned central arched window below which was a large drop-leaved table. The walls were clad with tongue-and-grooved planks. Two brackets above the window supported a pair of fishing rods.

East-facing elevation

The east-facing elevation was lined with tongue and grooved planks and had the same fenestration as the east wall. Three wall-mounted brackets supported a fishing rod. Near the door was an eight compartment shelf containing fishing tackle (line, hooks and sinkers). At the north end a wall-mounted board provided a place to hang made-up fishing traces.

North-facing elevation (Fig. 9)

The north-facing elevation contained the plank-built double-leaved doors that were surrounded by tongue-and grooved clad walls. The doorway had a concrete threshold.

Floor (Fig. 10)

The floor comprised 20 re-used railway sleepers laid on an east-west alignment.

4. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

The boathouse was probably constructed sometime during the first half of the 20th century as part of the Pitcastle Estate improvements. The fireplace is in keeping with the 1930s and may have been re-used from another building. The boathouse may have had a slate roof when it was first constructed but this was replaced more recently by less costly bitumen felt that replicated it. The interior of the building has been clad with tongue-and-grooved cladding and is also a recent addition.

The *Basic* historical building survey has adequately recorded the plan form and architectural layout of the boathouse prior to its demolition.

It is recommended that no further archaeological recording is required but it is recognised that the final decision rests with the Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

An entry in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 2) will be sufficient to disseminate the results of the building survey.

5. REFERENCES

ALGAO 2013 *Historic Buildings Guidance*. Association of Local Government Archaeologists and East Lothian Council Archaeology Service. Unpublished.

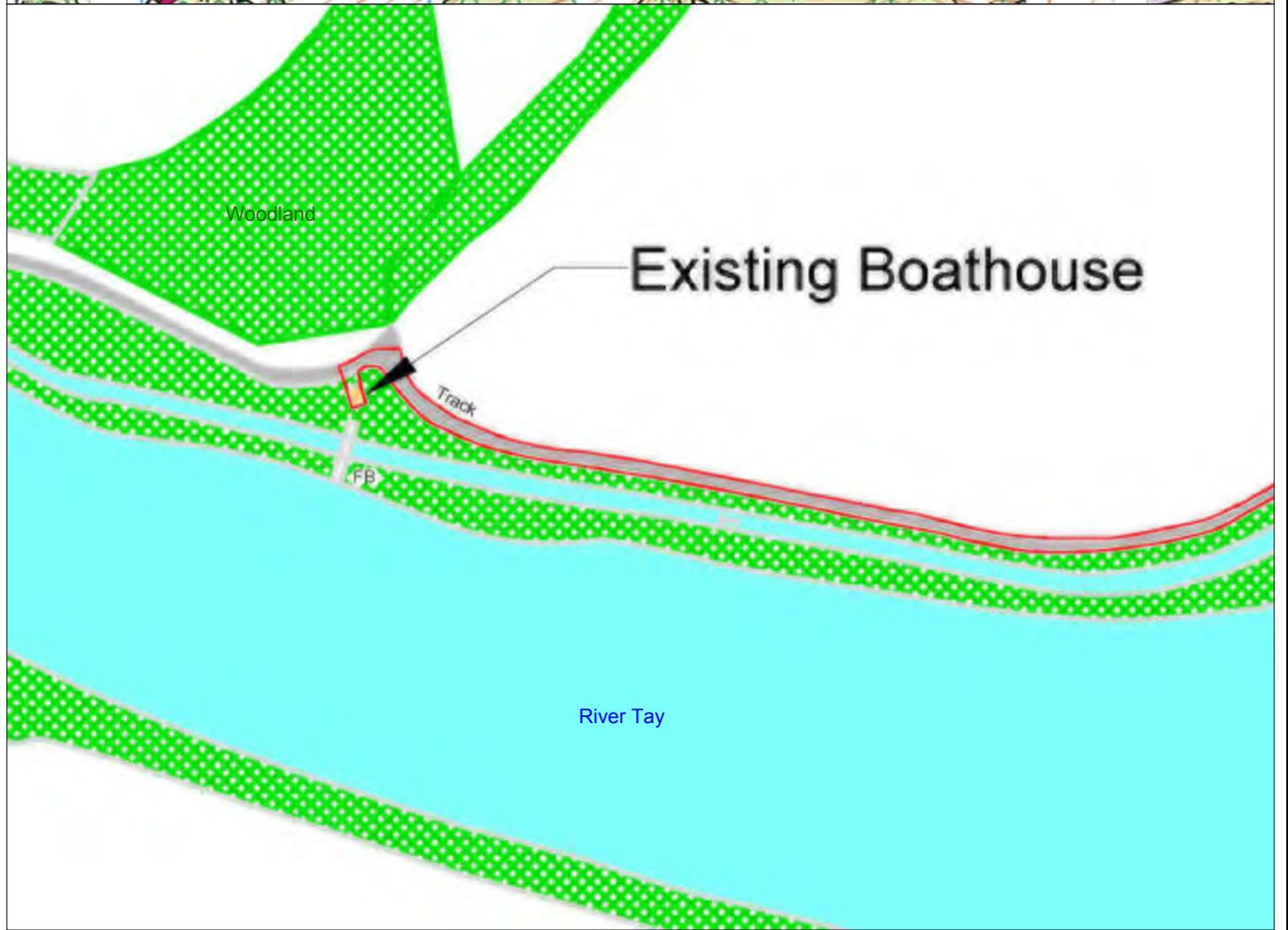
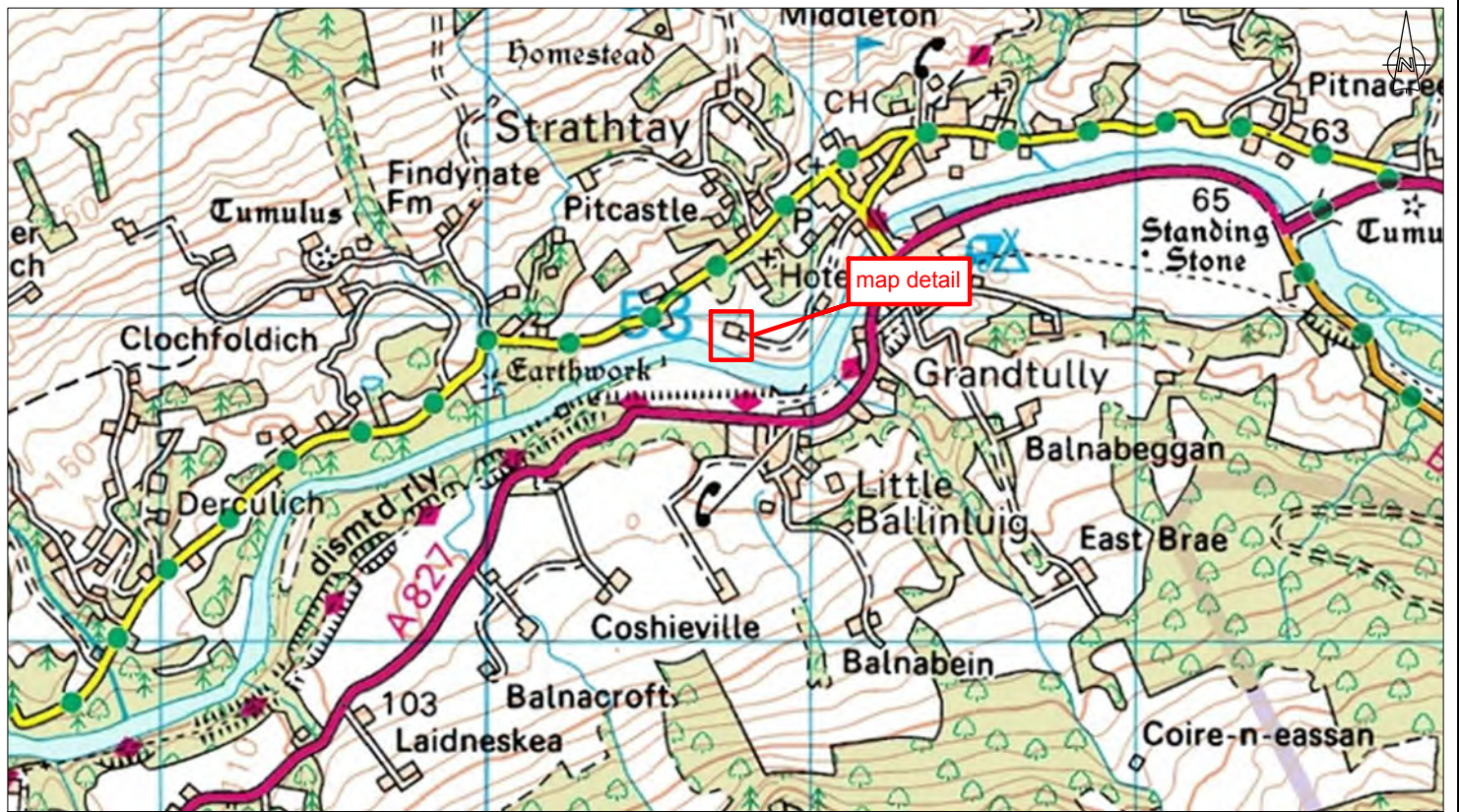
Robertson, JG 2010 *An Archaeological Survey for the Pitcastle Hydro Scheme, Strathtay, Aberfeldy, Perth and Kinross*. Unpublished.

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Shot No	Summary description	Facing
01	East-facing elevation	W
02	North-facing gable	S
03	North-west corner of the boathouse	SE
04	West-facing elevation	E
05	South-facing gable	N
06	Fish motif door handle	N
07	East-facing elevation, window detail	W
08	Interior north wall, fireplace	N
09	Interior west wall, window detail	W
10	Interior south wall, with doorway	S
11	Interior north wall with fireplace and flanking windows	N
12-13	Wall mounted casts of salmon on the chimney breast	N
14	Distance shot of the boathouse	N
15	Distance shot of the boathouse	W
16	Distance shot of the boathouse	E
17	Distance shot of the boathouse	SW
18	Distance shot of the boathouse	N
20	North-west corner of the boathouse	SE
21	West-facing elevation	E
22	Distance shot of the boathouse	N
23	South-facing elevation, door detail	N
24	Fish motif door handle	N
25	Interior shot of the fireplace	N
26	Interior west wall	W
27	Interior south gable with double-leaved doors	S
28	Interior east wall with fixtures and fittings	NE
29	Fishing memorabilia above the fireplace	N
30	Detail shot of a salmon cast	Oblique
31	Floor detail, general shot	Oblique
32	General shot of the boathouse and bridge across the headrace	W
33-34	General shot of the boathouse from the west	E
35	General shot of the boathouse from the river terrace	SE
36	East-facing elevation, general shot.	E

APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	The Boathouse, Pitcastle Estate, Strathtay, Perth & Kinross
PROJECT CODE:	PITC
PARISH:	Logierait
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	M Cressey
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Basic Historic Buildings Survey
NMRS NO(S):	N/a
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Boathouse
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/a
NGR	NN 90803 52903
START DATE (this season)	May 2015
END DATE (this season)	May 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Robertson, J.G. 2010 'An Archaeological Survey for the Pitcastle Hydro Scheme, Strathtay, Aberfeldy, Perth and Kinross'. Unpublished.
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A basic historic building survey was carried out prior to demolition of a boathouse. The brick-built boathouse was constructed during the first half of the 20 th century by the Pitcastle Estate. The building measured 5.6m by 3.5m and was lit by single arched windows on the east and west elevations. The north gable contained an external chimney. The south gable had double-leafed doors. The interior of the boathouse had been clad with tongue-and grooved planking and the ceiling was coombed. A slate fireplace with a brick hearth occupied the north wall.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Natural Power Consultants <i>per</i> Pitcastle Estate.
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
EMAIL ADDRESS:	mressey@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS, Reports lodged with SMR and NMRS.



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Title: Site location	Fig No: 1	Report: 3296	Drawn by: GC	CKD: SW	Date: 00/00/14
	Client: Natural Power Consultants per Pitcastle Estate				
Project: The Boathouse, Pitcastle Estate, Strathtay, Perthshire, Historic Building Survey	Scale: 1:1500 @ A4				

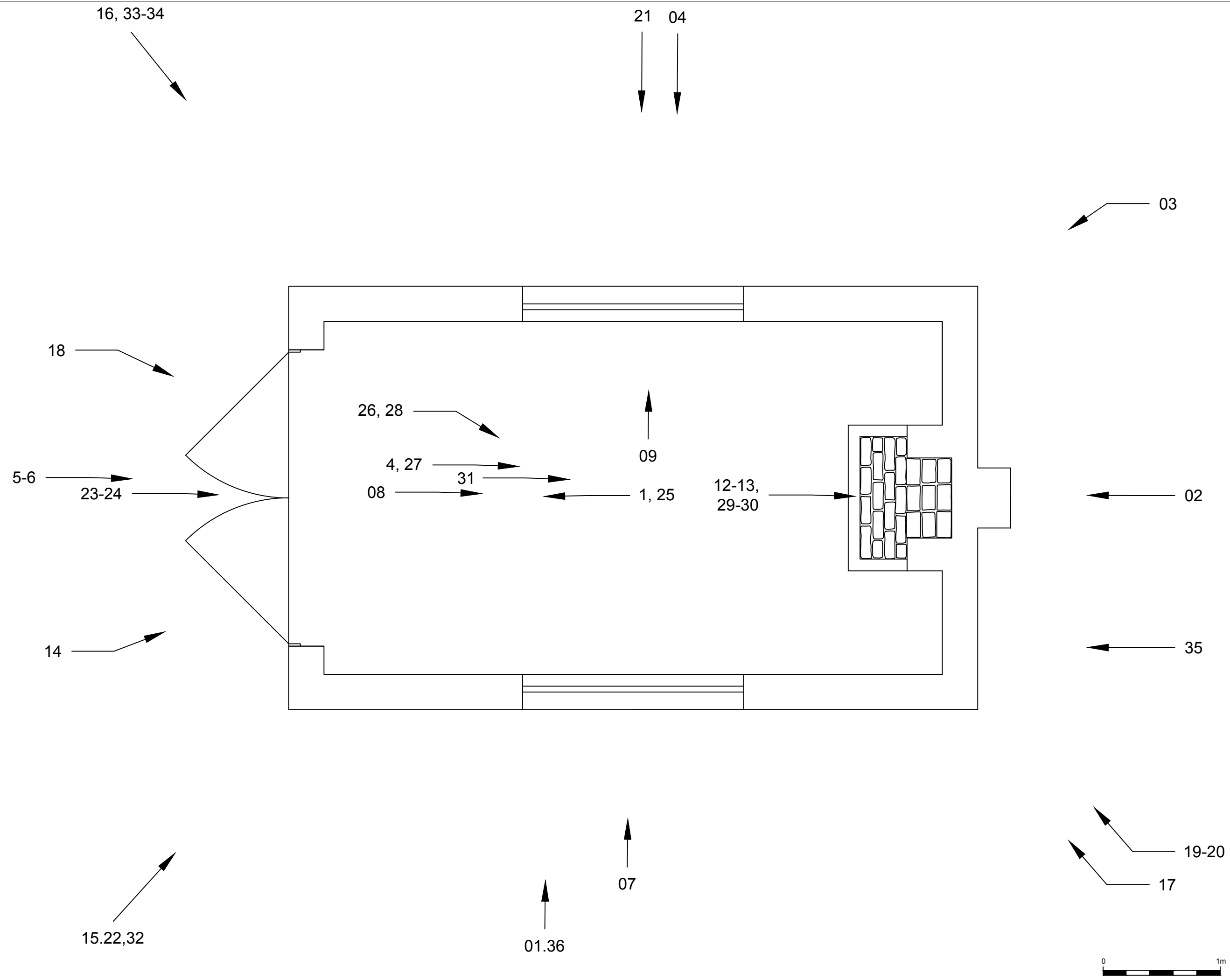
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Key:

24 → Photo number and direction



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Fig. No:	2	Report No:	3296
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Title:
Ground floor plan and photographic orientations

Project:
The Boathouse, Pitcastle Estate, Strathtay, Perthshire, Historic Building Survey

Client:
Natural Power Consultant per the Pitcastle Estate

Scale at A3:
1:30

Drawn by:	Checked:	Date:
GC	SW	13/05/2015

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Fig. 3 General view of the boathouse



Fig. 4 North-facing elevation



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Project: The Boathouse, Pitcastle Estate, Strathtay, Perthshire, Historic Building Survey					



Fig. 5 East-facing elevation



Fig. 6 South-facing elevation



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Fig. 7 West-facing elevation



Fig. 8 Interior north-facing elevation



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Title:	Fig. 6 - 8	Report: 3296	Drawn: GC	CKD: SW	Date: 19/05/15
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Project: The Boathouse, Pitcastle Estate, Strathtay, Perthshire, Historic Building Survey					



Fig. 9 Interior south-facing elevation



Fig. 10 Floor detail (reused railway sleepers)



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Title:	Fig. 9 - 10	Report: 3296	Drawn: GC	CKD: SW	Date: 19/05/15
	Client: Natural Power Consultants <i>per</i> the Pitcastle Estate				
Project: The Boathouse, Pitcastle Estate, Strathtay, Perthshire, Historic Building Survey					



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