

**FINDLAY FARM  
ABERDEEN**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING REPORT**



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**FINDLAY FARM, ABERDEEN  
REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING  
(SITE CODE E95)**

**INTRODUCTION**

In September 2008, Aberdeen City Council Archaeological Unit was commissioned to carry out a programme of archaeological works prior to the development of the site at Findlay Farm, Aberdeen (NGR NJ 9529 1198). The other components comprised a walkover survey and field evaluation of the site, and these are discussed separately. The building recording element of the works required a standing building survey of the surviving steadings, to the north of the track, associated with the Findlay Farm farmstead (Stones 2008, reproduced as Appendix 1). This was in order to provide an accurate and permanent record of the structures prior to demolition.

**METHODOLOGY**

The extant buildings were recorded using measured drawing survey techniques alongside a coherent photographic survey of the structures as existing, by experienced professional archaeologists to a level consistent with an English Heritage Level 3 Building Recording. In summary, the guidelines associated with a Level 3 survey require an analytical record, comprising an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the building's origins, development and use (English Heritage 2006, 14). The guidelines further state that the record must include an account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail. It must also include all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the building's appearance and structure and to support an historical analysis. The information contained in the record will for the most part have been obtained through an examination of the building itself.

The Findlay Farm steading buildings were recorded in September 2008. They consisted of what initially appeared to be six structures, the bothy to the west, with the others the other side of a farm track to the west, adjoined and inter-linked (Figure 1). The structures will be discussed as existing, in the results section below, with a more analytical study outlined in the discussion section. All features referred to within the text are summarised as Appendix 2.

The site archive will be placed within a suitable repository, in compliance with standard practice. Aberdeen City Council support the **Online Access** to archaeological **InvestigationS** (OASIS), and as such, an electronic copy of this report will be available at the Archaeological Data Service website, hosted by York University.

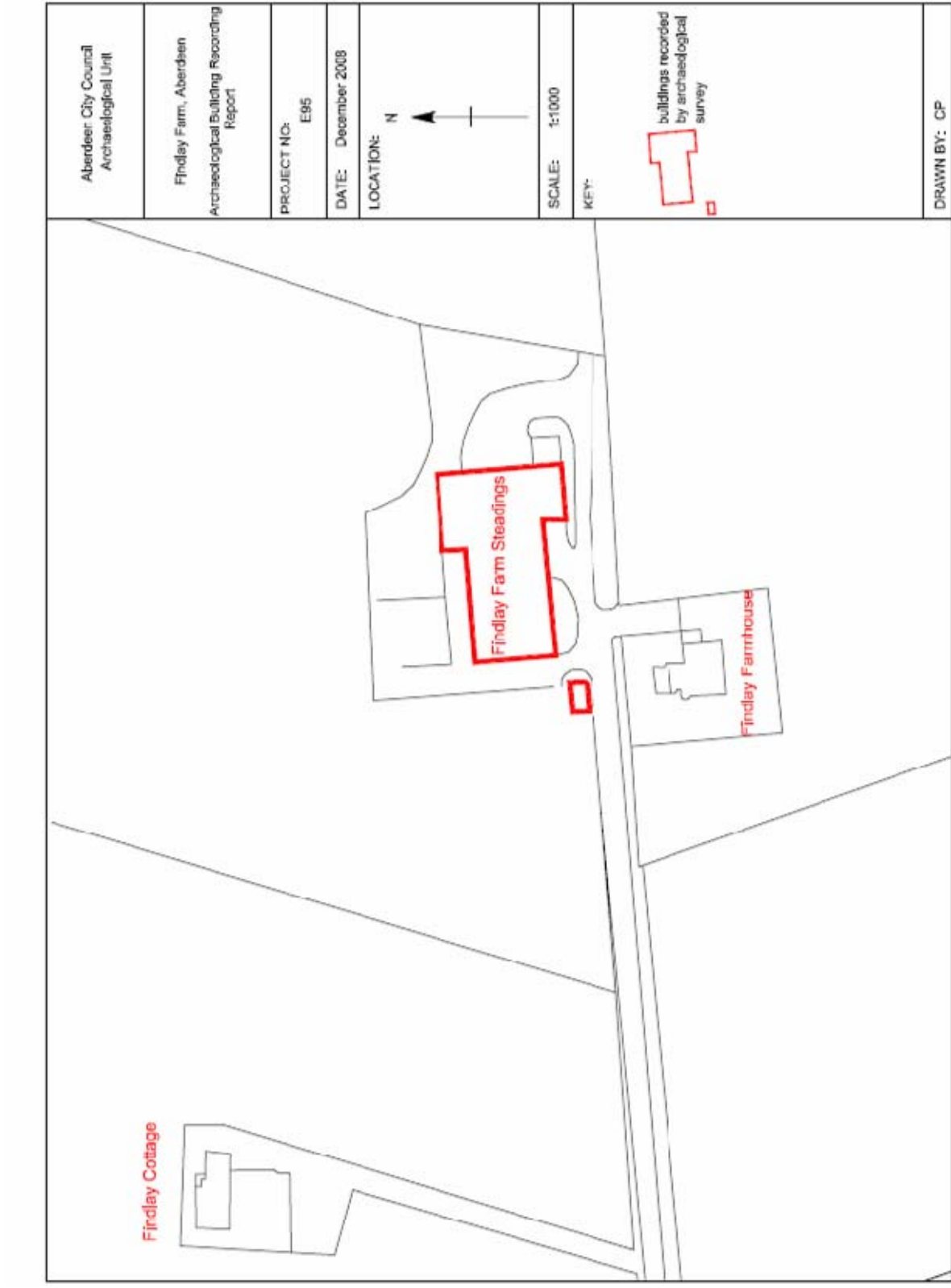
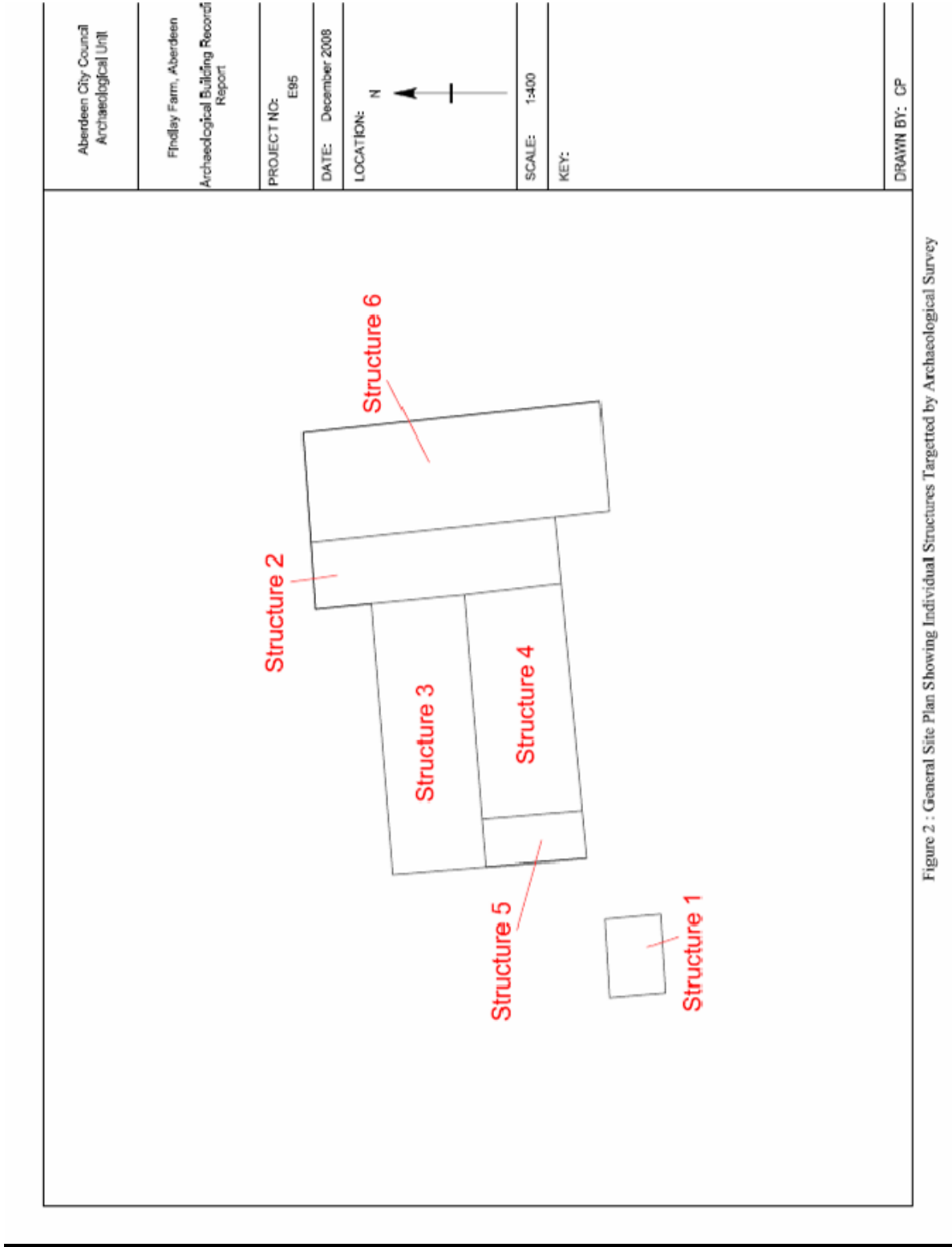
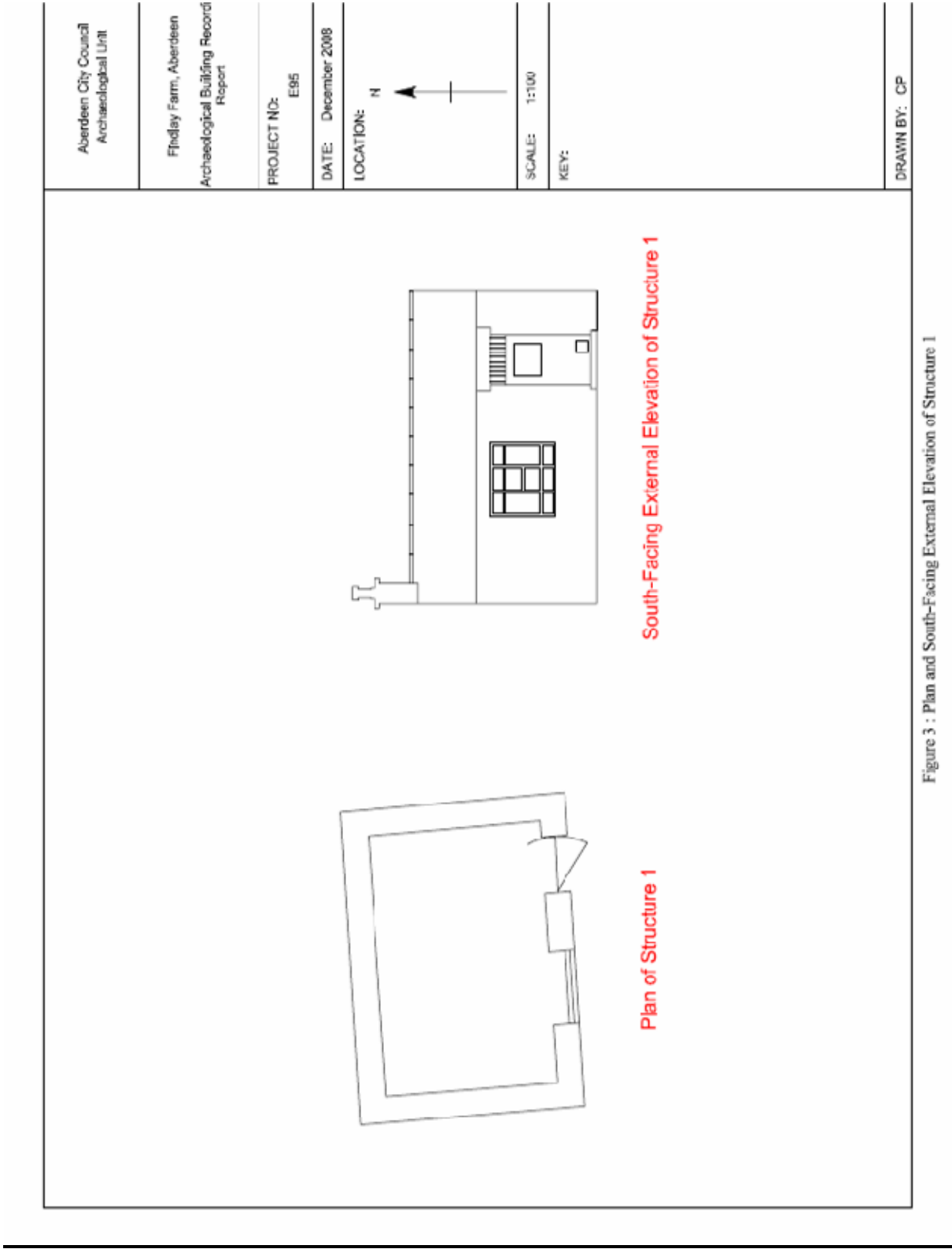


Figure 1 : Location of Findlay Farm Steadings





## **RESULTS**

### **Structure 1**

Structure 1 consisted of a single-storey single roomed detached building, to the north of the Findlay Farm farmstead and access trackway, and to the west of the other steading buildings on the west side of the farm track (Figure 2). The structure was a 6.65m by 4.76m rectilinear building, standing to a height of 4m, of granite construct with a gabled roof of slate (Figure 3). A chimney was provided at its centre, at the western extent of the roof. The south-facing external elevation provided the only window and the only entrance into the structure. Internally, the single room was provided with one fireplace at the centre of the western wall. The internal walls were timber-clad in a style popular in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, obscuring any internal structural features. The walls were 0.55m thick.

### **Structure 2**

Structure 2 was a roughly north-south aligned structure. The adjoining nature of the structures forming the steading at Findlay Farm meant that externally, only the north and south-facing elevations of Structure 2 were fully visible. The northern part of the west-facing elevation was also recorded. The structure stood to a height of 6.4m, was 5.7m wide and 20.75m in length and was rectangular in plan (Figure 4). It was built of coarse granite blocks with smaller fragment infills consistent with the local traditional style. The gabled roof was finished in slate tiles. The south-facing exterior elevation revealed quoins, and a window, partially blocked with breezeblock, close to the roofline (Feature 1). Fragments of tiles were observed on a diagonal line beneath the window stretching across the elevation (Feature 2). The upper part of the elevation showed evidence for re-rendering (Feature 3), and was of a smoother finish. Metal hooks survived beneath the re-rendered area (Feature 4).

The north-facing exterior elevation of Structure 2 was furnished with a large entranceway with granite quoins at its eastern extent, matching the style at the edges of the structure, and a mixture of brick and breezeblock lining the western edge of the entranceway, and the top section of the eastern edge (Feature 5). The top of the entranceway was provided with a concrete lintel (Feature 6) with a timber horizontal strut nailed to it.

The visible part (northern extent) of the external west-facing elevation of Structure 2 showed a construction fabric consistent with the rest of the structure. The far northern extent was obscured by an abutting wall 5.84m in length, protruding westwards from the north-facing elevation, although quoins were visible. This was 0.25m in thickness, and was of harled breezeblock construct. A vertical tar stain 0.54m from the northern extent of the elevation (Feature 7), and a further diagonal sloping tar stain (Feature 8) were recorded beneath a row of metal hooks attached to a timber strut (Feature 9).

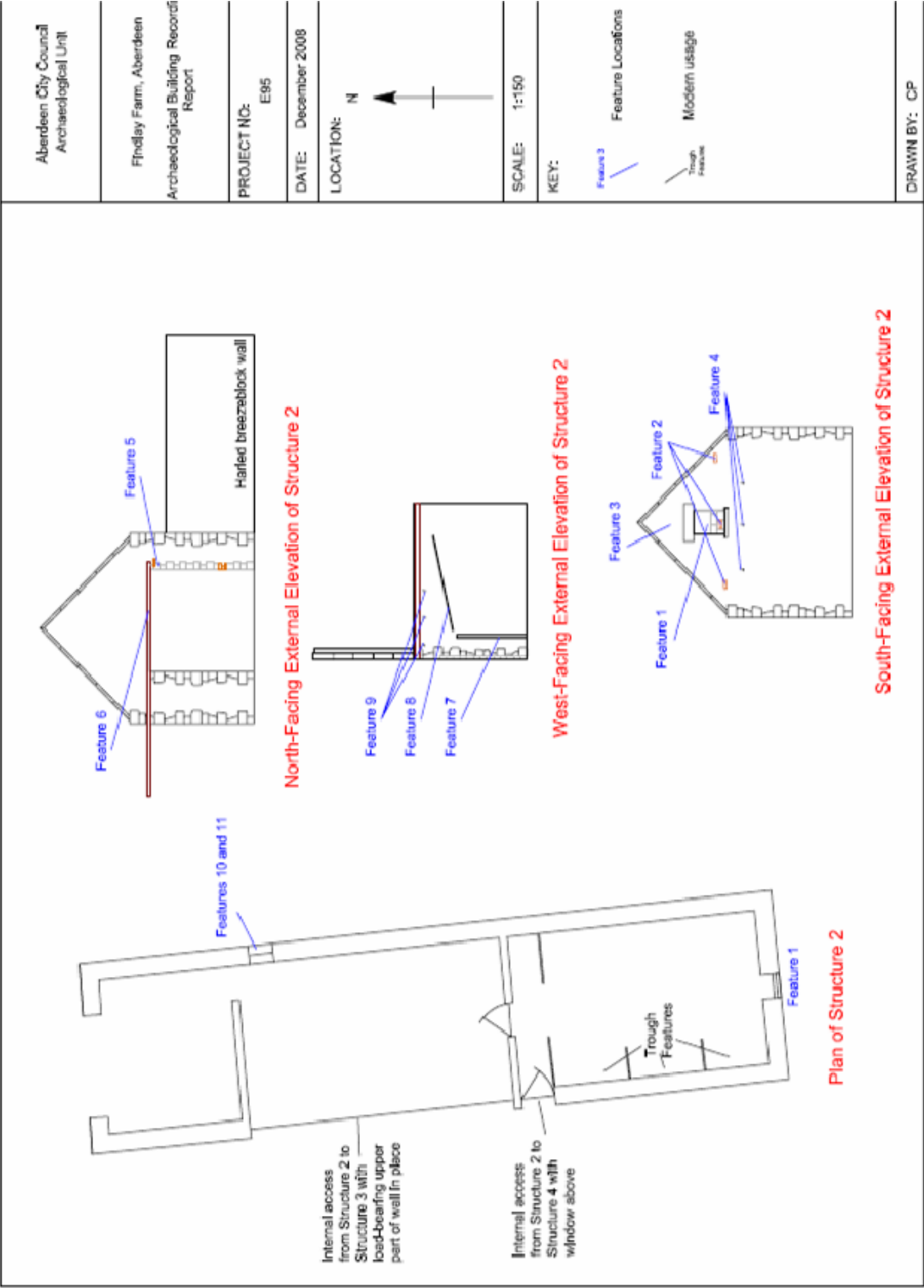
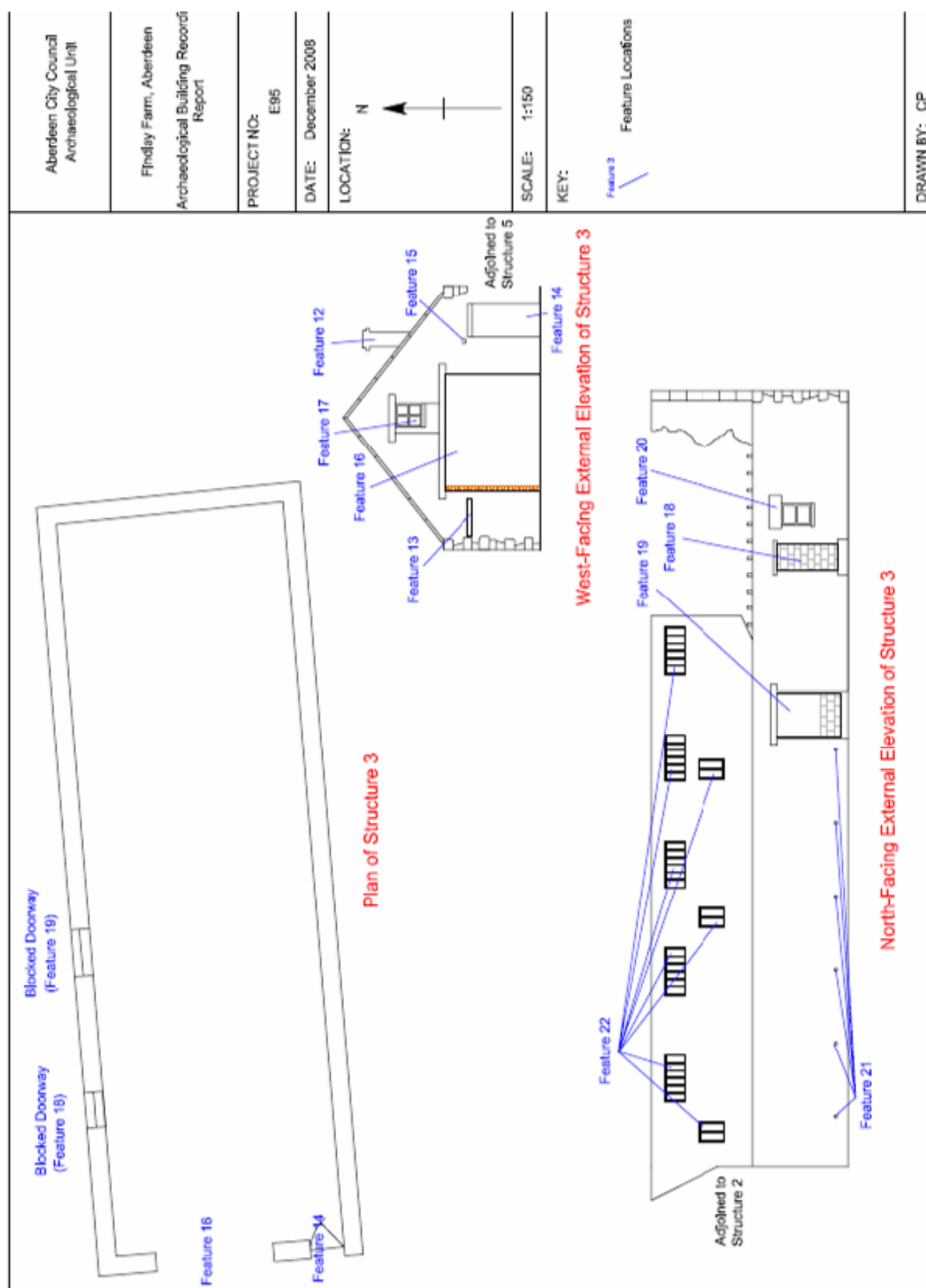


Figure 4 : Plan and Elevations of Structure 2





The deteriorated, and therefore dangerous, state of Structure 2 meant that detailed internal survey was not possible. What was clear was that the structure had been segregated into two areas by an east-west aligned breezeblock wall, to the south of which was a separate room. This southern room was whitewashed, obscuring the fabric and therefore any surviving architectural features. Animal pen features and troughs suggested the use of this area for housing livestock. The slate roof was provided with skylights. Two squared doors led from this area, one westwards into Structure 4, and one northwards into the northern part of the interior of Structure 2. The latter had a sliding door on a metal strut. The northern part of the interior of Structure 2 was largely deteriorated, particularly the northern side of the breezeblock wall, where much of the roof had collapsed. The southern part of the segregated area was whitewashed, including the south-face of the breezeblock wall, and an area to the west was fenced off. A wide and low entrance led into Structure 3, and a wide and low wooden gated entrance was opposite, leading into the modern hay barn structure to the east, although this was not accessible. A narrow gap at the western extent of the breezeblock wall allowed access into the northernmost part of the interior of Structure 2. There was evidence that this area too had once been whitewashed, although there was none on the north-face of the breezeblock wall, and much of it had washed off the other walls, suggesting the roof may have been missing for some time, and this area allowed to decay whilst the rest was still in-use. A doorway, which once led eastwards from Structure 2, had been breezeblocked (Feature 10), and bricks at its northern edge, and irregular stonework above, between it and an open window area (Feature 11), suggests re-organisation of this space since the structure's construction.

### Structure 3

Structure 3 was a roughly east-west aligned structure, the eastern end of which adjoined Structure 2. Only the north and west-facing external elevations of Structure 3 were visible, the east and south being obscured by adjoining Structures 2 and 5. Structure 3 was rectangular in plan, measuring 24.44m in length and 7.8m in width. It stood to a height of 5.88m and was completed in granite blocks with quoins and a gabled roof of slate, similar to that observed in Structure 2 (Figure 5). A chimney was provided extending 1.52m above the western elevation, on the southern slope of the roof in brick in stretcher pattern (Feature 12). The west-facing external elevation revealed a horizontal lintel-like structure, 2.15m above ground level, of granite with small granite blocks, and a large amount of mortar in-between (Feature 13) close to the northern edge of the elevation. An angled, and cement-smoothed doorway (Feature 14) was observed at the opposite, southern edge of the elevation. A circular hole (Feature 15) to the north of the angled door was observed at a height of 2.2m above ground level, which may have been associated with the chimney (Feature 12). Between Features 13 and 14, taking up much of the central part of the external west-facing elevation of Structure 3 was an entranceway 3.5m wide and 3m high, the northern edge of which was brick-lined, with a steel lintel (Feature 16). Above the entranceway was a window with a granite lintel above, and concrete lintel below, and evidence of breezeblock to the left and below it (Feature 17).

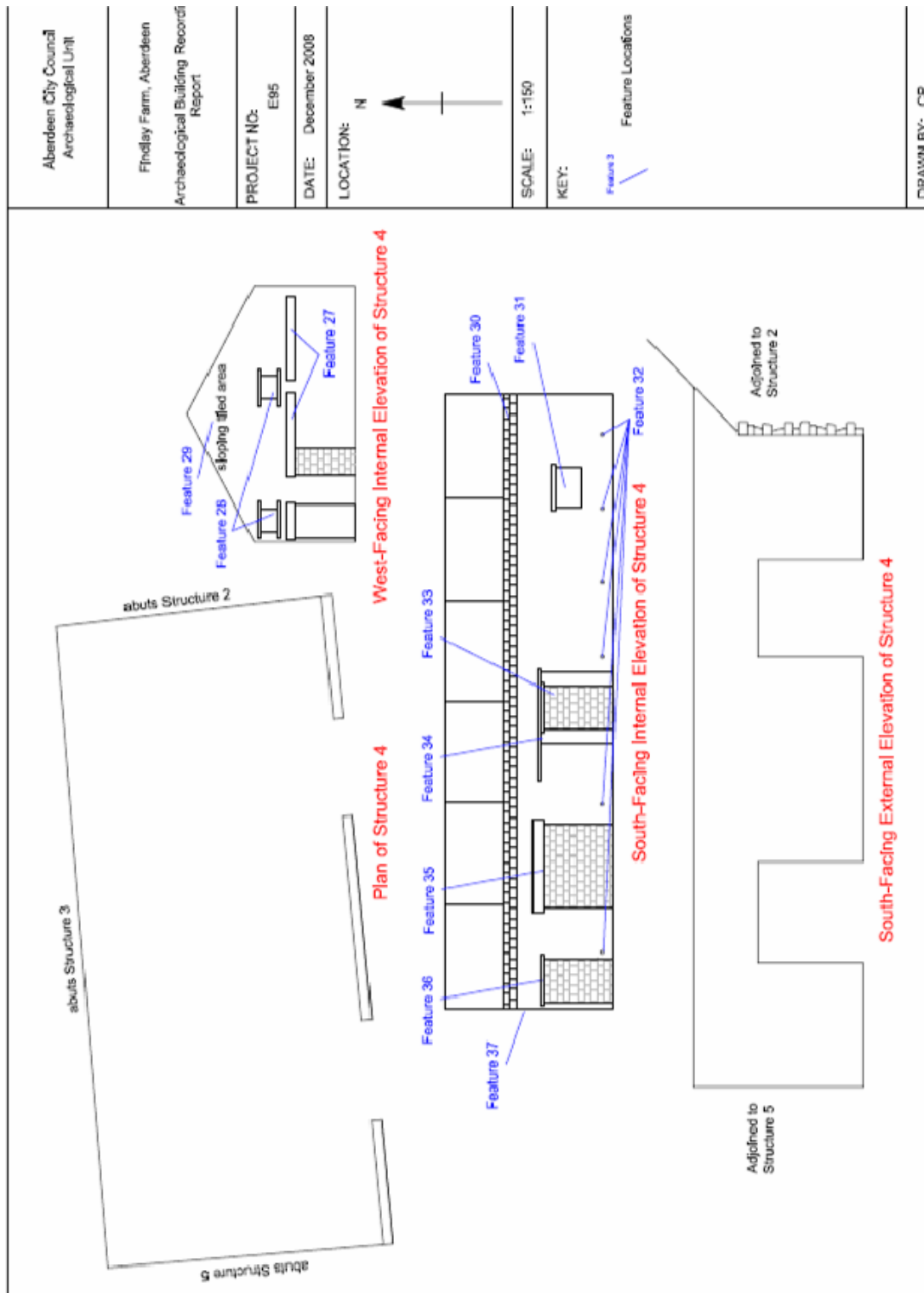


Figure 6 : Plan and Elevations of Structure 4

The north-facing elevation of Structure 3 revealed evidence for two pre-existing doorways (Features 18 and 19). The westernmost (Feature 18) had been blocked with breeze blocks from the inside and had been bricked at both edges. It also had a stepped entrance and a narrow granite lintel above. The easternmost doorway (Feature 19) also had a stepped entrance, but had a concrete lintel and surround. It had been partially blocked from the inside, with three courses of breezeblocks, blocking access but not light. Just to the west of the westernmost blocked doorway was a window (Feature 20), fully breezeblocked from the inside. This had a large granite lintel above and smaller narrow concrete sill below. A row of six circular holes 0.1m in diameter survived across the eastern part of the elevation, equidistant from one another (Feature 21). The roof of Structure 3 was at an advanced state of decay, particularly at its western end, where the slates had disappeared. Timber struts were observed, and a total of 8 skylights survived in the eastern part of the roof (Feature 22).

The interior of Structure 3 consisted of one large space with smooth whitewashed walls. The eastern end of the structure had only the top half of the eastern elevation in place (Feature 23). Due to the decayed nature of the roof, access to the interior was limited. A blocked doorway was visible on the north-facing interior wall (Feature 24). In addition, the partially blocked doorway noted from the north-facing exterior elevation (Feature 19) was observed once more. Just inside the main entranceway on the west-facing elevation was a raised concrete area with a trough (Feature 25). A further feature on the opposite wall was a short wall feature of concrete build (Feature 26).

#### Structure 4

Structure 4 was a further roughly east-west aligned structure adjoining Structure 3 to the north, Structure 2 to the east and Structure 5 to the west. Structure 4 was rectangular in plan, measuring 36.3m in length, 8.5m in width, and standing to a height of 5m (Figure 6). Structures 2, 3 and 5 obscured all of the external elevations, except the south-facing elevation. This wall was 0.48m thick and 3.3m high and was completed in harled breezeblock. It included two large entranceways, each measuring 2.9m in width and 3.1m in height, one 3.65m from the western extent of the elevation, and the other 3.66m away from the eastern extent of the elevation. The roof was completed in corrugated iron, with steel trusses. No features of archaeological or architectural interest were observed on the exterior, and all seemed to be of one build.

The interior north-facing elevation matched that of the south-facing exterior one, and no further features were observed. The west-facing interior elevation was completed in granite, matching that of Structures 1, 2 and 3, and had a doorway at its northern extent with a granite lintel, leading through into the interior of Structure 2. To the south, two large horizontal granite blocks were recorded (Feature 27), with breezeblocks visible below, parts of which had been whitewashed. The whitewashed areas occurred within an animal pen

feature which existed within the south-eastern corner of the interior. Two windows were recorded at a higher level, one immediately above doorway, both of which were roughly square with granite lintels and sills (Feature 28). Hardboard blocked them from the other side. Above the windows was a sloping tiled area, which sloped eastwards (Feature 29).

The south-facing interior elevation of Structure 4 was of granite construction, similar to that observed on Structures 1-3. It extended to a height of 2.8m, above which were two courses of breezeblock (Feature 30), on which the roof trusses were established. Towards the eastern edge of the elevation was an area of granite blocks with mortar which did not match the rest of the elevation, consisting of a wider area at the top above a squared area (Feature 31). Below this, and across the elevation, except where disturbed by other features, was a series of six circular holes, 0.1m in diameter, and equally spaced in the eastern part of the elevation (Feature 32). Towards the centre of the elevation was a granite lintel, below which breeze blocks could be seen blocking the entry from the northern side of the wall (Feature 33). A timber slat on a metal runner further blocked access (Feature 34). To the west of this was a longer concrete lintel with whitewashed breezeblock beneath, blocked from the other side of the wall (Feature 35). At the far western extent of the elevation was a granite lintel, with breezeblock below- blocked from the northern side of the wall (Feature 36).

Much of the southern half of the east-facing interior elevation of Structure 4 was obscured by a cement-smoothed and whitewashed finish covering any surviving features beneath. The northern part of the wall was of granite construct, to a height of 2.1m, comparable to Structures 1-3 and 5. Above this level was 13 courses of breezeblock (Feature 37). A window was observed at its northern extent, which had been blocked from the other side of the elevation (Feature 38).

### Structure 5

Structure 5 was a roughly north-south aligned structure located at the western extents of Structures 3 and 4. Of Structure 5, only the south-facing and west-facing external elevations were visible, the north and west being abutted by Structures 2 and 4. The structure itself was rectangular in plan of granite construction with quoins and a slate gabled roof (Figure 7). The external south-facing elevation included a central window with granite lintel and sill (Feature 39). The external west-facing elevation included more features. At the southern end was a doorway with a concrete lintel, grey brick surround at its southern edge, and breezeblock at its northern edge (Feature 40). It was also quite wide, measuring 1.4m. The far southern extent of the elevation had started to collapse. To the north of the first doorway was a narrower second doorway with quoins at its southern extent and a granite lintel (Feature 41). A metal runner and metal sliding door obscured the fabric on the northern side of the doorway. Between the two doorways (Features 40 and 41) a narrow window was recorded, surrounded to the north and south by brick infill, and provided with a granite lintel and concrete sill (Feature 42). To the north of the central doorway (Feature 41), was a further window, this one much wider, with

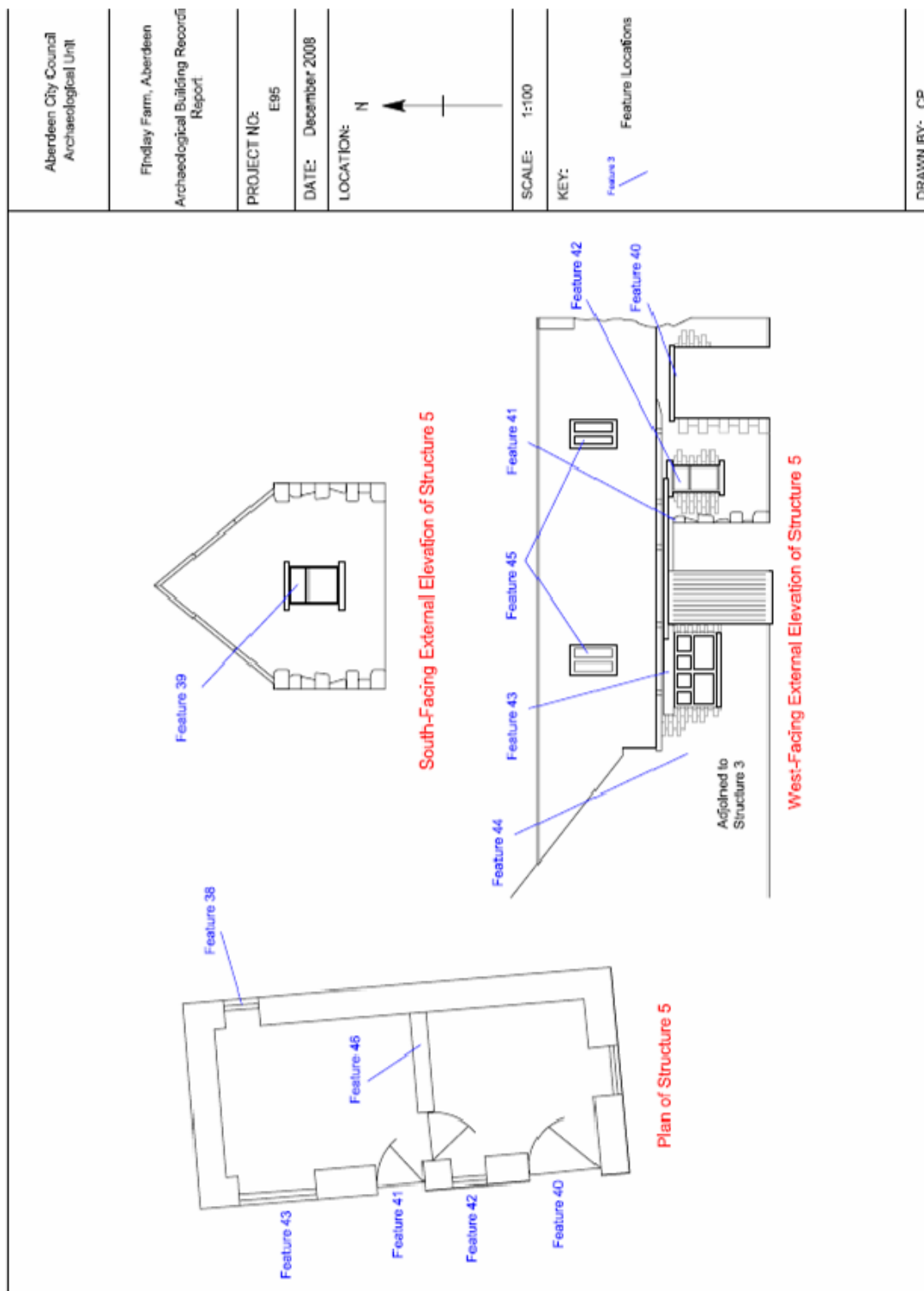


Figure 7 : Plan and Elevations of Structure 5

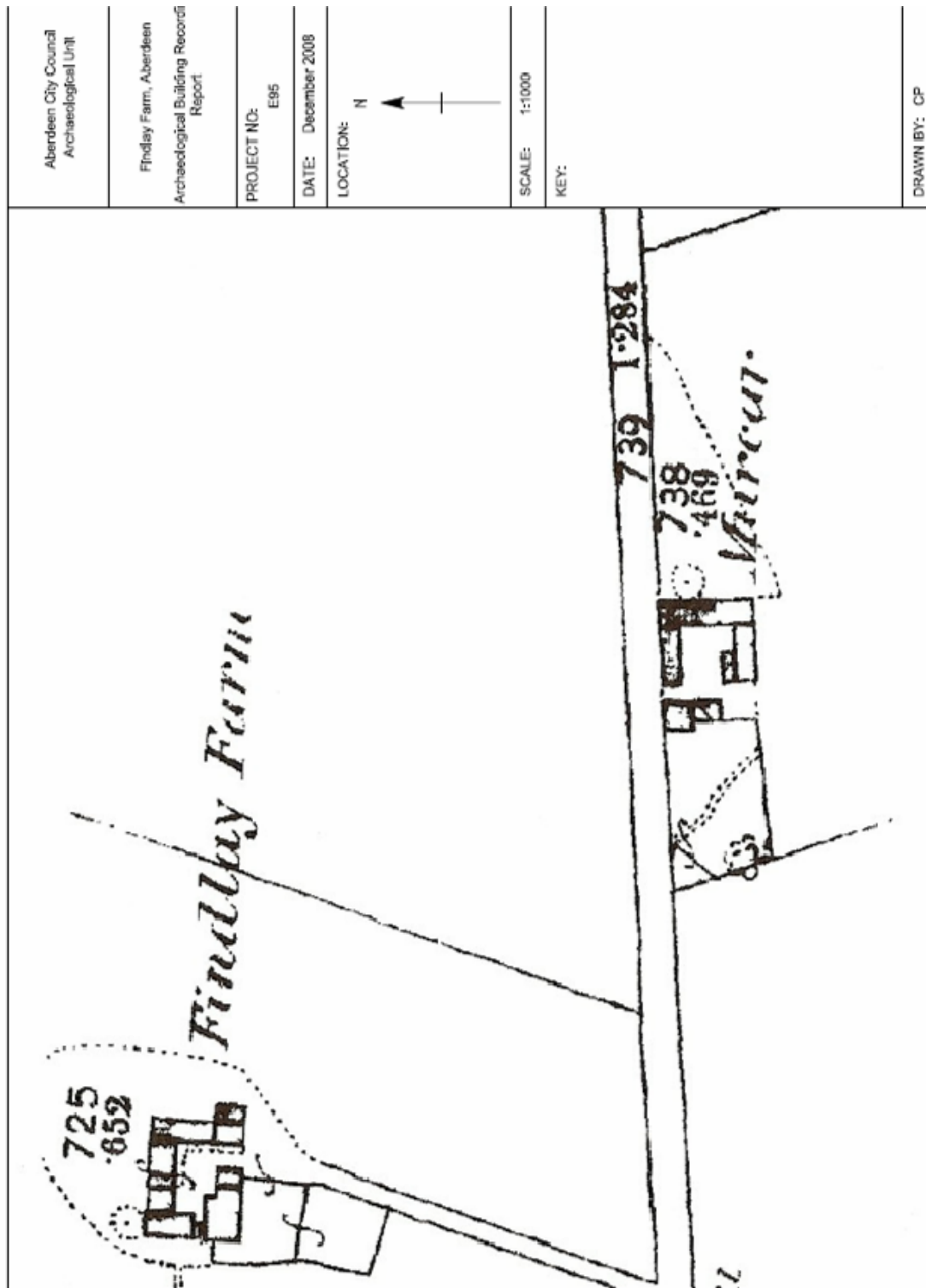


Figure 8 : First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1867 (compare with Figures 1 and 9)

a white painted concrete lintel and sill, and grey brick surrounds (Feature 43). The northern extent of the elevation had been built into the west-facing elevation of Structure 3, seen by the stone fabric (Feature 44). The roof had 2 skylights incorporated within it (Feature 45).

Internally, the structure had been divided into two by a breezeblock wall (Feature 46), providing each space with a window and doorway on the west-facing external elevation. The southern area also had a south-facing window (Feature 39), and the northern area an east-facing window (Feature 38). The northern area seemed to have more recently been used for storing milk, as a large tank and pipes were still in place. More recent debris in the form of mattresses and other discarded items meant further detailed study of the interior was impossible.

### Structure 6

Structure 6 was the easternmost structure forming the Findlay Farm steading, adjacent to Structure 2. It was constructed from concrete and corrugated iron, and was a large hay barn. The presence of hay within the barn made access impossible. This, combined with the lack of any features of archaeological or architectural interest, meant that it was unnecessary to compile a full survey of this structure. A photographic record of all of the structures will be available with the project archive.



Figure 9 : Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1901 (compare with Figures 1 and 8)



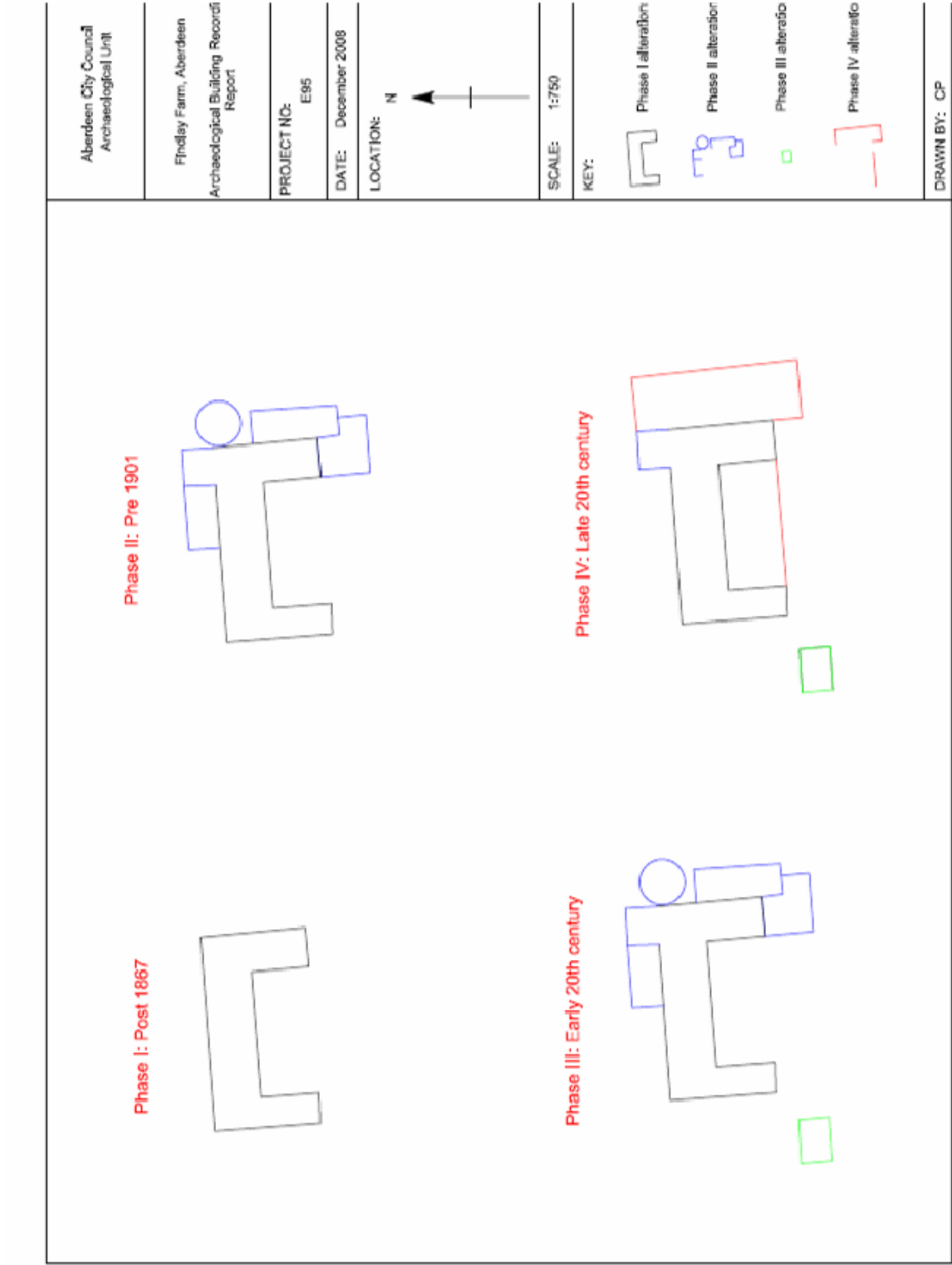


Figure 10 : Proposed Major Structural Phasing Sequence of the Findlay Farm Steadings

## **DISCUSSION**

The fabric of the structures and the individual features discussed for each Structure above, and summarised in Appendix 2, have helped to provide a broad phasing of the Findlay Farm steadings.

It is known from Ordnance Survey mapping that none of the Findlay Farm steading structures were in existence by 1867 (Figure 8), although the farmhouse, formerly Murcar, was in existence on the south side of the track by this date. Old mapping, as well as the archaeological survey, has allowed a broad phasing sequence to be established, although this is for illustrative purposes only and is only a probable timeline based on the evidence presented. Further research or examination of the site, once obtrusive features have been removed, may highlight further evidence of use in improving our understanding of the site further.

Four rough phases have been established (Figure 10). The nature of farming, and the necessity for minor alterations to adapt to changing needs means that not all of the features described could definitively be assigned to these major structural phases, and in this case, a rough date has been proposed. The phases are useful in establishing the key sequences in the development of the Steading at Findlay Farm.

### **Phase I (Post 1867)**

It is proposed, that due to the U-Shape made by extant Structures 2, 3 and 5, that the original steadings were u-shaped, to move the main working area of the farm away from the existing farmhouse to the south of the track, adopted, perhaps, as the farm grew more successful in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. This form of vernacular agricultural outbuilding is particularly common throughout, though not exclusively restricted to, the Highlands and Islands of Scotland (Brunskill 2004, 169). This would explain their central position on the Ordnance map of 1901 (Figure 9), by which time several further buildings had been adjoined. This U-shape was a fairly common form of farmstead, usually occurring away from the main house (Peters 2003, 7).

The three earliest structures must have included a barn (Structure 2), which, when first built, included a tall barn door, with adjoined window above in the rafters (suggested by Features 10 and 11), in typical style of the southern uplands of Scotland (Brunskill 2004, 165), a cartshed or cattlehouse (Structure 3) and a cattlehouse or stable (Structure 5). Generally, cattlehouses tended to be close to the barn, to ease the transportation of the threshed barn to the cattle, although the large entranceway in the west-facing elevation is similar to a high door of a cartshed. It is likely that Structure 5 was originally for horses or cows; the absence of a chimney rules out human habitation.

### **Phase II (Pre 1901)**

Although minor alterations may have occurred in the meantime, the next major structural change is proposed by 1901, as illustrated on the Ordnance Survey map of that date (Figure 9). By this time, Structure 2 has been extended northwards to its present length. In addition, adjoining structures had been added to the southern elevation of Structure 2 (archaeologically evidenced by Features 1-4), and to the western edge of the extended northern part of Structure 2 (archaeologically evidenced by Features 7 and 8). A final alteration, though not evidenced archaeologically due to restrictions imposed by Structure 6, was the addition of a north-south aligned rectangular building adjacent to Structure 2, with a round building to the north. The circular building could represent a conical roofed horse-engine house typical of the central lowlands of Scotland (Brunskill 2004, 167), although its presence so close to what was probably a small barn might suggest it was a kiln, similar to those typical of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland (Brunskill 2004, 169) and the southern uplands of Scotland (Brunskill 2004, 165). Corn-drying kilns can be distinguished from lime kilns by their location. Lime kilns tend to be isolated features in the landscape (e.g. Cruickshank, Nisbet and Greig 2004) whereas corn-drying kilns are usually circular, can be freestanding, built into a natural slope, or can form part of a kiln barn. Few surviving examples remain, but they are known from steadings on the Orkneys and at Caithness, and examples have been excavated in Sutherland between 1978 and 1980 (Close-Brooks 1980) and on Hirta by Durham University between 1986 and 1990 ([www.kilda.org.uk/arch-investigations.htm](http://www.kilda.org.uk/arch-investigations.htm)). Its proximity to Structure 2, however, the barn, may suggest it was more likely that it was a horse engine for a threshing machine which would have been tall and needed a loft to feed the straw into it (Features 10 and 11), or housed barn machinery which was used to prepare feed for the livestock, a practice which developed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Peters 2003, 27). The other buildings appearing in Phase II could have been stables, or cartsheds, dependent on the original usage of Structures 2, 3 and 5. None of the buildings constructed during this phase survive, and due to the appearance of Structure 6, traces of their fabric was also not found on the adjoining walls of surviving structures. It is not possible to date their demolition.

### Phase III (Early 20<sup>th</sup> century)

Phase III is characterised by the appearance of Structure 1, not in existence by 1901. The style and nature of the building suggests a very early 20<sup>th</sup> century date, and that it was built as a bothy, or small dwelling, perhaps as a residence for a labourer family. This development, along with the Phase II development indicates a successful and expanding farmstead.

### Phase IV (Late 20<sup>th</sup> century)

Although several changes will have taken place between Phase III and Phase IV in terms of minor internal reorganisation, such as the blocking up of doorways, or the widening of entranceways, the next major structural phase is evidence by the appearance of Structures 4 and 6. These did not necessarily occur at the same time, though it is probable that they are both of later 20<sup>th</sup>

century origin. Structure 6 was not recorded fully by this survey, but results from Structure 4 showed that it was not an entirely separate building in its own right, but merely comprised a south-facing wall, and roof, enclosing an area that was previously a courtyard area. Thus the internal elevations illustrated in Figure 6, should really be considered as the external west-facing elevation of Structure 2 (currently reads west-facing internal elevation of Structure 4), and the south-facing external elevation of Structure 3 (currently labelled south-facing internal elevation of Structure 4). Adaptations to the abutting structures can clearly be seen in the use of breezeblocks to heighten the wall for the new roof for Structure 4 (Features 35 and 37) and to block entranceways and windows no longer required (Features 33-36). At some time in the modern period, Structures 3 and 5 were used for cattle, housing, milking and feeding. Trough features with Structure 2 also suggest livestock were housed there in recent times.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This survey has allowed an interesting insight into the surviving structural remains of the Findlay Farm steadings. Of further interest is the fact that the environs of the present Findlay Farm site, once consisted of two farmsteads, Findlay Farm, present-day Findlay Cottage, and Murcar, present-day Findlay Farm. A settlement of two or three farms can be evidence for a shrunken hamlet or village (Peters 2003, 5), and, combined with the name 'Murcar', may indicate a medieval hamlet in the vicinity.

The Keeper of Archaeology for Aberdeen City Council has already expressed that "*the archaeologist who undertakes the survey must also observe the demolition in progress to ensure that any additional features revealed at that stage are recorded*" (Stones 2008; Appendix 1), so this must be adhered to.

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English Heritage (2006) *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*, English Heritage: London

Peters, J.E.C. (2003) *Discovering Traditional Farm Buildings*, Shire Publications Ltd: Buckinghamshire

Stones, J. (2008) 'Kingfisher Business Park, Murcar, Aberdeen', *unpublished specification for archaeological works*, Aberdeen City Council (see Appendix 1)

## **Appendix 1: Specification for Archaeological Works**

### **ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES CENTRAL AREA**

#### **MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES**

##### **Kingfisher Business Park, Murcar, Aberdeen**

###### Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

###### **Summary**

This specification outlines the historic importance of this area and indicates the works which will be required to ensure that historic and archaeological features are evaluated, and where necessary recorded and protected during development work.

###### **1.0 Site Location and Description**

The area of the site (NGR NJ 9529 1198) is shown on the enclosed map extract. It is at present open farmland. Part of Findlay Farm, which lies at the southern boundary of the development, is to be demolished to make way for the business park.

###### **2.0 Planning Background**

The request for this archaeological evaluation is made in the context of National Planning Policy Guideline no 5, Archaeology and Planning, which states that archaeological remains should be regarded as part of the environment to be protected and managed. In paragraph 14, planning authorities are advised that they should ensure that archaeological factors are fully considered in both the development planning and development control processes. Paragraph 16 urges planning authorities to regard archaeological remains as a finite and often highly fragile resource vulnerable to needless or thoughtless damage or destruction. Paragraph 25 states that the implications of development proposals for ancient monuments and their settings should be considered at the outset of the development control process. It is appropriate for planning authorities to request, where appropriate, the prospective developer to arrange for archaeological fieldwork and ensure that relevant information on the cultural heritage is taken into account in any environmental assessment that may be necessary (paragraph 24).

National Planning Policy Guideline 18, Planning and the Historic Environment, paragraph 52 states that ‘in cases of demolition or significant alteration of historic buildings, structures or streetscape, planning authorities are encouraged to make it a condition of consent that applicants arrange suitable programmes of recording features that would be destroyed in the course of the proposed works...’

###### **3.0 Historical and Archaeological Background**

This site lies near the edge of the developed area on the northern fringe of Aberdeen, to east of Ellon Road and west of the coastline. There are very few recorded archaeological and historical sites within the boundaries of the development area, which may partly be the result of the paucity of previous archaeological work in the area. Known archaeological sites in its vicinity reflect land-use from prehistory through the medieval period and the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>.

century age of agricultural improvement to the Second World War (see attached map). The two recorded sites which lie within the development are Findlay Croft, which no longer stands, and part of Findlay Farm. Findlay Croft appears on the 1867 Ordnance survey map and also, reduced in size, on the OS map of 1901. What is now known as Findlay Farm is marked as 'Murcar' on the 1867 map, at which date there were buildings only on the south side of the track which currently bisects the farm. By the time of the 1901 map, a steading, probably the older portions of the one that still stands, had been constructed on the north side of the track and the farm had been re-named Findlay Farm. On the 1867 map the site of what is present-day Findlay Cottage, apparently with some additional buildings, now demolished, was called Findlay Farm. Further information is available from Aberdeen City Council Archaeological Unit (01224) 523658: [judiths@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:judiths@aberdeencity.gov.uk).

#### **4.0 Requirement for Work**

The archaeological work at this site must initially be composed of three types of work – **a walkover survey, a standing buildings survey and a field evaluation**. It is possible that further specific archaeological work will be necessary following the field evaluation and walkover. It is the responsibility of the developer to ensure that all archaeological work associated with this development, including post-excavation analysis and publication, is completed to the satisfaction of the Keeper of Archaeology, Aberdeen City Council.

##### **4.1 Walk-over Survey**

A visual inspection of the entire development area must be undertaken by an archaeologist who must prepare accurate written and drawn records of any features which are identified in that process.

##### **4.2 Standing Building Survey**

A survey of any standing structures which are to be demolished or altered as a result of the development, notably the steadings and bothy at the present Findlay Farm, must be made to at least the standard of an English Heritage Level 3 Historic Buildings Survey. The archaeologist who undertakes the survey must also observe the demolition in progress to ensure that any additional features revealed at that stage are recorded.

##### **4.3 Field Evaluation**

The archaeological potential of the site must be tested in the field by a series of trial trenches. The layout and location of the trenches are to be agreed in advance by the archaeological contractor and the Keeper of Archaeology, but it is anticipated that 10% of the development area will be sampled. The sampling area should include the site of Findlay Croft and the areas around Findlay Cottage where some buildings of the former Findlay Farm appear, from the 1867 Ordnance Survey map, to have been located. The purpose of the evaluation process is to establish the location, condition, depth and date of any archaeological features and deposits which may survive on the site – and to determine to what extent they are in danger of being affected by the development.

#### **5.0 Further Work**

Following the fieldwork exercise, a written evaluation of the archaeological potential of the site must be produced, along with a suggested strategy for final investigation, recording and protection of any significant features. This final investigation or protection strategy must be acceptable to the planning authority and its implementation, including all

fieldwork, post-excavation and publication requirements, must be secured by the developer.

## **7.0 Timetable**

A timetable must be agreed for the various stages of work so that provision can be made for monitoring by the Keeper of Archaeology.

## **8.0 Staff Structure**

A list of key project staff with qualifications and experience will be submitted by the contractor. The use of unwaged staff will not normally be acceptable.

## **9.0 Health and Safety /PLI**

Such concerns and responsibilities are primarily a matter for the archaeological contractor who must submit evidence of conformity to the Health and Safety at Work Act and possession of public liability insurance to Aberdeen City Council.

## **10.0 Field Evaluation**

- 10.1 An appropriate machine must be used to minimise damage to underlying archaeological deposits
- 10.2 All machine work must be carried out under the direct supervision of an archaeologist acceptable to the planning authority and the Keeper of Archaeology.
- 10.3 All excavation, both by machine and by hand, must be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits which appear to be worthy of preservation *in situ*.
- 10.4 Any human remains which are encountered must initially be left *in situ*. Their removal will be a matter of discussion with the Keeper of Archaeology (who must be notified within 12 hours of their discovery) and will comply with the provisions of Scots Law.

## **11.0 Recording Systems**

These must be specified and should include the structure for site record.

## **12.0 Monitoring Arrangements**

It is necessary for the planning authority to monitor the progress and effectiveness of the archaeological work in order to ensure the proper execution of the specification and therefore conformity to the brief. Stages at which monitoring is appropriate will be agreed between the archaeological contractor and the Keeper of Archaeology. The possibility of random inspections should not be excluded.

## **13.0 Reporting Requirements for Field Evaluation**

Provision must be made for:

- 13.2 Specialist examination of animal and human bone and of any preserved or organic material.

- 13.3 Specialist conservation and examination of artefacts found during the fieldwork
- 13.4 Preparation of plans, sections and finds drawings to publication standards.
- 13.5 The sorting and analysis of records and the production of a written report on the work, published in a manner appropriate to its scale.
- 13.6 The preparation of a catalogued archive and its deposition in the City Council's Sites and Monuments record and the National Monuments Record of Scotland within six months of the end of the fieldwork.
- 13.7.1 Copies of all reports should be sent to the Keeper of Archaeology, the applicant and the planning authority. A brief survey of results should be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, along with the appropriate fee. An OASIS report must also be provided.

#### **14.0 Small finds**

Finds of objects will be subject to the Scots Laws of Treasure Trove and Bona Vacantia and reported by the archaeological contractor to the Secretariat of the Treasure Trove Panel (Dr Alan Saville, National Museums of Scotland, Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JD) for disposal to an appropriate museum.

#### **15.0 Timescale**

The evaluation report must be produced within four weeks of the end of the field work.

#### **16.0 Further Information**

Additional information about the site, or this brief, can be obtained from the Keeper of Archaeology, Whitespace, 60 Frederick Street, Aberdeen, AB24 5HY Tel (01224) 523658.

#### **17.0 Conclusion**

The archaeological work is to be carried out in compliance with this brief and in the context of NPPG 5 and NPPG 18. The selection of any contractor will be subject to approval of the Keeper of Archaeology. Work should be carried out in close liaison with the Keeper of Archaeology.

July 2008.



## Appendix 2: Feature Summary List

No.	Location	Description	Explanation	Phase/ Date
1	External south-facing elevation of Structure 2	Partially blocked window	Original feature, possibly blocked prior to 1867 when known building abutted it	Phase I, Phase II alterations
2	External south-facing elevation of Structure 2	Diagonal line of tiles	Evidence for roofline of adjoining building	Phase II
3	External south-facing elevation of Structure 2	Re-rendered area	Re-rendered after adjoining building demolished	Phase II
4	External south-facing elevation of Structure 2	Line of 3 metal hooks	Practical use, once within adjoining building	Phase II
5	External north-facing elevation of Structure 2	Brick and breezeblock infill at entranceway	Evidence for widening entranceway	Phase II
6	External north-facing elevation of Structure 2	Concrete lintel at entranceway	Evidence for heightening of entranceway	Phase II
7	External west-facing elevation of Structure 2	Vertical tar stain	Evidence for adjoining structure	Phase II
8	External west-facing elevation of Structure 2	Diagonal tar stain	Evidence for adjoining structure	Phase II
9	External west-facing elevation of Structure 2	Line of metal hooks on timber strut	Practical use	Post Phase II
10	Internal west-facing elevation of Structure 2	Blocked doorway	Possible tall doorway of barn	Phase II
11	Internal west-facing elevation of Structure 2	Window	Possible tall doorway of barn	Phase II
12	External west-facing elevation of Structure 3	Chimney	Chimney	Later 20 <sup>th</sup> century
13	External west-facing elevation of Structure 3	Lintel with granite blocks below	Blocked doorway	Post Phase I
14	External west-facing elevation of Structure 3	Angled doorway	Doorway	Later 20 <sup>th</sup> century
15	External west-facing elevation of Structure 3	Circular hole	Possible vent associated with chimney (Feature 12)	Later 20 <sup>th</sup> century
16	External west-facing elevation of Structure 3	Large central entranceway	Possible early door, extended later, seen by steel lintel and bricking	Phase I, later alterations
17	External west-facing elevation of Structure 3	Window	Was once larger	Phase I
18	External north-facing elevation of Structure 3	Blocked doorway	Narrow lintel suggests later date. Bricks suggest narrowing at later date	20 <sup>th</sup> century

No.	Location	Description	Explanation	Phase/ Date
19	External north-facing elevation of Structure 3	Partially blocked doorway	Concrete lintel and surround suggests later date	20 <sup>th</sup> century
20	External north-facing elevation of Structure 3	Blocked window	Large granite lintel and narrow concrete sill suggests narrowing at some stage	Phase I, later alterations
21	External north-facing elevation of Structure 3	6 circular holes	Ventilation holes	Pre Phase IV, 20 <sup>th</sup> century?
22	Roof of Structure 3	8 skylights	Skylights	20 <sup>th</sup> century
23	Interior west-facing elevation of Structure 3	Top half of eastern elevation	Suggests that there was once an entire wall here- removed for ease of cattle movement? Could not remove whole wall due to roof structure	Phase I, but half of wall removed at later date
24	Interior north-facing elevation of Structure 3	Blocked doorway	Doorway once provided access south	Phase I?
25	Interior south-facing elevation of Structure 3	Raised Trough feature	Suggests interior used for livestock	20 <sup>th</sup> century
26	Interior north-facing elevation of Structure 3	Short wall	Suggests restriction of space use- perhaps segregation of human and animal	20 <sup>th</sup> century
27	Interior west-facing elevation of Structure 4	2 large horizontal granite blocks	Lintels, representing two pre-existing large doorways	Phase I
28	Interior west-facing elevation of Structure 4	2 blocked square windows	2 windows	Phase I
29	Interior west-facing elevation of Structure 4	Sloping area of tiles	Pre-existing roofline of Structure 2	Phase I
30	Interior south-facing elevation of Structure 4	2 courses of breezeblock	Added on to top of existing external south-facing elevation of Structure 3 to create roof for Structure 4	Phase IV
31	Interior south-facing elevation of Structure 4	Mismatched granite and mortared area	Location of pre-existing window, blocked in during the 19 <sup>th</sup> or 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Phase I
32	Interior south-facing elevation of Structure 4	6 circular holes	Ventilation holes, similar to Feature 21	Pre Phase IV, 20 <sup>th</sup> century
33	Interior south-facing elevation of Structure 4	Blocked doorway	Pre-existing doorway blocked first by Feature 34, then more permanently in breezeblock	Phase I, later alterations
34	Interior south-facing elevation of Structure 4	Timber slat on metal runner	Earlier access restriction to blocked doorway Feature 33	Mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century?
35	Interior south-facing elevation of Structure 4	Concrete Lintel	Blocked wide doorway	20 <sup>th</sup> century, later alteration

No.	Location	Description	Explanation	Phase/ Date
36	Interior south-facing elevation of Structure 4	Blocked doorway	Granite lintel suggests early doorway	Phase I
37	Interior east-facing elevation of Structure 4	13 courses of breezeblock	Added on to top of existing external east-facing elevation of Structure 5 to raise wall to match height of Structure 2 and to create roof for Structure 4	Phase IV
38	Interior east-facing elevation of Structure 4	Blocked window	Blocked from west side	Phase I
39	Exterior south-facing elevation of Structure 5	Window	Original window	Phase I
40	Exterior west-facing elevation of Structure 5	Doorway	Concrete lintel and brick and breezeblock surround, and width suggests a later date	Mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century?
41	Exterior west-facing elevation of Structure 5	Doorway	Granite lintel and quoins suggest original central doorway for Structure 5	Phase I
42	Exterior west-facing elevation of Structure 5	Window	Granite lintel suggests a window was here originally but concrete sill and brick surround suggests not present one	Phase I, later alterations
43	Exterior west-facing elevation of Structure 5	Window	Brick surround and concrete sill and lintel suggest of modern origin, though a square one may have been here originally	Mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century?
44	Exterior west-facing elevation of Structure 5	Stone tied in with Structure 3	Shows Structures 3 and 5 to be contemporaneous	Phase I
45	Roof of Structure 5	2 skylights	Skylights	20 <sup>th</sup> century
46	Interior of Structure 5	Breezeblock wall	Internal dividing wall	Mid-late 20 <sup>th</sup> century?



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