

## INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of a standing building survey undertaken at Inchmagrannachan Farm Steading near Dunkeld, Perthshire. Perth & Kinross Council granted planning consent (reference number 08/01690/FUL) to form three holiday units from the buildings that form the east side of the steading.

On the advice of its consultants, Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust (PKHT), the council imposed a condition on the development whereby a standing building survey would be undertaken before construction work commenced. PKHT supplied Terms of Reference to the farm's owner, Mr Ian Mathieson. In reply a Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by Scotia Archaeology, following which the survey was carried out by Sam Scott in June 2009.

## THE STEADING

Inchmagrannachan Farm Steading is situated on the west side of the B898 Dunkeld to Aberfeldy road, approximately 1km north of its junction with the A9. It is centred on NO 00094 44505. The east side of the steading which fronts the road is being redeveloped to form holiday accommodation. Because of their parlous states, the roofs of these buildings were removed prior to the commencement of the survey.

The layout of the 19th-century farm has been masked by a large six-bay portal shed which now covers the area of an early yard. Originally, the steading appears to have been U-shaped with open access to the yard and steading area on its south side with ranges of buildings on its other three sides.

The east range of the steading consists of three separate buildings which have been joined to form a formal frontage to the farm. The single storey central building, latterly used as a byre, is set back some 300mm from the flanking, two-storey north and south wings. At ground level the south wing comprised a cart shed with a deep litter hen house at mezzanine level. The upper storey has been used as a storage loft either for fodder or grain and was covered with a slated, pyramidal roof. The north flanking building has been a stable with a hay loft at first-floor level.

In common with most farm buildings of this period, Inchmagrannachan was built with random schist rubble brought to course with all the quoins and openings formed of squared dressings, also of schist. The pyramidal and pitched roofs of the south and north ranges are covered with standard Pitlochry blue slates set onto sarking boards supported on rough, sawn trusses measuring 150mm by 50mm at 500mm centres. The linking byre is of similar construction.

## SOUTH WING

### **Ground floor: cart shed and hen house**

Access to this building is through a segmental arched opening, 1800mm wide, on the east elevation. The dividing wall between the cart shed and the hen house has been removed, exposing the nesting boxes on the west wall at mezzanine level. There are three rows of six nesting boxes, those on the lower two rows each measuring 440mm

wide and 440mm high while those on the top row are also 440mm wide but only 220mm high. Access to the hen house is from the landing of the fore-stair against the south wall.

### **First floor: store**

The first floor is accessed by the fore-stair on the south elevation. On the east wall at this level is a splayed opening which probably provided access to the loft for storing fodder or cereals. At the time of the survey, access to this storey was not possible for health and safety reasons. This wing had a slated, pyramidal roof.

### **EAST RANGE: BYRE**

This single storey building linking the south and north wings was used latterly as a byre. Access is now from a central doorway, 2m wide, in the east wall, this opening being a modern feature. The byre has six double trevises and a single trevis at the north end giving accommodation for thirteen dairy cattle, the building's last use.

This building was radically altered at some stage, there being three blocked doorways in the east wall and one blocked window at the south end of the west wall. There is no evidence as to how this building was used originally.

### **NORTH WING**

#### **Ground floor: stable**

The ground level of this two-storey building, which had a slated, pitched roof, was a stable for heavy horses. At floor level are three stall sockets, indicating there had been four stalls. At the east end of the north wall of the stable is a horse collar rack still in situ. Remains of a drainage channel can still be seen in the floor.

In the north wall, at ground level is a central door and two flanking, half shuttered windows.

#### **First floor: hay loft**

The first floor of this building was used as a hay loft with access into the stable by means of a centrally positioned floor hatch, flanked by two louvred openings. There may have been a steep loft ladder through the hatch. There is a window in the centre of the east wall at this level.

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## PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

- 1 East elevation of stable, byre and cart shed from the north-east
- 2 East elevation of stable, byre and cart shed from the south-east
- 3 Blocked door at the south end of the east wall of the byre, viewed from the east
- 4 Two blocked doorways at the north end of the east wall of the byre, viewed from the east
- 5 Fore-stair against the south wall of the cart shed, viewed from the south
- 6 North wall of the stable, viewed from the north
- 7 Detail of the east window in the north wall of the stable, viewed from the north
- 8 Louvred window in the east wall of the west wing at first-floor level, viewed from the north
- 9 West gable of the stable, viewed from the west
- 10 Interior of the byre, viewed from the north-east
- 11 Nesting boxes in the west wall of the cart shed, viewed from the east