

Standing Building Survey
Barnhill Tollhouse,
Perth, Perth and Kinross



Barnhill Tollhouse looking South East (Friarton bridge visible in background)



17th April 2019

Introduction

The planning consents for this development (Perth and Kinross Council Planning Applications 18/01051/FLL and 18/0152/LBC) included an archaeological condition specifying the need for a standing building record of Barnhill Tollhouse using ALGAO Scotland's Historic Building Recording Guidance (2013). This standing building survey was carried out by the author on Thursday 11th April 2019 (Site Code BAR01), weather conditions were bright and sunny.

Location (Illustrations 1 and 2)

Barnhill Tollhouse lies on the South Eastern side of the road between Perth and Dundee (A85) and has been built into the steep slope on that side of the road.

Historical Background (Illustrations 3 and 4)

It has been suggested, based on the Greek Doric design of the building, that the tollhouse at Barnhill was probably built early in the 19th century at the behest of Lord Gray of Kinfauns who championed a similar architectural scheme for Perth's Sheriff Court on Tay Street (Haynes 2000, 45). In the Valuation Roll of 1855 'The Carse of Gowrie Road trustees per Tho Duncan Writer Treasurer' are listed as the proprietor and the tenant is 'James McFald Toll Collector' (Valuation Rolls Perth Burgh 1855). Until the removal of the Turnpike road scheme in Scotland in 1878 such tollhouses were common sights in Scottish towns allowing for the charging of tolls on entry to the town boundaries (Roads and Bridges Act (Scotland) 1878). Toll houses also stood on the Edinburgh and Glasgow Roads into Perth and on Smeaton's Bridge at Bridgend. Barnhill tollhouse is mapped on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1859-60 and Easter Cottage (now demolished) once stood on its South Western side, Barnhill tollhouse was still occupied in the mid 1970's (Illustration 4).

Description of building (Illustration 2)

Toll house

This building faces the Perth to Dundee road on its South Western side and is built into a steep hill slope. It has a low-pitched slated roof with a central chimney stack.

External Description

South Eastern Elevation (Illustration 5)

This is built of twelve courses of tightly fitted mortared cut green sandstone blocks with a parapet at roof line with a further single course of cut green sandstone blocks above. The cut green sandstone block coursing sits on shaped mortared sandstone blocks to the base of the foundation and there are shaped quoins at the South Eastern corner. There is a single window half blocked with a stone slab on its Eastern side, the other half contains a broken glazed window filled with a wooden board. The Eastern end of this elevation is set back to form part of the front portico of the building and is built of twelve courses of cut green sandstone blocks to road level. There is a single window blocked with wood.

North Eastern Elevation (Illustration 6)

This is built of twelve courses of tightly fitted mortared cut green sandstone blocks and has a doorway at its Southern end. A central portico fronting the road has a blocked window set back between two fluted Grecian pillars that hold up a parapet at roof line, there is a further course of cut green sandstone blocks above the parapet. At the northern end of this elevation there is a rectangular recess in the wall face, from archive photographs this originally held the table of dues for the tollhouse (Illus 4).

North Western Elevation (Illustration 7 and 8)

This is built of twelve courses of tightly fitted mortared cut green sandstone blocks which sit on mortared green sand stone blocks down to foundation level. The Eastern end of this elevation is set back to form part of the front portico of the and is built of twelve courses of cut green sandstone blocks to road level. There is a single window blocked with wood. There is a single window blocked with wood at the upper floor level and a doorway into the 'basement' level of the building. A flight of stairs runs down from the road level to the 'basement' door, this formerly had a metal railing on its Northern side but this has been removed.

South Western Elevation (Illustration 9)

This is built of twelve courses of rough mortared sandstone blocks with shaped and cut green sandstone blocks at its corners and these sit on a further eleven courses down to foundation level that are slightly stepped out. There are two windows at the upper floor level, one rectangular and one slit these are blocked with wooden panels. At basement level there is a smaller rectangular window. Modern graffiti in black and white has been spray painted on this elevation.

Interior of Building

Basement (Illustrations 10 to 11)

This is accessed by a doorway in its Northern wall. There are two joining rooms forming an L-shape and all wall elevations are mortared rough sandstone blocks. There is a poured concrete floor in both rooms and the ceiling is formed by the wooden timber supports for the upper floor. There is a slightly flared single window in the Western internal elevation with a sill that is blocked with a wooden board.

Ground Floor Level (Illustration 14)

This is accessed by a doorway in its Eastern wall. All of its internal elevations are built of mortared rough sandstone.

South Eastern Elevation (Illustrations 15 and 16)

The South Eastern elevation contains a window that is half blocked with mortared bricks, the other half is blocked with a wooden board. The wooden table of dues is currently propped against this elevation, its is slightly dirty but still legible.

South Western Elevation (Illustration 17)

This contains a slit window blocked with a wooden board and a rectangular window with a wooden shutter. There is a rectangular alcove in the wall face on the North side of the window of unknown function.

North Western Elevation (Illustration 18)

This contains a single rectangular window with a wooden shutter.

North Eastern Elevation (Illustrations 19 to 21)

This contains a rectangular alcove filled with mortared stone slates at its Northern end (this is the rear side of the exterior alcove to hold the table of dues). The inside of the front portico has narrow windows in its Northern and Southern elevations and the Eastern elevation contains a rectangular window with a wooden frame. The external doorway in from the road is at the Southern end of this elevation.

Internal fittings and floor level (Illustrations 22 and 23)

There are opposing fireplaces in the middle of the room built into a stone-built chimney stack. The wooden floor supports are still in place above the lower basement level but the floor boards are missing and currently replace with wooden boards. The remainder of the floor is made of beaten earth and there is a visible wall foundation running North to South on the Western side of the portico.

Garden Area across road (Illustration 24)

Directly across the road from the tollhouse there is an associated raised garden behind a revetted stone wall. This is accessed by a flight of stone steps from the road level. The revetted front wall contains a pillar and a blocked alcove measuring 0.87m by 1.55m of unknown function.

Suggested Phasing of Buildings and general comments

Barnhill tollhouse is a good surviving example of a 19th century Scottish tollhouse and is of one construction phase. The table of dues that originally stood in one of the external alcoves is currently safely stored inside the building, if it is not to be resited in the proposed refurbishment some consideration should be given to passing it to Perth museum and art gallery for safekeeping.

Recommendations

The author feels that the photographic survey and written notes of Barnhill tollhouse is an adequate record of the building prior to its refurbishment and there would seem to be no need for any further work. However, the final decision on that rests with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust

References

Cartographic Sources (<http://www.nls.uk/maps>)

Ordnance Survey Maps – 25 “1st edition, Scotland, 1855-1882

Online Reference materials

Roads and Bridges Act Scotland (1878)

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Vict/41-42/51/enacted>

Valuation Rolls Perth Burgh 1855

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/valuation-rolls>

Books

Haynes, N 2000 **Perth & Kinross an illustrated architectural guide**

Illustration List

Illustration 1- Site location (red circle) (based on Ordnance Survey map 1:50000 Crown Copyright 2012. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)

Illustration 2-Site location plan (as supplied by architects)

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Illustration 4 – Tollhouse in 1976 with table of dues still in place in alcove on right and front window glazed (© HES photograph by J R Hume)

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Illustration 24 - General view of raised revetted garden directly across the road from the tollhouse.

Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Barnhill tollhouse
PROJECT CODE:	BAR01
PARISH:	Kinnoull
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Derek Hall
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Derek Hall, archaeologist and ceramic specialist
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Standing Building Record
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 12808 22029
START DATE	11 th April 2019
END DATE	11 th April 2019
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A photographic and written survey was carried out of the 19 th century tollhouse at Barnhill, Perth and Kinross. Written descriptions were made of external and internal elevations and fittings.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Thomas Pryde
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	N/A
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	34 Glenfarg Terrace, Perth, PH2 0AP
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	NMRS
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Derek.hall1@blueyonder.co.uk

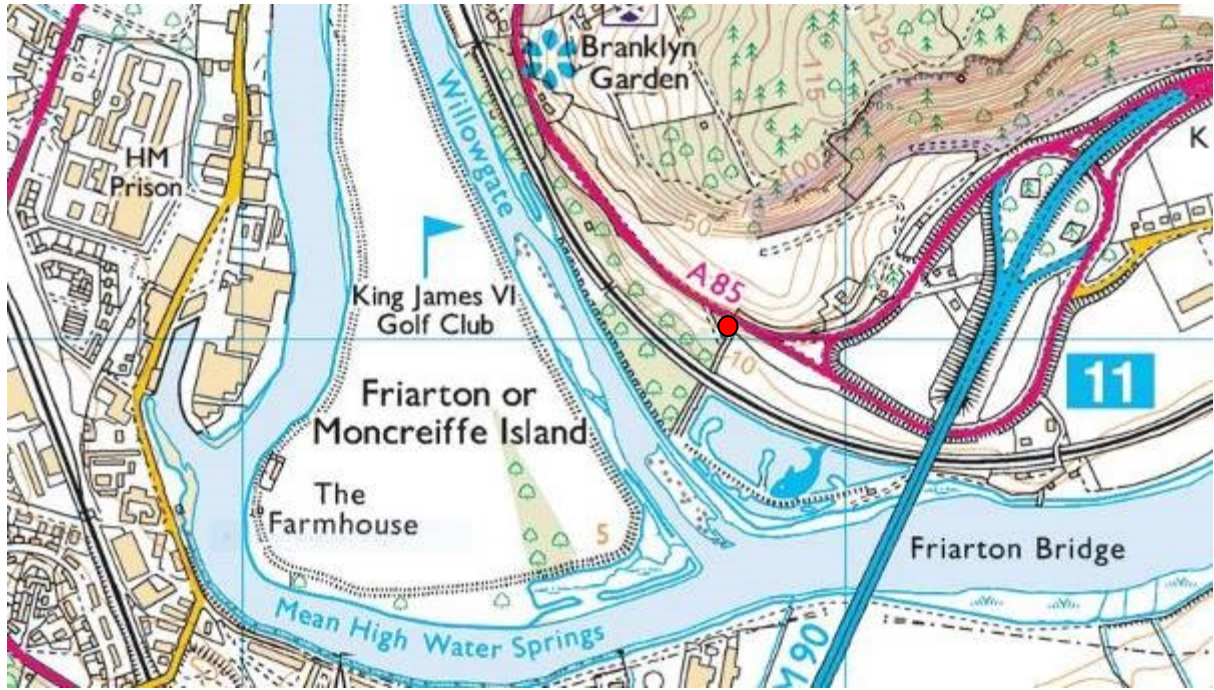


Illustration 1- Site location (red circle) (based on Ordnance Survey map 1:50000 Crown Copyright 2012. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)

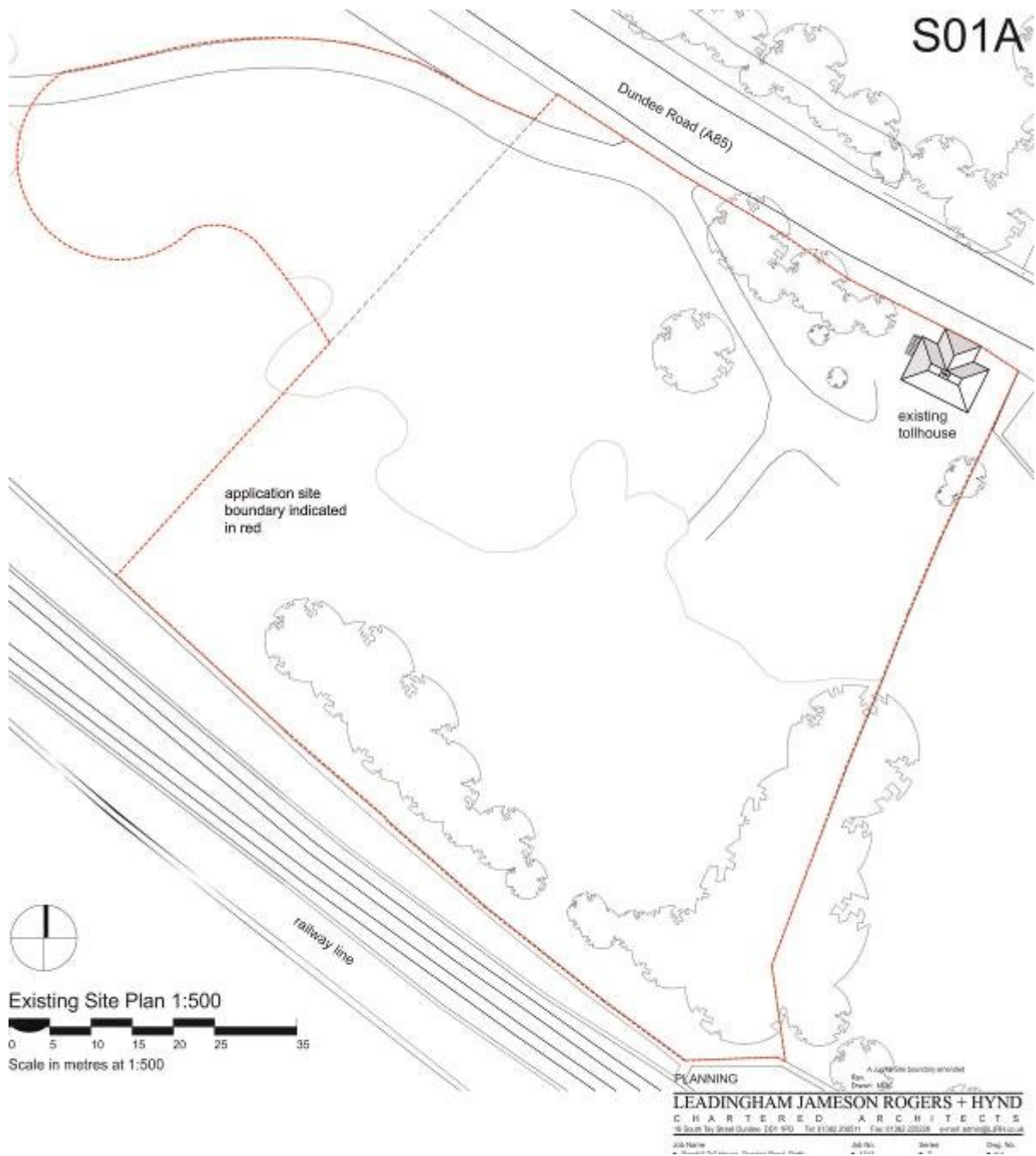


Illustration 2-Site location plan (as supplied by architects)

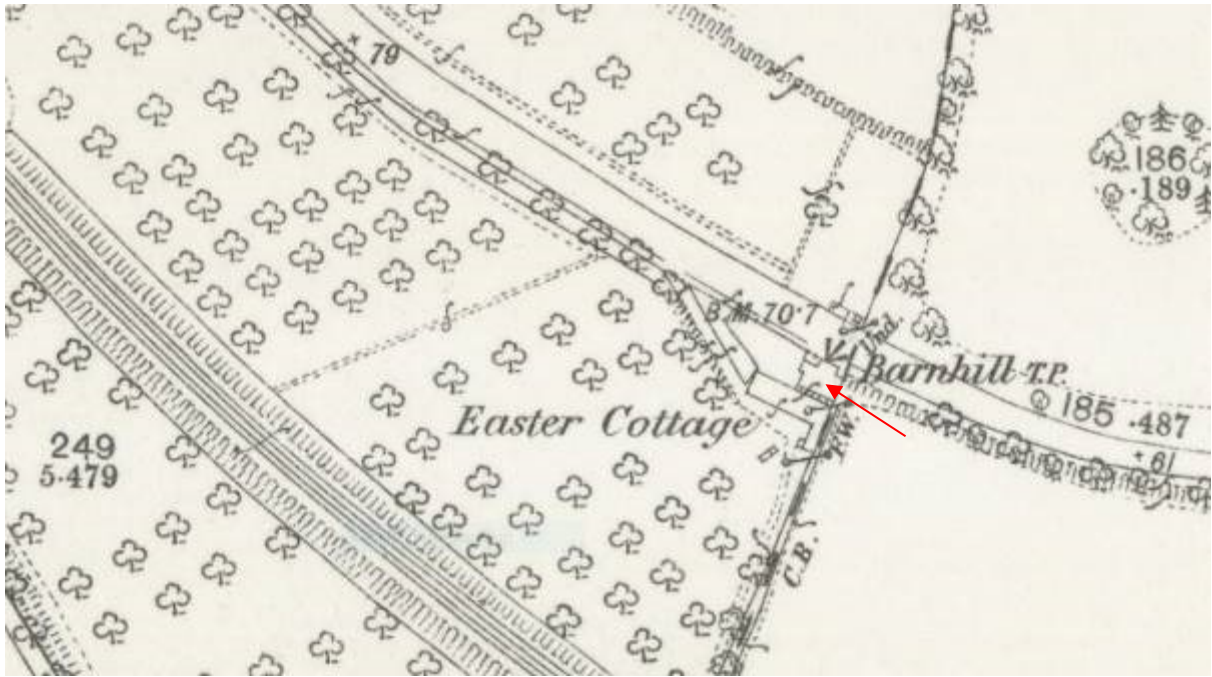


Illustration 3 - Barnhill Tollhouse (red arrow) as shown on First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1859-60 (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)



<https://canmore.org.uk/collection/502405>

Illustration 4 – Tollhouse in 1976 with table of dues still in place in alcove on right and front window glazed (© HES photograph by J R Hume)

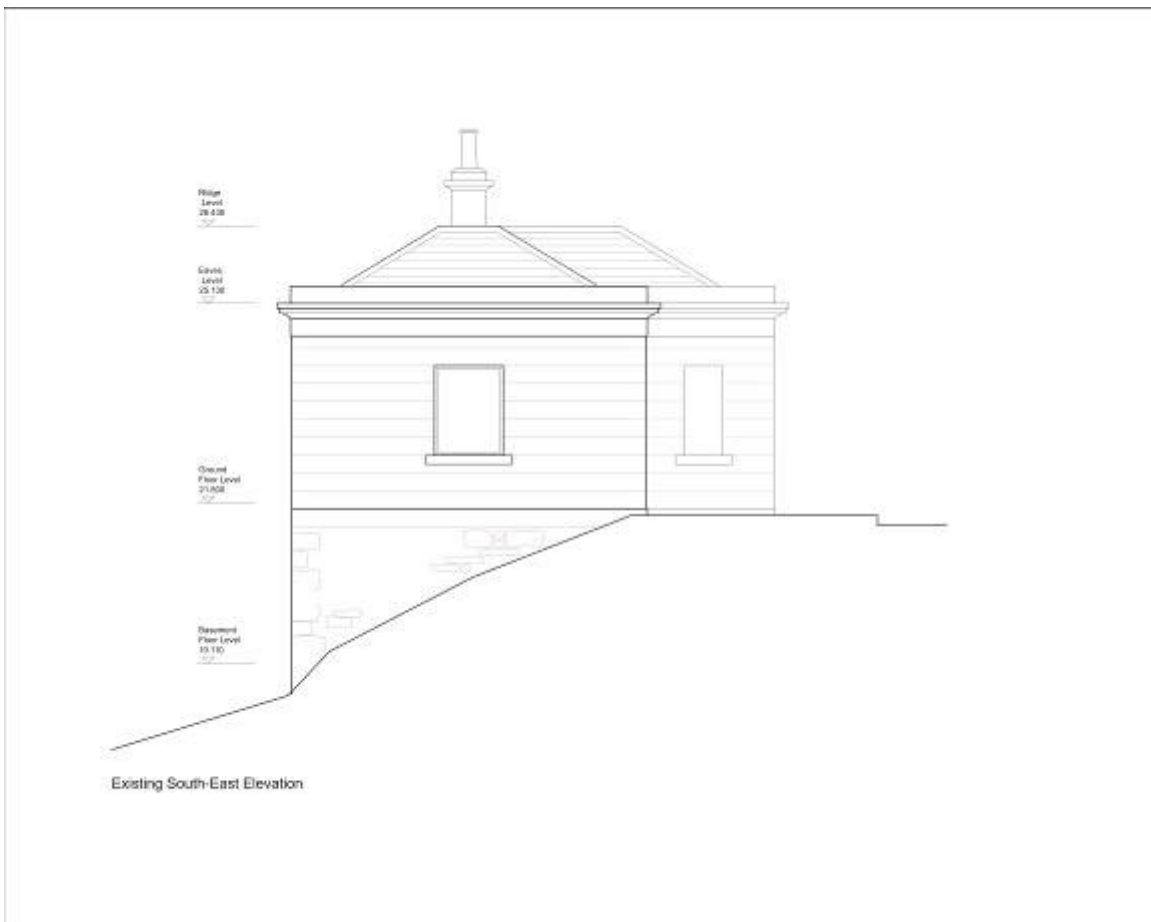


Illustration 5 – South Eastern elevation of tollhouse Scale 1:50 (drawing supplied by architect)



Illustration 6 – North Eastern elevation of tollhouse Scale 1:50 (drawing supplied by architect)

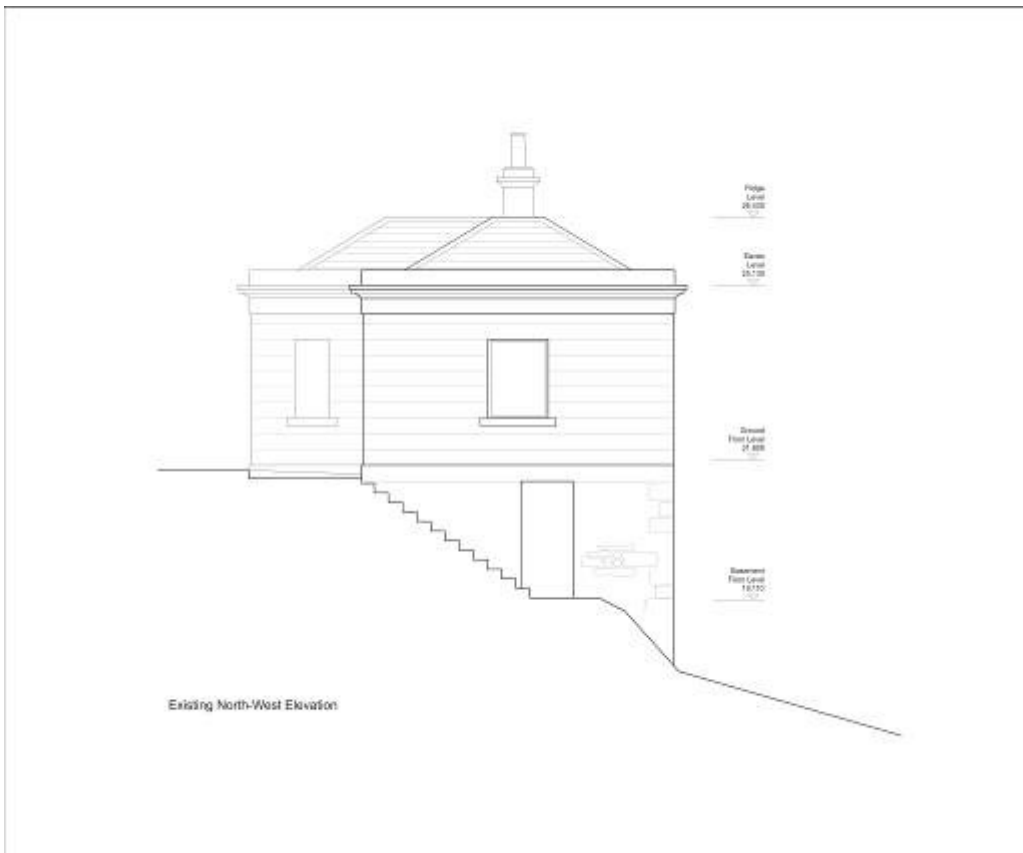


Illustration 7 – North Western elevation of tollhouse Scale 1:50 (drawing supplied by architect)



Illustration 8 – Flight of steps down from road level to basement door

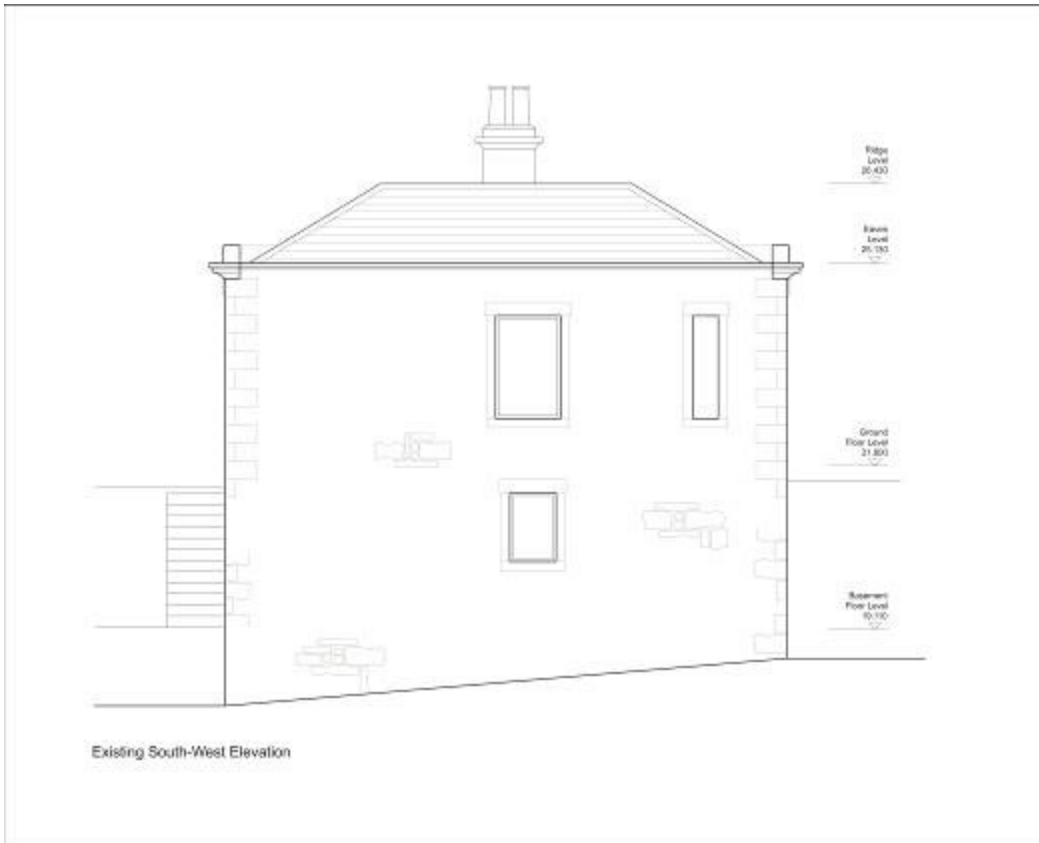
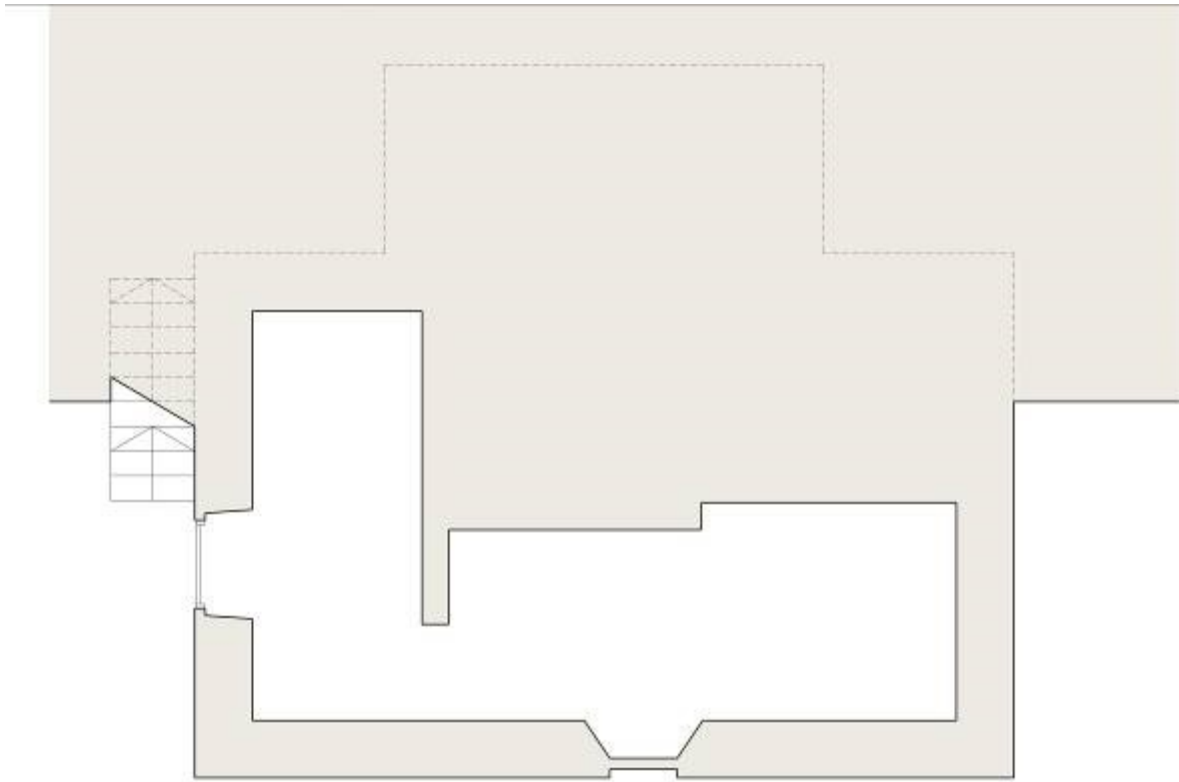


Illustration 9 – South Western elevation of tollhouse Scale 1:50 (drawing supplied by architect)



Basement Layout

Illustration 10 – Plan of basement of tollhouse Scale 1:50 (based on drawing supplied by architect)



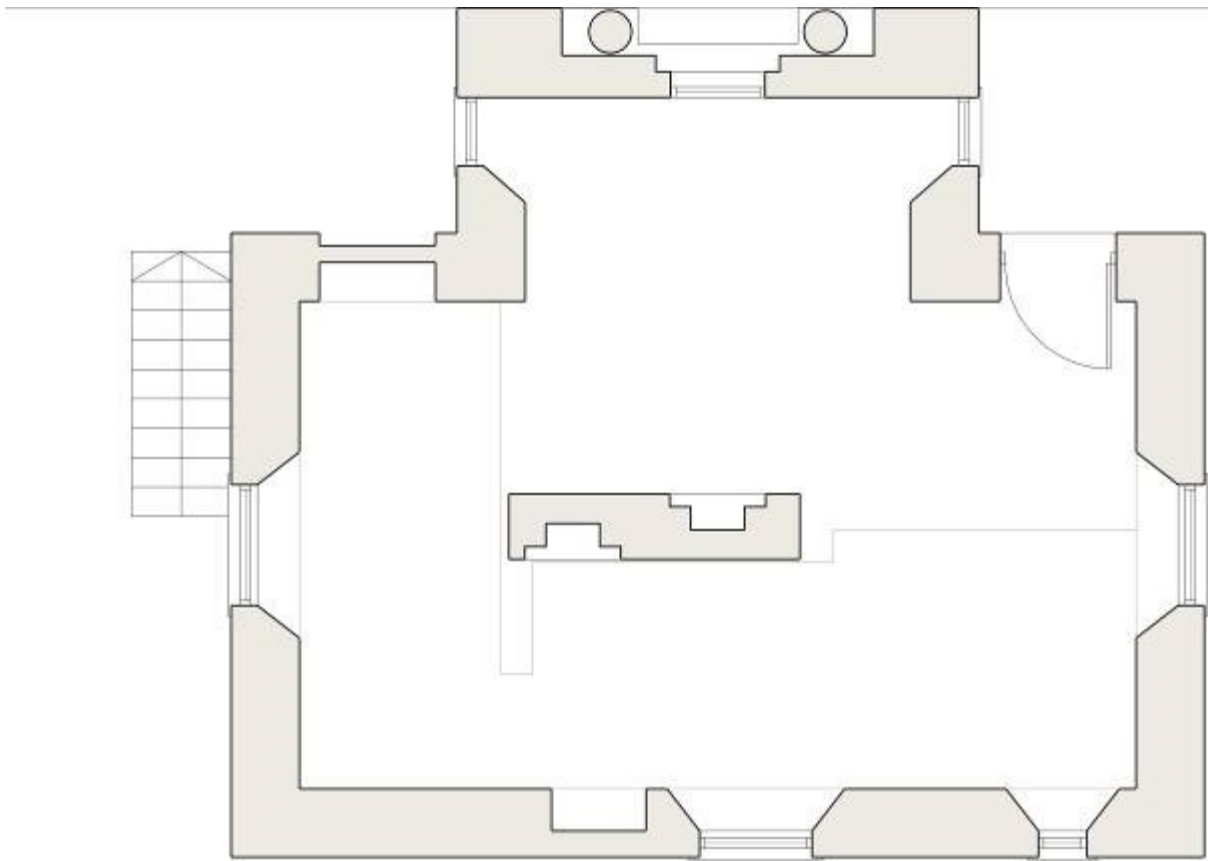
Illustration 11 – Northern section of basement, entrance door visible to left



Illustration 12 – South Western section of tollhouse basement



Illustration 13 – Window in North Western internal elevation of basement



Ground Floor Layout

Illustration 14 – Ground floor plan of tollhouse Scale 1:50 (drawing supplied by architect)



Illustration 15 – North Western internal elevation showing partially blocked window and table of dues propped against wall face



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Illustration 18 – South Western internal elevation of ground floor of tollhouse



Illustration 19 – Wall recess behind front alcove for table of dues in North Eastern internal elevation of tollhouse



Illustration 20 – General view of internal North Eastern elevation of portico in tollhouse



Illustration 21 - Doorway into tollhouse from road level in internal North Eastern elevation



Illustration 22 – Fireplace on North Eastern side of wall in centre of ground floor of tollbooth



Illustration 23 – Fireplace on South Western side of wall in centre of ground floor of Tollbooth



Illustration 24 - General view of raised revetted garden directly across the road from the tollhouse, flight of steps to right of scale, pillar and blocked alcove also visible in wall.