

Standing Building Survey
Land 90m West of Cornhill Farmhouse
Auchterarder, Perth and Kinross



Farm steadings to be demolished at Cornhill looking South West



16th April 2019

Introduction

The planning consent for this development (Perth and Kinross Council Planning Application 18/02224 FLL) included an archaeological condition specifying the need for a standing building record of steadings at Cornhill that are to be demolished. This was to be carried out using ALGAO Scotland's Historic Building Recording Guidance (2013). This standing building survey was carried out by the author on Monday 15th April 2019 (Site Code CORN01), weather conditions were slightly overcast, windy and cold.

Location (Illus 1 and 4)

Cornhill Farm lies to the South of Auchterarder on the South side of the Kincardine Glen and is approached by a farm track. The group of former farm steadings are made up of four buildings which for this survey have been split into six as indicated on Illustration 4.

Historical Background (Illus 2 and 3)

A settlement at 'Cornhile' is shown on Stobie's map of 1783 but Cornhill Farm is first properly mapped on the First Edition Ordnance survey map of 1862 which shows the existing L shaped group of buildings and a missing building to the North West and the now demolished Cornhill farmhouse to the North East (Ordnance Survey map 1862-63). In 1855 the lands of Cornhill are listed as being in the ownership of Peter Mailler and are valued at £100 (Valuation Roll Perth County 1855) and in the Ordnance Survey Name Book of 1859-62 Cornhill is described as 'a large two storey farmhouse with extensive officehouses, slated and in good repair' and is in the ownership of Mrs Mailer (Ordnance Survey Name Book Perthshire Volume 7 1859-62).

Description of buildings (Illustrations 4 and 5)

The group of steadings at Cornhill comprises four adjoining buildings which have been numbered as shown on illustration 4.

Building 1 (Illustrations 6 to 13)

This lies on a North East to South West alignment and has a pitched slated roof with a chimney at its Western end and a single small glazed skylight.

External Description

North Western Elevation (Illustration 6)

This is built of mortar bonded rough sandstones with shaped quoins at its North Western corner. It contains an unglazed open window and three blocked doorways. The first two blocked doorways are of identical dimensions and lie beside each other, the third is much wider and has the remains of a mechanism for sliding door above it. The window and the first two doorways are defined by sandstone slabs around their frames.

South Eastern Elevation (Illustration 7 and 8)

This is built of mortar bonded rough sandstones and is a blank wall face. A brick-built chimney sits just above the roofline.

North Eastern Elevation (Illustration 9)

This is a gable end and is built of mortar bonded rough sandstones it contains a broken glazed window and has a brick chimney stack built against the wall face.

Internal Description (Illustrations 10-13)

Building 1 has a corridor running along the inside face of its North Western wall and is subdivided into three rooms. The first room contains two concrete animal pens with iron doors, the second room has one concrete pen whose door is missing, and the third room has two concrete animal pens with iron doors. All of the floors are concrete and there is a planked wooden roof to support the slate roof.

Building 2 (Illustrations 14 to 17)

This is built against the South Western end of Building 1 and lies on a North East to South West alignment. It has a corrugated iron roof and a protruding brick gable at its North Eastern end.

North Western Elevation (Illustration 14)

This is built of mortar bonded sandstones covered with concrete plaster. It contains a large doorway with a broken sliding door and another doorway that is blocked with mortared bricks. The remains of a sliding door mechanism are visible above the blocked doorway.

South Eastern Elevation (Illustration 15)

This is built of mortar bonded sandstones and is a blank wall face. There is a visible straight joint at its South Eastern end where it meets Building 3.

Internal Description (Illustrations 16 and 17)

This contains two concrete animal pens with iron doors and has a concrete floor.

Building 3 (Illustrations 18 to 21)

This is built against the South Western end of Building 2 and lies on a North West to South East alignment. It has a corrugated iron roof.

North Eastern Elevation (Illustration 18)

This is built of mortar bonded sandstones and contains a doorway with a sliding wooden door. It also contains a glazed window.

South Western Elevation (Illustration 19)

This is built of mortar bonded sandstones and is a blank wall face, the mill lade runs under the North Western end of this elevation.

South Eastern Elevation (Illustration 20)

This is a gable end to the building and is built of mortar bonded sandstones with shaped quoins at its South Western corner. There is a doorway into the building with a wooden door.

Internal Description (Illustration 21)

This has a concrete floor and contains the foundations of former animal pens at its Eastern end. At its Western end there are two concrete animal pens with iron doors and there are concrete animal feeders against the internal face of its South Western wall. There is a blocked doorway in the internal South Eastern elevation and a wooden door in the doorway leading into Building 4 to the North West.

Building 4 (Illustrations 22 to 29)

This has Building 3 built against its South Eastern side and Building 5 built against its North Western side. It lies on a North Eastern to South Western alignment and has a pitched corrugated iron roof.

North Eastern Elevation (Illustration 22)

This is a gable end with a large open doorway leading into the building. It is built of mortar bonded sandstones with mortared brick repairs at the door edges.

North Western Elevation (Illustration 23)

This is built of mortar bonded sandstones and is slightly plastered. It contains a doorway that is blocked with bricks. That doorway has large sandstone blocks defining its frame and lintel. The continuation of this elevation on the other side of the junction with Building 5 contains a blocked doorway in a gable at first floor level and has shaped quoins at its corner.

South Western Elevation (Illustration 24 and 25)

This is a gable end to this building and is built of mortar bonded sandstones with shaped quoins at the corners. There is a doorway blocked with mortared bricks and an open window with a metal lintel which is partially blocked with bricks internally.

South Eastern Elevation (Illustration 26 and 27)

This is built of mortar bonded sandstones that are slightly plastered and has shaped quoins at its South Western corner. A water wheel pit, 1.8m deep, exists at the foot of this elevation that is fed by a lade running down from a pond in the field to the South East. There are two stone water wheel supports in the wall face and two holes, the upper one will have taken the drive shaft from the water wheel.

Internal Description (Illustration 28 to 30)

This has a concrete floor and in its last use has been an open animal shed. There is a doorway with a wooden door in its North Western wall that leads to a flight of stairs to the first floor of Building 5. The internal South Eastern elevation has the remains of the entry point for the water wheel drive shaft 2.92 m above floor level.

Building 5 (Illustrations 31 to 33)

This is built against the North Western side of Building 4 and lies on a North West to South East alignment. It has a pitched corrugated iron roof.

North Eastern Elevation (Illustration 31)

This is built of mortar bonded sandstones and has an open double doorway with steel lintels. At first floor level there is a ventilator in the wall face and a blocked doorway in a small gable.

South Western Elevation (Illustration 32)

This is built of mortar bonded sandstones and contains an open doorway with a sliding door mechanism above it and a missing door.

Internal Description (Illustrations 33 and 34)

Ground Floor

This is an open fronted animal shed with half its floor made of concrete and the other half beaten earth. The first floor above is held up with two cast iron pillars. There is a doorway in its South Western wall.

First Floor (above Buildings 5 and 6) (Illustration 34)

This is a hayloft with wooden floor boards and there are two blocked doorways in the North Eastern and South Western walls.

Building 6 (Illustrations 35 to 37)

This is built against the North Western end of Building 5 and lies on a North West to South East alignment. It has a pitched corrugated iron roof with glazed skylight. The ground floor to this building was locked and not accessible, its upper floor is accessed from a doorway into Building 5.

North Eastern Elevation (Illustration 35)

This is built of mortar bonded sandstones and contains a glazed window and a wooden doorway with a sliding door mechanism.

North Western Elevation (Illustration 36)

This is a gable end and is built of mortar bonded sandstones that are slightly plastered with concrete. The wall face is blank but there is a roof raggle visible which is associated with a now demolished building adjacent to this gable end.

South Western Elevation (Illustration 37)

This is built of mortar bonded sandstones and has a blocked doorway in a small gable at first floor level.

Internal Description (Lower ground floor)

This building was locked and not accessible.

Suggested Phasing of Buildings and general comment

Buildings 1 to 6 would appear to be in the same footprint as the group shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Illustration 3), another structure forming a northern part of the group has been demolished at some point and the position of its roof line is still visible as a raggle in the NW elevation of Building 6 (Illustration 36). The presence of the mill lade that runs down from a pond to the South East of the site and a wheel pit and water wheel supports against the South Eastern wall of Building 4 indicate a previous use presumably for threshing crops during the 19th century use of the building. Buildings 1 and 6 may represent the 19th century 'officehouses' referred to in the Ordnance Survey Name Book (Ordnance Survey Name Book Perthshire Volume 7 1859-62). In their last phase of occupation Buildings 1, 2 and 3 functioned as a piggery (pers comm local farmer). At the same time Building 4 was used as an animal pen and the lower floor of Building 5 was also used as an animal pen. There is a hayloft on the upper floor of Buildings 5 and 6 which has been added as part of this later use. It is possible to see where the elevation has been lifted to accommodate the hay loft (Illustration 36).

Recommendations

The author feels that the photographic survey and written notes of the complex of buildings at Cornhill Farm are an adequate record of the buildings prior to their demolition 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>)

James Stobie *The Counties of Perth and Clackmannan*, 1775-1804

Ordnance Survey Maps - Six-inch 1st edition, Scotland, 1843-1882

Valuation Rolls (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/advanced-search#%22category%22:%22valuation%22>)

Perth County 1855

Ordnance Survey Name Books (<https://scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/digital-volumes/ordnance-survey-name-books>)

Perthshire Volume 7

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- 'Cornhile' as shown on Stobie's map of 1783 (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

Illustration 3 - Cornhill as shown on First edition Ordnance Survey map of 1862- showing missing building from steading complex and original site of farmhouse, dam and lade running towards complex also shown (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

Illustration 4 – Cornhill as shown on Ordnance Survey map and Buildings 1 to 6 as numbered for survey (based on supplied architects plan)

Illustration 5- Steading complex at Cornhill looking South

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Illustration 29 - Internal support for pulley? And blocked hole for drive shaft for water wheel (marked with red arrow) in internal South Eastern elevation of Building 4

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Illustration 36 – North Western elevation of Building 6, roof raggle and slight raising of gable marked with red arrows

Illustration 37 – South Western elevation of Building 6 with blocked door at first floor level marked with red arrow

Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Cornhill Farm, Auchterarder
PROJECT CODE:	CORN01
PARISH:	Auchterarder
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)	NN 9483 1007
START DATE	15 th April 2019
END DATE	15 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 building complex at Cornhill Farm. Evidence was recorded for the original existence of a water wheel in part of the complex possibly for threshing crops.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Sally Law
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

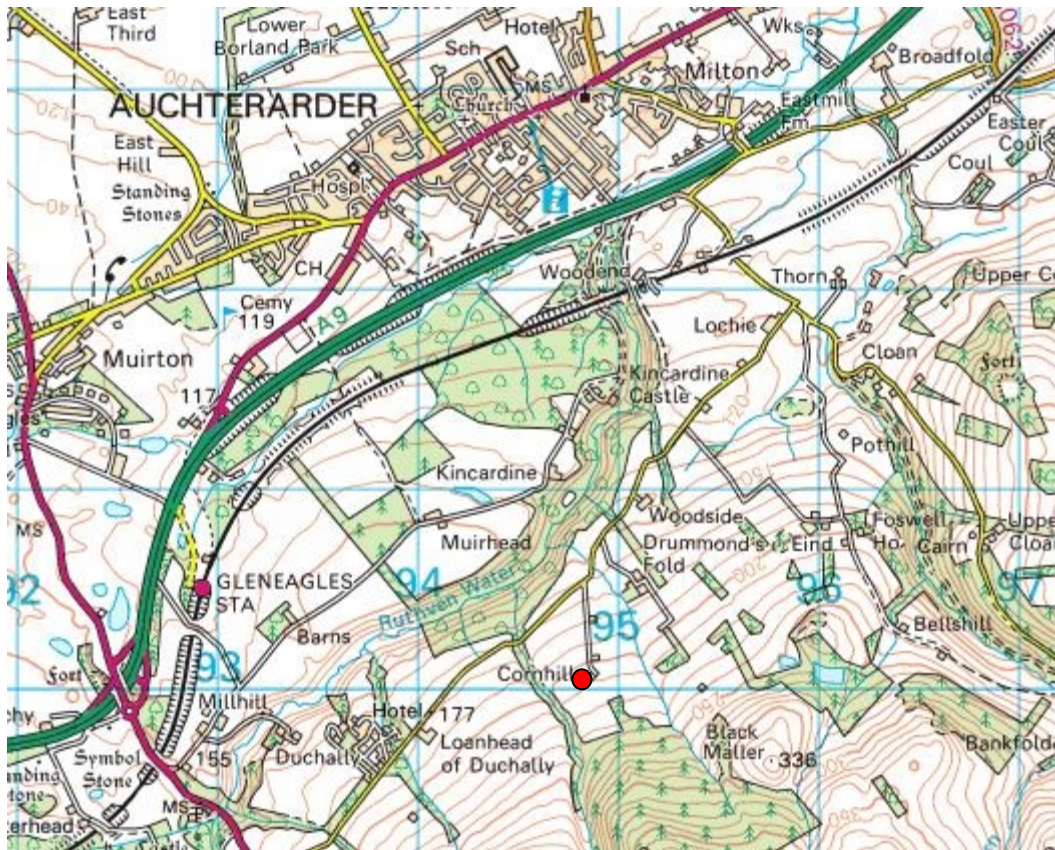


Illustration 1- Site location (red circle) (based on Ordnance Survey map 1:50000 Crown Copyright 2012. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)

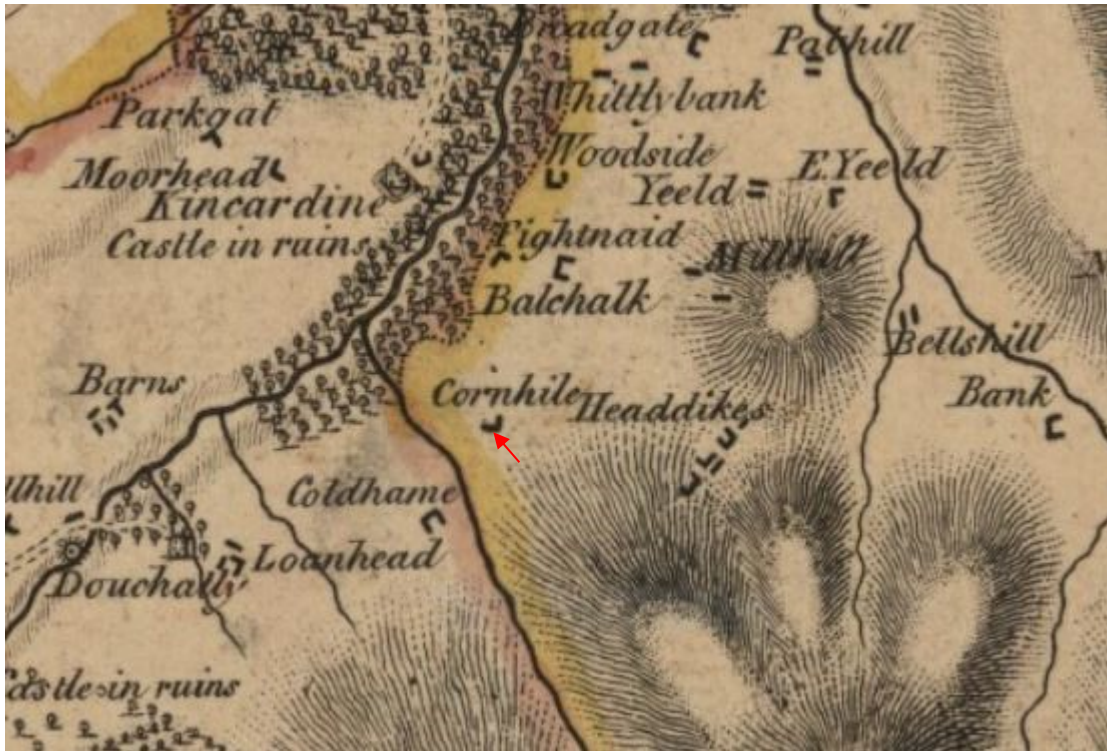


Illustration 2- 'Cornhile' as shown on Stobie's map of 1783 (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)



Illustration 3 - Cornhill as shown on First edition Ordnance Survey map of 1862- showing missing building from steading complex and original site of farmhouse, dam and lade running towards complex also shown (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

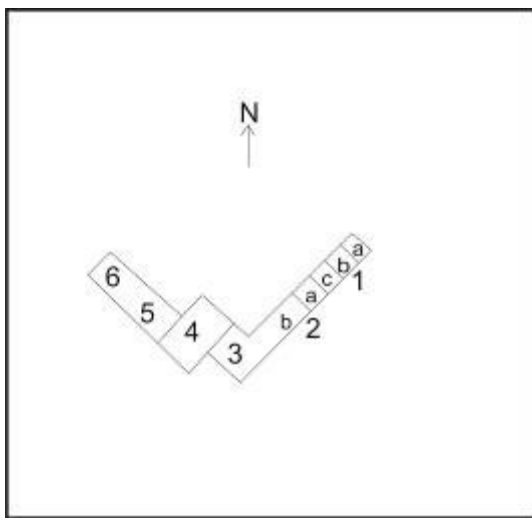
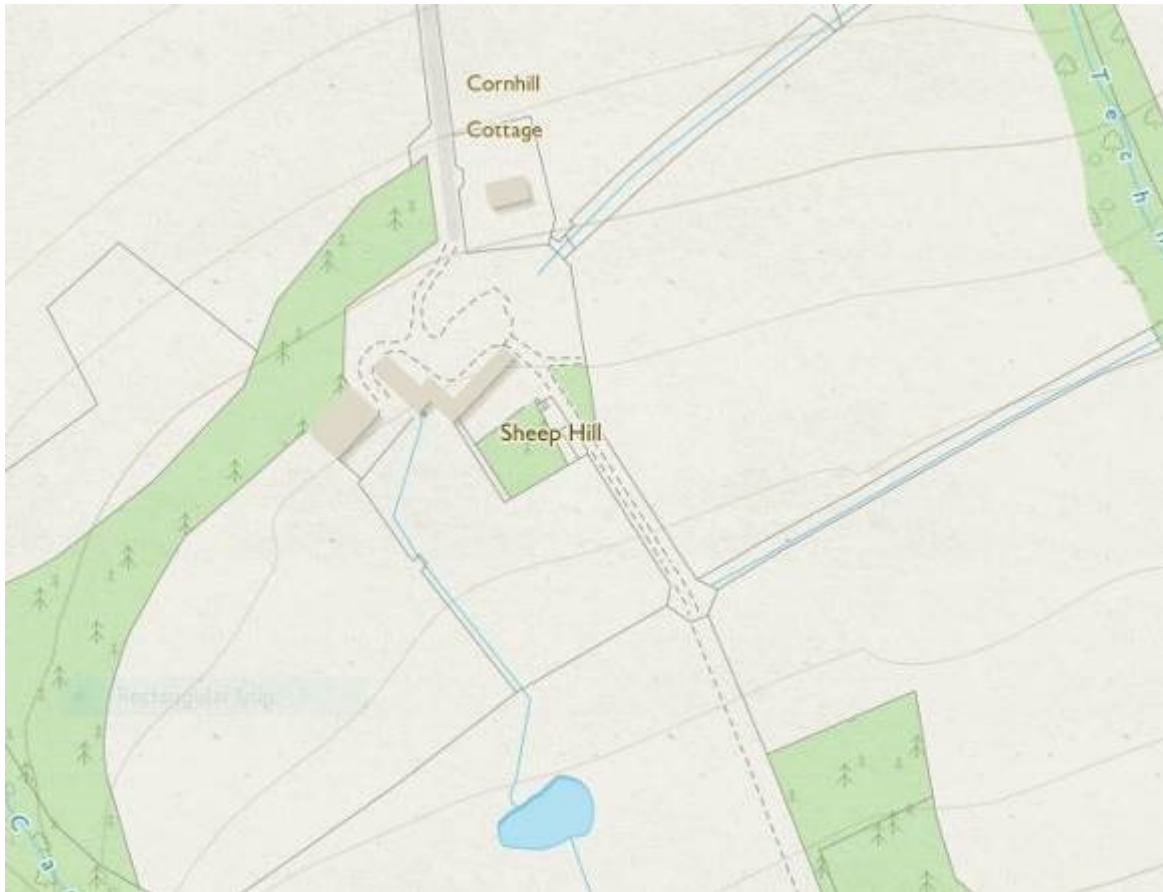


Illustration 4 – Cornhill as shown on Ordnance Survey map and Buildings 1 to 6 as numbered for survey (based on supplied architects plan) Scale 1:1000



Illustration 5- Steading complex at Cornhill looking South



Illustration 6 – North Western elevation of Building 1 (blocked doorways marked with red arrows)



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Illustration 8 – Chimney in roof line of the South Eastern elevation of Building 1



Illustration 9 – North Eastern gable elevation of Building 1



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Illustration 12 – animal pen in Room b of Building 1



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Illustration 15 – South Eastern elevation of Building 2



Illustration 16 – animal pens in room a of Building 2 looking North East



Illustration 17 – Room b in Building 2 looking North East showing animal pen foundations in floor



Illustration 18 – North Eastern elevation of Building 3



Illustration 19 – South Western elevation of Building 3



Illustration 20 - South Eastern elevation of Building 3 (doorway marked with red arrow)



Illustration 21 – Animal pens in Building 3 looking North West, concrete feed bins visible to left of scale



Illustration 22 – North Eastern elevation of Building 4



Illustration 23 – North Western elevation of Building 4 blocked doorway visible to right



Illustration 24 – South Western elevation of Building 4 beyond its junction with Building 5



Illustration 25 – South Western elevation of Building 4 showing internally blocked doorway and window



Illustration 26 – South Western elevation to Building 4 water wheel supports marked with red arrows, hole for drive shaft visible above



Illustration 27 – Water wheel pit against South Eastern elevation of Building 4 looking North East



Illustration 28 – Internal view of Building 4 looking South West



Illustration 29 - Internal support for pulley? And blocked hole for drive shaft for water wheel (marked with red arrow) in internal South Eastern elevation of Building 4



Illustration 30 – Doorway providing access to stairs to upper floor of Building 5 in internal North Western elevation of Building 4



Illustration 31 – North Eastern elevation of Building 5



Illustration 32 – South Western elevation of Building 5



Illustration 33 – Interior of Building 5



Illustration 34 – Upper floor of Buildings 5 and 6 looking North West



Illustration 35 – North Eastern elevation of Building 6



Illustration 36 – North Western elevation of Building 6, roof raggle and slight raising of gable marked with red arrows



Illustration 37 – South Western elevation of Building 6 with blocked door at first floor level marked with red arrow

