

Standing Building Survey

Land 100m East of Whistlebare, Perth and Kinross



'Windy Walls' cottage looking East.



29th April 2021

Introduction

The planning consent for this development (Perth and Kinross Council Planning Reference 18/00720/FLL) included an archaeological condition specifying the need for Historic Building Recording using ALGAO Scotland's Historic Building Recording Guidance (2013) prior to the demolition of the ruins of 'Windy Walls' cottage (MPK10897) in advance of the construction of a new house on the site. This survey was carried out as outlined in the approved Terms of Reference by PKHT dated 11th March 2021. The standing building survey was carried out by the author on Friday 23rd April 2021 (Site Code WW01), weather conditions were bright and sunny.

Location (Illus 1 and 2)

'Windy Walls' lies on the South side of the Ochil's 3.64 km North West of Milnathort. The ruined building is surrounded by a plantation of pine trees and sits at 289.3m OD on a level terrace overlooking Loch Leven which is visible through the trees to the SE.

Historical Background (Illus 3 to 9)

The building called 'Windy Walls' is first mapped on Bell's map of 1796 and is not visible on either Gordon's map of 1632-66 or Roy's Military Survey of 1747-55. In the 1841 Census seven members of the Nicol family plus one James Balingall are listed at 'Windy Walls' but by the Ordnance Survey map of 1856 it is listed as being a ruin. In the 1861 Census it is back in use and is occupied by three members of the Rintoul family. The Ordnance Survey map of 1867 appears to show the building unroofed but by the map of 1896 the building appears to be functioning again and now has an area enclosed by a boundary on its S side. The map of 1919 would appear to show the building as being roofed although the enclosed area has disappeared, by the map of 1970 although the building is shown it is only 'Whistlebare' that is named which would imply that it is derelict. The building is visible sitting by itself in a field on an aerial photograph of 1988, the current tree plantation must postdate that photograph.

Survey (Illus 10)

'Windy Walls' is a roofless single level two roomed building on an E to W alignment. A detailed photographic survey of external and internal elevations of the buildings was carried out, the locations of pieces of reused stonework were recorded on plan and by photograph and are listed by assigned number in this report. A graduated 2m scale was included where possible in all photographs. Written descriptions were made of the building and the individual rooms in the building have been labelled A and B for this survey.

'Windy Walls' (Illustration 11)

Exterior

Southern Elevation (Illus 12 to 17)

This is a lime mortared bonded rubble-built wall with roughly shaped sandstone quoins at its Eastern and Western ends. The elevation of Room A from its Western end has a window, a doorway and another window. The windows and the doorway are defined by shaped red sandstone blocks, and the side stones for the doorway are well tooled. There is a reused stone with toolmarks (number 1) in the wall face to the W of the doorway (Illus 14 and 15). The elevation of Room B has a single doorway defined by larger rougher sandstone blocks. There is a visible straight joint between A and B at 9.20m from the Western end which suggests that B may have been added to A at some point. There is a gable wall between A and B which would seem to back that up. The wall face of B seems to be of a slightly rougher build. There are larger stones visible in the foundation line at the Eastern end of this elevation that are slightly stepped out from the wall face.

Western elevation (Illus 18 to 20)

This is a gable end that is a lime mortared rubble build with red sandstone quoins at its Northern and Southern ends. The wall face is blank. A stone in this wall face is reused and has incised lines on its surface (number 2) (Illus 18 and 19), a red sandstone quoin stone at the SE corner seems to be used from an earlier building and has incised lines possibly forming a letter 'M' on its East facing face (number 3) (Illus 18 and 20).

Northern elevation (Illus 21 to 30)

This is built of lime mortared rubble with sandstone quoins at its Eastern and Western ends. A quoin stone at its Eastern end has visible toolmarks (number 4) (Illus 22 and 23). From its Eastern end Room B has a single window, there is a stone in the wall face on the Eastern side of the window with toolmarks (number 5) (Illus 22 and 24). A straight joint is visible again between B and A and the stones at this joint have toolmarks (number 6) (Illus 25 and 26). The elevation of Room A has a window whose lintel has pecked toolmarks (number 7) (Illus 25 and 27), a small lower window and then another window. The Western side stone for the window at the Western end of this elevation would also appear to be reused from an earlier building (number 8) (Illus 29, 30 and 34).

Eastern elevation (Illus 31)

This is a gable end built of lime mortared rubble with red sandstone quoins at its Northern and Southern ends and is a blank wall face.

Interior

Room A (Illus 32)

The floor of this room is not visible as it is covered with the collapsed remains of a ceramic tiled roof. Roof timbers are also present leaning against the internal faces of the Northern and Southern walls. These timbers appear to be sawn pine and some iron nails are visible in their edges.

Eastern Elevation (Illus 33)

This wall face is built of lime mortared rubble and there is a central fireplace built of red sandstone slabs projecting from the centre of the elevation. The course of the chimney for the fireplace is visible in the wall face. There is a small cupboard built into the wall on the Southern side of the fireplace measuring 0.40m x 0.70m that is 0.25m deep. There is a larger blocked cupboard space visible in the wall face to the North of the fireplace measuring 0.77m by 0.60m.

Southern Elevation (Illus 34 to 36)

This wall face is built of lime mortared rubble and from its Western end contains a window, a small window and another window.

Western Elevation (Illus 37)

This wall face is built of lime mortared rubble and has a central fireplace that is defined by vertical stone slabs. The scar for an angled access into a chimney in the wall is visible. This wall is butt jointed against the Northern and Southern wall lines.

Northern Elevation (Illus 38)

This wall face is built of lime mortared rubble and from its Eastern end contains a window whose edges are angled inwards, a doorway with surviving wooden (pine) doorposts and another window whose edges are angled inwards.

Room B

The floor of this room is covered by collapsed stonework.

Western Elevation (Illus 39 and 40)

This is built of lime mortared rubble and a vertical line of flat stones defining the chimney for the fire in Room A is visible. A single stone on the Northern side of those slabs has incised lines on its surface which may be from the sharpening of a metal object (Illus 39 and 40).

Southern Elevation (Illus 41)

This is built of lime mortared rubble and has a single window that is angled inwards.

Western Elevation (Illus 42)

This is built of lime mortared rubble and is a blank wall face.

Northern Elevation (Illus 43)

This is built of lime mortared rubble and has a single doorway whose side stones have visible bolt holes in them.

Reused stones visible in fabric of ruined building (Illustration 10)

1. Southern external elevation of Room A – piece of yellow sandstone with toolmarks to West of doorway measuring 0.12m by 0.06m (Illus 14 and 15).
2. Western external elevation of Room B – piece of yellow sandstone with incised lines measuring 0.14m by 0.10m (Illus 18 and 19).
3. Western external elevation of Room B – piece of yellow sandstone measuring 0.52m by 0.35m with incised letter 'M' (Illus 18 and 20).
4. Northern external elevation of Room B – corner quoin made of yellow sandstone with toolmarks measuring 0.52m by 0.35m (Illus 22 and 23).
5. Northern external elevation of Room B – piece of yellow sandstone measuring 0.25m by 0.10m with toolmarks (Illus 22 and 24).
6. Northern external elevation at straight joint between Rooms A and B piece of yellow sandstone measuring 0.40m by 0.11m with toolmarks (Illus 25 and 26).
7. Northern external elevation of Room A – window lintel of red sandstone with pecked toolmarks measuring 0.75m by 0.40m (Illus 25 and 27).
8. Northern external elevation of Room A – side stone of red sandstone measuring 0.45m by 0.38m on Western side of final window is a reused architectural fragment (Illus 29, 30 and 34).
9. Internal Western elevation of Room B – stone in wall face with incised sharpening marks measuring 0.20m by 0.10m (Illus 39 and 40).

Suggested Phasing of Building and general comments.

From cartographic analysis and map regression it would appear that the first time that there was a building at 'Windy Walls' was in the late 18th century. It would also seem that there were periods when the building on the site was unroofed and not occupied, possibly suggesting seasonal occupation. The standing walls recorded in this survey would seem likely to be of 19th century date, six of the identified reused stones are yellow sandstone (numbers 1 to 6) and two are of red sandstone (numbers 7 and 8) which may suggest that they are from more than one earlier building on the site. The other stone with possible sharpening marks (stone 9) is a piece of mica schist. Room B seems likely to have been added to an existing building (Room A) at some point, the lack of fireplaces and only a single window may suggest that it was used for storage.

Recommendations

It is recommended that some consideration is given to the possible reuse or display of the identified tool marked and incised stones (numbers 1 to 9) either in the new building or any new boundary walls on the site. The author feels that the photographic survey and written notes of the building at 'Windy Walls' are an adequate record of the building prior to its demolition. The final decision on that however rests with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

References

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

Ordnance Survey Maps – 25 "1st edition, Scotland, 1855-1882 <https://maps.nls.uk/os/25inch/>

Ordnance Survey Maps – 6" and later editions 1896-1960 <https://maps.nls.uk/view/75656052>

John Bell County of Kinross 1796 <https://maps.nls.uk/view/74400252>

Christopher Greenwood, William Fowler and Thomas Sharp Map of the Counties of Fife and Kinross 1826 and 1827 <https://maps.nls.uk/view/74400248>

Census Information

Ancestry.co.uk

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/categories/35/>

Scotland's People

<https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/advanced-search#%22category%22:%22census%22>

Aerial Photography

<https://ncap.org.uk/>

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Illustration 1- Location of ruinous building at 'Windy Walls' (red dot) (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2020. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100060449).

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Illustration 3- building at Windy Walls (in red circle) as shown on Bell's map of 1796 (© Trustees of the National Library of Scotland).

Illustration 4- building at 'Windy Walls' as shown on Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler's map of the Counties of Fife and Kinross 1826-7 (© Trustees of the National Library of Scotland).

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Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Land 100m East of Whistlebare
PROJECT CODE:	WW01
PARISH:	Orwell
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):	Not listed
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Ruinous building
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Reused incised and tool marked stones in fabric of building
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NN 08888 06556
START DATE	23 rd April 2021
END DATE	23 rd April 2021
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) (May include information from other fields)	A photographic and written survey was carried out of the ruinous building named 'Windy Walls' on maps in advance of its demolition prior to the erection of a new house on the site.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Not Known
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Vanessa Harryhausen
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

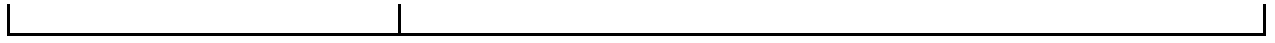




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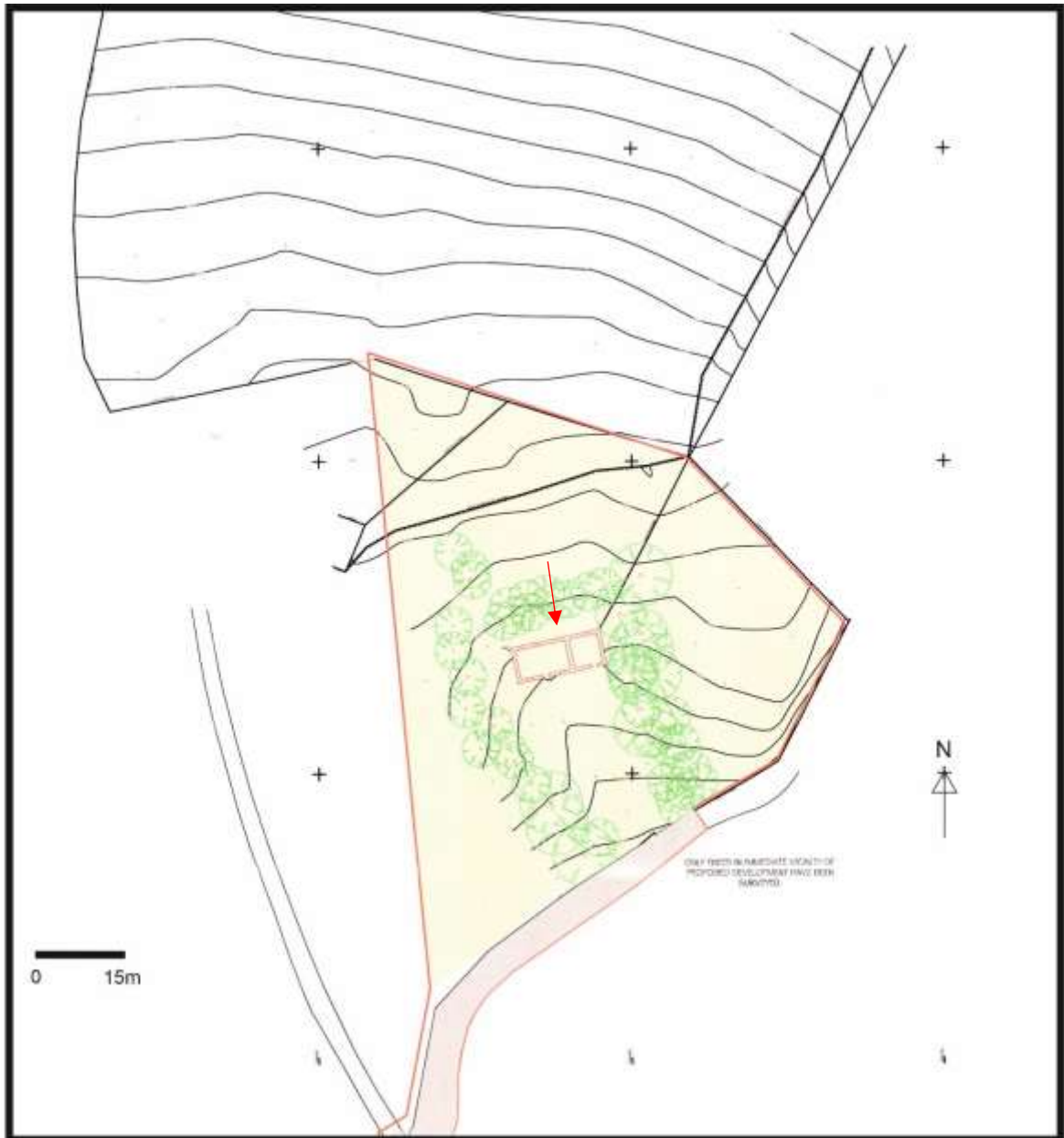


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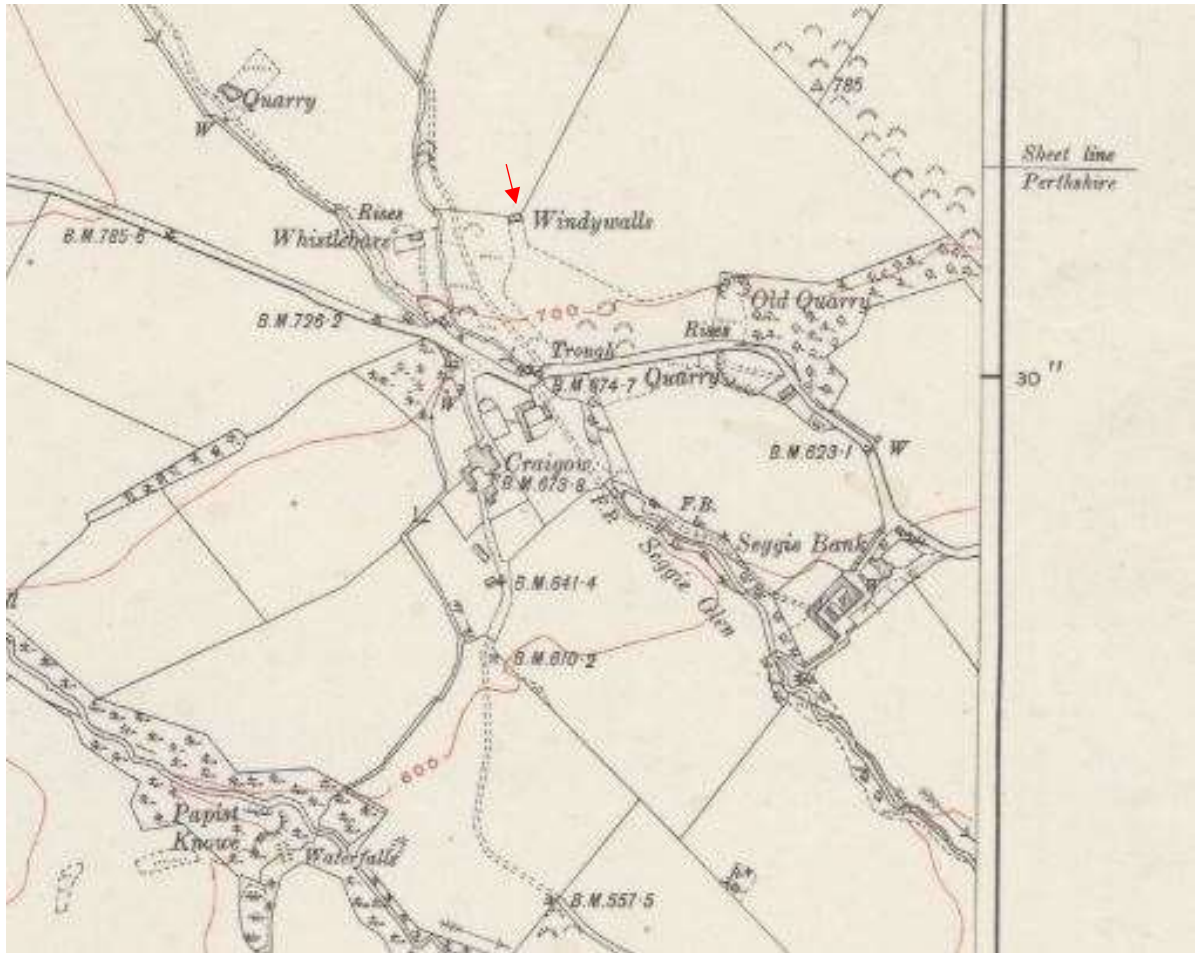


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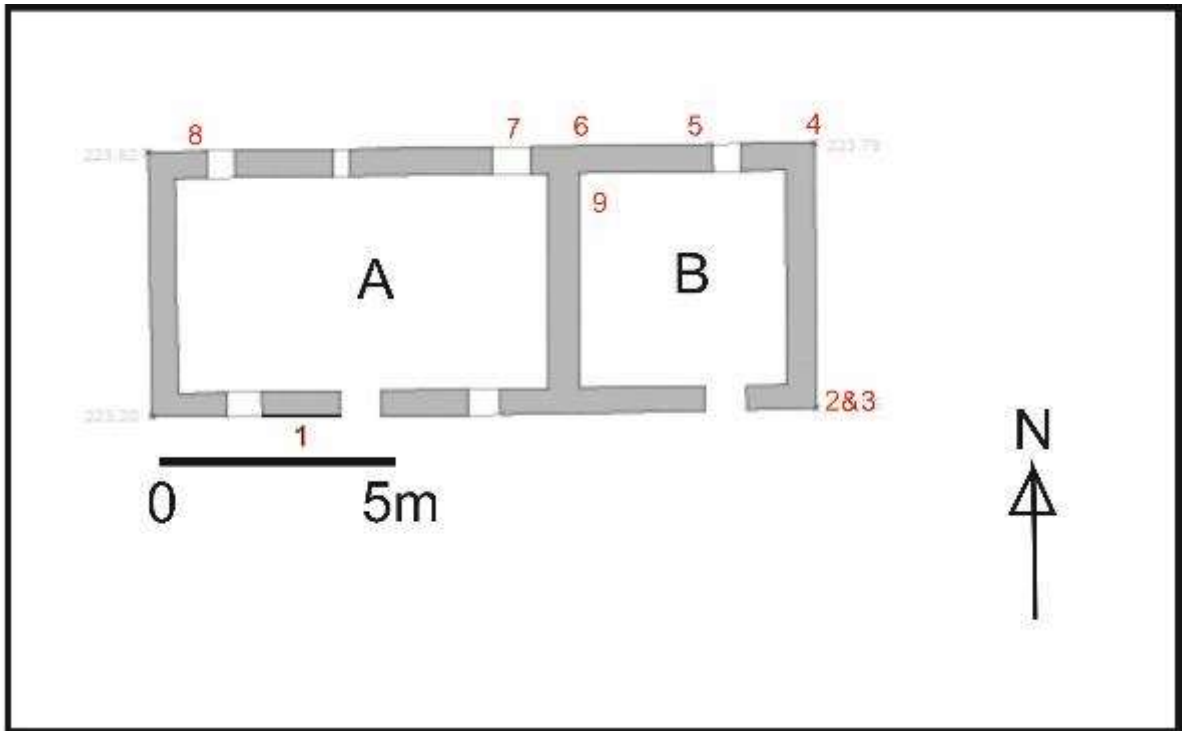


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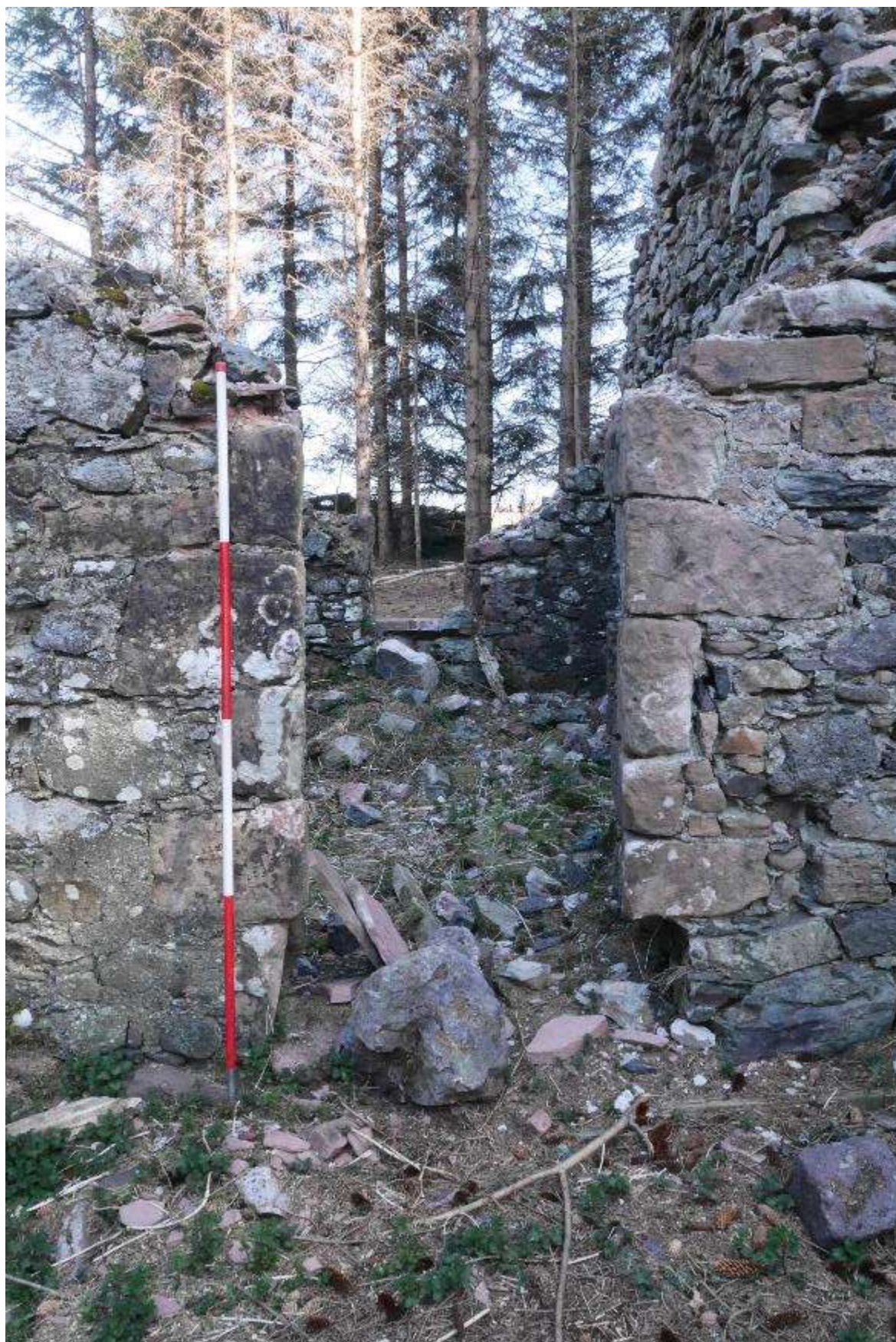


Illustration 17- Doorway into Room B in Southern elevation of building.



Illustration 18- Eastern elevation of building, red arrow shows location of reused stones with incised lines (no 2 upper) and incised letter 'M' (no 3 lower).



Illustration 19- Detail of upper reused piece of yellow sandstone (no 2) in Eastern elevation of building with incised lines.



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Illustration 42- Internal Western elevation of Room B.



Illustration 43- Internal Northern elevation of Room B.