

**Netherhills Croft, Fisherie, Turriff,
Aberdeenshire AB53 5SD
Report on Level 1 Standing Building Survey**

Aberdeenshire Council Planning application APP/2020/1326



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28 September 2020**

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ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover: top front S façade of the house; facing N. Bottom Building 2 the byre facing NE

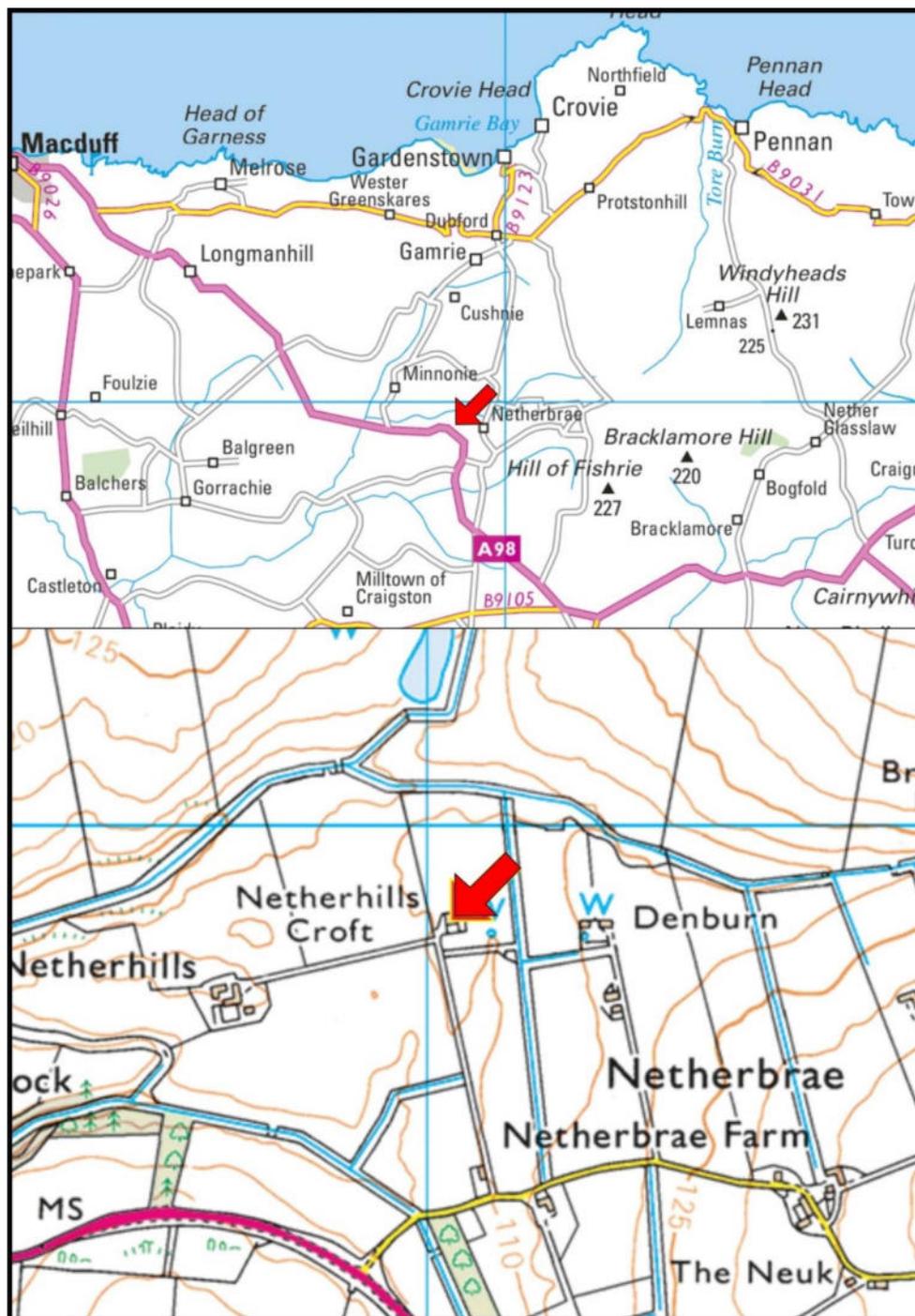
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SUMMARY

A Level 1 standing building survey was carried out on 23 September 2020. The croft is probably early 19th-century in date and has been extended over at least 4 phases up to the mid 20th century. One of the family who grew up in the croft detailed the uses of the buildings and rooms for housing stock and described a large family growing up in the house. It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current planning application.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located on the NE side of the A98 at Netherbrae. It is centred on NGR NJ7903159865, at 105-110m OD (Illus 1) and in the parish of King Edward.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Daniel Cumming, Caledonia Homes for Davie and Scott McIntosh. An Aberdeenshire council planning application APP/2020/1326 requires this standing building survey.
- 1.3 All the archaeological work was carried out in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) Planning Advice Note (PAN 2/2011) and Historic Environment Policy Scotland Statement (HEPS), which state that archaeological remains should be regarded as part of the environment to be protected and managed.



Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020)

2 BACKGROUND

Netherhills Croft (HER NJ75NE0070) is a W-E rectangular building with associated garden to the S on the First Edition OS map (Illus 10) and by the Second Edition (Illus 11) is in its current format of a house with narrower extension to the E and a small separate bothy to the N. There is a small extension on the N side of the cottage but this has been rebuilt since the 2nd Edition OS date.

One of the current owners David Gordon McIntosh grew up in the house and spoke to the current author. His grandfather Gordon Bowie McIntosh purchased the croft in the early 1950s. David grew up with another 5 children in the croft which did not have running water until c2010. There was a well to the N at the edge of the field and the family carried water from there. There was a chemical toilet in the barn (Room 9). Building 2 was called the byre and housed cows and calves. He remembers there was very deep snow one winter and they had to dig a trench through the snow from the house to the byre to feed the animals. His aunt lived in the house until c2018; David put the internal bathroom in c2010 (Room 3) by dividing a previous bedroom. Room 2 was always a bedroom in his memory because the family was so large and Room 1 was the living room. Room 11 was added c1970 as the kitchen. David remembers as a child leaning on the exterior wall next to the 'lum' on the W gable of the house warming himself; he agreed to be photographed replicating this action for the archive.

3 THE LEVEL 1 STANDING BUILDING SURVEY

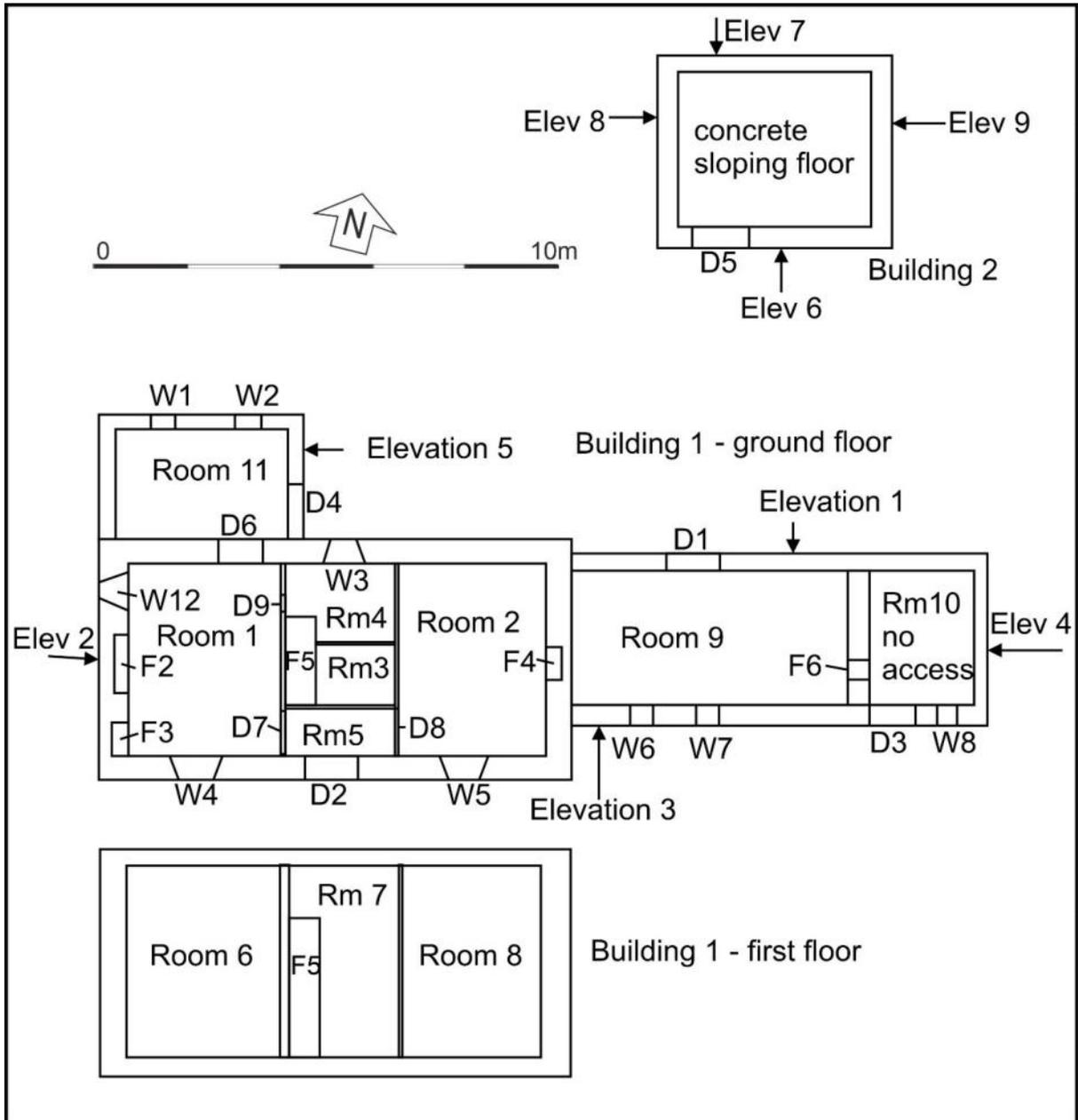
A Level 1 standing building survey was carried out on 23 September 2020. All plans and elevations were hand measured and drawn (Illus 2,3) and a full photographic survey carried out. The interior of Room 10 was not accessible, but the rest of the building was recorded; there was limited access to the attic Rooms 6 and 8 as the floors are of poor quality.

Building 1 is a two-storey house (Illus 4, 5) with two room barn added to the E. The house has 2 main reception rooms: Room 1 the living room has windows on the W wall (W12) and S wall (W4) fireplace (F2) on the W wall and alcove (F3) (Illus 6). The back door on the N wall D6 leads into a concrete block kitchen extension, Room 11 which replaced a small extension (seen on the 2nd Edition map Illus 11).

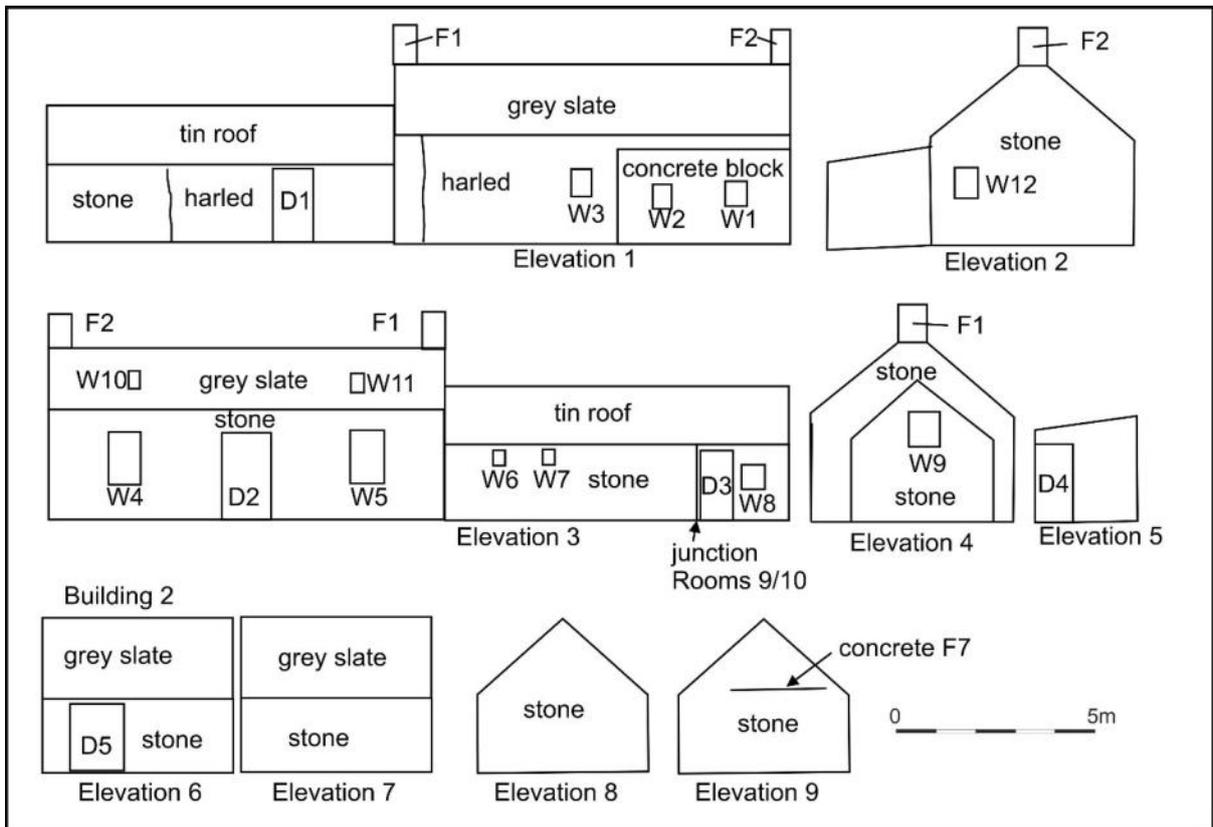
Room 2 was a bedroom and has a small fireplace on the E wall (F4) and window on the S wall (W5). Rooms 3 and 4 are now a small box room and bathroom which were divided c2010 but this room was originally a bedroom. The front door on the S façade D2 is off corridor Room 5 and there is a steep set of stairs to the first floor from this corridor. The first floor consists of two bedrooms with rooflights on the S side of the house (W10, W11). There is wallpaper over many of these rooms and so not possible to determine if there were fireplaces on the first floor.

Room 9 was added prior to the 2nd Edition OS map and is slightly narrower than the house measuring 6.4m long and 4m wide. It has red sandstone quoins on the E gable, door on the N wall and two small windows on the S wall. There is an aperture on the interior E wall 0.5x0.5m in size (F6; Illus 2). Room 10 was added on also prior to the 2nd Edition OS map and this room was not accessible so it was not possible to see F6 from the E side. It may have been for ventilation. Room 10 has a door and a window on the S wall and was used by Mr McIntosh's family for housing cattle when the byre was fully occupied.

Building 2 is a byre (Illus 7) 5x4.3m in size with a door on the S wall (D5). It was used to house cattle and has a sloping concrete floor and drain (called in Aberdeenshire a grepe; Illus 8). There have been several other temporary buildings (demolished prior to this survey) around the byre. There is a concrete base immediately to the W and a concrete scar (F7) on the E gable where a building has been removed.



Illus 2 Plan of croft including first floor annotated with numbers used in this survey



Illus 3 Elevations of croft including first floor annotated with numbers used in this survey



Illus 4 House from the N with extension Room 11; facing S



Illus 5 W gable of house; facing E



Illus 6 Room 1 W wall alcove F3 (left), fireplace F2 (centre) window W12 (right); facing W



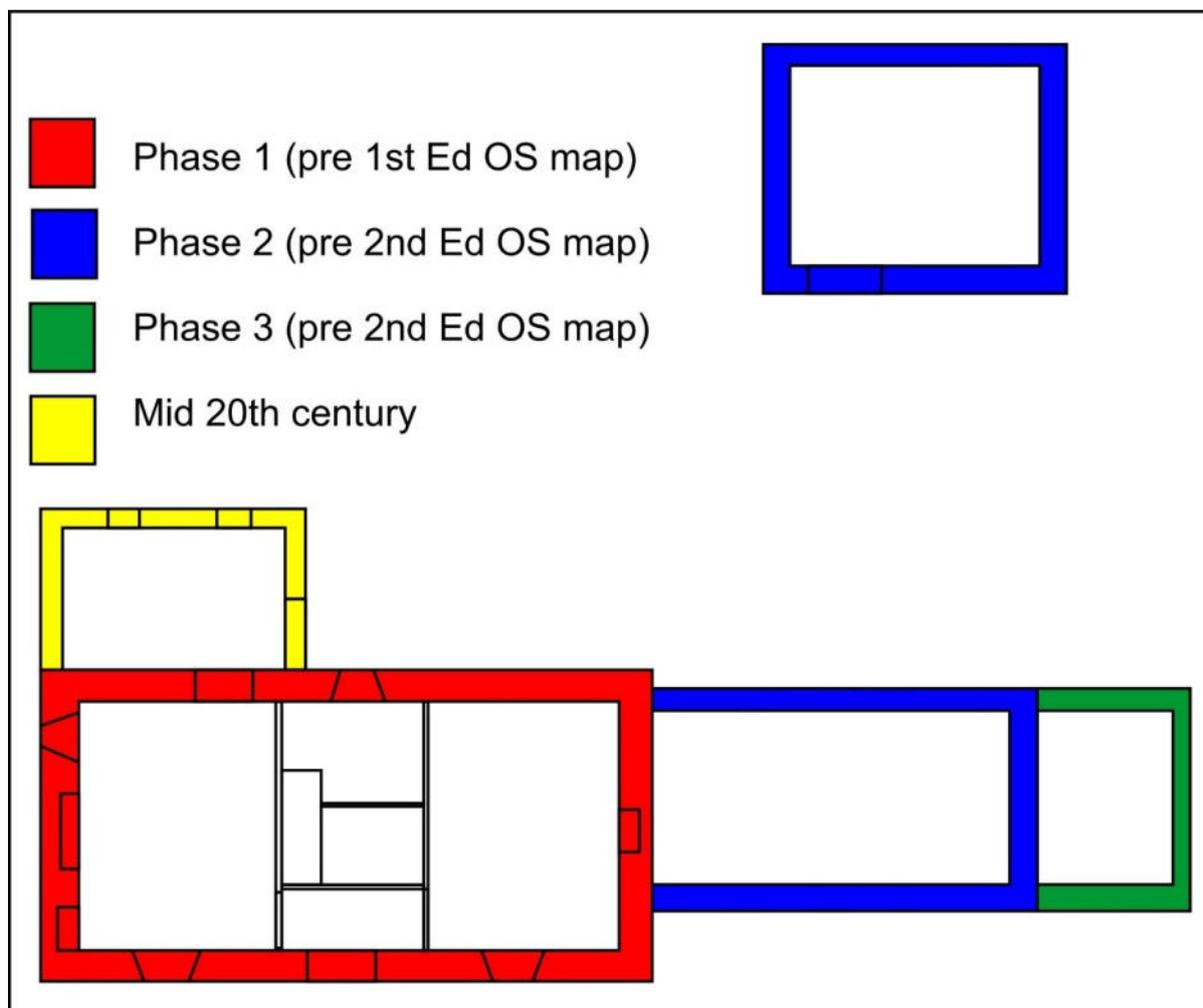
Illus 7 Building 2 S wall with D5; facing N



Illus 8 Building 2 concrete floor (grepe); facing E

4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A Level 1 standing building survey was carried out on 23 September 2020. The croft is probably early 19th-century in date and has been extended over at least 4 phases (Illus 9) up to the mid 20th century. One of the family who grew up in the croft detailed the uses of the buildings and rooms for housing stock and described a large family packed into the house. It is recommended that no further archaeological work is required during the current planning application.



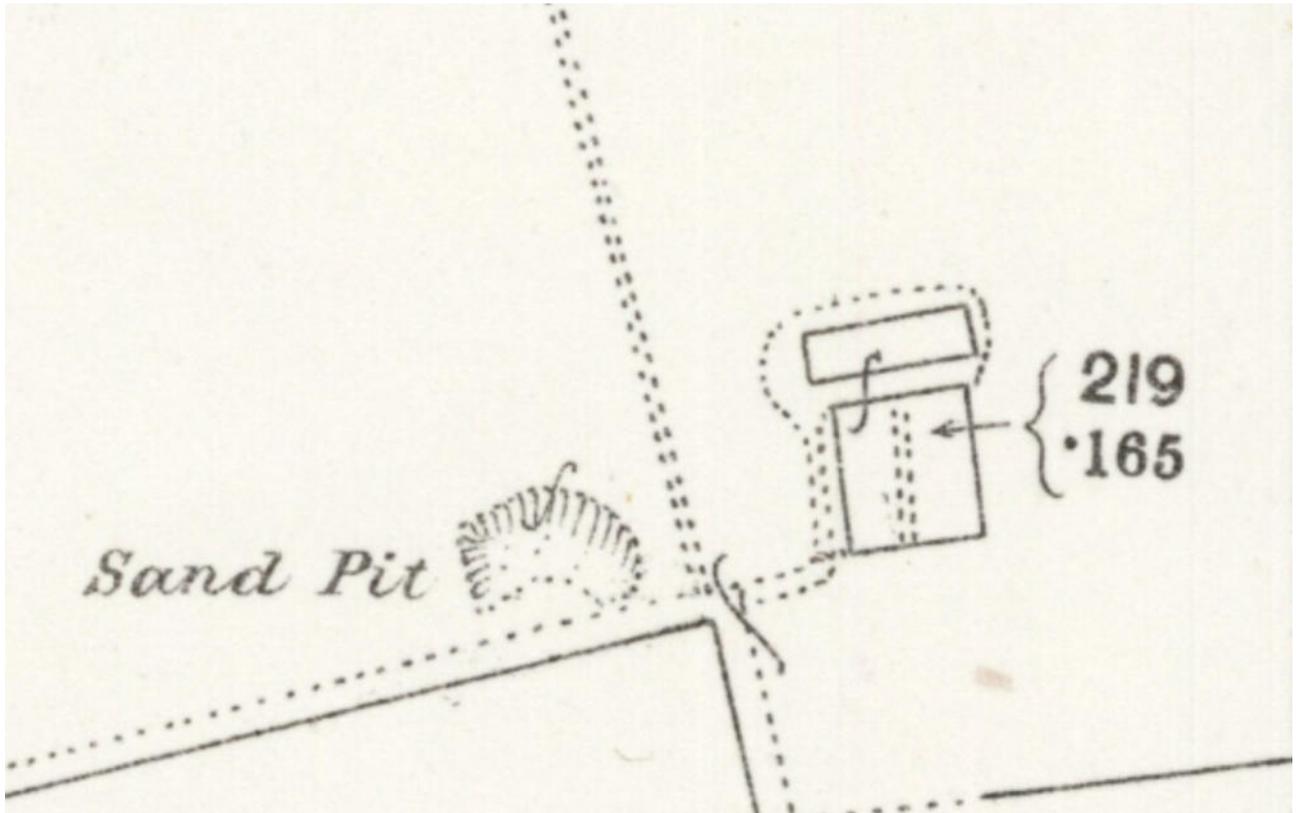
Illus 9 Phase plan

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

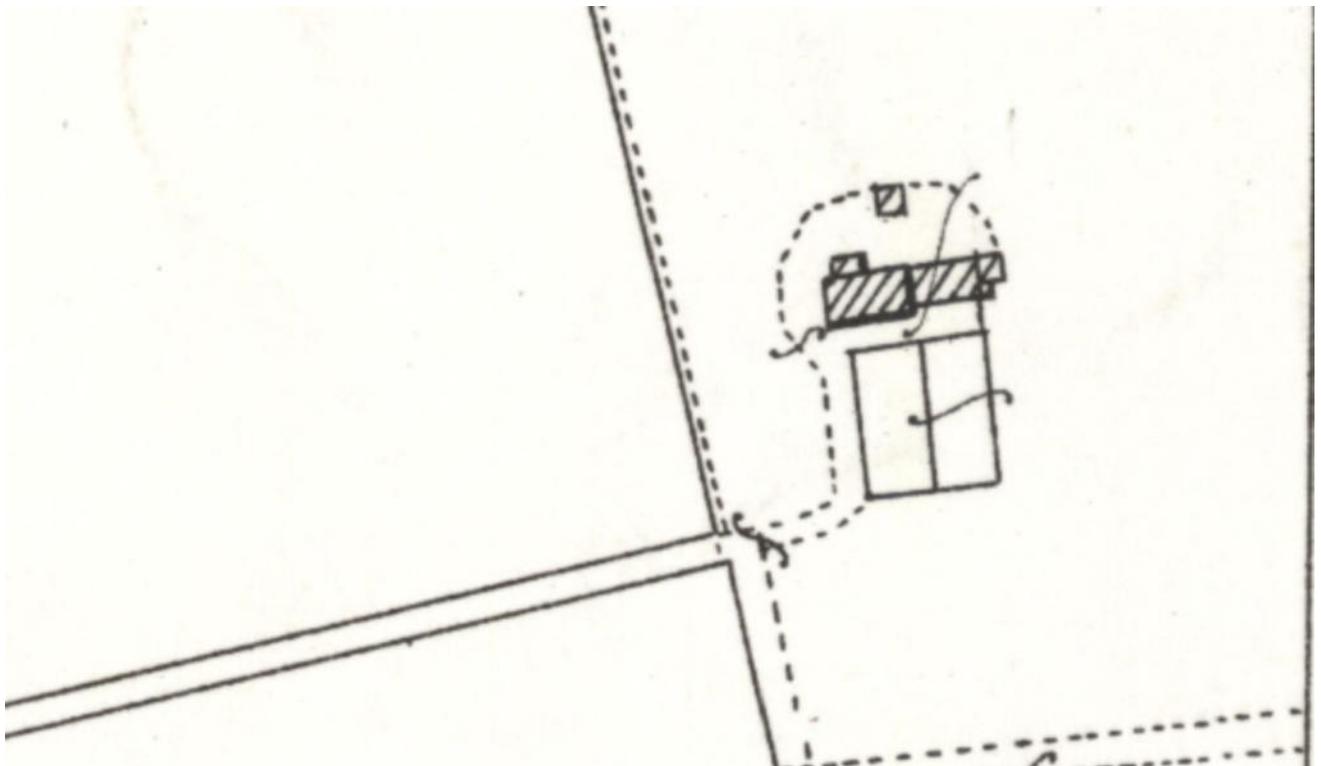
Thanks to Daniel Cumming, Caledonia Homes for commissioning this project on behalf of Davie and Scott McIntosh and to Claire Herbert, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service for her advice during the work.

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APPENDIX 1 MAPS

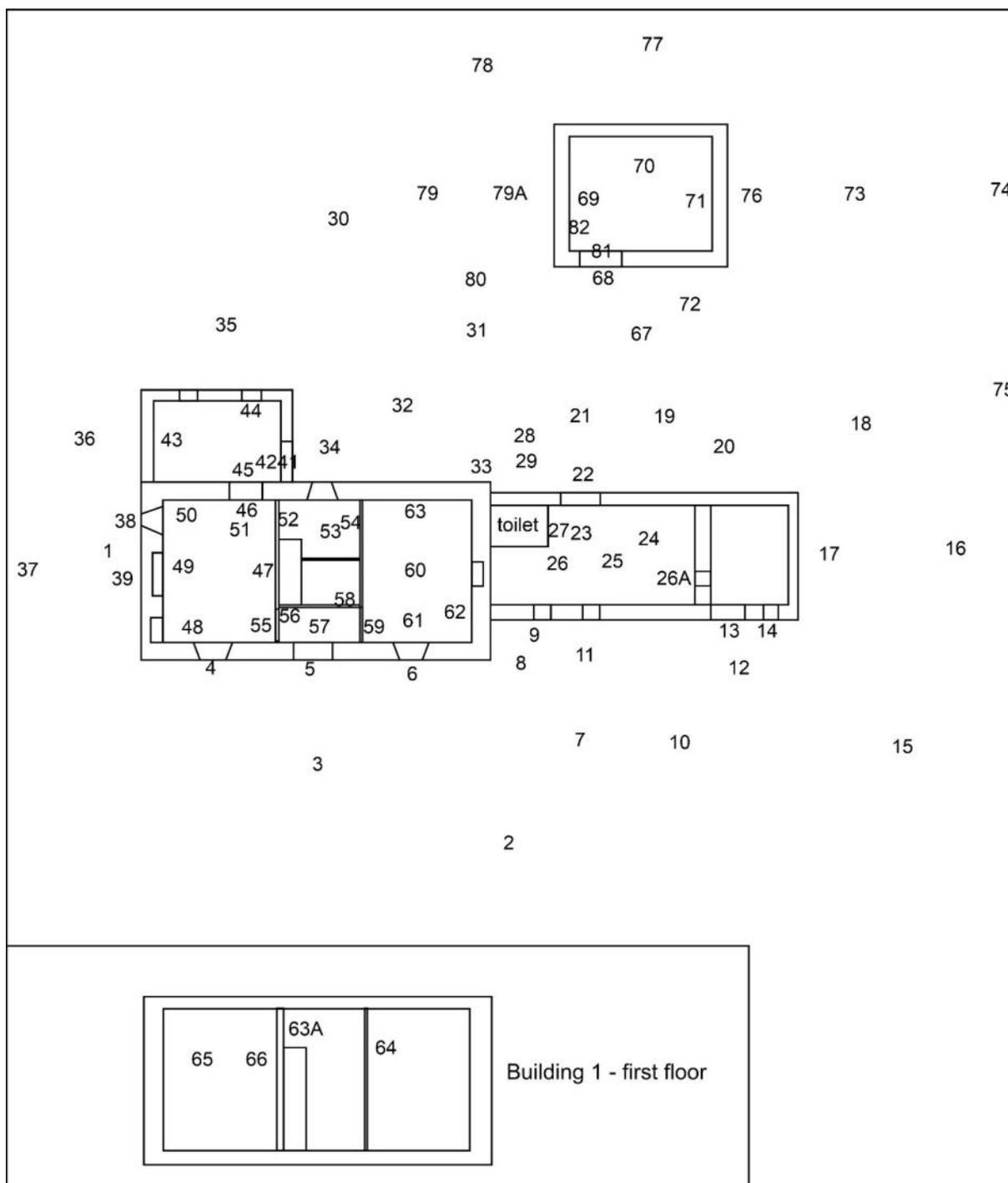


Illus 10 First Edition Ordnance Survey map showing croft. Aberdeenshire V.8 (Combined)
Survey date: 1868 to 1870 Publication date: 1892 (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 11 Second Edition Ordnance Survey map showing croft. Aberdeenshire V.8 (Gamrie; King
Edward) Publication date: 1902 Revised: 1901 (copyright National Library of Scotland)

APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS



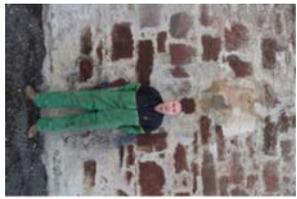
Illus 12 Camera points used in this survey

Photo no	Description	Camera point	Facing
4305	Davie McIntosh who grew up in the house reminiscing about warming his hands on the exterior wall of the lum	1	E
4306	Farmhouse (left) and barn (right)	2	N
4307	Farmhouse front S façade	3	N
4308	W4	4	N

4309	D2	5	N
4310	W5	6	N
4311	Farmhouse (left) and barn (right)	7	NW
4312	Barn attached to farmhouse	8	WNW
4313	Barn attached to farmhouse	9	WNW
4314	Barn S façade	10	N
4315	W6 (left) W7 (right)	11	N
4316	Sandstone at junction of Rooms 9 and 10 (centre), D3, W8	12	N
4317	D3	13	N
4318	W8	14	N
4319	Croft from SE	15	NW
4320	Room 10 E gable	16	W
4321	W9	17	W
4322	croft from NE	18	SW
4323	Barn N façade	19	S
4324	Barn N wall Room 10	20	S
4325	Room 9 N wall D1	21	S
4326	D1	22	S
4328	D1	23	N
4329	Room 9 N wall D1 (left)	24	N
4330	roof above	24	N
4331-2	Room 9 E wall	25	E
4333	F6 blocked aperture	26A	E
4334	Room 9 S wall	24	S
4335	Room 9 S wall	23	S
4336	Room 9 S wall W7 (left) W6 (right)	26	S
4337-8	Room 9 W wall with chemical toilet (right)	26	W
4339	Room 9 W wall with chemical toilet (right)	24	W
4340	Chemical toilet	27	W
4341	Room 9 N wall D1 (right)	26	N
4342	Room 9 stone and concrete floor	23	W
4343-44	Room 9 stone and concrete floor	27	W
4345	Room 9 N wall D1 (left), cottage N wall (right)	28	S
4346	Junction barn (left) with house (right)	29	SW
4347	House (right) barn (left)	32	SE
4348	House (right) barn (left)	31	S
4349	House with Room 11 blockwork extension	30	S
4350	House N wall	32	S
4351	Red sandstone quoins NE corner of house	33	S
4352	W3	34	S
4353	Room 11 E wall D4	32	W
4354	Room 11 N wall W1, W2	35	S
4355	Room 11 W wall	36	E
4356	House W gable with W12 and chimney F2	37	E
4357	W12	38	E
4358	Patched chimney	39	E

4359-60	Chimney F2	39	E
4361	Cottage from SW	40	NE
4362	Room 11	41	W
4363	Room 11 W wall	42	W
4364	Room 11 N wall W1, W2	42	NW
4365	Room 11 E wall	43	E
4366	Room 11 S wall D6 (left)	44	SW
4367	D6	45	S
4368	Room 1 S wall W4 alcove F3 (right)	46	SSW
4369	Room 1 W wall alcove F3 (left) fireplace F2 (centre) window W12 (right)	47	W
4370	Room 1 F3	48	W
4371	Room 1 F2	49	W
4372	Room 1 W12	50	W
4373	Room 1 N wall D6 (right)	48	N
4374	Room 1 E wall D9	50	E
4375	Room 4 divided c2010 to form inside bathroom	52	E
4376	Room 4 N wall W3	53	N
4377	Room 4 alcove under stair	52	S
4378-79	Room 4 W wall	54	W
4380	D7 through to hallway Room 5	55	E
4381-2	D2	56	SE
4383	D8 into Room 2	57	E
4384-5	Room 5 bathroom built c2010	58	NNW
4386	D7 through to hallway Room 5	55	E
4387	Room 5 E wall fireplace F4	59	NE
4388	Room 5 F4	60	E
4389	Room 5 N wall	61	N
4390	Room 5 W wall	62	WNW
4391	Room 5 W wall	62	W
4392	Room 5 S wall W5	63	S
4393	Room 5 E wall fireplace F4	59	NE
4394	Room 5 wood board ceiling	59	E
4395	Corridor Room 5	59	W
4396-7	Steep stair F5	56	N
4398	Room 6	66	W
4399	Room 6 skylight W10	65	S
4400-1	Room 6 E wall	65	E
4402	Room 7	63	E
4403	Room 8	64	E
4404	Room 7	64	W
4405	Stair F5	63	S
4406	Room 1 W wall alcove F3 (left) fireplace F2 (centre) window W12 (right)	55	NW
4407	Building 2 the byre	31	NE
4408	Building 2 S wall D5	67	N
4409	Building 2 D5	68	N

4410	Building 2 D5	69	S
4411-12	Building 2 S wall D5	70	S
4413-14	Building 2 E wall	69	E
4415-16	Building 2 N wall	69	N
4417-18	Building 2 W wall	71	W
4419	Building 2 S wall D5	72	N
4420	Building 2 E gable	73	W
4421	Croft from E	74	WSW
4422	Croft from E	75	W
4423	Building 2 E gable	76	W
4424	Building 2 N wall	77	S
4425	Building 2	78	SE
4426	Building 2 W gable	79	E
4427-8	Building 2 W gable	79A	E
4429	Building 2	80	ENE
4430	Building 2 concrete floor	81	N
4431	Building 2 concrete floor	82	E
4432	Croft from N	78	S
4433	Croft from N	30	S
4434	Croft from N	35	S
4435	Croft from N	31	S
4436	Croft from N	67	S
4437-8	House from NE	68	SW



DSC_4305



DSC_4306



DSC_4307



DSC_4308



DSC_4309



DSC_4310



DSC_4311



DSC_4312



DSC_4313



DSC_4314



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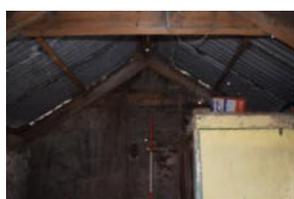
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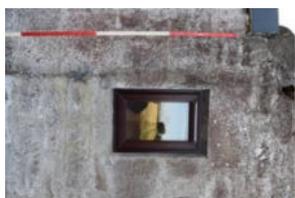
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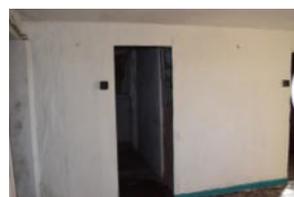
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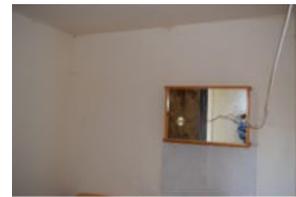
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