

# Rychallich

Historical Research,  
Building Recording and Walkover Survey  
Tulloch  
Nethy Bridge  
STRATHSPEY

NE02



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**HISTORICAL RESEARCH,  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY &  
WALKOVER AT RYCHALLICH  
NETHY BRIDGE  
STRATHSPEY  
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## **ABSTRACT**

*Explore Abernethy in partnership with Alder Archaeology conducted an archaeological community survey project at Rychallich, Tulloch near Nethy Bridge. The settlements at Tulloch are associated with many local tales and stories, and many of them were only abandoned in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Rychallich is one such settlement and is crofted by local historian Marina Dennis. The settlement was of interest as it was known to have a long occupation from the 16<sup>th</sup> century right through into 20<sup>th</sup>, when lastly it was used by Gordonstoun School as a bothy, and afterwards into the 1980s, as a general hill walkers' shelter. In 1772 Rychallich became locally famous for the murder of one of its occupants, John Grant, by neighbour John Cumming of Easter Tulloch. Research carried out prior to this project involved looking through related documents in the National Archives of Scotland. From this information, largely contemporary witness statements, it has been possible to suggest a possible location for the fatal shooting on the hills behind Rychallich.*

*The main part of the survey carried out on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2011 was a detailed building recording which provided a record of the main standing structures, a roofed house c. 1890s, an 1840s building, an 1880s building and a Milkhouse. The survey also recorded in plan the footings of two earlier 18<sup>th</sup> century structures, one of them contemporary with the murder. This fieldwork illuminated the possible functions of rooms, many internal details of structures and how the buildings developed over time.*

*On the last day of the project, the 17<sup>th</sup> of October, there was a walkover survey of the surrounding landscape. This threw light on many agricultural remains, including various tracks, enclosures, clearance cairns, boundaries and the remains of a reaper. Of most significance however, was the discovery of building footings away from the main centre of the settlement which correspond with buildings shown on the 1773 estate plan.*

*The site code was NE02*

# **1 Background**

## **1.1 Introduction**

This report focuses on archaeological fieldwork carried out between the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2011 on the settlement known as Rychallich in Tulloch, which lies south of Nethy Bridge.

A decision to focus a project on Tulloch largely came about because of The Friends of Abernethy who have been organising walks and talks in the area for a number of years. Tulloch is of interest locally because of the large number of abandoned post-medieval and early modern settlements it contains, the stories attached to them, and more generally, its spectacular location overlooking Strathspey and Loch Garten. The area also boasts evidence of Prehistoric activity, giving potential ‘time depth’ to any archaeological survey or study focused there.

Of all the settlements in Tulloch, Rychallich stood out as a candidate for a community survey project because of its interesting location, its long occupation, and because it was associated with a number of interesting local stories and historical events including an 18<sup>th</sup> century murder. In addition, the site boasts a variety of structural remains, including 18<sup>th</sup> century footings, 19<sup>th</sup> century barns and a roofed building, which made it a good place to teach archaeological building survey techniques.

The community project itself was a result of discussions with the author and Melanie Coulston (Explore Abernethy Ranger) in 2011, after a successful community walk organised by The Friends of Abernethy the previous year. The project was designed to enable people with an interest in archaeology to engage practically in a local project and learn basic surveying skills. Logistically this was done by the author using equipment and resources from Alder Archaeology Ltd, and support, organisation and marketing provided by Explore Abernethy.

## **1.2 Aims and Objectives**

In general terms, the project aimed to provide basic training and experience of analysing upstanding buildings and low footing remains. In addition, training would be given on conducting an upland walkover survey.

Specific archaeological aims were to understand the form, function and development of the visible remains at Rychallich, and also to gain some understanding of the wider remains surrounding the settlement. A further aim was to integrate, as far as was possible, the known history with archaeology of the site.

### **1.3 Reporting**

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this project. Copies will be sent to Explore Abernethy, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, and Highland Council Historic Environment Record.

The report is essentially split into three main sections, the results of historical research, the building survey and the walkover survey. Technical descriptions of photos, drawings, sites and electronic data can be found in Appendices 1 to 4.

### **1.4 Acknowledgements**

The author would like to give a big thanks to Marina Dennis from Inchdryne who farms the croft of Rychallich and provided guidance, permission, enthusiasm and a great deal of interesting local history about the site. A big thanks also to Andrew Norval, estate factor for Seafield and Strathspey Estates, for giving permission to carry out the project. Many thanks also to Bob Moncrieff, crofter at Chapelton, who kindly provided parking, and also to George Grant from Easter Curr, for helping with research in the Inverness Archives. The author is also extremely grateful to the Highland Council's Historic Environment Team and ARCH (Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands) for providing advertising. Thanks also to Richard King for helping carry equipment and lend a hand with the Total Station survey.

Of course the project wouldn't have been successful without those who volunteered on the team, so thanks very much to Sue Murray, Ann Wilson, Ann Wakeling, Rosemary and Bob Jones, Alison Greggans, Amanda Thompson, George Grant, Melanie Coulston, and Ben and Lindsay Baikie.



## **2 Methodology**

### **2.1 Research**

Historical research was undertaken prior to the survey to gain an understanding of the site and to flesh out what otherwise may have become a rather dry archaeological report. Along with the sources consulted in standard desk-based assessment, research also extended to cover information from the Council Archives, The National Archives of Scotland and some local Oral History provided by Marina Dennis from Inchdryne.

The sources consulted were as follows:

#### *Aerial Photography*

- Current Aerial Photography as supplied online by Bing Maps and Google Maps
- RCAHMS (Royal Commission of Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland) Aerial photo collection was found to contain no large scale historical RAF aerial photos of Rychallich.

#### *Maps & Plans*

- Online OS maps, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition and 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition
- Current OS maps (1:25,000)
- Plan of Wester Tulloch, 1772-1773 (Register House Plan 3964/1/32, National Archives of Scotland)
- Roy's Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-1755 (National Library of Scotland, online maps)
- Timothy Pont's Maps of Scotland, c 1580s-1590s (National Library of Scotland, online maps)

#### *Statistical Sources*

- Valuation Rolls (Highland Council Archives)
- Census Data (Highland Council Archives)

#### *Historic Environmental Records*

- All information available online though Past Map (RCAHMS) ie Scheduled Monuments Database, Listed Buildings Database, Highland Council Historic Environmental Record, National Monuments Record of Scotland, Gardens and Designed Landscapes Database.

#### *Historical Documents*

- Legal papers relating to the murder at Rychallich [in papers collected for Chiefs of Grant Book] (GD248/26/1/71, National Archives of Scotland)
- Papers relative to precognition against James and William Cummings for murder of John Grant, Rychallach's son (GD248/43/3/2, National Archives of Scotland)

#### *Oral History*

- Local historian Marina Dennis (Inchdryne, Tulloch)

## **2.2 Building Survey**

This was the main part of the project, focussing on all visible building remains on Rychallich's distinct dry knoll. Wetter areas outside this zone (largely dominated by rushes) were left to the walkover survey. The building recording covered three different types of remains, the roofed main house with its surviving internal decoration and wooden fittings, the roofless outhouses/barns, and early building remains which survived as grassy footings.

Prior to the survey the author made several visits to Rychallich to create a 'backbone' of information which could be used to during the main survey. Initial visits involved making a basic sketch plan of the site to understand the number and type of structures present. This was followed by an intense session of photography to make a record of all the walls and other vertical surfaces. The photographic sequences were then used to create 3d point cloud models of building elevations using various software packages (Noah Snavely's Bundler, Microsoft's Photosynth and Yasutaka Furukawa's PMVS2). These elevations were printed out on A3 paper ready for annotation during the main survey. A final preliminary visit was made to conduct a basic Total Station survey of buildings. This was used to produce a site plan ready for annotation.

During the main survey (15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Oct) volunteers were split into three teams, one focussing on early building footings, another on the main long roofless range of buildings, and another on the main roofed house and small square structure to the W.

The first team concentrated on understanding and recording the early footings over both days of the building survey, as its members had previous experience in recording such structures (several belonged to North of Scotland Archaeology Society). Plans were drawn via tape and offsets, and cornerstones located by slight de-turfing or probing with ranging rods. Photographs were taken with members of the team stood on corners of the buildings to help identify what are essentially fairly flat features.

The other teams were given a number of different tasks over the two days. After a brief training session, groups were given the tasks of creating individual plans of their allotted buildings, as well as annotating plans/previously created elevations. This included recording the types of material for the buildings, construction techniques and features of interest. The groups were then asked to focus their attention on interpreting the buildings by looking for phasing, form and function. Finally, the two teams looked at the site as a whole to see how structures functioned together as part of a working croft.



### **2.3 Walkover**

This was carried out on the last day of the project to put the building survey into context. It was hoped the walkover would reveal further structures and features surrounding the main buildings at Rychallich. The area covered was land that had been previously cultivated when Rychallich was inhabited (Areas A & C), as well as an area of heather-covered moorland in a strip running around the SE and SW of the site that contained an enclosure, and judging from the 1772 plan, also the remains of buildings (Area B). Essentially the walkover was rapid in character, simply aimed at creating brief written descriptions, photographs and GPS positions of sites.

In the morning session everyone was encouraged to systematically walk Area A in a long line, each person walking forward with people either side (separated by equal distance). However, the terrain and boggy ground soon meant this methodical approach was abandoned in favour of more inconsistent way of covering the area. In the afternoon, volunteers were split into two groups to cover Areas B and C each with its own camera, GPS and record sheets. Though various sites were discovered, the rapidly deteriorating weather (sleet) and the density of Juniper in Area C meant that the survey was ended much sooner than intended.



*The Walkover, Area A*

### **3 Historical Research**

#### **3.1 Setting of Rychallich (illus 1 and 2)**

Rychallich lies at 345m above sea level on the shallow north facing slope of Creag a' Chaillich. This hill is part of a group extending W from the Cairngorms to the River Spey, dividing the forests of Glen More to the S and Abernethy to the N. The settlement is located along the Allt Ruigh Chaillich, at the start of where the burn branches as it reaches flatter ground. The flat area is roughly triangular in shape, covering roughly 10 hectares (25 acres), with Rychallich itself occupying a dry rocky knoll towards the SE end. The NW side of the site drops away quite sharply following the contours of the hill, giving exceptional views across the Spey valley. Birchwood surrounds the NE to SW sides of the settlement roughly defining the boundary of the formerly cultivated land. Much of this old ploughed land is open and grazed by sheep, but juniper is slowly encroaching on this terrain, making some areas impenetrable, particularly on the W side of the burn. Heather moorland extends uphill behind the settlement to the S.

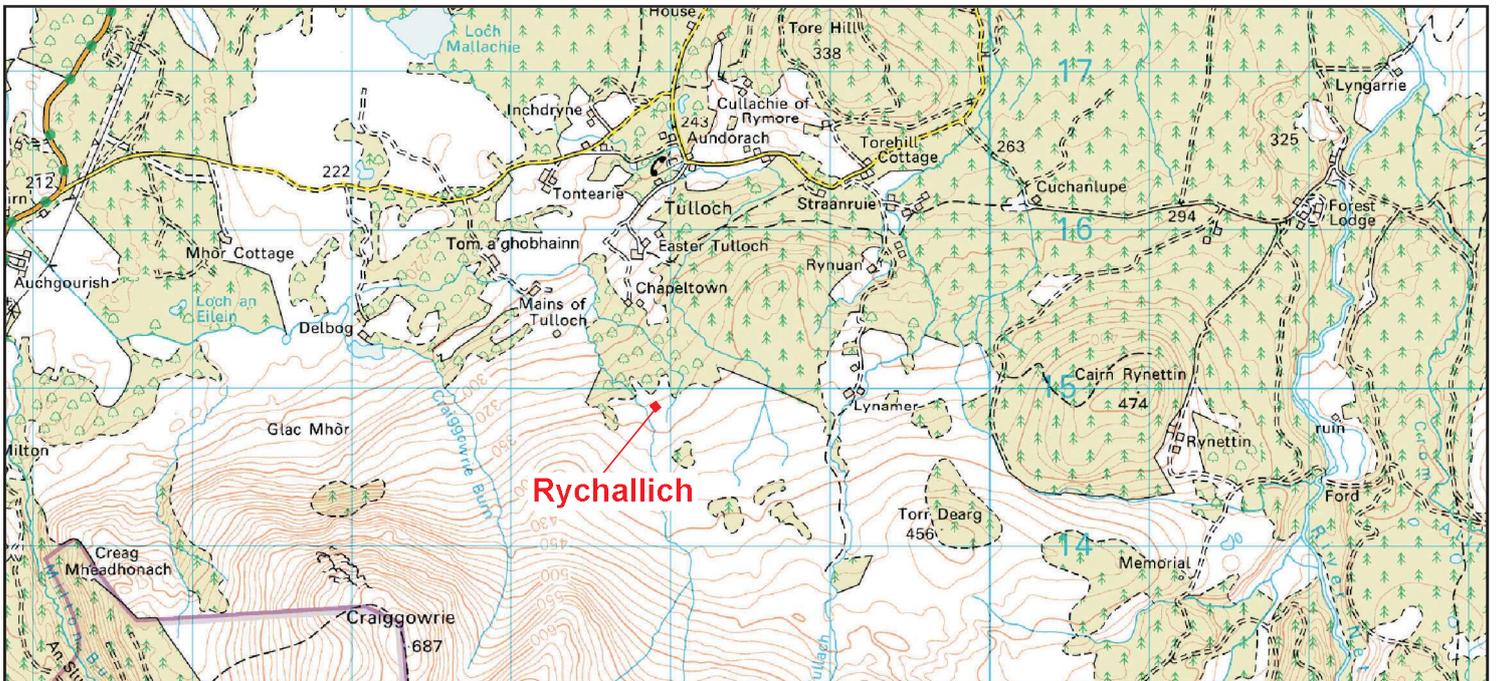
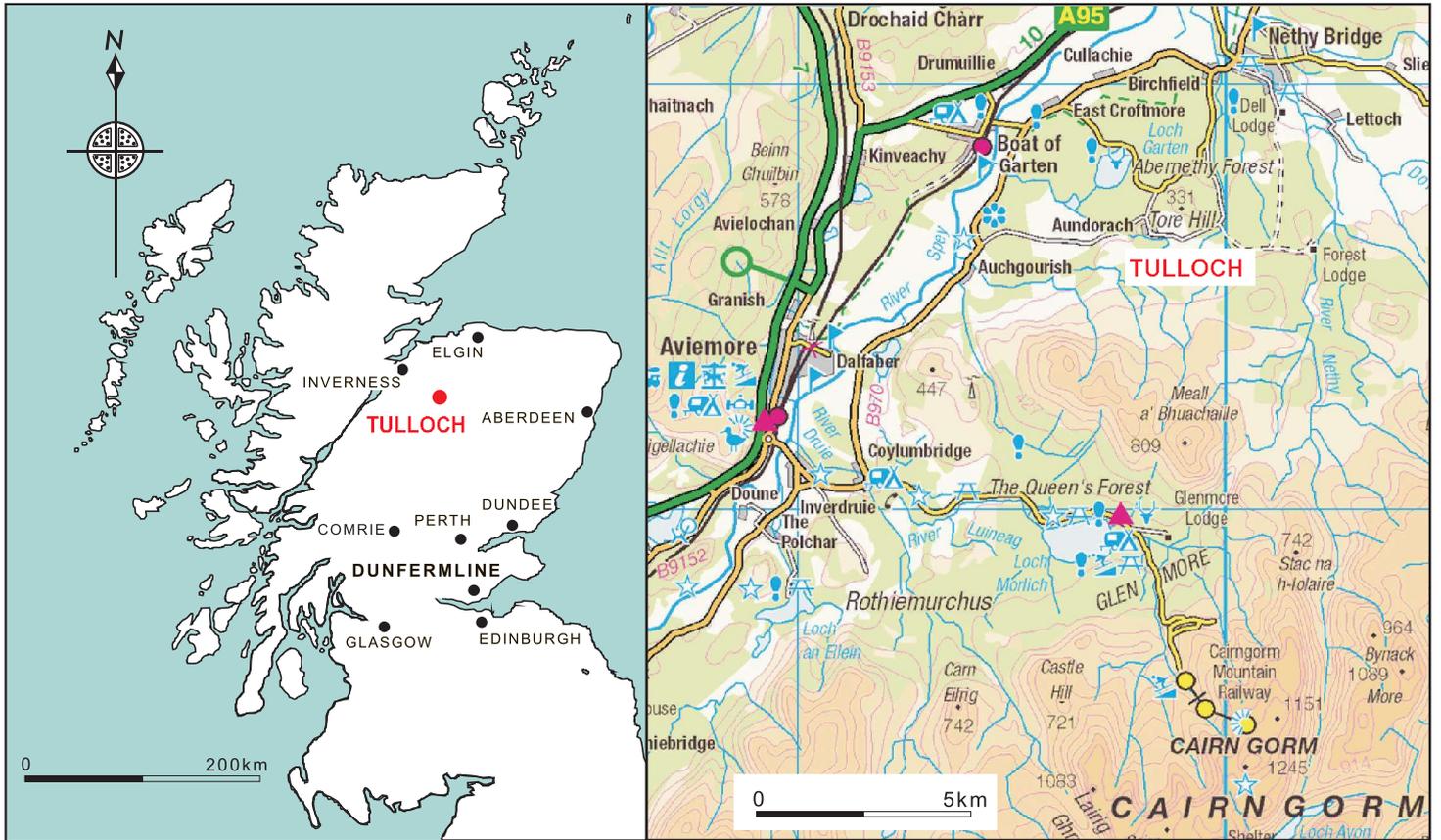
Rychallich is the one of the most southerly settlements clustered around Tulloch. Access runs from Rymore in a south-westerly direction along a track past Easter Tulloch via an old stone bridge above a ford.



*Photo of the main buildings on the knoll*

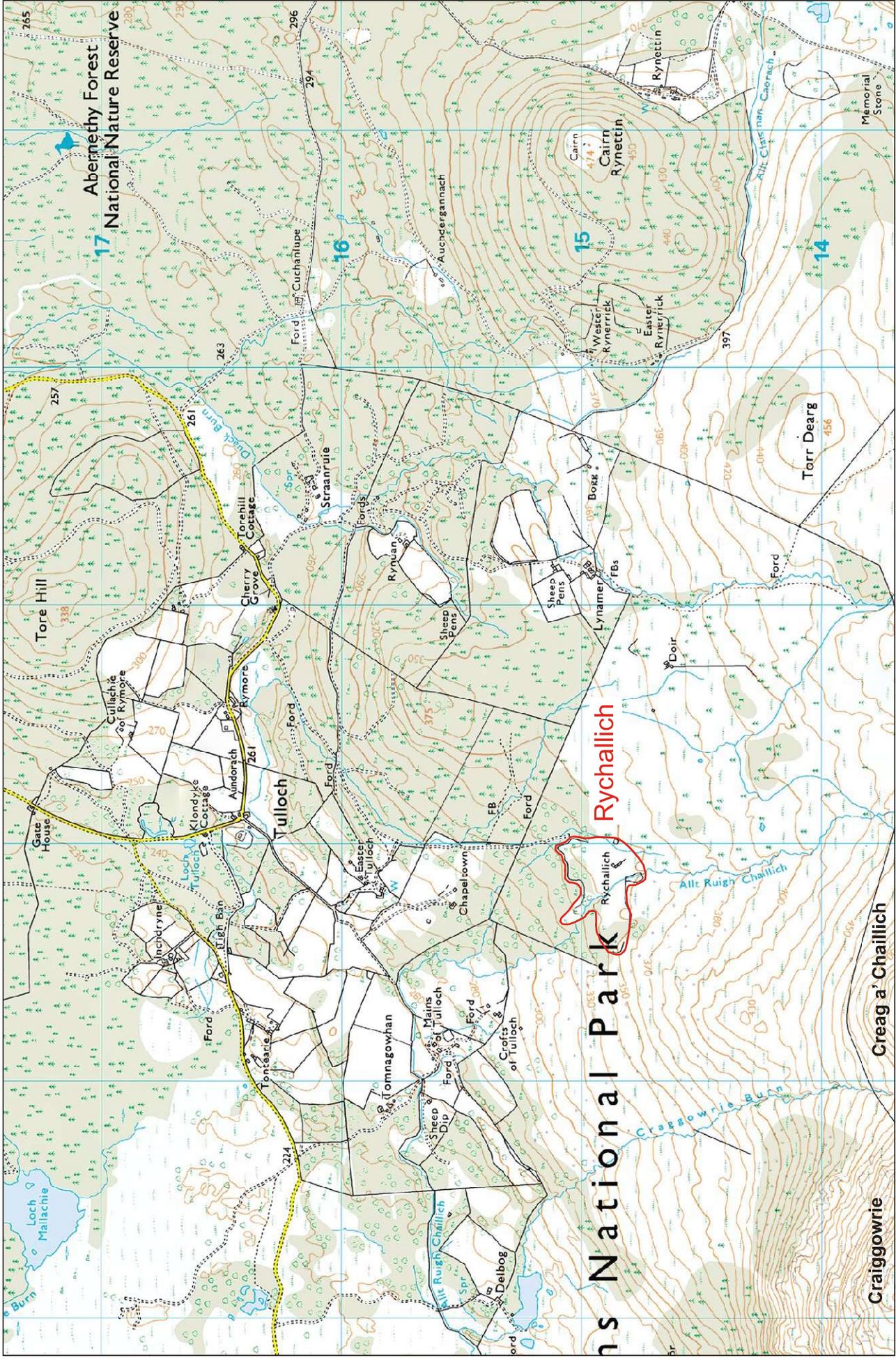
Illus 1

# Location of Tulloch and Rychallich



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### **3.2 Early Evidence (illus 3 & 4)**

The word 'Rychallich' is probably derived from the name of the N facing slopes leading up to Creag a' Chaillich (crag of the old lady) with Ruigh (slope) and Chaillich (old lady). This name was in existence by the 16<sup>th</sup> century as Pont (the earliest detailed cartographic source we have) marks 'Ruy Chaillach' next to a small settlement in front of the second hill E of the Spey, which presumably is Creag a' Chaillich. There is unfortunately no way of knowing if the settlement was named after the hill or vice versa, but the use of Ruigh (slope) perhaps suggests the former is the case.

Strathspey seems to have been well occupied by the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, as seen by the numerous Clava-type tombs, standing stones, kerb cairns and other mortuary and ceremonial structures. There are also a great many roundhouses and early field systems to be found in the region, probably dating to the Bronze or Iron Ages. Locally, there are two dense concentrations of prehistoric remains: To the W, a region extending from Kincardine Cottage across to Delbog, and to the E another group at Rynettin. At both sites roundhouses are present as well as chambered cairns, but the Delbog-Kincardine Cottage region also boasts an extensive field system defined by lynchets and cairnfields (groups of small field clearance cairns), suggesting that this area in particular was good farming land. It is likely that prehistoric activity and settlement extended across the zone between Delbog and Rynettin right through Tulloch and past Rychallich. The lack of recorded remains in this zone reflects a lack of systematic archaeological survey in the area not necessarily a lack of evidence. Kincardine Cottage area, and Rynettin were lucky in that these regions were targeted during pre-afforestation surveys from the 1980s to late 1990s, and Delbog subject to the enthusiasm and interest of crofter Alec Morley. Further walkover surveys are needed to create a more comprehensive picture of Tulloch's prehistoric past.

Archaeological research for Pictish and Medieval occupation of Speyside has tended to be focused around ecclesiastical remains rather than settlements. There are two main reasons for this. Firstly, building materials and methods of house construction in this period and in this part of the Highlands appear to have left few visible remains, and it is very hard if not impossible so far to distinguish such structures from late pre-improvement period settlements. Secondly, there is a general lack of archaeological research into this subject which would require systematic excavation of many settlements and a great deal of funding to secure the necessary radiocarbon dates.

Kincardine and Abernethy were the two local churches in the area, with Kincardine being the local parish for Tulloch. This church is supposedly of early origin (according to some founded in the 7<sup>th</sup> century) but the current building dates to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Chapeltown, which lies just to the N of Rychallich, probably once housed a chapel which was possibly founded by Kincardine church for the people of Tulloch. There are no remains of a building as such, but the supposed chapel site has a small semi-rectangular stone-walled enclosure, which has been modified over the years. The enclosure is a little reminiscent of Congash close to Grantown on Spey, a much larger early Christian and Pictish site. The chapel would have been wood or drystone built, and given the size of the site, pretty small.





By the late 16<sup>th</sup> century (1580-90s) we get our first relatively accurate depiction of the area from Timothy Pont's maps of Strathspey and Abernethy. The larger of the relevant maps (the one sketched in illus 4), which has been drawn looking up the Spey rather than with north at the top, shows the two hills, one with Ruy Chaillach written in front and the other left blank. The blank hill judging from its location is probably meant to be the hill of Craiggowrie, though for some reason Pont has marked 'Kraigoway' on the wrong side of Ruy Chaillach. A house symbol is shown directly below the words Ruy Chaillach suggesting that Rychallich is in existence by this date. The 'Allt Tulloch' is labelled flowing past Rynerrich; perhaps this is the burn later referred to as Allt Mullach. Pont depicts several familiar settlements in the area with other house symbols and labels: Easter Tulloch, Wester Tulloch and just 'Tulloch' next to a cross symbol beside Easter Tulloch which is very likely referring to the Chapel at Chapeltown. The fact that Pont bothered to mark this building is a sign that the chapel or site of the chapel was still considered important by the locals of Tulloch. However, the chapel was probably abandoned as the reformation progressed. Ruynerrich (Rynerrich) and Ruymoir (Rymore) are also shown. Tree symbols suggest that the Abernethy Forest was approximately the same as it is today, though perhaps there were no trees around Chapeltown and Easter Tulloch.

The second map, a much more detailed one of the Abernethy drainage basin, unfortunately misses off our area, but does show Ruy Nerich (Rynerrich), Easter Rynerrich shown as Ruy Nerich, and Wester Rynerrich shown as 'Achaderganach'. To the E Ruy Nettin (Rynettin) is shown and further to the E, possibly along the Caochan Ruadh, two Schools.

Pont doesn't show all Tulloch settlements marked on the later OS maps, perhaps a sign that he missed a few settlements. However, it is much more likely that these settlements just didn't exist in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. These later farmsteads and crofts were thus were probably a result of the increases in population in the Highlands that occurred during the early 17<sup>th</sup> century and late 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, which seem to have reflected a change from meat and animal based diets, to ones that increasingly relied on oats.

Exactly how Rychallich would have looked in this period is difficult to gauge, but one would imagine that the houses would have been broadly similar to post-medieval pre-improvement type houses found elsewhere in the highlands. These are characteristically fairly narrow with low footings of turf and stone, of slightly imperfect rectangular plan and frequently having rounded corners. The basic building materials would have been the same as for later periods, ie heather thatch, wooden crucks and stone and turf footings. Agriculture in this period would have been less efficient than the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries with probably more emphasis on cattle rather than arable crops.

It is unclear if Rychallich in this period was centred around the knoll where the present buildings are located. The 1770s estate plan shows a number of houses away from this knoll, which raises the possibility that the central focus of Rychallich was elsewhere in earlier periods. Gradual migration of settlements in the highlands was common in the past - the product of having to continually construct buildings which had a short life span owing to the rapid degradation of natural materials of which they were made.

### **3.3 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries (illus 5, 6 and 7)**

Unfortunately, no relevant evidence was found for Rychallich in the 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, which is regrettable given the political upheavals and famines in this period. No doubt references to Rychallich do exist in the estate rentals but delving into this level of research was considered beyond the scope of this project.

In 1747-55 after Culloden, William Roy conducted a military survey of Scotland aimed at pinpointing all settlements on a map for the purposes of suppressing further potential rebellions. In remote rural areas, such as Strathspey, none of the houses depicted on his map are thought to have much accuracy with regards to actual number and position (in fact much of it was ‘finished off’ later from Edinburgh), so there should be a degree of caution when looking at this source. Many settlements at Tulloch are shown, with most named but several unnamed. Rychallich is marked as ‘Richailloch’ with an area of rig and furrow cultivation extending to the north in a circular shape, which is broadly where the fields lie on later plans. Rimor (Rymore), Rinirich (Rynerrich), Rinettan (Rynettin) and Tullich (Tulloch) are all shown, the latter as two groups of houses, presumably Mains of Tulloch and Easter Tulloch? Two settlements are shown as ‘Delivecck’ to the NE of the Tullochs which might possibly be Delbog, Inchdryne, Tonterrie, or Aundorach. However, it seems likely that Delivecck is a phonetic spelling of Deal Bheag, aka Delbog. Broadly speaking the map has a lot to be desired as settlements are only very roughly in their correct locations, and some are a long way out. The most noticeable error in relation to this study is the large distance between the Tullochs and Rychallich, which are in fact quite close together.

The densest part of the Abernethy Forest is shown to the N of Rynerrich and Rymore, with thinner trees shown extending up the hillside all the way to Rychallich. To what extent this is an accurate depiction of tree cover at this time is hard to say, but one would have thought tree lines across hilly topography could be sketched in with a fair amount of accuracy. If this tree cover is taken as broadly being accurate then the forest has spread southwards quite considerably since Roy’s survey, for example the hill between Rynettin and Rynerrich (Cairn Rynettin) is now completely covered in forest. Conversely however, the area around Rychallich has now become much more deforested, perhaps a result of the improvements to the surrounding land which occurred in latter part of the century.

In the years following the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, estates increasingly looked for ways of improving agricultural efficiency. Rychallich’s was no different, and in 1773 published a volume on the contents, measures and estimates of the parish of Abernethy; essentially this was the first accurate survey of Abernethy. Settlements were planned and field systems meticulously measured, including the sizes of arable fields, areas of woodland and pasture. We get our first detailed plan of Rychallich from this volume which calls the settlement Rea-Chylich and groups it along with Crofts of Tulloch, Tomnagowan and Mains of Tulloch. The site as a whole is shown as a roughly triangular area enclosed by a solid line, a convenient boundary line drawn round the Rychallich for the purposes of the volume rather than being an enclosure wall. We know this is the case as there are no such walls shown on the later OS map. This area is roughly bisected by the main channel of the Allt Ruigh Chaillich, with the E side of the boundary following the lesser eastern branch of the burn. Roughly speaking, the area is split into three zones, the north third marked as birchwood, a middle area depicted as arable with rigs running mostly NE-SW but occasionally NW-SE, and the S third

marked as green pasture. The arable land is demarcated by solid line, possibly wooden fences or dykes or turf and stone walls to keep the animals off the crops.

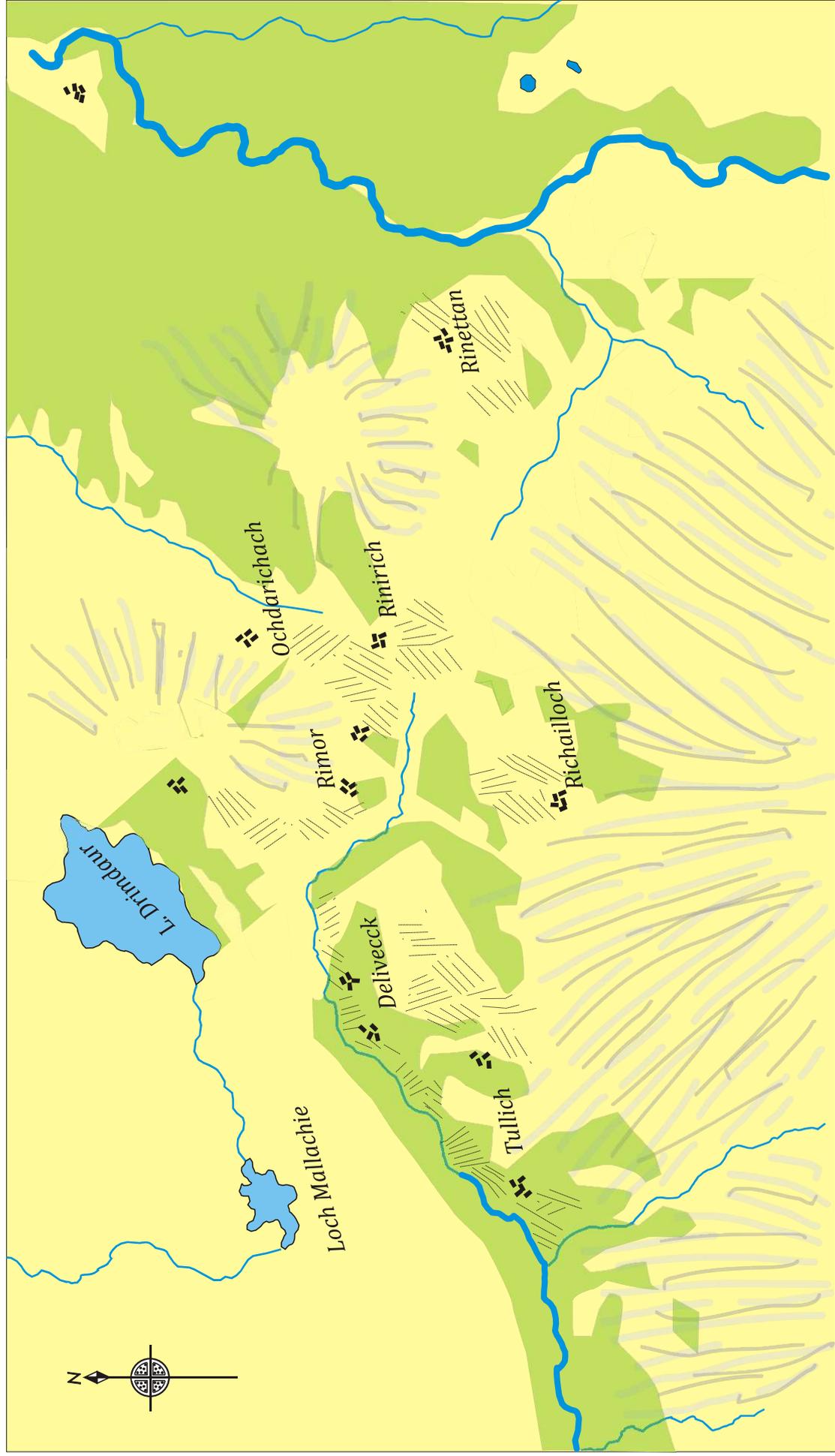
Five houses and a rectangular enclosure are marked where current buildings are located, just N of where the Allt Ruigh Chaillich branches. One of these houses, the L-shaped building, seems to be the structure surviving as footings that was recorded in the building survey. This structure, which has a possible fireplace and was roofed till the 1860s, may well have been a house rather than an agricultural building. If this is the case then it was probably occupied by James Grant and his son, who was murdered in 1772 on the hills behind Rychallich (see below). Another building to the N may be the footing remains found on the SE side of the current house. Outside the main boundary wall of the settlement along its SW side are a further 6 houses. Traces of these were discovered in the walkover survey, see walkover section sites *B3 and B5*. On the W side of the burn within the main boundary is a small rectangular enclosure within the area of green pasture. There are no roads or tracks shown on the plan so we can't be sure in this phase if the main access to Rychallich was via Easter Tulloch, along the current track running towards Chapelton or via Mains of Tulloch. However, there are hints from the later OS map of abandoned roads running from Crofts of Tulloch near Mains of Tulloch up to Rychallich so this may have been the original means of access.



*Footings Building 2, depicted on the 1773 Estate Plan, possibly inhabited by James Grant and his son John who was murdered in 1772*

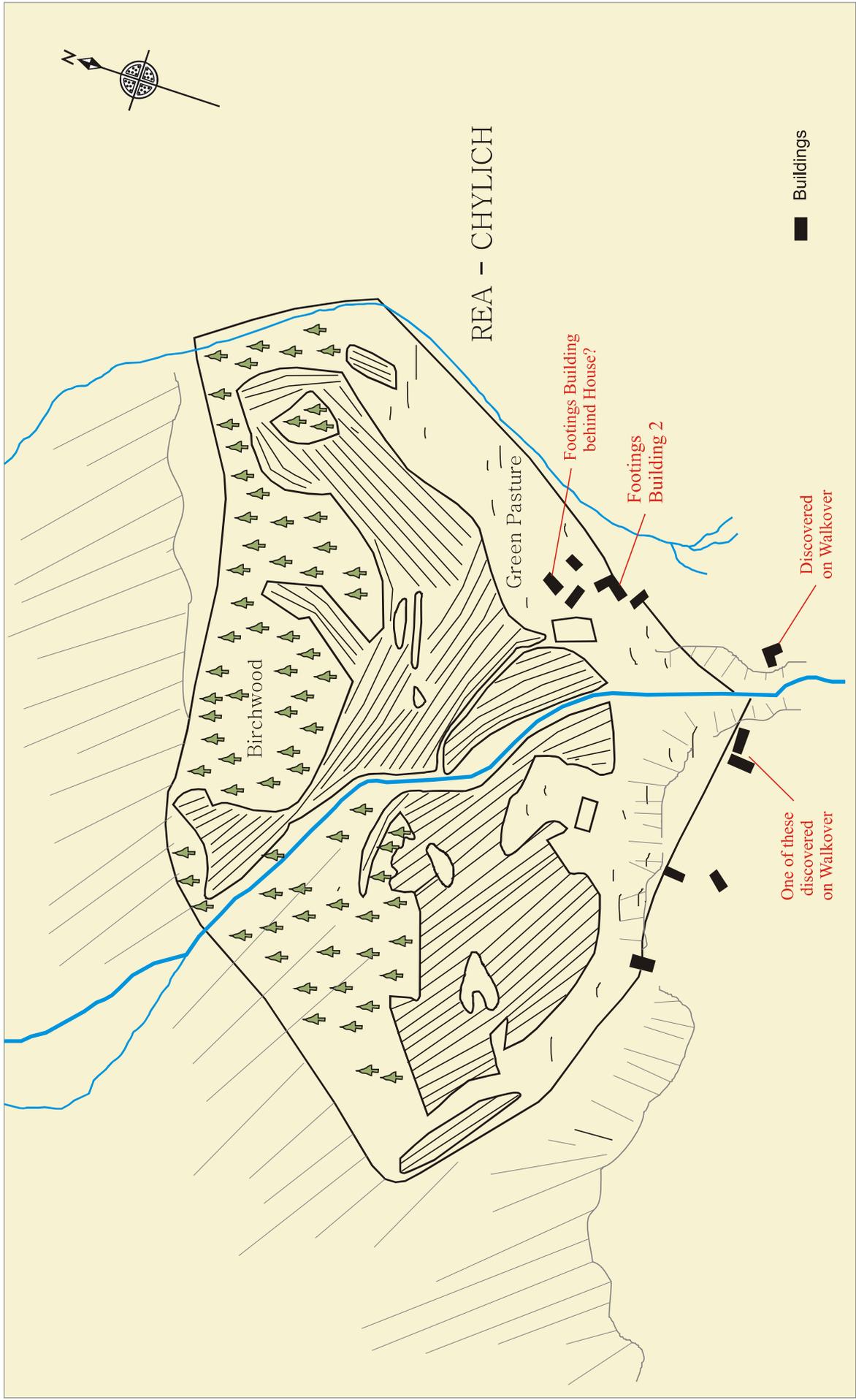
Illus 5

Sketch of Roy's Map



Sketch of the 1773 Estate Plan showing buildings discovered during Building Recording and Walkover

Illus 6



### *The Murder of John Grant (illus 7)*

The drawing up of this estate plan took place just after one of the most important local historical events to have taken place in Tulloch, the murder in 1772 of John Grant who lived in Rychallich. This event, though tragic for the family involved at the time, is essentially an advantage for those of us documenting the history of a site, as detailed written accounts of events surrounding his death have survived in the Seafield Estate papers deposited in the National Archives of Scotland. Essentially we get real eye-witness accounts from the people who lived in Tulloch in 1772, which is fascinating given the dry nature of many of our other sources. I offer here a brief outline of events based on the witness statements; for those who are interested, transcriptions of the records relating to the murder can be found lodged with Explore Abernethy.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> May 1772, James Grant (farmer at Rychallich), his son John, Janet Grant (a relation?) and James's servant Mary Grant, were outside spreading a dunghill, when they noticed James's sheep were being scattered by dogs a roughly a quarter of a mile away above Rychallich. Following this observation John Grant went to investigate. An hour later, after John failed to return, Janet went to look for him across the hill. On reaching a building located on an improvement (an improved area of ground) belonging to Donald Cumming of Easter Tulloch, she found two of Donald's sons, James and William Cumming, standing over the body of John Grant, and nearby Mary Grant a young shepherdess belonging to Donald Cumming. She observed that there was a wound on John's thigh which had been dressed with two cotton napkins and a leather apron, one that was normally worn by James Cumming. Soon after, she ran back to tell James Grant, who sent a woman called Marjory Meildrum, to inform all the neighbours. A party consisting of Duncan Frazer of Culndoirre (probably Doir), his wife Elizabeth McGregor, their son, and William and James Grant, tenants of Easter Tulloch then went to bring the body back to Rychallich. On reaching the corpse, Duncan noticed that the wound had the appearance of a gunshot and confirmed that the apron wrapped around the wound belonged to James Cummings.

The Cumming brothers, James and William seem to have panicked after being seen with the corpse. Witnesses observed them running in various parts of Abernethy over the next 12 hours. William Grant of Rynettin, a widower of 70, noted how John Grant was running through the Abernethy forest with great speed, and on enquiring as to why, William Cumming telling him he was in search of a local Captain, presumably to give a proper account of events. Another witness at Culnakyle was approached by the brothers who confessed to him that it was their third brother, John Cumming, who had killed their neighbour's son and that they were worried that they could be brought in as accessories to his murder. He advised that they should go home if they were innocent.

Subsequently the brothers appear to have spent the night away, but returned home to Easter Tulloch in the morning where they had breakfast and stocked up on supplies, before going to hide in Abernethy Forest. Early on the same day, a local group, by order of the Castle Grant administration, set off to try to catch the brothers. This included James's Grant of Easter Tulloch, Alexander Frazer from Cottartown of Culnakyle and Alexander Grant of Rothiemoon. Some distance below Easter Tulloch, the two brothers were discovered by the group hiding in a Moss near the corner of Abernethy forest. Rather than apprehending them straight away, the group watched them for a while. They soon observed Donald Cumming their father coming to meet them and exchanging their plaids from blue to green coloured ones. This act seems to

have been their fathers attempt at keeping them from being found a little longer. On seeing this the group sent for further reinforcements, notably Allan and Lewis Grant of Wester Tulloch and Duncan Smith of Easter Tulloch, and then the men set about capturing the brothers. James and William tried to escape 'by speed of foot' but they were soon caught; several witnesses explained that their pockets were found to be well stuffed with bread and cheese.

After their capture, arrangements were made by the Castle Grant administration to conduct a hearing to decide if the two brothers should be charged with the murder. This was held in Grantown on Spey, (which was at that time barely 8 years old) in front of 3 local justices of the peace which included James Grant of Mullochard and James Grant of Ballintomb, with witnesses coming forward and having their statements written down under oath (presumably some translated from Gaelic). After the 12 witness statements were taken, and without the brothers being able to say a formal word, a decision was reached. Their suspected guilt seems to have largely hinged upon James's apron, which was found on the victim. James Grant of Mulloch read out the following:

*...having considered the foregoing petition exhibited by James Grant farmer at Rothymoon at the instance of James Grant farmer in Rychallich of Tulloch (do) find the defence questionable (and) do humbly again authorise and command Peter Grant and all other constables and officers of the law forthwith to carry and incarcerate them the said William and James Cumming sons to Donald Cummings farmer at Easter Tulloch in the prison of Inverness for the crime of murder of which they stand implicated and suspected guilty.....*

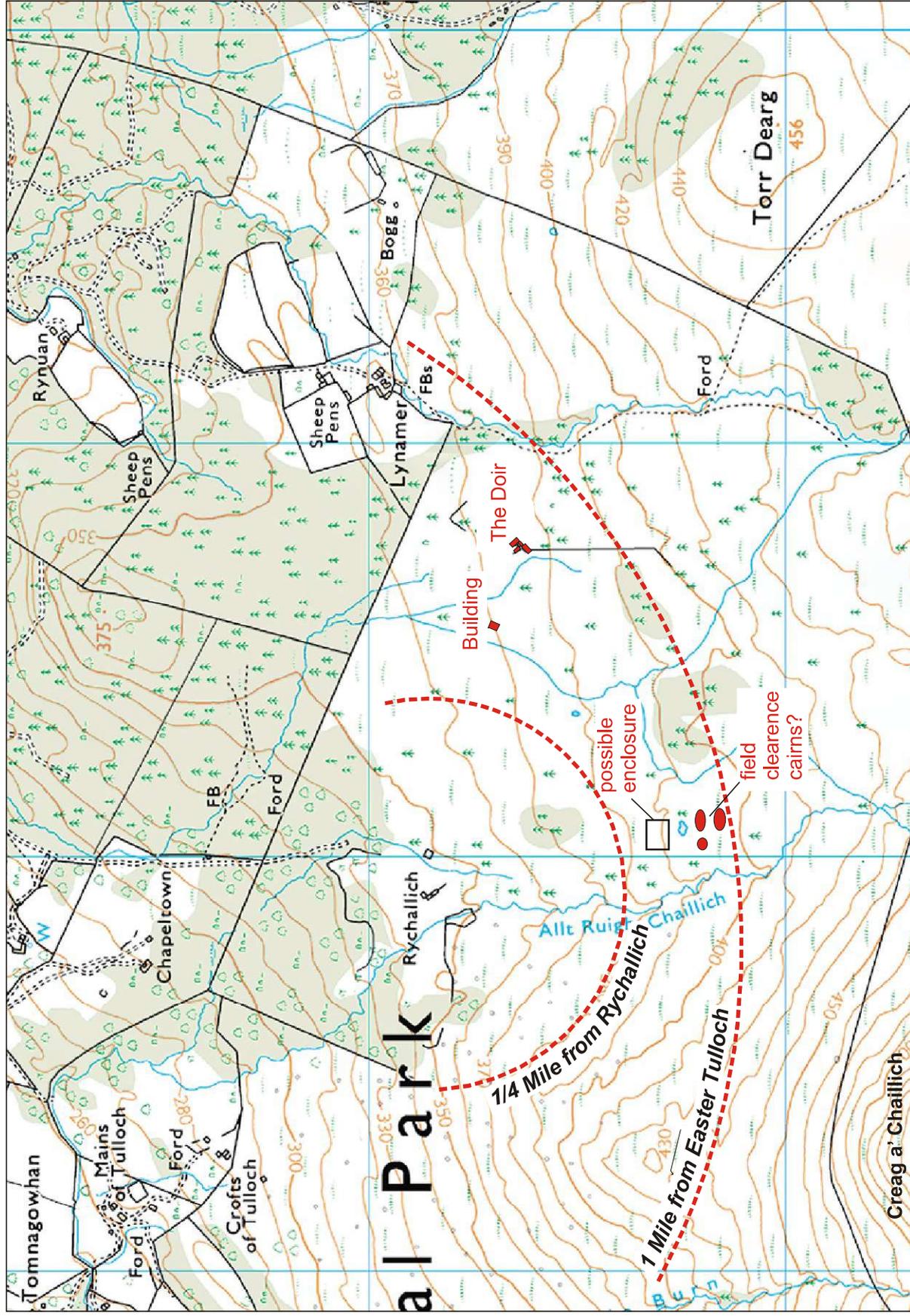
In the month following the brother's incarceration in Inverness, it is clear from correspondence the Castle Grant administration, that a more thorough look into the affair was needed to proceed with formal prosecution. There is a letter written by James Ludovic Grant (presumably 'Good' James Grant, son of Ludovic Grant) which stresses how important it was to find out if anyone had heard a gun shot at the time of the murder, to find out what the brothers said directly afterwards, and to obtain statements from the young shepherdess, Mary Grant, belonging to Donald Cumming. This eventually led to a second round of witness statements and exposure of what had truly happened that day.

The crucial witness turned out to be young Mary who was aged 13. She described how when herding sheep up on the improvement behind Rychallich on the day of the murder, she saw John Cumming, William and James's other brother, and John Grant of Rychallich 'buckle, grapple and engage for a time', then part. She then followed her sheep for about a quarter of a mile, eventually into a small gully where she lost sight of the brothers, but heard a gun shot. On reaching a bothy, she found John of Rychallich lying motionless on the ground, then became afraid and ran towards home. Captain Lodovick Grant of Gellochy, another witness, was able to fill in the details of what happened, as William Cumming had informed him of what John Cumming had told the family immediately after the murder. It is clear that the physical engagement witnessed above was caused by a quarrel between the two men, presumably about the sheep scattered by dogs we assume belonged to John Cumming. John Grant of Rychallich apparently won the initial scuffle apparently 'owing to his superior strength'. As they then they departed John Cumming 'made use of some irritating expressions' (probably involving swearing?) upon which John of Rychallich came towards him again to give

him a second beating. John Cumming, who had taken with him a pistol, used by his family for dispatching horses, held his ground and pointed the weapon at his adversary. First he made a threat with it, and then actually fired it, the gun possibly having been pre-loaded. John of Rychallich seems to have died fairly quickly, from blood loss. Afterwards John Cumming ran back to Easter Tulloch and related the events to his family, where upon his two brothers, William and James went to the scene to see if they could offer the victim any help. Though John of Rychallich seems to have been quite dead, the brothers appear to have tried to bandage the wound, and in the process, were witnessed by Janet of Rychallich.

What happened to John Cumming remains a mystery; he was apparently never caught after he ran away, though a warrant was put about for his arrest. He was described as 30 years of age, about 5ft 5 inches high with fair hair of ordinary length to the eyes, and a cut on his face. The other brothers, after a nearly a month and a half in Inverness prison were eventually released.

For the purposes of the current study, it would be interesting to have a rough idea where the murder took place. We know from witness statements that the murder occurred next to a bothy which was located next to an improvement owned by Donald Cumming of Easter Tulloch. The event is described as taking place about a quarter of a mile above Rychallich and about a mile from Easter Tulloch. From this we can draw a zone across the hill slopes in which the murder probably took place, see illus 7. Looking from aerial photography there are two likely candidates: The Doir, a settlement which at that time may have been nothing more than an improvement, lying at 375m above sea level to the E of Rychallich, with a small building to the W, and a higher site SE of Rychallich. This second candidate is a flattish area of ground with what appear to be clearance cairns and a possible enclosure nearby lying at 391m above sea level. Though unconfirmed in the field, existence of remains at this latter site has been made known to the author by current crofter Bob Moncrieff of Chapeltown. The description of the site as being above Rychallich gives slightly more weight to this site than the Doir and it would have been much more visible from Rychallich. Further research and mapping however is needed to verify this site as a possible candidate.



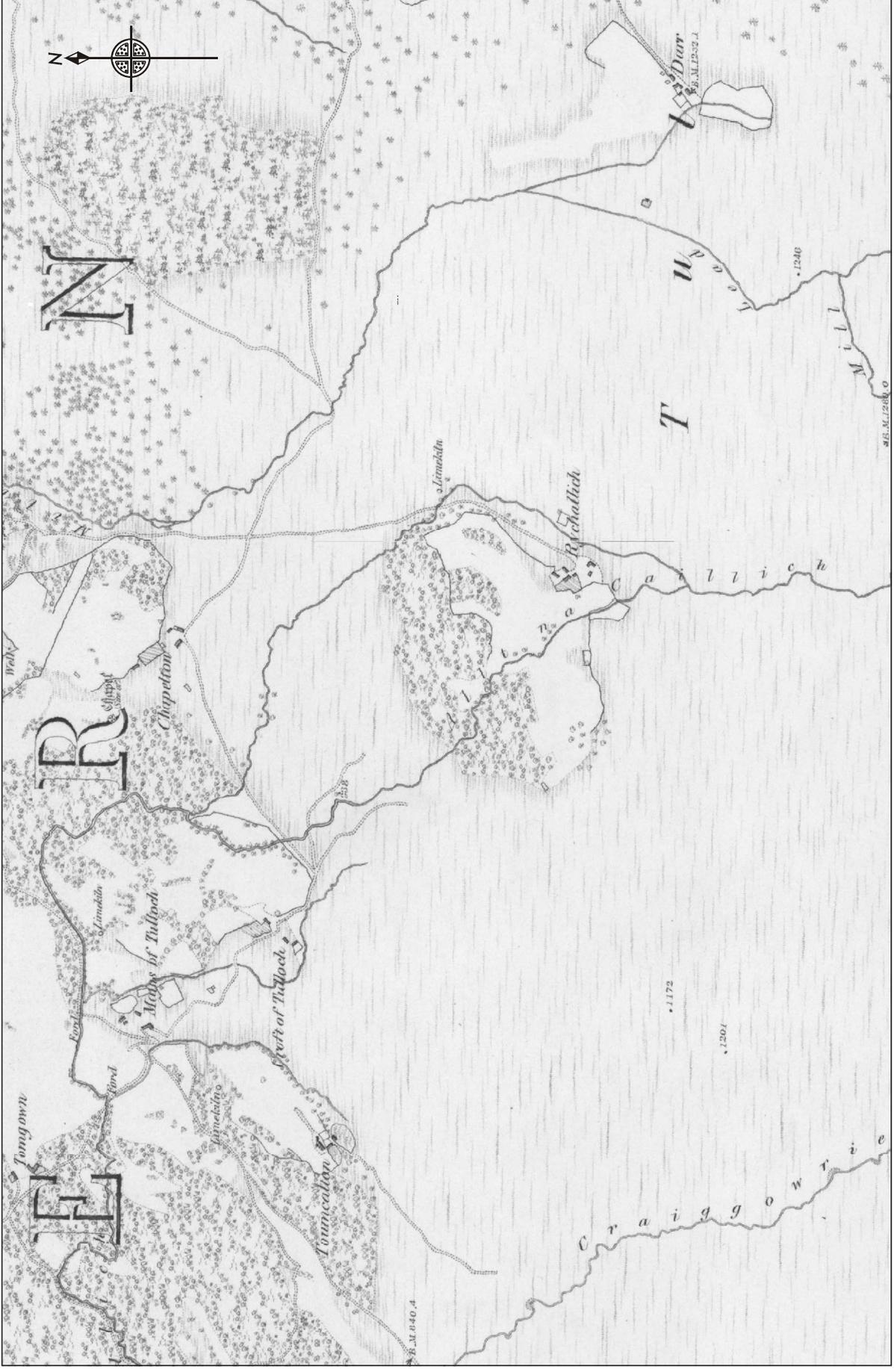
### **3.4 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (illus 8 and 9)**

During the 19th century we can draw upon two important statistical sources for Rychallich, the national census, and slightly later the valuation rolls. The first census in 1841 shows that Rychallich was no longer farmed by Grants, but instead, by Frazers. Ann Frazer, who was then 65 years old seems to have been head of the household, and was living there with James, Thomas and Ann, presumably her offspring. The household also had a young male servant of 10, William Gordon. By the 1850s, Ann had either moved away or had died, as James is now listed as head of the household. His new role as head possibly coincided with an expansion or reorganisation of Rychallich, as James' other brother and sister, Elspeth and George are now listed as living here along with his niece, Betsy Stuart and her son. The building survey identified that James Frazer probably constructed a new building at this time (see 1840s building in building survey). Its construction may have been the first fully stone walled structure to be built at Rychallich, and probably reflects the ongoing agricultural improvements and desires of the estate for building stock of much higher and more permanent quality. The Frazers continued to farm Rychallich till the 1860s, a period when the first Ordnance Survey maps were created and we get our first metrically accurate plan of Tulloch.

Rychallich is shown essentially the same as it is in the earlier 18<sup>th</sup> century plan though there are some subtle differences. Only the core group of buildings on the knoll are shown. There are six buildings shown, three of them were recorded during the building survey, the 1840s building and the two footings buildings. It is interesting that the L-shaped building is still shown as roofed, as this structure must have been nearly 100 years old by the 1860s; it must have been well maintained over the years, perhaps reflecting its importance, possibly as a house rather than another form of agricultural building. To the W of the 1840s building is an enclosure marked as a garden, which was probably a kale yard. The other three buildings have since been demolished, probably when the current house was constructed in the 1880s-90s. On the E side of Rychallich is a new square enclosure, site B1 from the walkover, probably a garden area. At the far western corner of the site is a rectangular enclosure or unroofed building. This structure still exists, but was not recorded during the walkover survey due to the deterioration in the weather; its intended function remains unknown, but it was deliberately constructed away from the main settlement. Unlike the 18<sup>th</sup> century plan, there is no distinction on the map between rough ground and improved pasture, which makes Rychallich look slightly smaller. Cultivated areas however, are shown as roughly the same - the area on the E side of the Allt Ruigh Chaillich being surrounded by a wall including one to the N separating it from the birch wood. The arable land to the W only seems to have been enclosed by a wall running hillside to the S.

Illus 8

The 1st edition 6 inch OS map, surveyed 1867-9, published 1874



The main access to the settlement is shown as a road running around cultivated ground and entering the knoll from the NE; it ran northwards, across a ford and onwards past Easter Tulloch. This road was to be the main access to the settlement till it was abandoned in the 1950s. Interestingly the walkover survey failed to identify this road, largely because the ground on this side of the site has since become very boggy. Two other abandoned tracks are shown on the map running up from Crofts of Tulloch. It seems possible that these could have been main routes for accessing Rychallich in earlier periods.

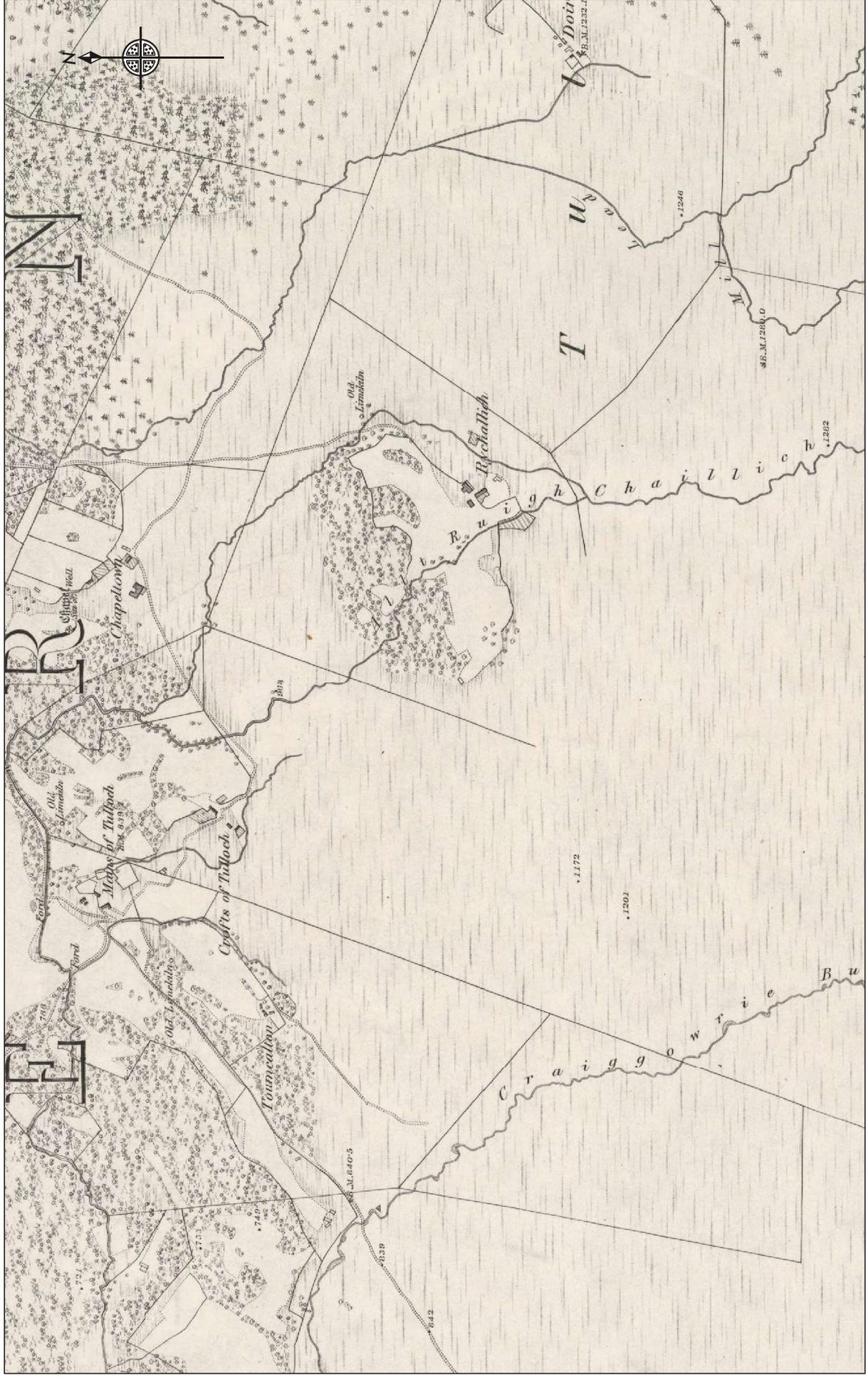
The limekiln shown to the N of Rychallich along the road is a sign of the agricultural improvements that had been taking over the last 100 years. Construction of buildings by the 19<sup>th</sup> century would have been with lime mortar, including James Frazer's 1849 building. Lime was also used for spreading on pasture to encourage good growth of grass, as well as improving the soil on cultivated areas, increasing yields. As far as the author knows, no sources of limestone have been identified in Tulloch, so it seems that the raw product was carted in from elsewhere and burnt on site. Limestone quarries are known at Slibhchlach near the road to Tomintoul, Laggan Hill at Dulnain Bridge and at Ord Bain, Loch An Eilein. Any of these places may have supplied Tulloch with limestone.

In the 1870s, Rychallich was occupied by a new family, the McQueens. John McQueen along his three sons and daughter - Alexander, James, John and Ann moved here from Blair Atholl for reasons unknown, but probably to do with his wife Ann's connection with the area (she is listed as coming from Abernethy and Kincardine). During the 1880s and the 1890s the two eldest sons left home. In the valuation rolls, Rychallich seems to have been merged with the Doir in 1880-81, which seems to be a result of all the able bodied people there having left or died. In the 1860s, nine people were listed at the settlement in three households, but within 10 years there were only two people left, Margaret Stuart, (aunt to the former head of one of the families at the Doir who had left) and Jessie McPherson, a young herd girl and servant aged 12. By 1881, only Margaret Stuart is listed, presumably living on her own. By the following census the Doir is uninhabited. We don't know when Margaret left or died, but the valuation rolls for 1880-81 show Rychallich and the Doir as being valued together, suggesting the settlement was perhaps unoccupied as early as 1881.

Around this time John seems to have persuaded the estate to invest in new buildings and housing, or perhaps Seafield Estate was upgrading all the farms in the area. Anyhow, a new barn was constructed in 1885 (see Building Recording: 1880s building), and soon afterwards a new house (see Building Recording: house). While it remains possible that the McQueens tried to make use of the Doir for a while after 1881, it's unlikely they used the land for anything other than grazing. We know this because by the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map (c. 1903), land at the Doir is shown as uncultivated. By this time John's wife Ann had passed away, but he still lived with Ann their daughter and John their son, 'Shockan' as he was known locally. The OS map from 1903 shows that the current house had been built by this point along with the small square building identified on the building survey, probably a washhouse. The enclosure on the W side of the burn is shown as a garden as is the square enclosure to the E of the house, but the rectangular one to the far W is no longer shown. Interestingly, the 1880s building is not shown for some reason, though it clearly must have existed.

Illus 9

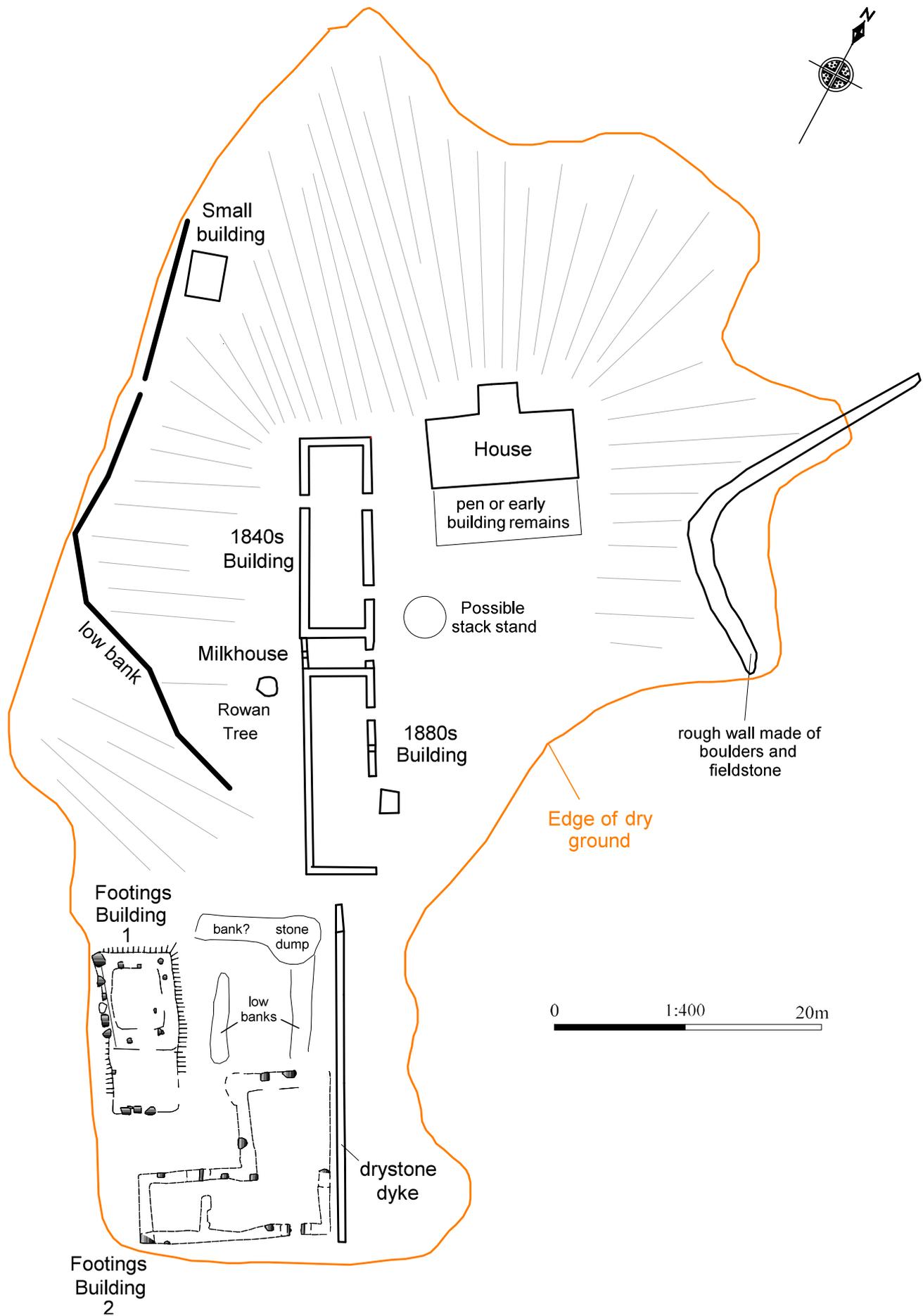
The 2nd edition 6 inch OS map, revised 1900, published 1903



Shockan took over as head of Rychallich by 1911 after his father died. On the census from that date, he and his sister Ann appear to be living there with a young teenage servant called William McGregor. A visitor, Annie Cameron is also shown. One wonders how many visitors they had in their household over the course of a year, as Shockan has gone down in local Tulloch history as being famous for his lively ceilidhs. Marina Dennis, the current crofter at Tulloch, was informed that during the 1920's and 30s, when Shockan must have been in his 50s and 60s, Shokin, an avid fiddle player frequently invited the many Tulloch folk to evenings entertainments which were apparently very merry indeed. When Shockan finally gave up crofting at Tulloch there was apparently one last lively event, an equipment sale prior to him moving out to Tigh Ban. This must have been some time around 1932-33, as this is the last time the valuation rolls record Shockan living at Rychallich. Marina, recalled someone buying a spinning wheel in the sale, which they took back down to the Aundoroch area on a bicycle. Apparently, they had an accident en route and smashed the whole thing to pieces.

In 1933 John Rattray took over Rychallich, but he doesn't seem to have been a permanent resident of the settlement as he farmed at Lynamer. He probably just used the land for grazing and hay production. During this period it seems that the main house suffered a period of dilapidation, perhaps the reason why later users of the building re-panelled the walls in the NE room. By the 1950s or 60s the site was taken over by Gordonstoun School as a bothy or camp from which to carry out excursions into the Cairngorms. It's easy to imagine the dry knoll surrounded by A-frame tents occupied by school children. During this period the previously cultivated land silted up and soon became waterlogged through lack of maintaining drainage. The house itself seems to have been rejuvenated as the focus of the camp, probably with teachers sleeping and cooking there.

During the late 1970s, Gordonstoun abandoned Rychallich. The house seems then to have become a hill walkers' bothy for a while as the site is well located for access to the hills of Craiggowrie and Creag a' Chaillich. Walkers could then proceed down the ridge to Ryvoan and onwards towards the Cairngorms. Unfortunately, during this final occupation, the house's panelling was heavily stripped for firewood, and eventually the fireplaces stolen.



## **4 Results of Building Survey**

### **4.1 Detailed Description of Buildings/Features**

#### *4.1.1 House*

##### **Exterior (illus 11 & 12)**

Most external faces of walls are composed from angular/sub-angular/sub-rounded blocks of whinstone of a variety of sizes, the larger ones having been roughly shaped with flat outer faces. Many of the stones, particularly the smaller more rounded ones, may be from field clearance or possibly collected from the nearby burn channel. Larger blocks have been used more extensively in the front elevations and high up in the gable walls. The wall has been constructed to roughly level beds with smaller stones occasionally positioned in between the large blocks as ladder pinning. The stones of the wall are bonded with a creamy white lime mortar and the outer gaps between the stones on the outer face has been heavily pointed to create a roughly flat surface with outer faces of large blocks just showing. This would have acted as a kind of harling and would have given protection to the stonework. Where water damage has occurred at the SW gable and the NE end of the SE wall, the wall structure has been revealed as the lime rendering has washed away.

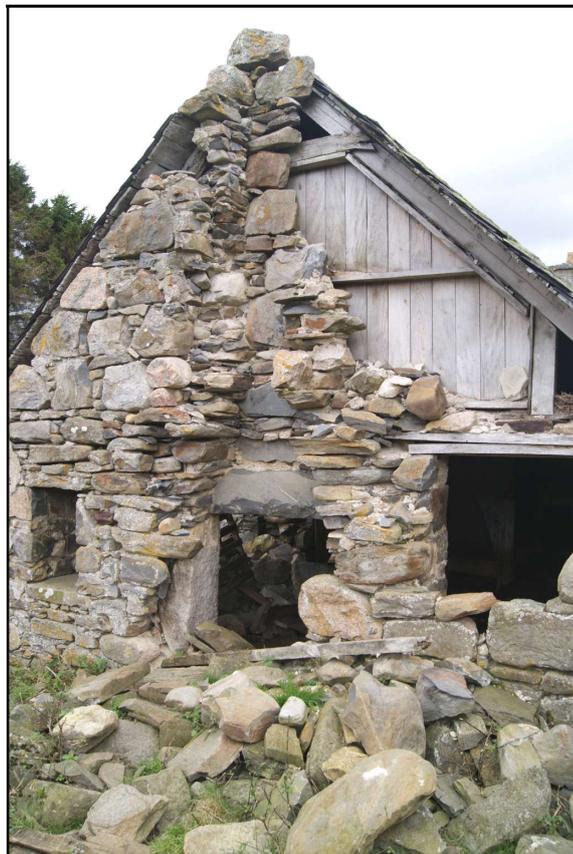
Corner stones and some of the blocks in the main face of the front elevation are formed from roughly squared granite (showing bolster marks) and whinstone blocks. The granite blocks are more extensively used on the front elevation where they would look attractive. This is also the case for window and door reveals, granite having been used on the front elevation, and whinstone on the back and SW gable wall. Sills and lintels however, seem to have been chosen to contrast with the light granite and are generally formed from coarsely shaped darker whinstone.



*General shot of the front elevation*

The roof is of blue slate which is quite thick and undoubtedly Scottish. Slates are of uniform size, a sign that the building is from the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The slates would have been transported into Strathspey on the railway, possibly from slate quarries at Dunkeld. The roof ridge is formed from light orange ceramic roof tiles and flashing for the roof is galvanised sheet steel (tin). The roofing materials as well as the wall construction of the porch and the main building are the same, suggesting that the porch was not a later addition but was part of the original design. There are three cast iron skylights, each with two panes, two on the front NW pitch of the roof and one on the rear (SE). The front two have been left open presumably to maximise airflow and keep the house dry and prevent rot, but this has also resulted in the floorboards inside rotting due to rain. Most gutters have been removed or have fallen off, though a small length survives below the small window in the porch.

As may be obvious from the various photos, the house is in the process of decay and collapse. This seems to have started with the outside of the SW gable wall falling away which has nicely revealed the structure of the chimney. Presumably the damage started with water percolating down the chimney washing out the lime mortar in the gable wall.



*Shot looking at the collapsed SW gable*

The recess next to the fireplace would have been an area of weakness as the wall here is thin; this may be why the gable wall has collapsed to a greater extent on this side. The other area of collapse is at the foot of the valley between the SW wall of the porch and the main house. Here the entire wall NE of the window has collapsed leaving the floor joists of the upper floor exposed and the window lintel unsupported on one side overhanging the ground. Again as with the SW gable, it is probably water damage

from the failing gutters that has caused the lime bonding in the wall here to wash out, and one can imagine that the volume of water running off the roof valley in this area must be quite considerable. Perhaps the only reason why similar collapse has not occurred on the other side of the porch is because the gutter there is still intact.

From study of the outside elevations it is clear where the next major collapse will occur. This will be around the S corner, where large cracks can be seen running vertically up the NE gable wall to the SE of the chimney. Just like the other gable this area of weakness seems to be due to the building of an internal cupboard recess here, which made the wall thin and easily damaged by water incursion. There is also another weak spot adjacent to this cupboard in the SE wall where water runs down the roof from the SW side of the chimney, and has completely washed away the lime bonding of the wall. These two weaknesses mean that the corner will soon fall away, providing sheep with yet further access to their favourite shelter.

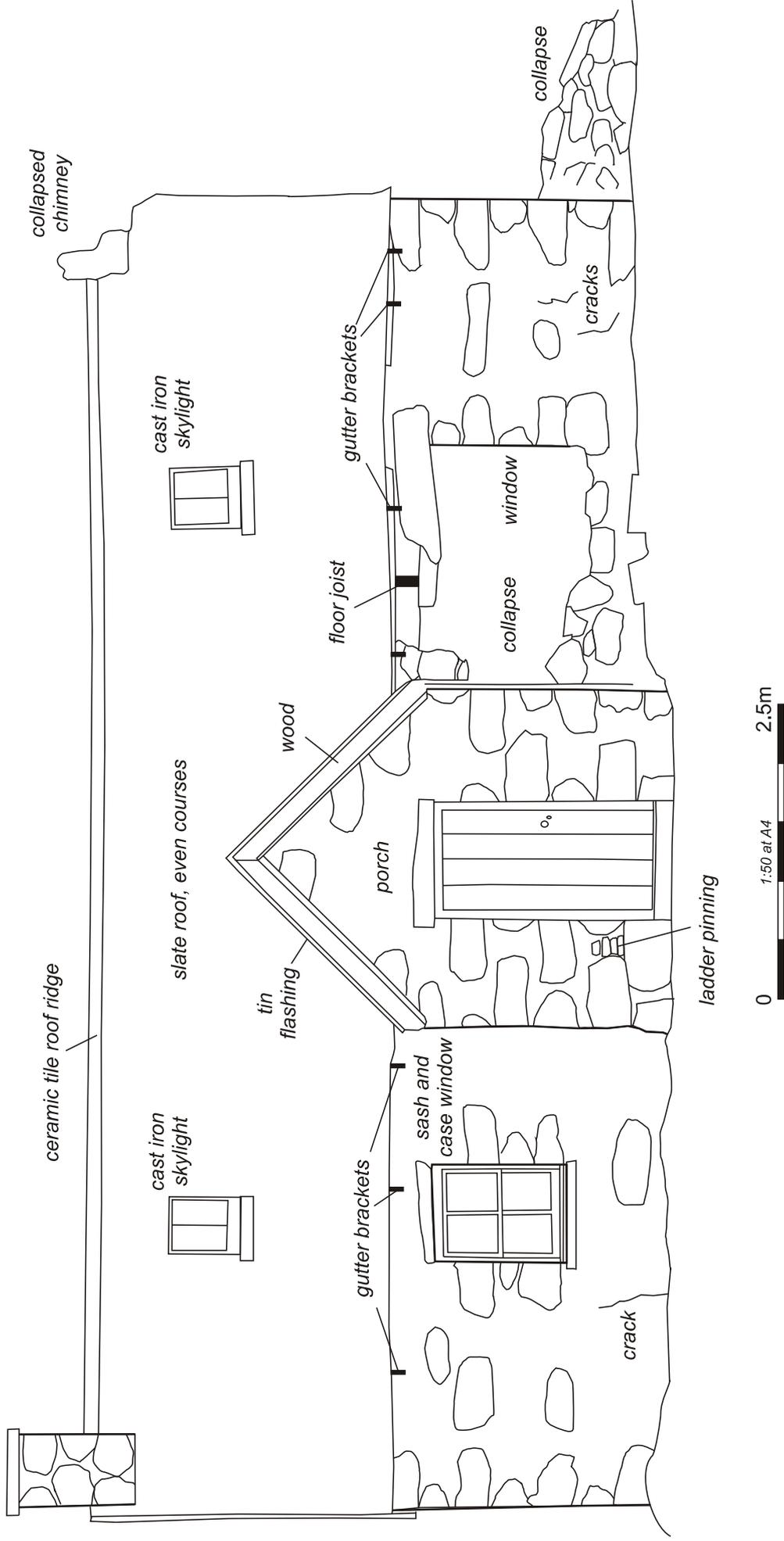


*The SE wall showing the S corner which will soon collapse*

Running along the SE side of the house is a roughly flat rectangular platform bounded by a low wall, just visible as stone and turf footings broken by a possible entrance. This was interpreted during the survey as marking the former location of a simple pen built next to the house. However, subsequent research analysing the 1773 estate plan suggests it may in fact mark an early building. Unfortunately a comprehensive record of the structure was not made.

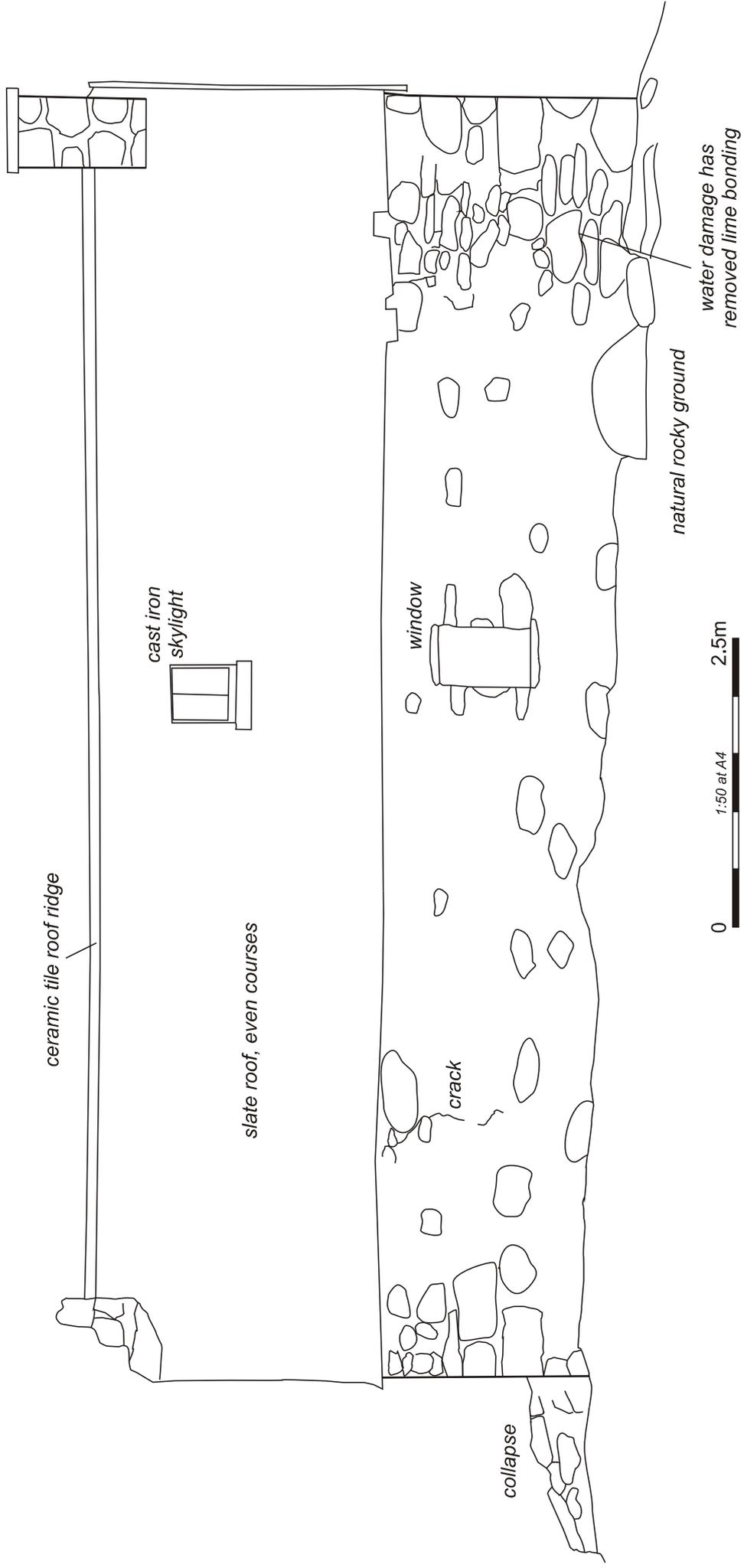
Illus 11a

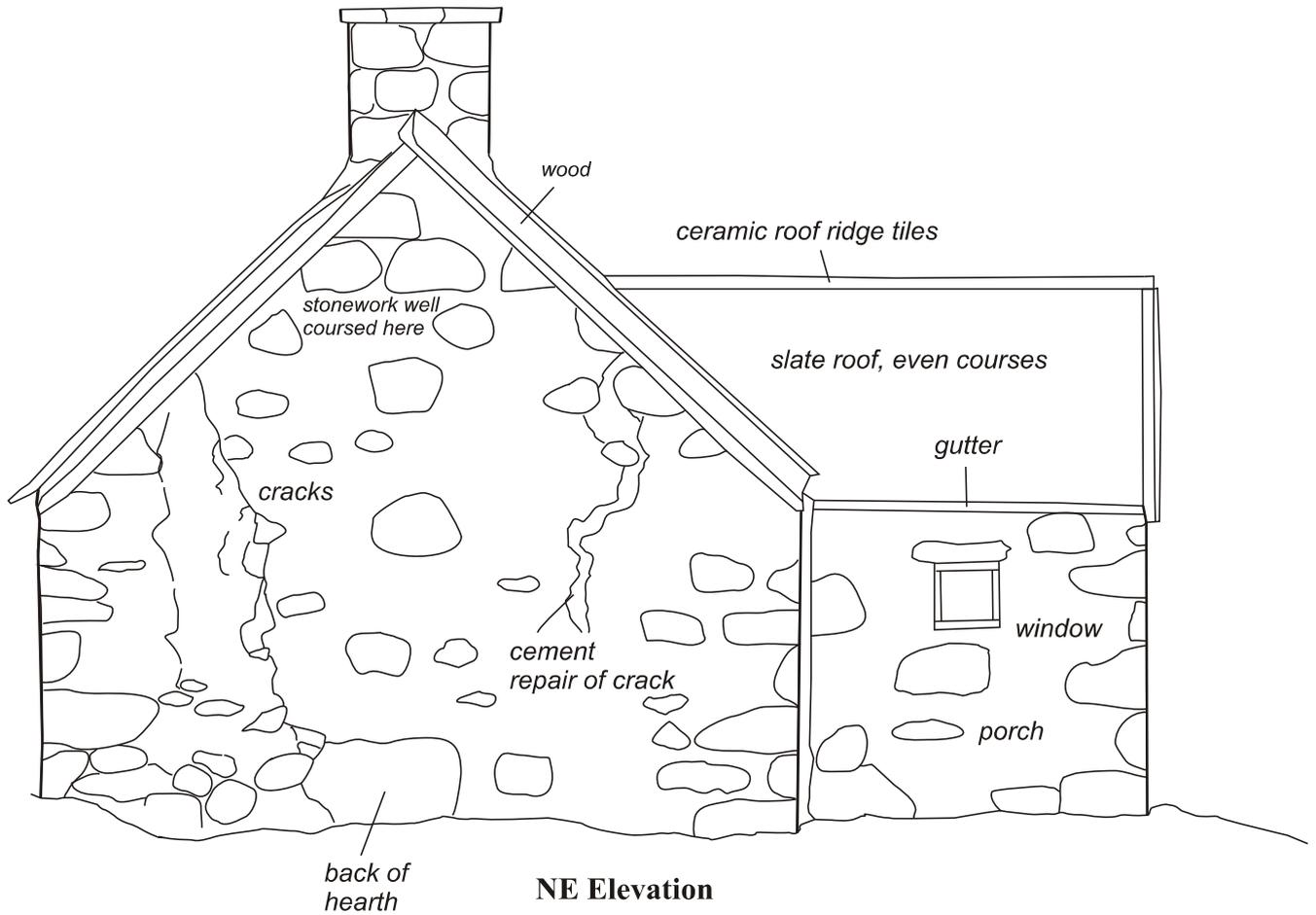
NW Elevation of House



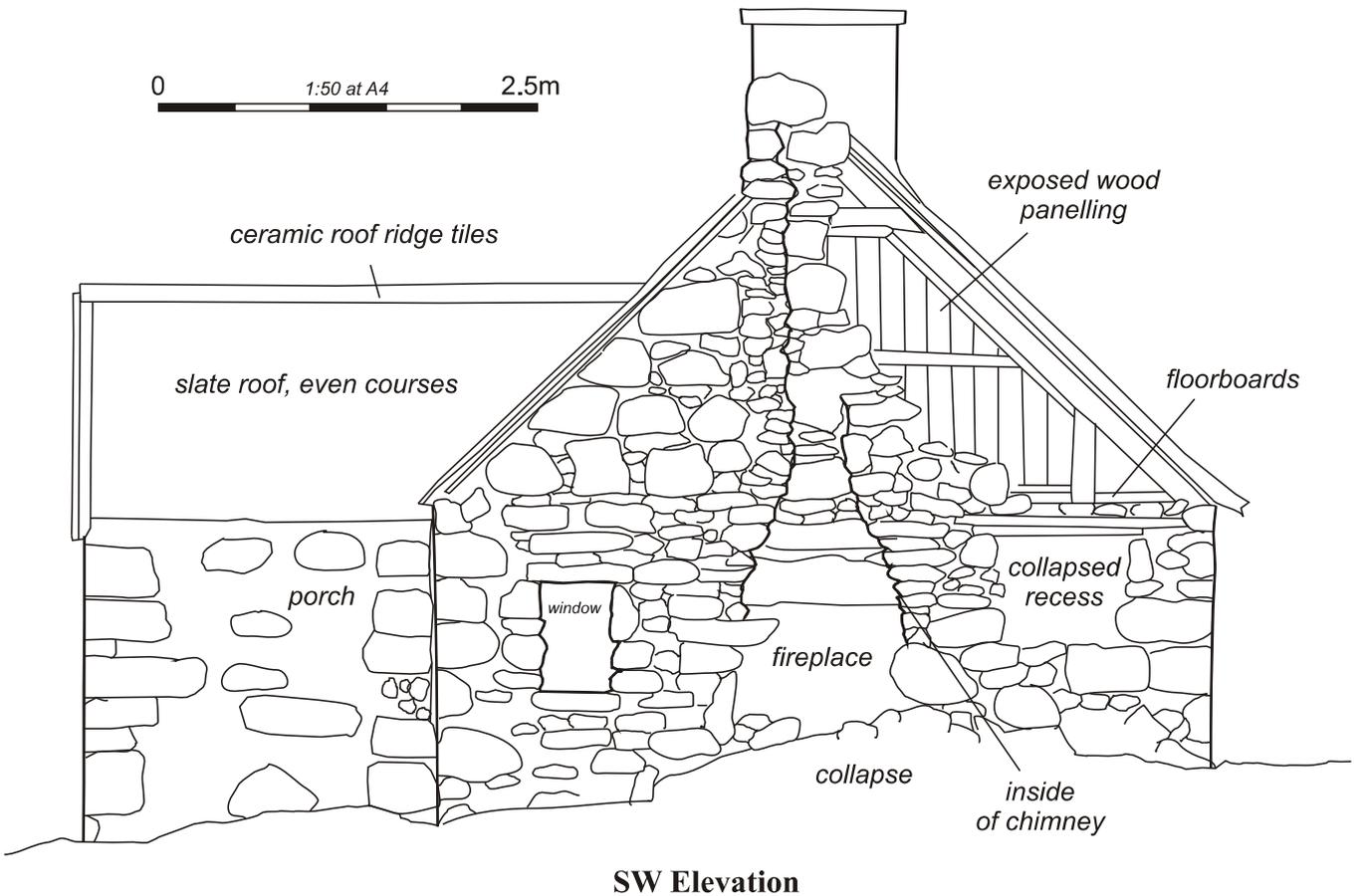
Illus 11b

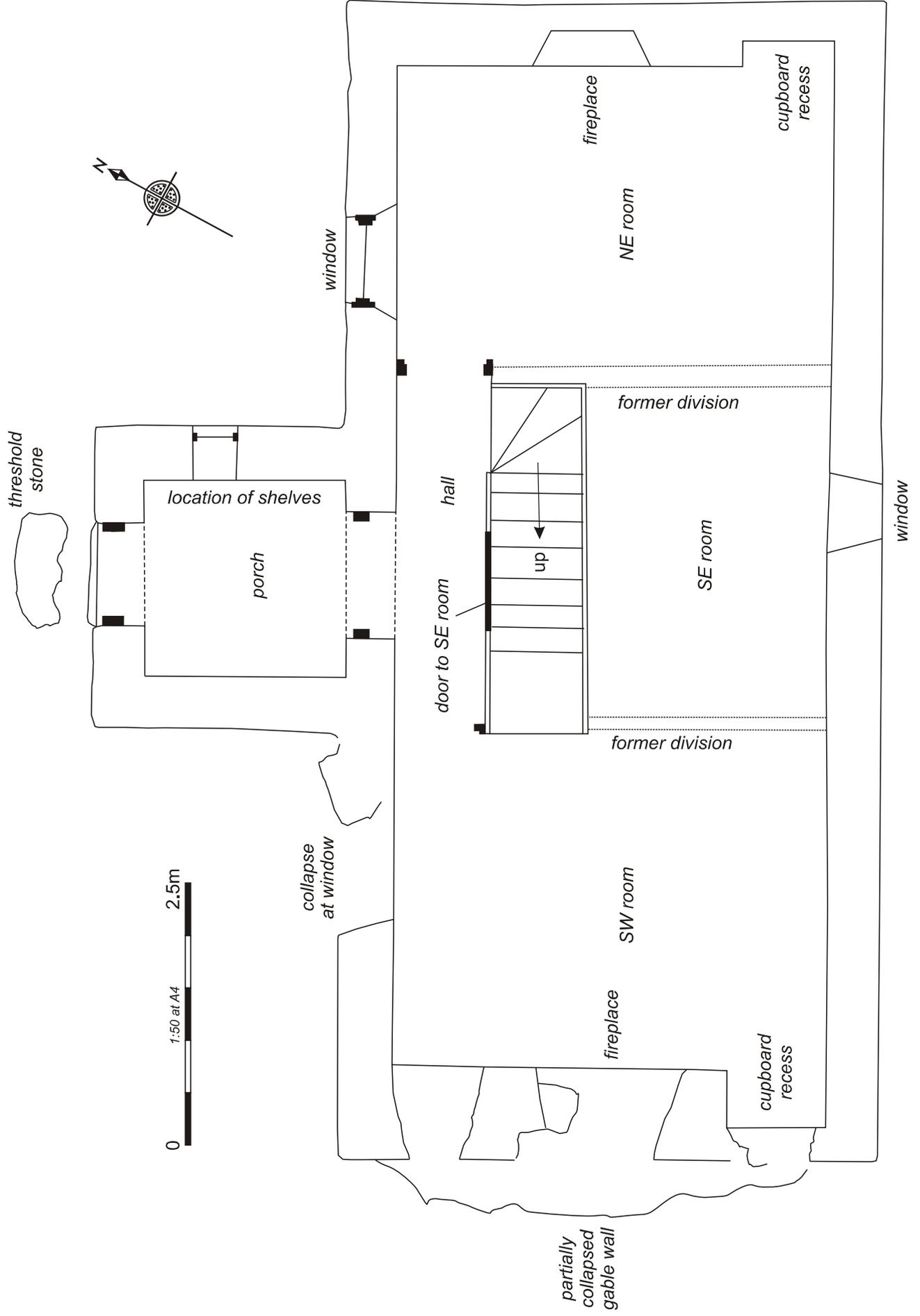
SE Elevation of House





0 1:50 at A4 2.5m





### **Interior (illus 13)**

Sheep have been sheltering in the house for a number of years since the chimney space in the SW wall collapsed. This has resulted in the panelling throughout the ground floor having been rubbed clean of paint and dirtied up to sheep height. It also meant that the floor was covered in dung which obscured all floor surfaces on the ground floor. Pieces of furniture, panelling and fittings occasionally protrude through the dung though no attempt was made to closely study this material.

### **Porch**

The walls and ceiling are covered in beaded pine panelling, at one time varnished and later painted light blue. The panelling is falling away on SW side exposing the rails which it is nailed to. The rails themselves are either nailed to short horizontal wooden planks cemented into the porch walls, or possibly dooks. In the recess on the NE side of the doorway short horizontal planks have been nailed to the panelling low down. These probably once supported shelves, in fact the two loose wooden planks lying on the floor below may have been these actual shelves.



*The Porch*

There seem to have been several phases of shelving here as horizontal grooves can be seen above the planks in the varnish. These changes probably reflect the changing use of the building over the 20<sup>th</sup> century; one can imagine for instance the need for a new boot storage shelving when the property was used as a bothy. The shelving was well placed on this side as it was lit from the small window above. There is no such trace of shelving on the SW side which is perhaps not surprising as a person would have cast a shadow over this side of the room making it harder to see anything on a shelf. The main front door is made of pine with 4 stiles and 3 rails hinged on the NE side. On the opposite side is a wooden sliding bolt mechanism and below a metal lock has been fitted. Between the porch and the hall is a pine door which would have prevented heat escaping from the main house and perhaps reduced draughts coming from the front door.

## **Hall**

The hall is essentially a very small space next to the porch which provided access to the SW room on one side and the NE room/staircase on the other. The external walls are plastered and show traces of white paint (white walls would have been important in a space such as this which has no lighting of its own). However, these walls were later panelled as can be seen by surviving beaded pine panelling on the SW side and dooks in wall to the NE. Presumably the panelling on the NE side was taken down and burnt as firewood when the house was being used as a bothy.



*Shot looking into the Hall*

The panelling on the walls was covered in white/cream wallpaper. The ceiling was also covered in beaded pine panelling that showed traces of cream/white patterned wallpaper.

### **NE Room**

The NW, SE and NE walls of this room are crudely panelled with horizontal pine planks of irregular width, without beading. The planks are very well nailed to probable vertical rails though these could not be seen without dismantling the panelling. No attempt has been made to match up planks around corners and fit them carefully around the window in the NW wall. In essence the panelling appears purely functional, to simply provide some insulation from the cold external stone walls and to provide a flat surface which could be decorated. Traces of wallpaper survive on the panelling of the NW wall, a yellow pattern on a white background and surviving just below the ceiling is later paper, brownish with a thin horizontal blue line. The planks of the SW wall (an internal wall) which separates the NE room from the staircase have largely been removed leaving only a small portion of original wall surface just below the ceiling. Here a sequence of 6 different types of wallpaper can be seen:

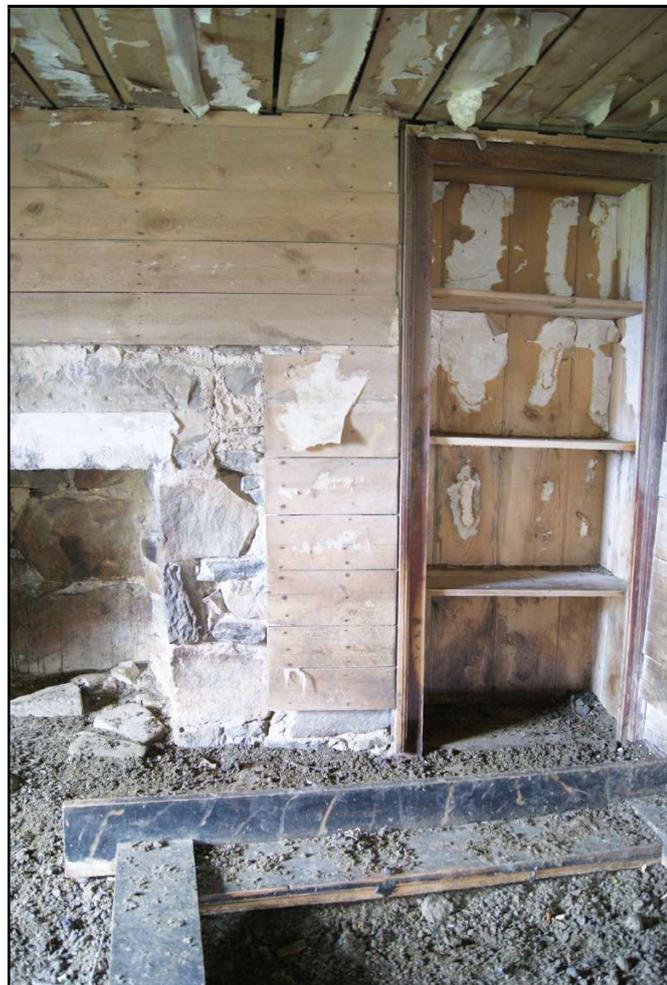
- 1) The most recent is the brown paper noted on the NW wall with the thin blue line and below this line the paper had thin geometric design and below this a yellow pattern.
- 2) Below was the yellow and white paper noted on the NW wall.
- 3) Below this was a white paper with thin vertical brown lines.
- 4) Below, a paper with a light brown background and flowers painted in darker brown.
- 5) Below, a paper with a greeny-grey background and plants with broad green leaves and yellow flowers.
- 6) Below this the very first wallpaper which had a light blue background with large whitish flowers and purple dots for stamens.



*Photo of the 6 different layers of wall paper in the NE room*

The ceiling of the NE room is formed from pine planks nailed to the floor joists with gaps between the planks. Traces of white wall papers and white paint were noted over planks though the exact sequence was not analysed. However, under these layers were traces of lining paper which had been pasted to the planks to keep out draughts. This lining was made from 19<sup>th</sup> century newspaper (1890s).

The window aperture in the NW wall is of usual splayed form, the window of sash and case design with four panes (glass now gone). In the centre of the NE wall is a stone lined recess for a fireplace with no fittings surviving. The wooden fire surround which is painted black has come away and is now lying on the floor. On the SE side of the fireplace is a recess in the NE wall for a press that is well lined with beaded vertical pine panelling much like in the porch and hall. This panelling had traces of cream wallpaper with white circles and floral designs printed in white dots. The press contains 3 equally spaced shelves and around it is a well fitted door frame which is painted in a dark varnish.



*Photo of Cupboard and Fireplace in NE Room, the crude horizontal panelling can be seen around the fireplace*

The wallpapers show that the room went through a number of phases of decoration, but there appears to have been a major change when the current horizontal panelling was installed. We know that this panelling is not original as the cupboard shows that there was once a much higher quality of panelling in the room. The wallpapers on the NW wall show that the later panelling was installed after the white wallpaper with vertical brown lines (3). Such a major change in the interior suggests that the original panelling may have become damaged, perhaps after a period of dilapidation, and was removed by the new users of the house. This may possibly coincide with Gordonstoun School starting to use the house as a bothy in the 1960s.

The NE room is both smaller and less well lit than the SW room, suggesting that it was never the most occupied room of the house. The small size of the fireplace also means it is unlikely that there was ever a range for cooking installed here. It therefore seems that this room was originally the quiet 'back room' of the house, probably a place where important possessions were stored. In later phases, when the house was used as a bothy, the room may well have served a different function, possibly as a storage or food preparation area.

### **SE Room**

This room has lost its internal walls (NE and SW) but evidence that this was once a separate room can be seen along the internal elevation of the SE wall of the house. The position of the NE wall is marked where the panelling in the NE room ends abruptly; that of the SW wall can be seen where the plaster on the wall ends in a vertical line. The room was lit by a single small window and was accessed through a small door cut into the internal wall of the hall, under the staircase. There may have been other ways of accessing this space from the SW or NE rooms but no evidence now survives. The external wall of the room was plastered and most surfaces appear to have been wallpapered with a white and brown paper with vertical patterned design.



*Shot looking at the location of the SE room (space on either side of the small window)  
from the NE room*

The function of such a small room is unclear though it would just have been large enough for a bedroom, perhaps with a bed on the NE side of the window where there is an absence of plaster on the wall, perhaps suggesting a bed recess.

### **SW Room**

This end of the house is very unstable which made full investigation rather difficult which is why this description is shorter than those for other areas of the house. The SW gable wall has collapsed around the chimney stack and the cupboard recess to the SE. The NW wall has also collapsed to the NE of the window, and the SE wall has partly collapsed into the room.



*Shot looking at the SW room*

The walls of this room are plastered in places and painted with white paint. No traces survive of any panelling though the wall around the window in the W corner has traces of crude boarding with some wallpaper. Boards were once nailed to the floor joists to form a ceiling as in the NE room though these had all been removed leaving only the nails. The floor joists above are lined with 1890s newspaper. At some point a later ceiling has been installed using plasterboard.

The room has two windows, one similar to the NE room (now collapsed) and a small one in the gable wall by the W corner. In the centre of the SW wall are the remains of a large fireplace, with an iron grate just visible protruding from the dung and rubble. The side walls of this fireplace were made from large blocks of granite and the lintel a large whinstone block with large tool marks. There is no back to the fireplace due to the collapse of the gable, instead the area where it once stood now serves as a major 'sheep doorway'. On the floor in front of this fireplace lies the fire surround which is painted with a dark varnish. To the SE of the fireplace is a recess, presumably for a press, which mirrors that on the opposite side of the house.

A large well lit large room such this must have been the most occupied room in the house. There would have been a range installed in the large fireplace, so this room was probably a place in which, cooking, eating, socialising and general communal activities took place in. The famous Ceilidhs hosted by Shockan in the 1930s were likely to have been hosted in this very room. In later phases, the room probably served as the main communal room or sleeping area, when the house was used as a bothy.

### **Staircase**

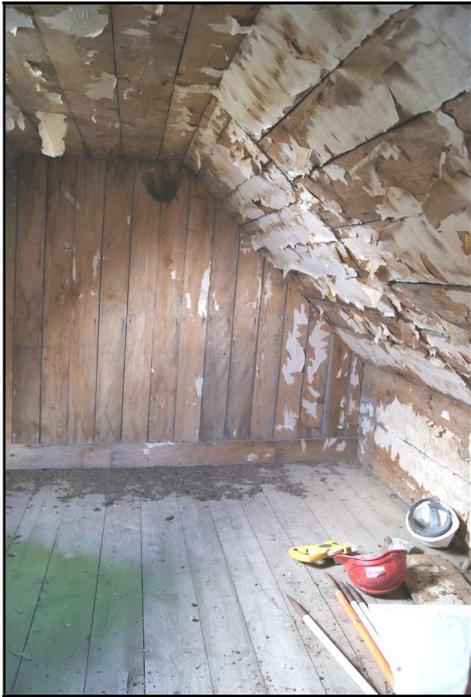
The staircase has been constructed with good carpentry skills using pine. Its walls are made from vertical tongue and groove planking (beaded), painted light blue. There was a once a narrow carpet running down the centre of the stairs and the gaps either side are painted with black/very dark red paint.



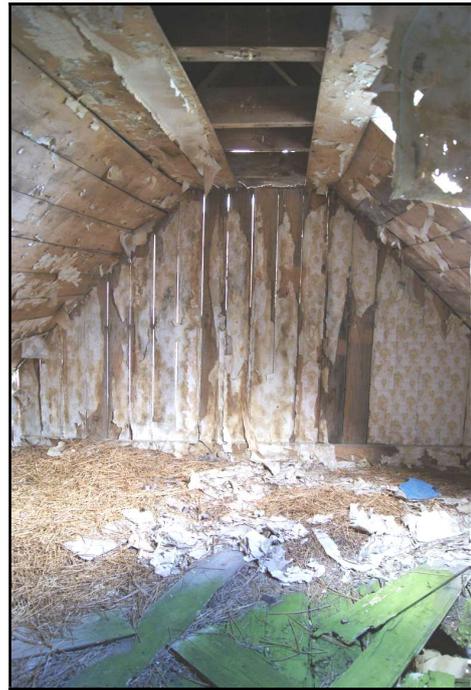
*The Staircase*

### **1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

There are 3 rooms of roughly equal size on the first floor, a landing with the stair well, a NE room and a SW room. Each has pine floorboards and pine planking nailed to the underside of roof rafters and below the roof collars to form sloping walls and narrow ceilings.



*The NE room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor*



*The SW room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor*

The two internal walls are formed from vertical tongue and groove planks (beaded) planks nailed to rafters; no remains of doors survive. The end walls are also formed from vertical planks though there are gaps in between them. The landing is painted the same colour as the stairwell, light blue, though much of this painted wall/ceiling planking on the NW side has been pulled away exposing the rafters. The landing has a cast iron roof light on the SE side; rain has rotted the floorboards below. There were once banisters around the stairwell but these have been removed and probably burnt as fuel.



*The Landing*

The NE room was decorated with various wall papers at different times (not described) and has a roof light on the NW side; rain has rotted the floorboards below. The SW room was also decorated with a various wall papers at different times (not described) and has a roof light on the NW side; rain has rotted the floorboards below.

The two rooms probably functioned as bedrooms.

### **Roof Structure**

The roof structure is of common collared rafter form with rafters resting on wall plates, each pair joined near the apex with nailed collars. The whole structure is made rigid with pine sarking nailed to rafters.

#### *4.1.2 Small Building (illus 10)*

This building lies to the N of the main house and comprises a low square ruin. The walls are constructed from angular whinstone and roughly faced sub-rounded blocks of granite, most stones built to roughly level beds. These mostly survive only 3 courses high, though the N corner stands a full eight. Little can be seen of the interior as it is covered in collapsed rubble.



*The Small Building*

Given that this building is very square and has walls of similar construction to the house, it seems likely that it is contemporary, i.e. c. 1890s. Such a small structure probably served as a washhouse where a boiler would have been installed. This interpretation is considered all the more likely as the building lies close to a water supply (the burn and the possible spring / well, see site A4 from the walkover) and is positioned on the edge of the main knoll, with easy drainage to the W. Good drainage would have been essential for a washhouse where large quantities of dirty water need to be frequently emptied.

#### 4.1.3 1840s Building (illus 14 and 15)

This roofless building lies to the S of the main house. Its shape is not quite rectangular, the SE wall being at a slight angle. There are no windows, but the building has 3 entrances, 2 opposite each other at the NW end and a single doorway at the SE end of the NE elevation. The walls have collapsed around the two opposing entrances and at various locations along the inner faces. The outer faces of the walls are battered (ie are not vertical but slope inwards). The walls themselves are random rubble built, fairly sparsely bonded with lime mortar, but with gaps between stones on outer faces liberally pointed.



*3D model of the internal faces of the 1840s building showing cruck slots*

Stones used for the walls are mainly sub-rounded to sub-angular, of a variety of sizes but with larger boulders generally low down in the walls. Stones are mainly whinstone with occasional roughly faced granite blocks. The top of the SW wall appears to have been rebuilt at some stage with 5 courses regularly sized small, flat rectangular stones, hardly pointed, built to level beds. Cornerstones and door reveals are large, roughly squared blocks of whinstone and granite, roughly faced and all of a similar size. The only surviving door lintel is a narrow whinstone slab.

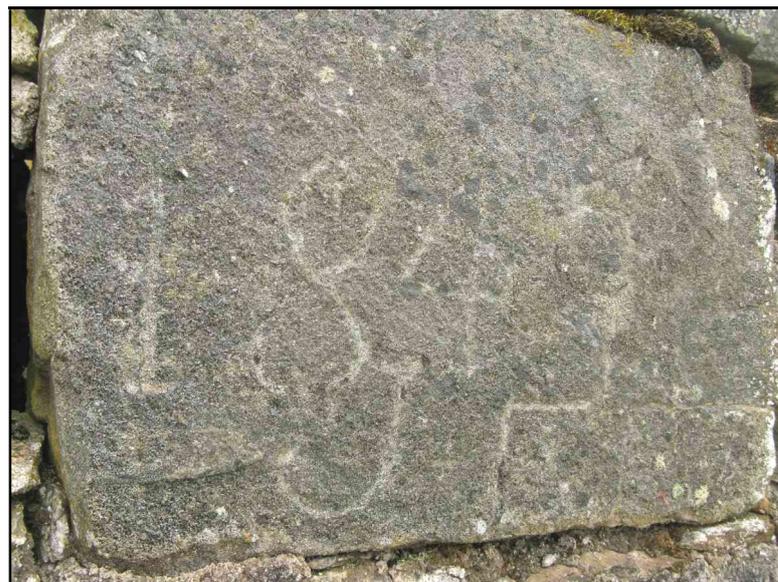
Inside the building are the remains of four narrow recesses for cruck slots, though plinth stones were not evident. Areas of wall collapse mark the locations of another four cruck slots. This suggests the main frame of the house was supported on four pairs of crucks. In between the middle pair, two small vertical slots are built into the wall, one blocked (NE) the other still open. These were originally taken to be small narrow slit windows or vents in the wall, but there is no trace of corresponding blocked openings on the outside faces of the walls. We can therefore probably infer that these slots mark the position of an internal division, the slots marking where horizontal beams fixed to the walls. Such a division would have divided the building in half with a lower room to the NW with the two opposing doors, and a SE room on a slightly higher level with a single entrance to the NE. When carrying out the survey a horizontal piece of wood was noticed buried in the ground next to the second pair of cruck slots (to the SE). This, it is thought, could be a sill beam for another internal division, particularly as there is a noticeable step upwards in the floor of the building to

the SE of this beam. The beam ends just before reaching the middle of the building and there is a noticeable gap between this end and a possible kerb stone that might mark two sides of a central internal doorway.



*The two opposing slots for a possible central division, one blocked, the other not.*

This building is known to have been constructed in 1849 due to the presence of two date stones of this date; it is possible though unlikely that these date stones mark the date of repairs to an earlier building. One of the date stones, that at the E corner, seems to have a 'J' and an 'F' marked below the date, presumably the initials of James Frazer named in the census rolls around this time. James Frazer is listed along with his mother Ann Frazer in the 1841 census, but by the 1851 census she is no longer listed, presumably having died. The similarity in dates between the building and his mother's death gives rise to the possibility that this building was constructed as part of James Frazer's improvements to Rychallich which he may have begun after taking on new responsibilities as head of the family.



*The 1849 date stone with 'JF' (James Frazer) below*

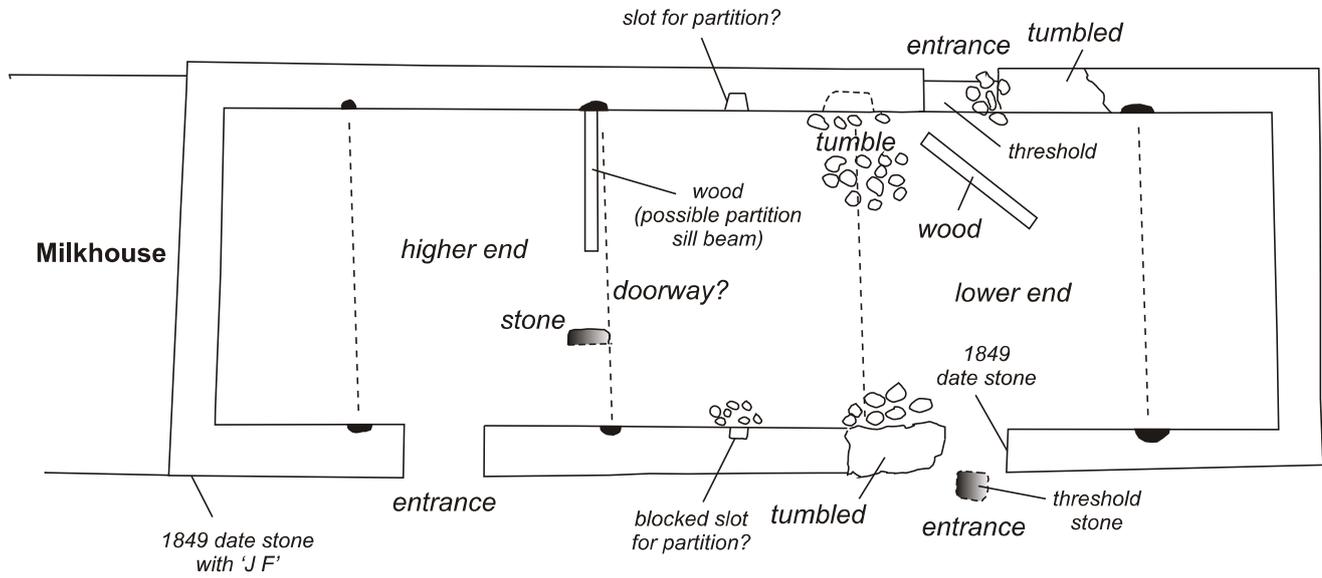
We know from the slots that the building was traditionally built with crucks supporting the roof - a roof that would have been thatched, presumably with heather divots. Its precise function however, remains unclear. There is no discernable drain running centrally through this building suggesting it would not have been used as a byre. The lack of windows in a building of this period also means it is unlikely to have been inhabited by people. The opposing doors through which a draught would have blown could be a sign that perhaps the NW end was a threshing area for oats or barley. If this were the case then maybe the SE room(s) were used as a hay or straw storage areas. However, these rooms are fairly cold owing to the thick walls of this building and may have been more suitable for the storage of root crops.



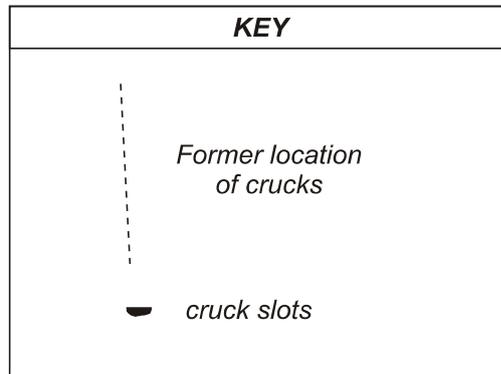
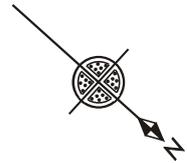
*Internal view of the 1840s building*

Illus 14

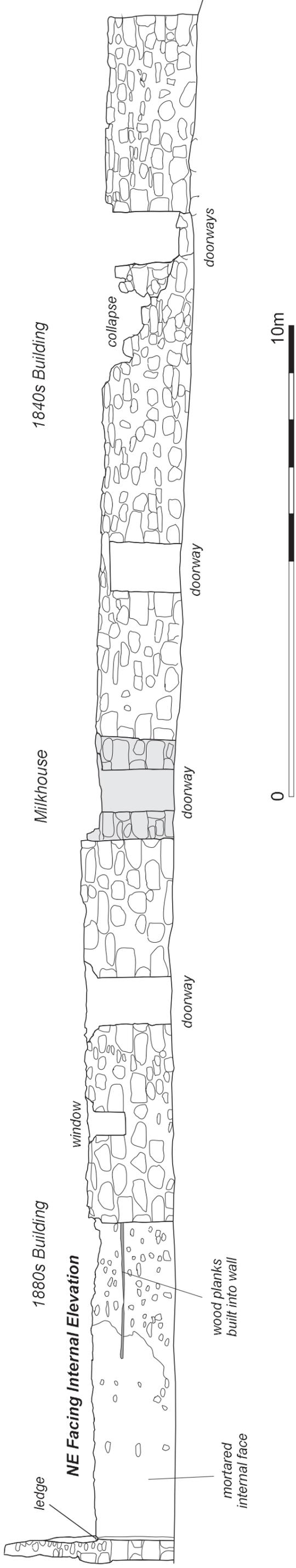
Plan of 1840s Building



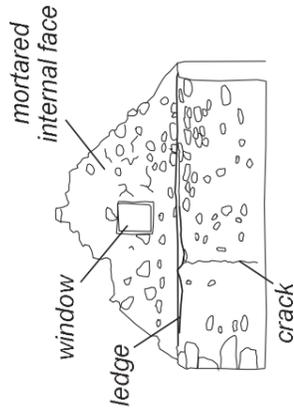
0 1:100 at A4 5m



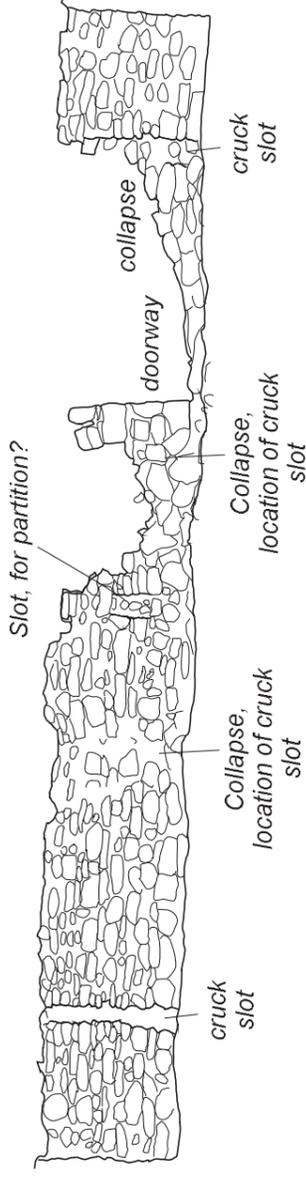
**NE Facing External Elevation**



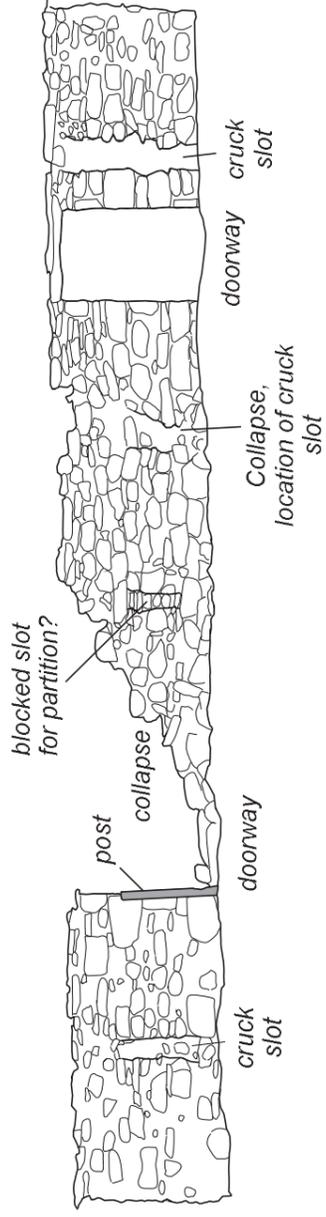
**1880s Building  
internal elevation SE wall**

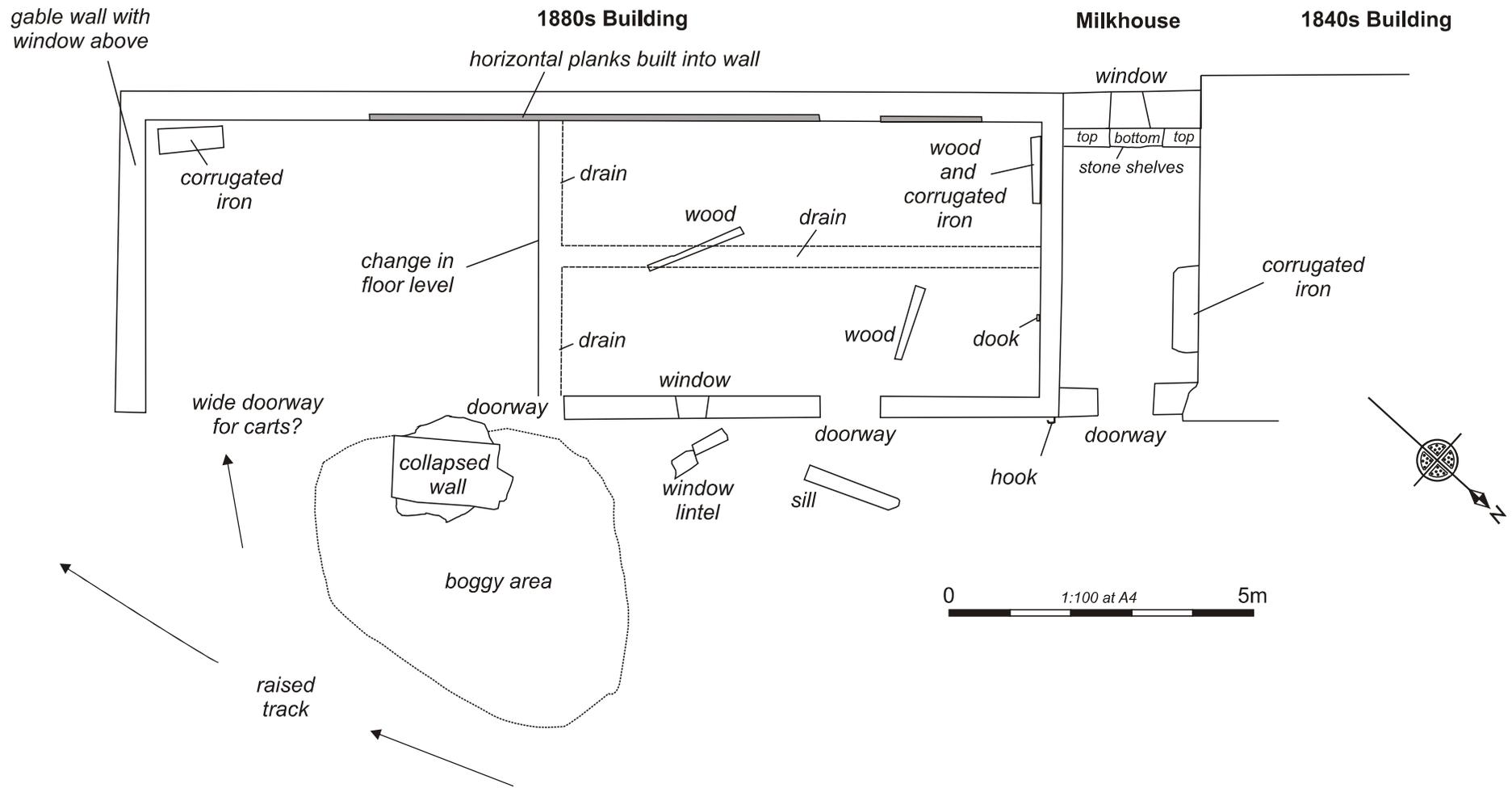


**NE Facing Internal Elevation of 1840s Building**



**SW Facing Internal Elevation of 1840s Building**





#### *4.1.4 1880s Building (illus 15 & 16)*

This building is in line with the 1840s building but lies a little to the SE. It comprises a long rectangular roofless structure with a gabled wall at the SE end. There are two windows, a small one in the upper part of the gable and one in the SE wall. The latter lies in between two doorways. The wall SE of the SE doorway has collapsed outwards and can be seen on the ground, grassed over. This collapsed section of wall is narrow and there are door reveals on the SE side suggesting that between it and the gable was a large entrance for a cart entrance. On the inside of the gable at wall height is a ledge which presumably once supported floor joists for an upper story at this end of the building.



*The Gable wall of the 1880s building*

The walls of this building are rubble built, largely from sub-rounded to angular blocks of field clearance (whinstone and other metamorphic/igneous stones). Smaller stones have been used to the rear of the barn (SW wall) but the principal elevations have incorporated much larger blocks of roughly faced granite and whinstone. The stones in this front wall are constructed to level beds, those of the back wall are more random, though occasionally stones are aligned. The walls are bonded with lime mortar and are heavily pointed on the outside. Cornerstones and window/door reveals are made from well squared, regularly sized blocks of granite showing tool marks.

There are traces of heavy pointing on the internal walls suggesting that they were once partly coated in a lime render. About 1m off the floor in the SW wall a series of narrow horizontal planks inserted into the wall. These run from just opposite the collapsed section of NE wall nearly all the way to the W corner, with a notable gap opposite the NW doorway. Above this, at the wall top are the remains of small holes in the wall, with one still intact. Stone line drainage channels run across the floor in a T shape, one

branch running centrally down the building from opposite the central SE doorway, the other running in the opposite direction across the building in line with the same doorway. The floor SE of this drain, close to the gable wall and opposite the wide entrance noted earlier is slightly higher. The internal wall of this end of the building also appears to have been more heavily coated in lime render.

This building is dated to 1885 as there is a date stone in the outside of the gable wall. In construction the building uses similar materials and has been constructed in a similar manner to the main house, which is perhaps not surprising given that the newspaper lining the house dates to the 1890s. One wonders whether both buildings were constructed at the same time, as part of improvements to Rychallich when John McQueen is known to have moved in as resident.

This building appears to have served two functions: The NW end, judging from the drain and the holes (vents) in the NW wall was a cow byre. The wood built into the wall SW wall would have acted as device to fix internal fittings to the wall, perhaps wooden hecks (hay baskets) or neck chains. The wood may also have been used to fix stall divisions, though no trace of these now remain. The drain seems to have been designed so it flowed out the SE doorway into midden area in front of the building that is still very boggy today. The byre would have been relatively well lit from the two doors and the window between them. The NW end of the byre is not a stone built gable wall; instead the first floor part must presumably have been filled in with wooden panelling.

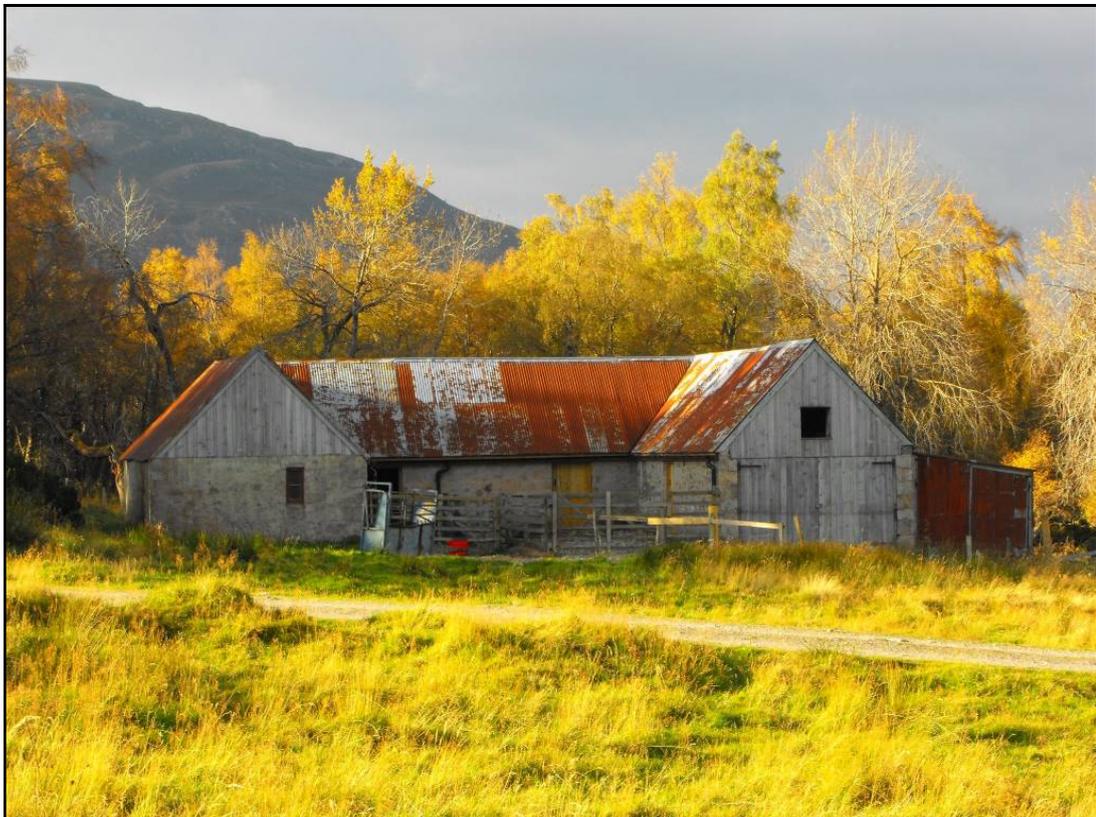


*Shot showing the collapsed section of the NE wall (foreground) and the wooden planks built into the SW wall (background)*

The change in floor level, the thicker wall render and the end of the horizontal planking on the SE side of the building suggests this area was used differently. The wide entrance suggests it functioned as a cart shed, and given its width, it was two bayed and would have been divided at the front by a central pillar or post. In support of this interpretation, traces of a track were noted in front of the entrance, gently curving round towards the main house with a slight raised area built above the boggy area. Above the

cart shed would have been a grain or hay storage area, with floor joists running down the building supported on one side by the ledge in the gable and the other, presumably by some sort of internal wall division separating the cart shed from the byre. The window would have helped keep the loft dry and probably was fitted with louvres. There may well have been a hatch in the centre of the loft though which hay and grain could be passed down to the carts.

There is no trace of any slates that might have covered the roof of this building, but instead plenty of signs of corrugated iron. By 1885 it is very likely that the structure was constructed with a tin roof, as seen on barns from this date all over Speyside, including the one at nearby Chapeltown, see below. This barn also shows how the panelling at the NW gable might have looked. Tin roofs were relatively cheap and easy to obtain by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and were used extensively on agricultural buildings in the highlands. In a remote area such as Rychallich, corrugated iron sheets would have been far more practical to transport than slates.



*The late 19<sup>th</sup> century barn at Chapeltown (photo courtesy of Richard King). Barn of has corrugated iron roof like the 1880s building and part wooden gabled walls like the latter's NW gable.*

#### *4.1.5 Milkhouse (illus 15 & 16)*

This small space was created by simply infilling the gap between the 1840s building and the 1890s building; it therefore post-dates both structures. Similarities in wall construction suggest it was built very soon after the 1880s building. The front wall is composed mainly from large well squared granite blocks and the rear from random rubble, sub-rounded to angular fieldstones, mainly small with one large squared granite block. Low down on one of the doorway reveals a 'D' rotated 90 degrees has been carved in the surface of the stone. The function or purpose of such a mark remains unclear. Inserted into the wall of the 1880s building at its N corner is an iron loop which may have been used to fix the door of the milkhouse open. Around the doorway of the milkhouse are traces of cement, which would have sealed the gap between the door frame and the wall. Holes drilled into the door reveals show where the door frame was attached.



*The entrance to the Milkhouse*

Inside the milkhouse stone shelves have been built into the SW wall. There is a single row about 50cm above the ground, and a second set c. 80cm up on either side of a small rectangular window. On the ground are corrugated iron sheets showing how the roof was once covered.

Milk houses are essentially spaces in which dairying took place, a process which was essential on farms for storage of milk products before the advent of refrigeration. Milk was converted into cheese and butter which had much longer shelf lives than milk alone, and both of these would have been consumed on a daily basis by crofters. Central to the dairying process is having a cold, clean environment which extends the life of milk while it is being stored and processed. The stone shelves could be used for either processing cheeses or the settling milk so that the cream could be separated. The

window would have provided good light for these activities. In other farmsteads, milk houses are often partly buried in a bank to keep the temperature low, however at Rychallich there was no such convenient bank. Instead the crofters used the next coldest space they could find, a gap between two thick end walls of the 1840s and 1880s buildings with additional coolness being provided by the shade of a large Rowan tree to the SW which would still have been fairly large even 120 years ago.



*Interior of Milkhouse showing stone shelves*

#### *4.1.6 Footings Building 1 (illus 17)*

This is one of the two main early buildings at on the site surviving as earth footings. In fact the building appears to be two structures, one to the NW built on top of another to the SE. The NW structure is roughly square in shape with turf banks containing buried stones to the NW, SE and NE. The SW wall is marked by a line of stone footings with a threshold stone half way along. The corners of this first structure appeared quite squared. To the SE the possible earlier structure has a floor level lower than the other, and with possible rounded corners.



*Footings building 1 with volunteers standing on the four corners*

The structures are shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition (1860s) OS map as a single rectangular building, so perhaps the two structures identified are just two rooms of a single structure. However, the different alignment of the SE end of the SW wall suggests we are looking at remains from two different phases. How such structures functioned is impossible to glean without resorting to excavation, though from their small size, they were probably buildings for storage rather than occupation.

#### *4.1.7 Footings Building 2 (illus 17)*

This is a large L-shaped building whose footings are well preserved at the SE end of the site. The structure survives as reasonably high turf and stone wall footings, with the NE wall having been robbed for the construction of a later dry stone dyke. There is an internal division with a doorway half way along the SW 'wing' with a recess in the NE side for a possible fireplace. Two entrances were noted: One into the square room in the SW wing and one to what was presumably the main room to the NE. This building appears to be shown on both the 1770s plan and the 1860 OS map and given its size it was probably an important building, possibly occupied as a house. This is backed up by the possible fireplace evidence. It is unclear whether the small room to the SW is part of the original structure or a small annex added onto this end of the house. The building would have been traditional cruck framed in design, possibly with windows.

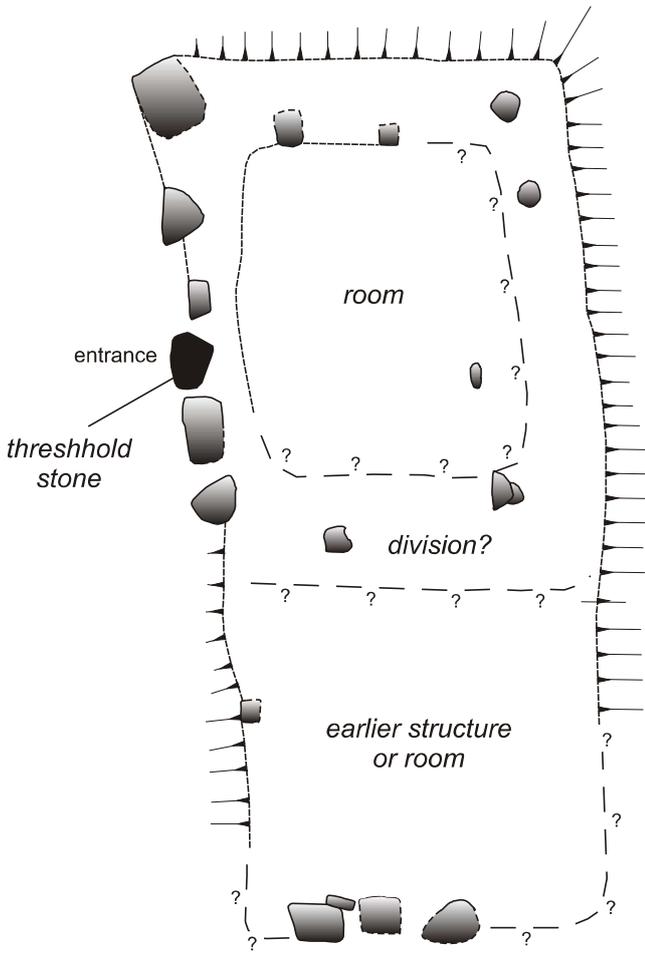
Given that this building is shown on the 1770s plan, we are looking at a building that was around when the murder of John Grant took place in 1772. It therefore is entirely possible that this may have been the main house for John Grant and his unfortunate son, also John.



*Shot of the SW 'wing' of footings building 2, orange ranging rod next to the internal division*



*Shot of the NW 'wing' of footings building 2, note where the NE wall has been robbed for the drystone dyke*

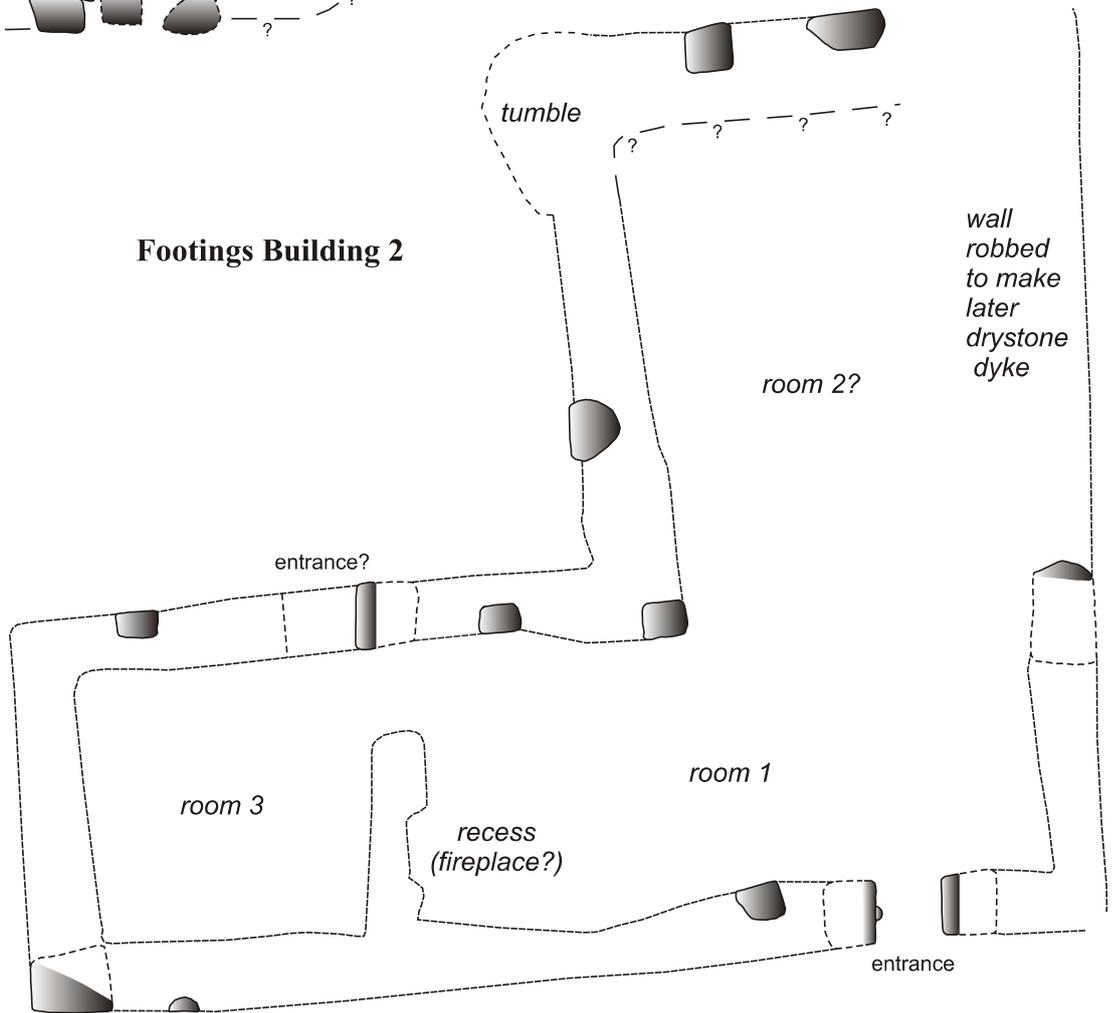


Footings Building 1



0 1:100 at A4 5m

Footings Building 2



#### *4.1.8 Other features (see illus 10)*

A number of other enigmatic features were noted during the survey. Adjacent to the gable wall of the 1880s building was a 2m wide turf and stone bank extending for some 9m towards the SW. Such a large feature is unlikely to be the remains of a house but instead is perhaps just the remains of stone dumped for the construction of the 1880s building.

On the SW side of the 1880s and 1840s building is a very low bank running from the S corner of the 1880s building around in an arc towards the small building/washhouse. This may be the remains of an enclosure or fence, though its location does not correspond very well with enclosures marked on the 1770s plan or 1860s OS map.

Roughly opposite the SE end of the 1840s building, to the NE, is a circular stone footing. This may be the remains of a stack yard for temporary storage of harvested crops.

To the NE of the house is an L shaped boundary wall made of rough fieldstones and turf standing c 30cm high. This wall is part of a field boundary dividing land that was once cultivated to the W from rougher ground to the E. The boundary is probably 19<sup>th</sup> century as it is shown on the 1860s OS map but not the 1770s plan.

To the SE of the 1880s barn is a well built drystone wall on a SE-NW alignment extending for 25m. This wall seems to date to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century as it is not shown on the 1860s OS map. The reason behind its construction remains unclear, though clearly it divides SE part of Rychallich into 2 separate areas. Today the NE side is much boggier than the SW and perhaps this was the case 100 years ago; maybe the wall was built to keep the SW side dry.

## 5 Results of Walkover Survey

### 5.1 Well / Spring

On the SW side of the main buildings is a circular pool, the start of a burn which flows into boggy ground to the N (formally cultivated land). It is possible that this is a natural spring, but probing revealed stonework below the current waterline suggesting that it may have been lined by the occupiers of Rychallich, perhaps to deter silt build up and make the well less muddy. This water supply would have been very convenient for the settlement, being much closer to the main buildings than the burn; however, it is doubtful how reliable such a water supply would have been in summer.



*The well / spring A4*

### 5.2 Field Clearance

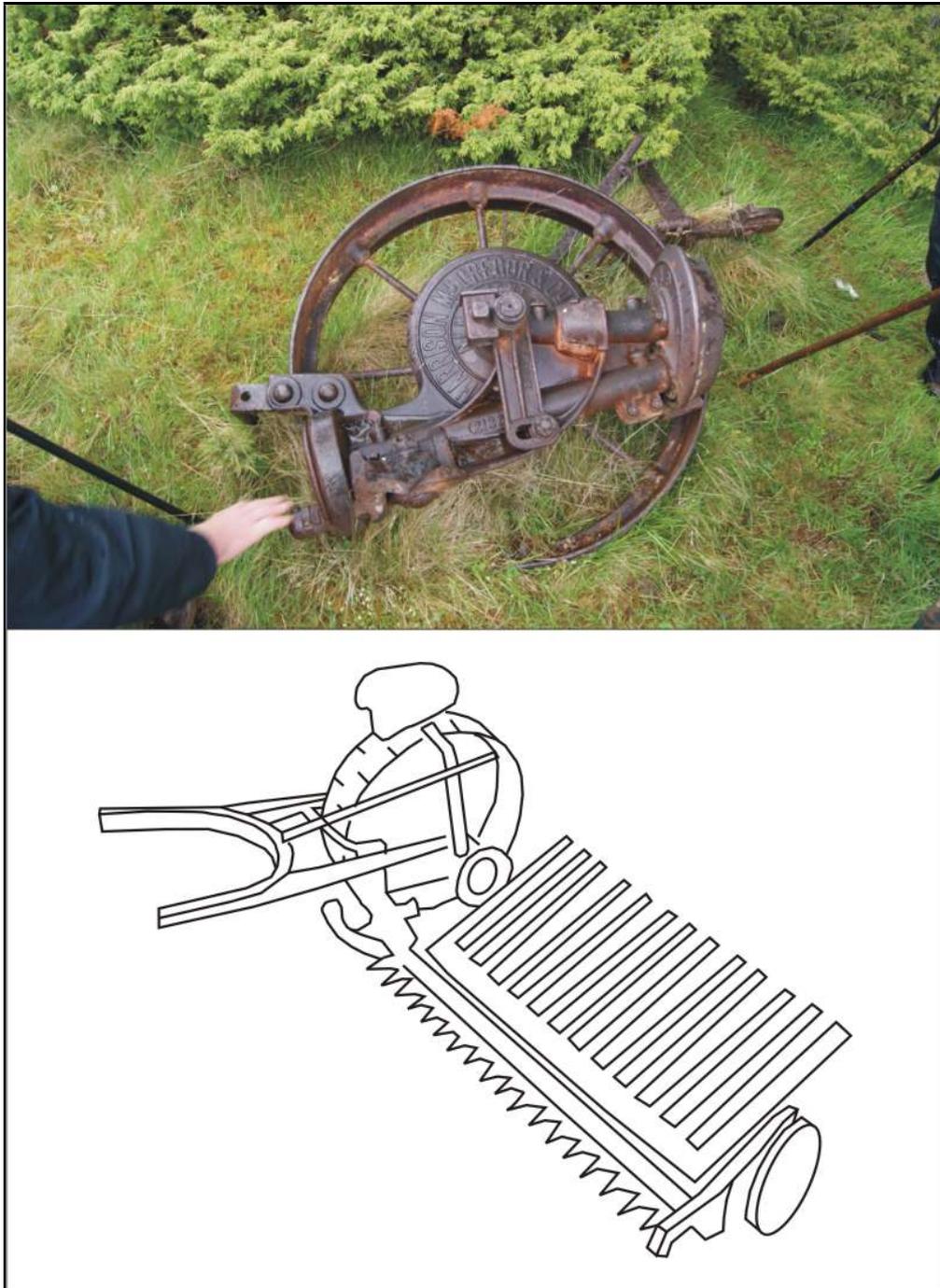
Not surprisingly, the walkover revealed a number of stone piles relating to de-stoning of arable fields. The largest of these piles runs roughly in a rough SW-NE alignment along the SE side of what had formally been a large cultivated area NE of the main buildings: A7. Another large area, A6 relates to destining of fields to the NW of the buildings. There were also three other smaller piles noted in other areas, A2 and B6.



*Field Clearance, A5*

### 5.3 The reaper / mower

Close to the possible ford at A5 are the remains of a Harrison, McGregor & Co Albion Mower or Reaper, which appears to date from around 1940s. This would have been powered by a tractor and used for clearing bracken.



*The Reaper / Mower*

### 5.4 Boundaries and Tracks

At least 3 tracks or probable major 'routes' were identified during the Walkover. One of them, A5, is a wide gully W of Rychallich which leads down to a tight bend in the

burn, possibly the location of a ford, or maybe just to a deep part of the burn, perhaps used for washing clothes, bathing etc. If this gully is part of a ford, it was probably the main access between the two field systems on either side of the burn.



*Gully - possible ford, A5*

On the hill behind Rychallich to the E are two fence posts (B2) which reveal the location of a former gateway. This seems to have been part of a 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century fence (post and wire) marking the main boundary around Rychallich. The gateway would have been part of a main route onto the common grazing to the east.

On the W side of the burn in an area now covered juniper that was formally cultivated is a flat grassy platform, C3, winding around field clearance and boggy ground. This was probably part of a track weaving its way through the cultivated fields. Interestingly it appears to be lined along some of its length with a turf and stone bank, C5. Unfortunately, the track could not be followed far owing to dense juniper growth. Such a track may have been for access to arable fields and possibly to herd animals safely past cultivated fields.

Along with the late boundary noted above at B2, there were also other post and wire fences found, just to the W of the main buildings. One of these, A1, marks a division between former arable ground to the NW and pasture to the SW, presumably to keep stock out. A little to the N was another fence, A3 which lines one side of the burn running from the well / spring, A4. Its function remains unclear if the field beside it was arable.



*Fence A1*

## 5.5 Enclosures

Enclosures B1 and B4 first appear on the first edition OS map, suggesting they were probably constructed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They appear empty on this map but by 1900 they are shown as shaded ‘garden’ areas. The small square shape of enclosure B1 is very suggestive of a Kale Yard, and indeed the W-SW facing aspect of the slope would have been good for growing vegetables. Such yards are normally constructed closer to the main buildings of settlements for convenience, but perhaps at Rychallich, the wonderful view inspired people to walk that little bit further for their greens. Alternatively, this structure may have begun life as a stock pen, possibly later being converted to a Kale Yard.



*Enclosure B1*

Enclosure B4, again of probable 19<sup>th</sup> century date, encloses quite a large area by comparison with B1 on both sides of the burn. Interpreting this area as a garden area makes less sense here as the W side of the burn is a steep slope which is frequently in shadow and would have been poor for cultivating. Rather, the enclosure makes more sense as a penned off area to keep animals inside, for inspection/collecting. In fact the enclosure has been constructed along the burn valley with a narrow neck where the valley is most constricted, as though it were designed to funnel animals into its interior from the S. If this was the case one wonders whether it bears any relation to track C3 which could have been used to herd animals from the NW end of Rychallich. However, Juniper is such a problem in this area, that a detailed inspection of the enclosure was not possible. Alternatively, perhaps this area was a zone to keep animals out of, for activities such as washing clothes and bathing etc.



*Enclosure B4*

Enclosure C4 is rectangular in shape and very small; it may even be a building. Possibly it was connected with cultivation rather than pastoral activities, as it lies in an area surrounded by field clearance. Perhaps it was used for the storage of harvesting tools etc. Further clearance of Juniper would be needed to discover its precise nature.

## 5.6 Early Buildings

Team B discovered two areas where early footings are visible. These two areas roughly correspond to buildings shown on the 1773 estate plan (see illus 6). In the first area, B3, two stone footings were found in the heather running at right angles to one another. This is likely to be the small L-shaped building shown on the E side of the burn on the old estate plan.

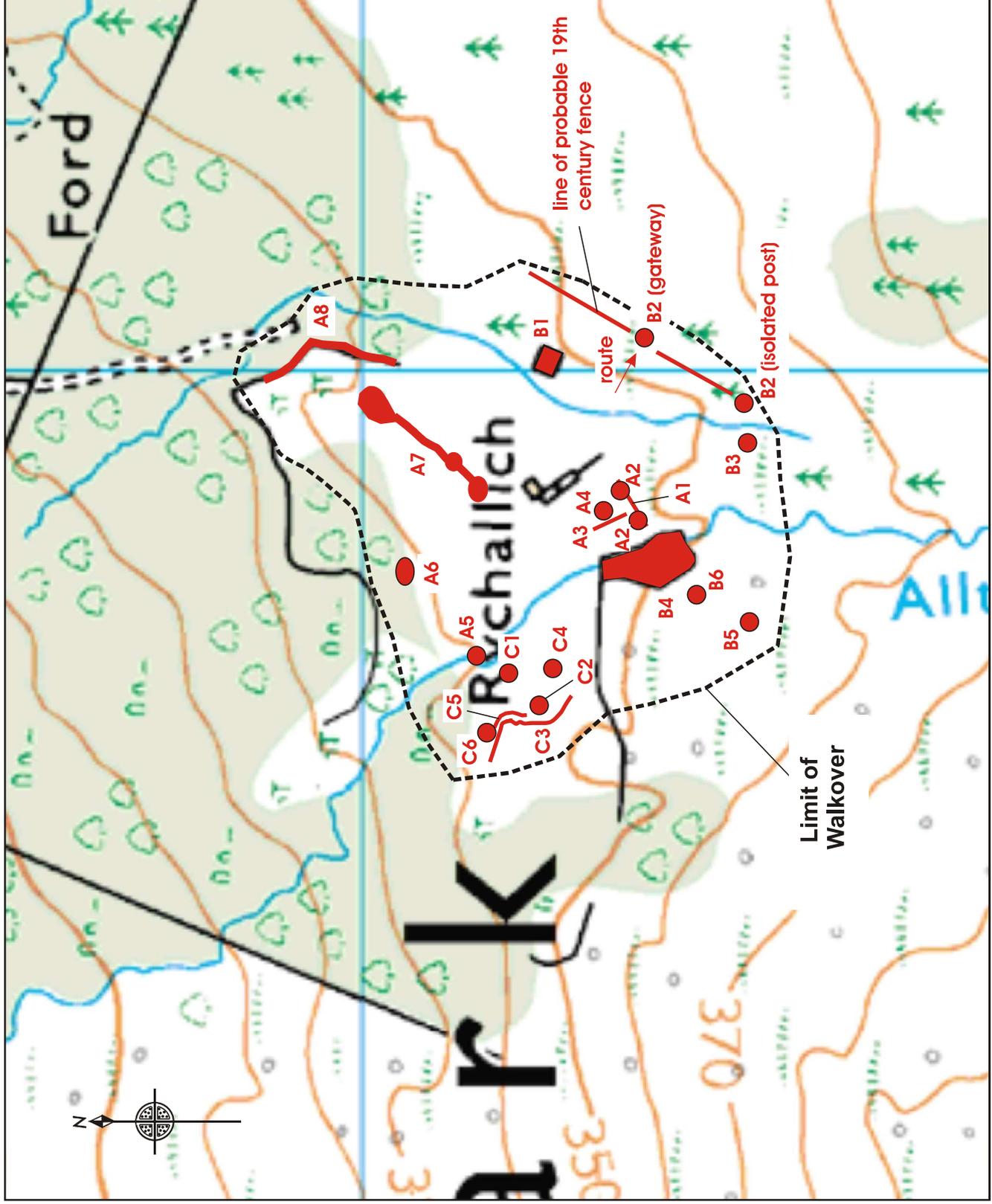


*Building footings, B3*

At the second area, cornerstones of a building were located though its walls were hard to define. On the old estate plan there are two rectangular buildings shown in here, but it is not clear which of them the stones belong to. Interpreting these buildings is difficult, but as they are shown on the 1773 estate plan, they are probably not early remains, but rather, Post-Medieval. They were may well have been bothies or agricultural storage buildings belonging to Rychallich.

Illus 18

Sites discovered during Walkover



## **6 Conclusion**

Rarely does one get the chance to look so intensely at such a small site with such an interesting history. The process has been both intriguing and fascinating, as well as challenging, but the result has been to create a rich record of Rychallich which can be used by the current and future people of Tulloch as an indicator of how much information can be revealed by studying a single settlement in an intensive manner. Ideally, it is hoped that the project and this report will lead on to further research into other crofts and settlements at Tulloch, which have no doubt similarly interesting histories.

Generally, the aims and objectives of the project were successfully met: Basic training was given in both building recording and walkover surveys which it is hoped will spur those that took part to join in further projects, and who knows, perhaps even carry out archaeological / historical research of their own. From a purely academic point of view, the development and function of various parts of the settlement are now much better understood, and best of all, it was possible to correlate at times all three parts of the project: The history, building record, and the walkover – a thing rarely achieved on many archaeological projects focused on upland settlements.

The actual detailed record of the structures will inevitably seem a little dry and methodical to many reading this report, but it must be remembered that it will take on new significance in the oncoming years as the roof of the house collapses and the main walls follow suit. In the distant future, given the potential of digital archives, this record might well be still accessible, helping people comprehend the remains of Rychallich, which by then may appear as little more than a knoll covered in rubble.

## **7 Potential Further Work**

The historical research for this project, though shedding a fair amount of light on Rychallich could hardly be considered comprehensive, and there are many avenues study to pursue. With regards to the murder of John Grant, it would be interesting in particular to look at records to try to find out what became of John Cumming his murderer. Perhaps he emigrated or enlisted in the army? Another question posed by the research is when exactly his father and family stopped farming at Rychallich, leaving it available for the Frazers. No doubt close study of the Seafield Estate rentals might reveal this transition.

For later periods, it would be good to look at the Gordonstoun School archive, to find information about the part it played in Rychallich's history. No doubt there are photos, memories and perhaps even diaries containing descriptions of how the School utilised the site. Many of the school children who would have come here will be alive, as will be the people who later used Rychallich as a hill walker's bothy. Tracking down any of these people would add a personal touch to the late history of the site, perhaps enabling the recollection of how people spent summer evenings in the house in front of the fire telling stories or accounts of their adventures on the Cairngorms.

Further fieldwork at Rychallich is best spent on finishing the walkover survey, i.e. concentrating on understanding the remains on old cultivated land on the W side of the burn. This area, though constricted by dense juniper scrub, is known to contain the remains of at least one large building. Another area worth walking over is the cultivated area extending down the slope to the NW of Rychallich into the birch wood.

As to the murder, new fieldwork should be focused on walking over the land uphill from Rychallich and looking closely at (and ideally mapping) the two potential sites where it possibly took place. Such a project might well reveal the nature of Donald Cumming's improvement, or even possibly, the exact location of the bothy next to which John Grant was shot dead 240 years ago.

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1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 6 inch OS maps

Register House Plan 3964/1/32, National Archives of Scotland

## Appendix 1 Sites from Walkover

<i>No:</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>NGR</i>
A1	A line of wooden fence posts (for post and wire fence) running NE-SW separating rough land to E from previously cultivated/improved land to the W, now boggy.	20 <sup>th</sup> century	c NH 97897 14800
A2	Two piles of stones, probably clearance from fields to N. (a) to NW rounded in shape, 2.2m dia, c 0.4m tall . (b) to SW oval 1.6m x 1.8m, c 0.5m tall.	Unknown, Post-medieval to 20 <sup>th</sup> century	a) NH 97897 14809 b) NH 97887 14794
A3	3 Posts for a post and wire fence running NW-SE along W side of small burn, possibly to keep animals away from the burn.	20 <sup>th</sup> century	NH 97889 14797
A4	A circular pool / depression amongst rushes with water flowing out; start of small burn. This spring/well may possibly have been a water supply for Rychallich. Measures c 2m in dia. Probing revealed that stones lie c 0.6m below the surface of the water.	Unknown Post-medieval to 20 <sup>th</sup> century, may be completely natural	NH 97888 14808
A5	A gully c 3m wide, 1.2m deep and 12m long descending from flat old cultivated ground NW of Rychallich down to the main burn. Burn flows round meander where gully joins and just downstream is a possible man made dam which has made the reasonably water deep. This gully may be the remains of a track which crossed the burn or alternatively it may simply have provided access to the burn itself as the deep water here may have been used for washing clothes etc or place to collect water. There remains a possibility that the gully is also a water channel cut to drain excess water off cultivated land into the burn.	Post-medieval to 20 <sup>th</sup> century	NH 97781 14907
A6	2 or 3 clearance cairns >1m high in line with the scarp of a slope N of Rychallich. Overall the measure over 36m long, up to 9m wide.	Unknown Post-medieval to 19 <sup>th</sup> century?	c NH 97859 14962
A7	Line of clearance cairns and bank made from clearance stones, divides well drained ground to NW from boggy ground to SE. Up to 1.5m high, and 20m wide, piles extend NE-SW for c 130m.	Unknown Post-medieval-19 <sup>th</sup> century?	NH 97912 14893 to NH 97983 15001
A8	Field boundary, a very rough wall c 3 courses high made from boulders. Divides course of burn and good farmland to the W. Parts of the wall are nothing more than clearance cairns/	Post-medieval-19 <sup>th</sup>	Runs from NH 97988 15005 to NH 98012

		century	15036 to NH 98003 15057
B1	A rectilinear stone walled enclosure on slope above pasture in rough ground. Measures c 16m by 20m, c 1m wide, up to 1m high in places, tumbled elsewhere. Entrance in SW side 1.5m wide. Likely to be a garden (Kale Yard) or very possibly an animal pen.	Post-medieval-19 <sup>th</sup> century	Centre NH 98008 14851
B2	2 wooden strainer posts for post and wire fences: gateway, 3m wide. On either side of the fence posts stone wall footings were noted. Some 84m to the SW was an isolated fence post that may be related to the same boundary.	19 <sup>th</sup> / 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Gateway NH 98022 14767  Post NH 97968 14706
B3	Footings for stone wall in rough pasture near upper limit of rushes, extending into the heather at its S end. Wall 11.7m long, 0.25m wide. Some 3.8m from its NE end are 2 large exposed stones. Some 7m from its NE end are the remains of another wall at a right angle, c 3m wide extending for 30m.	Post-medieval	NH 97939 14701
B4	A irregularly shaped stone walled enclosure measuring c 55m (NW-SE) by c 41m (NE-SW) on either side of the main burn at Rychallich, (though it encloses a larger area on the SW side). The wall is 0.8m high in places, 0.3m wide, but much is tumbled. Land inside this enclosure is shown as improved on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map and possibly a cultivated garden area on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> .	Early 19 <sup>th</sup> century?	NH 97846 14771
B5	Stones, 2 corners of a building 6.5m apart	Post-medieval?	NH 97813 14694
B6	Clearance cairn	Unknown Post-medieval?	NH 97831 14745
C1	Remains of a Harrison, McGregor & Co Albion Mower or Reaper	c 1900-1915 judging from the lettering	NH 97769 14893
C2	Clearance cairn. Photo Lost	Post-medieval	NH 97742 14869
C3	A curving flat grassy track/platform cut into hillside c 3.5m wide, c 65m+ long around boggy area to the E. Photo Lost	Post-medieval	NH 97744 14848
C4	A small rectangular enclosure aligned NW-SE with rough stone wall footings partly obscured by juniper. Measures c 9m across diagonally, walls 2m wide, 0.4m high. There is a possible entrance in the NW end 1.5m wide. On the outside of the W corner a clearance cairn has been piled up against the enclosure. Clearance cairns extend to the SE of this site but could not be recorded due to the juniper. Photo Lost	Post-medieval	NH 97768 14862

C5	A low (c 0.2m high) partly grassed over turf and stone wall running along the E side of track C3. Roughly 27m long. Photo Lost	Post-medieval	NH 97742 14889 to NH 97718 14899
C6	A circular rubble bank which appears to have been built over the NW end of bank C5. Roughly 7m in dia, 0.4m in height, bank 1.5m wide. There appears to be an entrance to the E but this may be due to a tree which grew in the centre of the feature having fallen over this side. The feature maybe nothing more than field clearance having been piled up around the tree. Photo Lost	Post-medieval	NH 97718 14899

## Appendix 2 Photographic Register

### Images\BuildingSurvey\1840sBuilding\IntenseSequence\_\_External

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
DSC02943 to DSC02961	NW facing external side of 1840s Building	SE
DSC02962 to DSC02995	SW facing external side of 1840s Building	NE
DSC03101 to DSC03138	NE facing external side of 1840s Building	SW
DSC03139 to DSC03141	NW facing external side of 1840s Building	SE

### Images\BuildingSurvey\1840sBuilding\ IntenseSequence\_\_ Internal

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
DSC03142 to DSC03161	SE facing internal side of 1840s Building	NW
DSC03162 to DSC03205	SW facing internal side of 1840s Building	NE
DSC03206 to DSC03217	NW facing internal side of 1840s Building	SE
DSC03218 to DSC03254	NE facing internal side of 1840s Building	SW

### Images\BuildingSurvey\1840sBuilding

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
IMG_1489	SE facing internal side of 1840s Building	NW
IMG_1490	Date stone '1849' on SE facing side of NE entrance to 1840s Building	NW
IMG_1499	General shot of the interior of the 1840s Building	E/SE
IMG_1500	General shot of the interior of the 1840s Building	W/NW
IMG_1501-2	Shots of collapsed wall on NE side of 1840s Building	E
IMG_1503-4	General shot of the interior of the 1840s Building	N
IMG_1517-18	General shot looking at the exterior at the W corner end of the 1840s	N

	Building	
IMG_6014	Date stone '1849' on SE facing side of NE entrance to 1840s Building	NW
IMG_6015	Another date stone '1849' at E corner of 1840s Building	SW
IMG_6016	Date stone '1849' on SE facing side of NE entrance to 1840s Building	NW

### Images\BuildingSurvey\1880sBuilding\IntenseSequence\_\_External

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
DSC03001 to DSC03037	SW facing external side of 1880s Building	NE
DSC03038 to DSC03059	SE facing external side of 1880s Building	NW
DSC03060 to DSC03093	NE facing external side of 1880s Building	SW

### Images\BuildingSurvey\1880sBuilding\IntenseSequence\_\_Internal

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
DSC03308 to DSC03317	SW facing internal side of 1880s Building	NE
DSC03318 to DSC03331	SE facing internal side of 1880s Building	NW
DSC03332 to DSC03372	NE facing internal side of 1880s Building	SW
DSC03373 to DSC03391	NW facing internal side of 1880s Building	SE

### Images\BuildingSurvey\1880sBuilding

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
IMG_1492	Date stone '1882' on SE external side of 1880s Building	NW
P1070202	Date stone '1882' on SE external side of 1880s Building	N

### Images\BuildingSurvey\FootingsBuilding1

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
DSC_0002-5	Looking across at footings Building 1	NW
DSC_0006-7	Looking across at footings Building 1	SW

### Images\BuildingSurvey\FootingsBuilding2

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
DSC02351	General shot looking across footings Building 2 from its E corner	SW
IMG_6000-1	Shot looking at the SW end of footings Building 2	E
IMG_6002-4	Footings Building 2, S corner stone	SE
IMG_6005-6	Footings Building 2, shot of SW end after vegetation clearance	SW
IMG_6007-8	Footings Building 2, shot of NW end	NW
PA160002	Footings Building 2, E corner stone (inside corner of L shaped building plan)	W
PA160006	Footings Building 2, shot of SW end	E
PA160007	Footings Building 2, shot of SW end and internal wall just in shot.	E
PA160008	Footings Building 2, shot of SW end	SW
PA160009	Footings Building 2, S corner stone	SE
PA160010	Footings Building 2, W corner of NW end	E
PA160011	unidentified	-
PA160012	Shot looking at the SE end of footings Building 2	SE
PA160013	Shot looking across footings Building 2 from its E corner after vegetation removed	SW

### Images\BuildingSurvey\House\HouseExterior

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
DSC02750 to DSC02873	360 degree photographic record of house exterior	Various

### Images\BuildingSurvey\House\HouseInterior\1stFloor\Landing

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
DSC04448-9	Various shots of the landing	Various
DSC04451	Looking down the stairs in the house, from the landing	Various
DSC04458-9	Various shots of the landing	Various

### Images\BuildingSurvey\House\HouseInterior\1stFloor\NERoom

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
DSC04445-7	Various shots inside the NE room upstairs in the main house	Various
DSC04450	Various shots inside the NE room upstairs in the main house	Various

### Images\BuildingSurvey\House\HouseInterior\1stFloor\SERoom

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
DSC04452-3	Close ups of wallpaper in SE room upstairs in the main house	-
DSC04454-7	Various shots inside the SW room upstairs in the main house	Various
DSC04460-1	Close ups of wallpaper in SE room upstairs in the main house	-

### Images\BuildingSurvey\House\HouseInterior\GroundFloor\Details

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
DSC02340	Newspaper lining dating to 1894	-
DSC02341	Part of a decorative scheme in the SW room	-
DSC02342-3	Newspaper lining, general shots	-
DSC04424-30	Various wallpapers in the NE room	-
DSC04462-7	Newspaper lining, general shots	-

### Images\BuildingSurvey\House\HouseInterior\GroundFloor\Porch

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
DSC04434-9	General shots in porch looking towards front door	Various
DSC04440	Shot looking towards door under the stairs to the SE room	SE

DSC04441-2	General shots in porch looking towards front door	Various
DSC04468	Shot looking towards the NE room from hall next to porch	N

### **Images\BuildingSurvey\House\HouseInterior\GroundFloor\NERoom**

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
DSC02346	General shot looking at the NE room	NE
DSC04402-7	SW facing internal elevation of the NE room	NE
DSC04411-13	NW facing internal elevation of the NE room	SE
DSC04466	Shot looking into hall next to entrance lobby	SW
DSC04474-5	SE facing internal elevation of the NE room	NW

### **Images\BuildingSurvey\House\HouseInterior\GroundFloor\SERoom**

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
DSC02344	General shot looking at where the SE room used to be	S
DSC04414-6	NW facing internal elevation of the SE room	SE
DSC04470-73	SE facing internal elevation of the SE room	NW

### **Images\BuildingSurvey\House\HouseInterior\GroundFloor\Staircase**

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
DSC04432-3	General shots of staircase	S
DSC04443-4	General shots of staircase	S

### **Images\BuildingSurvey\House\HouseInterior\GroundFloor\SWRoom**

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
DSC02345	General wide shot of the SW room	W
DSC04417-20	NW facing internal elevation of the SW room	SE-S
DSC04421	The NE facing internal elevation of the SW room	SW
DSC04422-3	The SE facing internal elevation of the SW room	W-NW
DSC04431	Shot looking into the SW room from the hall next to the entrance lobby	SW

### Images\BuildingSurvey\Milkhouse\Details

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
IMG_1491	'D' carved into the NW facing side of the entrance to the milkhouse	SE

### Images\BuildingSurvey\Milkhouse\External

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
DSC02996 to DSC03000	Shots of the SW facing external side of the milkhouse	NE
DSC03094 to DSC03100	Shots of the NE facing external side of the milkhouse	SW
IMG_1514-6	Shots of the NE facing external side of the milkhouse with scale	SW
IMG_1519-22	Shots of the SW facing external side of the milkhouse with scale	NE

### Images\BuildingSurvey\Milkhouse\Internal

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
IMG_1505-12	Various shots inside the milkhouse	NE

### Images\BuildingSurvey\Milkhouse\Internal\IntenseSequence

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
DSC03255 to DSC03307	360 degree photographic record milkhouse interior	NE

### Images\BuildingSurvey\Milkhouse\SmallBuilding

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
DSC02350	Oblique view of small building	S

### Images\BuildingSurvey\Milkhouse\SmallBuilding\IntenseSequence

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
DSC02874 - DSC02942	360 degree photographic record of small Building	Various

## Images\RubbleWall

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
DSC_0028 to DSC_0051	Photographic sequence of wall to NE side of house	Various, mainly NE

## Images\RychallichInSetting

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
DSC02347	Shot of the main house looking E	E
DSC02348	View looking over previously cultivated land to the W of the main buildings, now marsh ground	SW
DSC02349	View looking over previously cultivated land to the W of the main buildings, now marsh ground	S
DSC02352	A clearance cairn to the far W of the main buildings now in heather moorland (not reached during walkover)	W
DSC 02353	Shot showing the knoll that the buildings at Rychallich are sited on, the rushes largely follow old cultivated ground	SE
DSC 02354	As above but looking E, the main road used to run across the boggy ground in the left hand side of the photo	E
DSC 02355	Shot looking across the boggy ground to the E of the main buildings to a stone walled enclosure (now covered in juniper)	E
DSC04480	Shot showing the low curved bank to the SW of the 1880s building and the old Rowan Tree	NW
DSC04499	Shot looking at the 1840s building and the small building. Shot shows how the small building is situated at the very edge of the knoll	S
DSC04500	Shot looking to the SW of the main buildings	SW
DSC04501	View looking out from the entrance of the house over what would have been cultivated ground	NW
DSC04513	View looking at the standing buildings of Rychallich from the S near the footing building 2	N
DSC_0015	Shot looking up at the house and the 1840s barn from below the SW side of the knoll	NE
DSC_0016-7	Shot looking up at the house, the 1840s barn and the small building from below the W side of the knoll	E
DSC_0018-9	Shot looking up at the main knoll on which the buildings of Rychallich are sited on, from down in boggy ground which was once cultivated	E
DSC_0020-7	Shots looking at the buildings from the E	W

IMG_1485	Photo looking down at land N of the house which was once cultivated, a large clearance cairn can be seen in the centre of the shot	N
IMG_1486	Zoomed in shot of above	N
IMG_1487	Photo looking down at land N of the house which was once cultivated, a large clearance cairn can be seen in the centre of the shot	N
IMG_1487	Zoomed in shot of above	N
IMG_1523-5	Shots of main house from NW	SE
IMG_1526	Shots looking at the buildings from the E	W
IMG_1527	General interior shot of 1880s Building	S
P1070203	Shot of the 1880s barn from the S	N
P1070210	General distant shot of buildings	S

### Images\Walkover\AreaA

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
IMG_1540-1	Site A4, the spring /well	N
IMG_1542-6	Looking upstream along burn at site A5	S
IMG_1547-50	Looking at possible dam downstream of site A5	S
IMG_1552	Clearance cairns A6	N
IMG_1553	Clearance cairns and bank A7	NE
IMG_1617	The start of the walkover of area A, S of Rychallich	NE
IMG_1618	Recording site A1, fence posts	NE
IMG_1619	Site A2, clearance cairn (a)	SW
IMG_1620-1	Site A3, fence posts	NW
IMG_1622-4	Site A5, the gully	E
IMG_1625	Site A5, the gully	W
IMG_1626	General shot of house at Rychallich	E
IMG_1627-8	Shot of investigations along burn N of site A5	N

**Images\Walkover\AreaB**

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
IMG_1554-5	General shot of site B1, enclosure	N
IMG_1556	General shot of site B1, enclosure	W
IMG_1558	Site B2, gateway. Shot of NE post	NE
IMG_1559-60	Site B2, gateway. Shot of both posts	NE
IMG_1561-2	Site B3, wall footings	SW
IMG_1563	Site B3, one of the large stones	NE
IMG_1564	Site B4, enclosure	SE
IMG_1565	Site B4, enclosure	NW
IMG_6029	Site B1, enclosure	N
IMG_6030	Site B1, enclosure	W
IMG_6031	Site B1, enclosure	NE
IMG_6032	Site B1, enclosure	NW
IMG_6033-5	Site B2, gateway	NE
IMG_6036	Site B3, enclosure	E
IMG_6037	Site B3, enclosure	NW

**Images\Walkover\AreaC (most of photos lost)**

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
DSC01808	Shot of Harrison, McGregor & Co Albion Mower or Reaper	-

## Appendix 3 Drawing/Sheet Register

<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Material (A3)</i>
1	Plan of footings building 1	1:50	Permatrace
2	Plan of footings building 2	1:50	Permatrace
3	Plan of 1880s building and Milkhouse	1:50	Permatrace
4	Plan of 1840s building	1:50	Permatrace
5	Plan of house (ground floor) and small building	1:50	Permatrace
6	Overlay for sheet 7, annotation of NW and SE facing external elevations of house	-	Permatrace
7	NW and SE facing external elevations of house	-	Paper
8	Overlay for sheet 9, annotation of NE and SW facing external elevations of house	-	Permatrace
9	NE and SW facing external elevations of house	-	Paper
10	Overlay for main site plan, further features identified towards the end of the survey	-	Permatrace
11	NW and SE facing elevations of small building, annotated	-	Paper
12	NE and SW facing elevations of small building	-	Paper
13	NE facing internal elevation of 1840s building, annotated	-	Paper
14	NW and SE facing internal elevations of 1840s building, annotated	-	Paper
15	SW facing internal elevation of 1840s building	-	Paper
16	SW facing external elevation of 1840s building	-	Paper
17	NE facing external elevation of 1840s building	-	Paper
18	NW and SE facing internal elevations of Milkhouse, annotated	-	Paper
19	NE and SW facing internal elevations of Milkhouse, annotated	-	Paper
20	NE and SW facing external elevations of Milkhouse, annotated	-	Paper
21	NW and SE facing internal elevations of 1880s building	-	Paper
22	NE facing internal elevations of 1880s building, annotated	-	Paper
23	SE facing internal elevation of 1880s building	-	Paper
24	NE facing external elevation of 1880s building, annotated	-	Paper

25	NW and SE facing external elevations of 1880s building, annotated	-	Paper
26	SW facing external elevation of 1880s building	-	Paper
27	Walkover sheet (site descriptions) for Area A (1/2)	-	Permatrace
28	Walkover sheet (site descriptions) for Area A (2/2)	-	Permatrace
29	Walkover sheet (site descriptions) for Area B	-	Permatrace
30	Walkover sheet (site descriptions) for Area C	-	Permatrace

## Appendix 4 3D Model (Point Clouds) Register

### Survey\3dPointCloudSurvey\1840sBuilding

<i>Filename</i>	<i>Description</i>
DenseInternal.ply	3d model of internal elevations of 1840s building

### Survey\3dPointCloudSurvey\1880sBuilding

<i>Filename</i>	<i>Description</i>
DenseInternal.ply	3d model of internal elevations of 1840s building

### Survey\3dPointCloudSurvey\1880sBuilding

<i>Filename</i>	<i>Description</i>
Dense.ply	3d model of external elevations of 1840s building, Milkhouse and 1880s building

### Survey\3dPointCloudSurvey\House

<i>Filename</i>	<i>Description</i>
Dense.ply	3d model of external elevations of house
Dense2.ply	Another 3d model of external elevations of house

### Survey\3dPointCloudSurvey\House

<i>Filename</i>	<i>Description</i>
DenseBundlerPlus PMVS2.ply	3d model of interior of Milkhouse
DensePhotosynthPlu sPMVS2.ply	Another 3d model of interior of Milkhouse

### Survey\3dPointCloudSurvey\RubbleWall

<i>Filename</i>	<i>Description</i>
dense.ply	Dense 3d model of rubble wall NE of the house
Sparse.ply	Sparse 3d model of rubble wall NE of the house

### Survey\3dPointCloudSurvey\SmallBuilding

<i>Filename</i>	<i>Description</i>
Densecleaned.ply	Cleaned 3d model of small building
Denseuncleaned.ply	Un-cleaned 3d model of small building
Sparse.ply	Sparse 3d model of small building

## Appendix 5 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Highland Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Rychallich, Tulloch, Nethy Bridge
PROJECT CODE:	NE02
PARISH:	Abernethy and Kincardine
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Barton, T
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Historical Research, Building Recording, Walkover Survey
NMRS NO(S):	NH91SE 3
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Farmstead, Cairns, Barns,
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	-
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	Site centred on NH 97916 14845
START DATE	15-10-11
END DATE	17-10-11
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Explore Abernethy in partnership with Alder Archaeology conducted an archaeological community survey project at Rychallich, Tulloch near Nethy Bridge. The settlements at Tulloch are associated with many local tales and stories, and many of them were only abandoned in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Rychallich is one such settlement and is crofted by local historian Marina Dennis. The settlement was of interest as it was know to have a long occupation from the 16<sup>th</sup> century right through into 20<sup>th</sup>, when lastly it was used by Gordonstoun School as a bothy, and afterwards into the 1980s, as a general hill walkers' shelter. In 1772 Rychallich became locally famous for the murder of one of its occupants, John Grant, by neighbour John Cumming of Easter Tulloch. Research carried out prior to this project involved looking through related documents in the National Archives of Scotland. From this information, largely contemporary witness statements, it has been possible to suggest a possible location for the fatal shooting on the hills behind Rychallich.</p> <p>The main part of the survey carried out on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2011 was a detailed building recording which provided a record of the main standing structures, a roofed house c. 1890s, an 1840s building, an 1880s building and a Milkhouse. The survey also recorded in plan the footings of two earlier 18<sup>th</sup> century structures, one of them contemporary with the murder. This fieldwork illuminated the possible functions of rooms, many internal details of structures and how the buildings developed over time.</p> <p>On the last day of the project, the 17<sup>th</sup> of October, there was a walkover survey</p>

	<p>of the surrounding landscape. This threw light on many agricultural remains, including various tracks, enclosures, clearance cairns, boundaries and the remains of a reaper. Of most significance however, was the discovery of building footings away from the main centre of the settlement which correspond with buildings shown on the 1773 estate plan.</p> <p>The site code was NE02</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Explore Abernethy and Alder Archaeology
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	-
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