

1. Recording Farms: A Fieldworker's View of Farm Steadings

Graham Douglas

I chose this title because, as a fieldworker, I feel my view is important. The act of surveying a site requires intimate familiarity with all corners of the site; the recording process is concerned with existing features and remains, it is not conjectural.



Recording farms presents no major problems, my main aim is to ensure the results can be easily understood by the lay user and expert alike. Not every farm is surveyed with the same degree of detail: the coverage depends on a number of factors e.g. architectural and historic importance, degree of completeness, state of preservation or threat of demolition, vandalism or decay. The depth of survey ranges from a very basic annotated sketch plan through to a full measured survey. Most farm surveys consist of annotated dimensioned sketches showing function, fabric and details of construction and contents. Well captioned photographs are an excellent method of recording, especially when coupled with drawings and written description.



In my view, to understand industrial buildings, you must first understand their function; and farming is one of the world's biggest and oldest industries. To be able to record and visit working farms and talk with farmers is the best aid to interpretation of historic farm sites.

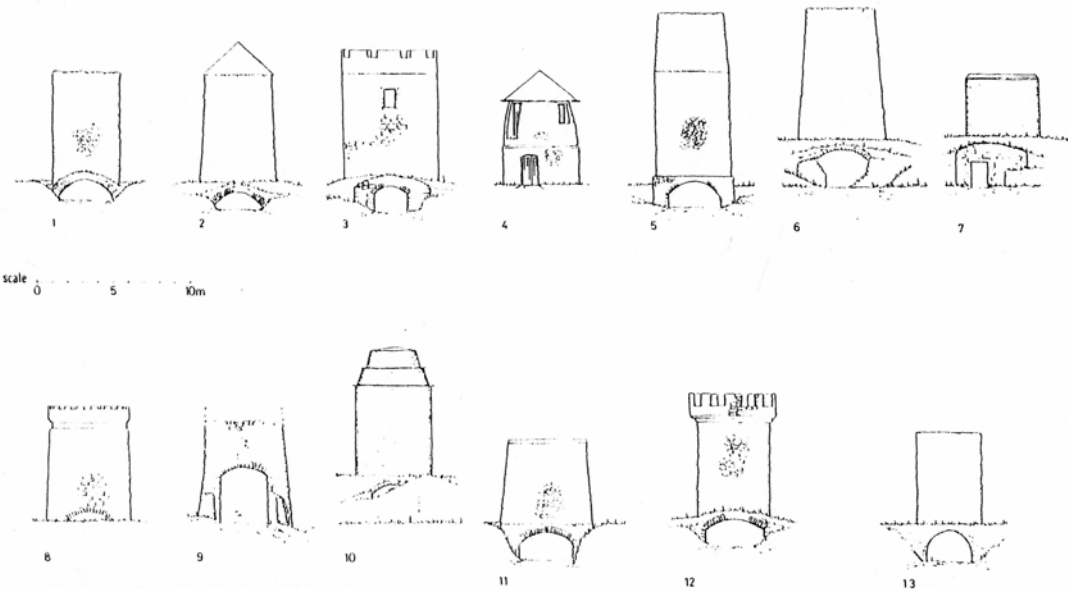
Each visit to a farm site will add to the fieldworker's knowledge and understanding of the subject, and time spent in a particular area will underline

similarities in farm layouts and buildings dependant upon similar geography, agricultural practice and architectural detail.

As Graham Douglas's talk was based on slides which we cannot reproduce, Graham's colleague Geoffrey Stell has very kindly allowed us to include here a summary of a talk which he gave at the 1991 Conference of the Historic Farm Buildings Group. The summary was first published in the Historic Farm Buildings Group Newsletter (No 14) in January 1992.

The following examples of graphic recording illustrate 2 distinct styles of presentation.

Firstly the 'Vaulted Windmills' shows windmill stumps all drawn to the same scale, thus enabling comparisons to be made.

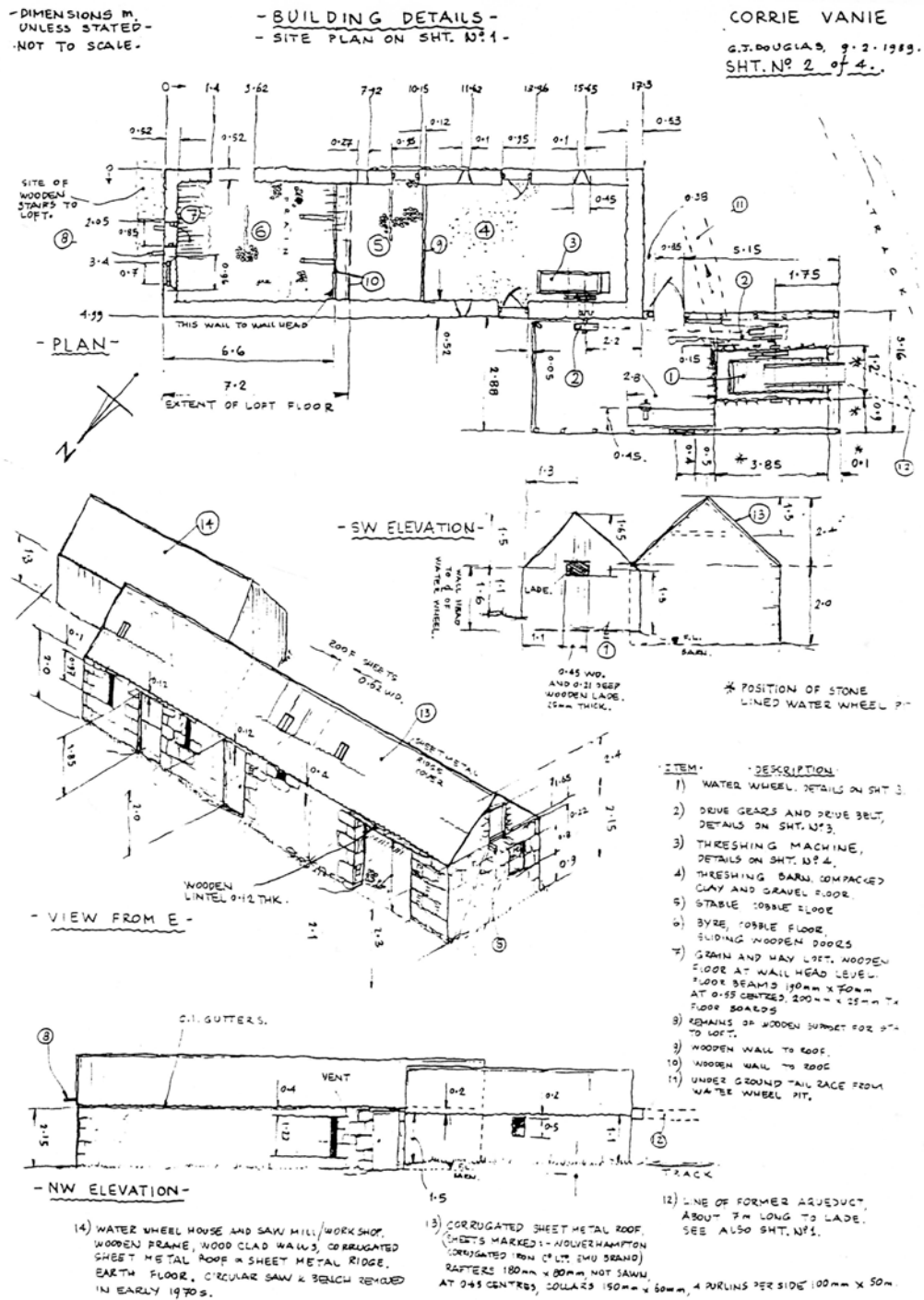


1. Ballantrae windmill, Ballantrae, Ayrshire NX091833 (SIAS Drg. N°105)
2. Monkton windmill, Monkton, Ayrshire NS362281 (SIAS Drg. N°133)
3. New Sauchie windmill, Alloa, Clackmannanshire, NS897950 (SIAS Drg. N°129)
4. Knockenhar windmill, Dunbar, East Lothian, NT670789 (SIAS Drg. N°145)
5. Balgone Barns windmill, North Berwick, East Lothian, NT553828 (SIAS Drg. N°146)
6. Melville windmill, Colleslie, Fife, NO303127 (SIAS Drg. N°111)
7. Hillhouse windmill, Dunfermline, Fife, NT091859 (SIAS Drg. N°113)
8. Dysart windmill, Kirkcaldy, Fife, NT299934 (SIAS Drg. N°114)
9. Belford windmill, Edinburgh, Midlothian, NT233737 (SIAS Drg. N°149)
10. Gordonsfoun windmill, Draime, Morayshire, W1188694 (SIAS Drg. N°112)
11. Dunbarney windmill, Dunbarney, Perthshire, NO107184 (SIAS Drg. N°125)
12. Logan windmill, Kirkcaldy, Wigtownshire, NX116438 (SIAS Drg. N°106)
13. Ballydargan windmill, Co. Down, Northern Ireland, OS44, 490388

Note
N°13, Irish, the rest Scottish.

VAULTED WINDMILLS.

Drawn G. J. Douglas, March 1981.
Scottish Industrial Archaeology Survey, Drg. N°162.



The drawing of 'Corrie Vanie', a croft behind Muir-of-Ord, Ross and Cromarty, is an example of a dimensioned, annotated sketch. It shows plan and elevations with an itemised descriptive list of the parts, function and materials used.