



Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service - Standing Building Survey Minimum Requirements

	Photo Survey	Map regression	Measured drawings (annotated)					Written description		
			Plans	Elevations	Sections	Key details or features	Plan of phases	Summary description	Detailed description	Archive research
Photographic Survey (Level 0)	X		X							
Level 1	X	X	X	X			X	X		
Level 2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Level 3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X

Photographic Survey

- All external elevations.
- All internal elevations (if safe to access).
- Unusual features/details (e.g. datestones, ornate/unusual stonework, ornate/unusual metalwork, blocked openings).
- General photograph(s) of the building in its landscape setting.
- To be accompanied by a plan illustrating the photo positions.

For Level 3 surveys, consideration should be given to additional image recording in the form of, for example, video, photogrammetry, laser survey, drone footage etc.

Map Regression

As a minimum this should comprise 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps, but where possible earlier maps and other OS maps should also be utilised.

For Levels 2 & 3, all available maps should be included in the map regression, along with any estate/architect's drawings



Measured Drawings

- Plans - each floor (where it is safe to access upper floors) annotated with feature numbers (for openings, fireplaces, etc).
- Elevations – each elevation, external and internal, annotated with feature numbers (for openings etc). External elevations should include the roofline. Construction material should be illustrated on the elevations.
- Sections – for Levels 2 & 3 only. Key sections of the building which illustrate its history and/or construction.
- Key details/features – for Levels 2 & 3 only. To include (but not limited to): industrial fixtures/fittings (e.g. mill wheel sockets); unusual/well-preserved fireplaces, doorways, window openings etc; unusual architectural details; decorative details (e.g. heraldic panels); distinguishing features of the building; architect’s “calling cards”, i.e. features which indicate the work of a specific architect; areas of the building where multiple phases of its history are evident; key details noted specifically in a building’s Listing description.
- Plan of phases (and, where appropriate, elevation phases) – to illustrate buildings development sequence. Can be single colour coded/shaded drawing, or sequence of drawings.

Written Description

- To include measurements of building and rooms within.
- Level 1: a summary of the building’s form, style, materials, function, development and use.
- Level 2: expanded description of the building’s form, style, materials, function, development and use; detailed room-by-room description; limited archival research.
- Level 3: full written description of the building(s); detailed room-by-room description; extensive historical analysis and research; comprehensive archival research into the building, its inhabitants and its architect(s), using all available sources.