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Publication date	1998-01-01
Original Citation	Hall, D., MacDonald, A.D.S., Perry, D.R., Terry, J., Cox, A., Crowley, N., Ellis, B.M.A., Holmes, N.M.M., Smith, C. and Stevenson, R. (1999) 'The archaeology of Elgin: excavations on Ladyhill and in the High Street, with an overview of the archaeology of the burgh', Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, 128, pp. 753-829. https://doi.org/10.9750/PSAS.128.753.829
Type of publication	Article (peer-reviewed)
Link to publisher's version	https://doi.org/10.9750/PSAS.128.753.829 - 10.9750/PSAS.128.753.829
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Download date	2026-11-06 07:55:48
Item downloaded from	https://hdl.handle.net/10468/14998

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Proc Soc Antiq Scot, 128 (1998), 753–829

The archaeology of Elgin: excavations on Ladyhill and in the High Street, with an overview of the archaeology of the burgh

D W Hall*, A D S MacDonald†, D R Perry* & J Terry‡
with contributions by A Cox, N Crowley, B M A Ellis, N M McQ Holmes, C Smith & R Stevenson

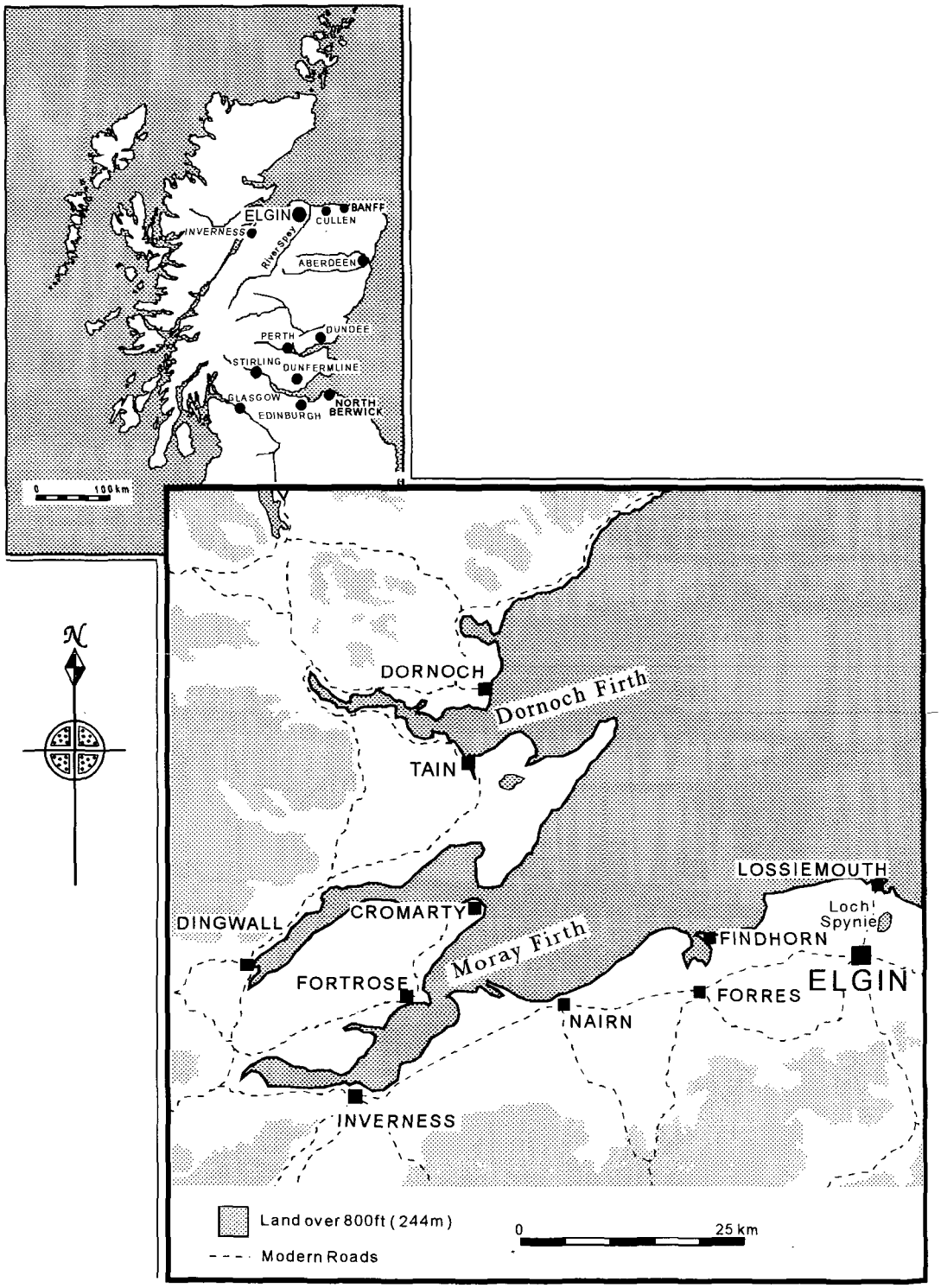
ABSTRACT

Part 1 of this paper presents the results of excavations on Ladyhill and the High Street, Elgin, which provide new evidence for the castle, the backlands, the graveyard associated with the medieval parish church of St Giles and the tolbooth. These excavations also add to our knowledge of the nature and extent of the archaeology of the burgh in general. Part 2, following the excavation results, is an overview of the archaeology of Elgin, placing it in the context of the history of the town, and including a gazetteer of all sites examined in Elgin to date. Publication of this work is supported by a grant from Historic Scotland.

PART 1: EXCAVATIONS AT LADYHILL, HIGH STREET AND ST GILES

Archaeological investigations have been carried out in Elgin since the mid 1970s. The first campaign of investigations was directed by W J Lindsay, in advance of construction of the relief road in 1976–7, as part of a programme funded by the Manpower Services Commission. More recently, in the 15 years since the publication of the *Burgh Survey* (Simpson & Stevenson 1982), fieldwork has been undertaken by the Scottish Urban Archaeological Trust (SUAT) and Scotia Archaeology Limited. The evidence from this fieldwork, together with the results of other work, has been summarized in an archaeological update to the *Burgh Survey*, commissioned and distributed by Historic Scotland (Hall forthcoming). Part 1 of the present paper presents the results of excavations carried out on Ladyhill (1972–3), at 115 & 123/133 High Street (1987–8), and in the vicinity of St Giles parish church (1995–6). This is followed by an overview, in Part 2, of all archaeological investigation carried out in the burgh to date, with its implications for further historical and archaeological work in Elgin and other historic burghs.

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ILLUS 1 Location map. (*Based on the Ordnance Survey map © Crown copyright*)

BURGH OF ELGIN

Elgin is situated 9 km south of the Moray Firth, on the southern edge of a fertile coastal plain, and protected by hilly, rising ground to the south (illus 1). The origins of the burgh are obscure. The place-name 'Elgin' is probably derived from the Gaelic *Eilgin* meaning 'little Ireland' and could indicate an Irish (ie Scots) settlement in the Dark Ages (Simpson & Stevenson 1982, 1). A Pictish cross-slab stone (the Elgin Pillar) was unearthed on the north-east side of St Giles Church in 1823 (Allen 1903, 135). This suggests there may have been an Early Christian presence in the market area, although no further evidence of pre-burghal activity has been found. Duncan I is said to have died in Elgin in 1040, after being attacked by Macbeth (MacQueen & MacQueen 1989, 421).

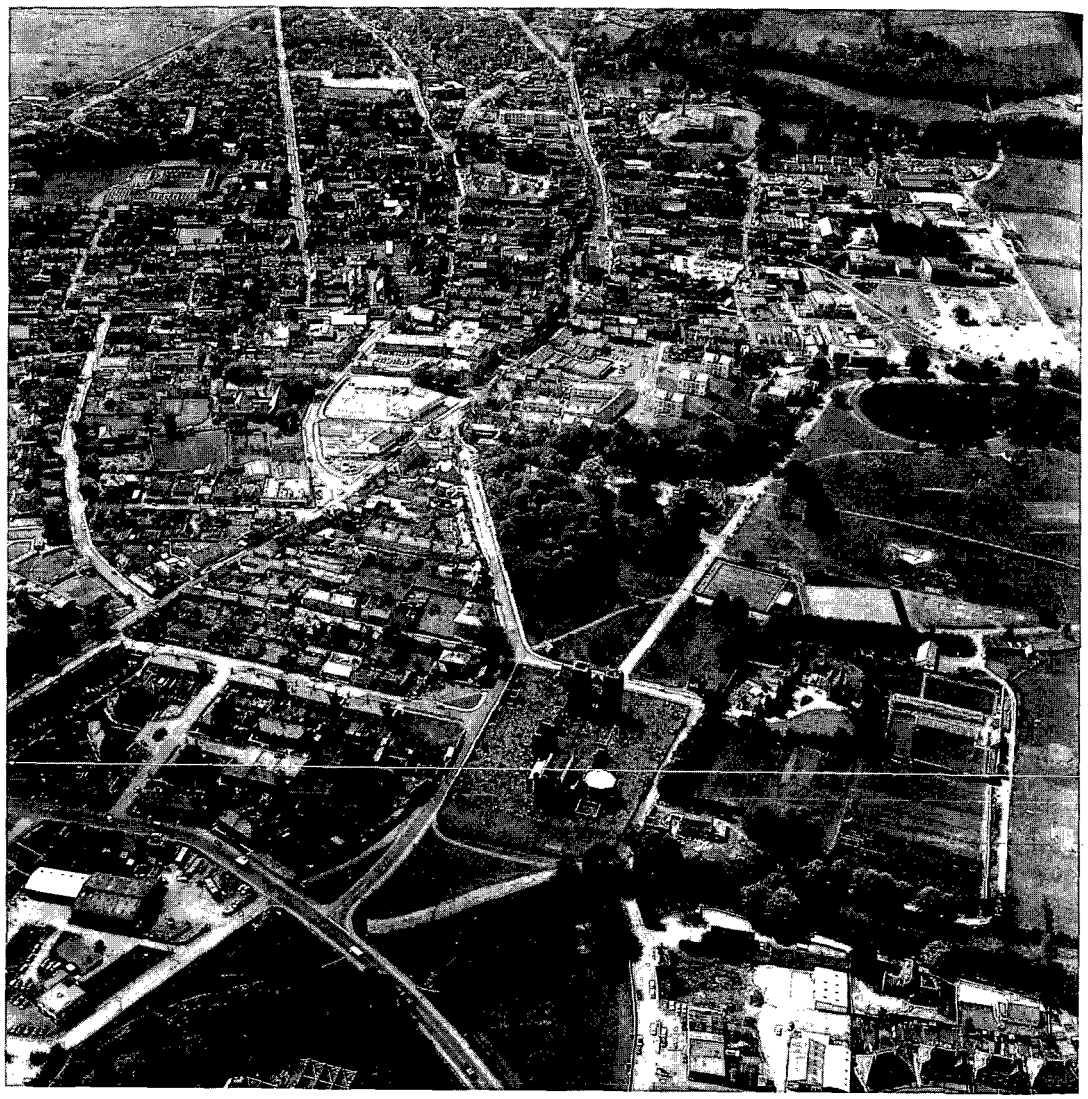
The foundation charter of the medieval burgh no longer survives, but Elgin is referred to as a royal burgh in the reign of David I. A royal charter of 1124 x 1153 referring to a grant of the burgh's rents to the Benedictine priory of Urquhart describes it as *mei burgi de Elgn* (Lawrie 1905, 86). Elgin Cathedral was established in 1224 and the burgesses had a merchant guild from at least 1268, if not from the time of David I (Pryde 1965, 7). Unlike the other royal burghs along the south side of the Moray Firth with origins in the 12th century (Inverness, Nairn, Banff and Cullen), but like Forres, Elgin had no harbour for foreign trade: it relied on trade through Findhorn, or the mouth of the Spey, which belonged to the earls of Moray, or Spynie, which belonged to the bishops of Moray. This lack of a harbour seems to have had a detrimental effect on the burgh's economy in the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries, from which it began to recover only after it had acquired its own harbour at Lossiemouth about 1700 (Simpson & Stevenson 1982, 2, 3, 6). Nevertheless, its early importance as a royal centre in the north of Scotland is evident from William the Lion's issuing of 14 charters from Elgin between 1165 and 1214, in contrast to only one from Inverness and six from Aberdeen (*ibid*, 1).

The burgh developed along a ridge at some 20 m OD, along which ran the main road between Inverness and Aberdeen. The River Lossie flows beside Elgin on three sides, and in the medieval period its course was closer to the northern side of the burgh. The burgh grew up outside the royal castle, situated on Ladyhill at the western end of the burgh, and seems to have originally extended as far east as Lossie Wynd and Commerce Street (Simpson & Stevenson 1982, 21). Expansion eastwards to the cathedral precinct seems to have taken place from the 14th century (*ibid*, 21). Elgin's medieval street plan survived largely unchanged until the 19th century, and even today Elgin still maintains much of its early plan (illus 2 & 3), despite modern developments and the insertion of a relief road round the north side of the town centre in the late 1970s.

The High Street

Like its neighbouring burghs, Forres, Nairn and Inverness, the plan of medieval Elgin is straightforward: the town was axially arranged about a single main street, the High Street, widening in the centre where the tolbooth and parish church stood. Burgess properties (rigs) extended back from both sides of the street, with closes or vennels giving access to the backlands. Back lanes developed to the rear of these rigs, North Back Gait (later Blackfriars Road) and North Lane to the north, and South Back Gait (later South Street) to the south (Simpson & Stevenson 1982, 5–6). The frontage of the rigs would have been occupied by shops or booths, with dwellings above or behind. The backlands would have contained sheds, byres and stables or been used as middens or to cultivate vegetables, herbs and fruit trees.

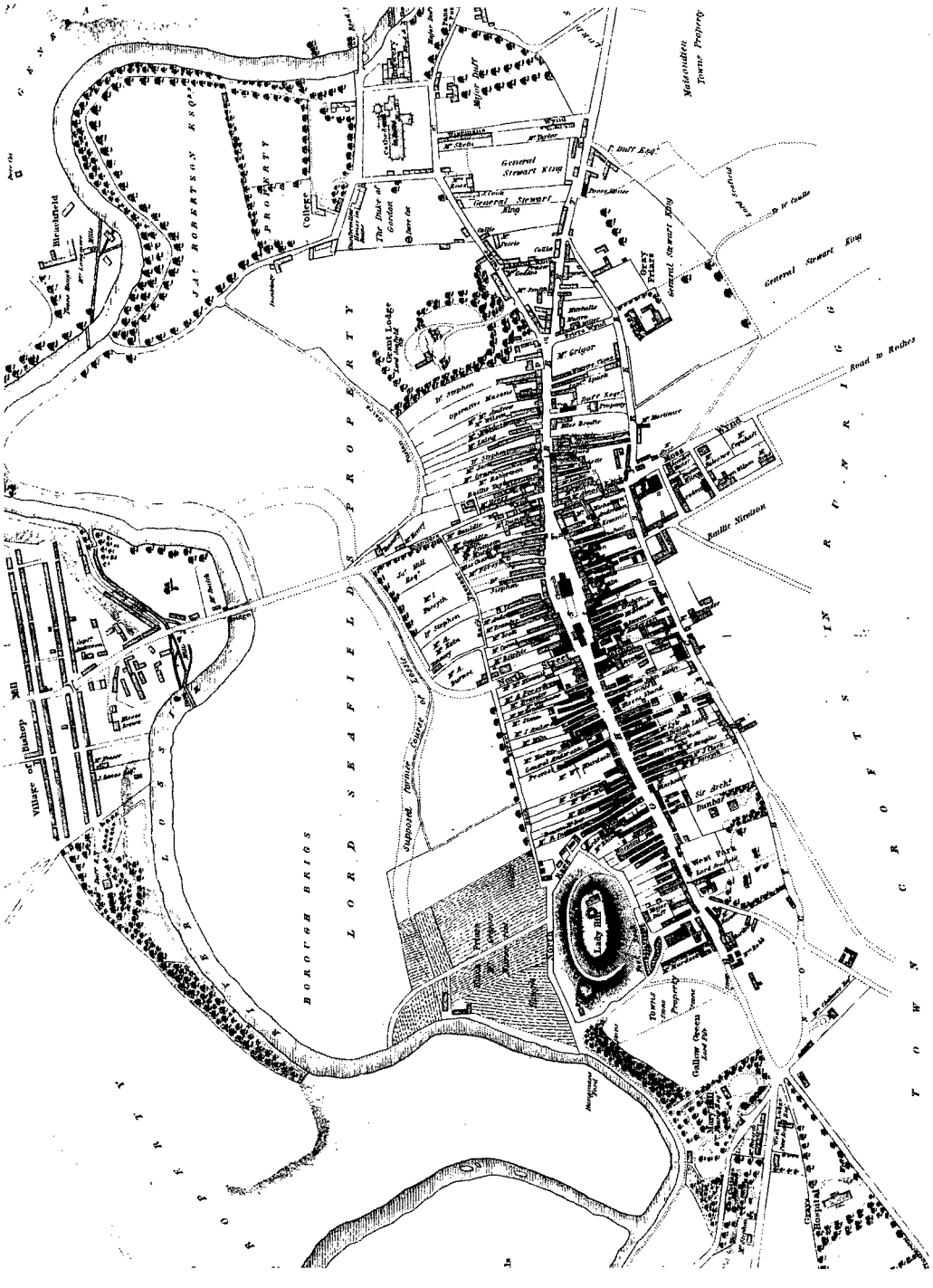
Initially the domestic buildings would have been of timber (see Hall, below), stone not being generally used till the later medieval period; the burgesses had the right to gather timber,



ILLUS 2 Aerial view of Elgin in 1975 (before construction of the relief road), from east (*Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland* © *Crown copyright*)

presumably for construction, and fuel from the king's forest of Elgin under David I (Barrow 1971, 356–7).

Although the street plan is simple, there are some problems with interpretation. It is possible that the western end of the town was not rebuilt after destruction in 1452 (Shaw 1827, 263). This could have been the earliest settled area of the burgh, below the castle. In addition the burgh could originally have extended only as far as Lossie Wynd, just east of the parish church at the widest part of the High Street. The graveyard of the church served as a market area from the late 14th century, but it is possible that the narrowing of the High Street to the east of the church represents infilling of a wider market area when the burgh's expansion eastwards towards the chanonry took place. The rigs on the north side of the High Street, to the west of the church,



ILLUS 3 John Wood's (1822) 'Plan of the Town of Elgin' (*Trustees of the National Library of Scotland*)

extend backwards in straight lines, in contrast to those to the east of the church, which incorporate an angle to compensate for the narrowing of the High Street. Eastwards of Lossie Wynd, as far as the Little Cross, the rig layout has been lost in redevelopment during the 19th and 20th centuries, but Wood's plan of 1822 (illus 3) shows that the rigs here were slightly longer than those west of Lossie Wynd, suggesting that they were laid out at a different time.

Ladyhill and the Castle

Ladyhill is a conspicuous and probably largely natural hillock (NGR: NJ 211 628), just to the north of the line of the High Street, and at its western limits, rises to some 31 m OD above the River Lossie. It has a flat summit and steep sides, the west side having the easiest gradient. A series of steps up the terraced south slope reaches the summit from the High Street. There are indications that the northern and possibly the eastern and western slopes have also been terraced. A 'tongue' of raised ground projecting from the lower slopes of the hill at its north-western corner gives the whole a superficial resemblance to an oversized motte with a vestigial bailey.

The most obvious feature of the present summit area is the 25 m high plinthed column (erected in 1839) bearing a statue of the 5th Duke of Gordon (erected in 1853). An observatory stood on the west end of the hill until very recently and its scant remains are still visible around a shallow crater on the lip of the summit. The ground is covered with gullies and ridges, and depressions and knolls of various shapes and sizes, none of any depth or height. The surface indications are that all these relate to recent activities rather than medieval (or earlier) occupation.

The remains of the castle can be seen towards the east end of the mound. Only remnant wall cores survive, standing in places to some 2.5 m above the exterior ground level. These remains may represent the remains of a tower belonging to the castle or perhaps the Chapel of Our Lady referred to in documentary sources (Duff unpubl). Wall footings below the summit to the south and east of the monument may be the remains of a medieval curtain-wall, or simply remains of a more recent revetment.

The Elgin and Morayshire Literary and Scientific Association — the precursor of the present Elgin Society — is known to have dug on the Ladyhill in 1858 (Simpson & Stevenson 1982, 16). In addition there has been disturbance associated with sand or stone extraction (some associated with the building of the Gordon Monument and the observatory) and burial of rubbish.

EXCAVATIONS ON LADYHILL, 1972–3

D W Hall & A D S MacDonald
with contributions by A Cox & C Smith

A research excavation on the site of the castle, under the sponsorship of the Department of Extramural Studies of Aberdeen University and the direction of Aidan MacDonald, was begun in July 1972 and continued in August 1973. It was intended that these two seasons would represent the start of a fairly large-scale operation, carried out over several years, but the proposed work was not undertaken and the site archive was stored in Elgin Museum. In 1995 SUAT was commissioned by Historic Scotland to prepare a full publication report on these excavations. The following is based on Aidan MacDonald's interim statement and site notebook.

AIMS

In 1972 a full survey of the site was undertaken and a grid was laid out and divided into six areas, A–F (illus 4). Ultimately, no trenches were opened in areas A, D or F. The initial aims were threefold:

(1) to find out whether or not a curtain-wall enclosed the summit of the hill and, if so, to determine its course, thereby establishing the outside limits of the castle;
(2) to ascertain whether the hill is natural or has been added to artificially;
(3) to discover whether there had been Dark Age and earlier occupation of the site.

The trenches were placed in what seemed to be likely positions, judging from surface indications, partly on the slopes and partly on the summit, and avoiding obviously disturbed or otherwise occupied areas. Trench E2 was opened within the summit area, to assess what remained of the interior occupation. The detailed planning of the summit area led to the tentative conclusion that the present contours have little or nothing to do with the medieval occupation, but resulted from robbing and other comparatively recent activities. It was assumed, however, throughout the early stages of the excavation, that the present slopes and summit preserved the historical profile of the hill.

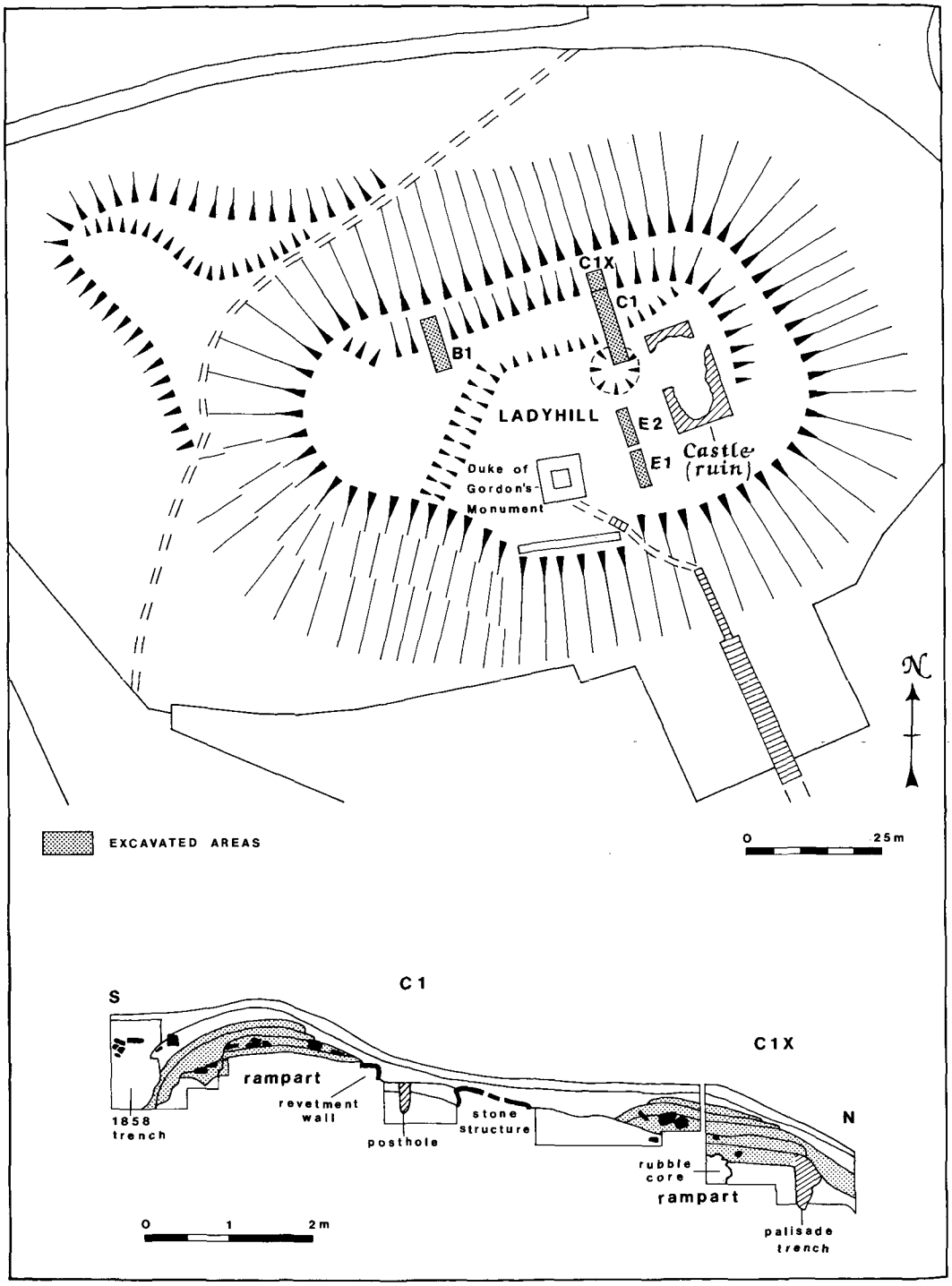
EXCAVATION RESULTS

Trench B1 This trench was partly excavated in 1972. Many architectural fragments were found in the topsoil layers. Over the whole of the north of the trench, immediately below the topsoil layers, was a surface of burnt clay daub with much charcoal, suggesting a burnt, collapsed clay and timber construction; this was not clarified during the excavation. Embedded in its surface was what appeared to be a corner stone of a large window surround (see finds, no 19). In the south end of the trench, a disturbed surface of rubble and mortar was located, possibly the remains of a wall-footing. It was not founded on the underlying and probably natural orange sand, but rested on a grey-brown silty soil, 0.15–0.3 m deep. A possible robber trench was identified above part of it, while a large and deep pit had cut into it in the south-east corner. The pit fill had an upper deposit of dark brown sticky soil and a lower deposit of thick black sticky soil, partly separated by a spit of sand.

Trench C1 This trench was partly excavated in 1972. At the south end, extending the width of the trench and lying immediately below the humus, a very large pit was partly emptied to a depth of just over 2 m. This pit was tentatively identified as the excavation made by the Elgin and Morayshire Literary and Scientific Association in 1858. It had cut through a curvilinear feature, whose surviving arc in C1 lay immediately to the north of it, and which appeared to have been roughly dry-paved with medium and small thin flags. This feature was sectioned to the same depth as the pit. It had been cut down into the underlying sand and gravel in irregular steps which could be distinguished as thin lines of discoloration, suggesting that a wooden superstructure had been removed or had rotted away.

Two millstone fragments (one probable only) and a quern fragment were found in apparent association with the feature. These, taken in conjunction with its curvilinear ground plan, suggest a horse-mill. The obvious alternative is that it was an open catchment tank to collect and hold rainwater. In view of the height of the hill's summit above the Lossie and the fact that the subsoil is sand and gravel, wells could not have been dug within the castle, though a water supply would have been essential within a fortified site. The curvilinear feature may be the remains of the paved surround and wooden, stepped approach to such a stone-built tank, sunk below ground level.

To the north, nearer the middle of the trench, a flimsy structure had also been built into the sand and gravel. It was constructed mainly of small and medium rubble and mortared stone; and apparently had been intended to retain the heavy orange gravel to the south. A rectangular stone structure north of this was also



ILLUS 4 Ladyhill: location of the trenches (above) and east-facing section of Trenches C1 and C1X

fairly flimsy, with medium and small rubble at its south end but more massive and deeper masonry at its north end, including some reused dressed blocks, on the downslope side. The character of these two features suggests that they were related: they may have been associated with terraces and revetments on this north slope of the hill, the rectangular structure being the higher of the two.

A group of five post-holes was located between the lower 'revetment wall' and the rectangular structure, and two post-holes were discovered at the equivalent level in the northern half of the trench. The group of five post-holes were all sectioned and it appeared that none would have taken much more than thin poles: widths varied from 0.22 m to 0.4 m and their depths from 0.13 m to 0.34 m. The fills consisted of soil, sand and small stones; there was no packing material.

Trench C1X The considerable quantity of medium and heavy rubble at the northern end of Trench C1, together with the mounding, in section, of several layers on what seemed to be the original lip of the slope of the hill, suggested that a fairly substantial feature, possibly the remains of a wall, lay to the north of the trench (ie beyond the downslope end). A short excavation was carried out in August 1973 to explore this possibility further.

The upper topsoil layers were removed to varying depths over the entire floor of Trench C1X. Some rubble and mortar was encountered and there were numerous nails in the layer below the humus, although no wall remnants were identified. As the reason for the mounding of the upper soil layers remained unclear, and time was short, a sondage, half the width of the trench (ie 1.5 m), was driven into the slope from north to south along the west section, thereby providing a continuous section with C1. What follows has been deduced largely from the resulting west section of C1X and the north end of the west section of C1 (illus 4).

The profile of the subsoil surface suggests artificial scarping, though a natural ledge possibly pre-existed here. A palisade slot, with vertical sides and a flat bottom, was cut into the outer edge of this terrace. In the bottom of the slot was a single post-hole, 0.45 m deep from the surface of the subsoil. The method of construction indicated by these elements is of posts set on the bottom of the slot, with 'tying' posts at intervals, sunk deeper into the bottom of the slot. Horizontal timbers may have been used to give greater strength and stability.

Within the palisade (ie on the upslope side) was piled a low rampart of striated orange sand backed by a haphazard tip of rubble, apparently to give bulk to the body of the rampart. The same striated orange sand also occurred north of the palisade slot (ie downslope), suggesting that the palisade posts may have been no more than a revetment, providing a vertical face to the outside of the rampart. Assuming that the tops of the posts were flush with the top of the rampart, the streaky orange sand on the outside probably spilled over from the crest of the bank. The palisade was evidently flimsy and can have been of no great height (the defensive strength of the summit area would lie largely in the naturally steep slopes of the hill, especially on the north and east). Subsequently, it appears to have been pressed outwards by the pressure of material behind it. The fill layers of the slot suggested that it was finally removed, rather than allowed to rot *in situ.*

Some lapse of time is indicated by the build-up of striated, yellow-brown sand which sealed the mouth of the palisade slot. This indication of dereliction is supported by a soil layer above, interpreted as an old turf line. On top of this layer was a surface of large, generally flat stones and rubble, mixed with white sand, but unmortared (not illus), possibly the drystone footing of a wall. None of the stone was dressed. No dating evidence was recovered for either the timber-revetted rampart or the later 'wall'.

Trench E1 This trench was completely excavated in 1972 but was the least productive of the four trenches. Two post-holes (0.44 m wide by 0.7 m deep and 0.45 m wide by 0.65 m deep) were identified in the surface of the subsoil. There was no sign of packing in either post-hole. There were indications that the posts were burned *in situ.* Burnt material spread out to south-west from both pits and charcoal was concentrated about the surface of one pit.

At the north end of the trench the subsoil was excavated to a depth of 1.12 m. It was composed of an upper layer of light buff, gritty sand and a lower layer of gritty, orange sand, grading to yellow. At this depth

a bore was sunk to 1.43 m, in the centre of the trench near the north section. The bore produced clean white sand and then red gravel, but was abandoned at this depth because of the increasing difficulty of using the auger. It established, however, the presence of clean (probably sterile) sand and gravel layers to at least 2.55 m below the lowest topsoil layer.

The east and west sections showed evidence of building activity. Two distinct phases were indicated by dumps of soil and rubble, separated by a comparatively thin layer of humus. The stratification appeared to indicate that they were recent. The proximity of the trench to the Duke of Gordon's Monument may be significant as there were two phases of associated building works, in 1839 and in 1855, and it is possible that the dumps belong to the two construction phases.

Trench E2 This trench was partly excavated in 1972. The upper layers produced only unstratified material and modern rubbish pits, mostly containing shells. A linear feature ran from NW/SE, and layers of light buff sand and rubble and mortar appeared in section as layers tilted at 45° from south to north. A heavy, black soil mixed with orange sand may have been an occupation deposit. It appeared to be undisturbed although it was considerably churned up. If so, it was the only such deposit encountered on site, with the possible exception of one or two small, isolated patches of sandy soil with bone, shell and charcoal, lying on or just above the subsoil in Trench C1.

POTTERY FROM LADYHILL

D W Hall

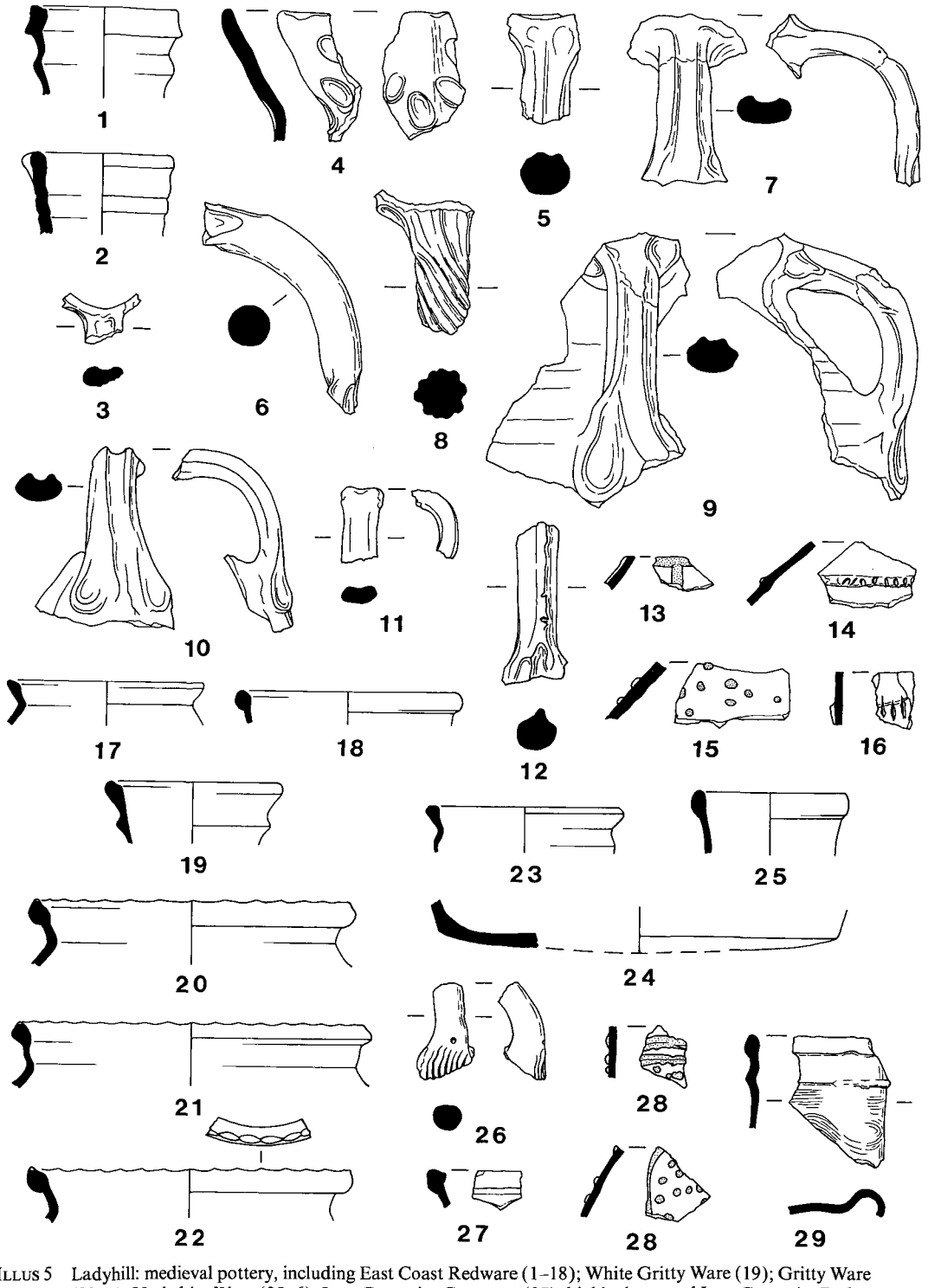
The excavations produced 1132 sherds of pottery. The assemblage from excavations on Ladyhill includes a greater range of imported fabrics than have been recovered from excavations within the burgh. This no doubt reflects the status of the site and may also indicate better survival of earlier deposits on the castle site than in the burgh. The presence of a sizeable group of Gritty Ware sherds is of interest as it seems likely that this fabric represents an early local product. Sherds of this fabric have also been recovered from the Relief Road excavations (W Lindsay, pers comm) and the High Street excavations (see Hall, below). The most common vessel type is the cooking pot which has a distinctive slightly frilled rim, although sherds from glazed jugs are also present. Most sherds were recovered from topsoil layers; other contexts are indicated in the catalogue. Notably, more sherds from gritty ware cooking pots were noted from trench C1 than from any of the other trenches. It is tempting to suggest that this evidence might be used to identify the function of different parts of the castle (eg kitchens or halls), however, a larger sample would be needed for this type of analysis.

The discovery of a kiln waster in the spoil heap of Trench B1 suggests that there may have been a kiln in the near vicinity. However unlikely this would seem for such a site, it is the first kiln waste of medieval date from the burgh.

Apart from the small group of 19th-century ceramics there is no pottery present of a date later than the 15th century. This supports the hypothesis that Elgin Castle remained in use only until the 15th century (see Perry, below).

Catalogue (illus 5)

East Coast Redware The assemblage is dominated by this fabric type which forms 68% of the total group. Previous analysis of similar material from the Relief Road excavations of the 1970s suggested that it may be a local product (Cracknell 1982, 57), forming part of a Scottish East Coast Redware tradition from Stirling to Inverness (Hall 1996a, 126). Glazed jugs are the most common vessel type in the Ladyhill assemblage,



ILLUS 5 Ladyhill: medieval pottery, including East Coast Redware (1–18); White Gritty Ware (19); Gritty Ware (20–4); Yorkshire Ware (25–6); Low Countries Greyware (27); highly decorated Low Countries Redware (28); unidentified ware, possibly northern English (29)

although there are a few sherds from cooking pots. Amongst the unstratified material from the spoil heap of trench B1 are two redware body sherds fused together indicating waste material from a kiln.

1 Unglazed jug rim B1
2 Jug rim and spout fragment with external purple wash (Trench B1)
3 Jug rim and small strap handle junction (Trench C1)
4 Parrot beak spout from jug glazed yellow green (Trench B1)
5 Jug rim and rod handle junction glazed green (Trench B1)
6 Complete rod handle with patches of green glaze on a purple wash (Trench B1)
7 Complete strap handle with patches of green glaze (Trench B1)
8 Twisted rod handle fragment glazed yellow green on a purple wash (Trench B1)
9 Complete strap handle and body sherds glazed green (Trench B1)
10 Strap handle fragment with traces of green glaze on purple wash (Trench C1)
11 Small decorative strap handle glazed green on a purple wash (Trench C1)
12 Rod handle with central ridge glazed green (Trench B1)
13 Body sherd glazed green with applied lines glazed brown (Trench B1)
14 Body sherd glazed brown with notched raised cordon (Trench B1)
15 Body sherd glazed yellow green with applied pellets (Trench B1)
16 Body sherd with decorative arm junction (Trench E2)
17 Cooking pot rim with patches of green glaze and internal and external smoke blackening (Trench C1)
18 Cooking pot rim with external smoke blackening (Trench C1)

White Gritty Ware Recent work has identified three potential production sites for this fabric in Lothian, Borders and Fife (Haggarty 1984; Hall 1997). It appears to be Scotland's earliest native fabric, as it is found from deposits in Perth that contain 12th-century continental imports and no redwares (Hall 1996b).

19 Cooking pot rim with external smoke blackening (Trench B1, pit fill)

Gritty Ware This fabric appears to belong to the White Gritty Ware tradition discussed above, but its fabric and form suggest that it may come from a source as yet unidentified. Recent excavations at Duffus Castle, 6 km north-west of Elgin have also recovered a similar fabric (Cannel & Tabraham 1994, 388).

20 Slightly frilled cooking pot rim with internal and external smoke blackening (Trench C1)
21 Slightly frilled cooking pot rim with external smoke blackening (Trench C1)
22 Slightly frilled cooking pot rim with external smoke blackening (Trench C1X)
23 Cooking pot rim with slight external smoke blackening (Trench E1, pit fill)
24 Base sherd from cooking pot with external smoke blackening (Trench C1)

Developed Stamford Ware (not illus) There are only two sherds of this distinctive, hard, off-white to light grey fabric, both from jugs with a clear glaze speckled with green. This fabric dates to the 11th or 12th century (Kilmurray 1980) and was present in the assemblage from the St Giles Centre excavations (Hall, below).

Yorkshire Ware The presence of Yorkshire Wares in the Ladyhill assemblage is no surprise as this was a very popular imported pottery type during the medieval period on the Scottish east coast (McCarthy & Brooks 1988). It is the most commonly represented imported pottery type in the assemblage, with 78 sherds, all from jugs glazed a lustrous green colour.

25 Jug rim glazed amber green (Trench C1)
26 Decorative arm from figure jug glazed green (Trench B1)

Low Countries Wares There are 34 sherds from vessels in Low Countries Greywares (no 27) and Redwares (no 28). The Greywares began arriving in Scotland during the mid to late 12th century and were gradually replaced by Redwares in the mid 14th century. There are also six sherds in highly decorated Aardenburg type ware. This fabric can be distinguished from the redwares by the presence of a white slip under the green glaze. It is normally given a mid 13th- to mid 14th-century date (Verhaege 1983, 23). The Relief Road excavations of the 1970s produced a small assemblage of Low Countries wares including a complete greyware pitcher from a well at the Nicholson's Garage site (Verhaege & Lindsay 1983, 95).

27 Rim sherd from cooking pot with external smoke blackening (Trench C1)

28 Body sherds from jug glazed dark green decorated with applied white slip lines and pellets glazed yellow green (Trench B1)

Unidentified material Fifteen sherds are not easily identifiable with known fabric types. They are all imports — perhaps from northern England — and include a very unusual jug rim sherd with a deep spout (no 29).

29 Jug rim sherd with very deep spout glazed green with brushed decoration (Trench B1)

Modern ceramics (not illus) Fifty sherds of 19th-century china and earthenware were recovered from topsoil deposits.

ARTEFACTS FROM LADYHILL

A Cox
with contributions by R Stevenson & C Smith

The small assemblage of artefacts is described by material type. Catalogue entries include context descriptions where available. With the exception of the clay pipe stem bore diameter, measurements are expressed to the nearest 1 mm.

Copper-alloy objects (not illus)

Artefacts of copper alloy were unusually rare finds from this excavation. The only example was a slightly curved sheet fragment in two conjoining pieces which probably came from a sheet metal artefact.

1 **Sheet** Length 32 mm; width 21 mm; thickness 2 mm. Two conjoining, slightly curved sheet fragments. Heavily corroded. Trench B1; Pit in south-eastern corner; Find no 15.

Lead-alloy objects (not illus)

Two pieces of lead-alloy waste were recovered from Trench C1. Both have been partly melted. Number 3 may represent a mass formed by the fusing of several sheet fragments due to heating. Given their context, it is not possible to be certain whether this material relates to activities carried out by the inhabitants of the castle or to later activity.

2 **Waste** Length 56 mm; max width 35 mm; max thickness 7 mm. Fragment probably from the edge of a sheet, with slightly distorted and heat-affected edges. Trench C1; Find no 2.

3 **Waste** Length 60 mm; width 39 mm; thickness 13 mm. Piece of waste, of irregular form. Trench C1; topsoil; Find no 13.

Iron objects (illus 6)

Five iron artefacts were recovered, apart from nails. Number 4 may be a tooth from a heckle comb. Heckle combs were used in the preparation of wool and flax for spinning, and incorporated a row of long, slightly curved teeth. Individual teeth would have frequently broken or become detached. This example is damaged at the point of attachment to the comb frame, indicating a break. A longer spike, also interpreted as a probable comb tooth, was found in a late 14th/mid 15th-century context at Threave Castle, Galloway (Caldwell 1981, 112, fig 11, no 78). One horseshoe fragment was recovered. It is part of a small shoe of medieval type, with a smooth outline and two surviving rectangular nail holes. When complete, it would have had a maximum width of c 65 mm. Number 6 possibly represents part of a knife blade. Any cutting edge is now lost, however, and the form of the object is obscured by heavy corrosion and fragmentation. Number 7 is probably a key of the type used to open a barrel padlock. Its slender shaft allowed it to be inserted through an aperture in the underside of the lock, whereupon the bit would depress the lock's internal spring mechanism, thus releasing the bolt. It has a looped terminal, allowing the key to be suspended from a belt or chain. The bit is almost entirely missing, making close dating difficult; however, padlock keys with a similar type of terminal from London and elsewhere have been found in 12th- to 14th-century contexts (London Museum 1940, 146–9; Goodall & Carter 1977, 293, fig 133, no 5).

4 **Heckle tooth?** Length 150 mm; max diameter 12 mm. Probable heckle tooth, with a very slight curvature, tapering to a pointed end. The wider end is hollow and damaged. The cross-section is circular at the wider end but becomes more rectangular as the object tapers. Trench B1; Context 1; Find no 1.

5 **Horseshoe** Length 64 mm; width 14 mm; thickness 5 mm. Fragment representing one arm of a shoe, with a smoothly curving outline and two rectangular nail holes (length 5 mm; width 3 mm). There is no calkin at the finished end. Trench E2; Topsoil 1b; Find no 14.

6 **Knife?** Length 78 mm; width 16 mm; thickness 6 mm. Possible knife blade fragment. Very heavily corroded. Trench B1; Find no 3 (not illus).

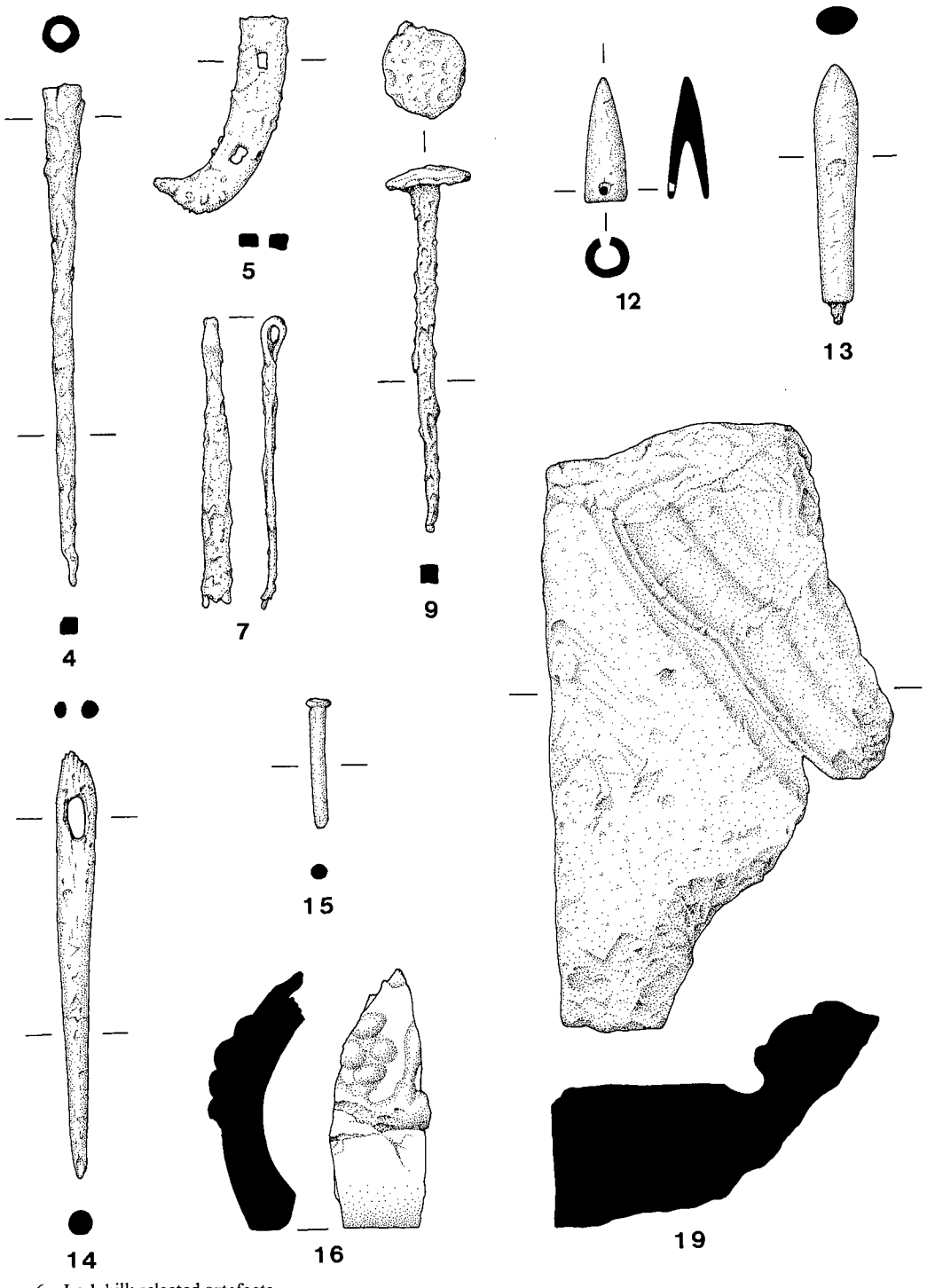
7 **Padlock key?** Length 86 mm; max width 8 mm; max thickness 9 mm. Probable padlock key, made from a single, tapering, rectangular cross-sectioned strip, looped over at the narrower end to form the terminal. At the bit end, the shaft begins to curve outward and a small vestige of the bit itself survives. Corroded. Trench E1; Find no 11.

8 **Strip** Length 57 mm; width 11 mm; thickness 3 mm. Rectangular cross-sectioned strip, broken at both ends. Heavily corroded. Trench B1; topsoil; Find no 12 (not illus).

Nails (illus 6)

A total of 40–60 nails is represented by the complete examples and fragments. Many have disintegrated into very small fragments. Most were recovered from trenches B1 and C1X. Wrought nails with round heads and square cross-sectioned shafts are the most common type represented. Number 9 is the only complete example. Several of the fragments are of large, structural nails which would have been used with substantial timbers while others are from relatively small nails. Over half the nails were recovered from Trench B1, from topsoil deposits. A significant group came from Trench C1X, apparently associated with a palisade trench, possibly relating to the earliest (possibly timber) phase of the castle on Ladyhill. The nails from Trench CIX are all of a round-headed type which was common during the medieval period.

9 **Nail** Length 109 mm; max width of head 29 mm. Nail with a tapering, square or rectangular cross-sectioned shaft and a roughly circular head. Corroded. Trench B1; Topsoil, above burnt clay; Find no 7.



ILLUS 6 Ladyhill: selected artefacts

Coins (not illus)

R Stevenson

Two coins were found. One is a cut halfpenny, one of many varieties struck by Hue Walter in the name of William the Lion but probably mostly after William had died in 1214 and before Alexander II put his own name on the coins around 1240. This curious procedure follows English precedent where Richard I and John had only coins in the name of their father Henry III. The second coin is an early 19th-century Bavarian coin of little numismatic interest in the present context.

10 **Coin** Halfpenny in the name of William the Lion. Burns Class IV, c 1214–40. Trench B1; Topsoil; Find no 22.

11 **Coin** Bavarian coin of Max Joseph, 1805–25. Trench C1; Find no 23.

Bone and antler objects (illus 6)

with species identifications by C Smith

The bone and antler assemblage comprises four items. A ferrule or point derived from an antler tine (no 12) was possibly affixed to the end of a wooden rod/shaft by a single nail or rivet. Its surface bears paring marks and file marks, indicating that it had been carefully finished and that it had not been greatly worn by use. Number 13 is a handle made from a long bone shaft. Only a small, corroded fragment of the iron implement shaft or blade projects beyond the open end of the handle, making identification of the implement type difficult. This could, however, have been part of a small knife, as the elongated oval cross-section of the handle indicates that it was designed to be held with the long axis of the cross-section in the vertical plane, as one would hold a knife. Number 14 is a pin or needle, probably made from a long bone shaft. It is crudely finished, particularly at the head, where little attempt has been made to produce a smoothly rounded terminal. There is some polish on the shaft, indicating frequent handling. Number 15 is a fragment of a pin with an apparently discoid head.

12 **Ferrule/point** Length 36 mm; max diameter 12 mm. Ferrule/point, derived from an antler (probably Red deer) tine, of an elongated, conical form and roughly circular cross-section. At the wider, open end is a single, circular hole (diameter 2 mm) to accommodate a small nail or rivet. Below the bored cavity at the wider end, where the core of the tine has been removed, the tip is solid. Trench C1X; Spit A; Find no 10.

13 **Handle** Length (including tang fragment) 78 mm; max width 13 mm; thickness 7 mm. Implement handle, derived from large ungulate long bone shaft, with a pointed terminal and a smooth, oval cross-section, narrowing slightly towards the open end, into which is inserted part of an iron tang. Only c 6 mm of the implement shaft or blade survives beyond the open end of the handle. This end of the handle has cracked on one side due to corrosion of the tang. The surface of the opposite side is slightly damaged. Trench C1; Context 1; Find no 9.

14 **Pin (or needle?)** Length 129 mm; max width 12 mm; max thickness 6 mm. Pin or needle, probably derived from a large ungulate long bone shaft, tapering from the roughly finished head towards a point. An elongated perforation (length 13 mm) lies 14 mm below the upper end. The object has broken at mid-shaft, into two conjoining fragments. There is some polish on the shaft, although the object is abraded. Trench C1; Topsoil; Find no 6.

15 **Pin** Length 39 mm; width of head 7 mm. Pin fragment, derived from a large ungulate long bone shaft, including approximately half of the discoid head and the upper part of the shaft. The shaft is of oval cross-section and polished. The lower part is missing. Trench C1X; Spit D; Find no 8.

Ceramic roof tile (illus 6)

The single item in this category is probably a fragment of ridge tile. Raised decoration on the convex surface may be a representation of grapes on a vine.

16 **Roof tile fragment** Length 79 mm; max width 30 mm; max thickness 16 mm. Two conjoining fragments in a moderately coarse, red to orange fabric, forming a curved profile and including part of a rim. The convex surface bears applied decoration in the form of a pattern of raised pellets and linear elements, possibly representing a grape-laden vine. Black deposits and traces of clay or fine plaster adhere to the surfaces. Trench C1X; Topsoil 1b; Find no 18.

Architectural fragments (illus 6)

Six architectural fragments were recovered from Trench B1. They are likely to be associated with the castle or related buildings, such as its chapel. Richard Fawcett (Historic Scotland) kindly commented on two of the fragments. Number 19 is a fragment of a moulding from complex, decorative arcading consisting of rolls and fillets. Its style invites comparison with that of the post–1270s phase of building at Elgin Cathedral and it could perhaps have come from the chapel of the castle. Number 20 is possibly a fragment from the base of a plinth. Two other fragments are probably from free-standing vertical shafts. These have traces of fine plaster or paint on their outer faces, in common with the plinth base fragment (no 20). The shafts were of different sizes: the projected diameter of no 21 is 135 mm, but of no 22, 95–100 mm.

19 **Architectural fragment** Length 187 mm; max width 105 mm; max thickness 67 mm. Architectural fragment incorporating a right-angle and adjacent, decoratively carved moulding. Trench B1; Context 1; Find no 16.

20 **Architectural fragment** Length 204 mm; max width 87 mm; max thickness 81 mm. Architectural fragment with a right-angled edge in the horizontal plane and finished edges in the vertical plane. Two faces include chamfered edges. Traces of fine, white plaster or wash adhere to the finished faces. Weathering is evident in the form of occasional pitting. Trench B1; Context 1; Find no 17 (not illus).

21 **Architectural fragment** Length 79 mm; width 124 mm; thickness 82 mm. Moderately coarse-grained, buff to orange sandstone. Fragment of a decorative cylindrical or D-shaped element, the outer face curved and bearing traces of fine, white plaster or wash, and the flat base bearing tool marks. Trench B1; Context 1; Find no 24 (not illus).

22 **Architectural fragment** Length 115 mm; width 97 mm; thickness 47 mm. Moderately coarse-grained, buff to orange sandstone. Fragment of a decorative cylindrical or D-shaped element, with a curved outer face bearing traces of fine, white plaster or wash, and a flat base. Trench B1; Find no 25 (not illus).

Slate pencils (not illus)

Two slate pencils (nos 23 & 24) were recovered from topsoil deposits in Trench E2, within the summit area. Ladyhill provides a good viewpoint overlooking Elgin and the surrounding countryside, and it is tempting — if fanciful — to think that these fragments may have been lost or discarded by someone sketching the view from this high vantage point.

23 **Slate pencil** Length 53 mm; diameter 5 mm. Slate pencil of circular cross-section, with trimming marks along its length, sharpened to a point at one end and with one edge filed flat at the other through use. Trench E2; Find no 19.

24 **Slate pencil** Length 31 mm; width 6 mm; thickness 5 mm. Slate pencil of sub-rectangular to oval cross-section, with trimming marks along its length and sharpened at one end. Trench E2; topsoil 1b; Find no 20.

ANIMAL BONE FROM LADYHILL

C Smith

The mammal and bird bones were identified by direct comparison with modern material and were allocated to particular bone and species where possible. Where this was not possible, the terms large ungulate, small ungulate and indeterminate mammal were used: thus all large vertebrae other than the atlas and axis are described as large ungulate, while small vertebrae are described as small ungulate. Ribs are similarly allocated depending on their size.

Large ungulate bones are most likely to have come from cattle, but could also have come from red deer. Horse bones were rare so it is unlikely that any of the large vertebrae were equine. Bones described as small ungulate are most likely to have come from sheep or pig but could have derived from goat or roe deer. All other mammalian fragments for which neither species nor bone could be ascertained were described as indeterminate mammal.

Boessneck's (1971) criteria for differentiating between the bones of sheep and goat, which are morphologically very similar, were applied where feasible. No goat bones were positively identified. Measurements (expressed in mm) were made in accordance with the scheme of von den Driesch (1976). Mandibular tooth wear and eruption patterns were assessed using Grant's (1982) scheme for cattle, sheep/goats and pigs, as well as Payne's (1973) scheme for sheep/goats. Horn cores were aged using Armitage's (1982) criteria.

TABLE 1

Ladyhill: numbers of animal bones per trench

	B1		C1		CI(X)		E1		E2	
	T	P	T	O	T	O	T	T	O	TOTAL
Cattle	36	29	60	33	19	11	12	1	53	254
Sheep/goat	6	6	10	4		4	1		5	36
Pig	8	9	13	5	2	4	7	1	6	55
Horse	3		1	1		1			2	8
Red deer	5	5	11	5		6	5	2	16	55
Roe deer	1	1							1	3
Dog		3	4	3	7	3		2	14	36
Cetacean			1							1
Large ungulate	6	11	19	18	13	9	5		25	106
Small ungulate		6	8	1	2	4	1			22
Indeterminate Mammal	5	4	6	6	4	2	4		1	32
Domestic fowl	1	1		1						3
Goose	1		1							2
Fish		2							1	3
Total	72	77	134	77	47	44	35	6	124	616

T = topsoil; P = pit fill; O = all contexts other than topsoil

Condition

The animal bones were generally in a very good state of preservation. Only a few fragments were eroded or abraded, indicating that burial had probably been rapid. In general, the fragments were large, possibly accounting for the high rate of identification of individual fragments; only 32 out of a total of 616 fragments are described as indeterminate mammal.

Relative frequency

The mammalian assemblage comprises bones of cattle, sheep/goats, pigs, horses, dogs, red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) and one from a large whale (Order Cetacea). A small number of

bones of domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*), goose (*Anser anser*) and unidentified fish were also recovered. The total numbers of fragments from each species is shown in Table 1. Minimum numbers of individuals, based on the most frequent bone from each species in each trench, are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2

Ladyhill: minimum numbers of animal species per trench

	B1		C1		CI(X)		E1	E2	
	T	P	T	O	T	O	T	T	O
Cattle	2	3	4	3	1	2	1	1	3
Sheep/goat	1	1		1		1	1		1
Pig	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Horse	1		1	1		1			1
Red deer	2	1	2	1		1	1	1	1
Roe deer	1	1							1
Dog		1	2	1	2	1		1	4
Cetacean			1						
Domestic fowl	1	1		1					
Goose	1		1						

T = topsoil; P = pit fill; O = all contexts other than topsoil

The assemblage is dominated by domestic mammals, in particular, cattle. However, the number of bones from sheep/goats is surprisingly low. Comparison of the percentages of fragments of the main food-forming mammals (cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse and deer) from other medieval sites in Elgin reveals a striking contrast. At Ladyhill, although cattle are apparently common, sheep/goats are not, while the frequency of deer is far higher than expected.

Sites of similar date excavated within the burgh of Elgin have produced assemblages rich in both cattle and sheep bones (Hodgson & Jones 1979), in common with other medieval urban sites in north-east Scotland. Pigs are relatively scarce in such assemblages, and deer are seldom found. Medieval urban assemblages are assumed to contain the waste products of the trade in cattle hides and woolfells which were the mainstay of the Scottish export economy at this period (Hodgson 1983). Thus any bones of pigs or deer would be swamped by the large numbers of bones of cattle and sheep originating from such commercial activities. The lack of deer bones at urban sites has been equated with a lack of opportunity for the common people of the towns to hunt. Instead, hunting was a privilege of the crown, nobility and higher clergy (*ibid*). That the frequency of red deer at Ladyhill was so much greater than at sites in the adjoining town of Elgin, supports this. The percentage of red deer bones at Ladyhill is 14.1% compared with 0.7% at Elgin High Street and 0.9% at Lazarus Lane (Hodgson & Jones 1979). Roe deer may also have been hunted; three bones were recovered from Ladyhill.

The bones of pigs found at Ladyhill were thought to derive from domestic stock. One pig humerus is notably large, however, although from an immature animal. Although the bone came from a pit fill in Trench B1, rather than a topsoil layer, it is possibly from a modern animal, which would explain its large size. If it is medieval in date, it can only have come from a wild boar, since domestic pigs were much smaller in stature than those of the present day.

Bones of domestic cats are absent from Ladyhill. Although it is likely that the cat bones found at medieval urban sites represent animals which lived a semi-feral existence within the town, the site of the castle may have offered fewer hiding places for such animals. By contrast, dog bones were fairly frequent at Ladyhill, some possibly the remains of valued hunting animals.

Age at death

Estimating the ages of the animals at death gives an insight into the patterns of medieval livestock husbandry. Generally the most accurate estimates of age are derived from observation of the tooth eruption and wear patterns (after Payne 1973; Grant 1982; Bull & Payne 1982). Although the total number of mandibles from the site is small (seven of cattle, seven of sheep and six of pig), some important observations

can be made. The cattle mandibles all appear to have come from older adults, with the exception of one example from a young calf. Since the preservation of bone from the site was good, fragile mandibles of younger animals would also have been preserved, if present. The pattern of age at death of the sheep also indicates that young animals were fairly rare. The youngest animal killed at Ladyhill was 1–2 years old in modern terms (Payne's stage D) while the oldest was 8–10 years old (stage I). Evidence from the pig mandibles indicates that although one fairly young animal was present (killed at about 8 months) two were killed between 13 and 20 months and a further three survived until at least the age of 20 months.

Since the numbers of mandibles were small, epiphysial fusion evidence was considered. However, there are considerable differences in the ages of fusion of the epiphyses of the long bones quoted in the archaeozoological literature. Thus this method of ageing animals must be treated with caution (Noddle 1984). A fairly significant number of cattle bones from Ladyhill, apparently from juvenile or immature animals, were not represented by mandibles. However, most of the long bones came from adults, which agrees well with the mandibular evidence. The lack of younger mandibles may be accounted for by selective butchery practices; cow heads are not a prestige meat and may have been distributed elsewhere, perhaps to the less well-off people of the town.

As only a small sample of sheep/goat long bones was available, epiphysial fusion evidence was inconclusive; however, at least one lamb was present. A slightly larger sample of pig long bones was available and a substantial number are from animals which had not reached full adulthood. As it does not make economic sense to keep on feeding a pig after it has reached its optimum adult size, pigs would be killed at a younger age than cattle and sheep. Only those older females needed to sustain the breeding stock would be kept to old age.

Although no mandibular evidence was available for red deer, many long bones survived and could be assessed for epiphysial fusion. Juveniles were apparently not hunted to any great extent; most of the animals were either classified as belonging to age category I/A (immature *or* adult) or as A (definitely adult).

Size and type

Only one incomplete cattle horn core fragment, and very few skull fragments were retrieved, so it is not possible to draw any conclusions as to the appearance of the horns. However, medieval cattle from Perth, Aberdeen and elsewhere in eastern Scotland were almost invariably of the short-horn type, with the few polled cattle being attributable to genetic mutations within a horned population, rather than forming a distinct breed. The bones are of similar dimensions to those recorded from the large medieval assemblage recovered during excavations at 75–77 High Street, Perth (hereafter PHSE) (Hodgson 1983; Hodgson *et al* forthcoming). Estimated withers heights, based on the length of complete metatarsals, indicate a range of 107.4–109 cm for cattle at Ladyhill. This compares well with a range of 95.6–113.4 cm estimated for cattle at PHSE. The Ladyhill cattle (as well as those from Perth) were thus small by modern standards.

A few measurements for sheep are available from Ladyhill, all of which fall within the size ranges for medieval sheep at PHSE. Only one sheep horn core was found (Trench E2, Pit 2). It was long and slim, and marked by a 'thumb print' at the base. Such marks have been attributed to poor nutrition of the female during lactation and breeding (Hatting 1975; Clutton-Brock *et al* 1990, 6).

Pig measurements were possible only in a few cases, owing to the presence of a high proportion of unfused bones which are immature and therefore do not provide anatomical measurements. The fused bones fell within the PHSE range for medieval pigs, indicating small animals by modern standards, apart from one very large unfused humerus (see above).

Only one horse bone was complete enough to be measured, a second phalange of a very small size. Unfortunately, nothing can be said about the stature of the Elgin horses. The typical medieval Scottish horse was better described as a pony, and was usually around 13 hands height, and of the stocky build associated with the Highland garron.

The dog bones include some complete limb bones from which it was possible to calculate shoulder heights, using Harcourt's (1974) method. Two complete humeri (both from Trench C1X) provided heights of 50.2 cm and 62.9 cm. The former measurement is typical for dogs of the medieval period, and indicates a

dog of Border collie height. The latter is more unusual and would have been of similar height to the modern Alsatian/German Shepherd.

Canine head shape was indicated by a skull from Trench C1, Layer 1. This dog had a higher snout width index (after Harcourt 1974: this index compares the width of the snout relative to the length of the nose) than animals found either at PHSE or other sites in Elgin (Hodgson 1980). The Ladyhill dog therefore had a relatively broader muzzle than other medieval dogs from Perth or Elgin.

Other evidence of head shape came from a collection of six lower jaws from at least four different dogs found in Trench E2. The average basal length (von den Driesch 1976, 61) ranged from 99.4 to 119.5 mm. There is a strong possibility that these dogs were the same breed, or closely related, for several reasons: the mandibles were of a similar size and appearance and in three cases displayed congenital absence of the lower third molar combined with crowding of the first molar/fourth premolar. In addition, one mandible lacked the second premolar, also a common congenital anomaly. Defects such as these tend to suggest a degree of inbreeding, such as may be seen in a closely related pack.

The red deer at Ladyhill were much larger than present-day specimens. Diminution of size in deer with time has been discussed by Noddle (1982) and has been related to loss of suitable forest habitat for the animals. The Ladyhill material has substantially increased the data available for Scottish medieval red deer. Some of the sizes, for example for the distal humerus and scapula, are larger than those previously recorded at sites in both Perth and Aberdeen.

Butchery

Chop marks on many of the bones indicate the use of cleavers or butchers' axes. The only evidence that a saw had been used was in the case of a cattle femur, sawn across the shaft, from topsoil rubble in Trench C1X (thus, the bone may be modern). One antler tine was also sawn across at its base (Trench E1). Three other antler tines from the site were chopped rather than sawn. The lack of saw cuts on bones from Ladyhill is in keeping with medieval practice observed at urban sites throughout Scotland.

A notable feature of the butchery technique employed at Ladyhill was the absence of evidence for marrow extraction. At many urban sites of the medieval period it seems to have been common practice to split the long bones open in the sagittal plane to extract the marrow as an extra food source. The resulting detritus often consists of fairly small shaft fragments. At Ladyhill, the fragment size was large; long bone shafts were not split open, but were chopped across in a medio-lateral direction. Perhaps urban dwellers found it necessary to exploit all possible food resources, such as marrow, while the wealthier classes occupying the castle had less need to do so. A further implication that may be drawn from the fragment size is that either the vessels in which the meat was cooked were of a large size and could accommodate a whole haunch of venison, or leg of beef, or that the meat was roasted without using a container. The relative lack of burning on the bones implies the former to be the case.

Once dismembered, the meat was cut off the bones using metal knives. Knife cuts were observed on the bones of cattle, sheep, pig, red deer and dog. The latter may not have been used as a food source, but for its fur. Four dog bones bore knife cuts, three of which were mandibles. The deposit from which one of these mandibles came (Trench E2, Layer 1b) also contained another five mandibles, which suggests that all the dogs in this context had been skinned. There is ample evidence from urban medieval sites that dog and cat skinning was a cottage industry, for example at sites in the High Street in Perth (Hodgson *et al* forthcoming; Smith 1997). Perhaps if a group of dogs died as a result of an outbreak of infectious disease, they may have been skinned before disposal of the bodies.

Abnormal bones

Bone abnormalities were few and consisted mainly of congenital defects, which would have had no effect on the health of the animals. These include the dental anomalies of dog mandibles (described above). Reduction of the third pillar/fifth cusp of the lower third molar was observed in a total of four cases in cattle. Absence of the lower second premolar in one cattle jaw was noted. A further anomaly which is possibly also

congenital was noted in a cattle innominate (Trench C1); a small perforation was seen at the junction of the adjoining parts of the acetabulum, the pubis and ilium, probably the result of incomplete fusion of the two, originally separate, bones. This anomaly has been observed infrequently in cattle at Dunbar and Perth (Smith forthcoming a).

One specimen of dental pathology which would have affected animal health was an incidence of probable dental caries in a pig maxilla. This lesion had occurred early in the life of the animal, since it had affected the deciduous third molar (dm3).

Three cattle metapodials showed signs of joint abnormalities, although two of these consisted of fairly insignificant articular lesions (Trench B1, Pit Fill). One metacarpal, however, was slightly grooved and extended at the distal articulation, and may have caused some discomfort to the animal. A cattle femur exhibited a small patch of eburnation on the distal part of the caput, as well as exostoses at the epiphysial junction. This may have been due to osteoarthritis, but the diagnosis is inconclusive according to Baker & Brothwell's (1980) criteria.

Discussion

The most important feature of the Ladyhill assemblage is the high relative frequency of deer bones compared with those from domestic animals. This contrasts sharply with that at other urban medieval sites and is evidence of the privileged style of living enjoyed by the occupants of a medieval Scottish castle, compared with the people of the town. However wealthy the merchant burgesses were, they appear not to have enjoyed the privilege of hunting, which was chiefly the preserve of the king, nobility and higher clergy.

There is no doubt that the animal bone assemblage represents a prestigious site. Meat from valued game animals was consumed, probably from animals hunted in the Royal Forest of Elgin, Forres and Inverness. This forest, or hunting reserve, was created in the 12th century, possibly in the reign of David I. Various methods may have been used to hunt the deer, including stalking and coursing, using dogs, but the most 'kingly' hunt was the drive. In this version of the hunt, which was influenced by Gaelic custom, many animals were driven and trapped either between man-made barriers or in natural features such as narrow glens (Gilbert 1979).

The dog bones from Ladyhill are likely to have come from hunting dogs. Dog breeds as we understand them today were not known in the medieval period. Instead, dogs were defined by their function: those employed in the chase were typified either as those which hunted by sight, or those which hunted by scent. As has been noted above, the canine mandibles display similarities in dental abnormality and general appearance, and might represent a single pack of dogs. A few larger dog bones may have come from the animals known as 'greyhounds', which hunted by sight, and for which Scotland was renowned. These animals were reputed to have been larger than a year-old calf, which, given the small size of medieval cattle, may well have been true (*ibid* 60, 64).

Although there was ample evidence of larger game animals, there was none of that other pursuit beloved of Scottish kings, the sport of hawking. Documentary evidence of the 13th century relates that if the king should chance to keep an 'ostorius or gerfalc' (a gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*), or other hunting bird), while he 'staid in the castle of Elgyn', then a certain sum of money should be paid for the birds' food (Duff unpubl). It is probable that the bones of hawks or other hunting birds were not retrieved because hand excavation only was employed; sieving of soil samples might well have furnished evidence for these birds, or their prey.

CONCLUSIONS

D W Hall

Ladyhill is now a scheduled monument, and not under threat of development, so it is unlikely that further excavation will take place in the foreseeable future. Consequently, Aidan MacDonald's work should be viewed as a very valuable assessment of the archaeology of this important royal castle. In more general terms, the excavation indicates the valuable information that can be gained even from limited excavation of a Scottish burghal castle, especially at a site such as Ladyhill which has remained largely undisturbed since the late medieval period.

In terms of the first of the three stated aims of the excavations — to explore the perimeter defences of the castle — the deposits revealed in trenches C1 and C1X are of most interest. It appears that, on the north side, the outer defences of the castle comprised a stone-based earthen rampart with a timber revetment or palisade on its outer face. At the southern or upslope end of Trench C1 there may have been another rampart line with a stone revetment. Between the two ramparts was a line of post-holes and an undefined stone structure. A considerable number of iron nails were found in association with the palisade trench and it is likely that this defensive element relates to the earliest (timber?) phase of the castle, although it is reported that there was no associated dating evidence. Few other burgh castles have been excavated. From the available published evidence it would appear that drystone walls surrounded by timber palisades are the norm, their use depending on the existing natural topography of the castle site. The results of the excavations at Keir Knowe of Drum, Stirlingshire (Higham & Barker 1992, 312), and Castlehill of Strachan, Aberdeenshire (Yeoman 1984, 315–64), provide the best parallels for Ladyhill. Slezer's view of the town (illus 24), drawn in 1688 and published in 1693, gives a tantalizing glimpse of what may have stood on Ladyhill. It is interesting that he appears to show a circular tower, particularly as such structures have been recovered on Scottish castle sites at Peebles (Murray & Ewart 1980) and Castlehill of Strachan (*ibid*, Appendix 1), although these were both timber.

The second aim of the excavations concerned the mound itself. No evidence was found within the excavated areas that it had been raised or enhanced by importing quantities of redeposited soil, though it does appear that the outer defensive lines were partly achieved by scarping or terracing the natural hillslope.

Some other details of the castle were also gleaned by the excavations. A considerable deposit of burnt clay and daub was uncovered in Trench B1 but its origins are not clear. An architectural fragment (no 19) from Trench B1 may be from the Chapel of Our Lady, indicating that this may have been nearer the western end of the mound. In the case of the pottery, it is valuable to finally have an assemblage that can be linked with the early years of the burgh's occupation; and the animal bone assemblage is of particular importance as it differs significantly from bone assemblages from urban medieval burghs.

As to the third and final aim of the excavations — to establish whether there had been Dark Age or earlier occupation on the mound — no positive evidence of this was recorded. It is not possible to say, however, whether the extensive excavations which were originally planned would have produced a different answer.

EXCAVATIONS ON THE HIGH STREET

D W Hall

The proposed construction of a new shopping centre on the north side of Elgin High Street (NGR: NJ 216 629) in 1988 provided the opportunity for an archaeological investigation by the

Scottish Urban Archaeological Trust (SUAT) in 1988. The excavations were jointly funded by Caltrust Sheraton Ltd, Moray District Council and Grampian Regional Council; post-excavation work was funded by Historic Scotland.

AIMS

Three main research priorities were identified:

(1) Previous archaeological excavations in the burgh had not produced any structural evidence earlier than the 13th century (Lindsay 1976, 44; Lindsay 1977, 24; Hall 1982, 13). It was hoped that the excavations would recover evidence relating to the medieval burgh of David I.

(2) Extensive rebuilding programmes in the 18th/19th centuries probably destroyed much of the evidence for medieval frontages. None the less, it was hoped that excavation would identify the degree of survival of archaeological deposits close to the High Street.

(3) The modern street plan largely reflects the layout of the medieval burgh. Until the mid 1970s long narrow burgage plots still ran off both sides of the High Street. The final aim of the excavations was to date the origin of Elgin's distinctive long property rigs.

THE EXCAVATIONS

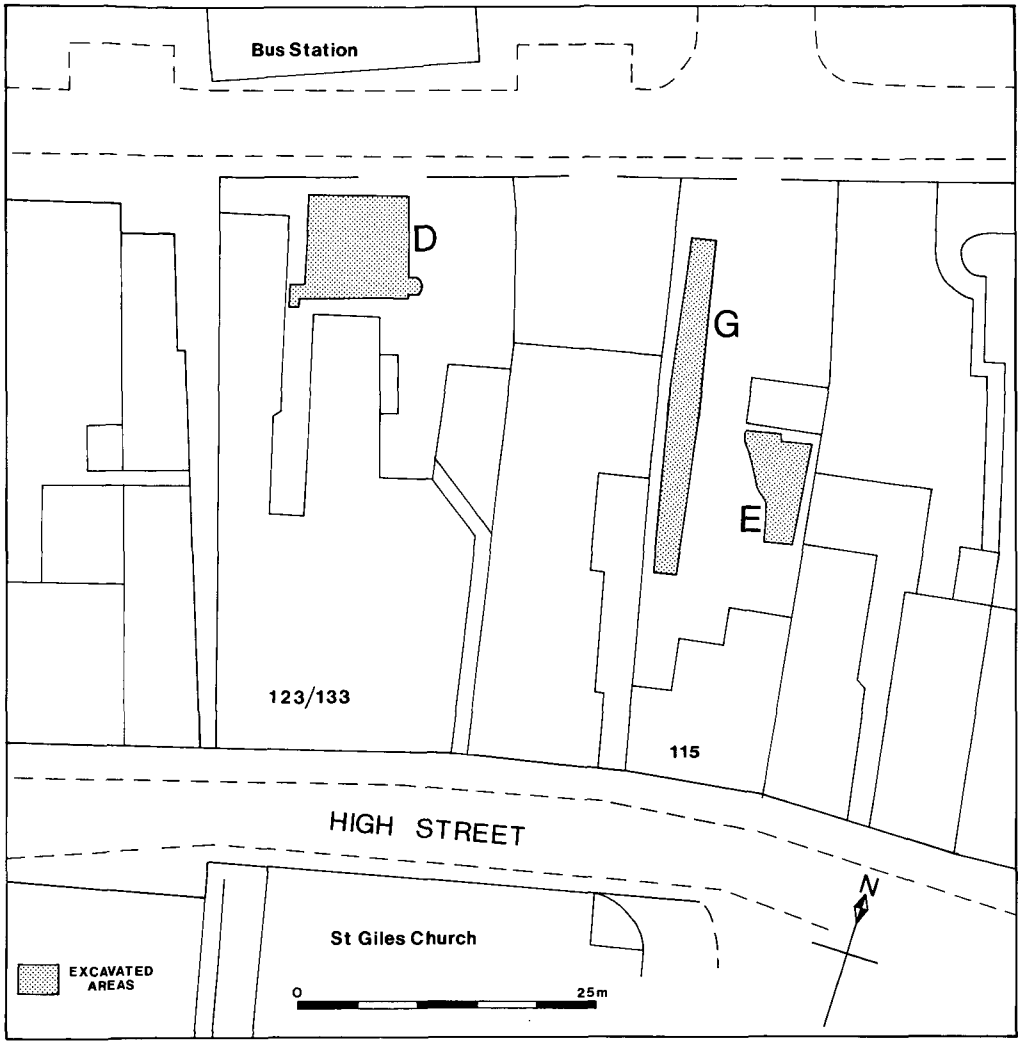
As a large part of the northern side of the High Street was threatened by the development, a programme of trial excavation was undertaken in December 1987 to identify those areas which would repay full excavation. Two open areas behind 115 and 123/133 High Street were found to contain surviving deposits of medieval date and major excavations took place between January and February 1988.

Three trial trenches had been labelled A, B and C; the large trenches subsequently opened also followed this alphabetical sequence (illus 7). In Trench D, an area c 8 m square was opened behind 123/133 High Street across a rig line. Trench F, also at 123/133 High Street, was too disturbed for excavation to be pursued. At 115 High Street, Trench E measured c 7.5 m north/south and was 6 m east/west at its widest point; Trench G was c 31 m north/south and c 2 m wide. The size and shape of the trenches at this site was dictated by the presence of active services (ie gas, water and electricity) across the site.

TRENCH D: 123/133 HIGH STREET

Phase 1 (illus 8) A group of pits was cut into the natural sandy subsoil. Pits 608, 636, 644 and 666 produced only medieval pottery. Clay-lined feature 687 and pit 688 were not fully excavated, but their fills also produced only medieval pottery. From the pottery evidence, pits 608 and 636 appear to be earlier than pit 644 and feature 687. Pit 608 contained White Gritty Ware, Developed Stamford Ware and sherds of Low Countries Greyware. Pit 636 contained White Gritty Ware and several sherds in an unidentified fabric. Neither of these pits contained any of the 'local' Redware fabric. Pit 644 and feature 687 produced only sherds of the local fabric including a virtually complete 'pirlie pig' money box from the fill of pit 644.

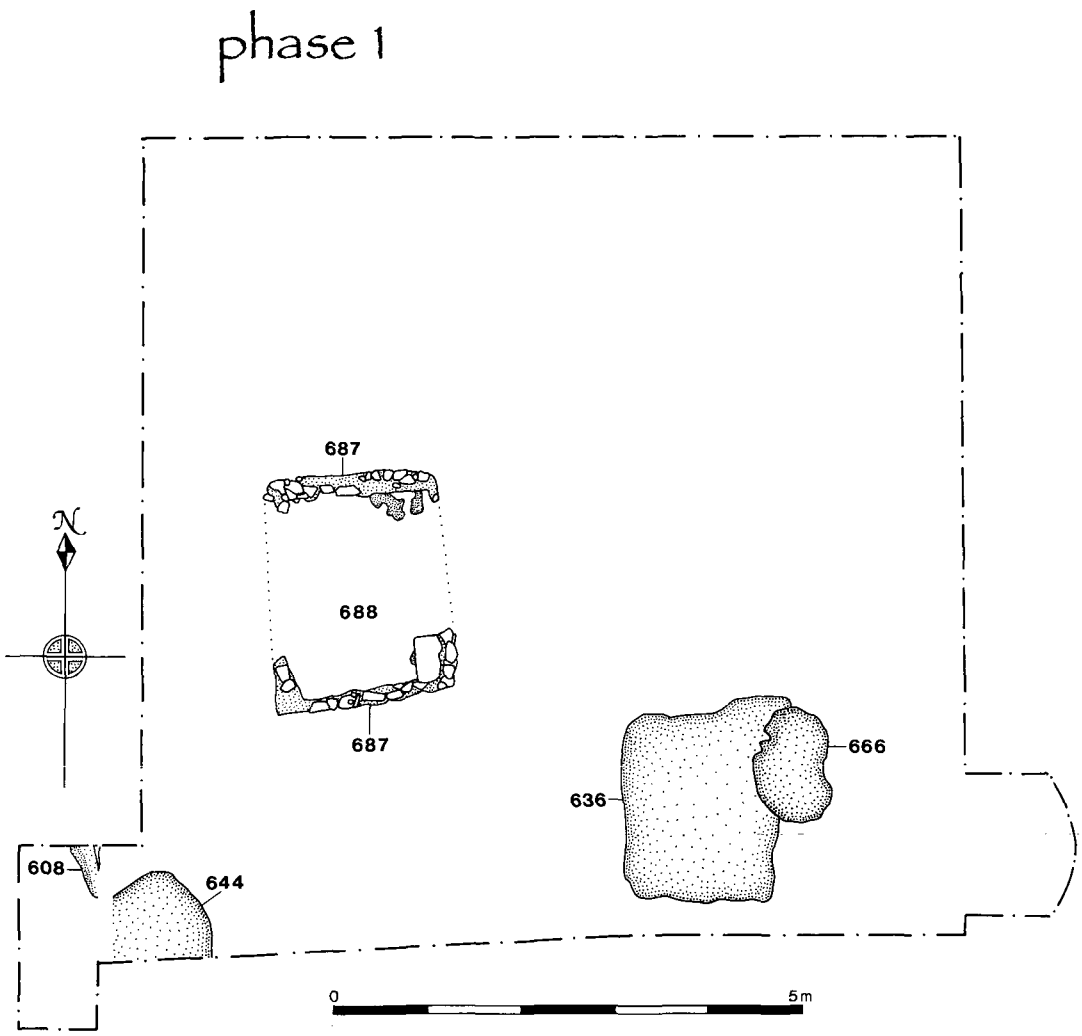
The absence of local wares from pits 608, 636 and 666 suggests that these features may be of late 12th- to early 13th-century date. All of these features, apart from 687, appeared to be rubbish pits. Feature 687 may have been a stone-lined tank with an industrial function, but was too badly damaged by later features to allow a more positive identification.



ILLUS 7 115 & 123/133 High Street: locations of excavation trenches

Phase 2 (illus 9) The contexts in this phase were all post-medieval and represented only 'backlands' use. The features comprised shallow (< 0.3 m) single-fill pits, deep (> 0.3 m) single-fill pits, multi-fill pits and a post-hole. Partly overlying these features were various sandy deposits and a peaty clay patch. These were probably levelling deposits terminating this period of occupation. The purpose of these features is unclear. As the southern edge of the excavation was some 40 m from the High Street frontage, they must reflect 'backlands' activities, for example use as a garden or yard. The single-fill pits did not appear to form a recognizable group of post-holes from a building and may simply have been pits which were dug for the planting or removal of garden plants.

The finds from this phase include residual medieval pottery sherds. All of the other finds are post-medieval and include a horseshoe of mid 17th-century date from the fill of cut 681, a possible structural feature. Some clay pipe fragments and pieces of post-medieval glass were recovered.

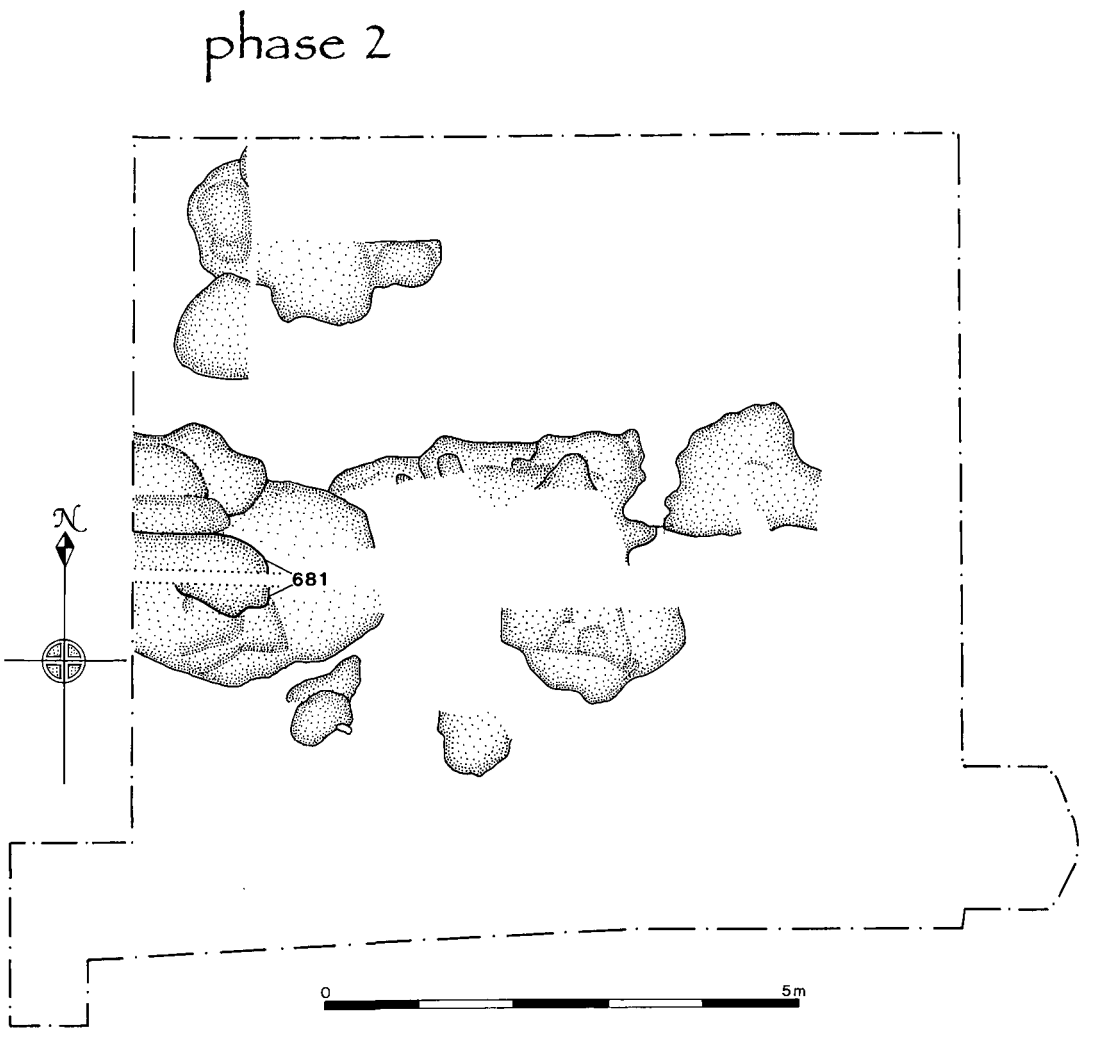


ILLUS 8 123/133 High Street: Phase 1

Phase 3 (illus 10) The post-pits and wall remnants recorded in this phase represent property boundaries, a yard and at least one building, possibly two. A number of the post-pits (not illus) overlay earlier wall remnants. Amongst these, pits 668 and 658 were probably post-holes for a timber fence on the line of a later stone wall (503, 506). Pits 654 and 657 may have been post-holes replacing pit 658. Pits 650, 652 and 655 underlay wall remnants (500) on the same line. Thus, these were at least three different north/south boundary lines traversing the site in this phase.

Two stone walls (509, 510) formed the corner of a building; no floor or occupation deposits were identified within this. The stones may have been foundations for brick walls. South of the building was a cobbled area (232) with impressions of further cobbles to the west which had evidently been removed. South of the cobbled area was a stone-lined well (511) with a clay packing behind the stones.

The sloping ground stretching back from the High Street was levelled off and the area between stone walls 500, 503 and 506 was subdivided to form a building, perhaps replacing an area of garden. This building appears on the Ordnance Survey map of 1868. It would have shared a gable with a building to the south and there is some remaining evidence on that elevation that it was a two-storey building with an attic. The



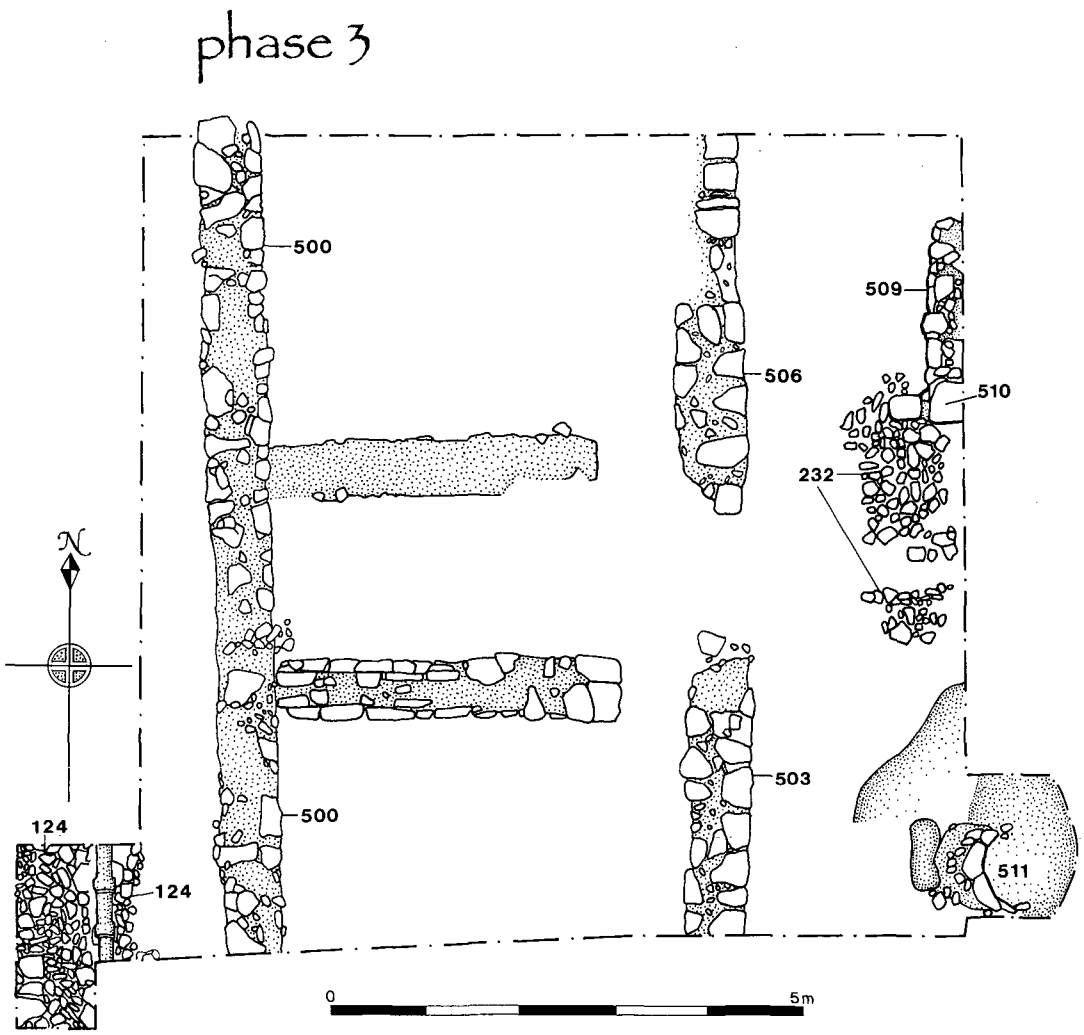
ILLUS 9 123/133 High Street: Phase 2

building to the south (now part of Arnott's shop) was built around the beginning of this century. Cobbles lying east and west of the building are probably remnants of the 'close lines' represented on this site by the Ordnance Survey map of 1868.

The finds from this phase are post-medieval and include clay pipe, bottle glass, china ware and a residual group of medieval pottery sherds. Several coins were found, the most significant being a 17th-century French *double tournois* (108, below) from the fill of the foundation trench for wall 500/501.

Discussion of Trench D

Only one phase of medieval activity was identified on this site. This is represented by the Phase 1 pits and possible industrial feature (687). All of these features relate to backland activities, although it is not clear whether more than one property is represented.

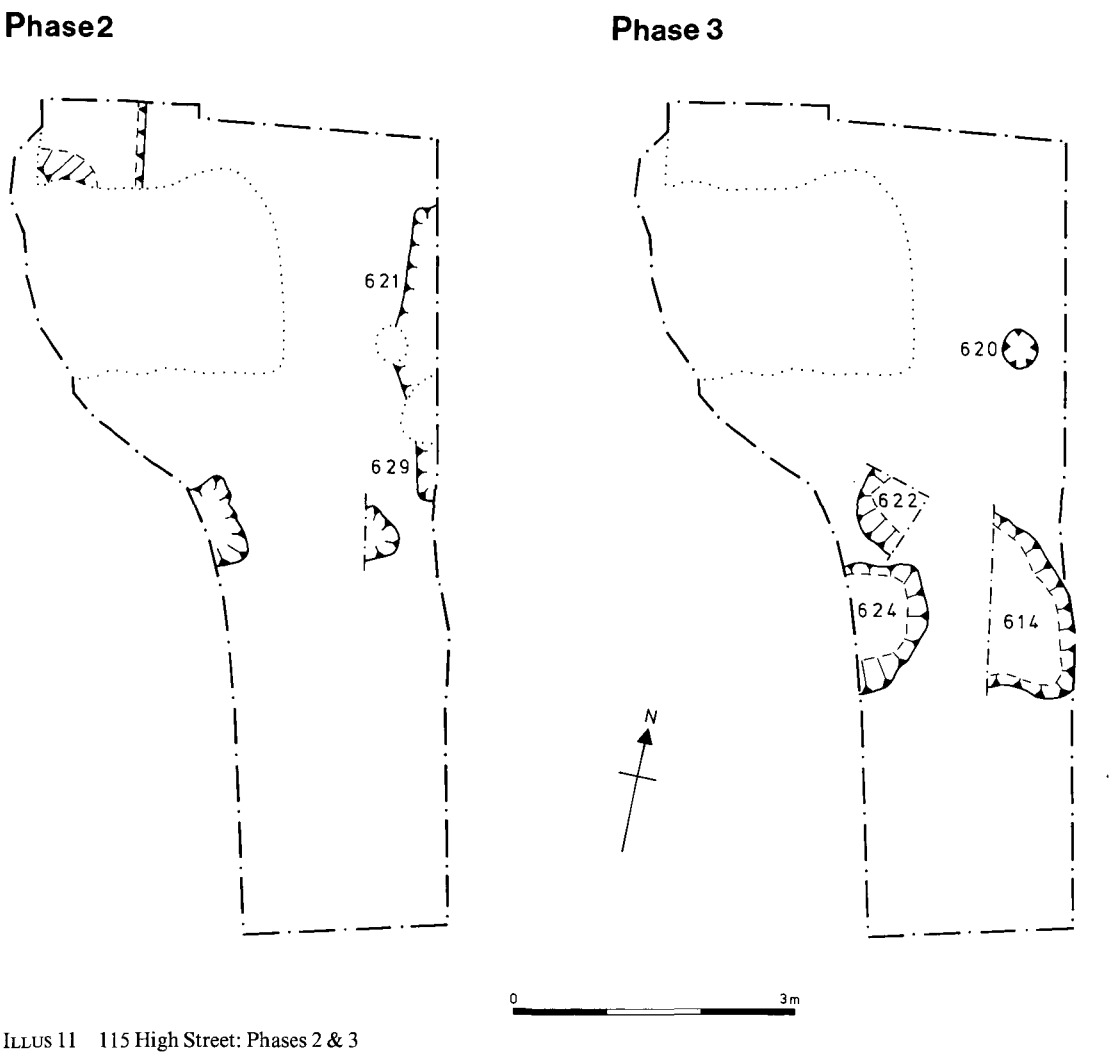


ILLUS 10 123/133 High Street: Phase 3

The remaining phases are all post-medieval in date, and include the first appearance of identifiable property boundaries in Phase 3 (illus 10). The presence of a French *double tournois* coin in the fill of the foundation trench for one of the dividing walls indicates that it was built after the mid or late 17th century (though the coin could simply have been a residual inclusion). Cobbled closes were laid out on either side of the property and the space between its boundary walls was ultimately subdivided to form rooms of a building, probably of Victorian date. The remains of this building were demolished and the area levelled during the construction of a new relief road in the 1970s.

TRENCH E: 115 HIGH STREET

Phase 1 (not illus) A thin band of dark grey-brown sandy clay overlay natural sand. This deposit suggests some disturbance to the top of the natural soil profile — perhaps by tillage or garden cultivation — but produced no finds.

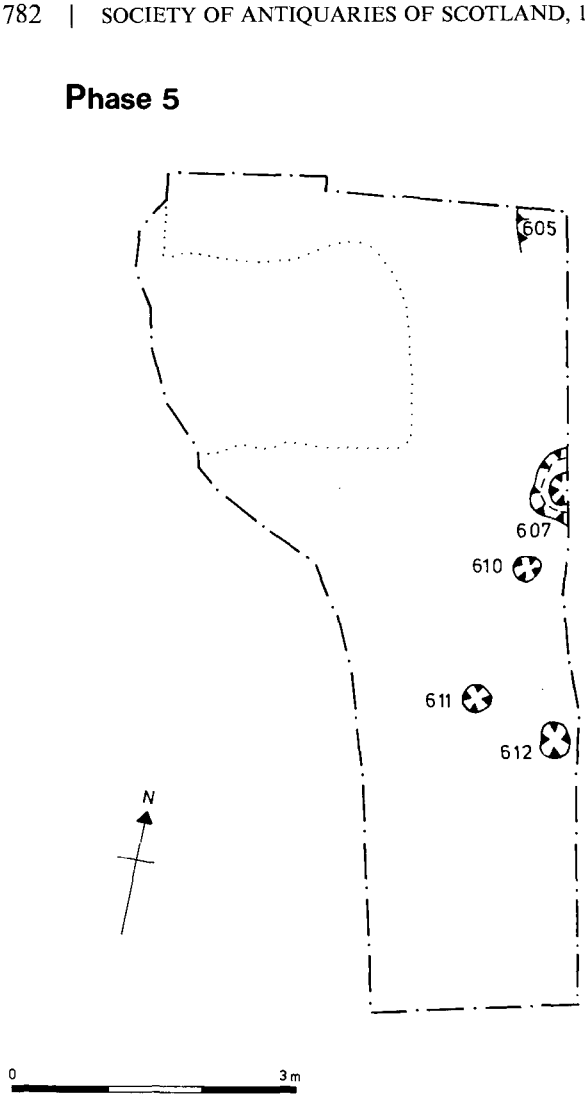


ILLUS 11 115 High Street: Phases 2 & 3

Phase 2 (illus 11) Five pits were cut into the natural sandy subsoil. Pit 621/629 may have been dug to quarry sand. Otherwise, the function of these features is unknown. The only find was a piece of slag from a fill of pit 621/629.

Phase 3 (illus 11) Four further pits were cut into the area of the Phase 2 pits; of these, pit 620 was a post-hole. Pits 614, 622 and 624 all contained medieval pottery in their fills. The pottery from pit 614 included fragments of a cooking pot in an unidentified gritty fabric. Pit 614 also contained a spur fragment of 12th/13th-century date. These features probably represent backland activity; the pot sherds and scraps of animal bone suggest that they were domestic refuse pits. There was no evidence for property boundaries.

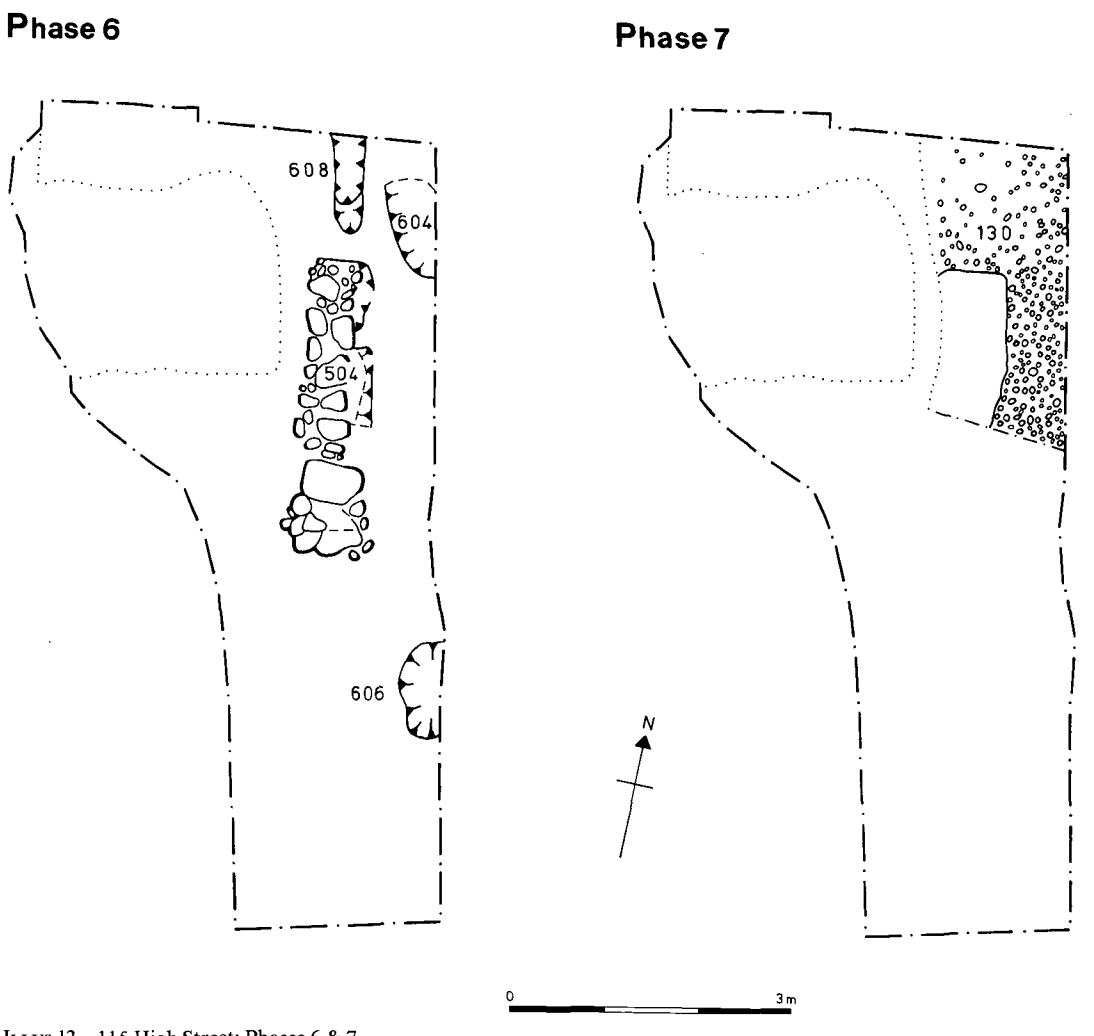
Phase 4 (not illus) Two layers of loose, yellow-brown sand were deposited over the area of the Phase 3 pits, possibly to bury the associated domestic rubbish and counteract the smell. Both layers produced sherds of medieval pottery.



ILLUS 12 115 High Street: Phase 5

Phase 5 (illus 12) These features represent the first structural evidence from this trench. A group of four pits (607, 610, 611 & 612), interpreted as post-holes, may have formed the corner of a timber structure on a NE/SW alignment. The remains of another pit (605) lay to the north of this. If the interpretation of these pits is correct, the proposed structure would not have been aligned on the main axes of the property boundaries and frontages which formed the layout of the burgh. Pits 607 and 605 contained sherds of East Coast Redware, while pit 610 contained unidentified Gritty Ware. Thus, the building is of medieval date, but may have pre-dated the laying out of any property boundaries in this area.

Phase 6 (illus 13) A clay-bonded stone wall (504) and a slot trench (608) on the same north/south alignment post-date the Phase 5 pit group described above, but were contemporary with adjacent pits 606 and 604. The stone wall and slot trench may represent the first example of property subdivision in this trench. Sherds of East Coast Redware and unidentified gritty ware were recovered from the cut features. As with phase 5, this activity is of medieval date but cannot be dated closely.



ILLUS 13 115 High Street: Phases 6 & 7

Phase 7 (illus 13) The Phase 6 features were buried beneath a series of soil deposits. The final soil layer was sealed by a pebble surface (130). Some of the soil layers produced East Coast Redware pottery, suggesting a medieval date. The pebble layer was probably the surface of a close.

Phase 8 (illus 14) A stone building was erected in this phase, but the remains were badly damaged by a later stone-lined pit (Phase 11; 602). A floor remnant survived, represented by an area of small clay bricks (217). A deposit of silty clay with charcoal flecks overlay the bricks. In the southern part of the structure a hearth (209 & 210) was located. East of the building a new stone surface (107) was laid over the older pebble layer (Phase 7) on the surface of the close. A hand-painted ceramic sherd from the clay spread on the brick floor (217) indicates a post-medieval date for the building.

Phase 9 (illus 14) A new floor (200 & 203) was laid inside the Phase 8 stone building. It was made up of stone slabs on a bedding layer (207, 208 & 213) which directly overlay the brick floor and hearth described above (Phase 8). A few ceramic sherds from the bedding layers suggest it is of post-medieval date.



ILLUS 14 115 High Street: Phases 8 & 9

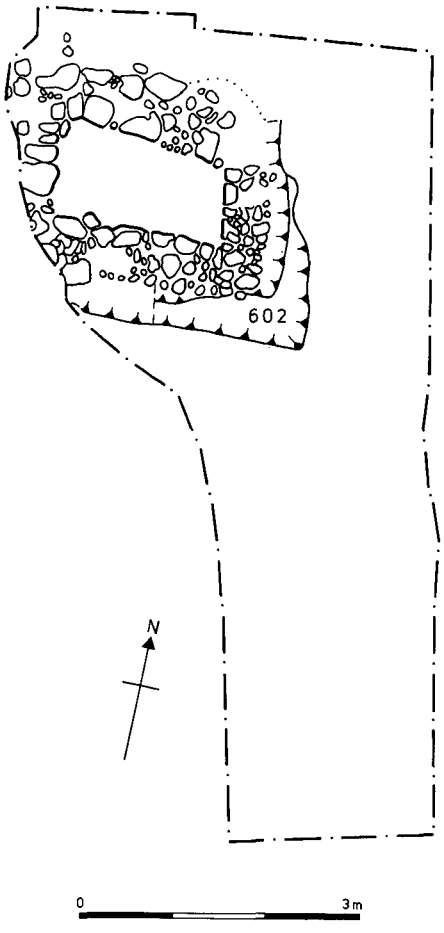
Phase 10 (not illus) The stone building was demolished and its east and south walls robbed for building stone. This activity pre-dated the construction of a stone-lined pit (Phase 11, below).

Phase 11 (illus 15) A stone-lined pit (602) of 19th-century date may represent a cesspit or well relating to a building which was not otherwise identified within the excavated area. In its fills was a Scottish Union firemark dating to 1824–78.

Discussion of Trench E

Investigation of this site located surviving archaeological deposits closer to Elgin's High Street than had been expected prior to the excavation, when it was assumed that these had been destroyed by 18th- and 19th-century building programmes.

Phase 11



ILLUS 15 115 High Street: Phase 11

There were several distinct phases of medieval activity (Phases 1–6), spanning the development of the site from general backland use to the erection of buildings within formal boundaries. The earliest features produced no datable finds, but Phase 3 features produced medieval pottery of a 12th- to 13th-century date. No identifiable structural remains were found until Phase 5, when a post-built timber structure was raised on a NE/SW alignment (if four pits alone can be accepted as adequate structural evidence). The stone wall and slot trench which replaced this represent the first recognizable division of the site by a formal property boundary. The surface of the close, east of this, was formed by a pebble layer (Phase 7).

In the post-medieval period (Phases 8–11), a stone building was erected on the site and the adjacent close was refurbished with a rough stone pavement, but this building was ultimately demolished and possibly replaced by another, represented within the excavated area only by a large stone-lined pit. Finally, the area was heavily scarped during the construction of a modern car park.

TRENCH G: 115 HIGH STREET

Phase 1–2 (not illus) Five post-holes were cut into the sandy subsoil. They may represent a boundary line on a north-west/south-east alignment. None of the pits produced any finds.

Phase 2 (not illus) Several cut features were recorded. Two of these were pits, apparently renewing or re-cutting post-pits on the boundary line described above. These features produced few finds, but pottery from one of the post-pits is of late 14th- or early 15th-century date.

Phase 3 (not illus) Further cut features were recorded, of unknown function. These were sealed by a series of light brown sandy clays representing a new use for this part of the site, possibly as a garden. The 'garden' soils included residual medieval pot sherds, post-medieval clay pipe fragments and 19th-century objects, including pottery sherds, lace tags and pins. The foundations of a stone wall traversed the site from east to west; this is depicted as a garden wall on the Ordnance Survey map of 1868.

Discussion of Trench G

Trench G was limited in size by the presence of active services (ie gas, water, electricity) and, consequently, interpretation of the features is difficult. Overall, preservation in this trench was not as good as in Trench E (above) and scarping of the site during construction of a modern car park had destroyed deposits towards its southern end, which was 18 m from the High Street frontage. Despite these difficulties, numerous (non-structural?) cut features suggest backland use throughout the medieval period. In addition, some pits are tentatively interpreted as evidence of a post-built property boundary.

POTTERY

D W Hall

The excavations at 115 and 123/133 High Street produced 1522 sherds of pottery. Of these, 848 (55%) were of early modern date. The methodology is as described for the assemblage from Ladyhill (above). The grouping of sherds is summarized in Tables 3, 4 and 5.

Of most interest in this assemblage are the sherds of Gritty Ware from the pits at 115 High Street. This fabric has also been recovered from excavations on Ladyhill (above) and the relief road excavations at Nicholson's Garage (W J Lindsay, pers comm). The most common vessel form in this fabric is the cooking pot, normally with a slightly frilled rim (no 19). This has close affinities with a rim form in White Gritty Ware that has been identified as being regionally distinct in Fife (Hall 1996a, 127). It is likely that this fabric represents a Gritty Ware that was locally produced in this part of north-east Scotland. Deposits of lacustrine clay exist in the vicinity of Loch Spynie and on the banks of the River Lossie (Soil Survey of Scotland 1982).

The stratified sherds of Gritty Ware come from the earliest phases at both 115 and 123/133 High Street and the implication is that this fabric dates to the 12th century. (Sherds of this fabric are also present from Trench D although they are residual in context.) This is supported by the absence of this material from an assemblage excavated at the bishop's palace in Spynie (Crowley forthcoming), 3 km north of Elgin, as this did not become the episcopal seat until c 1200.

A very small group of Low Countries Greyware, two sherds of Stamford Ware, five sherds of Rhenish Stoneware and one sherd of Yorkshire Ware, are the only imported wares present.

The presence of only one sherd of Yorkshire Ware is surprising, given the prevalence of this fabric in other pottery assemblages from the east coast burghs.

TABLE 3

Pottery from 123/133 High Street, Trench D

Pottery Fabric Codes

ECR	East Coast Redware	Stamford	Developed Stamford Ware
RG	Reduced Greyware	LCG	Low Countries Greyware
WG	White Gritty Ware	Rh	Rhenish Stoneware
Gritty	Gritty Ware	Yorks	Yorkshire Ware

Phase	ECR	RG	WG	Gritty	Stamford	LCG	Rh	Unid	Mod
1	8	0	26	6	2	6	0	1	0
2	32	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	17
3	215	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	510
Total	255	2	28	7	2	7	1	1	527
Total	830 sherds								

TABLE 4

Pottery from 115 High Street, Trench E

Phase	ECR	WG	Gritty	Yorks	Unid	Modern
2	19	0	12	0	0	0
3	11	0	1	0	0	0
4	19	0	3	0	1	0
5	24	0	0	0	0	0
6	2	1	8	0	0	37
7	0	0	0	0	0	6
9	0	0	1	0	0	1
10	6	1	0	1	0	78
11	6	0	0	0	0	50
12	3	0	0	0	1	54
Total	90	2	25	1	2	226
Total	346 sherds					

TABLE 5

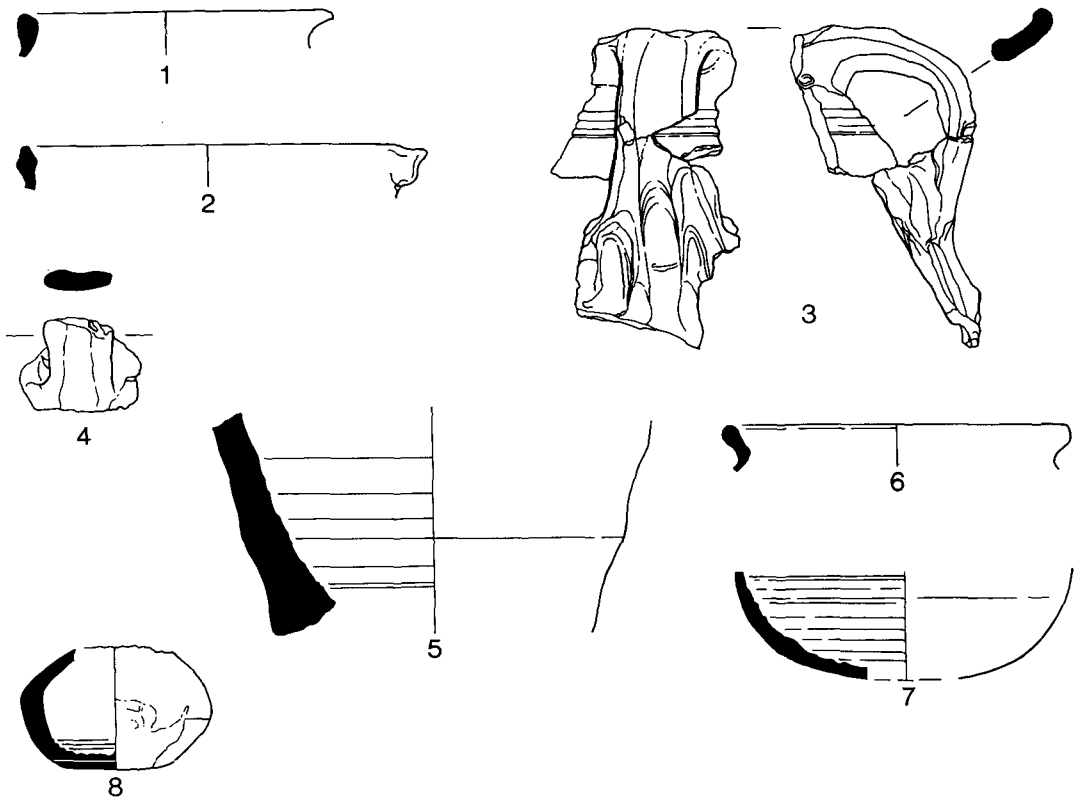
Pottery from 115 High Street, Trench G

Phase	ECR	WG	LCG	Rh	Unid	Mod
2	40	0	1	1	2	0
3	92	1	0	1	2	0
4	89	1	0	1	0	26
5	19	0	0	1	0	69
Total	240	2	1	4	4	95
Total	346 sherds					

Catalogue (illus 16)

East Coast Redware The small assemblage of medieval pottery from the three excavated trenches is dominated by this fabric type. Previous analysis of similar material from the relief road excavations of the 1970s suggested that it may be a local product (Cracknell 1982, 57) forming part of a Scottish East Coast Redware tradition from Stirling to Inverness (Hall 1996a, 126).

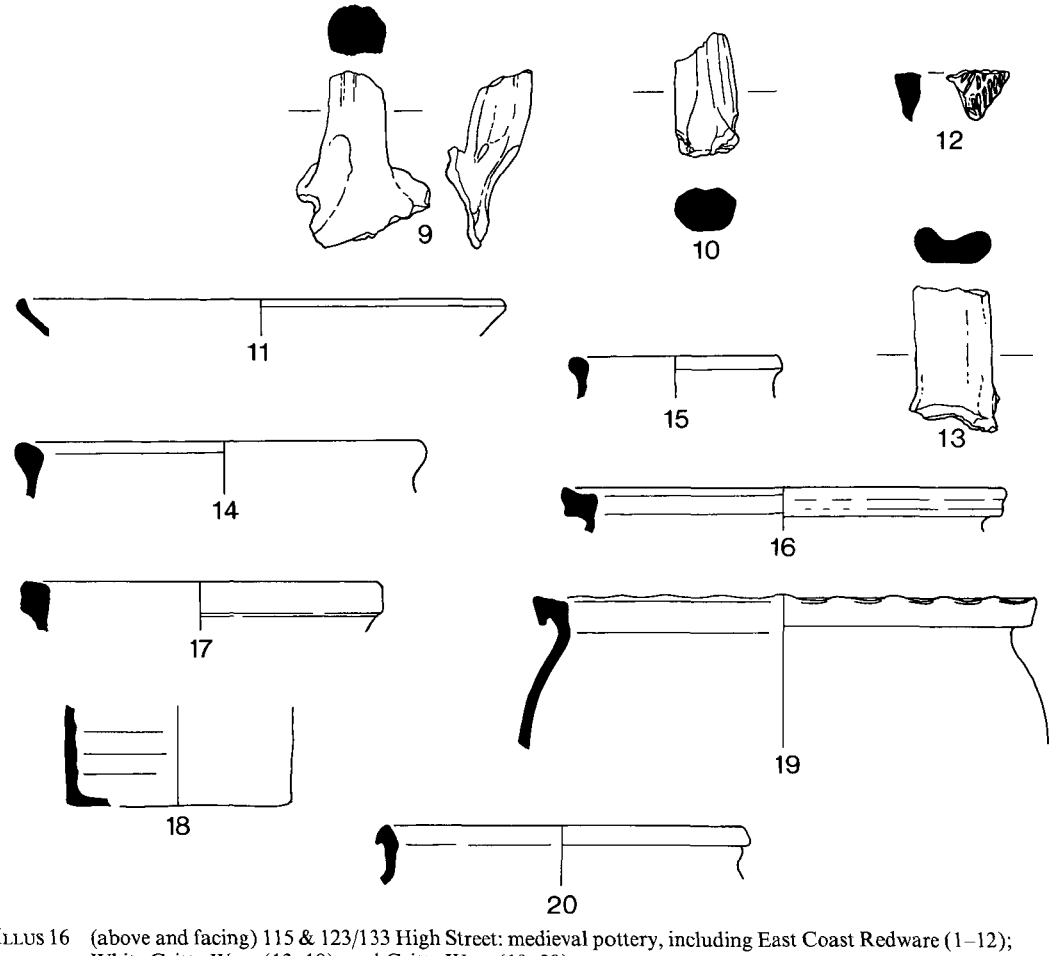
Glazed jugs are the most commonly represented vessel type in this fabric and by the late medieval period the construction of these pots became quite thick and heavy (illus 16, no 5). Local kiln sites for this



fabric have yet to be positively identified, although the writer has recently discovered a source for the right type of estuarine and lacustrine clays north-west of the burgh (NJ 1620 6650). If the local fabric from Elgin belongs to the East Coast Redware tradition identified in Perth and Aberdeen (MacAskill 1987; Murray 1982) then a 13th-century date can be suggested for the beginning of the industry.

1 Rim and handle junction from jug. Trench D, F227, Phase 1.
2 Rim and handle junction from jug glazed green brown on purple wash. Trench D, F251, Phase 1.
3 Rim and complete strap handle from jug glazed green. Trench D, F207, Phase 3.
4 Strap handle and body sherd from unglazed jug. Trench D, F229, Phase 3.
5 Base and body sherd from jug with white surface wash. Trench D, F159, Phase 3.
6 Rim sherd from cooking pot. Trench D, F230, Phase 1.
7 Base sherd from unglazed globular vessel. Trench D, F260, Phase 1.
8 Virtually complete pirlie pig money box. Trench D, F260, Phase 1.
9 Rod handle and body sherd from jug glazed brown. Trench E, F173, Phase 6.
10 Rod handle from jug glazed brown. Trench G, F116 Phase 3.
11 Rim from dish glazed yellow green on a purple wash. Trench G, F116, Phase 3.
12 Bottom of beard from face mask glazed green. Trench G, F135. Phase 2.

White Gritty Ware Recent work has identified three potential production sites for this fabric in Lothian, Borders and Fife (Haggarty 1984; Hall 1997). It appears to be Scotland's earliest native medieval fabric as it is found from deposits in Perth that contain 12th-century continental imports and no redwares (Hall 1996a). This fabric is best represented from the early phases at 123/133 High Street (Trench D).



ILLUS 16 (above and facing) 115 & 123/133 High Street: medieval pottery, including East Coast Redware (1–12); White Gritty Ware (13–18); and Gritty Ware (19–20)

13 Strap handle from jug glazed green. Trench D, F158, Phase 1.
14 Rim sherd from cooking pot. Trench D, F149, Phase 1.
15 Rim sherd from cooking pot. Trench D, F228, Phase 1.
16 Rim sherd from cooking pot. Trench D, F313, Phase 2.
17 Rim sherd from cooking pot. Trench G, F116, Phase 3.
18 Base sherd from straight sided cooking pot. Trench D, F148, Phase 1.

Gritty Ware This fabric appears to belong to the White Gritty tradition but its fabric and form suggest that it comes from a source as yet unidentified. Recent excavations at Duffus Castle, 6 km north-west of Elgin, have recovered a similar fabric (Cannel & Tabraham 1994, 388). The pottery assemblage from Ladyhill (above) includes sherds of this fabric in much greater numbers than from the High Street sites, implying that it is an early, possibly 12th-century ware. Distinctive slightly frilled cooking pots are the most common vessel type present.

19 Slightly frilled rim from cooking pot. Trench E 162 Phase 3.
20 Rim sherd from cooking pot. Trench E 162 Phase 3.

Low Countries Greyware (not illus) This fabric is a common find from 12th-century deposits in the major east coast burghs (Murray 1982; MacAskill 1987) and was also recovered from the relief road excavations. It is present only in the earliest phases at 123/133 High Street (Trench D).

Developed Stamford Ware (not illus) This early northern English fabric is commonly found from early deposits in Perth and Aberdeen (MacAskill 1987; Hall 1996a; Murray 1982). Distinctive, speckled, green glazed upright jugs are the most common vessel type (Kilmurray 1980). Only two sherds are present, from Phase 1 at 123/133 High Street.

Rhenish Stoneware (not illus) Stoneware jugs from Langerwehe or Siegburg became common in Scotland during the 14th and 15th centuries (Hurst *et al* 1986). There are four sherds from Phases 2–5 in Trench G and one sherd from Phase 3 in Trench D.

Modern ceramics There is a very large collection of post-medieval china and earthenware from both High Street sites.

ARTEFACTS

A Cox
with contributions by B M A Ellis & N M McQ Holmes

A moderately large assemblage of mainly post-medieval artefacts was recovered. They are discussed below by material type, and a selected catalogue is presented. With the exception of clay pipe stem bore diameters (see below), measurements in the catalogue are expressed to the nearest 1 mm, except where they are less than 1 mm, when they are expressed to the nearest 0.1 mm.

Copper-alloy objects (illus 17)

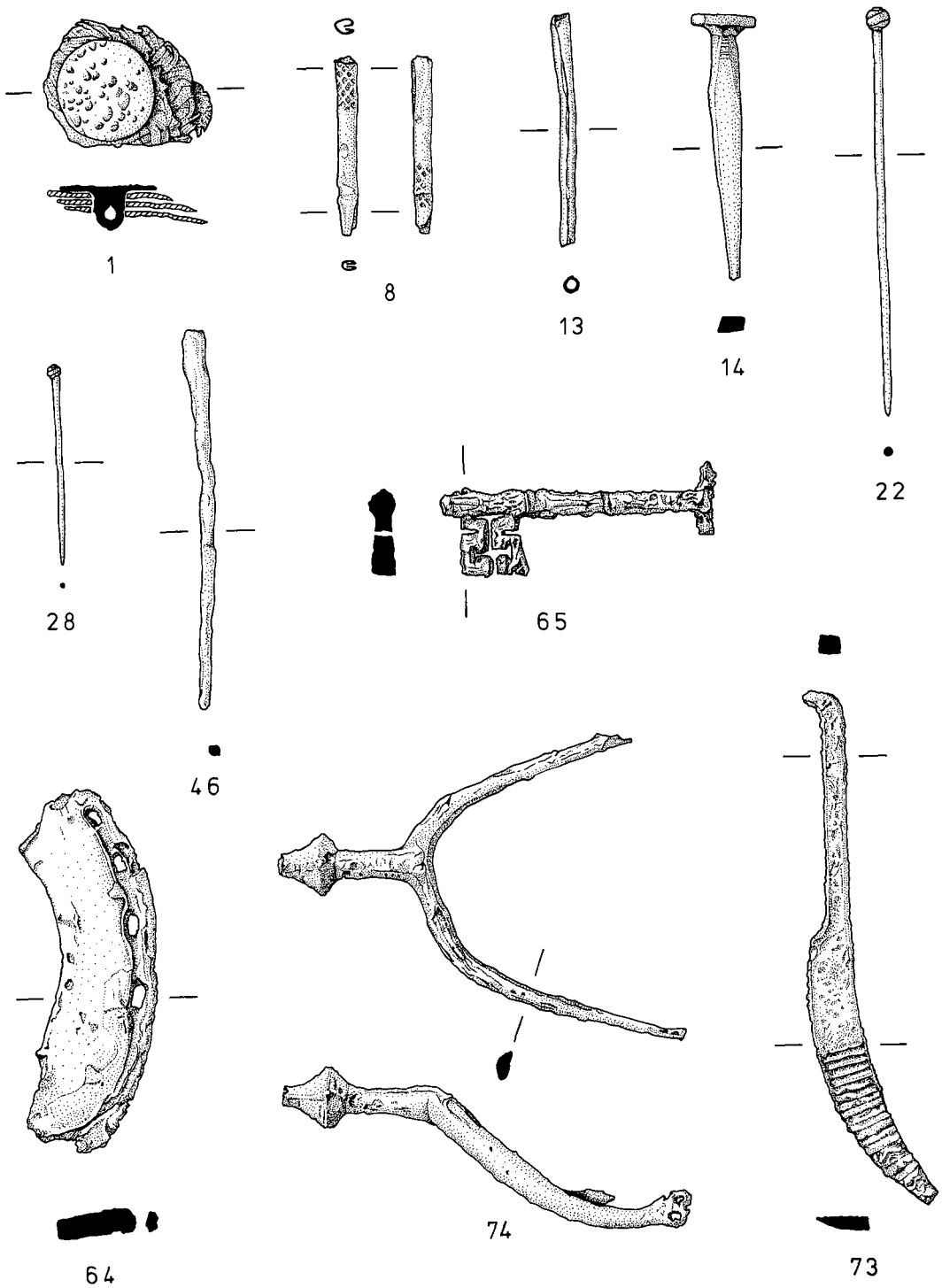
Almost 50 copper-alloy artefacts were recovered, representing dress accessories, sewing equipment and possible evidence of artefact manufacture or repair. Five buttons were found at 123/133 High Street, three of them (nos 1, 3 & 5) in a single deposit. The latter are of similar construction, having plain, flat faces and the foot of the eye set within a boss. This type of button was popular in the 18th and 19th centuries. Several lace tags, used to terminate laces and thongs on clothing, were recovered from the excavations at 115 High Street (eg nos 8 & 13). One notable example bears a pattern of punched diamonds (no 8), and may have been fabricated from a fragment of tooled or decorated sheet. A similarly decorated lace tag was found during excavations at the Abbot House, Dunfermline (Cox 1996, 92, no 4).

1 **Button** Diameter 15 mm. Button with a circular face and an eye at the rear. Fragments of textile survive around the eye. 123/133 High Street; F130; Find no 3; Phase 3.

3 **Button** Diameter 16 mm. Button with a plain, circular face, possibly plated with tin, and a broken eye at the rear. 123/133 High Street; F130; Find no 11; Phase 3 (not illus).

5 **Button** Diameter c 18 mm. Fragment of a button with a plain, circular face and an eye at the rear. 123/133 High Street; F130; Find no 22; Phase 3 (not illus).

8 **Lace tag** Length 27 mm; diameter 3 mm. Lace tag made from a rolled sheet, tapering towards one end. Decoration in the form of a pattern of punched diamonds occurs near to both ends. The tag contains traces of the lace or thong which it terminated. 115 High Street, Trench E; F192; Find no 302; Phase 9.



ILLUS 17 115 & 123/133 High Street: copper-alloy and iron artefacts

symmetrical, with an elaborate central ward cut and a further small ward cut at either side. 123/133 High Street; F115; Find no 112; Phase 3.

73 **Tool** Length 155 mm; width 15 mm; thickness 6 mm. Tool with a curved blade and a long, rectangular cross-sectioned handle with an angled terminal. One side of the blade bears a series of transverse grooves, possibly used in filing. The opposite side of the blade is slightly convex. The convex edge of the blade possibly represents a cutting edge. 123/133 High Street; F107; Find no 113; Phase 3.

Spur (illus 17)

B M A Ellis

A spur from 115 High Street can be dated on typological grounds to c 1140–1270. Until the 12th century, spur sides were horizontally straight. Four similar spurs were recovered from a sealed context no later than 1150 at Goltho Manor, Lincolnshire (Beresford 1987, fig 160, nos 166–9). These are early examples of this form of prick spur with curved sides, which came into general use by c 1200 and remained common throughout the 13th century, when rowel spurs had begun to replace prick spurs (Ellis 1991). Iron spurs were frequently given a thin plating of tin which protected them from rust and brightened their appearance (Jope 1956, 35–42).

74 **Spur** Length 118 mm; width 89 mm. Iron with traces of tin plating on the goad, neck and sides. The tip of the goad and the terminal of one side have rusted away. The D-section sides plunge from where they join behind the wearer's heel and curve under his ankle, tapering slightly towards their front ends. The surviving terminal has suffered rust damage and is pierced with two holes, one above the other, which would have held the rivets attaching the spur leather. The neck is straight and of round section, ending in a quadrangular lozenge-shaped goad, the rear surfaces of which are slightly concave. 115 High Street, Trench E; F166; Find no 364; Phase 3.

Stone objects (illus 18)

An architectural fragment from 123/133 High Street (no 79) is decorated by faceted, vertical ribs, between two of which is a zone decorated in relief by a possibly foliate design. Found at 115 High Street, a small disc (no 81) is possibly a gaming counter.

79 **Architectural fragment** Length 101 mm; width 103 mm; thickness 58 mm. Fragment with faceted, vertical ribs and a vertical band of decoration. The fragment is roughly broken across its top and its base. 123/133 High Street; F104; Find no 205; Phase 3.

81 **Counter?** Max width 32 mm; thickness 4 mm. Nearly circular disc with plain faces. Traces of iron staining on one face. 115 High Street, Trench E; F204; Find no 330; Phase 8.

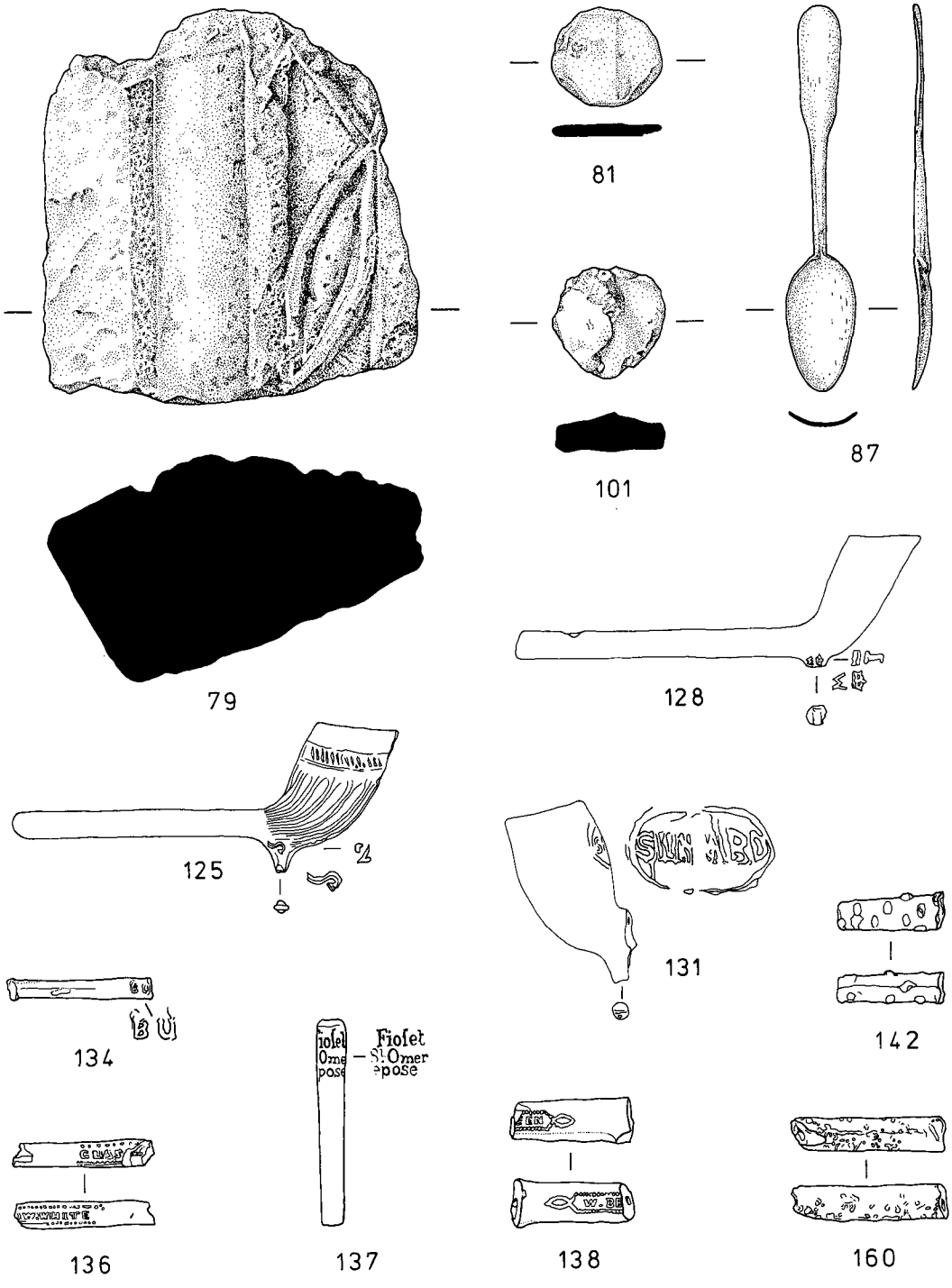
Bone objects (illus 18)

Species identifications by C Smith

A bone spoon from 123/133 High Street (no 87) was probably turned on a lathe and polished, in the manner of another spoon found at South Castle Street, St Andrews (Cox 1997, illus 48, no 16). Number 88, also from 123/133 High Street, may represent a paper-knife or a spatula.

87 **Spoon** Length 113 mm; max width 20 mm; thickness 4 mm. Complete spoon, probably made from a large ungulate long bone shaft. 123/133 High Street; F167; Find no 82; Phase 3

88 **Worked bone** Length 205 mm; max width 28 mm; thickness 5 mm. Spatula-shaped object, possibly a paper-knife. It is rounded at one end and tapers toward the other. Probably made from a cattle rib, filed smooth on all faces. Medulla exposed at the rounded end. 123/133 High Street; F147; Find no 81; Phase 3 (not illus).



ILLUS 18 115 & 123/133 High Street: stone, ceramic and bone artefacts; clay pipes

Ceramic objects (illus 18)

Ceramic counters such as no 101 are often interpreted as gaming pieces. Similar counters, modified from pottery sherds, are known from other Scottish sites, including St Andrews (Cox 1995, 66, illus 11, no 24), Urquhart Castle (Samson 1982, 475, fig 6, no 93) and Perth (Ford, unpublished). Number 101 appears to be derived from a sherd of pottery in a variant of the medieval East Coast Redware fabric. It came from the fill of a robber trench at 115 High Street and was probably a residual find.

101 **Counter** Diameter 31 mm; max thickness 12 mm. Roughly circular counter of irregular thickness, probably derived from a sherd of pottery in a fairly fine, red to orange, micaceous fabric (Elgin Local) with a green to brown glaze on one surface. 115 High Street, Trench E; F216; Find no 316.

Shell objects (not illus)

Two buttons (nos 102 & 103) were found at 123/133 High Street. Both are made from mother-of-pearl and each has four perforations.

102 **Button** Diameter 14 mm; thickness 2 mm. Circular button made from mother-of-pearl. One surface is concave at its centre, the other convex. Four holes have been drilled through the centre. 123/133 High Street; F141; Find no 36; Phase 3.

103 **Button** Diameter 9 mm; thickness 1 mm. Circular button made from mother-of-pearl. One surface is concave, the other slightly convex. Four holes have been drilled through the centre. 123/133 High Street; F192; Find no 35; Phase 3.

Leather

The leather assemblage consists of one offcut and three scraps with faint traces of stitching. The details were too indistinct to allow for either precise description, or any attempt at dating.

Coins (not illus)

N M McQ Holmes

Of the seven coins from the excavations, only one appears to be of any real archaeological or numismatic significance. This is a French provincial *double tournois* (no 108), found in the fill of a foundation trench. Although coins of this type, both royal and provincial issues, are commonly found in Scotland, where they appear to have been accepted into circulation as turners, this is the first recorded find of a papal issue from Avignon. Unfortunately the date is not legible, but the coin was struck between 1623 and 1644. The degree of wear suggests that it circulated well into the second half of the 17th century.

108 **Coin** French provincial. *Double tournois* of Avignon, for Pope Urban VIII, struck between 1623 and 1644. Date illegible. Type as Boudeau 119, no 937. 123/133 High Street; F224; Find no 29; Phase 3.

Clay pipes (illus 18)

A total of 44 pieces was recovered from the three excavations. Of these, 32 came from 123/133 High Street, seven from 115 High Street, Trench E and five from 115 High Street, Trench G. The assemblage, which appears to be mainly of 18th-century and later date, consists of 10 bowls (mostly fragmentary), a single heel and stem fragment, two mouthpieces and 32 stem fragments. The stamped and decorated examples are catalogued below. Stem bore measurements are

expressed to the nearest 0.05 mm. The equivalent measurements in the imperial 64ths of an inch have also been noted.

125 **Bowl and stem** Depth of bowl 42 mm; external diameter at rim 24 mm; stem bore diameter 1.70 mm ($\frac{4}{64}$ in). Nearly complete pipe. The bowl is decorated by a design of diverging ribs and a band of diagonal lines below the rim. The top of the bowl slopes forward slightly. Just above the pedestal spur are moulded letters S on one side, and Z, on the other. The bowl is fumed on its external surfaces. The stem is plain. 123/133 High Street; F104; Find no 65; Phase 3.

128 **Bowl and stem** Depth of bowl 39 mm; external diameter at rim 18 mm; stem bore diameter 2.20 mm ($\frac{6}{64}$ in). Nearly complete pipe. The top of the bowl is parallel to the stem. On one side of the short, flat-bottomed heel is the moulded letter M, with a crown above. On the other side is the letter I or J, possibly also with a crown above. The remaining surface of the bowl and the stem are plain. 123/133 High Street; F197; Find no 64; Phase 3.

131 **Bowl** Depth 50 mm; external diameter at rim 22 mm. The top of the bowl slopes forward slightly. It has a pedestal spur and is stamped on the rear with the word SWINYARD, within an oval border. 115 High Street, Trench E; F128; Find no 311; Phase 10.

134 **Mouthpiece** Length 43 mm; bore diameter 1.50 mm ($\frac{4}{64}$ in). Mouthpiece and stem fragment. Part of a stamp, reading BU. . . survives on one side. Fumed. 115 High Street, Trench G; F109; Find no 549; Phase 10.

136 **Stem** Length 39 mm; bore diameter 1.6 mm ($\frac{4}{64}$ in). Stem fragment, stamped with the word W..HITE (possibly W.WHITE) on one side and GLAS. . . (probably GLASGOW) on the other. Each word is within a border. 123/133 High Street; F101; Find no 62; Phase 3.

137 **Stem** Length 59 mm; bore diameter 2.15 mm ($\frac{5}{64}$ in). Stem fragment with the moulded words L.Fiolet St.Omer .epose in three lines, encircling the stem. 123/133 High Street; F104; Find no 69; Phase 3.

138 **Stem** Length 36 mm; bore diameter 1.95 mm ($\frac{5}{64}$ in). Stem fragment with the incomplete, moulded words W-BE. . . on one side and . . .EEN on the other. Each word is within a raised border. 123/133 High Street; F105; Find no 67; Phase 3.

142 **Stem** Length 31 mm; bore diameter 1.8 mm ($\frac{4}{64}$ in). Stem fragment decorated by a pattern of raised protuberances. 123/133 High Street; F116; Find no 68; Phase 3.

160 **Stem** Length 45 mm; bore diameter 3.1 mm ($\frac{8}{64}$ in). Stem fragment bearing a design of fleur-de-lis in relief, now very abraded. 115 High Street, Trench E; F119; Find no 310; Phase 7.

ANIMAL BONE

C Smith

Small quantities of animal bone were recovered from 115 High Street (Trenches E & G) and 123/133 High Street (Trench D). Much of this material could not be ascribed with confidence to the medieval period, but rather was dated to the post-medieval or modern periods. Unlike the good-quality, well-preserved animal bone assemblages from other Elgin sites, at Lossie Wynd, Lazarus Lane, South College Street and elsewhere on the High Street (Hodgson & Jones 1979) the bones from 115 and 123/133 High Street were found to be highly fragmented, friable and eroded, with a tendency to disintegrate during handling. Much of the medieval material had apparently been subjected to heat, for example, approximately 12% of the bones from Trench E showed signs of burning or complete calcination.

Species present

At 115 High Street, the species present in the medieval phases are cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse and fish, while in the post-medieval phases, bones of cat and domestic fowl also occur. At 123/133 High Street, the medieval assemblage contains only cattle and probable rabbit bones. The rabbit remains consist of two rib

fragments and may have come from an animal which burrowed into the site in a later period. Undisputed physical evidence of rabbits in Scotland in the medieval period is rare, although mention is frequently made of rabbit warrens in documentary sources.

The numbers of fragments from each species is set out in Table 6. Here the terms large and small ungulate refer to rib and vertebra fragments which probably, on the basis of size, came from cattle and sheep/goat respectively.

TABLE 6
Numbers of bones from each species

	Medieval	Post-medieval	Total
115 High Street: Trench G			
Cattle	11	25	36
Sheep/goat	8	34	42
Pig	2		2
Horse	1		1
Cat		1	1
Large ungulate	24	3	27
Small ungulate	10	1	11
Indeterminate mammal	38	48	86
Domestic fowl		1	1
Fish	1	1	2
Total	95	114	209
115 High Street: Trench E			
Cattle		2	2
Sheep/goat	3	3	6
Large ungulate		4	4
Small ungulate		2	2
Indeterminate mammal	1	15	16
Total	4	26	30
123/133 High Street: Trench D			
Cattle	2	20	22
Sheep/goat		17	17
Pig		11	11
Horse		1	1
Rabbit	2	2	4
Large ungulate		13	13
Small ungulate	1	14	15
Indeterminate mammal	10	59	69
Domestic fowl		1	1
Indeterminate bird		2	2
Fish		4	4
Total	15	144	159

Age at death

There was no evidence for young animals in the medieval phases, but this is not surprising since the fragile, porous bones of young animals are less likely to survive in adverse conditions than are robust, mature specimens. At 115 High Street, Trench G, four post-medieval bones of sheep/goat and one of cat are from juvenile or immature animals, but the majority which survived are from adults. Of the post-medieval pig bones in Trench D, 123/133 High Street, four came from juvenile or immature animals. Only one of the cattle bones (a calcaneum) from Trench D was from a juvenile or immature beast.

Butchery

Only three medieval bones from Trench G, 115 High Street, show definite evidence of having been butchered. Knife cuts were noted on the shaft of a cattle metatarsal (Phase 3), a cattle ulna and a pig scapula (both Phase 2). These cuts were presumably inflicted during the removal of meat from the bones. Both the cattle ulna and the pig scapula have hack marks which were probably made by a meat cleaver or axe. In the post-medieval contexts from Trench G, one cattle bone and six of sheep/goat have knife cuts. There is no evidence of bones having been sawn in either Trenches G or E, 115 High Street; but thirteen post-medieval bones from Trench D, 123/133 High Street have been sawn. Six are large ungulate ribs, several of which have been sawn twice, presumably to form pieces of a size suitable for a cooking pot. Elsewhere in Scotland saws were very rarely used in the medieval period for everyday butchery, being reserved for removing valuable parts of the carcass, such as cattle and sheep horns and deer antlers.

THE HIGH STREET EXCAVATIONS: CONCLUSIONS

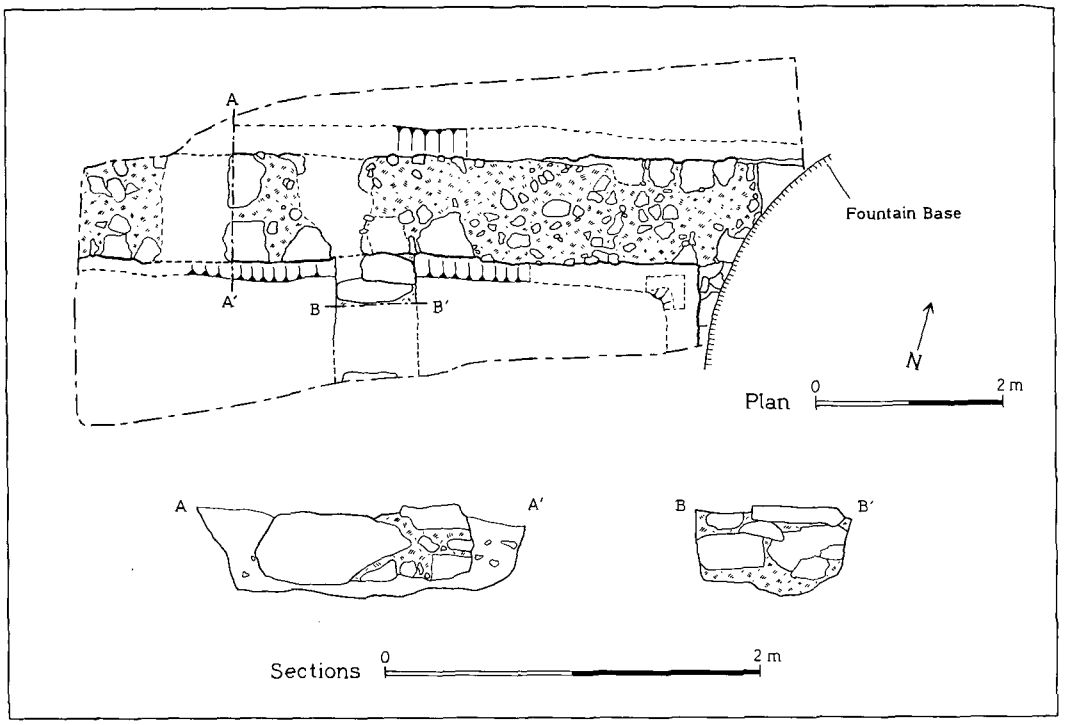
115 and 123/133 High Street represented the first opportunity to examine properties close to the core of the medieval burgh. Previous monitoring work on the burgh's street frontages suggested that any archaeological deposits there had been destroyed by extensive building programmes in the 18th and 19th centuries. Indeed, at 115 High Street, archaeological deposits did not survive at the points nearest the street front in either of the excavated trenches. In Trench E, deposits were well preserved only under a former close (as was also the case at 123/133 High Street). Those parts of the trenches outside the closes were heavily disturbed by early modern buildings and any surviving medieval features were badly truncated. This has clear implications for the future identification of areas of surviving archaeological deposits in Elgin.

On both sites there were no obvious property boundaries in the earliest phases. This is particularly significant in Trench E at 115 High Street; although this trench straddled a modern property line and was only 23 m from the High Street frontage, no evidence for a medieval property boundary appeared until Phase 5. At 123/133 High Street evidence for early boundaries is also absent, though this may be due to the extensive ground reduction which took place prior to the erection of a post-medieval/early modern building on this site.

The absence of property boundaries and buildings of medieval date from both sites suggests that the layout of medieval Elgin may have been slightly different to that which has been previously suggested. The distinctive long property rigs may have a post-medieval and not a medieval origin. Medieval buildings in the town may have been concentrated on the street frontage and the ground behind used as backlands with no marked property division until later.

Of the features recovered by these excavations, only a single pit (Trench D, 123/133 High Street) contained pottery which — in the absence of East Coast Redware — is tentatively dated to the burgh of David I, in the 12th century. Given the central location of both sites, this is surprising and suggests that the early burgh may have first developed between the castle on Ladyhill and St Giles parish church, and then expanded eastwards towards the cathedral precinct in the 13th century. In this scenario, the site at 115 High Street would have been outside the limits of the early burgh but within the area of later expansion. In contrast, the site at 123/133 High Street would have been within the limits of the early burgh, but may have been on the fringes of the earliest settlement.

A 19th-century source records that half the medieval burgh — an area west of the High Street sites — was burned down in the 15th century and never rebuilt (Shaw 1827, 263). As no contemporary records are cited, it is not possible to know if this information is reliable. None the



ILLUS 20 St Giles, High Street: the remains of the tolbooth, in Trench I

Trench E/G This was aligned east/west along the south side of the 'Plainstones' and was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.5 m. In the eastern half was graveyard soil with numerous disarticulated human bones. There were fewer bones towards the western end, although this may have been due to their removal during recent tree planting beside this part of the trench. The graveyard deposits were sealed by the present cobbled surface. Two articulated burials occurred at 0.5 m below ground level, midway along Trench E and in Trench G.

Trench F This trench cut through graveyard soils to a depth of 0.6 m. Towards the bottom of the trench numerous graves were cut into the clean sandy subsoil, but no skeletons were exposed as they lay beneath the depth of excavation required by the present development. Three medieval pottery sherds (fabrics 1 & 2) were recovered from the graveyard soil. This was sealed in turn by a layer of bedding sand for modern street paving.

Trench H This was a small circular cutting 0.4 m deep. Soils similar to those elsewhere in the graveyard were observed; no bones or artefacts were recovered.

Trench I (illus 20) This, the most westerly trench on the site, was excavated to accommodate a new water storage tank to supply a fountain on the site of the old tolbooth. A substantial wall foundation was observed at a depth of 0.38 m. This was aligned east/west, with two walls, 3 m apart, returning south from it. The westernmost return wall abutted the main wall, suggesting that it was a secondary element partition of the structure. The main wall was 1.1 m wide. All of the wall remnants survived to a height of c 0.45 m and were built of clay-bonded rubble, set into bedding trenches up to 1.6 m wide. Between the two return walls was a

layer of mortar and crushed sandstone rubble (0.1 m deep); this was probably construction debris and overlay graveyard deposits into which the wall foundations were cut.

Graveyard deposits were excavated only in the western part of the trench where the installation of the tank would disturb them. Though some disturbance had already been caused by modern services, seven complete or near-complete skeletons were retrieved, as well as much disarticulated bone. Ten sherds of medieval pottery (fabrics 1, 2 & 4) and three fragments of burnt daub were also recovered.

Trenches J, K & L These trenches were located against the south street frontage, to the east side of the church. Below the modern pavement was a mottled grey silt up to 0.2 m deep. This was mixed with small pebbles in Trenches K & L, possibly the remnants of a metalled surface. In Trenches J and K this deposit overlay the sandy subsoil. However, in Trench L it sealed a wide, V-shaped ditch, 0.3 m deep (slighted on its south side by a cable trench). The ditch appeared to be aligned east/west, at a slight angle to the modern streetfront. Two small sherds of abraded medieval pottery (fabric 2) were recovered from its basal fill of inwashed silt.

Tree-holes A series of small tree-planting holes (two rows of five, each 2 m wide and 1.4 m deep) was excavated to the east of the church. Disarticulated human bones occurred in almost all of these cuttings (though not in tree-hole 10), especially in the southern row. Articulated human remains occurred in tree-holes 3, 7, 8 and 9, where they were exposed at depths varying from 0.5 m to 1.3 m below ground surface. Partly articulated remains, cut by later graves, were also common.

Structural remains were observed in tree-hole 4. Remnants of a stone wall, aligned NW/SE, were exposed at a depth of 0.8 m below ground level. The wall remnants were 0.42 m wide by 0.6 m high and consisted of three courses of clay-bonded, roughly squared, sandstone blocks. The wall had been truncated from above by insertion of a modern cable.

In the base of tree-hole 9, at a depth of 0.8 m below ground level, a dark organic-rich midden deposit contained two sherds of medieval pottery (fabrics 2 & 3), a broken iron horseshoe and numerous small fragments of marine shells. Several burials were cut into the midden deposit and 28 sherds of medieval pottery (fabrics 1, 2 & 4) were recovered from the grave fills. In tree-hole 8, 15 sherds of similar pottery (fabrics 2, 3 & 4) were recovered from the lower grave fills. In tree-hole 9, 12 iron nails were found scattered among the upper grave fills. A small lead object or fragment was also found in the upper levels of this cutting.

In tree-hole 10 (as in adjacent Trench B), only clean sandy subsoil was present beneath a cobbled surface which, in turn, lay immediately below the modern street paving.

POTTERY

Naomi Crowley

The excavations yielded 68 small fragments of pottery, ranging from medieval to modern forms. Four medieval fabrics were identified.

Fabric 1 A fine-textured, red oxidized fabric containing some mica and occasional fine quartz. Only six sherds were recovered.

Fabrics 2 & 3 These are the most common medieval types recovered from the excavations. Fabric 2 is a coarse, gritty, red oxidized material containing mica and frequent quartz up to 0.5 mm; fabric 3 is a grey, reduced version of fabric 2. These are probably examples of East Coast Redware.

Fabric 4 A gritty, light grey fabric containing frequent iron oxide, quartz, other rock clasts and occasional mica. There was only a small amount of this material, which is commonly referred to as White Gritty Ware.

Most of the pottery is in fabrics 2 and 3. This is probably East Coast Redware, with forms and decorations representing manufacturing dates between the late 12th and early 14th centuries. Excavations at Spynie Palace, some 3 km north of Elgin, yielded a large assemblage in these fabrics, much of it bearing similar decoration to the present material (Crowley, forthcoming). The presence of a possible waster fragment (fabric 2) suggests that this pottery was produced in Elgin, although more evidence is required before such a claim can be substantiated. Fabric 1 was also recovered at Spynie Palace, where its forms and decorations suggest manufacture between the late 13th and 16th centuries.

The only non-local pottery comprised a few sherds of East Coast White Gritty Ware, thought to have been produced from the 12th to the 15th century in East Lothian and Fife (Brooks 1980).

DISCUSSION

Graveyard

A much-reproduced sketch by D Alexander depicting the final phase of the medieval church of St Giles appears to show this on a raised mound (Rhind 1839, 42). Raised graveyards, possibly resulting from centuries of burials on the same site, are a common feature in neighbouring royal burghs (eg Forres and Inverness) and the levelling of the Elgin graveyard in 1826 may have removed most of this putative mound. However, other illustrations which show some detail of the surrounding street front do not include a mound (eg Young 1879, 308) or, at best, are ambiguous (EL 6865). Thus it must be doubted whether Alexander's sketch is accurate in showing a mounded or raised graveyard.

It is evident that many medieval and post-medieval graves still remain, up to 56 m to the west and 32 m to the east of St Giles parish church. Some of the burials were at least 1.3 m (19.3 m O D) below modern ground level. The greater depth and concentration of skeletal material was recorded to the east of the church, around the southern row of tree-holes and at the south end of Trench A. The excavated burials all appeared to represent Christian interments, with the head to the west, other than one individual, close to the south-west corner of the church, in Trench G, with the head to the east. This individual may have been a priest (sex was not determined). No clearly identifiable coffin furniture or evidence of burial dress was recovered, although the 16 iron nails in tree-hole 9 may indicate a coffined interment. The paucity of coffin fittings suggests shroud burials in simple pits, although interment in coffins was becoming the vogue from the 17th century, within the lifetime of St Giles cemetery.

Elgin's Kirk Session Records (1596–1625; MDRO, XSE1 A2 [CH2/145]), describe a substantial wall surrounding the graveyard before 1585. The records also name some of the burghers (possibly those whose properties fronted the High Street) responsible for the rebuilding and maintenance of specific sections of the wall, ranging in length from 1.22 m to 3.05 m. However, the stones from the wall are described as being freely used in the construction of the tolbooth, in 1605. What may be part of the churchyard wall was uncovered to the east of the church in tree-hole 4 (further excavation might confirm this identification). On the evidence of numerous human bones within the southern row of tree-holes and the absence of such remains in Trenches J, K and L, along the streetfront, the graveyard wall may have run between these two series of trenches.

Tolbooth

There was a tolbooth in Elgin from at least the mid 16th century; however, the structural remains uncovered in Trench I probably belong to the final phase of the tolbooth, completed in 1716 (see Perry, below). The position of the main wall, aligned east/west, corresponds to the north wall of this building as marked on Wood's map of 1822 (illus 3); in addition, the positions of the two north/south walls correspond to be the cross walls shown to the immediate west of the tower by an architectural drawing of c 1826 (illus 21). Thus, it appears that the commemorative fountain has been built directly over the foundations of the tolbooth tower. MacGibbon & Ross (1892, 99) suggest that the tower is much older than the rest of the building, although this much-repeated observation (eg Cant 1974, 12) has not been substantiated by these investigations. This limited investigation suggests that the plan and structural history of the tolbooth could be recovered by further excavation on a larger scale. The tolbooth was demolished in 1843. Unfortunately, buried remains of the western end of the building were probably destroyed by the construction of a subterranean public toilet (now demolished) in the early 20th century.

The street front

In Trenches K and L along the south side of the High Street, to the east of St Giles Church, possible remnants of an old street surface were found just under the bedding deposits for the modern pavement. A V-shaped ditch, below the old street deposits, was also revealed in Trench L. The ditch appeared to be aligned at a slight angle to the present street frontage, but this alignment is parallel with the street front depicted by Wood's map of 1822 (illus 3), when the High Street market area was more rectangular in plan. This should be investigated, if the opportunity arises in the future, to elucidate its extent, purpose and possible association with the early burgh plan.

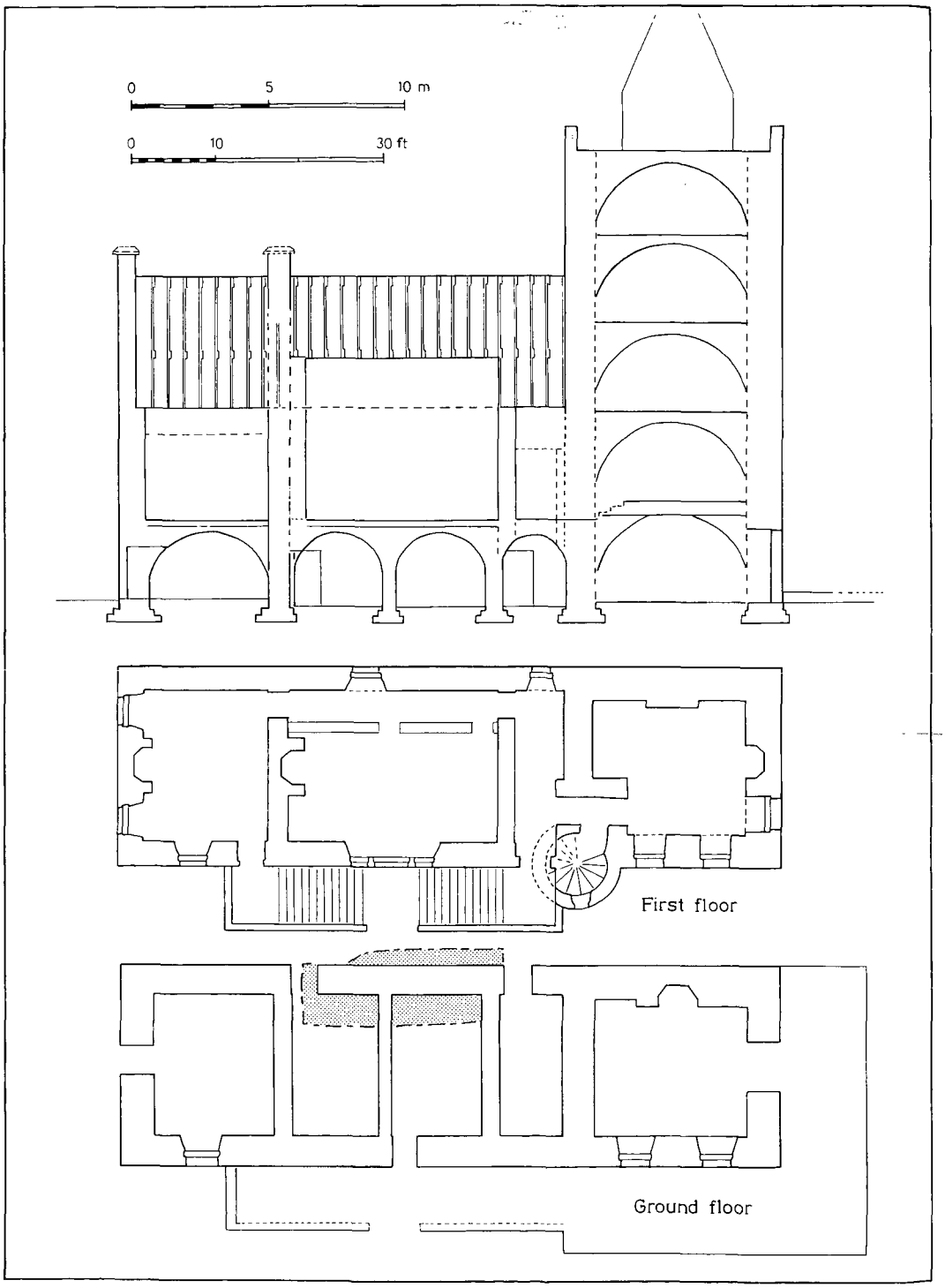
PART 2: A NEW LOOK AT OLD ELGIN

David Perry
with contributions by D W Hall, A D S MacDonald & J Terry

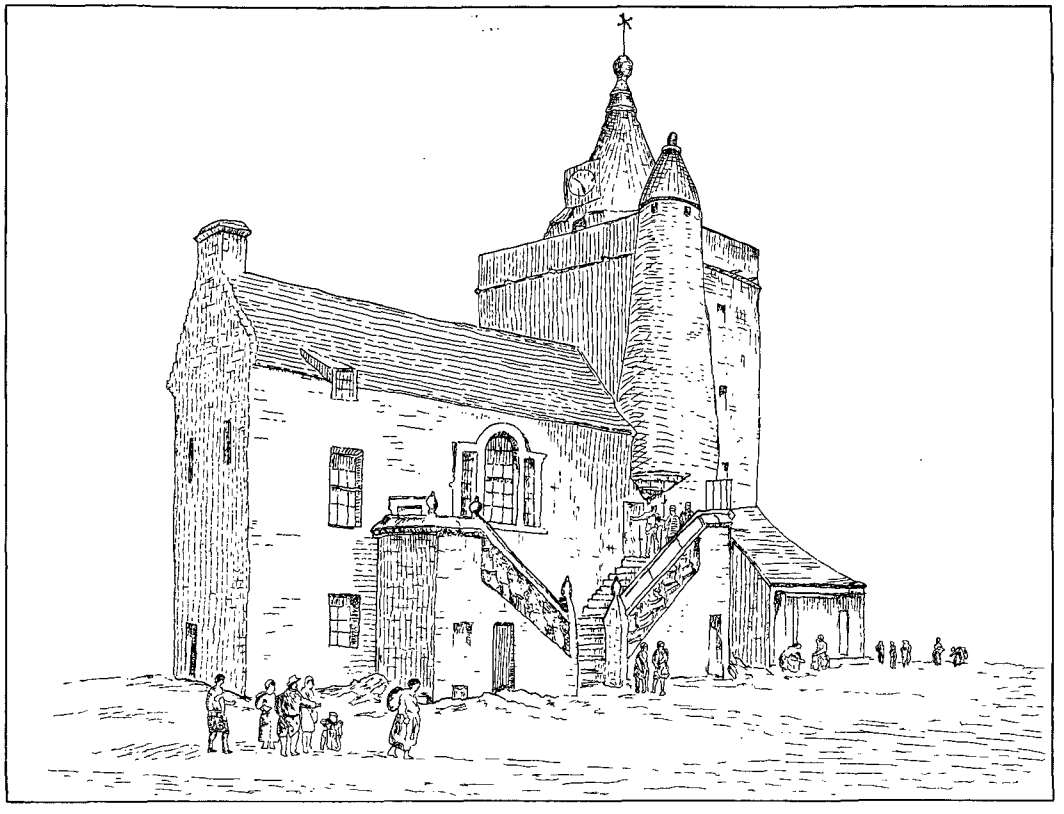
ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

The primary purpose of a burgh was to act as an centre for trade. To that end it was granted trading privileges in the form of a monopoly over a hinterland. Elgin's hinterland is likely to have been the sheriffdom of Elgin. The burgh would not have relied solely on trade for its prosperity; the agricultural life of the hinterland was also important.

Attempts to safeguard and encourage the burgh's economic position were made by William the Lion by the grant of privileges to his burgesses of Moray (which would have included Elgin): no one could poind their goods except for his own debt; they were exempted from trial by combat and from payment of toll throughout the kingdom; and they were allowed to have a hanse or guild as they had held it under David I (Barrow 1971, 223, 237, 379). This privilege of a guild to the merchants of Elgin was confirmed or granted anew by Alexander III in 1268. The right to a guild enabled the burgesses to control admission of non-burgesses to the freedom of the burgh and its trading monopolies, there being little evidence of discrimination before the 15th century between the merchants, engaged in buying and selling the goods of others, and craftsmen, who made and sold their own goods (Ewan 1990, 59). As a merchant's livelihood was dependent on his stock of goods for sale, the exemption from payment of tolls and customs on his goods and



ILLUS 21 An architectural drawing (c 1826) of the tolbooth as completed in 1716



ILLUS 22 A drawing of the tolbooth as completed in 1716 (Alexander 1839)

from indiscriminate poinding of his goods for debt would have been of great benefit. Recognition that a burgess held different legal status from that of those who provided military service or held land by military tenure may lie behind the exemption from trial by combat, although this is also possibly due to influence of the initial Flemish settlers of the burgh (Barrow 1971, 380).

It is only in the 14th century that clear indications of the burgh's economic status emerge. Between 1367 and 1370, a period of general economic prosperity in Scotland, customs duties paid to the crown averaged £119 5s 6d a year. Exports from the burgh were wool, skins and hides. In the 15th century the value of goods exported, mainly salmon, decreased considerably to an average of £10–£12 annually between 1431 and 1476 (this includes Forres). This contrasts with Aberdeen's exports, which were valued at £741 in 1431, and with Dundee's valued at £464. The relative lack of national economic importance of Elgin is confirmed in the records of burgh taxation. As late as 1535, Elgin, like its neighbours — Nairn, Forres, Cullen and Banff — contributed only 1% of the national total (Simpson & Stevenson 1982, 2). Nevertheless, though ranked less than Inverness, Elgin always contributed more than either Forres or Nairn.

Some improvement is evident in the 17th and early 18th centuries when Elgin rose from being ranked 24th in the burgh taxation rolls in 1647 to ninth in 1705, although it had slipped to 15th in 1737 (*ibid*, 3, 4). This improvement is reflected in the surviving architecture of the late 17th century, a number of arcaded shops (illus 23) along both sides of the eastern end of the High Street (McKean 1987, 22–3). For much of the 18th century, Elgin maintained its economic and



ILLUS 23 Arcaded frontages at 42–46 (left) and 50–52 (right) High Street, from west (*Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland* © *Crown copyright*)

social status, although the late 18th century saw a period of decline before the improvements, carried out in the first half of the 19th century, transformed it into a stately neo-classical town (*ibid*, 8). Elgin Academy, Gray's Hospital and Anderson's Institution were founded; St Giles parish church was rebuilt in classical style; the tolbooth was removed from the High Street; and North Street was created as a new approach from the north.

The creation of the burgh would have encouraged the development of crafts and industries, providing employment to the inhabitants. The transfer of the cathedral of Moray to Elgin would have acted as a further stimulus to trade and industry, with the need for specialist skills for its upkeep and furnishings. Documentary references mention Gregory the builder in 1287, carpenters in 1262 and Richard, William and Thomas, glaziers in the 14th century. These may have been involved in work at the cathedral. Osbert and Henry, smiths or armourers, Brice the tailor, James the shoemaker and John the fuller are also recorded in Elgin in the 14th century. Other industries included candlemaking, first recorded in 1540, and brewing. In the 17th century there was a considerable export trade in beer, with 80 brewers in 1687 exporting to Holland, Norway and the Baltic. In the 18th century there were a number of malt kilns in the burgh, but with the decline in the brewing trade, the kilns subsequently housed the looms of linen weavers instead (Simpson & Stevenson 1982, 25).

The proximity of the River Lossie provided a source of power to supply water mills, of which there were several near Elgin. The first recorded mill was the Bishop's Mill, established by a charter of William the Lion in favour of the Bishop of Moray between 1189 and 1195. The King's Mill, or Oldmills, was the mill to which the inhabitants of the burgh were thirled. About 1230 Alexander II granted it in his foundation charter to the priory at Pluscarden. By 1309,

another mill, the Sheriffmill, was established. In the 18th century, Deanhaugh Mill was established for tobacco manufacture and as a waulk mill and flax mill, and there were woollen mills at Newmill, and meal and wood mills at Kingsmill (*ibid*, 9–10).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

(Numbers in brackets refer to the Gazetteer and illus 25)

Complementing the documentary sources, archaeology also provides many insights into the economy and living conditions of the medieval inhabitants of Elgin. In the diet of the inhabitants of the medieval burgh, beef was the main source of meat with mutton, lamb, goat and kid as secondary sources. A variety of fish and birds was used to supplement this diet but venison and pig seem to have been little exploited. It is likely that the beef and mutton were secondary products of the cows and sheep, their primary product being hides, wool, woolfells and milk. Goat flesh may have been used as a 'poor man's meat'. Domestic pests included mice. Amphibian bones (frog or toad) and bones of water shrew suggest wet conditions in the burgh, possibly the result of flooding of the Lossie. From bone remains found in two wells, one dated to the 16th century at Lazarus Lane (no 7), the other to the 17th century at Lossie Wynd (no 6), it is evident that cats and dogs were being drowned: at least seven dogs (only one immature) and three cats at Lazarus Lane and two dogs at Lossie Wynd (Hodgson & Jones 1979; Smith 1998). Other aspects of domestic life have been recovered from analysis of environmental remains found in latrine pits in Elgin, which have provided evidence of the diet, parasitic infestation and general hygiene of the human population. Large numbers of *Prunus* stones (bullace, sloe/blackthorn and gean/wild cherry) indicate the use of fruit to supplement a monotonous diet of meat, fish and cereals, evidence of the latter surviving in the form of bran (Fraser 1981).

In terms of craft, industry and trade, archaeology again provides evidence in the form of artefacts and environmental materials. Unfortunately, except in a few cases where waterlogged conditions preserved organic material other than bone, little evidence of leather, hides, wool or wood has come to light. The importance of such goods, which are prone to decay, is ascertained largely through historical records.

Evidence of medieval industrial features was uncovered during excavations in the course of the relief road (no 5) and in Lazarus Lane near the cathedral (no 7). Slag recovered in excavations (nos 4, 5, 8a) may have been produced by domestic, rather than industrial, metalworking activity: no evidence of iron smelting has so far been found in Scottish towns (Spearman 1988, 144). Fragments of moulds and crucibles were also recovered at Nicholson's Garage (no 5). It is not clear whether lead-alloy waste found in excavations at Ladyhill (no 3) related to the occupation of the medieval castle or later. One interesting feature uncovered by excavation was a clay-lined pit, possibly used in tanning (no 8b). It might have been of medieval date but unfortunately produced no dating evidence.

Excavations have also produced pottery of an orange-red fabric, identified as a product of a pottery industry somewhere around the burgh, though no site is known. A medieval kiln waster (potsherd damaged in manufacture) was found at Ladyhill (no 3) and may have derived from a kiln nearby (see Hall & MacDonald above). Kiln furniture found at North College Street (no 4) is post-medieval. A ceramic 'pirlie pig' or money box of local fabric was recovered from a pit at 123/133 High Street (no 8b), but unfortunately contained no coins. This local industry belongs to the Scottish East Coast Redware industry extending from Stirling as far as Inverness and seems to have lasted from the 13th to the late 15th centuries (Hall 1995). Pottery finds also give an

indication of trading contacts with the Continent (Low Countries and Rhineland) and England (Yorkshire and Stamford). Excavations at the site of Nicholson's Garage (no 14) yielded a tubular spout, in the shape of a horse head, from a Scarborough jug (Hall nd); a similar spout was found at the Marks and Spencer site in Perth.

THE CASTLE

D W Hall & A D S MacDonald

The medieval royal castle of Elgin stood on a hill at the western edge of the burgh. It is first mentioned in 1160 in a charter of Malcolm IV, dated at Perth, 25 December 1160, whereby Berowald the Fleming was granted lands in and around Elgin for the service of one knight 'in my castle of Elgin' (Barrow 1960, 219).

It is mentioned twice in the reign of William the Lion (1165–1214): first, in a grant of leave to Richard, Bishop of Moray, to build a mill above the cruives on the River Lossie below the castle of Elgin (1189 x 1195) (Barrow 1971, 356); second, in a grant to an individual of, amongst other things, a house in Elgin Castle (*ibid*, 481). This latter reference is undated.

The castle is mentioned, during the reign of Alexander III, in an inquisition dated 27 August 1261, relating to the tenure of and services due from the king's garden in Elgin and the land attached to it (Bain 1881, no 2271); and in an inquisition dated 27 November 1262, the house in the castle of Elgin, formerly granted by William the Lion (above), again appears, its continued tenure by the original grantee's descendants being in question (*ibid*, no 2323).

During the period 18 June–27 July 1291 the castles of Elgin and Forres were held by Henry de Rye, who is also mentioned in May and June of 1292 and identified as the castellan.

Edward I stayed in Elgin twice, during his third and seventh expeditions into Scotland, in 1296 and 1303 respectively. In 1296, he reached Elgin on 26 July and stayed two days. In an account in French of this expedition, written apparently by one who had taken part in it, and again in an English version, apparently of the time of Richard II, it is interesting to note that the castle of Elgin alone is described as a *bone chestell* — 'a good castell' (Cramond 1903, 8). In 1303, the English king arrived at Elgin on 9 September and stayed until 13 September. On this occasion, he seems to have stayed in the Manse of Duffus within the College of Elgin. On 11 October, he passed through Elgin on his march over the Mounth to the Mearns and Dundee.

In the charter of 1312 by which Robert I granted the earldom of Moray to Thomas Randolph, there is no mention of the castle (though the *manerium de Elgyn* is referred to), nor of the castles of Forres and Nairn; whilst at Inverness, it is not the castle itself, but the *locus castelli* (the site of the castle), which is reserved to the Crown (Duncan 1988, 633). It has been pointed out that all four may have been slighted during the period 1306–14, according to Bruce's general policy, to prevent their being used again by the English. Indeed the apparent fact that Edward I stayed elsewhere during his second sojourn in Elgin suggests the possibility, at least in the case of Elgin, that the castle had been recaptured and wholly or partly destroyed by Scottish partisans between 1296 and 1303. But Elgin Castle must subsequently have been at least partly restored, either by the Randolph family, or by John Dunbar after he obtained the earldom in 1372.

John Dunbar, younger brother of George, Earl of March, became sole heir to Randolph, Earl of Moray and, having married the Lady Marjory Stewart, daughter of Robert II, obtained a charter of the earldom of Moray from the king, his father-in-law, in 1372, the earldom having reverted to the Crown a few years previously. This charter tells nothing of Elgin or its castle. The earl's castle and its constable (*constabulario castri nostri de Elgyn*) are, however, mentioned in a

charter of Earl John Dunbar, 1 May 1390, where it is implied that the castle had been operative for some time previously, at least for certain purposes (Cramond 1903, 17).

It is doubtful whether the castle was ever fully functioning as such, or used as a residence (if it ever had been conventionally so used), after the period of the Wars of Independence. Earl John Dunbar's charter of 1390 refers to it only as a depot where rent and dues paid in kind would be rendered up. James II, when he visited Elgin, lodged, not in the castle, but in the Manse of Duffus, as Edward I had done in 1303; and James IV, a frequent visitor to Elgin, lodged in 'the king's house'. But it is clear that, though not mentioned in the Renewal charter of 1324, the castle must have been included, explicitly or implicitly, among the properties conveyed by Robert I in 1312 to Thomas Randolph, when the king created and bestowed upon Randolph the earldom of Moray; and that it remained in the hands of the Randolph, Dunbar and (succeeding the Dunbars) Douglas earls down to the death of Archibald Douglas in 1455 and the ensuing forfeiture of the earldom. Throughout the period of the earldom, and perhaps for some time after, the castle was neither residence nor fortress, but a depot and also a prison, for it is in the latter role that it appears in James II's Exchequer Rolls. Sometime in this period also, apparently, the Chapel of Our Lady was founded within the castle, a foundation augmented by the addition c 1430 of a chaplaincy founded by Earl James Dunbar. The chapel almost certainly survived the castle by many years (though it too may have ceased to function before the Reformation): the site is now called Ladyhill not 'Castle Hill'.

The decay of the castle in the latter half of the 15th and first half of the 16th century is possibly reflected in the notices of the chapel and chaplaincies in the record. Thus *capella castri de Elgyn* in 1456–60 (*capellanus in castro de E./castri de E.*, 1458–9); but in November 1477: *Capellano ... fundato super monte castri de Elgyn*; in September 1506, *capella BMV. de le Castelhill de Elgin*; in August, 1546, *capellania Beate Marie Virginis de Castelhill burgi de Elgin.* Further, in November 1574, the site is described merely as 'the castell hill callit our Ladyhill'; likewise, in June 1585, it is simply 'the castell hill of the said burgh' (Duff unpubl).

There is, apparently, no suggestion, in the record of the second half of the 16th and first half of the 17th century, that Ladyhill was occupied after the Reformation: indeed it seems to be implied that it was not. The road which led from the east foot of the castle hill to 'our Ladie chapell sumtyme biggit upon the heid of the said hill' is mentioned in the notice of 1585 (above) as a boundary. Notices in the Kirk Session Minutes in August 1600 and September 1602 indicate that the hill was open land. In June 1644, a housewife of Elgin was corrected by the Kirk Session for putting out washing to dry on Ladyhill on a Sunday.

Slezer's view of Elgin from the north in 1688 shows standing remains on Ladyhill (illus 24). These appear to be a circular crennelated tower with a rectangular structure on its east side; Slezer's drawing also seems to show a rampart running on the northern and eastern side of these buildings. In the accompanying text Slezer writes 'upon a sandy hill to the East of the town are to be seen the ruins of an old castle' (Slezer 1693, 47). In an 18th-century survey of the province of Moray there is a description of the castle ruins at that time: 'it appears that the walls were built of stone and mortar of limestone, and were thick and strong. An outside wall surrounded the summit of the hill, and from the remains of the interior buildings, it appears that the castle was a square' (Anon 1798, 67). As this description pre-dates the erection of the Gordon Monument by 41 years it probably represents the best record of the condition of Ladyhill prior to these building works; a ditch and draw-well were apparently visible (Shaw 1827, 249). Neither the excavations in 1858 (no 1) nor the construction of the Gordon Monument seem to have caused considerable damage to archaeological features. Indeed, the excavations in 1972–3 (no 3) have confirmed the extensive survival of archaeological levels, and have provided evidence of the privileged style of



ILLUS 24 'Prospect of the Toun of Elgine', by John Slezer (1693), from the north (*Trustees of the National Library of Scotland*). 'Bishop's House' and other manses are to the right of the Cathedral; St Giles Church tower is in the centre, with the tower of Thunderton House to its right, but between these, the tolbooth tower is not in view; the castle, on Ladyhill, is at the extreme right

living enjoyed by the social élite of medieval Scotland. For example, in the faunal assemblage there was a much higher frequency of deer bones compared to domestic animals than would be expected from excavated urban sites of comparable date (see Smith, above).

THE CATHEDRAL AND CHANONRY

The transfer of the cathedral of the diocese of Moray to the 'Church of the Holy Trinity beside Elgin' in 1224 not only confirms the burgh's importance, but must have added to its importance as an economic centre. The wealth of the cathedral and chanonry later attracted several unwelcome visitors: Alexander Stewart, Earl of Buchan, 'the Wolf of Badenoch', plundered and burned the cathedral, chanonry, parish church, Maison Dieu and burgh in 1390. In 1402 Alexander, son and heir of the Lord of the Isles, plundered and burned the chanonry and a great part of the burgh (Simpson & Stevenson 1982, 7).

The cathedral was situated at the eastern end of the burgh, with the manses of the canons and other clergy of the cathedral. Previously it had moved between Birnie, Spynie, Kinnedar and then Spynie again. It is possible that a church already existed on the site, though it may be noted that the new cathedral was quite distinct from the parish church of St Giles located in the town centre. The extensive remains of the cathedral date from the 13th century, with considerable reconstructions after fires in 1270, 1390 and 1402, and the collapse of the central tower in 1506. After the Reformation, the cathedral was abandoned but seems to have suffered no structural damage, apart from the removal of the lead from the roof in 1567–8. It was after the collapse of the central tower for a second time, in 1711, that the building began to be extensively quarried. This continued until the early 19th century when the first attempts were made to preserve the ruins and a keeper was appointed. These efforts, however, involved the removal of considerable quantities of rubble, which were dumped in the Order Pot (a former pool where witches were ducked), and much damage may have been done to archaeological deposits at the same time (*ibid*, 28).

The precinct around the cathedral contained the manses of the serving canons and clergy. A chapter had been instituted in 1208 for eight canons while the cathedral was still at Spynie, and in 1226, after the transfer to Elgin, the chapter was increased in size to 18 canons. By 1242 there were 23 canons, and two further canonries were established shortly before the Reformation. The cathedral chapter was maintained to a high quality by the bishops; it has been noted that it included a high proportion of graduate clerks (*ibid*, 7). There was also provision for at least 17 vicars to act as substitutes for the canons and, in addition, there were resident chaplains (Cowan & Easson 1976, 206–7).

Some remains still exist of the manses of the canons. Of these, the so-called 'Bishop's House', really the precentor's manse, is the best preserved. It is dated to 1557 but is probably a composite structure (Fawcett 1994, 281). Part of the former deanery is incorporated into The College, while some of the old vaulted undercroft of the archdeacon's manse is incorporated into South College House. Two other manses stood on each side of the north end of King Street until last century. Other manses were located along the south side of North College Street, along King Street and to the east of the cathedral (Simpson & Stevenson 1982, 28–9).

The precinct was enclosed by a boundary wall extending from the River Lossie south-westwards to the junction of Cathedral Road and South College Street, then along the north side of that street to just west of Collie Street, then northwards to the River Lossie. The wall was pierced by four gateways, of which only one now survives, Pans Port, which was heavily restored in 1857. This gateway has evidence for a portcullis. The other ports reputedly stood in North

College Street beside the Little Cross, to the rear of the Bishop's House and in South College Street opposite the Maison Dieu (*ibid*, 29–30). The location of a port at the Little Cross seems to be too far to the west of the supposed precinct wall at Collie Street. Apart from a short fragment attached to Pans Port, the only extant remnant of the precinct wall lies in Pansport Place (*ibid*, 30).

It has been suggested that a settlement grew up near the cathedral, with the Little Cross as its market area (*ibid*, 21). This cross was erected in 1402, possibly as an act of penance by Alexander of the Isles for his sack of the chanonry, although its present appearance is the result of a restoration in 1733 (McKean 1987, 18). However, there is no evidence of this settlement. The excavations that have taken place in this area (nos 4 & 7) have revealed only late medieval activity.

Little archaeological work has taken place within the cathedral or its precinct. Excavation (no 11) by Scotia Archaeology Limited between the chapter house and the Brodie Aisle to its east uncovered a modern pit containing disarticulated human bone, probably disturbed during earlier work within the cathedral; two undisturbed burials were left unexcavated. Remains of two walls on east/west alignment, were also found, 0.55 m wide and 8.5 m apart, predating both the chapter house and Brodie Aisle. Trial trenches (no 13) in South College Street revealed only undisturbed subsoil less than 1 m below the surface, under garden soil. Trial excavations in the grounds of South College House (no 18) uncovered two medieval pits cut into subsoil and buried by up to 2.5 m of garden soil. It is quite possible that archaeological remains lie protected under this depth of soil elsewhere within the precinct, including the remains of other manses and the exact line of the precinct wall.

MARKET AREA AND TOLBOOTH

with a contribution by J Terry

A market was a major component of a medieval burgh where manufactured goods, foodstuffs and raw materials could be bought and sold. It is curious, therefore, that Elgin lacked a specific market area. As mentioned above, an earlier market area to the east of St Giles Church may have existed before encroachment by the burgh's eastward expansion. Unusually, it was the graveyard of the church that served as the market, apparently as early as 1365, when a market cross is first mentioned (*Reg Episc Morav* 1837, 314). It probably stood east of the church, where a new market cross was erected in 1630. The stone cross that now stands on the east side of St Giles Church is known as the Muckle Cross (illus 19). This dates from 1888 and is based on an earlier structure which was demolished c 1792 (Mackintosh 1891, 67); it incorporates the Scottish lion from the top of the old cross (McKean 1987, 19). It consists of a hexagonal raised platform, accessed by internal stairs around a central shaft. This and similar market crosses (such as those in Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Perth) were formerly used as raised platforms for delivering public announcements. In 1786 the market was moved from the cemetery to the Plainstones, a cobbled area west of the church (illus 19) (Simpson & Stevenson 1982, 5).

The tolbooth was the major civic building of a Scottish burgh. Elgin's tolbooth, west of the parish church, functioned primarily as the town gaol and a collection point for market tolls, dues and customs. It also housed the meetings of the burgh council and court, as well as serving as the town prison. Elgin's tolbooth is recorded in May 1541 when a prisoner escaped from it (MDRO, ZBEL B2). The first tolbooth, probably a wooden construction with a thatched roof (MacGibbon & Ross 1892, 99), must have been in need of repair in the later 16th century when the burgh court met in the parish church and the former Greyfriars monastery (Simpson & Stevenson 1982, 8).

Between 1602 and 1605 a new tolbooth was erected on the site of its predecessor. It was built of stone — some taken from the wall around St Giles graveyard — with a slated roof, and was stipulated to measure 60 ft (18.29 m) in length and 20 ft (6.10 m) in width (Rhind 1839, 24 & 52). It had sufficient space for a prison, a council room and other accommodation (Mackintosh 1914, 194). This building stood until 1700 when it was burnt down by Robert Gibson (Young 1879, 155). A third tolbooth was started in 1709 and completed in 1716, although the tower of the earlier building may have survived the fire, as views of the tolbooth show a massive square tower of possible early 17th-century date (illus 22). Nevertheless, the tower is not depicted in Slezer's view of Elgin (illus 24). Greater detail of this final tolbooth is known: it consisted of a five-storey tower (the gaol) with adjoining rooms to the west on two levels. An architectural drawing (illus 21) of its floor plans and elevation was produced in c 1826 (MDRO, ZBEL P10) and a detailed written account of the interior has been published (Mackintosh 1914, 195–7). There is also a description in the minutes of the County Commission of Supply from 1822 (MDRO, ZCMm B2) which records the state of the tower (gaol) in that year. Several prints and other pictorial evidence for this building are readily available (eg EL 6865; Rhind 1839, 52). Wood's map of 1822 shows the exact position of the tolbooth and the standing nave and tower of the medieval church of St Giles (illus 3). The tolbooth was cleared away in 1843 to open up the High Street.

The foundations of part of the tolbooth were discovered during environmental improvements to the High Street in 1995 (Terry, above). The skeletons discovered in this excavation represent interments within the former graveyard of the parish church and it may seem surprising that the tolbooth foundations were cut into them. This raises the question of the date of the skeletons: are they the remains of the pre–12th century graveyard (see below)? Would the medieval church have surrendered part of its graveyard for secular purposes and where is the documentary evidence? Perhaps the later tolbooth is not on the site of its predecessor after all, which may have stood elsewhere in the High Street. Pont's map (Stone 1989, 203) shows a tower to the west and north of the parish church; if this was the 16th-century tolbooth, then it seems to have stood on the north side of the High Street rather than in the middle. Alternatively the focus of burials may have shifted eastwards (below).

PARISH CHURCH

with a contribution by J Terry

The discovery in the former churchyard in 1823 of a Pictish Class II symbol stone, known as the Elgin Pillar, suggests that there may have been a much earlier predecessor to the medieval parish church. The stone, carved with Pictish symbols on one side and a cross with interlaced decoration on the other, may date to the ninth century (Simpson & Stevenson 1982, 17).

The medieval parish church of St Giles occupied an island in the centre of the High Street. It was presumably this church that was granted by William the Lion to the Bishop of Moray between 1187 and 1189, the grant to take effect after the deaths of Richard de Prebenda, the king's clerk, and of Walter, Richard's clerk (Barrow 1971, 300–1). The grant had still not taken effect when it was renewed between 1203 and 1207, when Walter of St Albans, the king's chaplain, was still alive (*ibid*, 429).

The church was restored after the Wolf of Badenoch burned the town in 1390. The nave was rebuilt after the collapse of its vaulted stone roof in 1679 (Shaw 1827, 87); it survived until 1826 when it was demolished to make way for the present parish church. The old church

comprised an aisled nave, 80 ft (24.38 m) long and 60 ft (18.29 m) wide, with two rows of 'massy, cylindric columns' (Anon 1798, 138), a central tower, transepts and a chancel. The transepts were removed between 1700 and 1740 to allow widening of the High Street, although 'aisles' remained on each side of the tower in 1798 (*ibid*). The chancel, which had been partitioned off from the rest of the church in 1621 as the Little Kirk, was demolished in 1800. The graveyard, where burials ceased in the first half of the 17th century, was cleared in 1826, when cartloads of human bones were transferred to the cathedral churchyard or mixed with earth and spread as top dressing on pasture at the limits of the burgh; at the same time gravestones were used to pave the High Street (Simpson & Stevenson 1982, 26–7). Thus, by these events, the archaeology of the burgh will have been greatly complicated. It is possible that the medieval gravestone found in building renovation on the south side of the High Street may have been removed from the churchyard about this time (no 32).

Recent archaeological excavation (Terry above) has revealed that burials in the former graveyard survive, below the present street surface, for at least 56 m west and 32 m east of the present church. To the east burials were cut into a medieval midden, while to the west they underlay the tolbooth. In addition, in 1984, articulated skeletons were found inside the present church as well as in the former graveyard to the south of the church (no 25). The presence of burials under the tolbooth to the west of the church and cut into medieval middens may be due to a shift in the focus of the graveyard. After the construction of the tolbooth on the western part of the graveyard, the church may have been compensated with land to the east. An apparent limit to the graveyard was found to the east and south (no 12) of the church in 1995–6, as well as part of the possible graveyard wall. Together with the discovery of the Elgin Pillar in 1823, these findings indicate the high potential for survival of archaeological remains around the site of the medieval church. The finding of remains of the earlier church, or even of a possible Dark Age church, is a distinct possibility, given the confirmed survival below the ground of the foundations of the tolbooth to the west of the church (no 10).

DOMINICAN FRIARY

The house of the Dominicans or Blackfriars of Elgin was founded by Alexander II in 1233 or 1234 (Cowan & Easson 1976, 118). Its exact site is not known, but it was somewhere to the north of the castle (see below). This apparent grant of redundant castle land by Alexander to the Blackfriars is comparable to his known endowment of the Blackfriars of Perth with land adjacent to the former royal castle of Perth. After the Reformation, in 1571, the lands and revenues of the friary were granted by the Crown to the Dunbar family (*ibid*, 118).

The monastery appears to have been a substantial property. In the 17th century references were made to 'a manor place, houses, biggings, yards, orchards, etc'. There is contradictory evidence about the fate of the friary buildings. Around the middle of the 18th century the buildings and burial ground were supposedly levelled and the ground converted to arable use. However, in 1838, a local inhabitant was recollected seeing the ruins of the friary buildings at the west end of the Borough Briggs (an area north of the castle), south of a stank or pond formed by flooding of the River Lossie (Simpson & Stevenson 1982, 30–1).

Wood's map of Elgin in 1822 (illus 3) shows only two buildings by the Lossie on Blackfriars' land, which are not specifically identified as part of the Blackfriars' monastery, and are unlikely to be the buildings recollected. The Blackfriars' stank was a well-known local feature, sometimes mentioned in property deeds, and is thought to have been located in excavations in 1971 when a number of skeletons were discovered (no 2). If the monastery was located south of the stank

found in 1971, then it must have been very near to the castle; alternatively, and perhaps more likely, the feature found in 1971 was not the Blackfriars' stank. Documentary research on title deeds may be able to give a more accurate indication of the site of the friary, and would be a useful historical research project for the future.

The skeletons found in 1971 near the friary stank may have been victims of plague in the mid 17th century (Stevenson 1987, 184). The former Blackfriars' cemetery in Perth was also reused after the Reformation for the burial of plague victims (*NSA* 1845, 36).

FRANCISCAN FRIARY

The history of the Franciscans or Greyfriars in Elgin is confusing, as there were apparently two separate foundations, the earlier one having failed. A Franciscan friary was established, or intended, 'beside the cathedral' by the late 13th century, probably by about 1273. Soon after, about 1281, William, Earl of Ross, made a grant of certain lands for the upkeep of the convent, with the provision that, if the friars did not take up residence, the lands were to be used to maintain two chaplains in the cathedral. As this alternative provision was adopted, the friary must have been abandoned, although when is not clear. The friary is not included in the record of buildings damaged by the Wolf of Badenoch in 1390 (but neither is the Dominican friary), which could mean that it had ceased to exist by then. The buildings were apparently cleared away in the early 15th century (Simpson & Stevenson 1982, 31–2).

The site of this friary is traditionally said to have been on the south side of the High Street, towards the east end, in the garden of the former Dunfermline Cottage, between Glover Street and Greyfriars Lane. Foundations and vaults were apparently still to be seen in the 19th century. A stone dovecot, mentioned in 1538 and supposedly part of the first friary, was demolished in the first half of the 19th century and the stones were used to build substantial walls around the garden of Dunfermline Cottage. No dovecot is shown here on Wood's plan of 1822 (illus 3), although he does show a dovecot to the west of the cathedral, near 'Dunfermline House', ie the Bishop's House. Recent trial excavation on the supposed site of the first friary revealed no structural remains, although a few residual sherds of medieval pottery were found (no 21). During building operations in 1967 and 1990, the remains of a vaulted cellar, possibly of the former Dunfermline Cottage, were observed (no 23).

By the late 15th century, a new house of Franciscan Observants had been established in Elgin. Its origins are, like the earlier foundation, obscure. It is first recorded in 1494 or 1495 and may have been founded by James IV (1488–1513), although a forged papal bull alleges it to have been founded in 1479 by John Innes of Innes. After the Reformation, the buildings became the possession of the burgh, which used them as a court house, while the lands were granted by the Crown to Robert Innes of Invermarky in 1573 (Cowan & Easson 1976, 131).

This second house was sited on the south side of Greyfriars Street. Its church survived the Reformation in secular use, was restored at the end of the 19th century, and now forms part of the Convent of Mercy. Some fragments of the other buildings were incorporated into the restored convent (Fawcett 1994, 135–6).

MAISON DIEU

This hospital of St Mary was founded by Andrew, Bishop of Moray before 1237, for the maintenance of poor brothers and sisters. It was burned in 1390 and in 1445 was described as 'long void and wont to be assigned to secular clerks as a perpetual benefice'. In 1520 it was

granted to the Blackfriars of Elgin by the Bishop of Moray, although records of payments to bedesmen occur between 1561 and 1572. James VI granted the hospital to the burgh in 1595 for educational purposes as well as for maintaining the poor (Cowan & Easson 1976, 179). The hospital was rebuilt in 1624 (Simpson & Stevenson 1982, 34).

The hospital was situated outside the East Port of the burgh, on the south side of South College Street. The walls of the chapel were still extant in 1773 when they were blown down in a storm (*ibid*, 34). No buildings are shown on Wood's plan of 1822 (illus 3) and, presumably, the site had been abandoned by then. Foundations were still visible in the late 19th century when they were removed. The irregularities of the ground, where the buildings and graveyard had been, were levelled out by cultivation during the First World War. Therefore, although redevelopment of the site in the 1960s revealed some skeletons (*ibid*, 34), it is unlikely that much remains of the hospital buildings below ground apart from burials from the former graveyard.

LEPER HOSPITAL

This hospital is shrouded in obscurity. Its foundation, date of closure and location are all uncertain. It is mentioned in 1391 as 'the houses of the lepers of Elgin' (Cowan & Easson 1976, 178). An entry in the burgh court book in 1649 mentions 'the Lyper lands', beyond the east end of the burgh. In 1850, trenching on land forming part of a garden nursery revealed extensive foundations of boulders and blue clay, which were probably the remains of the leper hospital. Some 40 cartloads of material were removed. A number of skeletons, probably from the hospital graveyard, were also uncovered (Simpson & Stevenson 1982, 34–5). In 1982 more burials (no 24) were uncovered from a gas pipe trench on the northern side of East Road by the Tyock Industrial Estate. In view of the extensive damage done to the possible hospital buildings in the mid 19th century, it is unlikely that any remains of the hospital survive, although, as in the case of the Maison Dieu, burials may still be uncovered.

TOWN WALLS AND PORTS

Elgin, like almost all Scottish medieval burghs, was never enclosed by a purpose-built, defensive wall. Instead it relied on back dykes at the rear of gardens. It was presumably walls of this sort that are glimpsed in a record of 1394 when the Maison Dieu was said to be near the walls of Elgin (Cowan & Easson 1976, 179).

Entry to the burgh was controlled by four ports, of which the East and West Ports would have been the most important, controlling the main east/west road between Aberdeen and Inverness. The West Port stood at the junction of the High Street and West Park Road, beside Ladyhill, until 1783, when it was illegally removed by the owner of West Park, who used the stones to build garden walls (Simpson & Stevenson 1982, 19–20). That the port stood so far west of the built-up area could support the suggestion that Elgin originally extended further west but was not rebuilt after being burnt in 1452 (Shaw 1827, 263). Unfortunately, little archaeological stratigraphy survives here (nos 13a-c, 16 & 31).

The East Port stood in South College Street, just west of the junction with King Street, until its demolition in 1795. It has been suggested that this was a secondary site, after the eastward expansion of the burgh, the original site being to the east of the parish church, where the High Street narrows (Simpson & Stevenson 1982, 20). So far, however, there is no documentary or archaeological evidence to substantiate this claim. A reference to the port in 1242 does not give its then location (*ibid*, 20), but it is possible that its remains await discovery below street level.

The North Port, in Lossie Wynd, was demolished in 1787 (*ibid*, 20). Its location is curious, being about half-way along the rigs on either side of the street, rather than at the northern end of the rigs, at the junction with North Lane. The reason for this is not clear, but it may mark the original limit of the rigs on the north side of the High Street before a later extension northwards. Nor is it clear how the site of the port related to the boundary ditch found further north in an excavation at Lossie Wynd (no 6) (the Kirk Port in Ayr was similarly situated half-way along the rigs on either side of it, rather than at the west end of St John Street). Archaeological excavations at 115 and 123/133 High Street (no 8) revealed an absence of medieval property divisions in the backlands. This may be because rigs were shorter in the medieval period, the distinctive long rigs being a later phenomenon (Hall *et al* above).

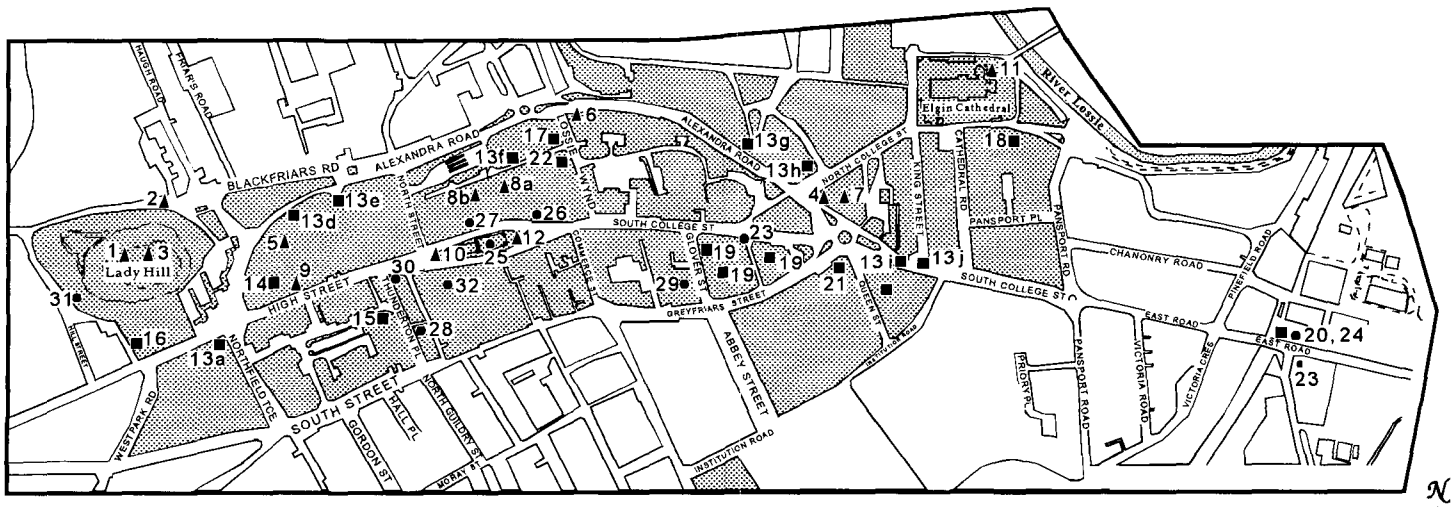
The South Port, or School Port, stood at the southern end of Commerce Street. In 1745 it was in danger of falling, although its demolition was not carried out until 1795 (Simpson & Stevenson 1982, 20).

It is possible that both the North and South Ports were, like the East Port, secondary features, inserted only after the eastward expansion of the burgh from Lossie Wynd/Commerce Street. Documentary research would be more likely to resolve this question, rather than archaeology, which might find the remains of the ports below the street level, but is unlikely to provide conclusive dating evidence for them.

CONCLUSIONS

Archaeology has provided tantalizing glimpses of Elgin's past, but not of its origins or earliest buildings; evidence of only one possible medieval timber structure (no 8a) has been found. The evidence can be compared to that from excavations in other medieval burghs in Scotland. Medieval property boundaries in the form of fence lines (no 5), post-holes (no 8a) and a stone wall (no 8a) have been found as in Perth and Aberdeen, although no boundary ditches. Evidence of metalworking in the form of slag (nos 4, 5, 8a) and fragments of crucibles and moulds (no 5) has also been found, although no furnaces like those excavated in Inverness (Wordsworth 1982, 346–54). A possible tanning pit (no 8b) and other 'industrial' features (no 7) have also been found. Trade contacts are attested by pottery from England, the Low Countries and the Rhineland (Hall & MacDonald above; Hall *et al* above); these links are similar to those of Perth (Bowler *et al* 1995, 953) and Aberdeen (Murray 1982, 123–5). Archaeological deposits have also yielded some evidence of the diet of the inhabitants and the conditions in which they lived.

Almost all of the archaeological investigations in Elgin in the last 20 years have been on the north side of the High Street, most of them in advance of construction of the new relief road. This work has been valuable in revealing the extent to which the natural slope of the ground down towards the River Lossie has affected the survival of archaeological remains. It is unlikely that many archaeological deposits remain on the street front, where they were largely destroyed by developments in the 19th and 20th centuries (nos 13c, 14, 26). This is unfortunate as it is now unlikely that anything remains of medieval frontage buildings, such as have been found in Perth. Nevertheless, some frontage deposits have survived modern developments (no 9). Further north, some 20–40 m back from the street front, archaeological survival improves and in some places (no 5) there are even waterlogged remains (important for providing environmental evidence of plants and insects). However, towards the northern limit of the rigs, survival appears to diminish again (nos 13d-f, 17 & 22). It is also probable that strips of well-preserved deposits survive under the closes extending back from the street, as at 123/133 High Street (no 8b).



EXCAVATIONS ▲

1 Lady Hill 1858
2 Dominican Friary Stank 1971
3 Lady Hill 1972-3
4 North College Street 1977
5 Nicholson's Garage 1977
6 Lossie Wynd 1977
7 Lazarus Lane 1977
8 115 & 123/133 High Street 1988
9 Nicholson's Garage 1993
10 High Street 1995
11 Cathedral 1996
12 High Street 1996

TRIAL EXCAVATIONS ■

13 Relief Road 1976
14 Nicholson's Garage 1981
15 Batchen Lane/South Street 1986
16 Hill Terrace 1986
17 36 Lossie Wynd 1987
18 South College House 1987
19 High Street/South College Street/ Greyfriars Street/Glover Street 1989
20 East Road 1992
21 Greyfriars Street/Queen Street 1995
22 24 Lossie Wynd 1997

WATCHING BRIEFS ●

23 High Street/Greyfriars Lane 1967, 1990
24 East Road 1982
25 St Giles Church 1984
26 Tower Hotel, High Street 1987
27 Forsyth Close 1988
28 Thunderton Place 1989
29 Greyfriars Street/Glover Street 1990
30 Thunderton House, High Street 1993
31 Hill Street 1994
32 130 High Street 1996

ILLUS 25 Archaeological fieldwork in Elgin to April 1997

South of the High Street little archaeological investigation has taken place, and what has been done contrasts with information from the opposite side of the street. Here, survival may be better on the frontage than in the backlands: because of the rising slope to the south, these have been terraced and scarped to provide level sites for later buildings.

Further work, involving both documentary research and archaeological investigation, is required to clarify the history of the burgh's market area and the sites of its ports and monasteries as well as its origins and development. The recent work around St Giles Church, in the High Street, offers encouraging glimpses of surviving remains of the tolbooth and medieval parish church (nos 10, 12, 25). The possibility of finding remains of an earlier structure on the site of the cathedral is also suggested by the discovery of wall remnants pre-dating the chapter house, which was built after the fire of 1270 (no 11).

Elgin's importance as an early royal centre and as an ecclesiastical centre invites comparison with Dunfermline, Perth/Scone and Edinburgh/Holyrood, although the establishment of a cathedral at an existing royal burgh was unique in medieval Scotland (at Aberdeen, the diocesan centre was at Old Aberdeen, separate from the royal burgh at New Aberdeen). The burgh's layout between two foci, the castle at one end and, initially, the parish church, subsequently, the cathedral at the other, is similar to the initial layout of Inverness, before the construction of a bridge over the River Ness in the 13th century. The initial burgh layout at (New) Aberdeen, between castle and church, before the development of Broad Street in the late 12th century (Murray 1982, 33) is also comparable.

Like most other Scottish burghs, Elgin did not expand beyond its medieval limits until the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The surviving 17th- and 18th-century buildings can also provide information on the past. Incorporated into their fabric may be earlier remains, as in the case of a fine medieval gravestone re-used as paving in a later building (no 32). In view of this, it will be necessary to monitor not only developments involving ground disturbance, but also any alterations to Elgin's older buildings.

GAZETTEER

The following gazetteer summarizes all fieldwork within the medieval burgh to April 1997.

EXCAVATIONS

1 Ladyhill (NJ 2117 6283) Excavations in 1858 by the Elgin Literary and Scientific Association were carried out just outside the outer walls of the castle. Three skeletons were discovered, as well as a flint arrowhead, several sherds of pottery, a quern and a copper coin of Charles II (Simpson & Stevenson 1982, 16).

2 **Dominican Friary stank** (NJ 212 629) Excavations in 1971 uncovered 50 skeletons c 0.4 m below modern ground level. These skeletons lay at random and there was no sign of any coffin nails (Keillar 1971, 30). It has been suggested that this was a cemetery of plague victims in the 17th century (Stevenson 1987, 184).

3 **Ladyhill** (NJ 2117 6283) Excavations in 1972–3 by the Department of the Environment located structural fragments of dressed and mortared stone and some post-holes. A cutting to the north located a possible rampart strengthened by tipped stone with a vertical timber revetment. Quantities of medieval pottery from the 12th to the 15th century and animal bone were located and some small finds (Hall & MacDonald, above).

4 **North College Street** (NJ 219 628) Excavations in 1976 by W J Lindsay, in advance of the relief road, located a well and several hearths and pits of late medieval date. Considerable quantities of pottery and iron slag were recovered from these features. A piece of post-medieval kiln furniture was also found (Lindsay 1976, 44).

5 **Nicholson's Garage, High Street** (NJ 213 628) Trial excavations in 1976 by W J Lindsay, in advance of the relief road, were followed by excavations in 1977. In the former, a series of medieval pits was found, along with pottery, animal and fish bones and metalworking debris in the forms of charcoal, slag and many crucible and mould fragments. The latter located waterlogged deposits. A series of four property boundary fences dating to the 13th–15th centuries was discovered and 30 cesspits of similar date. An oak barrel well dating to the 14th century was found intact as was a timber soakaway dating to the 16th century (Lindsay 1976, 44; 1977, 24).

6 **Lossie Wynd** (NJ 216 630) Excavations in 1977 by W J Lindsay were carried out in advance of the new relief road. A section was excavated across the theoretical line of a boundary ditch, revealing a watercourse, 8 m wide by 1 m deep, which had been re-cut three times in the 15th and 16th centuries. A stone well, dated to the 16th century, was also located (Lindsay 1977, 24).

7 **Lazarus Lane** (NJ 2202 6289) Excavations in 1977 by W J Lindsay, in advance of the relief road, located late medieval pits and industrial features cut into natural sand (Hall forthcoming).

8 **115 & 123/133 High Street** (NJ 2161 6289) Excavations in 1988 by SUAT, in advance of the construction of the St Giles Centre, took place on these two sites. Two trenches were opened in the car park behind 115 High Street (no 8a). In one trench, c 0.7 m of deposit was located sealing a line of seven post-holes cut into the natural sand, probably a property boundary. In the other, several medieval pits cut into natural sand were sealed by a dump of sand. These were followed successively by a possible timber structure, represented by some post-holes forming a corner, a stone property boundary and a pebble close, all of apparent medieval date. Subsequently a post-medieval stone structure was constructed, although it was disturbed by a Victorian cesspit. A single trench was opened behind 123/133 High Street (no 8b) and several cut features were located in the natural sand; one of these may have been a badly damaged tanning pit. Two other pits produced a small assemblage of medieval pottery of 12th/13th century date. These features were sealed by post-medieval structural remains, represented by a clay-bonded stone wall, a linear trench and several post-holes. On the western side of the site, c 0.5 m of organic midden was located beneath a former close. Two small sherds of Stamford Ware were recovered from this midden. These were sealed by a pebbled close, which was itself later sealed by the remains of a stone building and another close built of stone setts (Hall above).

9. **Nicholson's Garage, High Street** (NJ 2138 6279) Excavations in 1993 by SUAT in advance of a proposed office development located badly damaged deposits on the High Street frontage. Some medieval pottery was recovered (Mackenzie 1993).

10 **High Street** (NJ 215 627) Excavations in 1995 by Scotia Archaeology Limited, in response to environmental improvements, located the clay-bonded, rubble masonry foundations of the 18th century tolbooth 0.3 m below modern ground level close to the Plainstones fountain. Within the former graveyard to the east and west of St Giles Church, 23 articulated skeletons were found as well as numerous disarticulated bones. Wall foundations, possibly part of the graveyard wall, were found to the east of the church. Medieval and post-medieval pottery, some nails and a fragment of lead were also recovered (Terry, above).

11 **Cathedral** (NJ 222 630) Excavations by Scotia Archaeology Limited, in advance of the introduction of an electricity supply to the chapter house, were undertaken between the chapter house and the Brodie Aisle to the east. Two modern pits were uncovered, one a drainage sump, the other containing disarticulated human bones, probably redeposited from earlier work within the cathedral. In addition, two undisturbed burials, probably medieval, were left *in situ*. The remains of two stone walls on east/west alignment, 0.55 m wide and 8.5 m apart, were also found, predating the chapter house and the aisle (Lewis 1996, 75–6).

12 **High Street** (NJ 2163 6285) Excavation of three trenches by Scotia Archaeology Limited on the south side of the High Street to the east of St Giles Church revealed no trace of the medieval graveyard encountered in 1995 (see no 10). Traces of medieval street levels under the modern street surface were found to have been disturbed during the construction of the present parish church in 1826 (Terry, above).

TRIAL EXCAVATIONS

13 **Relief Road** A series of trial excavations was undertaken in 1976 by W J Lindsay in advance of the relief road around the north side of Elgin town centre. At the north end of Northfield Terrace (no 13a) (NJ 2128 6271) natural sand was revealed at a depth of 0.65 m. In garden ground to the rear of 255 High Street (no 13b) (NJ 2128 6277) deep garden soil and a stone drainage tank were found. At the south end of Murdoch's Wynd (no13c) (NJ 2130 6280) subsoil was located at 0.6 m below modern ground level. In Blackfriars Road (no13d) (NJ 2140 6288) natural sand was located at 0.5 m. In a garden to the south of Blackfriars Road (no13e) (NJ 2137 6295) only rubble and garden soil were found. In a garden to the south of North Lane (no 3f) (NJ 2164 6298) natural sand was located at 0.6 m. In two trenches at Cooper Park, North College Street (no 13g-h) (NJ 2191 6294; NJ 2198 6292) natural sand was located at 0.8 m and 0.6 m respectively. In South College Street (no 13i) (NJ 2212 6282) natural sand was located at 0.5 m below the ground surface. At 24 South College Street (no 13j) (NJ 2198 6289) natural sand was buried under 0.7 m of garden soil (Hall, forthcoming).

14 **Nicholson's Garage, High Street** (NJ 2137 6283) Trial excavations in 1981 by the Urban Archaeology Unit, in advance of a proposed shopping development, located substantial backland deposits 40 m back from the High Street. Deposits close to the street frontage had been scarped away by later building work (Hall 1982, 13).

15 **Batchen Lane/South Street** (NJ 2149 6270) Trial excavations in 1986 by SUAT, in advance of a supermarket development, located natural sand at only 0.2 m. One large pit or trench, 6.1 m wide and 2.5 m deep, produced one sherd of medieval pottery and an iron nail (Hall 1986a).

16 **Hill Terrace** (NJ 2115 6272) Trial excavations in 1986 by SUAT, in advance of new housing, located natural sand at c 0.2 m below modern ground level (Hall 1986b, 11–12).

17 **36 Lossie Wynd** (NJ 2166 6298) Trial excavations in 1987 by SUAT, in advance of the construction of the St Giles Centre, located natural sand 0.6 m below modern ground level. A few sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the garden soil (Hall 1987, 23).

18 **South College House** (NJ 2227 6298) Trial excavations in 1987 by SUAT located c 2 m of garden soil above natural sand. Two small cut features containing bone, shell and fragments of medieval pottery were found (Hall 1987, 24).

19 **High Street/South College Street/Greyfriars Street/Glover Street** (NJ 2190 6280) Trial excavations in 1989 by SUAT revealed some pits and trenches cut into the subsoil, some of which produced medieval pottery, on the putative site of the 13th-century Franciscan friary (Cachart 1989a, 24).

20 **East Road** (NJ 2269 6271) An assessment in 1992 by SUAT, adjacent to the site of burials found in 1982 (see below, no 24), located no further skeletal remains (Coleman 1993, 40).

21 **Greyfriars Street/Queen Street** (NJ 2201 6277) Trial excavations in 1995 by SUAT, in advance of a sheltered housing development, revealed natural sand at a depth of 0.6 m. Cut into it was a substantial pit, some 2.2 m in width and 1.2 m in depth, containing three fills, from which were recovered some sherds of abraded medieval pottery. This was probably a quarry pit for sand and was sealed by 19th-century garden soil. No further evidence relating to the early development of the burgh or of the Franciscan friary was found. Presumably it had been obliterated by modern development (Mackenzie 1995, 36).

22 **24 Lossie Wynd** (NJ 2167 6294) Trial excavation in 1997 by SUAT, in advance of development, revealed largely Victorian and modern features, including a stone-lined well and hearth. One edge of a possible medieval pit was discovered, close to the St Giles Road pavement edge, from which one sherd of late medieval pottery and a fragment of animal bone were recovered. Subsoil was found 0.2–0.7 m below the present ground surface (Coleman 1997, 55).

WATCHING BRIEFS

23 **High Street/Greyfriars Lane** (NJ 2190 6280) Monitoring of contractors' excavations in 1967 by I Keillar located a vaulted cellar on this site. This may have been part of Dunfermline Cottage (a 19th-century building) or possibly part of the Franciscan friary. The same structure was observed again in 1990 (Cachart 1990, 21).

24 **East Road** (NJ 2269 6271) In 1982 the remains of 16 extended inhumations were recovered from a gas pipe trench on the northern side of East Road by the Tyock Industrial Estate. These burials lie within the lands of the leper house and are assumed to be associated with it (Shepherd 1982, 13).

25 **St Giles Church** (NJ 2159 6285) Human remains were discovered in 1984 in a service trench on the south exterior of the building and beneath the floorboards in the centre of the church (Shepherd 1984, 12).

26 **Tower Hotel, High Street** (NJ 2165 6288) A watching brief in 1987 by SUAT located natural sand directly below the foundations of the 17th-century town house (Hall 1987, 23).

27 **Forsyth's Close** (NJ 216 629) A watching brief in 1988 located two wooden planks, 7 m west of Forsyth's Close (Shepherd 1989, 24).

28 **Thunderton Place** (NJ 2150 6274) A watching brief in 1989 by SUAT located a drystone well apparently of post-medieval date (Cachart 1989b).

29 **Greyfriars Street/Glover Street** (NJ 2182 6278) A watching brief in 1990 by SUAT located the remains of a stone building, probably a cell of the late 19th- to 20th-century gaol which formerly stood on the site. Natural sand was revealed at 0.65 m below modern ground level across the rest of the site (Hall 1990, 21).

30 **Thunderton House, High Street** (NJ 2143 6279) A watching brief in 1993 by SUAT, on a foundation trench for a wall, revealed a former cobbled surface containing 19th-century pottery. A drain, apparently contemporary with Thunderton house, was constructed of channelled slabs covered by flat slabs. Natural sand was found at a depth of 0.55 m below the existing ground surface (Cachart 1993, 40).

31 **Hill Street** (NJ 211 628) Recent work close to the public weighbridge has located human skeletal remains. These may relate to the gallows that formerly stood in this vicinity (I Shepherd, pers comm).

32 **130 High Street** (NJ 2153 6278) During renovation of this building in 1996 a medieval gravestone was found in a cellar (illus 26). The stone, c 0.9 m long, 0.41 m wide and 0.15 m thick, is incised with a ring-headed cross on a five-stepped base, with four projecting fleur-de-lis in the arms of the cross. The stone probably came from the former churchyard of St Giles and is now in Elgin Museum (M Greig, pers comm).

PROJECT ARCHIVES AND FINDS ALLOCATION

The archives for these excavations have been deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland, where fuller accounts of all specialists' data can be consulted. The finds from the St Giles Church excavation are held in the National Museum of Scotland. Finds from the other projects are awaiting disposal to a museum.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Derek Hall and Aidan MacDonald thank the following bodies and individuals for their contributions to the Ladyhill excavation, in the form of finance and other resources, permission to excavate, or their work both on and off the site: Historic Scotland (formerly Historic Buildings & Monuments); the Town Clerk's Office; the Burgh Surveyor and his staff; Moray Estates Development Company; Moray and Nairn County Road Surveyor's Department; Moray and Nairn Education Department and the staff of the Haugh; the Newmill Trust; the Department of Adult Education and Extra-Mural Studies at Aberdeen University; Grant Simpson, Lisbeth Thoms, H A M Duff, Ian Keillar, E Rhynas, D Omand, E Harrison, S Benton, J Alexander, H McAlpine, Robert Jones and all the volunteers, especially the students of Aberdeen University in 1972 and of Elgin Academy in 1972 and 1973.

Permission to excavate at the High Street sites was given by Caltrust Sheraton Ltd and Moray District Council, who jointly funded the excavation together with further funds from Grampian Regional Council. The Scottish Urban Archaeological Trust Ltd would like to thank Susan Bennet of Elgin Museum for her co-operation and interest in the High Street excavations. Derek Hall thanks Chris Tabraham, Russell Coleman and Denys Pringle for their helpful comments on the two sites. Adrian Cox thanks Richard Fawcett for commenting on the architectural fragments and Clare Thomas for commenting on the leather. The coins report is adapted from detailed comments by the late Robert Stevenson. Excavations at 123/133 High Street were supervised by David Perry, who also wrote an interim report on the site. Andrew Hutchinson supervised the on-site recording and washing of finds. Thanks are also due to the large excavation team. Conservation of the finds was carried out by P Harrison, and selected XRF analyses were undertaken by J A O'Berg and P T Wilthew.

Excavations around St Giles Church and post-excavation work were funded by Moray District Council with Scotia Archaeology Limited. John Terry is indebted to David Murray and

Douglas MacBeath for their help in the field. John Lewis of Scotia Archaeology Limited and Chris Tabraham of Historic Scotland commented on an earlier draft of the excavation report.

Post-excavation work on the field results from 115 and 123/133 High Street, and from Ladyhill, was funded by Historic Scotland. The present publication is a synthesis of what were originally four separate papers. Historic Scotland is most grateful to Ann MacSween for collating these to produce this integrated account, and to the individual authors for their constructive approach and practical help with this exercise.

Illustrations, throughout, are by F Moran, D Munro and J Terry.

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This report is published with the aid of a grant from Historic Scotland