

# **Southern Gateway, Dunfermline: Archaeological Mitigation**

Data Structure Report

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## 1 Overview

- 1.1 This Data Structure Report presents the findings of archaeological works required by Fife Council in respect to development works within the precinct of Dunfermline Abbey. Primarily this comprised the repaving and landscaping of St Catherine's Wynd and Monastery Street as well as the adjoining passage through The Pends. Additional works, such as the felling of trees on Monastery Street, placement of services and street lighting were also covered by the archaeological mitigation. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact of this development on the area.
- 1.2 Archaeological monitoring of groundbreaking and other works was intermittent according to the needs of the project but ran from 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2008 until 16<sup>th</sup> of July 2008. The majority of the development area is within the scheduled area for Dunfermline Abbey. As a result of this all works were carried out according to the terms of Scheduled Monument Consent AMH/90116/1/1 (incorporating the Method Statement prepared by Ironside Farrar) granted by Historic Scotland on behalf of Scottish Ministers.
- 1.3 The findings presented below describe the character of those archaeologically significant features identified within the development area. All works were carried out according to Fife Council standards and conditions and according to Historic Scotland policy statements. Throughout the project close liaison was kept with the Archaeology Unit of Fife Council with a number of site monitoring visits undertaken by Mr Douglas Speirs. These visits provided assistance in determining the character and significance of the archaeology.
- 1.4 The area concerned comprised the two aforementioned streets, joined at The Pends, including immediately adjacent areas of garden and soft landscaping. In its predevelopment state the streets were a mixture of granite cobbles and 1970s concrete slabs with St Catherine's Wynd being mostly cobbles and Monastery Street being mostly slabs. Several services were known to run through the area but their exact location and the extent of disturbance was unknown.
- 1.5 The development area was already known to be archaeologically sensitive due to its status as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. However, the exact level of preservation which existed within the development area was unknown. Some information about the potential character of archaeological deposits was available prior to paving work carried out in the 1970s but the current status was unclear. There was, therefore, an element of this project aimed at quantifying the surviving archaeological resource in St Catherine's Wynd and Monastery Street.
- 1.6 Rathmell Archaeology Ltd was appointed by Fife Council Property Services to act with regard to archaeological matters. Prior to the commencement of works a Method Statement (MS) had been agreed along with Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) between Ironside Farrar, who served as contract administrators for the work, and Historic Scotland.

## 2 Project Works

- 2.1 The programme of archaeological mitigation followed closely along with the work carried out on site. The primary contractor for all on site work was Gilmartin Contractors Ltd. The terms of the MS were split into two items; one which governed the paving works and a second which governed the tree felling. In compliance with the terms of the MS, all works which had the potential to impact on archaeological sediments or the standing historic structures were carried out under archaeological supervision. In addition to this and in response to a Desk Based Assessment (DBA) carried out by SUAT, investigative works were carried out around the trees to be felled to assess the archaeological potential of the area.

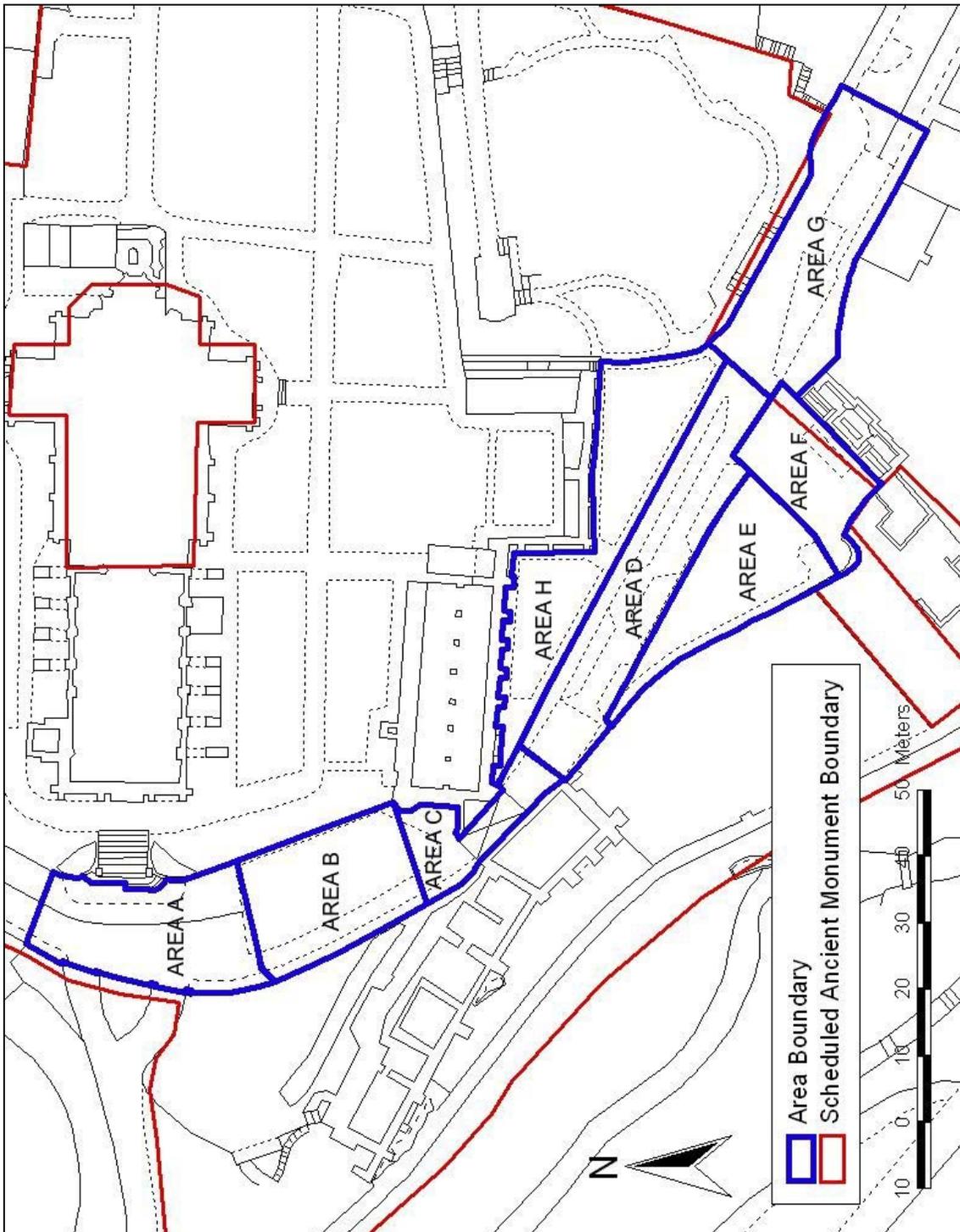


Fig 1: Showing Area boundaries and the limits of the Scheduled Ancient Monument

- 2.2 Due to delays in the commencement of the paving works it became advantageous to carry out the investigation of the tree felling area in the early stages of the project. Following the terms of the MS the area immediately around the roots of each tree was excavated and two test pits were located within the area. All of these excavations were carried out by hand with the assistance of Gilmartin Contractors Ltd as no plant was available at the time. A key intention of this activity was to assess the potential impact of the removal of the trees upon surviving archaeology.
- 2.3 The excavation and ground reduction for the paving works was initially intended to be carried out intermittently. However staffing concerns forced Gilmartin Contractors Ltd to undergo a continuous period of excavation simultaneous with the paving works. Several archaeological deposits were located and recorded during this work. Damage to archaeological deposits was kept to a minimum; however it was occasionally necessary for additional archaeologists to be on site to carry out recording where archaeology was to be lost and avoid delay to the contractor. In order to facilitate recording and understanding, the development area was split into 8 areas; listed Area A to Area H.
- 2.4 The boundaries of these areas were determined by a combination of the nature of the archaeology found and the impact of the development work. As a result the archaeology is not evenly distributed from area to area. Nor should the individual areas be thought of as delimiting individual sites. Although it can be demonstrated from the remains recovered that islands of survival do exist, these do not exist in isolation but make up part of the complex of structures that surrounded the Abbey. The discussion section of this report will attempt to bring together the disparate remains found and interpret them alongside historical sources.
- 2.5 General practice for the job was to remove all existing paving (with some exceptions close to existing historical fabric) and reduce the ground level by 500mm. The area would subsequently be built up by 150mm of type 1 gravel, and 150mm of concrete, leaving 200mm for the paving. There were exceptions to this practice: areas of soft landscaping were normally reduced to 300mm but in some cases a simple process of re-turfing was undertaken; additional depth was required for the placement of services, street lighting, and drains; and where a surface suitable for laying paving was reached excavation was halted at an earlier depth.
- 2.6 All the exposed features were investigated to determine their archaeological significance, and the works conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeology Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct, and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

### 3 Historical Background

- 3.1 The medieval town of Dunfermline was, for the most part, built around servicing the Abbey (Dennison 2007). Dunfermline Abbey can trace its roots back to 1070 when King Malcolm III built a church here for his marriage with Queen Margaret. It was through the work of Margaret that Benedictine monks from Canterbury were brought to Dunfermline to form the Abbey community. This first priory at Dunfermline centred on a church that was possibly an extension of the church in which Margaret and Malcolm had been married.
- 3.2 Between 1124 and 1127 Dunfermline became a royal burgh. The Abbey community remained a modest one in Margaret's time and it was her son, David I, who turned it into an abbey in the years following 1128. The remains of the original nave built from 1128 still stand together with the new Abbey Church built in 1821. The original Abbey Church was accompanied by ranges of buildings around an enclosed square cloister on the south side of the nave. Edward I in 1303 sacked the Abbey and destroyed most of the domestic buildings, however the church remained intact. The Abbey was rebuilt with the support of Robert the Bruce who was buried at Dunfermline in 1329.



Fig 2a: 1823 Wood

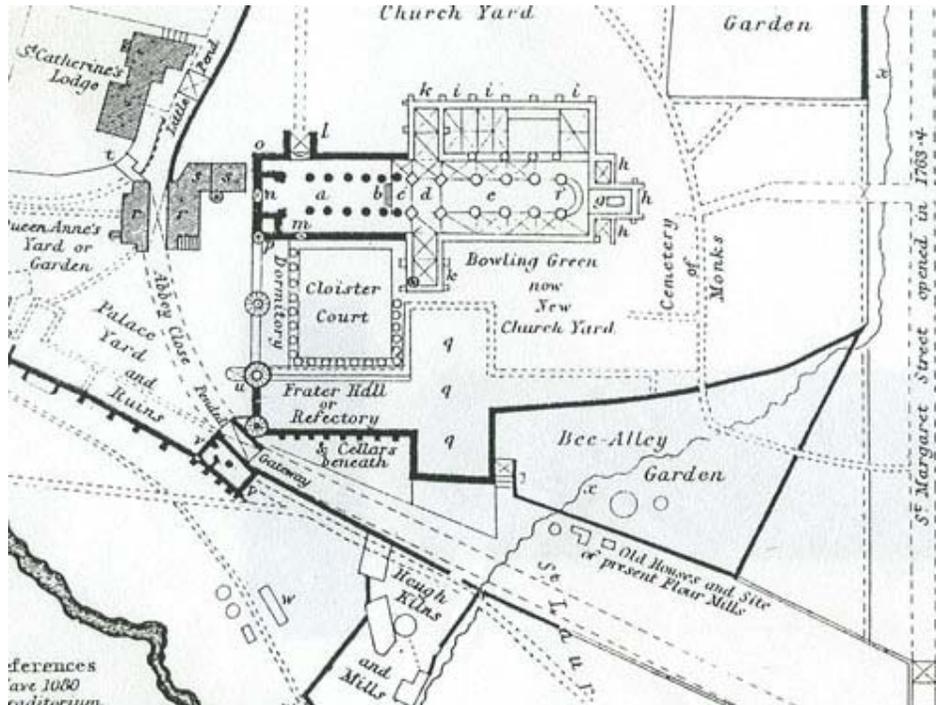


Fig 2b: Rev. Peter Chalmers, 1859, Composite Map

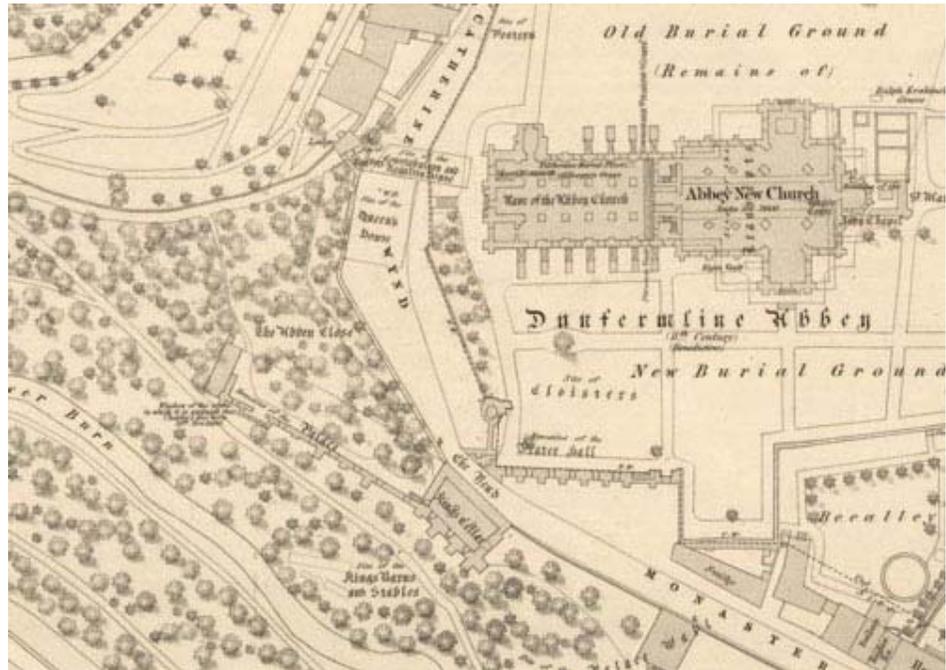


Fig 3a: 1854 Ordnance Survey



Fig 3b: 1854 Ordnance Survey

- 3.3 The Reformation in Scotland saw the destruction of the Abbey and its community in 1560. Of course, as a result of this the economy of Dunfermline suffered (Dennison 2007). The Abbey buildings quickly fell into disrepair; however, the Church survived due to the fact that it was used as a meeting place for the local people of the parish. In 1587 James VI took control of the remaining assets of the Abbey, and in 1589 he granted the Abbey buildings to his wife, Queen Anne of Denmark.
- 3.4 Under the instruction of Anne of Denmark, William Schaw was commissioned to undertake works on the nave of the Abbey Church and the rebuilding of the north-west tower. He also rebuilt the Abbey Guest House as the Royal Palace to the south west of The Pends. This was intended as a residence for Anne of Denmark. However a new house was built for her and images of the structure suggest that it was a three storey building with a Pend running under it leading into the palatial courtyard. In 1600 Charles I was born in The Royal Palace. After the Union, repairs to the Palace at Dunfermline were undertaken in advance of a visit by Charles I in 1633 and it was last used, by Charles II, in 1651. As stated earlier, the Abbey Church was rebuilt between 1818 and 1821 over the area previously occupied by the monk's choir, and remains in use today.
- 3.5 In the eighteenth century the economy of Dunfermline expanded, partly due to the growth of coal mining (Dennison 2007). Although portions of the Abbey Church remained in use by common parishioners the majority of the Abbey buildings had fallen into disrepair. Wood's 1823 town plans shows the Abbey Church in use but the remainder of the abbey buildings; the Palace and the Frater, in ruins. Wood's plan also shown the construction of mills along the north side of Monastery Street. By the 1854 Ordnance Survey Town Plan of Dunfermline the mills have expanded to the north and south of Monastery Street and include a foundry or smithy. These mills are referred to as the Heugh Mills and continue to occupy the land throughout the 1800s.
- 3.6 After the Heugh Mills were abandoned, the area around Monastery Street was landscaped and levelled. This included the gifting of land for the creation of the War Memorial which sits on the ruins of the original mill buildings. Disturbance of St Catherine's Wynd and Monastery Street has continued into this century with the placement of modern services and lighting and the most recent paving of the street in the 1970s. This particular development was preceded by a small archaeological excavation around the area of The Pends and The Frater (Robertson 1981).

## 4 Findings: Area A

- 4.1 The portion of St Catherine's Wynd which was included within this development stretched from The Pends until just to the north of the western entrance to the Abbey church. The northernmost half of this is referred to as Area A. Area A was almost entirely excavated during the first two weeks of monitoring; from 25<sup>th</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2008. The strip of pavement along the western edge was left for public access and excavated between the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2008.
- 4.2 For the majority of the area opened this disturbed only modern material and clay subsoil, containing signs of repeated modern disturbance. The area had been substantially reduced for paving and landscaping. Indications were that on various occasions, St Catherine's Wynd had been levelled, widened and landscaped, however the effect and the sequence is unclear from the sediments. Also, at least three services use the street: a main drain with several offshoots; a low pressure gas main; and service ducts for street and decorative lighting.
- 4.3 Removal of the concrete in an area to the south and west of the entrance to the Church revealed the remains of medieval walls. These were excavated and recorded by hand. The remains of at least two portions of a single wall (010) and a trampled/compacted surface were uncovered in the course of this excavation. The character of the subsoil was such that these features were hard to define without hand cleaning, supported by machine stripping. The features were at a depth where they would be subject to disturbance prior to the reinstatement of the road surface – hence a programme of excavation and recording.

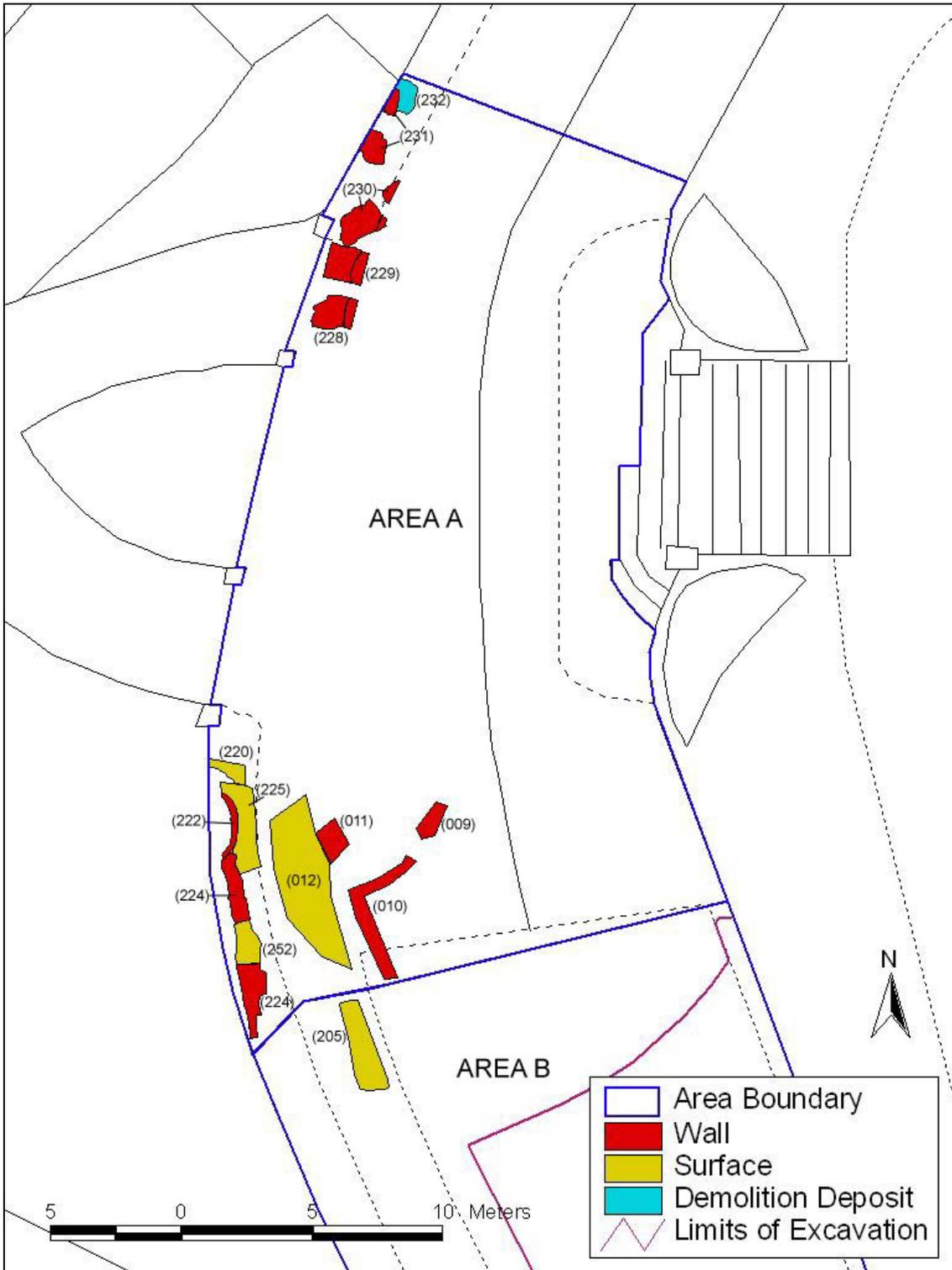


Fig 4: Area A

- 4.4 The area where the features lay had been severely truncated by historic (inc. 20<sup>th</sup> century) reduction of the area associated with past works to reform the road at broadly medieval levels. In addition, further disturbance had been generated by the cutting through of the *in-situ* layers by modern services (a low pressure gas main and cables for street lighting). The investigative works were also limited by the desire not to compromise deposits deeper than the 500mm target depth for the works (i.e. the archaeological response should not extend the destruction into layers that would otherwise be preserved).
- 4.5 In the excavation area sufficient archaeological material remains were excavated to allow the characterisation of a wall (010). The remains uncovered may be characterised as the lowest surviving course of a wall foundation with a single face being extant for 8.35m (though discontinuous in two portions). The wall core survived to a thickness of some 0.6m with the stone work characterised as yellow worked sandstone with irregular blocks running for one course. Overall, the Wall 010 suggested a straight wall running south to north for 5.5m before curving out to the northeast (at its northern end) for another 3m. Additional offshoots of masonry were also observed but the extent of the disturbance hampered the examination of physical relationships.
- 4.6 To the immediate west of the wall core (but separated by the cut of the gas main that may have removed the opposing wall face) was a trampled/compacted surface (012). The surface was formed of a very compact stony deposit of dark stained yellow sandstone which sloped downhill towards The Pends. The upper surface was also rich in midden material, specifically animal bone (inc. cow), marine shell (inc. oyster) and medieval ceramics (white gritty ware). This last material, the ceramic, is commonly dated from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. Overall the exposed surface extended, at most, to 6.3m long by 2.4m wide.
- 4.7 To the west of Surface 012, beneath the pavement which was removed later, more walls (222, 224) were uncovered. The physical relationship between these walls and Wall 010 is uncertain due to truncation by modern services; however, they were of very similar composition. Wall 224 continued on a north-south alignment for 7m before extending to the north in a narrow curve (222). As with Wall 010 these remains survived to only one course and may be characterised as the lowest foundation course of a structural feature.
- 4.8 The northern end of Wall 224 (including 222) was enclosed to the east by a surface similar in character to Surface 012. In fact it is likely that it represents a continuation of the same feature but truncated by modern disturbance. In this case the surface abutted against Wall 224 and so we are able to suggest a physical relationship and contemporaneous features.
- 4.9 The limits on these excavations were imposed by the fact that the depth of archaeological deposits increased to the south beyond the 500mm disturbance planned for the laying of cobbles. With this in mind the street lighting cable was a convenient southern excavation boundary; here the wall foundation and trampled area had dropped sufficiently as to no longer be at risk from the current development works.
- 4.10 A small sondage was cut to the south of disturbance by a street lighting cable to ensure that no deposits would be affected by the necessary reduction in this immediate area. This sondage confirmed the presence of further deposits comparable to those described above, but at a depth that would not be affected by the forthcoming reduction.
- 4.11 Frequently, throughout Area A, inclusions in the sediments which provided levelling for the paving were composed of fragments of sandstone, rough lime mortar and oyster shell; although these were seldom structural in nature or forming part of a secure archaeological context. At the extreme north-western corner of Area A, a small section of wall (231) was uncovered and recorded although it had been heavily disturbed by the placement of modern services. It was composed of substantial rough sandstone blocks of up to 800mm in length.



Fig 5a: Wall 010 – Queen Anne's House



Fig 5b: Wall 010 – Queen Anne's House



Fig 5c: Wall 224



Fig 5d: Surface 222



Fig 5e: Walls 230, 229 and 228



Fig 5f: Walls 229 and 228



Fig 5g: Work in progress Area A



Fig 5h: Paving complete Area A

- 4.12 The removal of the pavement adjacent to Wall 231 revealed that it was part of a much larger complex of features. Two upstanding features remained but were truncated by paving and disturbed by services. Sandstone blocks of comparable size extended Wall 231 2m further south-west and a second similar feature began 2m to the south and ran for 1.5m. Other deposits in this area were typical of the deposition of demolition debris for levelling and contained both modern and medieval material. Fragments of decorative masonry were recovered from these deposits (232).
- 4.13 Further archaeological remains were uncovered at the north-westernmost corner of the development and still within Area A. These structural remains survived beneath the pavement to the immediate north and east of the entrance to the Pittencrief Park, in front of the western entrance to the Abbey Church. These remains were heavily disturbed by the placement of modern drainage and water services; however it was possible to recognise large structural foundation elements and the remains of at least one wall surviving to several courses.
- 4.14 The Wall 230 was more than 1m wide and was composed of large, irregularly shaped sandstone blocks. It ran roughly south-west to north-east and although it was heavily disturbed by the placement of drainage there was some indication that it continued beyond the northern boundary of the excavation area. Immediately to the north of this wall, within the area of the pavement, were the possible remains of other walls. However the restricted scope of the excavation works prevented further excavation.
- 4.15 To the south of Wall 230 were the remains of two large structural elements (228 and 229) which may have been the remains of a foundation of a much larger structure. They were composed of sandstone blocks and were more than 1m square. Again, restricted space and the extent of modern disturbance prevented further investigation; however the area surrounding these features contained a significant amount of demolition material, some of which included decorative structural elements. It is clear that the remains uncovered here represent a much larger building.

## 5 Findings: Area B

- 5.1 Area B is the southernmost half of St Catherine's Wynd included within the development area. The development within Area B included excavation and paving of the roadway and footpath running down the western half of Area B and soft landscaping of the remainder. Based on engineering considerations, the decision was taken by Gilmartin Contractors Ltd to reduce the level in Area B to 400mm rather than the usual 500mm. This brought the disturbance caused by the development to a level above any potential surviving archaeological deposits for the majority of the area. However, there were indicators of potential survival at deeper levels.
- 5.2 At the northernmost end of this area there survived a small patch of what appeared to be a roughly cobbled surface (205). This remained, amid modern disturbance, for an area of roughly 3m by 1m and contained fragments of animal bone, oyster shell and green-glaze pottery. This surface was not immediately associated with any structural remains but analysis of its location suggests that it was associated with the features around Wall 010. It is likely that it is indicative of a single phase in the repeated use of St Catherine's Wynd as a thoroughfare.
- 5.3 Investigations of possible features at the southern end of Area B revealed only modern services and deposits of sand and made ground presumably for the purpose of levelling and paving the area. Disturbance due to services in the southern end of Area B became extensive due to the proximity to The Pends, with all services (gas main, main drain and lighting) passing through the narrow space of the gateway.

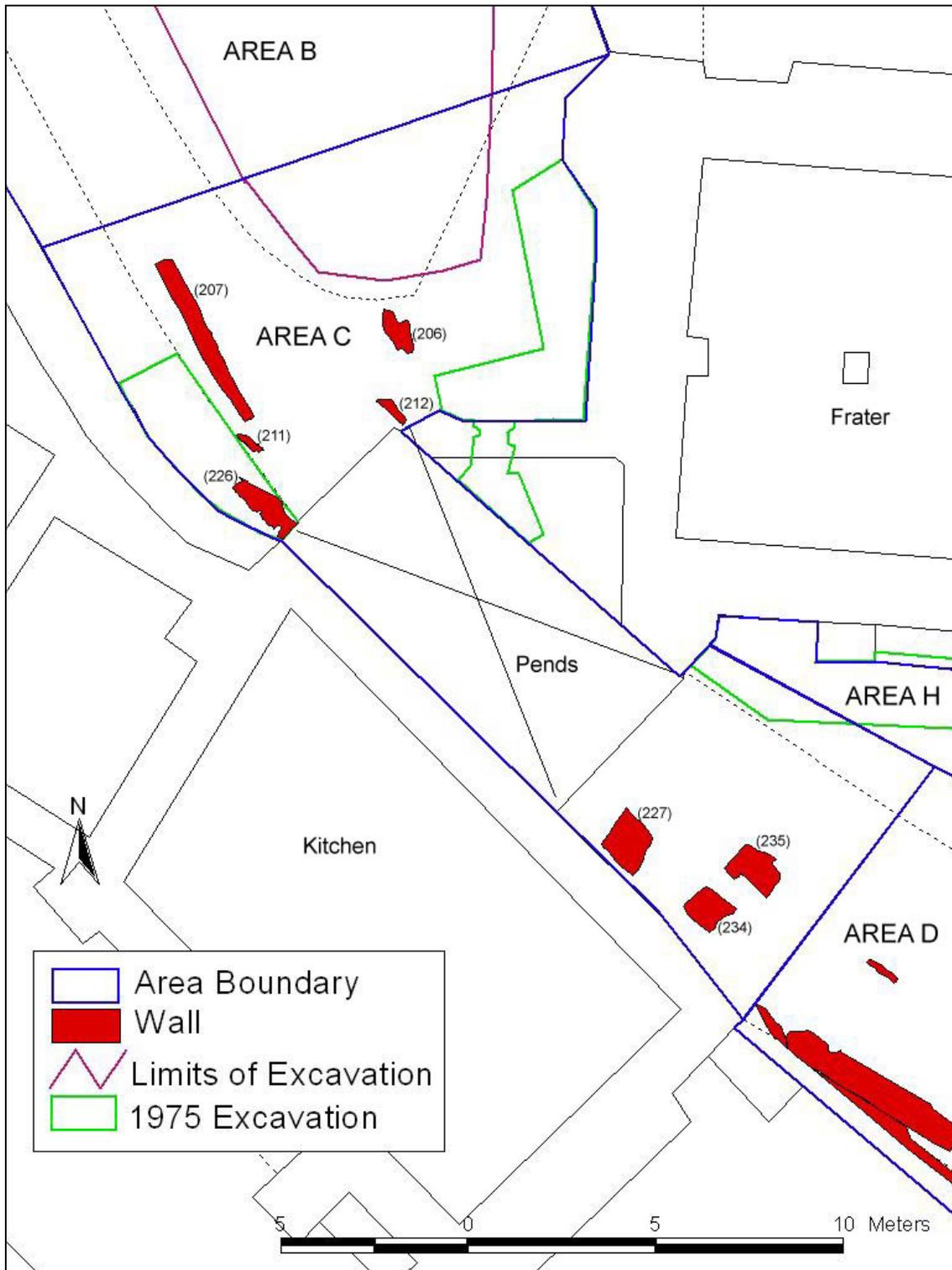


Figure 6: Area C



Fig 7a: Removal of cobbles



Fig 7b: Excavation at The Pends



Fig 7c: Wall 207



Fig 7d: Work in progress The Pends



Fig 7e: Wall beneath the Pends



Fig 7f: Area C/Area H



Fig 7g: Wall 227



Fig 7h: From The Pends to Monastery St

## 6 Findings: Area C

- 6.1 Area C is the portion of the development which took place beneath and immediately surrounding The Pends. Removal of existing paving and ground reduction in this area varied in character depending on the location. In accordance with the terms of the MS, removal of paving in this area was carried out, where possible, by hand. In places, a sufficient compaction of concrete was reached allowing excavation to be halted once the existing paving was removed. Much of the area beneath The Pends fell into this category so no significant archaeological deposits were observed in this area.
- 6.2 To the immediate west of The Pends the remains of two walls were located; one extending from the north side of the gateway and a second extending from the south. The southern portion of wall (207) was the better preserved and survived to a depth of a single course. However, it was not possible to determine, with certainty, if this wall at one time was constructed onto The Pends. Disturbance by the placement of a modern drain had removed any existing physical link although the alignment and placement make a link likely.
- 6.3 The surviving Wall 207 was composed of roughly worked sandstone and compact sand and lime mortar. The wall survived to a length of 5.5m, was exposed to a width of at least 0.5m and to a depth of approximately 250mm. The wall was well formed and probably represents the undisturbed lower foundation courses of a larger wall. There was some suggestion, from observation of the sediments, that the wall may have continued to the north-west but had been removed, possibly to make way for modern services.
- 6.4 A fragment of wall (226) was recorded which abutted The Pends on the south western side. Wall 226 was heavily disturbed, composed of rough sandstone blocks, and survived for a length of only 2m. A smaller corresponding wall fragment survived on the north side of The Pends. It is unclear to what depth these deposits survived, however in the case of Wall 226 the area had been covered with plastic sheeting. Our investigations have indicated that the plastic sheeting was a remnant of the 1975 excavations carried out by Robertson.
- 6.5 Another section of a substantial sandstone wall (212) was also partially revealed abutting the north eastern edge of The Pends. Only shown within the edge of a drainage pot gully, this very large, worked, smooth block of sandstone (over 1m long and 620mm deep) ran north up St. Catherine's Wynd from the north eastern edge of The Pends and was at least 2 courses deep.
- 6.6 To the south east of The Pends, extensions of other walls existed beneath the tarmac. The standard of preservation in this area was particularly poor due to the services in the area. A large main sewer, a low pressure gas main and an electrical service all track though the narrow space provided by the gateway. The broken remains of a substantial wall foundation extended east for approximately 1m from the southern side of The Pends. In the midst of the services two sections of wall survived for an observable distance of around 4m. The precise extent of these remains was difficult to determine.
- 6.7 Immediately beneath The Pends on the south-eastern side a short fragment of wall (227) extended out from the walls of the Kitchen. Wall 227 was exposed to the extent of about 1m<sup>2</sup>. Two other walls (234) and (235) were recorded further to the south east of The Pends and were exposed to a similar extent, however, there was some indication that they continued at greater depth. The extent of disturbance of services in this area makes relationships difficult to determine.

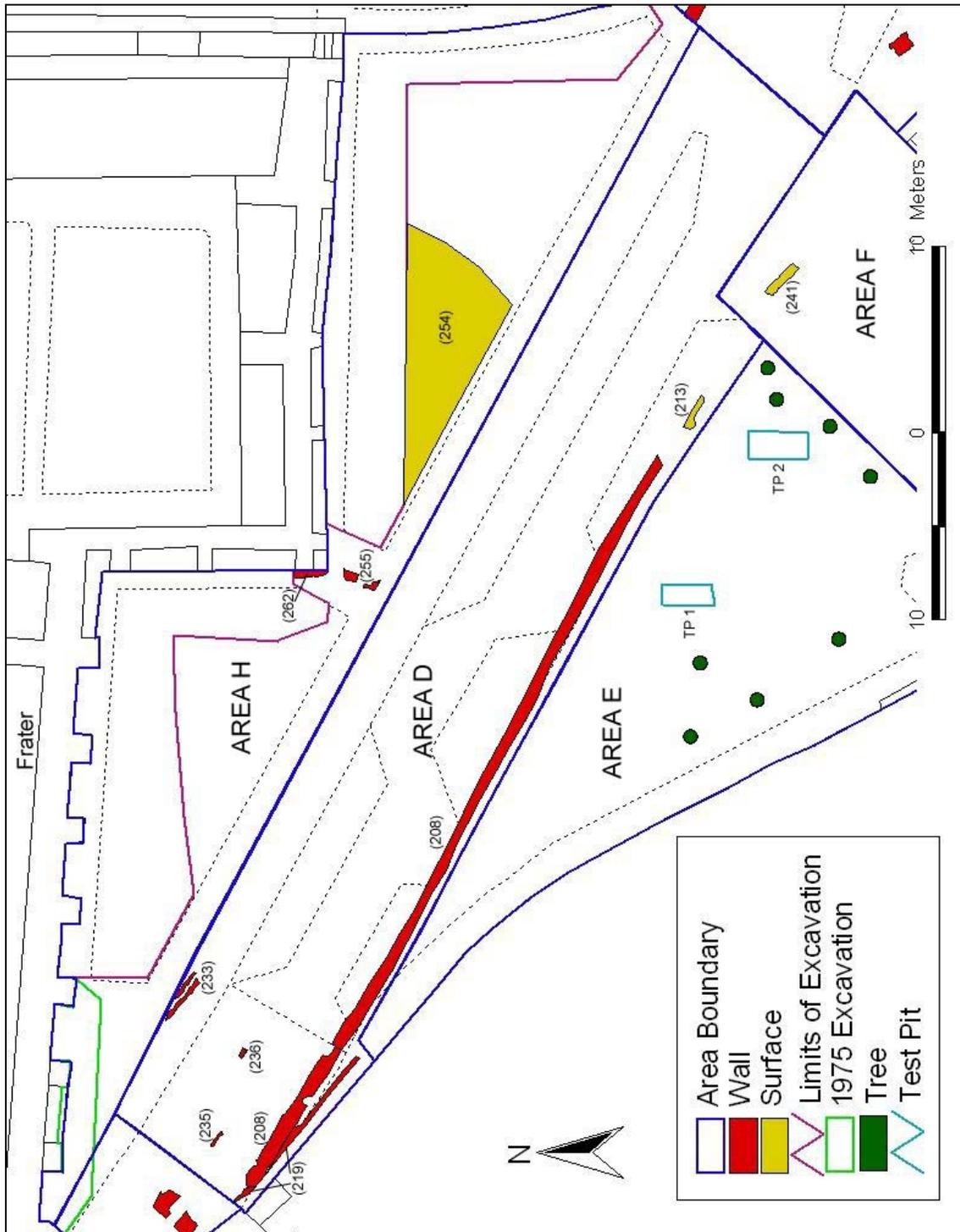


Fig 8: Areas D, E and H



Fig 9a: Stripping the pavement Area E



Fig 9b: Exposed main sewer drain



Fig 9c: Stripping Area D



Fig 9d: Area D

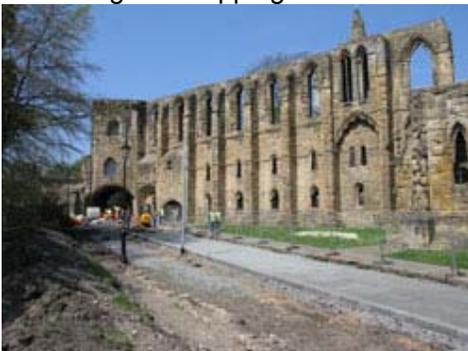


Fig 9e: Monastery Street



Fig 9f: Wall 233



Fig 9g: Wall 208



Fig 9h: Work in progress

## 7 Findings: Area D

- 7.1 The strategy employed by Gilmartin Contractors Ltd for the paving of Monastery Street was to excavate one side of the street leaving the other intact for pedestrian access. The first side of the street to be excavated was the south westernmost side and this will be referred to as Area D. The normal procedure of stripping to a depth of 500mm was employed here and this led to the exposure of features of archaeological interest. Over and above the base for the paving there was a requirement for additional drainage. Archaeological sediments were also exposed during these excavations.
- 7.2 The most significant discovery within this area was a virtually unbroken length of wall (208) more than 42m long and in places almost 1m wide. *Sondages* were carried out in three places to attempt to determine the depth of the surviving wall. These revealed that the wall survived to a depth of more than three courses, more than 600mm, but further investigation was constrained by the conditions of SMC and safety considerations. Each course of the wall was substantial and well formed in most places. The depth of each course was about 200mm and some of the roughly worked blocks were about 1m long. It is clear that the surviving wall represents a substantial structure.
- 7.3 The shape of Wall 208 varied along its length with some areas being more substantially formed than others. In places the width of the exposed course was as much as a metre, where in other areas it remained undamaged but was only 600mm wide. Such an irregular construction is unlikely to have been a part of a building and yet for a stretch of about 3m on the south side of the east end there is the residue of a plaster surface. Clearly the wall was, at least in part, used as part of a building interior.
- 7.4 There was further evidence of disturbance to the wall in the form of service access for street lighting. Gas street lighting was not established in Dunfermline until the early 1800s (*Speirs pers comm*). If there was still any doubt, after examination of the rough stone fabric and sand and lime mortar, this is positive evidence that the wall predates the 19<sup>th</sup> century. More accurate dating is difficult and it is also impossible to say for certain whether or not the wall may have extended further along Monastery Street.
- 7.5 Other less substantial features were located within Area D and these will be described in relation to Wall 208. To the south and the east of the wall, along the continuation of its length, there were the remains of a surface composed of modern brick and concrete. This survived in a patch less than 1.5m by 500mm but is, however, indicative of the level of subsequent disturbance which may have removed medieval remains from the area.
- 7.6 At the northernmost end of the Wall 208 it was necessary, as part of the development process, to excavate to a depth of more than 1m for the placement of a drain pot. This revealed an elevation of a second wall very similar in construction to Wall 208. This wall was only exposed for a distance of 1.5m but appeared to run beneath the current wall which marks the edge of the park. It is possible that a much older wall has been used as the foundation construction for the more modern park wall.
- 7.7 Wall 208 continued beyond the placement of the drain pot, towards the south side of The Pends, for 5m, at which point it combined with Wall 219. Wall 219 was of very similar construction to Wall 208. It was composed of large sandstone blocks and rough lime and sand mortar.
- 7.8 Small fragments of wall, composed of similar rough sandstone blocks, survived in places at the north western end of Area D but none of these were of sufficient extent or had sufficient associations to enable them to be placed in an archaeological context.



Fig 10a: Test pitting in Area E



Fig 10b: Tree felling in Area E

## 8 Findings: Area E (The tree felling and Test Pits)

- 8.1 Due to the lack of available plant on site and the fact that the felling of the trees was scheduled to take place as soon as possible, the first task undertaken was the excavation of the Test Pits. According to the terms of the SMC two test pits were to be excavated to characterize the archaeology around the trees to the south of Monastery Street. The intention was, of course, to assess the archaeological potential of the area but also to assess the potential level of disturbance resulting from the removal of the trees.
- 8.2 Excavation of the Test Pits was undertaken by hand with the assistance of Gilmartin Contractors Ltd. Two test pits were excavated, measuring at least 1m by 2m in extent and no less than 500mm deep. These pits did reveal a layer of medieval or post-medieval material which most likely resulted from the demolition or destruction of neighbouring structures and the progressive landscaping of the area in modern times. This conclusion is borne out by the lack of coherent structural remains and the variable depth of the deposit across the area.
- 8.3 Further excavation was undertaken by hand around the stumps of each of the nine trees in the scheduled area, prior to felling. This excavation was in direct response to the SMC which requires an archaeological assessment of the deposits around the buttress roots of the trees. None of the trees had buttress roots, so the excavation proceeded as a general assessment of the potential disturbance. No archaeological material was observed around any of the trees within a depth of 300mm. The exception to this was Tree 5 which was the furthest south and surrounded by cobbles. A shallow and irregular extension of the demolition material found in the Test Pits was observed here.
- 8.4 Despite the limited size of the test pits, the potential for archaeology at depths greater than the 500mm excavated was deemed significant. However, the conclusion of this work was that none of the significant or structural archaeology would be disturbed by the removal of the trees or the landscaping of this area.
- 8.5 Within this phase of monitoring works the trees were felled and the stumps ground out to 300mm in keeping with the requirements of SMC.

## 9 Findings: Area F

- 9.1 A large paved area existed, prior to development, to the north west of the Dunfermline War Memorial. This area was Area F and work consisted of the replacement of slabs in front of the War Memorial with Yorkstone paving. The existing paving was removed and the ground level was reduced by 500mm in order to facilitate the standard base for the new paving. For the most part this area had been heavily and repeatedly disturbed. Most of the exposed sediment appeared to be demolition material or deliberate deposition for levelling. A line of three flagstones (241) was observed and recorded. The alignment of these flagstones suggests they may have been connected with Wall 208 but no physical connection survived.
- 9.2 One significant feature was exposed in Area F and this was a large circular, stone structure measuring 6m exterior and 3m interior diameter. The structure (239) was composed of large and irregular masonry blocks bonded with sand and lime mortar. Contained within the fabric of the wall were fragments of ceramic, most likely tiles. Only one course of construction was fully exposed but there was evidence, from damaged sections, that further courses survive beneath the surrounding sediments.
- 9.3 Circular Structure 239 was of an unusual construction given that the interior wall face appeared to deliberately slope inward. This may be an indicator of function as it does not appear to be an effect of degradation of the structure or, given the width of the walls, necessary for stabilisation or support. It was also observed that several of the large stones used in the construction of the structure were cut to form the shape of the interior or exterior face. It is clear therefore that the structure represents a substantial and specialist form of construction.



Fig 11a: Circular Structure 239



Fig 11b: Work in progress on Monastery Street

- 9.4 Around the periphery of Circular Structure 239 there were associated features and sediment worthy of mention. Sediment, which had the appearance of demolition material, spread away to the south and east of the structure and was a context distinct from the surrounding made ground. This was delimited to the north by a short line of stonework which radiated from Circular Structure 239 to the east. Although this stonework appeared to be physically connected to the structure it was of a much simpler and much less robust construction.

## 10 Findings: Area G

- 10.1 To the north-east of the War Memorial until the south-eastern end of the development area is designated to be Area G. This area was to be paved with a mixture of Yorkstone slabs and granite setts in the same way as the rest of Monastery Street. However, there were two significant differences to the surviving archaeology within Area G. The first is that according to cartographic and historical sources Area G had suffered a potentially greater degree of building and disturbance than the rest of Monastery Street due to the construction and demolition of Heugh Mills. The second difference was that Area G is outwith the boundary of the scheduled area. In practice the same standard of recording was maintained when archaeological features were exposed in Area G as with the remainder of the development area. It is also worth noting that some features partially exposed within Area G do potentially extend into the scheduled area.
- 10.2 To the immediate north east of the War Memorial several fragments of wall were exposed and recorded. Two of these, (244) and (245) were exposed at the level of excavation necessary for the paving. Further archaeological material was exposed during the excavation for drain pots within the same area. Small portions of a substantial wall (248) were exposed in one drain pot at a depth of 800mm and in another drain pot a deposit of finds was reached at the lowest level, about 900mm, containing objects indicating a variety of dates and types. From this information we can be certain that there has been substantial upheaval and landscaping of this area over a number of years. It also seems likely that archaeological deposits survive at depth within this area.
- 10.3 In the northern corner of Area G, a few metres from the Abbey Park boundary wall, an L-shaped section of sandstone wall (259) measuring 6.1m NW-SE and 1.3m SW-NE was exposed. Furthermore, a deposit containing metallic finds was noted within the area partially enclosed by Wall 259. As highlighted earlier, this area was heavily disturbed by later activities and this suggestion is evidenced by the presence of finds of later than medieval date.
- 10.4 In the eastern corner of Area G a short section of wall measuring 5.07m by 840mm was exposed. This wall (267) consisted of large, regular pieces of masonry bonded with a sand and lime mortar. The wall survived to at least two courses and obviously formed part of a substantial structure. A further extension of Wall 267 was also exposed to the NW (271) which ran for a further 1.95m, but had been physically detached from Wall 267 by a service trench. Furthermore, abutting Wall 267 to the NE, an arced sandstone feature (268) was also exposed. The feature measured 1.29m long by 1.12m externally, and 1.04m by 0.69m internally and contained a layer of sediment that differed from the sediments surrounding the feature. However, the absence of associated finds or features makes interpretation of the feature difficult.
- 10.5 Further sandstone walls, (270) and (272), as well as a square sandstone foundation (273) were also exposed to the NE of Wall 267. These features consisted of irregular sandstone blocks bonded with light grey cement, and considering their position among the other walls and features they were probably of later construction. Furthermore, Wall 270 appears from under, and curves away from the Abbey Park wall, and is integrated into it where they separate making it more likely to be contemporary with this modern wall than with the other features that are being truncated by the Abbey Park wall foundations.



Fig 12a: Stripping Area G



Fig 12b: Drainage excavation Area G



Fig 12c: Feature 242



Fig 12d: Interior of Lade



Fig 12e: Wall 267



Fig 12f: Wall 245



Fig 12g: Wall 248



Fig 12h: Removing pavement in Area G

- 10.6 The most significant archaeological feature exposed within Area G was first discovered as a result of collapse caused by the passage of heavy plant. The resulting hole broke through the top covering of a narrow stone passageway/drain (242) running south from the Abbey Park into Monastery Street. Upon further excavation in the area it was discovered that Passageway 242 dropped steeply down to the east, three metres after it extended into Monastery Street. Furthermore, the drain/passageway was flanked on either side by sandstone walls (263) and (264) which ran parallel to the passage itself and were truncated to the NE by the construction of the Abbey Park gate. The SW terminals of these walls were also aligned to the SW faces of Wall 259, and Wall 267 indicating that Passageway 242 may have been contemporary. A decision was taken by Gilmartin Contractors Ltd with the support of Ironside Farrar to cover this section with a steel plate before the laying of concrete and paving, therefore maintaining the water course.
- 10.7 Further investigation into where the drain/passageway led revealed that it, as well as the drains on the south side of Monastery Street, were plumbed into an existing underground chamber. It was discovered, upon investigation by Douglas Speirs of Fife Council Archaeology Unit, that this underground chamber was a modification of the Mill Lade (or Lead) shown on several cartographic sources. The Lade formerly fed the Mill buildings, now standing ruins, to the SW of Monastery Street before meeting up with the burn in Pittencreif Park. Investigations demonstrated that the Lade was accessible for more than 35m from the southern base of the War Memorial, under the development area, to the area under the Abbey Park. The accessible space consisted of two large chambers connected by a long narrow stone tunnel.

## 11 Findings: Area H

- 11.1 Area H was designated by the soft landscaping area to the north east of Area D. The depth of excavation within the area varied from 150mm for turf areas, 300mm for shrub beds and 350mm for small sections of paving. No archaeological layers were exposed in the turf areas due to depth, or in the paved area next to The Pends due to the area having been previously excavated to a greater depth by the 1975 excavations. The plastic sheeting used to line the trenches from the earlier excavations was also visible against some sections of the Frater walls.
- 11.2 The only significant archaeology uncovered in this area was two truncated walls, (255) and (262), which were exposed next to the south western corner of the Frater extension. Wall 255 was noted as being L-shaped and measured approx 2m in total length. This wall was heavily truncated by a modern electrical service trench next to the corner in the wall, and by a drainage trench to the north where it may have originally abutted the Frater. Wall 262 however, runs parallel to the north-south wall of the Frater extension and may have been related to Wall 255. No physical relationship was present due to truncation by drainage.
- 11.3 Further to the SE of these walls, a compact clay deposit (254) containing metallic finds was exposed at a depth of 300mm where the most southerly shrub bed was to be located. The compaction of the clay and the presence of large metallic finds is another indicator that the south eastern half of Monastery Street contains a greater survival of later activity rather than medieval activity.

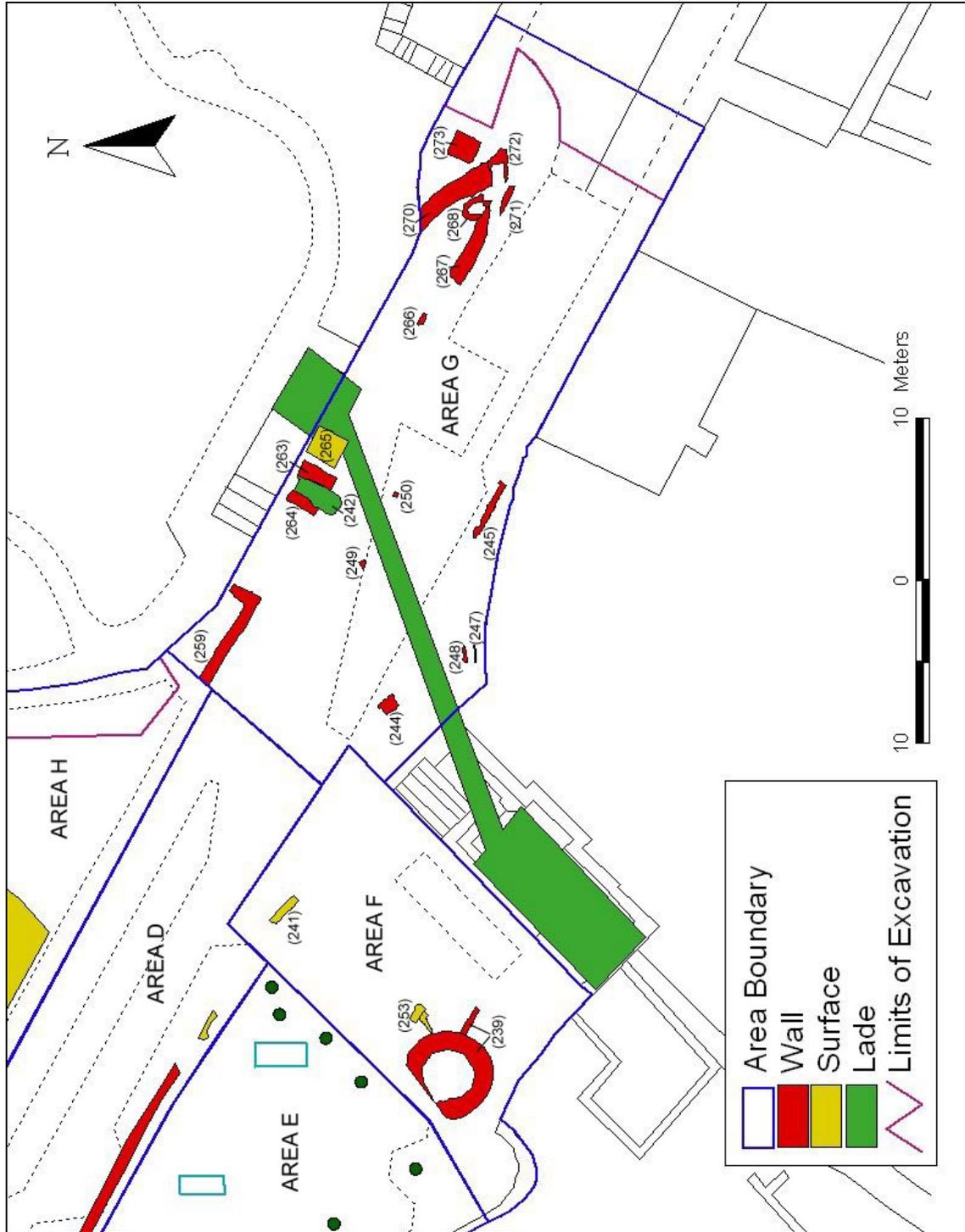


Fig 13: Areas F and G

## 12 Discussion

- 12.1 It is no surprise that the area around Dunfermline Abbey and Palace has seen substantial activity since the medieval period, but this fact is certainly borne out by the results of the archaeological monitoring in St Catherine's Wynd and Monastery Street. Preceding excavations, carried out by Robertson in 1975, uncovered and recorded medieval remains to the immediate south of the Frater, around the area of The Pends and between The Pends and the Palace. However, the excavation results were not published until some time later and it was unclear in what condition the site remained. What was clear was that more remains existed in the area than were explored during the scope of that excavation.
- 12.2 For convenience and ease of understanding the site had been split up into areas but here some attempt will be made to bring these parts together and discuss the site as a whole. The most obvious fact is that varying degrees of survival exist across the site. Islands of survival have been created amid landscaping and services. It was rarely possible, during the course of the excavation works, to predict where these islands of survival would be. The result of this is an extremely fragmented picture of the pre-nineteenth century use of the development area.
- 12.3 Queen Anne's House?*
- 12.3.1 At the northern end of the development area we have the western entrance to the Abbey Church from St Catherine's Wynd. There was evidence of medieval demolition in the made ground throughout this area while 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century paving and landscaping had heavily truncated any archaeological deposits. In patches portions of medieval wall survived but the main foci of this part of the site were Wall 010, Wall 222, Wall 224 and surfaces found at the south-western corner of Area A.
- 12.3.2 There were various interpretations attached to this collection of wall foundations and rough surface layers. These are limited because only a few permanent structures have ever been recorded as being built upon St Catherine's Wynd, these include:
- Queen Anne's House
  - The Constable's House
  - Buildings to join the Palace and the Abbey
- 12.3.3 It is difficult to choose without reliable dating evidence. Any artefact dating which was possible was recovered from neighbouring contexts rather than from the wall itself and therefore relevance for the application of a date is dubious. A composite map, provided by Dunfermline Heritage Community Projects, shows Queen Anne's house on a location comparable to the sections of wall mentioned above (Chalmers 1859).
- 12.3.4 The exposed wall elements which were excavated during the initial stages of work were extensively disturbed by the placement of services and ground reduction for paving. The second stage of excavation and recording of walls beneath the pavement area was of remains slightly better preserved. Despite the insecurity of physical relationships it seems prudent to discuss these remains in one group.
- 12.3.5 There can be no doubt that these wall remains represent the foundation layers of substantial structures. Given the similarity of construction material to the surviving Abbey buildings we can assign a reasonable antiquity to the structures they represent, and therefore can suggest that they are the domestic buildings, created at the behest of Anne of Denmark, to join the Palace to the remaining Abbey buildings. Originally the working inference was that the surface is a yard or road surface that did not relate to the wall structure and that the wall foundation has punched through a series of long accumulated medieval deposits (inc the trampled surface) explaining why the basal foundations are at a common level with a surface. This would fit well with a later date for the wall; say 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century, however dating for both the surface and wall fragments remains uncertain. In the case of Wall 224 the adjoining surface did seem to be at least in part contemporary although it is true that earlier

layers of trample may have existed prior to the construction of the walls.

#### 12.4 *St Catherine's Lodge?*

- 12.4.1 The remains uncovered at the northernmost extreme of the development area, (228), (229) and (230), were consistent with the demolition of a large structure. There was some evidence that the remains continued to the north and west of the development area. That this may have been a small part of a larger structure is supported by the fact that fragments of decorative structural elements were found within the demolition deposits. Without dating evidence or further excavation of the remains it is impossible to say for certain what these remains represent. With reference to the 1859 composite map we can suggest a location for the remains of St Catherine's Lodge.
- 12.4.2 Examination of historical sources suggests that this part of St Catherine's Wynd contained the site of St Catherine's Chapel. In 1327 the chapel was given over to the neighbouring almshouse (Fawcett 2005). These combined structures were subsequently destroyed and then rebuilt in 1420. After the reformation the almshouse was referred to as the Hospital of St Leonard, presumably on the same site. There is also some reference in cartographic sources to a building called St Catherine's Lodge on the same site which may be a reuse of the above structures.
- 12.4.3 The remains uncovered in this part of the development area were obviously the foundation courses of a substantial structure and the location is correct to tie them in the chapel and the almshouse or their reconstruction. It would be informative to carry out further excavation to the north of the development area or to find secure datable evidence from a corresponding deposit. For the moment no context was sufficiently secure to provide datable material for the origin of the structural elements.

#### 12.5 *Extending The Pends*

- 12.5.1 It is clear from historical depictions of the Abbey buildings that the several, now absent buildings, expanded the Abbey into the area of St Catherine's Wynd. We have already discussed the potential remains of Queen Anne's House and St Catherine's Lodge; however evidence suggests that The Pends was at one time a much more substantial structure than it currently appears. Unfortunately there appears to be no single definitive interpretation of the full extent of construction around The Pends.
- 12.5.2 On the west side of The Pends, fragments of wall suggested that the gateway at one time, extended to the north and west. This may have formed part of the north side of the structure of the Palace. The findings from this development tie in with those of Robertson's excavation in 1975. Due to the limited scope of this excavation there was some difficulty associating the various remains found with the various phases of construction of The Pends. Also there was no evidence of the floor or surface layers described in the report arising from the 1975 excavations (Reynolds 1981). It is likely that these were destroyed or removed by modern paving works.
- 12.5.3 On the south east side of The Pends, evidence of additional structures was found but these were outwith the scope of the 1975 excavation. Wall 227 appeared to extend the structure of The Pends but it was not clear if this was part of an earlier configuration or part of a now removed extension to the structure. Walls 234 and 235 existed a few metres to the south east of The Pends. The extent of modern disturbance in this area has destroyed potential physical relationships and the walls exist in isolation. However, the size of the walls suggests that they formed part of a substantial structure. It is clear that the evidence of previous phases of the configuration of the Abbey exist in the deposits around The Pends.

#### 12.6 *Boundaries of the Abbey*

- 12.6.1 Several of the features uncovered during the course of the redevelopment work may be interpreted as large boundary walls. With the level of investigation permitted by the terms of the SMC it was unclear as to the precise date of these features as no reliable dating material could be recovered from a secure context. However, it was clear that these features survived to some depth and therefore material may exist that could be recovered during future

archaeological investigation. For the moment we are forced to rely on evidence from historical and cartographic sources to give some providence to these features.

- 12.6.2 Wall 208, located in Area D, is concurrent with the Municipal Boundary which appears on 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Town Plans of Dunfermline (1854). The wall is also shown on John Woods (1823) Town Plan. What is unclear is whether or not this boundary wall is the remnant of an older Abbey Precinct boundary. From the size of the wall, and the form of its construction the possibility that it relates to the expansion of the Abbey buildings must be considered. Interpretative plans of the Abbey boundaries usually depict Wall 208 as the southern boundary of the Abbey precinct on Monastery Street.
- 12.6.3 The southern boundary of Monastery Street is a large stone wall with iron railings which separates Monastery Street from the Park. When you view this wall from the Park side, the south, it is clear that the modern wall is built using an older stone retaining wall which establishes the park boundary and the difference in slope. It was established, through excavation, in the course of the development that the older wall is the foundation for the southern boundary wall along the entire length of Monastery Street, including the area around the War Memorial. It is clear from this evidence that the War Memorial and the corresponding boundary wall were built upon the remnants of a much older structure.

### 12.7 *Heugh Mills and the Lade*

- 12.7.1 The older structures referred to in section 12.6.3 are the remains of Heugh Mills. Cartographic evidence suggests that the name Heugh Mills migrated around the area on both sides of Monastery Street and referred to several structures in the area. The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Town Plan shows an iron foundry and corn mills on the north eastern side of Monastery Street, as well as a complex of corn mills on the south side. The corn mills on the south side of Monastery Street were, in part, beneath the area now occupied by the War Memorial; however the remains of their walls can be seen beyond this into the park. The circular feature 239 in Area F is interpreted as the corn drying kiln which is also depicted on several old maps.
- 12.7.2 The south eastern half of Monastery Street has been heavily disturbed by the construction and modification of the various mill buildings over the period of their use. Fragments of wall survive on both sides of the street. The section of sandstone flagstones (241) may potentially be attributed to the construction of the mill buildings as may the fragments of wall found to the north of the War Memorial, (244), (245) and (248), and the section of wall at the eastern end of Monastery Street (243). Without further depth of excavation and the location of associated features it is impossible to be certain of the connection between these fragments of architecture and the Heugh Mills however their presence and the further fragments of archaeology, like deposits of finds (246), indicate that further investigation could reveal more information about the structure of Heugh Mills.
- 12.7.3 The more substantial walls, exposed on the north eastern side of Monastery Street were possible to be tied into the Heugh Mill buildings and the iron foundry noted on the 1854 OS maps. Taking measurements from the Frater, it was possible to establish that Wall 259 was the corner of a building labelled “Boilers” on the 1854 map. Furthermore, the alignment of Wall 267 and the terminals of Walls 263 and 264 with this Boiler Room suggest that these were fragments of the old street front of the Heugh Mill buildings that ran parallel to the opposite side of the street. This being the case, Passage 242 was possibly a part of the Heugh Mills building, perhaps being used as a lade or drain that came off the main Lade before rejoining it where our excavations took place.
- 12.7.4 The Mill Lade (sometimes Lead) appears on several cartographic sources although its precise route beyond Monastery Street has never been confidently established. It is clear that there has been a use and reuse of an existing structure over an extended period of time. Examination of the upstanding remains in the park to the south of the War Memorial reveal a large arched opening, more than 2m high, from which water would have drained onto a mill wheel. The effects of the mill wheel are still visible on the stonework of the upstanding remains. Modification to the Lade has also been carried out in modern times; drains on both

the north and south of Monastery Street drain into the Lade and its subsidiary channels, like feature 242. Although these drains were certainly modified in the 1970s it is possible that they simply made use of an existing system

12.7.5 The antiquity of the Lade is uncertain. It has obviously had multiple uses and modifications over the period of its existence. These uses may have occasionally overlapped; for example, there is no reason why a drain could not access a lade, or why an existing water course could not be used as a drain or channelled to power machinery. Examining the construction of the Lade and subsidiary channels we can see different forms of stonework suggesting that the structure has been modified over time. The most recent modification may have been making the structure secure for the construction of the War Memorial. The central section of the Lade is an arched stone passageway, less than 1.5m high, This appears to be of a much rougher masonry than the rest of the Lade. It is possible that the Lade used an existing watercourse, possibly the primary drain coming from the Abbey buildings. It is indicated from historical and cartographic sources that subterranean structures survive from the expansion of the Abbey.

### 12.8 *Test Pits and Archaeological Potential at Depth*

12.8.1 At the request of Historic Scotland and according to the agreed terms of SMC two test pits were excavated in Area E in order to investigate the potential disturbance caused by the removal of the trees (to a depth of 400mm) and assess the archaeological potential of the area. These test pits were of limited success; although they did show that there were no significant archaeological deposits within the scope of the tree removal, they did not fully quantify the archaeological potential of the area. However, excavations in service trenches in Areas D, F and G demonstrate potential survival of archaeological material at depths greater than 800mm.

12.8.2 Over almost the entire development area there has been demonstrated the potential for survival of archaeological deposits at depth. It must be considered if any further work (either development or archaeological) were to be undertaken within the development area that excavation to a depth greater than 800mm has the potential to impact on significant and large scale archaeological deposits. One example is Queen Anne's House where archaeological investigation was halted on this occasion because the deposits dropped below the level reached by the development works.

12.8.3 There is no doubt that part of the reason for this preservation at depth is because of landscaping and levelling of the ground. Comparison between old representations of St Catherine's Wynd and the existing roadway suggest that the area has been widened and sculpted by removing sediment from close to the Abbey Church and creating the existing retaining wall then widening the roadway towards the palace. This may explain the greater potential for survival along the west of St Catherine's Wynd under the made ground of the road way.

12.8.3 Similarly, Monastery Street has been subject to dramatic changes in form over the period of its use. In Areas F, G and the lower part of Area D mostly made ground was exposed during the course of the development indicating that the southern half of Monastery Street had been recently and artificially levelled. Most of this has been connected with the construction and destruction of Heugh Mills. The result of the construction of the War Memorial and the paving of Monastery Street is that structural elements and archaeological deposits survive at depths of more than 800mm.

12.8.4 From the small pits and service trenches that were excavated in the course of this development it is impossible to accurately gauge the extent of the survival of archaeological deposits at depth. However, it is clear that there is a far greater extent of archaeological deposits that was exposed during the course of this development and it should be remembered that at no point during this development was archaeologically sterile natural sediment reached.

## 13 Recommendations

- 13.1 Given that almost all of the development area was within a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) and that part of the site of the Abbey is listed as a Property in Care it is not surprising that a significant amount of archaeological deposits were uncovered in the course of the works. However, the archaeological works carried out in support of the development were limited by the terms of the SMC so that only those portions of the archaeological remains which were exposed by the development works were recorded. In cases where the archaeology was removed by the development process, limited excavation did take place prior to recording.
- 13.2 Archaeologically significant materials were recovered during the course of the on site works, and as a result of this, post-excavation analysis of recovered material would be appropriate; as would public dissemination of the general findings of the site in the form of a small contribution to an appropriate journal. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd would recommend a limited programme of post-excavation work targeted at the main find (ceramic) and sample (mortar) groups. Due to the extent of modern disturbance in the contexts investigated further analysis of finds and samples would be of limited value as the security of the recovered information would be called into question.
- 13.3 Given the nature of the development work undertaken, in particular the gravel and concrete bedding laid for the paving, it may be assumed that any archaeological remains which are sealed beneath the paving exist in a moderately stable environment. Further archaeological investigation of the area could not be undertaken without serious upheaval to the recent development works and therefore no further archaeological work on site is recommended at this time. However, none of the areas should be inferred to be archaeologically sterile. Any further works, including utilities, should be considered to be in archaeologically sensitive areas.

## 14 Conclusion

- 14.1 Archaeological monitoring works were undertaken in respect to the development of St Catherine's Wynd and Monastery Street, adjacent to Dunfermline Abbey, Fife. These works were required by Fife Council and took place within the Abbey Precinct. Primarily this comprised the repaving and landscaping of St Catherine's Wynd and Monastery Street as well as the adjoining passage through The Pends. Additional works, such as the felling of trees on Monastery Street, placement of services and street lighting were also covered by the archaeological mitigation. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact of this development on the area.
- 14.2 Archaeological monitoring of groundbreaking works ran from 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2008 until 16<sup>th</sup> July 2008 and all works were carried out according to the terms of Scheduled Monument Consent AMH/90116/1/1 (incorporating the Method Statement prepared by Ironside Farrar) granted by Historic Scotland on behalf of Scottish Ministers. Several significant archaeological features were uncovered and recorded during the course of the development work. These features related to the extended structure of the Abbey and the Palace as well as the subsequent surrounding industry.
- 14.3 In many cases it was possible to suggest a historical origin for the archaeological features exposed. However the extent of investigation possible was necessarily limited by constraints of time and the conditions of the SMC.
- 14.4 Rathmell Archaeology Ltd is grateful for the assistance and advice of Gilmartin Contractors Ltd and Fife Council Archaeology Unit. We are also grateful for the information and resources provided by Dunfermline Heritage Community Projects through Alan Gardner.

## 15 References

### 15.1 *Documentary*

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Robertson, TM	1981	<i>Recent excavations at Dunfermline Abbey, Fife</i> , Proc Soc Antiq Scot.
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### 15.2 *Cartographic*

1823	John Wood	Plan of the Town of Dunfermline from actual survey
1854	Ordnance Survey	Large Scale Town Plan
1896	Ordnance Survey	Large Scale Town Plan

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