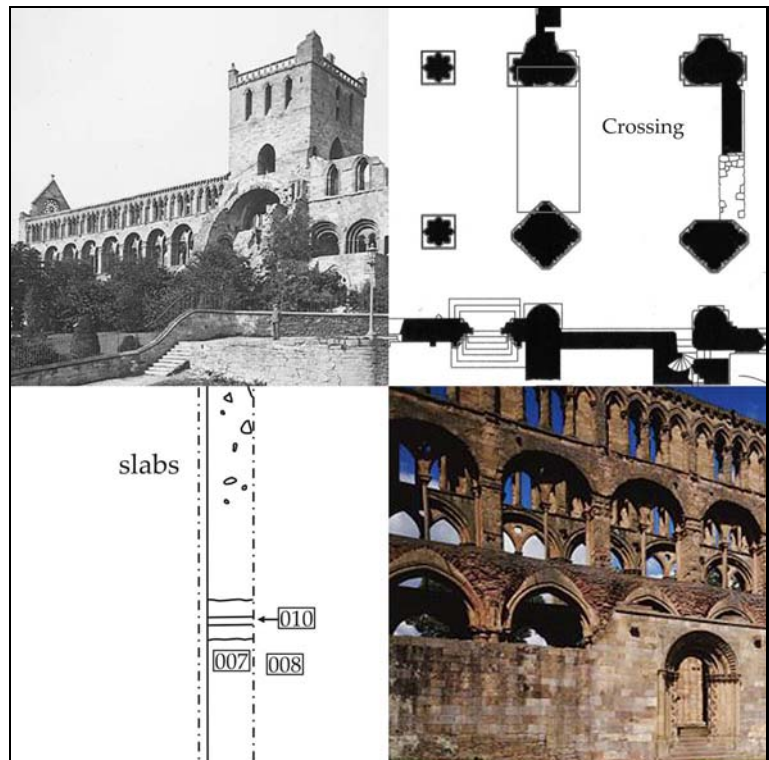


Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works 2008

Jedburgh Abbey: Archaeological monitoring of minor excavations, May 2008

HS PIC Index number: 90175
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Kirkdale Archaeology

<u>Site</u>	Jedburgh Abbey
<u>N.G.R</u>	NT 6503 2044
<u>Project Description</u>	Archaeological monitoring of minor excavations
<u>Project code</u>	HSCO-90175-2008-01

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SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a small trench at the east end of the Nave of Jedburgh Abbey Church, where there is a step down into the Crossing. The area appeared to have been disturbed during the laying of slabs in the 1990s. A lower deposit contained crushed sandstone, perhaps the remnants of an earlier floor surface. Human bone was also seen, although this appeared to have been re-deposited in a mixed deposit containing relatively recent earthenware.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake a watching brief during the excavation of a small trench in Jedburgh Abbey Church, at the far east end of the Nave where there is a step down to the Crossing.

The work was undertaken on 14 May 2008.

2.0 EXCAVATION ACCOUNT

The trench measured 5.90 m N-S, roughly 350 mm wide and 400 mm deep. The upper deposit, **001**, was 10 mm diameter gravel seen throughout the trench measuring an average of 50 mm in depth.

Immediately below **001** was a wooden plank placed on edge, **002**, measuring 5.85 m N-S, 80 mm high and 40 mm in thickness and it formed the E edge of the slabs forming the current surface within the Nave.

Directly below **002** there was what was thought to be another plank, **004**. After the excavation the planking was removed and **002** and **004** were seen to be a single plank measuring 5.85 m N-S, 140 mm in height and 40 mm thick.

Below **001** throughout the trench there was a 20 mm thick deposit of 5 mm diameter gravel, **003**.

In the S part of the trench **003** sealed a straight sided cut 400 mm wide (N-S), **008** – it was not bottomed in this trench. The fill of **008**, **009**, was loose mid-dark brown sand. Seen within **009**, **010** was a 60 mm diameter black plastic pipe.

003 sealed **006**, a 100 mm thick deposit of fairly loose mid grey silty clay with 15-20% small (20 mm-40 mm diameter) stones.

Immediately under **006** there was a 50 mm thick deposit comprising a mix of mid brown sand and crushed sandstone, **005**.

Under **005**, **007** was a deposit of fairly compact red brown silty sand and stones (approximately 50% sub-angular stone fragments) measuring 60 mm in thickness.

007 sealed **013**, a compact deposit of red brown sand and gravel that was seen in the base of most of the trench but not excavated.

At the N end of the trench **011** was a stone block stepping out (S) 260 mm from the curved pillars at the edge of the trench.

At the base of the trench **012** was a large flat stone slab or slabs that continued 800 mm S from **011**. It was difficult to be sure in the narrow trench but this feature looked to be a single stone.

011 appeared to be a single block and it stepped down 170mm to **012**.

3.0 INTERPRETATION AND OBSERVATIONS

3.1 Phase 1 features

011 is part of the foundations or the base of the curved double pillar in the NW corner of the Crossing.

The single large flat stone to the S of **011**, **012**, was part of the same build as that stone. Whether this was a remaining area of the original floor or part of the foundations could not be ascertained with small area seen.

3.2 Phase 2 features

Seen at the base of the trench but not excavated, **013** was compact sand and gravel that may have been associated with an earlier surface within the Crossing. **013** sealed the **phase 1** features.

3.3 Phase 3 features

It is possible that the sand and crushed sandstone deposit, **005**, were the remains of

an earlier surface but with the small strip seen in this trench it was impossible to be sure. A long bone that was thought to be human was recovered from this deposit, perhaps suggesting that it has been re-deposited material taken from the Nave.

Silty sand and stones, **007**, may have been make-up for **005**.

3.4 Phase 4 features

Below gravel **003**, deposit **006** looked like infill and included in the few finds recovered from it were sherds of white earthenware unlikely to date to earlier than the middle of the 19th century. There were human bones found in this deposit, this seems to indicate that it has been moved from elsewhere within the Abbey.

3.5 Phase 5 features

002 and **004** are the top and bottom parts of the same plank edging at the E edge of the current slab surface within the Nave, these slabs were laid fairly recently. This surface and edging are probably part of the 1993 work within the Abbey.

Gravel **001** is against the planking and thought likely to have been imported as part of the same phase of work.

The more compact gravel immediately below **001**, **003**, probably also dates to the 1990's, perhaps it is bottoming for the looser surface above.

N-S aligned cut **008** was the trench for **010**, a 60 mm diameter black plastic pipe. It is not known if **010** contained any services or was put in as a track for future ones.

A1.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Trench 1	
101	Current gravel surface.
102	Upper part of planked edging between the Nave and the Crossing.
103	20mm thick deposit of 5mm gravel.
104	Lower part of planked edging between the Nave and the Crossing.
105	Mix of sand and crushed stone.
106	Deposit of mid grey silty clay.
107	Red brown silty sand and stones.
108	Drain trench cut.
109	Fill of 008.
110	Plastic pipe in 008.
111	Stone block, pillar foundation.
112	Similar structure to 011, continuing S.
113	Compact red brown sand and gravel in the base of the trench.

A2.0 APPENDIX 2: LIST OF DRAWINGS

No	Type	Trench	Description	Scale	Date
1	Plan	1	Plan of Trench 1	1:20	14/05/08

A3.0 APPENDIX 3: LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

#	Description	From	Date
1	Pre Excavation slabs and gravel 001.	E	15/5/2008
2	Pre Excavation slabs and gravel 001.	E	15/5/2008
3	Detail of wood edging 002.	E	15/5/2008
4	Pre Excavation slabs and gravel 001.	W	15/5/2008
5	Gravel 003 exposed.	S	15/5/2008
6	Concrete and 002.	S	15/5/2008
7	Detail of concrete at 002/004.	SE	15/5/2008
8	Deposit 005.	S	15/5/2008
9	Plank 002/004 fully exposed.	E	15/5/2008

#	Description	From	Date
10	Abbey build at the N end of the trench 011 and 012.	E	15/5/2008
11	Abbey build at the N end of the trench 011 and 012.	S	15/5/2008
12	Detail of the base of the slabs in the Nave.	SE	15/5/2008
13	Pipe 010 in cut 008.	E	15/5/2008

A4.0

APPENDIX 4: LIST OF FINDS

#	Ctxt	Quantity	Material	Description
1	006	1	Iron	Fe lump, could be a handle or a fragment of a fence.
2	006	1	Ceramic	Basal fragment glazed white earthenware bowl.
3	006	1	Ceramic	White earthenware body sherd.
4	006	2	Ceramic	Modern red earthenware bodysherds, unglazed.
5	006	1	Ceramic	Red earthenware body-sherd, brown external and cream internal glaze. Dairy bowl?
6	006	1	Animal bone	Large long bone fragment, probably cow.
7	006	1	Animal bone	Long bone fragment, probably sheep.
8	006	2	Animal bone	Two small fragments, probably animal bone.
9	006	1	Human bone	Fragment of metacarpal.
10	006	1	Human bone	End of a long bone, possibly tibia.
11	006	1	Human bone	Fragment of a jaw.
12	005	1	Human bone	Fragment of a long bone, probably human.
13	005	1	Animal bone	Sheep, foot, bone.
14	005	1	Animal bone	Unidentified animal bone.

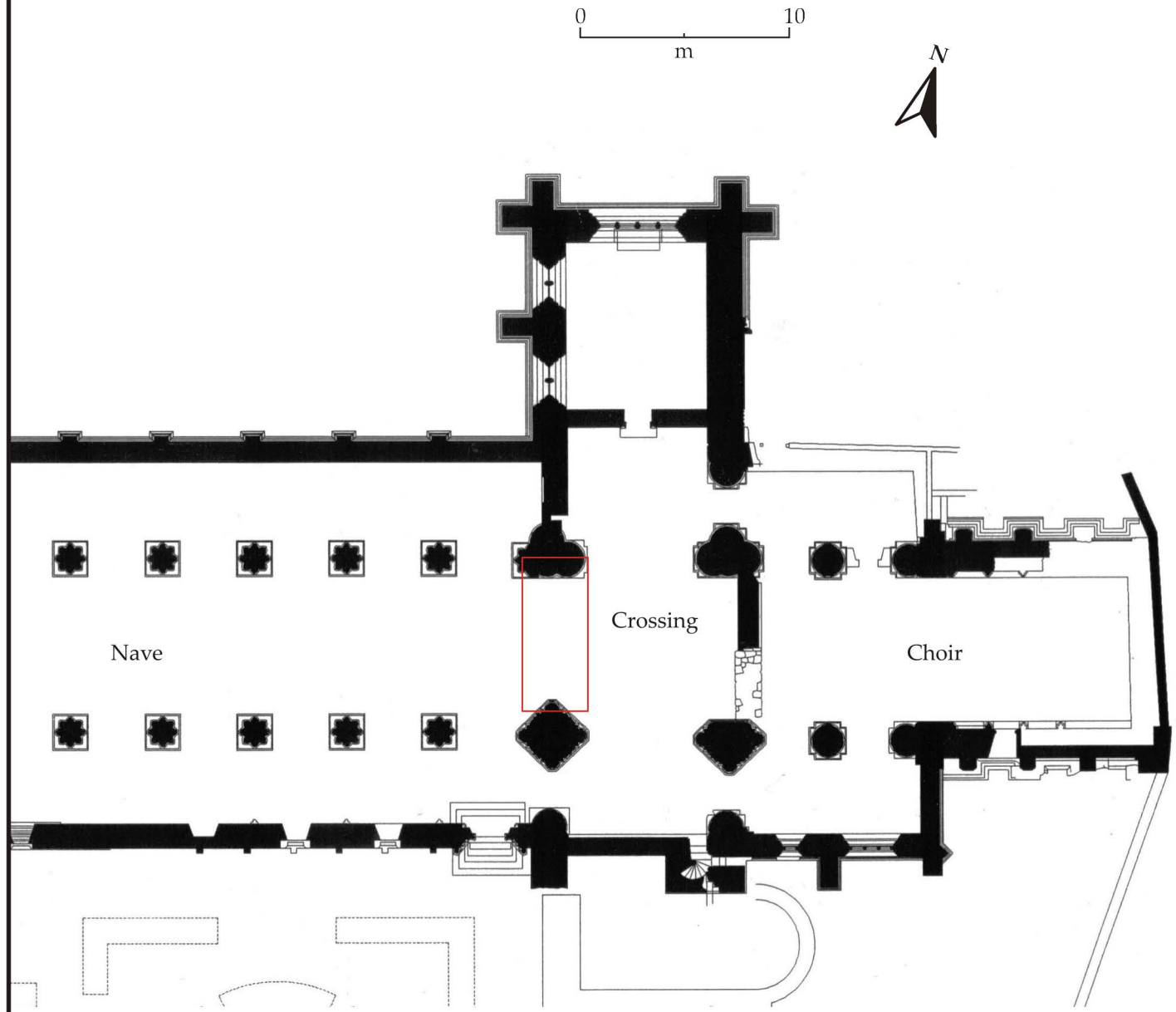
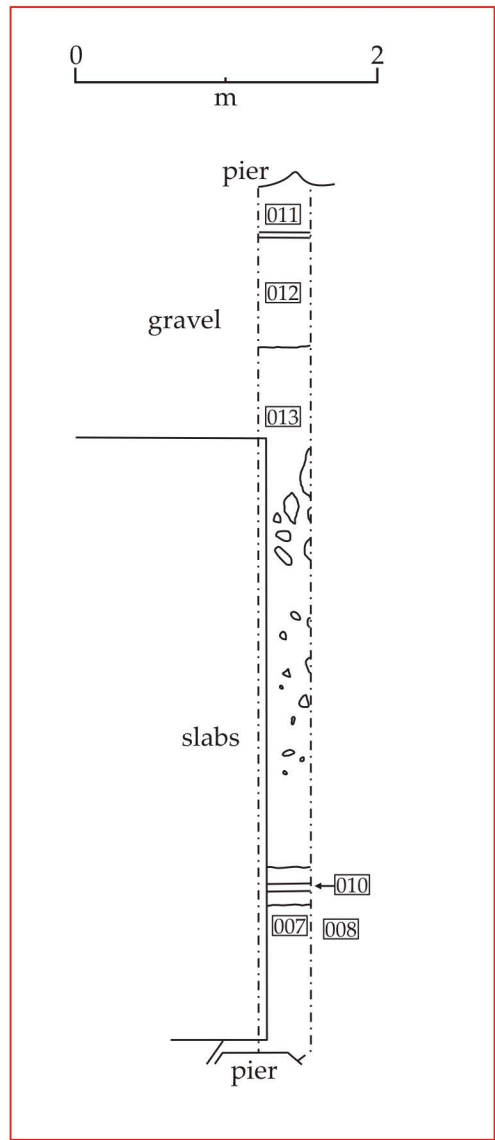


Fig. 1 : Plan showing location of works