

Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works
2007

Dryburgh Abbey Tree Hole

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Watching Brief

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Kirkdale Archaeology

Site Dryburgh Abbey Tree Hole

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Project Description Watching Brief

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1 INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of the call off contract Kirkdale Archaeology were asked to monitor the removal of a diseased laburnum tree and excavation of a small hole to take a replacement at Dryburgh Abbey. The affected tree was situated just to the W of the Abbey Church, on the W side of a path around this side of the site. The tree was directly against the N boundary wall of the site, some 3 m W of where the path and wall meet at the NW corner of the Church. The replacement holes NE corner was 2.4 m W and 2.4 m S of this same junction.

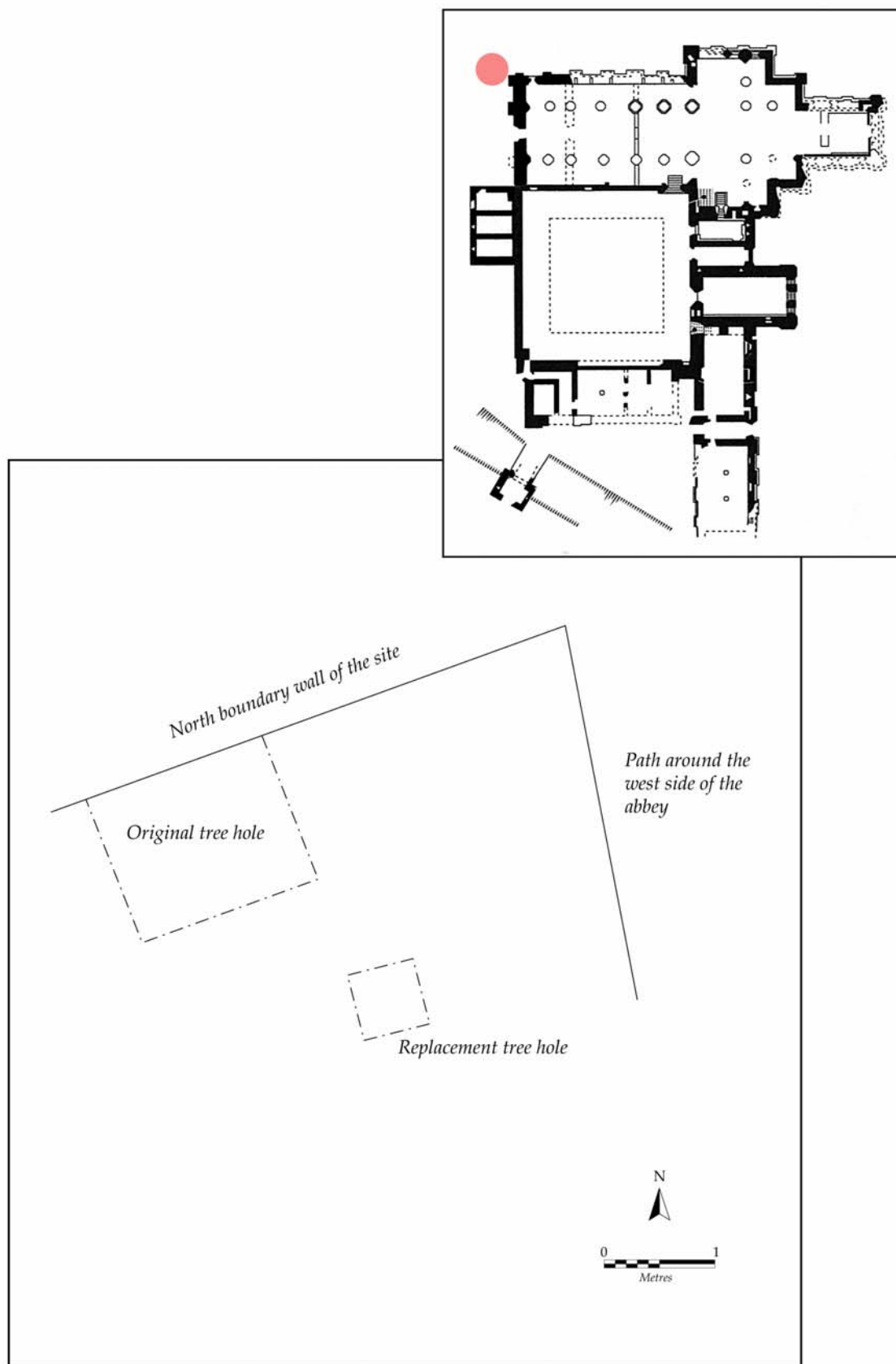


Figure 1: Location Plan

2 EXCAVATIONS

The new hole was excavated manually by the Historic Scotland gardeners, and measured some 700 mm N- S by 650 mm E- W. Topsoil **F001** was 100 mm thickness of dark brown clayey silt, below which 350 mm of **F002** was excavated without bottoming it. This was reddish brown clayey silt rich in sandstone fragments and containing some concrete fragments throughout its depth. One piece of slag and 4 probable animal bones from **F002** were photographed and reburied. C 100 mm extra of the base of the wall.

The existing tree was removed in a larger, more irregular hole. It measured 1.7 m E- W by 1.4 m N- S and reached a maximum depth of 300 mm. The entire area was too full of roots to reveal more than c 100 mm extra of the base of the wall.

3 CONCLUSIONS

In spite of the proximity of the Abbey Church, and the post- reformation graveyard just to its N, the results of this exercise were not revealing. The concrete noted in **F002** indicates recent disturbance of this area. The small size of the excavation inhibits understanding of the extent or purpose behind this.

APPENDIX 1 : LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context no.	Description
001	Topsoil
002	Clayey silt below F001

APPENDIX 2 : LIST OF DRAWINGS

No.	Type	Description	Scale
001	Plan	Location Plan	1:50

APPENDIX 3 : LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Frame	Description	Taken from	Date
1	Work starting	SE	26/11/07
2	Work starting	W	26/11/07
3	Work starting	E	26/11/07
4 - 5	Hole finished	SE	26/11/07
6 - 7	Hole finished	S	26/11/07
8	Finds	-	26/11/07
9	Old tree being removed	S	26/11/07
10	Old tree being removed	W	26/11/07
11	Old tree being removed	E	26/11/07
12 - 15	Chapter House and drain shots	-	26/11/07
16	Old tree being removed	E	26/11/07