



Harmony Hall, Melrose Lawn Investigation.

July 2007

Carried out on behalf of the National Trust for Scotland



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Appendix 1: Photo List

Appendix 2: Artefact List

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References

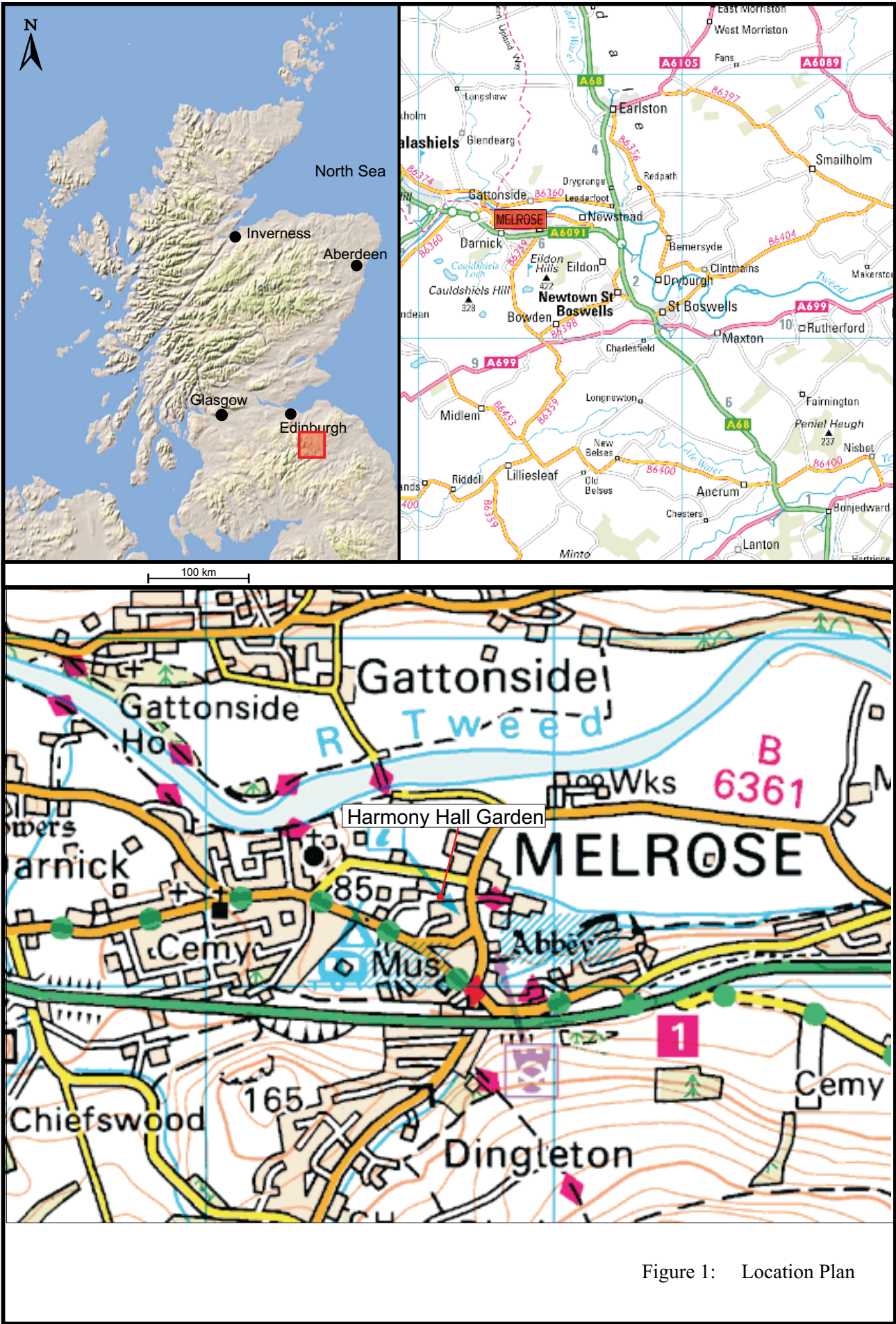


Figure 1: Location Plan

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was required due to the use of the lawn at Harmony Hall, Melrose for various events which required the erection of marquees and similar temporary structures. The Site lies within a Scheduled area, which to allow for gardening to be undertaken, begins at 400mm beneath the ground surface. To ensure that no damage is occurring to archaeology that may lie within this 400mm zone, a series of six intrusive evaluation trenches were planned for the lawn area, to investigate the makeup and nature of this layer. These works were commissioned by Robin Turner of the National Trust for Scotland. The work was undertaken in July 2007, and was restricted to the unscheduled layer of 400mm beneath ground surface.
- 1.2 The work will enable the management and positioning of temporary structures and associated ground disturbance to continue in this area without concerns about damaging archaeological deposits.
- 1.3 Further geophysical work, perhaps as a training exercise is recommended to confirm the results of the evaluation that no insitu subsurface archaeological deposits were present within the 400mm zone.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Site location

The lawn is located to the south of Harmony Hall, Melrose at NT 354693 634248 (Fig. 1).

2.2 Site History

The House and grounds were built in 1807 as the home for Robert Waugh, a local joiner who made a fortune from a Jamaican plantation. On his return, he had this house built and named it after his plantation.

His Jamaican house had a flight of stairs up to the entrance in order to keep wildlife at bay and local tradition has it that he wanted his house in Melrose to have a similar type of stairway.

He surrounded the house and gardens with the high wall and rarely emerged except for the Abbotsford Hunt and he became known locally as "Melancholy Jacques". Waugh supplied the cedar timber for the library and drawing room when Sir Walter Scott built Abbotsford House. The National Trust for Scotland now owns Harmony and the gardens are open to the public (for a voluntary contribution) between April and September.

The House and grounds are thought to lie within the western cloister of the 12th century Melrose Abbey and archaeological investigations (Headland Archaeology, Report HHM97, 1998) in the north of the grounds showed

evidence of two culverts of probable medieval date that may be linked with the main monastic drain.

Little is known of the layout and form of the western abbey complex, and although scheduled, the lawn area has not been investigated before.

Roys military map of 1755 (Fig. 3) shows the area of investigation as an enclosed plot without any structures present, the 1863 OS first edition however shows the site exactly as it is today. (Fig. 4)

3.0 OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 To excavate six trenches within the lawn area, currently used for events requiring marquees and temporary structures, and to assess the potential for disturbance of subsurface archaeological deposits and structures.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The trenches investigated the deposits down to a depth of 400mm, which had been agreed with Historic Scotland as the maximum depth of intrusion for ground disturbance.
- 4.2 Trenches were hand dug and filled in immediately on completion of the investigation. The excavation was carried out stratigraphically after removal of topsoil.
- 4.3 All trenches were 2 metres in length and 600 mm width.

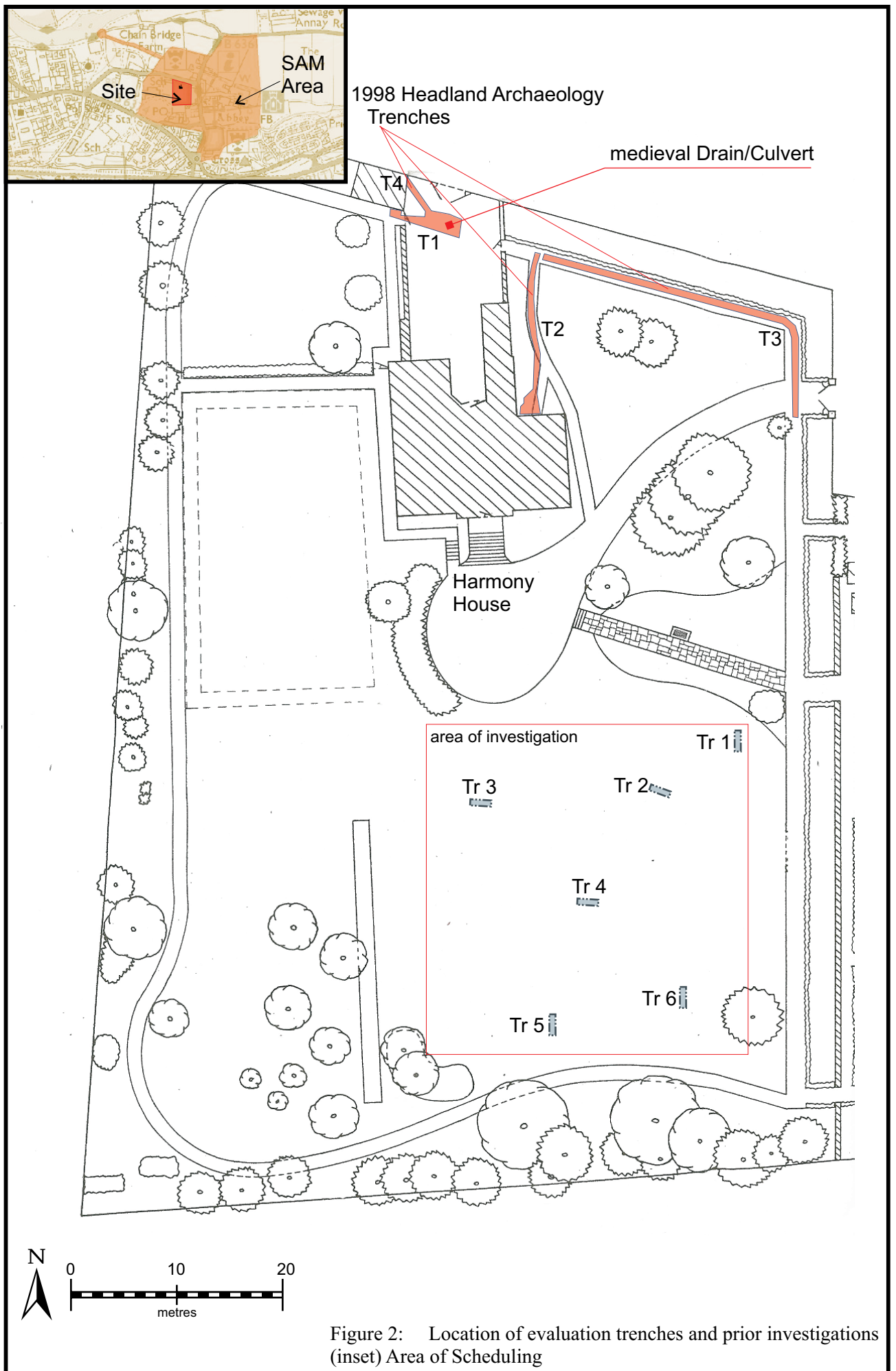
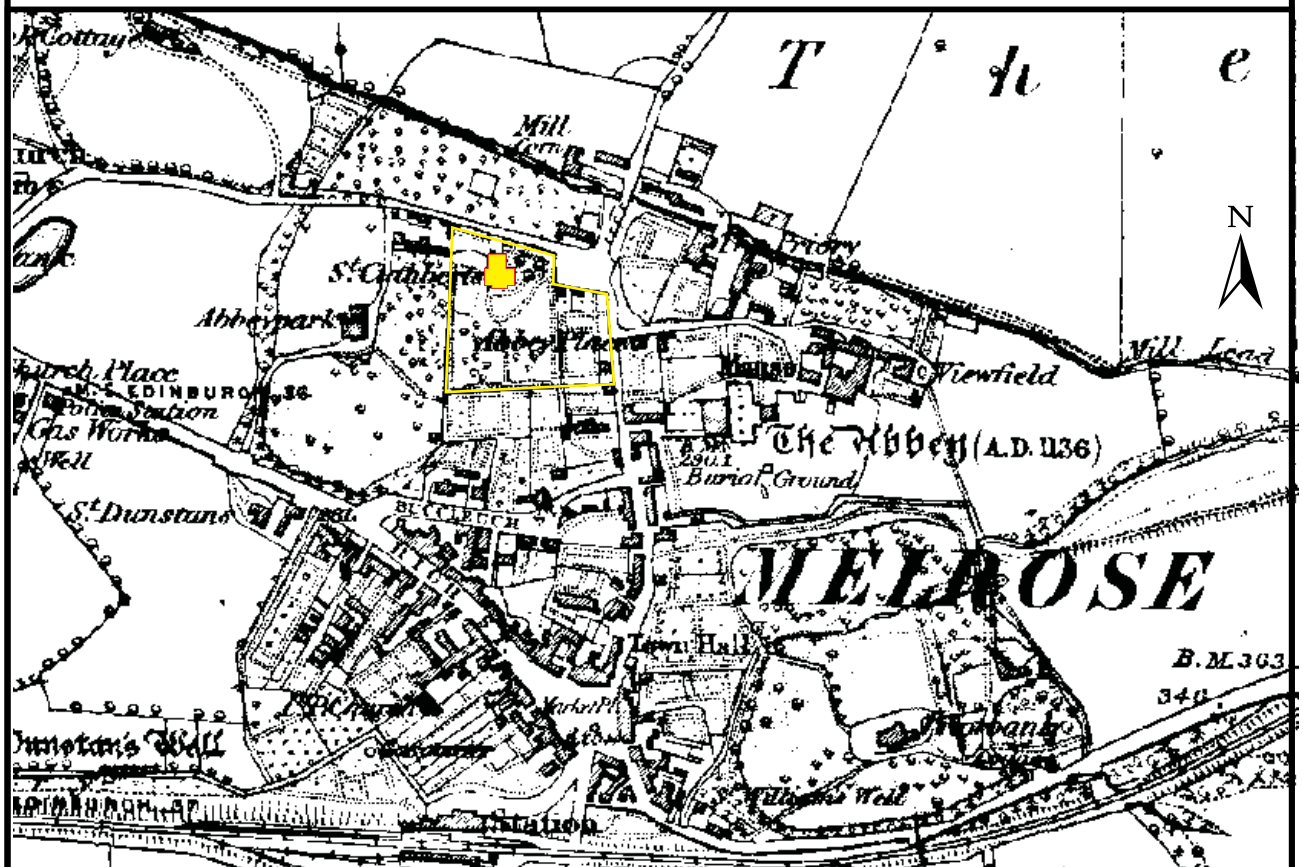




Figure 3: General Roy map (1750) site highlighted in Yellow

Figure 4: First Edition OS map (1863) site highlighted in Yellow



5.0 RESULTS

5.1 Fieldwork

The work was undertaken over two days during July 2007. The first day was reasonably dry, however the second day was very wet, with heavy rain. The turf topsoil was regular across the site ranging from 80mm to 90mm in depth.

The various datasets from the evaluation are presented in the appendix section; Photographic list (Appendix 1), Finds register (Appendix 2), Trench/Context description (Appendix 3) DES entry (Appendix 4)

5.2 The Trenches (Fig. 2)

Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 were all similar in soil makeup, with 80 –90mm of turf overlying a mid brown silty clay with frequent gravel. This context was excavated down to 400mm in depth in all 5 trenches. This can be seen as an imported and well sorted drainage layer for the lawn.

Trench 3 was similar to the other excavations, with topsoil giving way to the gravel rich layer at a depth of 90mm, however, at 390mm the layer changed abruptly onto a red brown clay rich level, with few inclusions.

Although trench 3 was located specifically to investigate the potential for 19th century and later paths and flower beds, no discernible change in soil profile was observed.

The Clay rich layer may be natural subsoil, but as no further examination was possible, this could not be confirmed.

Artefacts were rare, and only recovered from trenches 2,3 and 4

5.3 Artefacts

The general assemblage was from a reasonably tight timescale, dating from between the 1720s and 1820s. All artefacts were recovered from the gravel layer and predate the building of Harmony Hall. The clay pipe recovered may be either a Dutch or Leith pipe of the 17th/18th century, and is of an unknown maker. (Fig. 5)

6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The programme of evaluation has shown that in the areas of investigation there are no archaeological constraints within the 400mm buffer zone in the lawn area. The potential exists that during construction of Harmony Hall and ground a large amount of soil was brought in to create suitable drainage for a lawn.

David Connolly, July 2007

Appendix 1 Photo Register

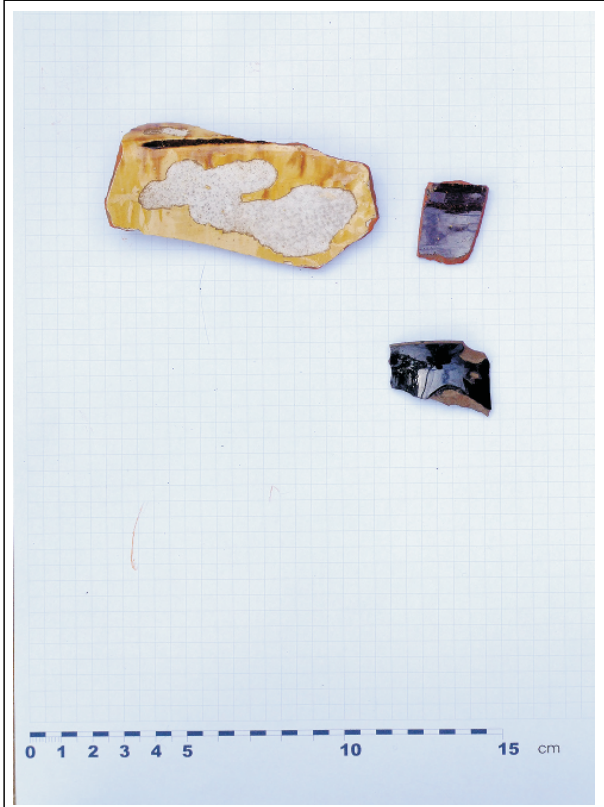
Photo Record List – Harmony Hall - Melrose				
Photo ID	Digital	Description	Direction from	Date
1	HH_001	Record shot of Trench 1 – pre-excavation	E	02/07/2007
2	HH_002	Record shot of Trench 2 – pre-excavation	S	02/07/2007
3	HH_003	Record shot of Trench 3 – pre-excavation	S	02/07/2007
4	HH_004	Record shot of Trench 4 – pre-excavation	S	02/07/2007
5	HH_005	Record shot of Trench 5 – pre-excavation	E	02/07/2007
6	HH_006	Record shot of Trench 6 – pre-excavation	E	02/07/2007
7	HH_007	Trench 1 – completed with sondage to 400mm	E	02/07/2007
8	HH_008	Trench 2 – completed with sondage to 400mm	S	02/07/2007
9	HH_009	Trench 3 – completed with sondage to 400mm	S	02/07/2007
10	HH_010	Trench 3 – detail of natural clay	E	02/07/2007
11	HH_011	Trench 4 – completed with sondage to 400mm	S	02/07/2007
12	HH_012	Trench 4 – completed with sondage to 400mm	E	03/07/2007
13	HH_013	Trench 4 – completed with sondage to 400mm	E	03/07/2007
14	HH_014	General view of site with Abbey in background	SE	03/07/2007
15	HH_015	General view of site with Harmony Hall in background	N	03/07/2007
16	HH_016	Trench 5 – completed with sondage to 400mm	E	03/07/2007
17	HH_017	Trench 6 – completed with sondage to 400mm	E	03/07/2007

Appendix 2 Artefact List

Artefact Record List – Harmony Hall - Melrose		
Trench	Context	Description
1		None recovered
2	General	1 sherd unglazed redware (rim) 2 sherds white tin glazed (body) 1 burnt bone frag.
3	General	1 yellow slip with brown decoration sherd (rim) 2 brown glazed sherds – (1 redware (body) 1 greyware thin possible teacup rim.)
4	General	5 sherds of white tin glazed (body) with some painted blue decoration. 1 brown glaze with yellow slip decoration (possible mid-late 18 th century) Prestonpans 1 brown glazed moulded teapot fragment (late 18 th to early 19 th century) Prestonpans 1 sherd frag of spatterware (early 19 th century) Kirkcaldy 1 glass pane frag 1 extruded bottle base – clear glass 2 Fe objects 2 clay pipe fragments – one with letters I and T stamped on either side of bowl – 1650-1770s
5		None recovered
6		None recovered



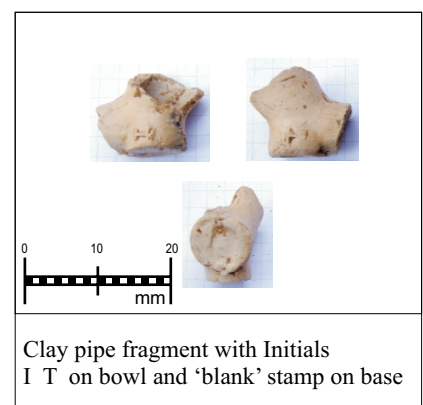
Trench 2 - General Finds



Trench 3 - General Finds



Trench 4 - General Finds



Clay pipe fragment with Initials
I T on bowl and 'blank' stamp on base

Appendix 3 Trench List

Trench List – Harmony Hall - Melrose	
Trench	Description
1	North - South Orientation (2m x .6m) Final depth: .4m
2	East - West Orientation (2m x .6m) Final depth: .4m
3	East - West Orientation (2m x .6m) Final depth: .4m
4	East - West Orientation (2m x .6m) Final depth: .4m
5	North - South Orientation (2m x .6m) Final depth: .4m
6	North - South Orientation (2m x .6m) Final depth: .4m

Appendix 4

Discovery and Excavation Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY: Scottish Borders

Site Name: Harmony Hall, Melrose

Parish: Melrose

Name of Contributor(s): David Connolly (Connolly Heritage Consultancy)

Type of Site or Find: 19th century Lawn

NGR (2 letters, 6 or 8 figures): NT 354693 634248

Report:

An archaeological investigation to a depth of 400mm below ground surface to ensure that archaeological features relating to the Melrose Abbey were not damaged by use of lawn for events. A gravel rich drainage layer containing 18th century artefacts overlaid a possible natural clay subsoil at 400-420 mm.

Sponsor(s): HS, Society, Institution, Developer, etc. (where appropriate):

The National Trust for Scotland

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References

Ordnance Survey Map 1863 Roxburghshire 1:2500 scale map (Sheet VIII.1) surveyed 1859

Wood J 1826 Sketch of Melrose and Gattonside 1826

General Roy Military Map, surveyed 1750-55

Holden, T.G. and Hawker, J. 1998. *'An archaeological watching brief in the grounds of Harmony Hall, Melrose: Data Structure Report'* HHM 97

Hastie M., 2001. *'An archaeological watching brief in the grounds of Harmony Hall, Melrose: Data Structure Report'* HHM 01