2. INTRODUCTION

The Contextualising Hume Project was a community engagement project that ran from summer 2018 until early 2022, focussing on Hume Village and Castle and their immediate surrounding landscape (NGR NT 70472 41393; centred on Hume Castle SM387, NRHE No. NT74SW 3, Canmore ID 58561) (Illus 1). The project was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Fallago Environment Fund. The archaeological works and project delivery was undertaken by Heritage & Archaeological Research Practice (HARP) on behalf of the Hume Castle Preservation Trust (HCPT). HCPT owns Hume Castle and the land immediately surrounding it, and administers, maintains, and promotes the Castle. The project also engaged local delivery partners including the...
A number of training opportunities and workshops were provided for local volunteers, archaeology students, and primary school pupils over the course of the project. Two seasons of excavation were carried out, which included excavations in the castle grounds, glebe field of the former Kirk of St Nicholas (former parish church of Hume), and a garden in the modern village.

Interpretation was highlighted as one of the most important outputs from the project as there is a lack of easily accessible, detailed information available to the public with regards to Hume Castle and its immediate vicinity. Alongside this publication, four data structure reports were completed to detail the results of the survey and excavation works. A suite of new interpretative material, providing a basic historical background and to disseminate the results of the survey and excavation works, and to provide opportunities for volunteers to engage in archaeological activity.

The research theme involved exploring the historical narrative of the village and castle. Their immediate setting was explored and included analysis of historic maps, aerial photographs, an assessment of publicly accessible documentary evidence, and an appraisal of existing archaeological evidence and reports.

A central theme of the project was a series of non-invasive surveys and archaeological recording techniques to provide a more complete record and understanding of the Hume landscape, and to help inform the excavations that were carried out. The survey and recording elements of the project included a condition survey of Hume Kirkyard including a survey to identify and record visible and non-visible gravestones and remains of the former kirk (church); a geophysical survey of the kirkyard and surrounding glebe fields to identify any subsurface features; and a landscape survey of the land immediately surrounding Hume Castle. An Historic Building Record (HBR) for some elevations of the castle was also undertaken to provide volunteers with the opportunity to learn this aspect of archaeological recording.

Two seasons of excavation were conducted to target specific aspects of the Hume landscape. In the land immediately surrounding Hume Castle, two trenches and three test pits were excavated to investigate the remains of structures and features identified during previous survey works. A trench was excavated to investigate the remains of a former workshop identified in the gardens of West End Cottage in Hume Village, and two trenches were excavated in the glebe field to the east of Hume Kirkyard to investigate circular anomalies that had been identified during the geophysical survey.

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2.2 Historical setting of Hume Village

It is beyond the scope of this paper to provide a discussion of medieval lordly structures, medieval parish development and function, the history of the Dunbar Earls and their association with Hume, or the gentry in the borders region (for analysis and discussion of these matters see Meikle 1988; Hamilton 2010; Gledhill 2013). Rather, a historical setting is discussed to provide evidence of the earliest records of the church, castle, and village, and to highlight evidence related to clear changes and adaptations, or abandonments, of these entities.

Hume Village originally had an associated parish kirk, at least as old as the castle and located
The mound is actually formed of the structural remains of the kirk (Gunn 1899: 218).

Hume Castle was originally a medieval stronghold dating back to the 13th century, occupying a crucial site for controlling the Merse and the eastern Borders. At least part of the lands at Hume were owned by Ada (Daughter of Patrick I, 4th Earl of Dunbar) and her first husband William de Courtenay at some time between 1206 and 1217. Ownership of more land at Hume was donated to Ada on her marriage to Theobald de Lascelles at some point between 1220 and 1232 (Beam et al 2019e, 2019f). Following the death of Ada, Lady of Hume, the lands passed to Sir William, Lord of Home (Beam et al 2019g). He was Ada's cousin, William of Greenlaw (Hamilton 2010), and from whom the descent of the Home/Hume families is traced (Kerr 1809). William of Greenlaw was probably responsible for the construction of the castle. It was initially built, in all likelihood, of earthworks and timber (Canmore SC 2072971) and then re-built in stone: first as a castle of enclosure (Canmore SC 2073035); then as a tower house with artillery fortification (Canmore SC 2072972) that subsequently saw further artillery fortifications through the 16th century (Dixon 2017). The strategic location of the castle was of particular importance during the Anglo-Scottish Wars, sitting atop the highest point within a 5km radius, and providing unhindered views to the Eildon Hills in the west and the Berwickshire coast to the east. This was highlighted in the 16th century during the Rough Wooing when the castle was besieged and captured by the Duke of Somerset, before being retaken by Alexander Home, 5th Lord of Home, in 1549 (MacGibbon & Ross 1889: 109). Hume Castle was ultimately destroyed in 1651, reportedly by Oliver Cromwell's troops from Berwick under the direction of Colonel Fenwick (ibid). The rebuilding of the castle as a folly in the late 18th century (Canmore SC 2073036) by Hugh Hume-Campbell, 3rd Earl of Marchmont, saw the structure sitting atop the rubble footings of the earlier castle (MacGibbon & Ross 1889: 109).

The castle is flanked on the north by the modern village of Hume comprising just under 30 properties. Around the base of the castle's rocky outcrop are the remains of the original, likely medieval, village of Hume. This is partially depicted on William Roy’s
map of the Lowlands of Scotland (1747–55), the first to show the village of Hume in any real detail. The buildings within the village are shown surrounding the castle on the east, north, and west sides (despite the castle having been destroyed 100 years earlier) with the settlement extending west towards Hume Orchard and Fallsidehill. The former size of the village is alluded to in historic documents, with the Ordnance Survey Name Books (1856–58) noting that the Earls of Home had been able to raise 400 armed men from Hume alone. Similarly, Hearth Tax Rolls from 1694 recorded that Hume Parish had 127 hearths, 105 of which were located in Hume belonging to 94 different households (E69/5/1/18; E69/5/1/19; E69/5/1/20). As the Hearth Tax Rolls did not record those located in hospitals, or those of the poor, it is probable that Hume had even more properties than those recorded by hearths at the time. Medieval settlement patterns in Scotland are complex, and whilst generalisations can be, and have been, made regarding settlement type and character there is no model that fits every case. The settlement pattern at Hume is mixed, with arguments to suggest it is more suited to the classification of a ‘castletoun’, and other reasons to suggest that it could be classified as a nucleated village with rows of property lining a street, as depicted in Roy (1747–55) and further displayed on the Ordnance Survey First Edition (1859) (see also Dixon 2003 for an analysis of settlement types). Roy depicts the route of the loaning that leads west from Hume Village and Castle and then south towards Hume Byres and the location of the former parish church. The church, however, is not depicted as it was already in at least a ruinous state by this time. Survey work completed by the Border Burghs Archaeology Project (BBAP) in 1987 shows evidence of settlement extending along this loaning to the west of the castle and village (Canmore SC 1545028), suggesting that the original settlement at Hume extended between the castle and church. This pattern follows other examples of nucleated villages, such as Rattray, with a central street flanked by houses with the castle at one end and the church at the other (Dixon 2003: 59). Improvements were made in Hume in the early 1800s with both the construction of new buildings, and repairs to existing ones noted in a report drawn up on the Marchmont Estate by David Low in 1819 (SBA/1314), but the village itself was apparently seen as a burden rather than a benefit to the estate (ibid).