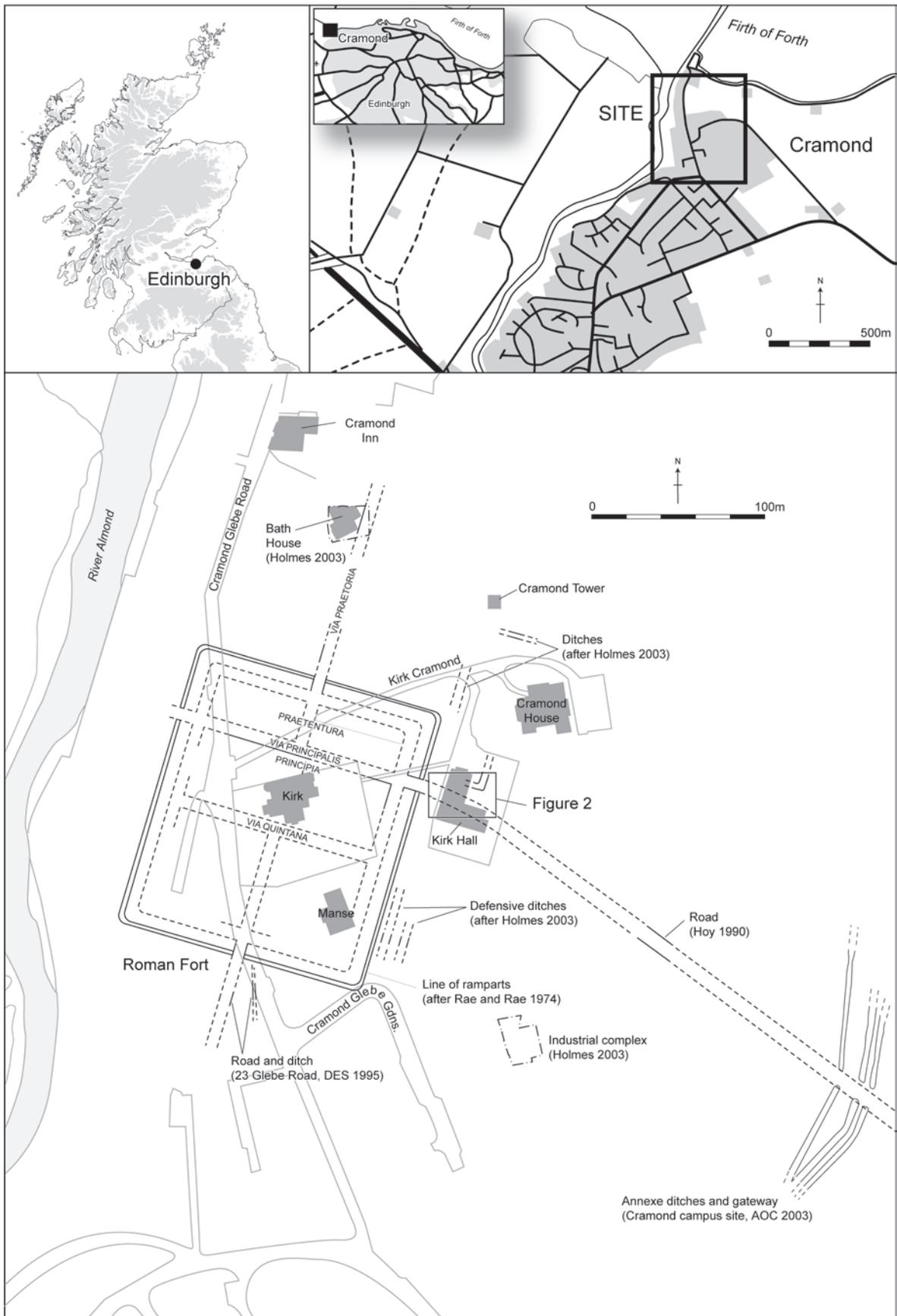

3 Existing Evidence for the Layout and History of the Fort (illus 1)

Rae & Rae established the line of the ramparts as shown on illustration 1 (Rae & Rae 1974), excavating sections on the north, east and south sides where they identified a clay rampart faced with a stone wall. They also excavated buildings facing onto the *via principalis* within the *principia* and *praetentura* of the fort, and located the roads entering the fort to the north and south. Two defensive ditches outside the ramparts were first identified on the east side of the fort in excavations in the Manse Garden (Holmes 2003, 3–9), the inner one of which was found to continue beyond the north-east corner of the fort. The continuation of the inner ditch to the north could be interpreted as evidence that the ramparts had enclosed a larger area on the north side at one time, but alternatively could represent an annexe to the fort. A trench had been excavated by Rae & Rae within the Manse Garden which ‘extended to 50 ft outside the rampart: showing a cobbled surface 15 ft wide immediately outside, but no sign of a ditch’, a finding which is difficult to reconcile with the results of later excavations in the Manse Garden (Rae & Rae 1974, 172). Holmes suggests that the atypical rampart construction and cobbled surface found in this trench represent the base of a tower and the road surface within a gateway, leading out of the fort from the *via quintana* (Holmes 2003, 147). In the absence of a detailed plan of the Raes’ trench, it is difficult to assess this reinterpretation, but a gateway in this location would be a highly unusual feature in a

Roman fort; moreover, the description implies that the cobbled surface extended right across the trench, which would accord better with a road running along the berm outside the rampart as seen, for instance, at Rough Castle (MacIvor *et al.* 1980, 234–5, 237). No such road was found in the later excavations, however, and the contrasting findings of the two excavations remain difficult to explain.

There is evidence from a number of locations for an annexe enclosing an extensive extramural settlement to the east of the fort. Recent excavations by AOC Archaeology Group at the Cramond Campus site have located a gateway in the eastern defences of the annexe (Hunter 2004, 269), and a ditch on an east/west alignment in the grounds of Cramond Tower (Holmes 2003, 3) may mark its north side. Part of the annexe, to the south-east of the fort, was occupied by military-associated industrial activities in the early third century. On its abandonment, this industrial area had been covered by extensive dumps of second-century refuse (Holmes 2003, 28–33, 152–3), which presumably derived from middens, associated with a long-established settlement nearby.

Set in the context of the fort layout, as reconstructed from previous archaeological work, the area excavated in 2001 lies outside the *porta principalis dexter*, just beyond the outer defensive ditch. In this location, evidence for the road and extramural settlement activity is to be expected.



Illus 1 Site location