

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

#### 3.1 Standing building recording

The repair works at the Jedburgh Abbey Rampart were carried out to consolidate, update, repair, and replace different sections of the ‘rampart’ walls. The works included the careful removal of significant portions of the face of the existing retaining wall in order to re-build the backing wall (where required), with the masonry face re-built and repointed in lime mortar to match the existing style and appearance of the ‘rampart’ wall; replacing three sets of steps leading from street level to the top of the ‘rampart’ (Illus 5); replacing the voussoirs above the existing cellar, and replacing its wooden doors; removing the concrete ceiling, and any internal fixtures and fittings of the former ladies’ toilet block, prior to infilling with concrete or packed infill.

The Standing Building Recording (SBR) of the ‘rampart’ wall was completed prior to the start of the repair works, whilst SBR of the interior of the former ladies’ toilet block and cellar was completed during the repair works once access to these spaces

was possible. The recording was carried out to the Basic Level as detailed by ALGAO Scotland (2013) and included a written, drawn, and photographic record of the retaining wall.

##### 3.1.1 Results

The SBR identified ten distinct components or features on the north-east facing elevation of the ‘rampart’ wall between the former double access stairs at the south end of the works (opposite Jedburgh Public Hall), and the Courthouse at the north end of the works.

The face of the ‘rampart’ wall, C110, is constructed from undressed but well-cut, grey sandstone blocks, with masonry blocks ranging from 0.05m long to 0.55m long. The wall has been bonded with a sand-based lime mortar, but shows evidence of several areas of mortar repair, including concrete patching, and the mortar and wall face showed evidence of failure in several places, with distinct cracks and gaps visible. The wall is capped with cut, undressed, sandstone blocks, bonded in the same fashion as



**Illus 5** Photograph showing failure and damage to ‘rampart’ wall at former double access steps (Image by Heritage and Archaeological Research Practice)

the wall, and showing similar signs of mortar loss and repair. The wall height rises from 1.57m, at the northern end, to 1.92m, at the southern end. The linear nature of the wall is interrupted to accommodate a lamppost, where the wall has been built in a curved fashion, C107, around the lamppost, but in the same architectural style as the rest of the 'rampart' wall.

Three sets of steps lead to the top of the 'rampart', with the steps in general made from the same grey sandstone as the wall facing. The southernmost set of steps (forming the southern portion of the double access steps), C101, and the central set of steps (forming the northern set of the double access steps), C102, have been partially capped with a concrete repair. The northernmost steps, C103, have been replaced by concrete steps. All sets of stairs have metal handrails, with stairs C101 and C102 showing evidence of earlier fixtures fitted to the side of the steps that have subsequently been plugged by wooden pegs, which are now flush with the face of the steps/wall.

To the north of steps C103, a former ladies' toilet block has been closed off with its former entrance now blocked with cut grey sandstone blocks and concrete mortar, C106. The toilet block had seven visible clay air vents, C108, and the wall capping here was partially covered by a tarmac seal on top of the former toilet block. At the north end of the toilet block, the wall capping steps up by 0.17m, and the rear of the wall capping was abutted by concrete edging all the way north to the former gents' toilet block (not subject to recording).

To the south of the gents' toilet block a store room or cellar was accessed by an arched entrance framed by cut sandstone blocks, that had been blocked with a wooden door, C104, and capped by a flattened arch constructed from cut sandstone blocks. The wall steps up a further 0.45m at the southern end of the gents' toilet block, before stepping back down 0.38m at its northern end. The former gents' toilet block entrance is framed by cut and dressed sandstone blocks, C105, but the entrance has been sealed shut and gated. Three metal air vents, C109, are visible beneath the wall capping at the gents' toilet block. The retaining wall continues for 3.65m to the north of the gents' toilet block where it joins the corner of the Sheriff Courthouse.

During the watching brief, access was provided to the former ladies' toilet block, and cellar.

No significant features were identified in either structure. Stalls, toilets and cisterns, and sinks were all still present within the former ladies' toilet block, however, all were of modern design and style with the toilet block in general in a poor state of repair.

### 3.2 Watching brief

An archaeological watching brief was required to monitor the excavation of four trenches to the west of the retaining wall to record the 'rampart' wall structure and to identify, excavate, and record any other archaeological features uncovered during ground breaking works. The trenches were excavated in order to access, assess, and consolidate the rear of the 'rampart' wall to prevent the structural failure that was occurring. Significant remains that were deemed to be too complex or sensitive were left in situ (where possible) until a revision of plans was agreed between HES, CARS, and SBC.

The four trenches were located to the rear of the 'rampart' wall, with the trenches located in Sections 1, 3, 4, and 6 of the phased works plans. Each trench was excavated to the required depth, and width to complete the repair and rebuild works of the 'rampart' wall in a safe manner. In Sections 2a and 2b of the phased works, small amounts of topsoil were required to be removed behind the retaining wall to provide adequate working space to rebuild the 'rampart' backing wall.

Following the discovery of intact human skeletal remains in Section 1 (see Section 3.2.1), a revision to the design plans was made by SBC, CARS, and HES, resulting in a change of the location of the double access stairs being replaced (SMC Case ID 300046433). The double stairs from Section 1 were subsequently moved into the space occupied by the former ladies' toilet block in Section 5 in order to minimise the impact on further intact human remains. As a result of this, the single set of stairs in Section 4 was removed but not replaced, with the double set of stairs inserted into Section 5 forming the only replacement set of stairs from street level to the top of the 'rampart' during the repair works.

The results of each section are outlined in turn below, with an initial discussion of the 'rampart' wall, followed by a discussion of deposits and remains uncovered during excavation works to the rear of the 'rampart' wall in each section.

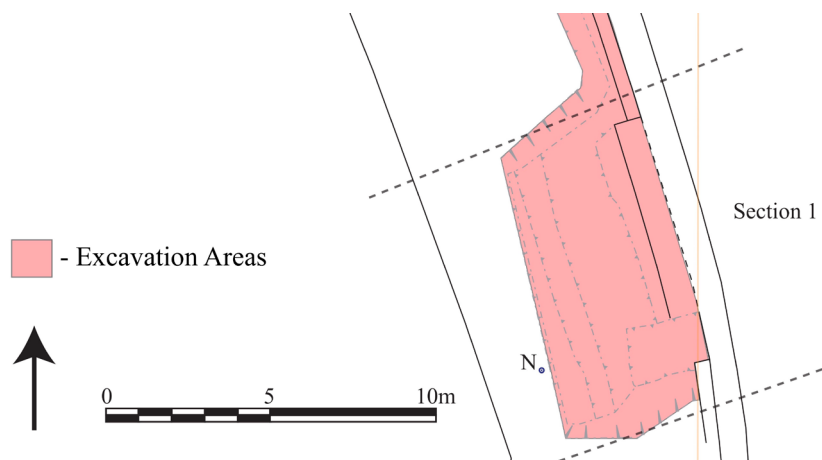
### 3.2.1 Section 1

Section 1 consisted of the removal and replacement of the former double set of steps at the southern end of the works (Illus 6). Following the removal of the facing wall and steps, a trench was excavated to the rear of the steps in order to provide adequate working space to build a new double set of steps and backing wall. The trench measured 5m wide by 8m long, and was orientated approximately NNW to SSE. The trench was stepped from the western side at approximately 1m intervals to ensure safe excavation and reduce the risk of section collapse. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.2m from the top of the ‘rampart’.

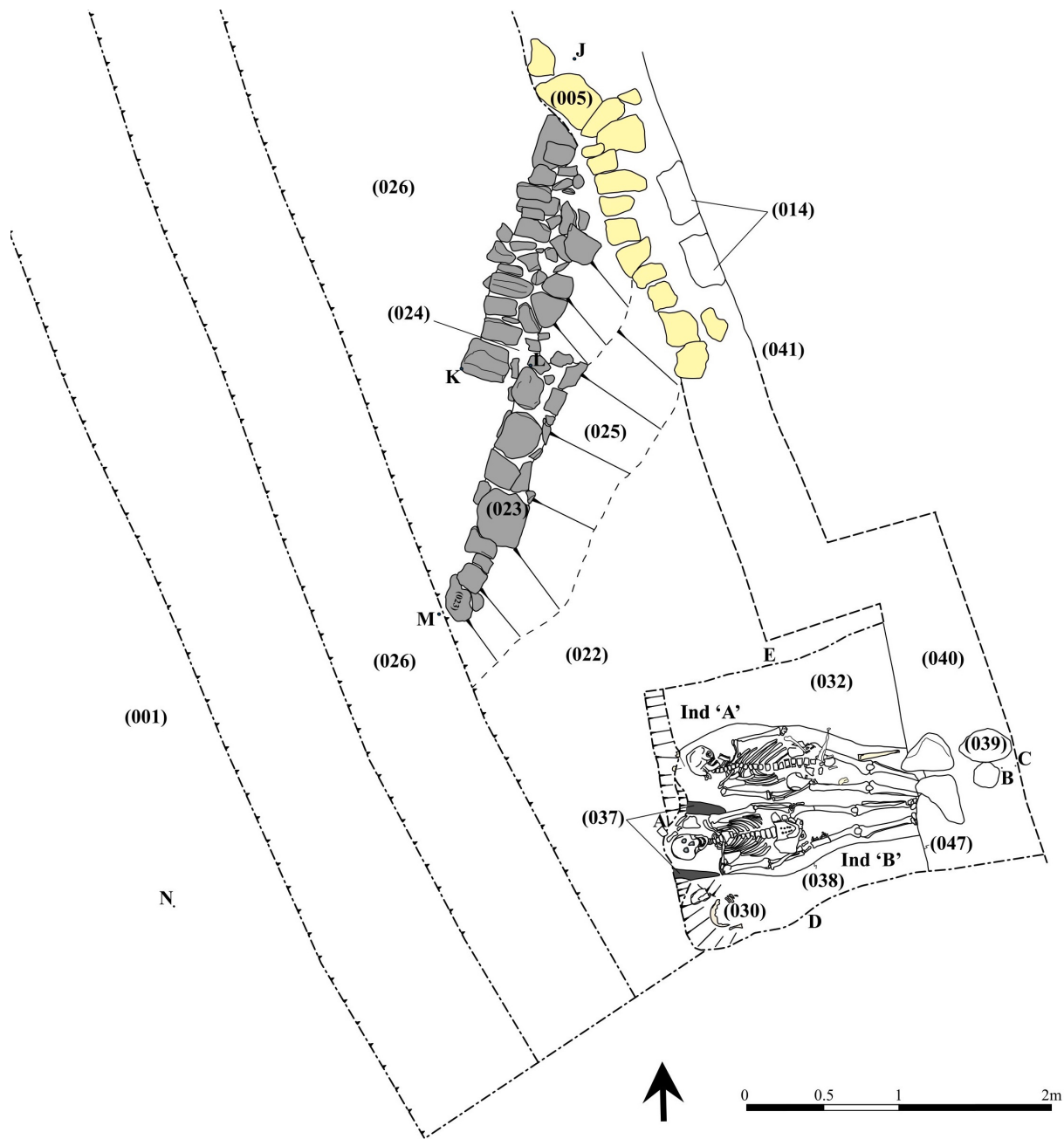
The upper deposit/topsoil layer in this section consisted of a mixed hard-core/gravel, C001, which continued across the whole top of the ‘rampart’. The hard-core and gravel continued to a depth of up to 0.25m, where it was found to overlie a mixed, orange-brown silty loam, C027, that contained fragments of disarticulated animal bone, and represented an infill/topsoil layer that continued to a depth of up to 0.1m. On removal of C027, a mixed, orange silty clay with large stone inclusions, C022, was revealed in the southern three quarters of the trench. This mixed deposit was poorly sorted, and contained large dumps of stones, midden material, and a high concentration of broken, disarticulated bones (both human and animal). The deposit continued to the

eastern extent of the trench (behind the ‘rampart’ wall/steps), and continued to both the south and west beyond the limits of excavation. The deposit was not fully removed at the western extent of the trench as the trench was subject to stepping for safety. Towards the eastern half and northern end of the trench the deposit was removed entirely to reveal the top of a drystone wall, C023, running on a north-east to south-west orientation, at a depth of 0.6m from the top of the ‘rampart’. The wall was constructed from rough stones and cobbles and had no formal bonding material. The wall measured 3.4m long, continued to the south-west beyond the limits of excavation, and was cut by the ‘rampart’ wall C014/005 at its eastern end (Illus 7). It survived to a visible depth of two courses and 0.25m, with no visible evidence of wall foundations or a foundation cut.

On removal of C022 to both the east and west of wall C023 a rich, soft, grey-brown sandy silt deposit was identified, with the upper level of this deposit sloping away significantly to the east of wall C023. The nature of the deposit, and the natural slope identified to the east, coupled with the construction technique of wall C023 suggests that the wall was built around the break of a natural slope and possibly formed a small terrace, or boundary wall. An accumulation of slopewash, C026, had built up behind (to the west of) wall C023 and continued beyond the trench extents both to the west and the



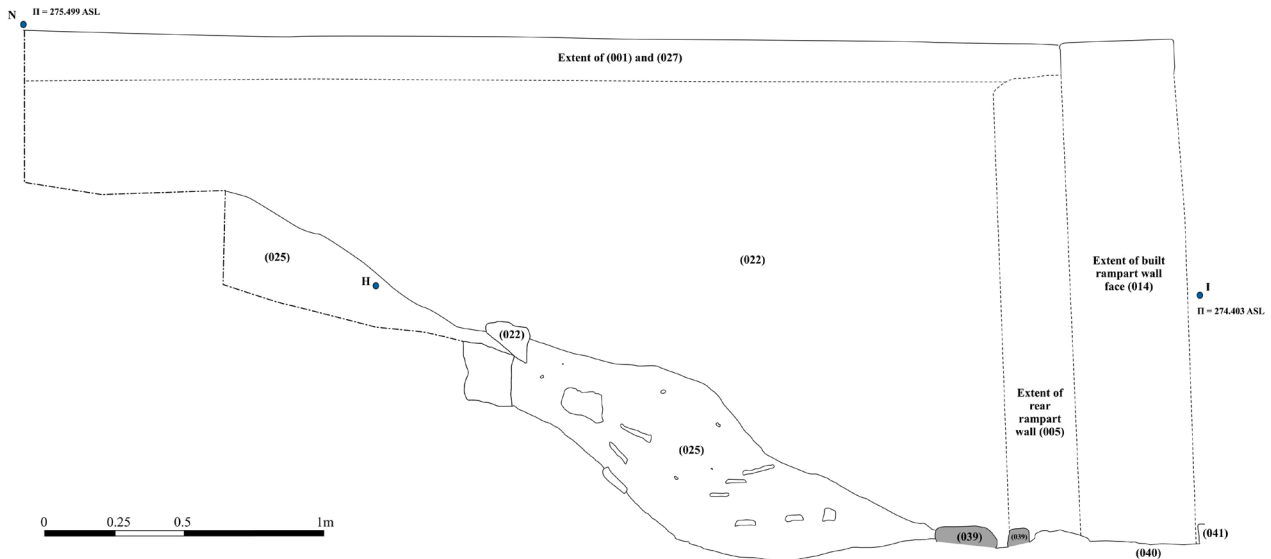
**Illus 6** Section 1 location and Excavation Areas (Image by Heritage and Archaeological Research Practice)



**Illus 7** Plan of excavated remains in Section 1 (Image by Heritage and Archaeological Research Practice)

north. This slopewash was only partially excavated due to the appropriate step depth for the trench having been achieved at this location, but the limited excavation revealed that C026 was a very soft, finely sorted sandy silt that contained a very high proportion of disarticulated animal bone fragments and midden material, suggesting a midden deposit or dumping ground behind the wall.

Excavation of the trench continued to the east of wall C023 through deposit C025, which continued to a depth of up to 0.65m and sloped significantly to the east (Illus 8). The deposit was found to be very similar in nature to C026, and consisted of a rich, soft, grey sandy silt, with occasional inclusions of small fragments of yellow sandstone and fragments of disarticulated animal bone and human bone.



**Illus 8** Cross section of original ground surface and deposit (025) in Section 1 (Image by Heritage and Archaeological Research Practice)

Excavation at this location was affected by very bad weather, with a lot of surface water and runoff through the soft silty deposits, with C025 in particular acting as a conduit for water runoff. As C025 was removed, the articulated remains of two intact human burials, C028 and C029, were revealed at a depth of approximately 1.95m from ground level at the top of the ‘rampart’ (Illus 7 and 9). The discovery of the skeletal remains required a redesign of the works outlined above.

Both skeletons were positioned on their backs, lying east-west with heads to the west and hands positioned beneath the hips. The two bodies were lying adjacent to each other with C028 (Individual ‘A’) located to the north, and C029 (Individual ‘B’) located to the south. No distinct grave goods were found buried with either individual, however three small fragments of a horseshoe key (SF10) were found clasped in the left hand of Individual ‘B’. The position and close proximity of the remains suggest that both individuals were interred at the same time, and it was only possible to identify evidence of one grave cut, C038, that surrounded both individuals. The grave cut was only clearly distinguishable in deposit C032, an unexcavated, orange-brown sandy silt revealed below C025. The base of grave cut C038 had very shallow sloping sides and a concave base, with the limits of the grave cut extending just beyond the extent of the



**Illus 9** Photograph showing Individuals ‘A’ and ‘B’ (Image by Heritage and Archaeological Research Practice)

two individuals and measuring a minimum of 1.7m long and 0.9m wide. The two individuals were surrounded by soft, orange-brown sandy silts, C033 and C034, however, whilst separate contexts were ascribed for artefact and bone retrieval, it is likely that these contexts represent the same deposit of grave fill surrounding both individuals. The grave fills were very similar to, and very difficult to distinguish from, deposit C025, with no visible grave cut identifiable in C025, suggesting that the grave was excavated and filled back in with the same material shortly after. The nature of the deposit, and the extent of water runoff through the deposit, may also have impacted the visibility of grave cuts, with water action potentially obscuring the grave cut in C025. At the western end of the grave, and beneath the head and shoulders of Individual 'B', the partial remains of three, yellow, cut sandstone blocks, C037, were identified, forming the eastern end of a stone-lined feature that continued beyond the grave cut (and limits of excavation) to the west. The stones were aligned ESE to WNW, with a returning stone identified beneath Individual 'B' at the eastern end of the east-west aligned stones. The

stones did not align with Individual 'B', however the skull of Individual 'B' was placed between two of the sandstone blocks, with the left shoulder partially resting on the northern of the blocks.

Two extra tibiae were found within the grave fill, with one positioned to the north of the left tibia of Individual 'A', and one located between the right tibia of Individual 'A' and the left tibia of Individual 'B'; at the western end of grave cut C038 above the head of Individual 'A', the distal ends of two femora C031 were identified, along with three displaced foot bones, suggesting that grave C038 cut through and disturbed an earlier grave. The displaced foot bones, and extra tibiae were retrieved from the grave, however, the identified femora were left in situ, with the remainder of the disturbed grave likely intact, and extending to the west beneath the existing 'rampart' structure. These remains were classified as C031 (Individual 'D').

The eastern end of grave C038, along with the lower legs and feet of both individuals 'A' and 'B', had been subsequently damaged and cut through during the construction of the 'rampart' wall and steps (Illus 10). The visible, linear foundation cut



**Illus 10** Damage to lower limbs from 'rampart' construction (Image by Heritage and Archaeological Research Practice)

for the 'rampart' wall, C047, was found to have cut through the distal ends of the tibiae of Individual 'A', with the lower portion removed along with their feet. The feet of Individual 'B' had also been disturbed and partially crushed/covered over by 'rampart' wall foundation stones, C039, and matrix, C040. The wall foundation cut and foundation stones were traced for 3.6m in this area of the repair works, with the foundation cut extending to up to 0.65m wide, and bounded on the east by modern tarmac/pavement. The depth of the foundation cut was not revealed as the rounded boulders forming the foundation stones of the 'rampart' walls were left in situ to provide a solid base for the new 'rampart' wall to be built on.

Adjacent to the south of grave C038, at its western end, the disarticulated remains of a potential third individual, C030 (Individual 'C'), were identified, in a mixed orange-brown sandy clay, C035, forming the fill of a potential grave cut, C048. As with C038, cut C048 was ephemeral and only partially distinguishable in deposit C032, with no visible cut in the overlying C025. Whilst initially identified as Individual 'C', the bones were a mix of both infant and sub-adult, suggesting a collection of re-deposited bones.

### 3.2.2 Section 2A

Section 2a ran from the northern end of the former double access steps in Section 1, to the recessed lamppost at Section 3. In Section 2a only the copestones and upper courses of the 'rampart' retaining wall, C014, and associated backing wall, C005, were removed, to a depth of 0.8m from the ground level at the top of the 'rampart'. The removal of the facing stones revealed the backing wall to be constructed from rough, drystone cobbles and boulders with no formal bonding material but occasional patches of a friable, pink and orange sand and gravel mortar, C018. This mortar material was sporadically spread throughout Section 2a, and likely formed a rough bonding agent for the smaller, upper layers of backing wall prior to the construction of the mortared wall face.

A series of kerbstones, C006, used as borders for shrub beds were identified along the length of Section 2a. The shrub beds contained a mixed, mid-brown silty loam topsoil, C021. The kerbstones

were set into a mixed grey concrete, C020, that survived to a depth of up to 0.3m.

### 3.2.3 Section 2B

Section 2b ran from the northern edge of the recessed lamppost at Section 3, to approximately 5m south of the south end of the former access steps in Section 4. As with Section 2a, only the copestones and upper courses of the 'rampart' retaining wall and associated backing wall were removed, to a depth of 0.8m from the ground level at the top of the 'rampart'. The removal of the facing stones revealed the construction and preservation of backing wall to be consistent with that revealed in Section 2a, with sporadic patches of mortar, C018. As with Section 2a, kerbstones continued along the entirety of this section and bounded the heavily root disturbed topsoil infill, C021, which was partially removed to provide a suitable working space for the new backing wall and wall repair works.

### 3.2.4 Section 3

Section 3 was located between Section 2a and Section 2b, with the 'rampart' wall curving inwards in a semi-circular fashion in order to accommodate a lamppost. The 'rampart' wall face was removed in its entirety in this section to reveal a drystone backing wall, C005, constructed from much larger boulders than in other sections. The nature of the boulders and the lack of bonding material meant that on removal of the wall face, the backing wall was not stable enough to remain standing, and thus slumped or fell away. Prior to wall slumping or collapse, the same profile of deposits in sections 2a and 2b were identified. After the removal of the backing wall down to ground level, a small trench was hand excavated into the recess, following the existing curvature of the 'rampart' wall, to provide a safe working space to rebuild the backing wall and wall face of the 'rampart' walls. This process removed all remnants of the backing wall and revealed a soil profile consisting of 0.15m of shrubby topsoil, C021, overlying two distinct deposits, with remains of a mixed, orange clay silt with stone inclusions, C003/022, that represented the same dumping deposit identified in Section 1. This deposit continued to a depth of 0.5m and

both overlay and abutted a dark brown clay silt identified as C013, which continued to a depth of 0.8m and contained small fragments of animal bone. Deposit C013 was found to overlie a well-sorted, homogenous, grey-brown clay silt, C004, which appears to represent a natural accumulation of soil, possibly a hill or slope wash. The base of this deposit was not reached during the excavation works, and the deposit continued beyond the limits of excavation.

### 3.2.5 Section 4

Section 4 ran from the south side of the former single set of access steps, to the south edge of the former ladies' toilet block. As with Section 3, the 'rampart'/retaining wall (including the backing wall) was removed to ground level at this location, with the access steps also removed. On removal of the concrete steps and gravel/hard-core, C001, a thin layer of yellow sandstone capping C044 was found to seal the top of the backing material for the steps, continuing the length of the staircase, and consisting of one course, 0.05m thick. This overlay a mixed concrete and mortar material, C046, with occasional rough pieces of sandstone poking through. This mixed mortar deposit was up to 0.3m thick and overlay a more distinct layer of rough-cut stone coursing forming the backing wall material behind the steps. This backing material had however been bonded by rough grey concrete, C043, that was evident throughout the remainder of the backing wall behind the staircase. The nature of these deposits and bonding material, along with the concrete steps, suggests that this staircase had been a more recent addition to the 'rampart' and did not represent an original feature.

To the north of the former staircase the removal of facing wall revealed a similar nature to backing wall C005, as had been seen in Section 2a and 2b with patches of a pink and orange sand and gravel mortar, C042, sporadically bonding the backing wall material, in a similar fashion to C018.

On removal of the backing wall material the soil profile was found to be the same as that uncovered in Section 3, with up to 0.18m of hard-core and gravel overlying a mixed, dark brown clay silt with stone inclusions, C013, which also contained a corroded metal fitting, and small fragments of disarticulated

animal and human bone. The deposit represented a dumping episode up to 0.95m thick, and overlay a grey-brown homogenous silt, C004, with very occasional stone inclusions, up to 0.65m thick. The bottom of this deposit was not reached during excavation works, and continued west, beyond the limits of excavation, into the 'rampart'.

### 3.2.6 Section 5

Section 5 consisted of the former ladies' toilet blocks, which had been sealed up with sandstone blockwork after closure. Once the entrance had been cut through and became accessible, it was evident that there were no remnants of backing wall C005 in Section 5. The toilet block was a brick-built structure abutting the rear of facing wall C014, with a complete removal of all backing wall, 'rampart' soils (and earlier soils) at the time of the construction of the toilets. There was no visible evidence for the facing wall having been dismantled and rebuilt along the length of the front of the toilet block suggesting that space required for the toilet block had been excavated out from behind the 'rampart' facing wall prior to construction of the brick building. The brickwork for the toilet block in contact with the 'rampart' soils was not removed, however, and so it was not possible to confirm this.

### 3.2.7 Section 6

Section 6 was located between the north end of the former ladies' toilet block, and the south end of the former gents' toilet block, and incorporated the small cellar to the south of the former gents' toilet block. The wall face and backing wall were to be removed entirely to ground level through Section 6, with a small trench excavated to the rear of the backing wall in order to provide adequate working space to rebuild the wall.

The removal of wall face C014 revealed the backing wall, C005, to be similarly constructed to that found in Sections 2 and 4, with sporadic patches of a pinkish sandy gravel mortar, C056, bonding portions of the backing wall. On the removal of the backing wall the soil profile behind showed similarities to the soil profile identified in Section 3 and Section 4, with modern deposits of hard-core and gravel overlying occasional patches of

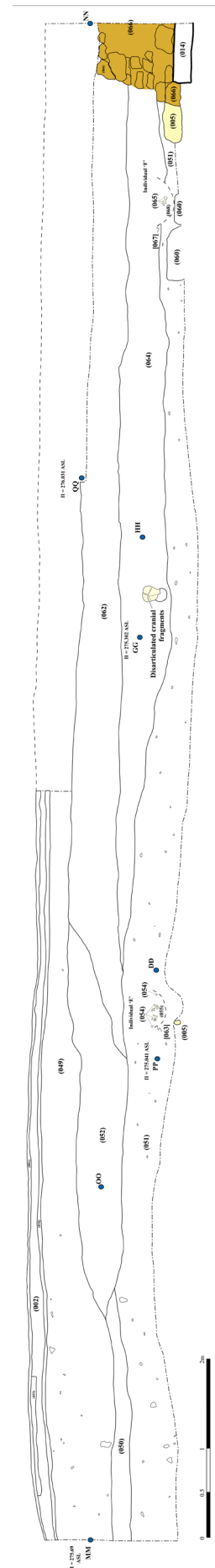


tarmac. Beneath these deposits a mid-greyish brown clay with stone and gravel inclusions, C049, was found to continue along the length of Section 6, with a thickness of up to 0.75m. The deposit was similar in nature to C013 identified in Sections 3 and 4, and contained 19th century debris including fragments of glass and clay pipe stems.

C049 probably represents a dumping or infilling episode, and contains fragments of disarticulated human and animal bone, as well as fragments of bottle glass, pottery sherds, and clay pipe stems. The deposit overlay a wedge of orange sand, C052, that extended for a length of 4m, with a thickness of up to 0.5m. C052 displayed a southerly facing tip line, suggesting the material had been dumped, and overlay a mixed orange-brown sandy silt with gravel and stone inclusions, C062, which continued for a length of 11m north to the southern edge of the cellar, and was up to 0.5m thick. The poorly sorted nature of C062 suggests that this was also a dumped deposit.

On the removal of the backing wall to reveal these deposits it was apparent that the soil behind the retaining wall was very soft and wet, and at risk of slump or collapse. As such, once recorded, the upper deposits identified as dumped layers were partially battered and sloped backwards to the top of the ‘rampart’ in all areas where potential slumping was identified prior to further removal of the lower portion of the backing wall.

The removal of the lower half of backing wall revealed a soft, greyish-brown sandy silt underlying all of the dumped deposits described above. The deposit did not cover the entire length of Section 6, but was partially split by dump C052. As such, two separate context numbers were ascribed, with C050 underlying and located to the south of C052, measuring 3m long and up to 0.25m thick. To the north of, and beneath both C052 and C062, the greyish brown silt was recorded as C064 and continued for the remaining length of 10m to the south side of the cellar, and surviving to a thickness of up to 0.45m. Whilst recorded as different contexts, the similar nature suggests that they were likely the same event, with a very well sorted sandy silt suggesting a natural accumulation of hill wash or slope wash; the nature of the deposit was very similar to C025 identified in Section 1, being very soft in nature and showing evidence of



Illus 11 North-east facing section showing remains uncovered in Section 6 (Image by Heritage and Archaeological Research Practice)

being affected by water retention and runoff. The deposit however was not completely undisturbed, with occasional fragments of disarticulated human skeletal material, and evidence of root disturbance.

This deposit of likely hill wash overlay an orange-brown gravelly clay with stone inclusions, C051, which was identified along the entirety of Section 6 up to the southern edge of the cellar. The base of this deposit was not identified, continuing beyond the depth of the required excavation for the repair works, with a thickness of up to 0.65m identified. Approximately 6m from the south end of Section 6, the removal of the lower half of backing wall uncovered the heavily disturbed remains of a formerly intact human burial, C054 (Individual 'E'). Due to the softer nature of soil deposits, it was apparent that the weight of the backing wall material had partially crushed the remains in the abdominal region, however it was also apparent that the lower half of the skeleton had also been previously removed, with no remains below the pelvis in situ. As in Section 1, the original construction of the 'rampart' wall had clearly cut through part of an intact burial. The soil surrounding the skeletal remains, C054, was an orange-brown silty clay, with occasional stone inclusions, C055, and very similar in nature to the surrounding C051. An ephemeral cut for the grave, C063, was identified in the section below the identified remains, but had likely been disturbed by the weight of the backing wall material. On discovery of the skeletal remains, following consultation with HES, the disturbed portions of the remains were retrieved, whilst the intact remains (approximately from the shoulder up) identified as continuing west into the undisturbed section of the 'rampart', were left in situ.

The foundation stones, C060, of the 'rampart', and surrounding mortar bonding, C061, were revealed in Section 6, and were similar in style and construction to C039 and C040 revealed in Section 1. The nature of disturbance to skeletal remains C054 and the height of these remains above the foundation level for the wall indicates that the deposits and ground slope prior to 'rampart' construction were at a higher level at this section in comparison to Section 1 where only the foundation trench appeared to cut through existing soils before 'rampart' construction. In Section 6 it appears that a larger amount of soil was cut away to construct

the 'rampart', with more 'original', or pre-existing soil retained behind the newly constructed wall, resulting in less dumped material directly behind the 'rampart' wall than in Section 1. The profile of the backing wall material showed the rear side to not be vertical, but displayed a slight lean to the west towards the top, which would also be consistent with cutting and removing a greater amount of material, and maintaining stability prior to the construction of the wall as a more vertical cut through existing soils may have resulted in collapse or slump. The 'rampart' wall cut, C059, in Section 6 was linear on an approximate north-south orientation, and was found to have cut through deposits C050, C051, and C064 to a minimum depth of 0.65m. The full depth of the 'rampart' wall cut was, however, not revealed, as the uncovered foundation stones were not removed to reveal the bottom of the foundation trench.

Located 1.5m to the south of the southern side of the cellar, further skeletal remains were identified on removal of backing wall C005. The disturbed, distal ends of two tibiae and a fibula, C065 (Individual 'F'), were identified in the soil profile, approximately 0.1m above the top of the foundation stones of the 'rampart' wall. No in situ feet bones were identified, and as was evident with Individual 'A' and Individual 'B' in Section 1, and Individual 'E' in Section 6, the original construction of the 'rampart' wall had cut through an intact human burial. The soil, C068, surrounding Individual 'F' was very similar in nature to the overlying C064. A shallow, concave grave cut, C067, was identifiable as having cut into C051, however, the grave cut could not be traced into the above deposit, C064, which showed very similar characteristics to the nature of C025 and C038 for Individuals 'A' and 'B', and the lack of a visible grave cut for Individual 'D' in Section 1. As with C025 in Section 1, water action through C064 may have affected the visibility of the grave cut, potentially obscuring it. The remains of Individual 'F' were left in situ.

On discovery of the human skeletal remains in Section 6, and following discussion with HES, an on-site revision to wall removal was sought in order to minimise the potential disturbance of further intact skeletal material behind the 'rampart' backing wall. Where solid foundations of the original 'rampart' wall were revealed they were not removed; rather

they were kept in situ to provide a solid working base for the wall rebuild. Further, adjacent to the south of the cellar, portions of the lower backing wall were retained to limit disturbance to the soil deposits behind the wall. The backing wall to the north of the cellar was also not removed, with only the facing stones removed to be rebuilt and strengthened.

### 3.3 Discussion

#### 3.3.1 Standing building recording

Results of the SBR indicated that both sets of recessed steps appear to be later additions to the 'rampart' walls, in particular the single access steps, C103, showed evidence (concrete mortar bonding and concrete steps) of being later than the double staircase, C101 and C102.

There is no evidence in the 'rampart' wall to suggest that the construction of the former ladies' toilet block included the removal of a large portion of the 'rampart' wall face (other than to create an entrance), suggesting that the former ladies' toilet block was built into a space excavated behind the existing 'rampart' wall face at the time. Whilst this would have resulted in the removal of a large amount of soil from behind the wall, the current works found no evidence for this material having been re-deposited on the 'rampart', suggesting that the material may have been removed and dumped off site. Once the toilets fell out of use, the entrance was subsequently blocked by grey sandstone block work, C106, similar in style and form to the 'rampart' wall face. The interior of the former ladies' toilet block contained no significant features, with all fixtures and fittings identified dating to the 20th century; this appears to tie into the mapping evidence indicating that the ladies' toilet block was a modern feature and was not constructed until after 1964. The space for the former ladies' toilet block has now been used to house the double access steps to the top of the 'rampart' (see Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.6 below).

The cellar also contained no significant features, but consisted of a small, square room with a rendered, likely barrel-vaulted ceiling. A date for construction of the cellar could not be identified, however, the cellar is to be retained and has not been affected by the repair works.

#### 3.3.2 Watching brief Section 1

Section 1 was subject to the largest area of excavation works due to the space required to replace and rebuild the double access steps located there. Removal of modern overburden deposits from the 'rampart' behind the double access steps revealed a series of clearly disturbed deposits, including C022, which was very poorly sorted and contained a large amount of fragmentary and disarticulated human and animal skeletal material. The nature of C022 suggests that it had been excavated from elsewhere (potentially from ground to the east of the 'rampart') and deposited on top of existing soils and deposits during the construction of the 'rampart'. On its removal a number of intact archaeological deposits were identified, including the remains of a small drystone wall with a rich hill wash or slope wash deposit behind it, containing a large proportion of disarticulated animal bones, suggestive of midden material. Wall C023 followed the existing contours of the deposits, with the ground clearly sloping away to the south and east, suggesting that prior to the dumping of C022 and the construction of the 'rampart', the ground surface had sloped away from the abbey to the south and east. Wall C023 potentially represents a small terrace or boundary wall, built along the natural contours of the pre-existing landscape. This wall was subsequently cut through and covered over during construction of the 'rampart'.

Located to the east of C023, C025 was a homogenous, fine-grained sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions, suggesting a natural accumulation of hill wash or slope wash. On its removal the intact remains of two skeletons were revealed, with their grave cut only visible in the lower deposit, C032. The two burials were positioned on their backs in a west to east orientation, with excavation indicating that they were interred at the same time, with body positioning (particularly shoulder position) suggesting that they were likely shrouded at burial. The act of grave cutting for these two bodies disturbed the earlier grave of C031 (Individual 'D'), cutting through this earlier burial at the knees. The resting position of Individual 'D' was found to be at a slightly higher level than Individual 'A' (approximately 0.2m to 0.3m higher) with the exposed femoral ends of Individual 'D' sitting

above and to the rear of the skull of Individual 'A'. The disturbed tibiae of Individual 'D' were likely reburied with Individuals 'A' and 'B' as two extra tibiae were discovered adjacent to the lower legs of these individuals during excavation. On investigation of grave cut C038 and the surrounding deposit, C025, it was not possible to distinguish a grave cut through deposit C025 for Individual 'D', with water action and disturbance through deposit C025 potentially obscuring any grave cuts.

During excavation of Individual 'B', the skull and shoulders were found to be partially positioned within the bounds of an earlier stone-lined feature, with cut yellow sandstone blocks, C037, found below the shoulders and neck of the body. These stones did not appear to encase the head as they were on a slightly different alignment, but may represent an earlier, stone-lined feature that was incorporated into the grave cut for Individuals 'A' and 'B', possibly representing the eastern end of an earlier cist grave, however, there was not enough of the feature uncovered to prove conclusive.

The eastern end of grave C038, and as a result, the lower limbs and feet of both Individual 'A' and Individual 'B' were found to have been disturbed and cut through by the foundation cut for the construction of the 'rampart' wall, with both tibiae of Individual 'A' being cut through completely, and the feet of the individual removed. Whilst the tibiae of Individual 'B' were not cut through, the feet were disturbed by the construction of the wall foundations, and not fully intact.

Adjacent to the south of grave C038 further human remains identified as Individual 'C' were revealed. Initially thought to be an infant burial, it was discovered to be a mixture of disarticulated infant and non-adult remains that were likely re-deposited, and potentially disturbed during the grave cutting for grave C038. The sequence of events and nature of the soils therefore suggest a natural accumulation of hill wash deposits forming the soils for the abbey graveyard, that were subsequently cut into on numerous occasions, with each act of grave cutting having the potential to disturb earlier graves. The homogenous nature of C025, and lack of visible grave cuts within this hill wash deposit also suggests that each grave was filled in shortly after interment, using the same soil that had been excavated to create the grave. The presence of fragments of

small amounts of disarticulated human and animal remains within this hill wash, or graveyard soil, also highlights the potential continuous disturbed nature of the deposit. This hill wash deposit appears to have formed the natural slope of the landscape, which was terraced or bounded by wall C023 in an attempt to either create a boundary or limit erosion of the slope wash deposits. The construction of wall C023 also appears to have created a suitable area for midden material to be dumped or accumulate behind.

At the time of the construction of the 'rampart', this natural sloping landscape (that had potentially been eroding to the east of wall C023) was partially cut through to create a foundation trench for the 'rampart' wall, prior to the dumping of excavated material to raise the ground level. The construction of the 'rampart' wall retained this dumped material and created a formalised, elevated walkway to the east of the abbey and its graveyard.

### 3.3.3 Watching brief Section 2a and Section 2b

Section 2a and Section 2b had the least intrusive works carried out, with only the upper courses of the 'rampart' retaining walls removed to be repaired. The backing wall was found to have been of the same construction as had been identified in the earlier test-pitting works, with a rubble drystone construction, however, it was now found to also contain sporadic patches of rough mortar bonding material. The soil profile behind the exposed backing wall in both Section 2a and Section 2b had been part of more modern shrub bedding, with heavily root disturbed topsoil identified. As such the nature of 'rampart' construction, and the soil profile behind the 'rampart' retaining wall was not revealed in these sections of works, with little to be added to the narrative of the 'rampart' in these sections.

### 3.3.4 Watching brief Section 3

Section 3 was subject to a full wall removal of both the facing wall and backing wall material. The nature of construction of the backing wall was revealed to consist of larger boulders, again of drystone construction, that had little to no structural integrity once the facing wall had been removed. Due to the removal of the facing wall and backing

wall in their entirety at Section 3 a full soil profile of the 'rampart' was revealed, indicating a similar formation of contexts as had been identified in Section 1, with an upper layer of dumped or in-filled soils overlying a homogenous, naturally accumulated hill wash. These deposits were the same as had been identified during the test-pitting phase, and C003 was very similar in form and nature to C022 in Section 1, suggesting that they were likely part of the same activity or event. Whilst no artefactual remains were retrieved in Section 3 the revealed soil profile indicates that a natural accumulation of soils was likely cut through prior to the dumping of mixed soils and the construction of walls C005/014 to retain them. The lack of structural integrity to backing wall C005 suggests that the construction of both walls may have occurred simultaneously, not as separate phases as previously postulated, with the drystone backing wall built and pressed into the soil profile to a certain height before the construction of the wall face to the same height, before the process was started again until the desired wall height was reached.

### 3.3.5 Watching brief Section 4

As with Section 3, a large part of Section 4 was subject to full removal of both the facing wall and backing wall, as well as the removal of a former single set of access steps located to the south of the former ladies' toilet block. On removal of the steps the construction makeup behind indicated a large amount of concrete mortar surrounding rough cut sandstone blocks, and capped by a layer of thin, small, flat yellow sandstone slabs, with no evidence of the drystone backing wall, C005. The lack of drystone backing wall, the concrete mortar bonding of the sandstone backing material, and the concrete steps at the face of the staircase suggests that this single set of stairs was either a later addition into the 'rampart' (although it is mapped on the OS Town Plan of 1858), or had been subject to later repair works after initial construction.

The full removal to ground level of both the facing wall and backing wall material in Section 4 corroborated the soil profile identified in Section 3, with evidence of dumped soil underlying modern overburden, and overlying hill wash deposit. This soil profile continued north to the south side of

the former ladies' toilet block in Section 5, and it is possible to assume that the soil profile would likely continue to the south (behind the remaining 'rampart' wall in Section 2b) to meet Section 3.

### 3.3.6 Watching brief Section 5

Section 5 contained the former ladies' toilet block, and once access had been achieved it was discovered that there was no evidence of the drystone backing wall left in situ at this location, with the brick-built walls of the toilet block abutting the western face of the 'rampart' facing wall. The wall face did not display any evidence of being cut into in order to build the toilet block, and it is likely therefore that the space behind the wall face was excavated out from above, with the toilet block built into the space. The only breaking through of the wall face will have occurred with the construction/insertion of the entranceway C106 into the toilet block, and the insertion of air vents, C108, into the upper courses of the 'rampart' wall face. The fixtures and fittings, and mapping evidence, all indicate that the former ladies' toilet block was a modern addition to the 'rampart', inserted some time after 1964.

### 3.3.7 Watching brief Section 6

As with Section 3 and Section 4, Section 6 required a complete removal of both its facing wall and backing wall. This section of 'rampart' wall displayed signs of significant failure, with visible cracks to the wall mortar, and possible bowing to the wall face. On removal of the wall face and upper backing wall, it became apparent that the nature of the deposits was at risk of slumping without the retaining wall in place. The deposits were evidently softer than those further south, and were also retaining more water (however this may be a result of the works being carried out in November and December in Section 6, compared to August and September in Sections 1 through 4). With the removal of the upper half of the wall face and backing wall, a similar soil profile to Section 3 and Section 4 was revealed, with modern overburden deposits overlying a mixed dumped deposit, which contained evidence of 19th century debris including fragments of glass bottles and clay pipe stems. A two-penny piece dating to between 1642 and 1650 was also found, indicating

that the accumulation of this material did not occur before that time. The evidence suggests therefore that C049 was a dumped deposit, and was found to overlay two further dumped deposits, with tip lines of all of these deposits indicating that they had been dumped, or cast, from the north or north-east. The dumping of these deposits likely ties into the construction phase of the 'rampart' and the building of the 'rampart' wall, and along with C022 in Section 1 and C013 in Section 3 and Section 4, represent the dumped deposits to raise the ground level during construction of the 'rampart'.

The removal of the backing wall to ground level revealed a series of intact deposits in the soil profile below 'rampart' construction material. C050 and C064 represent a similar hill wash to C025 in Section 1. These hill wash accumulations appear to represent the original graveyard soils that were subsequently repeatedly cut into. No grave cuts were clearly visible through this deposit, which displayed a homogenous, fine-grained form indicative of a natural accumulation of soils over an extended period of time, and likely heavily affected by water action. Beneath these soils the discovery of two disturbed graves indicates that, as in Section 1, the original construction of the 'rampart' has cut through and disturbed intact remains likely associated with the earlier abbey graveyard. Individual 'E' was discovered in the removal of backing wall material that had, over time, crushed the abdominal area of the body, with the 'rampart' construction and wall cut having cut through and removed the lower half of the skeleton. The remains of a further body, Individual 'F', were identified to the south of the cellar, with only the distal ends of two tibiae and a fibula visible in the soil profile where the 'rampart' wall cut had cut through the ankles of this individual. The grave cuts for these two individuals were cut into deposit C051, which appears similar in nature to C032 in Section 1, and

may represent the same iron rich deposit that the graveyard soils overlay. Both individuals were found between 275.2m and 275.1m ASL (compared to 273.65m and 273.55m ASL for Individual 'D', and Individuals 'A' and 'B' respectively) indicating that the original ground levels prior to the construction of the 'rampart' also sloped away to the south-east, as is still the case today.

On removal of the backing wall material, it was also evident that the western face of backing wall C005 displayed a lean to the west towards its upper courses; this suggests that the cut for the wall through existing soils was fairly consistent, and on a relatively steep angle, with the backing wall material, C005, built up against the exposed face of the cut deposits before being built up against or pressed into the sloping face of the dumped deposits used to raise the ground level and construct the 'rampart'. This construction technique is also corroborated by the collapse and slumping of some portions of the backing wall following removal of wall face C014, as the backing wall material alone was not structurally sound enough to retain the 'rampart', indicating that the wall face was not a formalisation of an existing retaining or boundary wall, but that walls C005 and C014 were part of the same phase of construction works.

Whilst the removal of the wall face surrounding the cellar revealed portions of its southern wall, and suggested a barrel-vaulted ceiling, there was no direct evidence to indicate when the cellar had been constructed. The fact that the wall backing material continued up to the southern wall of the cellar with no clear evidence of having been cut through, coupled with no evidence of a visible cut through the 'rampart' construction soil, C049, to the south side of the cellar, suggests that the cellar may have been part of the original construction phase of the 'rampart'.