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## 8 CONCLUSION

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The recent work in Musselburgh has demonstrated the survival of archaeological deposits relating to existing sites, Scheduled areas and the historic burgh core. In general, extant horizons appear to match closely with known areas of Roman and medieval settlement, but have been damaged in places by the creation of modern roads and services. Areas of particular sensitivity are the High Street, North High Street, Newbigging and Inveresk Brae.

It cannot be denied that, had archaeological monitoring of the water mains renewal commenced sooner in Musselburgh, the data would be far superior. As the data from Musselburgh stand, generalisations given here on the development of the medieval burgh should be taken as models open to further testing.

As archaeological deposits are difficult to interpret in section in narrow slot-trenches, finds distributions are probably the most valuable information that can be obtained from pipeline monitoring and the retrieval of securely stratified finds of all periods must be the main priority for further work of this nature in Musselburgh, and in other historic burghs where similar sedimentary sequences are predicted.

A final point to make is that permitted developments such as water mains renewal can have large cumulative impacts upon archaeological remains. In Musselburgh, the disturbance by existing services of this finite resource is already severe. Priority should be given to ensuring that work within the roadways of historic burghs is rigorously controlled.