
2 INTRODUCTION

The Tron Kirk, a Listed Building (Listing Number 27552), occupies a prominent position on the High Street, lying within the medieval limits of the burgh (illus 1). Since its partial dereliction in the 1950s, the building has been subject to a series of archaeological investigations (for example Lawson 1996; Kirby 2003), the most comprehensive being the 1974 and 1983 excavations undertaken by Mr Nicholas Holmes, of the City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service, in advance of a proposed programme of redevelopment (Holmes 1975; 1986). These identified the post-medieval remains of Marlin's Wynd, the remnants of a series of tenement cellars and various internal architectural features including

internal drains, door jambs and springs, aumbries, fireplaces and decorative plasterwork.

The 1974 excavation was restricted by engineering constraints which required certain areas to be left unexcavated; these unexcavated areas comprised the periphery of the kirk where the wall foundations stood, and the foundations for the cast-iron gallery columns (see Holmes 1975, Fig. 2). The subsequent decision to display the significant historic remains of Marlin's Wynd and associated tenements led to a second phase of works in 1983 which involved further works comprising the removal of material underlying the gallery (Holmes 1986, 297).

In 2005 new proposals by the City of Edinburgh



Illus 1 Location map of the Tron Kirk

Council were drawn up to conserve both the kirk and its underlying archaeological remains and provide a new historic visitor attraction and restaurant. The programme of works comprised the re-excavation of earlier excavation trenches, the excavation of the peripheral areas and a 3D survey of the interior of the Tron Kirk (to be used in future interpretation boards

and for architectural purposes). The project also offered the opportunity to reinterpret the artefact assemblages recovered from the earlier excavations in the light of more recent research. Documentary research was undertaken into the history of the site prior to its demolition in the 1630s, considering the occupants of the street and their role in society.