

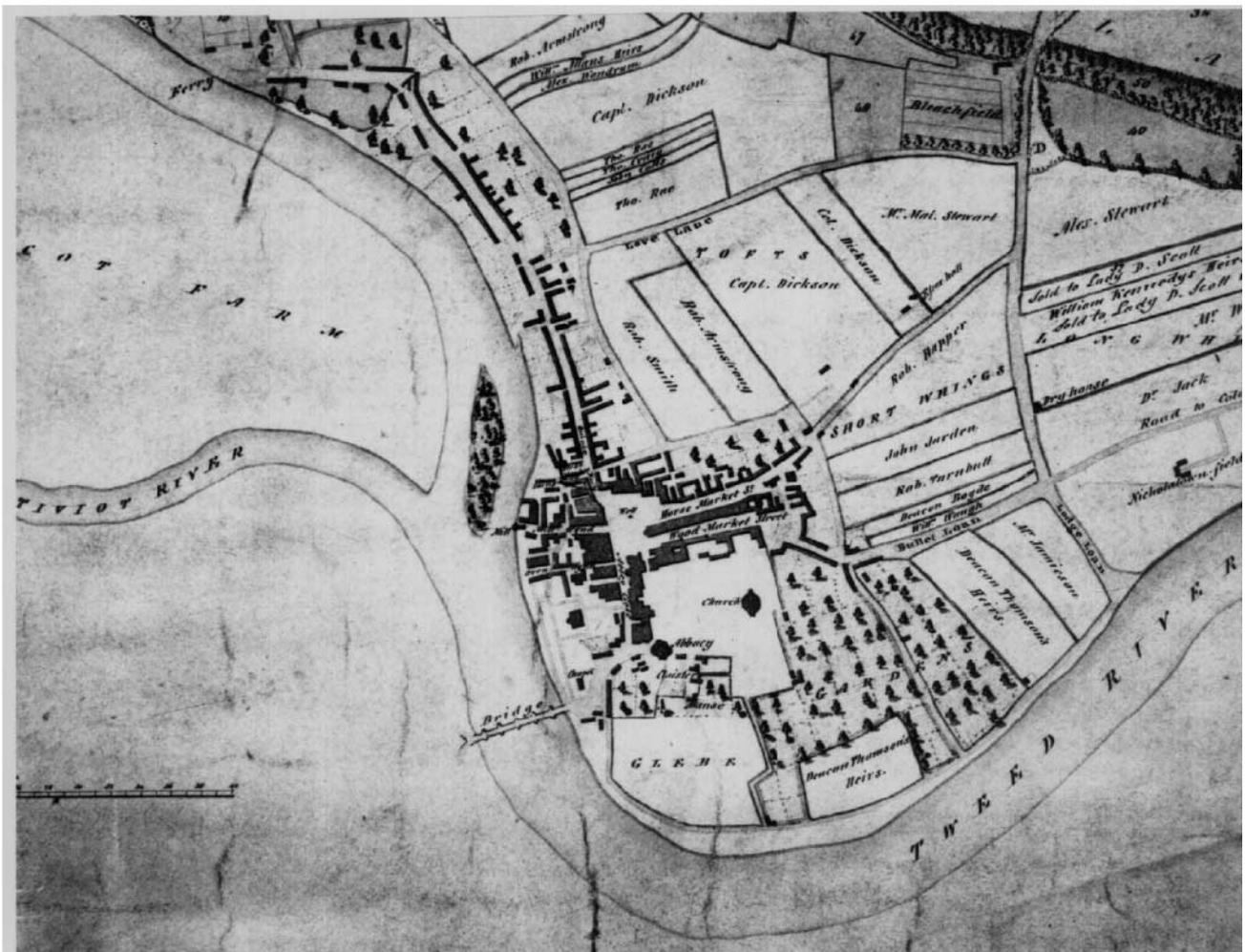
3 Wester Kelso/Floors Castle, 1983–85

by P J Dixon and D R Perry

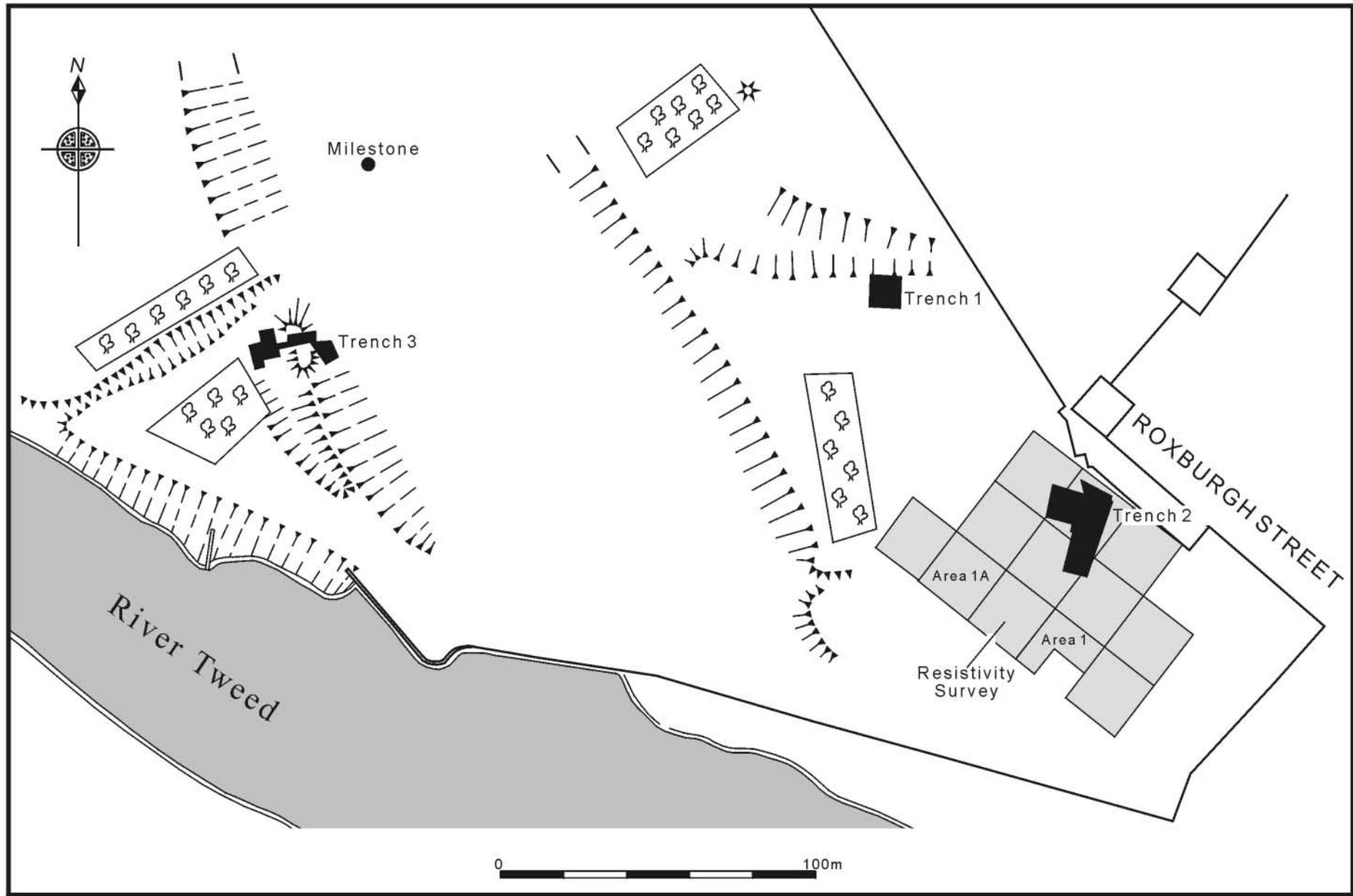
Documentary history

The earliest depiction of Kelso, in the mid 17th century but based on earlier plans by Timothy Pont in the late 16th century (Stone 1991, Plate 3), shows a single street extending along the riverbank northwards from the abbey, built up on both sides, with a few buildings around the abbey as well. A map of 1736 (illus 18) shows the street extending from the abbey as far as the former boundary of the Floors estate, the road continuing westwards along the north bank of the Tweed. A map of the Floors estate in 1821 (illus 20) is particularly instructive. Although it shows the then existing garden at the East Lodge of Floors, it also shows the outline of the northern end of the town of Kelso before the area was enclosed within the

policies of the Floors estate in the late 18th century. The garden occupied the site of 'The Old Nowt or Upper Market of Kelso', a wedge-shaped market area, its broad, eastern end opening off the Townhead of Kelso (now Roxburgh Street), the narrower, western end opening to the 'Loan which led from the Ferry to Kelso'. (Stobie's map of 1770 shows the road on the south side of the Tweed leading to the ferry crossing at the Coble Hole Put or Old Ferry shown on the map of 1821 on the north side of the Tweed, to the west of the Upper Market.) Also at the west end was the 'Great Barras' or road northwards to Edinburgh. To the north of the market area was the 'Little Barras' or road linking the Edinburgh road to the 'Back Street of Kelso' (now Bowmont Street). The site of the 'Upper Cross' of the market is also shown.



Illus 19 Detail of Kelso in the late 18th century (from RHP 10007). (Copyright and permission to reproduce from the Duke of Roxburghe.)



Illus 21 Wester Kelso/Floors Castle: location of trenches, and of geophysical and resistivity surveys

A measured survey was undertaken of the area by the gates, followed by a resistivity survey of the same area ([Appendix 2](#)). This latter survey indicated a number of features of interest in the area of the market cross site. Subsequently, three trenches were excavated in the grounds of Floors Castle, under the direction of Piers Dixon and supervision of Ian Barnes (Trench 2), Paul Sharman and Jane Clark (Trench 3).

The measured survey ([illus 21](#)) revealed a hollow way on an east/west axis, running down from the gates of Floors Castle westwards to the River Tweed for a distance of about 75 m. This probably marked the site of either the Little Loan/Little Barras or of a former driveway from the gates to Floors Castle. A low-lying area, probably the bed of an old bend of the river, divides the gravel terrace on which the gates of Floors Castle stand from a second gravel terrace 100 m to the west. In the middle of this low-lying area a milestone marks the line of the former road to Edinburgh (the Broad Loan or Great Barras) from the site of the ferry-point over the Tweed. The ferry plied the Tweed from an old stone jetty jutting into the river from this second, lower terrace: the ferry point was called the Coble Hole Put ([illus 20](#)).

Since the subsoil proved to be a well-drained gravel deposit without overlying sands and silts, there was little potential for environmental work and the soil was often too acid for good bone preservation.

Trench 1: Wester Kelso/Floors Castle 1983 ([illus 21](#))

An area 10 m by 10 m was opened up on the south side of the hollow way, revealed in the earthwork survey, on roughly level ground amongst the trees of the park. Just below the turf was a dump of cobbled stones of no great antiquity. The only other feature of note in this trench was a V-shaped ditch, 1 m wide, in the south-west corner of the trench. It was cut into the gravel subsoil and filled with a less compact, gravelly, light brown silt with charcoal flecks. In its fill were two pieces of clay pipe, suggesting that this was probably a post-medieval ditch. The NW/SE axis of the ditch differed from the east/west axis of the hollow way. The ditch may represent a boundary, which went out of use when the area was made into a park in the 18th century.

The absence of any occupation confirmed that this was not a built-up route, but rather the former driveway from the old lodge to Floors Castle, created after the emparkment in the late 18th century. Clearly the remains of Wester Kelso lay elsewhere.

Trench 2: Wester Kelso/Floors Castle 1983–4 ([illus 21](#))

Summary

The sunken floors of two houses lay on the north side of an east/west aligned road.

Introduction

The second trench, initially 10 m square, was opened in January 1984 around the site of the market cross and was progressively extended to examine in more detail the evidence of occupation. The resistivity survey indicated a number of pit features and, in particular, a broad, linear feature extending east/west across the site as a high resistance anomaly. A second linear feature ran north/south across the same area from the direction of the castle gates towards the River Tweed. The subsoil was exclusively gravel, with no bands of sand or silt alluvium, even in the deepest features. The topography was a level terrace beside the entrance to the Castle, sloping quite steeply about 25 m from the gates down towards the Tweed. The slope was marked by rabbit burrows, which may indicate the presence of a softer band of subsoil. Along the west edge of the gravel terrace was a plantation of trees on a north/south axis, at the south end of which a track, still in use, led down from the level area to the low ground of the old river bed.

The site has been divided chronologically into three phases:

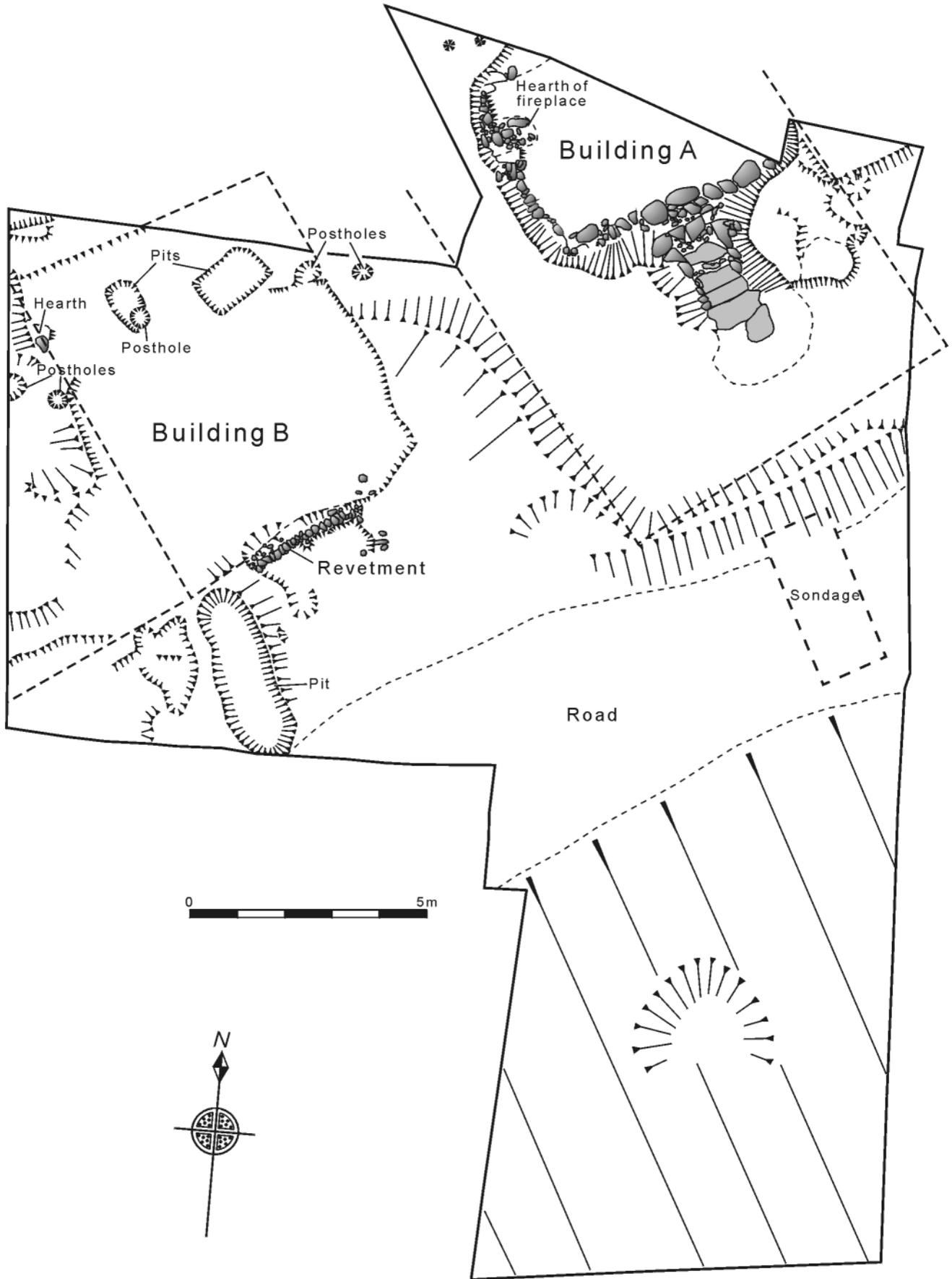
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|---------|--|
| Phase 1 | two post-medieval buildings, demolished in the late 18th century |
| Phase 2 | the walled garden of the Dukes of Roxburghe, formed in the late 18th century but abandoned and levelled in the second half of the 19th century |
| Phase 3 | a park laid out in the late 19th century |

Phase 1 – 17th/18th centuries ([illus 22](#))

Building A ([illus 22 and 23](#))

The platform for this house was delimited by the ridge along the road edge to the south and by a similar ridge, about 0.2 m high, to the west. It measured at least 8 m from east to west and more than 10 m north to south. The western ridge extended north-westwards for 6 m before turning away to the west. At the north-east corner of the site, a right-angled platform, 0.25 m above the house-platform, may form the east side, although as it extended beyond the limits of excavation, this was not certain.

Within the levelled area of the platform were the west and south sides of a subrectangular cut for a stone-lined pit, measuring 6 m by 5.5 m, probably a cellar, extending beyond the limits of excavation. It had steps leading down into its south side. The depth of the pit varied from 1 m at the south side to 1.7 m at the north. The pit for the steps was 2.2 m wide by 3.5 m long and 1.08 m deep, and filled with gravel in a mid-brown clayey silt. There were seven steps including the bottom one, which was partly formed from the wall of the cellar. The top step had been broken in half. The sides were lined with red-brown, clay-bonded, river-washed boulders, which survived to the height of the second step down and stood on the



Illus 22 Wester Kelso/Floors Castle: Trench 2, Phase 1



Illus 23 Wester Kelso/Floors Castle: Trench 2, view of Building A from the south-west

ends of the steps; it was evident that the steps and side walls were of one build.

The walls of the cellar were similarly built. The south side only stood one course high, but the west wall stood 1.2 m high, particularly around the back of a fireplace recess. The recess was 0.4 m deep, 1 m across the opening and 0.78 m across the back. It was evident that the face of the recess had been plastered, as a heap of plaster was incorporated into the cinders and silt which covered the stones of the hearth. The hearth comprised 13 flat stones of green sandstone, which filled the fireplace recess and extended into the cellar area to form a hearth about 1 m across. A patch of yellow-orange clay, 0.09 m thick, formed part of the hearth surface at the back of the recess.

The hearth lay on a layer of grey-black clayey silt, which covered most of the surface of the cellar and had a distinctly undulating surface. Environmental samples from this floor level indicated the presence of bracken in some quantity (see [Moffat](#), below). This covered a make-up layer of gravel, set in a mixture of yellow-grey clayey silt and purple-black cinders. Post-medieval pottery was found on the floor.

A sub-square area of dark brown gravel and silt with charcoal fragments, about 1 m across, lay directly on the gravel subsoil. Medieval pottery was

recovered from the layer, which may have been a floor. No other occupation layers were identified.

The site of the building was levelled with material from the demolition, clay, stones, bricks, plaster, mortar and a few wood fragments. The rubble included one or two architectural fragments, including a fragment from a spiral stair. No trace remained of the walls, whose projected location is based on the extent of the building platform; they were probably of stone like those of the cellar.

Building B (illus 22)

The platform for this building was not clearly defined. A roughly rectangular level area was delimited on the north-east side by a low terrace, 0.25 m high and 3.8 m long, at the north end of which was a shallow round scoop, possibly an oval posthole, measuring 0.6 m by 0.4 m across and about 0.2 m deep. About 1 m to the east was another oval posthole, measuring 0.3 m by 0.35 m across and 0.18 m in depth, with a V-shape profile. The possible south-west end was marked by a similar terrace in the gravel, but it was only 2 m long and only a few centimetres high. Extending into the western limit of excavation was an oval posthole, 0.5 m across and 0.36 m deep, with a broad, U-shaped profile. A second oval posthole was situated at the north end of the surviving south-west edge. It measured 0.5 m in length, 0.3 m in width and 0.27 m in depth and had a

flat-bottomed, V-shaped profile. The function of these postholes at the north-eastern and south-western sides of the building is unclear, but they could have held substantial posts, at least 0.25 m across. How these fitted into a, presumably, post-medieval stone-built house is not evident. They may have held posts for an upper floor or half loft, but, as there was no means of dating them, they could have related to a previous (or later) period of occupation.

The back or north-west side was apparently marked by a ridge of natural gravel, 3 m long, 1 m wide and 0.36 m high. The front or south-east wall was marked by a general drop in the level of the gravel about 3 m to the north of the road. At the east end of this side the platform was cut into the gravel for a length of 1.75 m from the south-east corner, beyond which the gravel was cut away to a depth of 0.2 m for a length of 2.75 m. This cut may or may not be natural, but, significantly, it had been infilled with a revetment wall of river-washed stones, 0.2 m wide and 0.22 m high, with a sand bonding material. This may have been necessary to provide stability for the foundations of the building which stood on the platform. Some 3 m to the west of this revetment was another terrace, about 2 m long and 0.2 m high, on the same alignment and extending beyond the limit of excavation.

Within the area so defined were four features. The remains of a hearth comprised a slab of green mudstone, 0.3 m by 0.25 m, set in a layer of purple cinders and ash, within a shallow depression, adjoining the possible south-western side of the building. This situation is similar to the hearth in Building A, and it was presumably set into the west wall. East of the hearth was a shallow, subrectangular pit, 1.2 m in length, 0.7 m in width and from 0.15–0.3 m in depth. It was filled with a gravelly, light grey silty sand. At its southern end was an oval posthole, 0.5 m in length, 0.4 m in width and 0.175 m in depth, with a flat-bottomed, V-shaped profile. It was filled with orange-brown sand, from which was recovered a possible knife blade, which may have been deposited when the post was removed. It is possible that these two features represent a larger post pit with a smaller post socket. To the east a rectangular pit, 1.6 m by 1 m across and up to 0.22 m deep, was filled with light pink-brown clayey silt. Post-medieval pottery was found in the pit.

Outside the line of the south wall was a large, oblong pit, 0.6 m deep, with a flat-bottomed, V-shaped profile. It was filled with river-washed, medium sized stones. Its function is obscure, but it lay between the house platform and the road.

Unlike Building A, no trace of the demolition of Building B was found backfilling the site of the house. The site was levelled with an extensive layer of light yellow-brown clayey silt with patches of pink clay and charcoal fragments.

Roadway (illus 22)

Extending across the trench was a metallated surface of small pebbles, about 5 m wide, with wheel ruts visible in its surface.

Phase 2 – Late 18th/mid 19th centuries (not illustrated)

Over the demolition and levelling deposits was a grey-brown clayey silt with charcoal and cinder fragments, lighter than, but probably equivalent to similar, darker material found under the roads or paths of the walled garden. Under the northern arm of the path was medium brown silt with cobbles. These were probably further levelling deposits in preparation of the site for the garden.

Above this levelling was a crossroads formed by the intersection of two garden paths of gravel in a red-brown silt, about 2.5 m wide. The depth of the gravel was about 0.1–0.15 m. The paths were aligned roughly north/south and east/west. The former path caused the linear anomaly observed in the resistivity survey. During dry weather in the summer of 1984 parch marks appeared in the grass beyond the trench, indicating the lines of the path. In the angles between the arms of the paths, garden soil (dark brown silt) had been laid down, from which were recovered large quantities of 19th-century pottery and other artefacts, as well as some residual medieval and post-medieval pottery, all of which is indicative of the use of domestic midden material as fertiliser for the soil. Indeed, this soil also extended under the path in places. While this may indicate a period or interval between the demolition of the houses and the laying out of the garden, it is more likely that the soil was deposited shortly before the paths were formed as part of the laying out of the garden.

No trace of the location of the market-cross at the crossroads of the paths was found. The only feature connected with the paths was a rectangular patching of the north arm. This measured 1.8 m by 1.2 m across and 0.25 m deep and was cut down through the levelling layers into the natural gravel leaving a visible cut. The relaid surface was made with cobbles, larger than the gravel of the rest of the path and set in a thin, loose layer of sand. There was no obvious explanation for the repair.

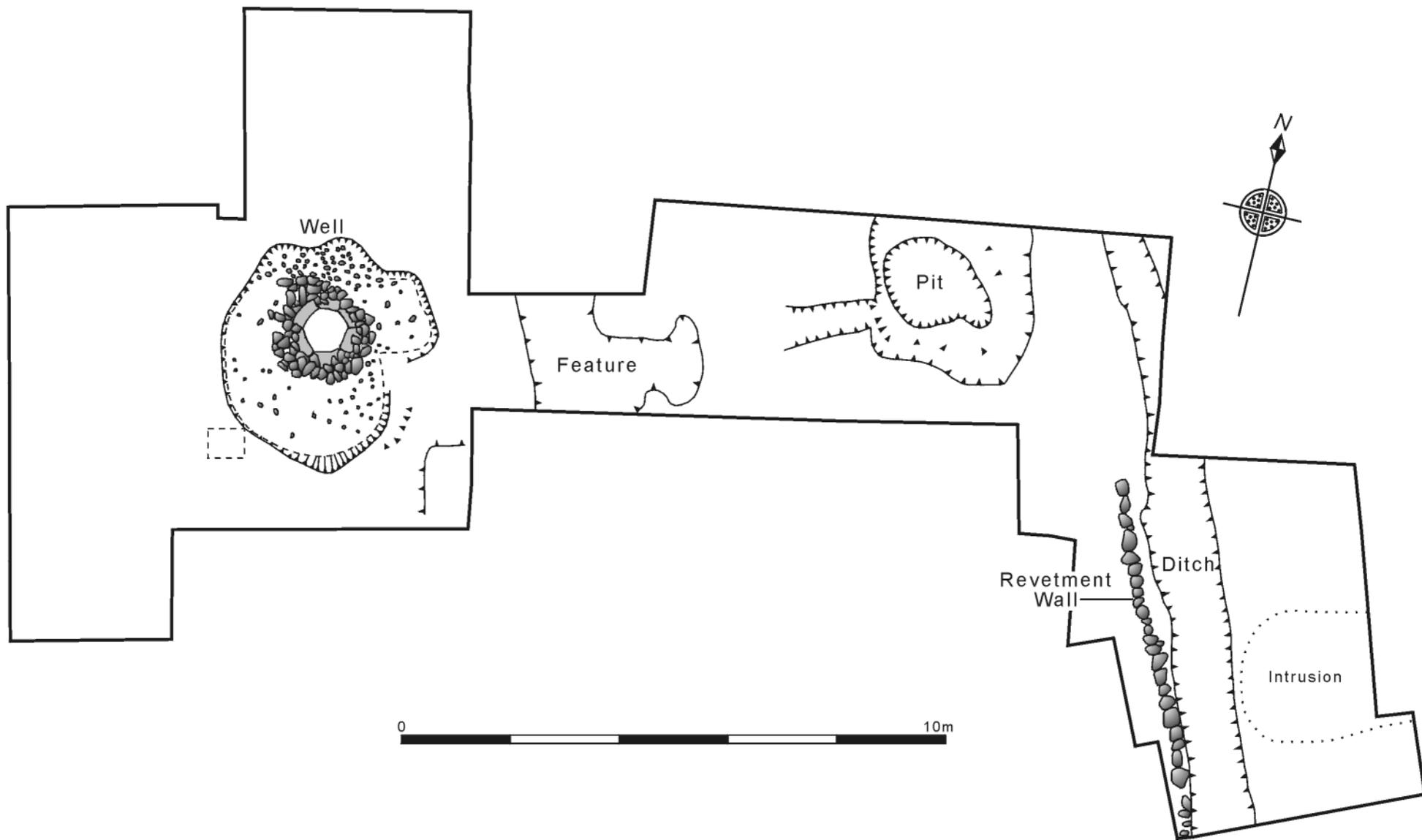
The only other feature noted in this phase was a semicircular deposit of pink clayey silt, 0.53 m across and 0.1 m deep, cut into the garden soil about 1.5 m south of the west arm of the garden path.

Phase 3 – Late 19th–20th centuries (not illustrated)

The whole site, including the garden, lay beneath the topsoil, which had accumulated after a park was laid out here in the second half of the 19th century.

Trench 3: Wester Kelso/Floors Castle 1984–5 (illus 21)

Trenches 1 and 2 failed to reveal much evidence of medieval occupation, apart from some medieval



Illus 24 Wester Kelso/Floors Castle: Trench 3, Phase 1



Illus 25 Wester Kelso/Floors Castle: Trench 3, view of well from the south

pottery under from Building A in Trench 2. This led to the conclusion that the medieval settlement may have stood on the low ridge of land extending northwards from the River Tweed, about 100 m west of the sites excavated in 1983–4. The ridge was high enough to escape flooding and it provided a sound base for the bridge abutment of the medieval bridge to Roxburgh. This bridge was ruinous by 1400, but was still referred to as a visible ruin as late as the mid 16th century (Haig 1825, 345 and 351). The fall of a tree in a gale in the early part of 1984 revealed, in its root hole, a rough stone feature and some medieval pottery. This fortuitous discovery provided the location for a trench (NGR NT 7215 3448). At first a trench, 2 m wide and 20 m long, was laid out from the tree hole westwards onto the ridge. Subsequently, the trench was extended in several directions in the course of the excavations to reveal more of the features uncovered. The subsoil on the ridge here was partly gravel, but underlain by sand where revealed by truncation. Off the terrace, the subsoil was a clayey silt alluvium.

Four phases of activity were identified:

- Phase 1 medieval occupation of the burgh of Wester Kelso
- Phase 2 late medieval or early post-medieval occupation, after the demise of the burgh
- Phase 3 landscaping for a park or field in the 18th century
- Phase 4 landscaping for a park in the 19th century

Phase 1 – Medieval (illus 24)

The primary features on the site consisted of firstly a ditch, 0.45 m deep, which ran directly along the edge of the terrace of the ridge on a NNW/SSE axis. A section of the ditch, about 14 m in length, was excavated. It had vertical sides and a flat bottom about 1.25 m wide. It was filled with dark brown silt and contained sherds of medieval pottery. Along its west side was a single line of medium sized stones, whose function was unclear. As no clear-cut bank was found, they may have revetted the soil at the top on the west side of the ditch, to limit soil wash into the ditch. Behind the revetment was a layer of firm, orange and mid-brown silt.

The ground rose up over 2 m from the line of the ditch to the top of the terrace, and there was some evidence that the top of the terrace had been truncated, probably during the laying out of the park in the 18th century, if not earlier. About 1 m west of the ditch a sub-square depression was cut into the clayey silt subsoil to form a level area, at the base of which was an oval pit, 2 m by 1 m across and 0.75 m deep. The pit had a flat base and the fill was similar to the subsoil, a medium brown fine silt with a few pebbles, charcoal flecks and some medieval pottery. The pit had evidently been deliberately backfilled, as there were few signs of weathering or of any primary silting. However the fill of the depression around the pit was different, a less compacted, brown silt, similar to the post-occupation dump. A linear gully

on a rough west/east axis adjoined the west side of the depression, and, since the fills of this gully and the depression were so similar, they were probably contemporary.

West of this complex was an irregular L-shaped feature, cut into the gravel subsoil and extending into both the north and south limits of excavation. One arm of the feature was aligned to the linear gully already mentioned and it is possible that a later intrusion has removed the connection. The north/south arm of the feature was 1.5 m wide and 0.75 m deep with a broad, U-shaped profile and its fill, like that of the gully, was brown silt. The east/west arm of the feature was shallower (0.2 m) and narrower (about 1 m), but with a broadened foot, which may not be its original shape but the result of truncation.

Further to the west was a stone-lined well (illus 25), which, because of truncation, could not be related directly to the other medieval features. This truncation probably occurred in post-medieval times, as post-medieval artefacts were found in the upper or secondary infill disturbed during truncation. The primary fills of the well produced only medieval material and included some sherds of pottery which adjoined sherds from other parts of the site (see [Crowdy](#), below). The well was contained in a pit, 4 m wide and at least 1.7 m deep. It was constructed of roughly dressed sandstone blocks, bonded with clay and packed with medium sized stones, behind which was a general infill of brown silt. When the well was emptied, there was no water in the bottom presumably due to a change in the water table. Only in wet weather was any water present.

The lower fill of the well was a mixture of gravel and grey-brown sand to a depth of 0.25 m, from which few artefacts were recovered. Over that was a layer of medium sized rubble and pebbles in a brown silt with a few fragments of pottery and animal bone to a depth of 0.6 m, above which was an even more stony rubble layer, similar to the lining of the well, in a mid-brown silt which was disturbed by root action. This suggests an intentional abandonment of the well and infilling in the medieval period. The upper layers, however, point to a secondary destruction, when the area was landscaped and truncated, perhaps during the laying out of the park. The interface between the primary and secondary fills is represented, partly, by a layer which overlay the construction fill of the well and consisted of a mixture of it and orange patches of sand, but contained no post-medieval material. Over it was a similar material, but with fewer orange sandy patches and more gravel. This layer produced a fragment of pantile. The central area of the pit was overlain by mid-brown silt with a few small stones, from which was recovered a shard of post-medieval bottle glass.

The end of this phase is marked by the deposition of a layer of mid-brown silt with a few stones and flecks of orange and grey-green soil to a depth of up to 0.4 m. The layer covered the fill of the ditch, but was

difficult to distinguish from the layer above and it is possible that its equivalent to the west of the revetment was not recognised. Nevertheless, its deposition marked the end of the boundary represented by the ditch and its revetment.

Phase 2 – Late medieval/post-medieval (illus 26)

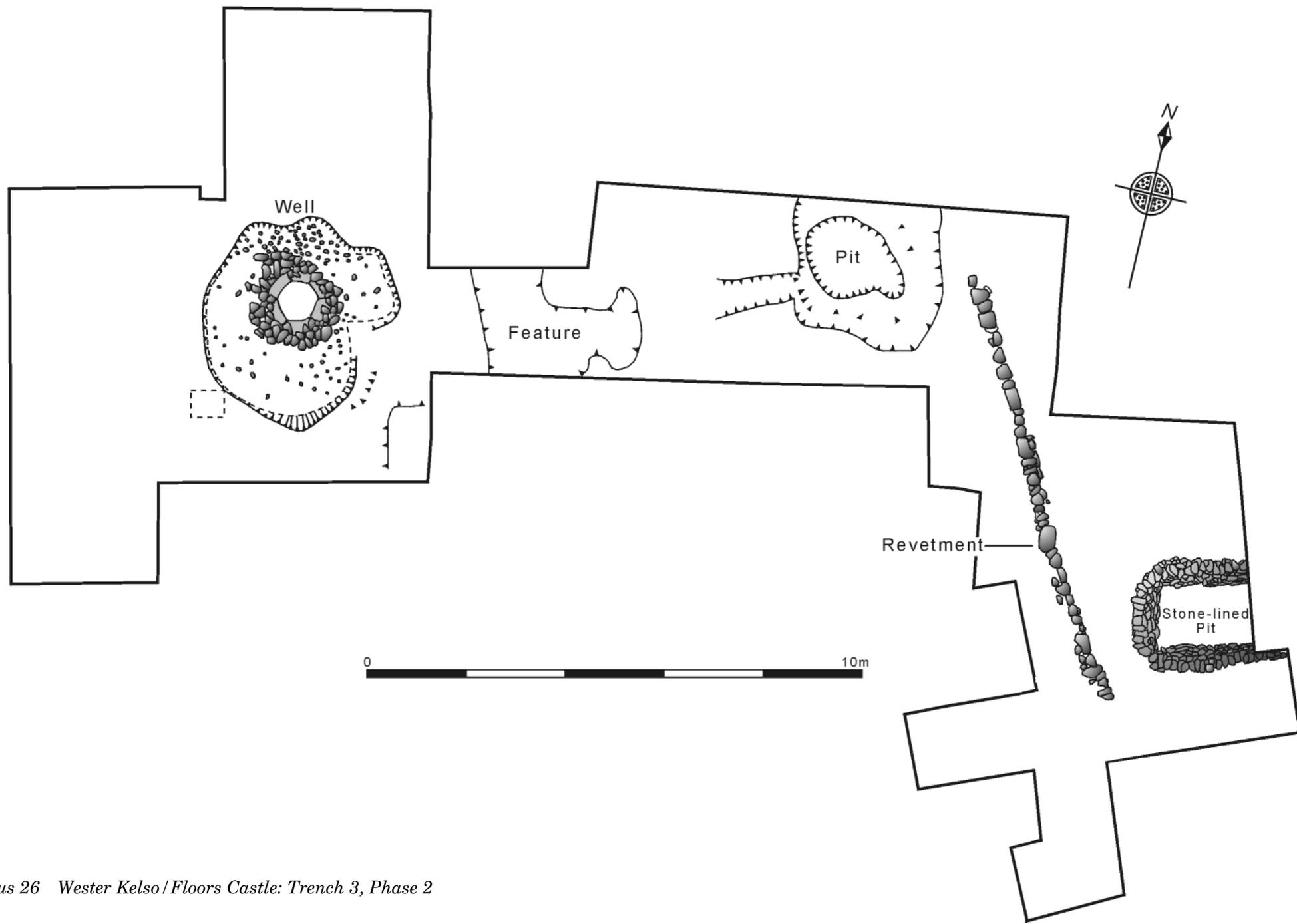
A second revetment was constructed on a slightly different axis from the earlier one, more NW/SE than the former. It partially overlay the edge of the ditch and survived to two courses high. It was built of medium and large sized stones, faced on the east.

East of the revetment and extending beyond the eastern limit of excavation was a rectangular, stone-lined pit (illus 27), 1.8 m wide, 0.85 m deep and at least 2 m long. The base of the pit was cut into the natural clayey silt alluvia. The pit was lined with medium sized, river-washed stones, tapering inwards towards the base for improved stability. The primary fill was a thin lens of black organic material, 0.03 m thick. Above that were layers, successively, of dark brown silt (0.1 m thick); mottled orange-brown silt (0.25 m thick); and dark brown silt with a few stones (0.15 m thick). The two upper layers were similar, mid-brown silt with frequent mortar flecks and small stones. It is striking that the lower layers comprise a mixture of organically-rich silts, interleaved with orange-brown silts like the subsoil. This would appear to be the result of infill during use. The two upper layers suggest its final infill and abandonment. The presence of mortar flecks suggest the use of mortar in building in the area, although no traces of mortar were present in the other medieval features and deposits. Botanical sampling of the feature, using metal box samples in the baulk section, showed that it was used as a slurry pit, with little evidence for human activity in the vicinity (see [Moffat](#), below). It may, therefore, be that the silt layer, which sealed the ditch at the end of Phase 1, was a flood deposit after the site was abandoned, similar to the upper fill of the pit, which was also essentially flood material.

The whole of the east end of the site was covered by up to 0.7 m of brown silt, from which were recovered medieval pottery and animal bones. It marks the horizon between the medieval and the post-medieval occupation of the site. The interval it marks cannot be closely determined but, on the type of pottery assemblage, it must cover the period from about the 15th century to the 18th century.

Phase 3 – 18th century (illus 28)

During the second half of the 18th century the site was apparently occupied by a farm or smallholding (illus 19). The key features which appear to belong to this phase are a ditch and stone wall. The ditch, 1.5 m wide and 0.8 m deep, was V-shaped and lay on



Illus 26 Wester Kelso/Floors Castle: Trench 3, Phase 2



Illus 27 Wester Kelso/Floors Castle: Trench 3, view of stone-lined pit from the west

a north/south axis. It is not clear if this was contemporary with the wall on a NNW/SSE axis 5 m east of it. At the south end of the wall was a butt end with a short return to the west. There were also patches of tumbled stone lying to the south. The wall, up to 1.1 m wide and 0.7 m high, was built of rough courses of fine weathered mudstone with some medium and larger stones forming the face, and an infill of smaller stones, all in a matrix of dark brown silt. From the latter a sherd of creamware was recovered, providing a *terminus post quem* for its construction, ie, probably after 1770. The area behind, or west of, the wall was covered by dark brown silt with few stones to a depth of 0.5 m. This appeared to form a levelled up area of ground and did not occur on the east side of the wall. This levelling may have been necessary because there was some indication that the ground had been terraced to form a level area for construction.

The wall and ditch were both overlain by more brown silt similar to that underneath them. There was some sign that the wall had suffered from partial collapse, with a few large stones lying on the ground about 1 m east of it.

Phase 4 – Late 18th–19th centuries (not illustrated)

A thick (1 m) layer of dumped material, probably deposited during the formation of the park in the late 18th century, sealed the earlier activity. No variation in its composition was noticed within it,

although it did contain lenses of orange-brown clayey silt and of dark grey clayey silt, the latter possibly the result of the landscaping activity, which may also have removed the upper part of the well. In the area in front, or east of, the wall of Phase 3 was a rubble spread, at least 2 m by 1 m across. This may have been material from the final demolition of the wall, although it rather resembled deliberate action. Perhaps it was used to form a surface in an area in which animals were being kept. Above the thick dump was gravel to a depth of 0.3 m, possibly the result of landscaping of the ridge.

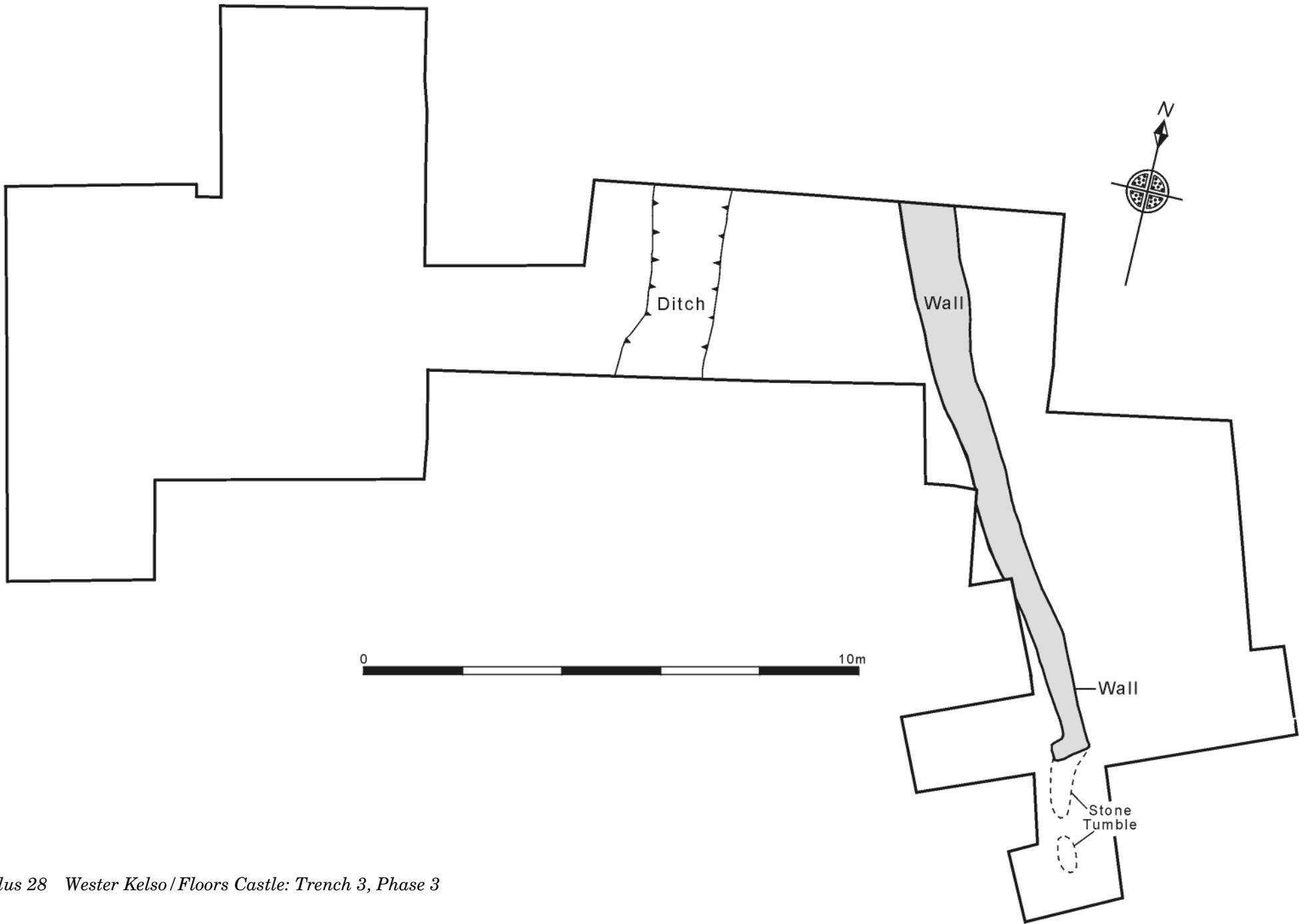
A broad shallow gully, 1.8 m wide, 0.3 m deep and at least 5.2 m long, cut across the site on a north/south axis just under the topsoil. This could have been a modern trackway or path.

Discussion

The excavations suggest that the medieval burgh of Wester Kelso was indeed in the grounds of Floors Castle, but nearer the Tweed (Trench 3), not inside the gates at the north-west end of Roxburgh Street (Trenches 1 and 2).

Trench 1 produced no evidence of medieval occupation, or any post-medieval occupation either, apart from a ditch, possibly a boundary ditch pre-dating the formation of the park in the late 18th century.

Trench 2 produced evidence of occupation beside a cobbled road. This occupation relates to the post-medieval expansion northwards along Roxburgh Street, from the abbey and market area at the



Illus 28 Wester Kelso/Floors Castle: Trench 3, Phase 3

southern end, of the settlement of (Easter) Kelso, created a burgh in 1614 by James VI; it is not the remains of the medieval burgh of Wester Kelso. The road was probably part of the Old Nowt or Upper Market (illus 20), extending from the north-west end of Roxburgh Street towards the ferry across the Tweed and connecting with the Edinburgh road. The sunken platforms of two buildings, one cellared, the other with post settings, a hearth and pits, lay on its north side. Little or nothing can be said of the superstructure of these buildings, although part of the central pillar of a turnpike stair was found in the infill of Building A, which would indicate a two-storeyed structure; the post holes would also indicate an upper storey or half-loft. Dating for the structures was not certain. There was little evidence that any of the features dated before the 17th century, although ten residual medieval pottery were found and it is not impossible that there was some medieval use of the site. The buildings were probably demolished in the late 18th century on cartographic and documentary evidence. The tradition that markets were held here may be a clue to the nature of the earlier use of the site. The market cross on the other hand was only placed at the crossroads of the ducal garden in the first half of the 19th century; in 1821 it stood further to the east (illus 20). The site's previous use as an open market does not conflict with the evidence of post-medieval occupation found here. That it was called the Old Nowt would indicate its use as a cattle market, and such a market located at the edge of the town would have avoided the need to bring the beasts into the town centre. At Dundee the Stobs Fair, for cattle was held at a field outside the burgh from the late 17th century (McCraw 1994, 37–45).

The remains found in Trench 3 (a well, a pit and a boundary ditch and revetment) probably represent the remains of the backlands of an urban property in the medieval burgh of Wester Kelso. Subsequent landscaping of the terrace had apparently removed

the site of any buildings on the terrace summit. A well less than 100 m from the Tweed might seem superfluous, but it demonstrates a level of demand for water that was better satisfied by digging a well, than by collection and carrying from the river or springs. Such circumstances are more adequately explained in an urban settlement, where the burgesses might be occupied in a craft or industry requiring water in quantity, as in the basement of the tolbooth in Peebles (see *Bridgegate*, below). Rural sites, it may be added, do not, as a rule, produce wells. The boundary, marked by the ditch and stone revetment, indicates that it was meant to be a barrier and not just a marker. It would, if the revetment incorporated a hedged bank, have kept animals from straying onto the property on the terrace. It would be a suitable limit to a burgess plot, defining the back-end of the plots. The dating of these remains depends upon the pottery from the infills. This is almost exclusively White Gritty Ware with a few imported sherds, none of which need date later than the 14th century.

The later activity on the site included the slurry-pit, which cannot be closely dated, although its infill did not produce any post-medieval pottery. Moreover, it did not produce any pollen indicative of human occupation. All that can be said is that it belongs to the period from the 14th century to the 17th century.

Following the landscaping of the site, possibly after the laying out of a steading in the 18th century (see above), a dry-stone wall, roughly on the same line as the earlier ditch (suggesting a continuity in the property boundary), and a ditch almost parallel to it, 4 m to its west, were constructed. These need not be contemporary but may be related to the presence hereabouts of the steading.

The final phase of activity, more landscaping, appears to be the result of the site's incorporation into the Floors estate at the end of the 18th century.