
1 13–19 Roxburgh Street, Kelso, 1983–4

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Documentary history

The earliest relevant document relating specifically to this site is the 1684 map of the area of Kelso affected by the great fire of that year (*illus 4a*). This shows houses on the frontage of what is now Roxburgh Street, of which one had a wing stretching back for some distance, along the north side of the close, now called Jamieson's Entry, the rearmost building being stepped slightly back from the line of the close. However the map does not indicate any right of way. This building would be 13 Roxburgh Street. The owner is recorded as Alexander Robertson. The other two properties belonged to Alexander Wood (at No 15) and John Dixsone (at No 17). In 1782 a similar line of buildings is shown along the east side of Kelso Street (now Roxburgh Street) and the north side of Jamieson's Entry, which is recorded as a passage 4 ft (1.22 m) wide. The frontage property belonged to William Jamieson, who may have given his name to the Entry (RHP 48582). Little else about the site is documented until the 19th century, although no exhaustive search of the sasine records was carried out. Wood's map of 1823 shows a long rear wing to No 13 and some development of the rear of 15 Roxburgh Street (*Wood 1823a; illus 4b*). By 1858 the site had acquired the physical appearance it was to retain into the present century (*OS 1857b, 1858b, 1898, 1921*). Partial demolition of buildings occurred to the rear of Nos 15–19, before complete demolition of the site after 1973 (*OS 1965b, 1973*). During the 19th century No 13 is recorded variously as an inn and a temperance hotel (*NAS, Valuation Rolls, VR116*) and No 15 as a bakery by the latter half of the century. The site is now occupied by 'pastiche housing of little imagination and less originality' (*Strang 1991, 115*).

Introduction (*illus 3*)

The site at 13–19 Roxburgh Street (NGR NT 7268 3402) had been demolished to make way for an inner relief road, but the plan had been replaced by a proposal for housing. It was hoped that the excavation would fulfil the research priorities set out by the Scottish Burgh Survey (*Simpson and Stevenson 1980, 10*): to provide evidence, apart from any possible prehistoric occupation on the riverside gravel terrace, for the origins, development and relationship of Wester Kelso and Easter Kelso; their street plans prior to the 18th century as well as the

plan, number and usage of town buildings prior to the 18th century, and the nature and source of the materials used in their construction.

In addition, 13–19 Roxburgh Street fell within Area 2 of the Areas of Archaeological Priority identified by the Survey in relation to the surviving archaeological deposits and the potential threat of development. In particular, the site lay close to the junction of Roxburgh Street and Market Square and, although cellared, could be expected to produce evidence of the extent of medieval occupation and of the chronology of any ribbon development of Roxburgh Street as the connecting road between Easter Kelso and Wester Kelso. Any evidence on vernacular building techniques and social and economic activity would add to the history of the area.

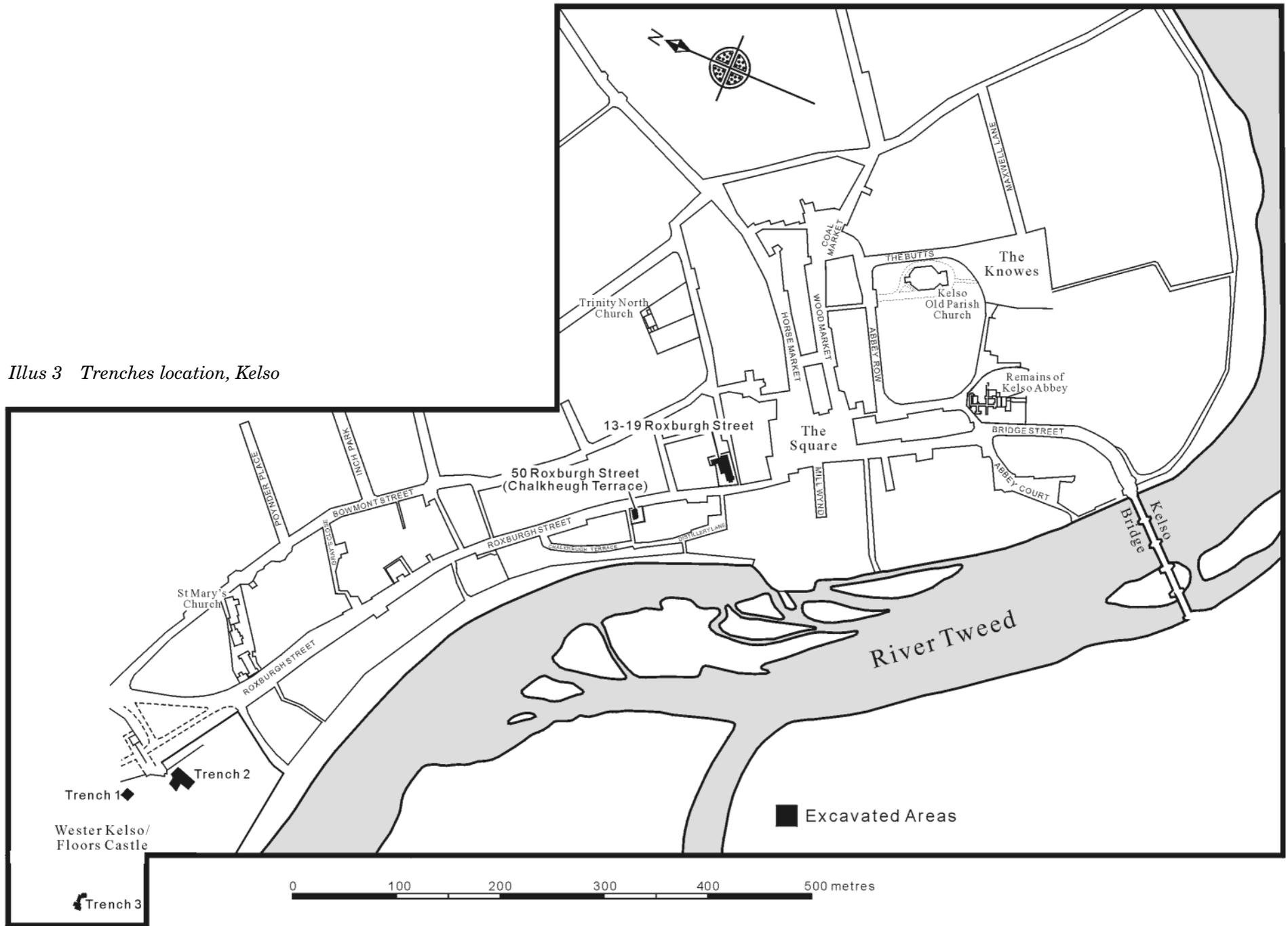
Method of excavation

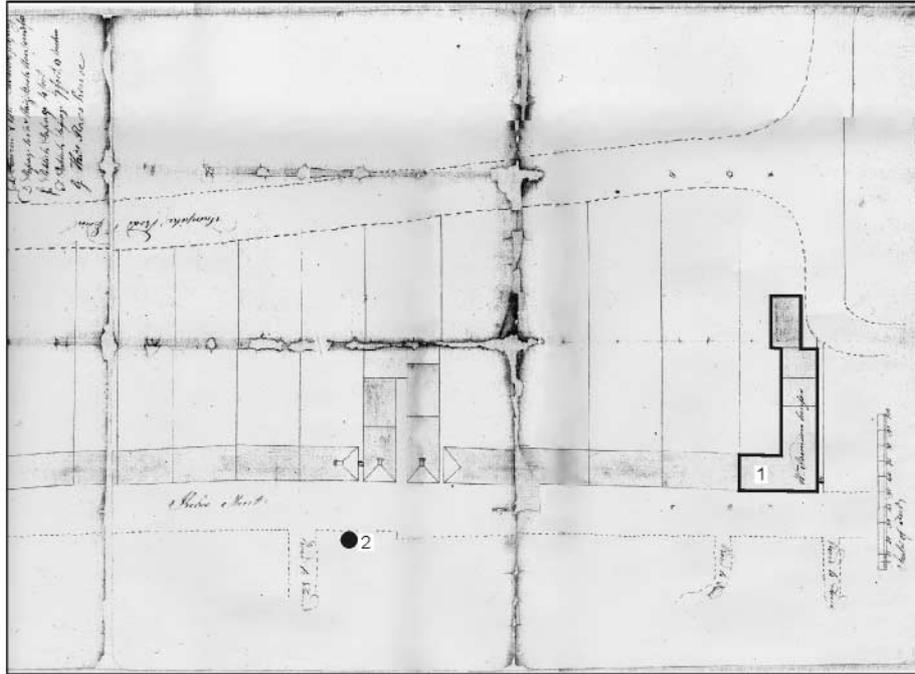
The site was excavated from September 1983 to May 1984 under the direction of Piers Dixon and supervision of Paul Miles, Derek Sloane and Ian Barnes. The front of the site had been cellared in the late 19th century and no attempt was made to investigate that area. The greater part of the remainder of the site, from the cellars at the front to within a few metres of the Red Lion public house at the rear, was excavated. The site had been cleared several years previously, but a photographic record of the buildings prior to, and during, demolition was made by Hector Innes, a photographer.

For the purposes of description the site has been divided into two properties, Plot A to the south, along Jamieson's Entry, and Plot B to the north, along a line which most features appear to respect. This division is effectively the division between 13 and 15 Roxburgh Street. In addition, the site included the rearmost part of 17 Roxburgh Street, referred to here as Plot C, although this area seems to have been largely conjoined with Plot B to its south.

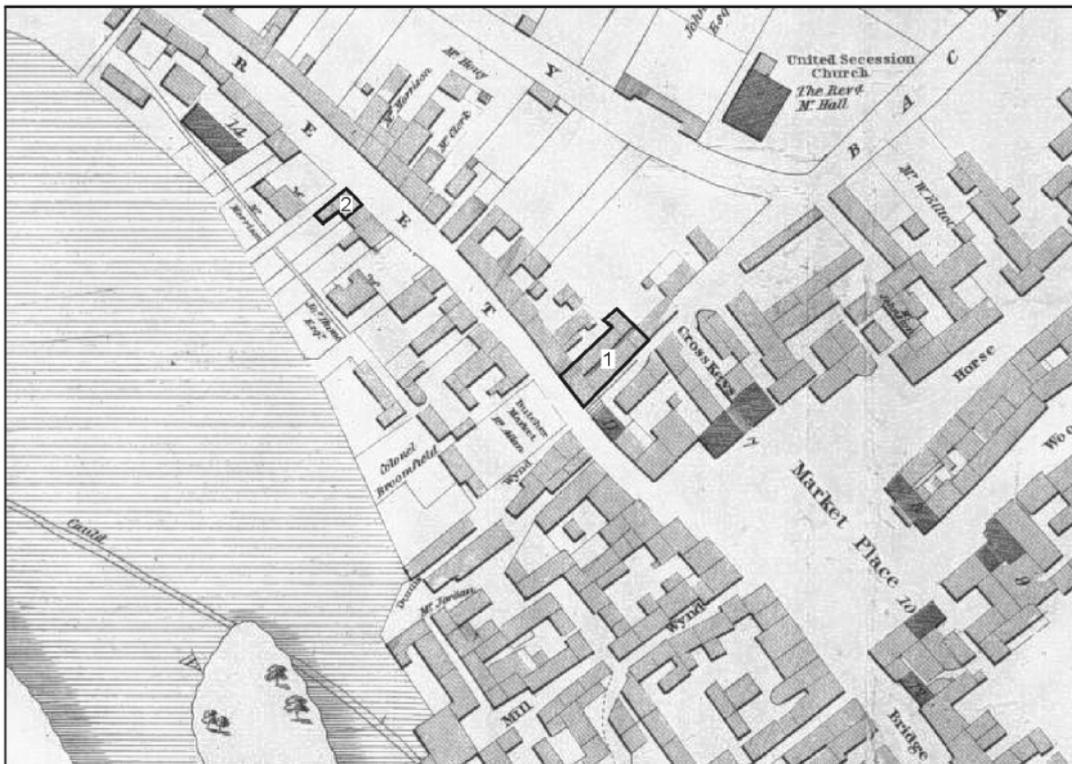
The subsoils consisted of a red-brown sandy silt, a weathered soil horizon, over fluvio-glacial gravels and sands. The red-brown silt had been disturbed and removed over many parts of the site, particularly in Plot A. In these areas the gravel provided the main horizon between natural and human activity. The gravel in turn overlay a variety of sand deposits. The silty soil showed signs of animal burrowing and worm activity in antiquity. Consequently, it was not always apparent if it had been disturbed by human

Illus 3 Trenches location, Kelso





Illus 4a Detail of 13–19 Roxburgh Street, Kelso in 1782 (from RHP 48582). 1 13–19 Roxburgh Street. 2 50 Roxburgh Street (Chalkheugh Terrace). (Reproduced by permission of the Keeper of the Records of Scotland.)



Illus 4b Detail of 13–19 Roxburgh Street, Kelso in 1823 from Wood's Plan of the Town of Kelso. 1 13–19 Roxburgh Street. 2 50 Roxburgh Street (Chalkheugh Terrace). (Reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland.)

agency. Such animal activity may, on occasion, have obscured the limits of features excavated by human occupation, so that the silt layer was sometimes excavated as a man-made deposit.

The free-draining and acidic quality of the subsoil restricted the potential of any environmental sampling and also adversely affected the preservation of animal bones. Apart from the pollen collected from the hearth of the kiln (see [Moffat](#), below) and fragments of charcoal, the site was environmentally sterile.

The stratigraphy of the site was generally about 1 m deep, but it was evident that much of this was connected with modern activity and, indeed, the modern levels often cut right down to the gravel subsoil (eg, wall foundations). This factor, combined with the late 19th-century cellars and the environmental sterility, significantly reduced the value of the site.

Dating

The 1684 plan and the 19th-century plans provided a framework for interpreting the post-medieval levels, but the accuracy of the 1684 map and Wood's 1823 map is not as reliable as the Ordnance Survey plans, of which the First and Second Editions of 1858 and 1898 respectively were the most useful. The internal dating of the site depended on a coin sequence (see [Table 1](#)) and on a substantial assemblage of clay pipes (see [Gallagher](#), below). The medieval phases were dated by rather less secure reference to medieval pottery. However an archaeomagnetic determination of the stone-flagged hearth of a kiln dated its last usage to the later 16th century (see [Appendix 1](#)).

Phase 1 – Late medieval (*illus 5*)

The earliest stratigraphic events on the site have been assigned to Phases 1 and 2. They are identified by the presence of medieval pottery and in general by the absence of post-medieval artefacts. On occasion, however, post-medieval material has been encountered in the upper fill, but this can be attributed to later disturbance.

Plot A (illus 5)

At the front (west) of the site a terrace, 0.5 m deep, on a NW/SE axis was cut through natural gravels. It had a sloping edge parallel to the street and may have been a building platform.

This terrace went out of use and was filled with red-brown silt, similar to the silty subsoil found across the site, but containing slag and late medieval pottery (of the 14th or 15th centuries).

Plot B (illus 5)

The earliest evidence of human activity was a well, 1.4 m by 1.2 m across at its mouth and 1 m deep from the bottom of a set of stone steps. These steps led from the north down to the mouth of the well. The pit cut for the steps was 2.75 m long (as excavated) and 2 m wide. It was lined to the east by a wall, 2 m long, which was composed of medium and large boulders (0.1–0.4 m). To the west of the steps the area was disturbed by a later feature. The well was filled with silts, but the upper 0.3 m was filled with a sticky, grey silty clay, perhaps a 'capping' of the well shaft, on top of which were several large slabs, probably collapsed steps. There were a few medium sized boulders adhering to the wall of the well, the relic of a lining.

Phase 2 – Late medieval (*illus 6*)

Plot A (illus 6)

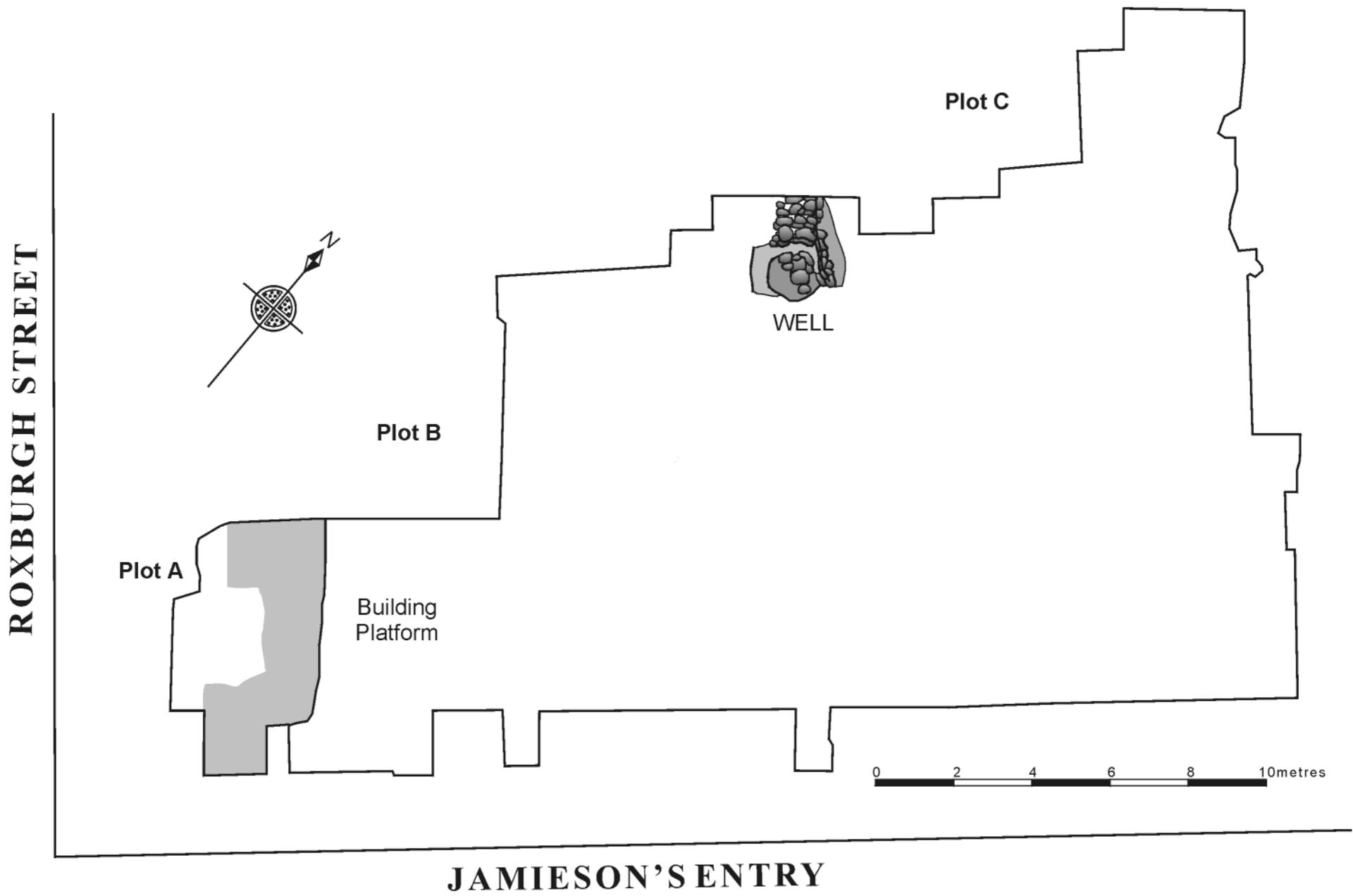
The infilled terrace was cut at the south baulk by a pit, 2 m deep. Although it could not be fully investigated, due to its location partly under Jamieson's Entry, its depth and vertical sides resemble those of two wells found on the site in Plot B (see Phases 1 and 8), and may, therefore, give an indication of its use. No lining was encountered but this may have been robbed for use elsewhere. The pit was filled with mid-brown sandy silt mixed with gravel, under grey-brown clayey silt.

Cut through the backfill of the pit or well was a broad, shallow pit (not illustrated), at least 2.6 m by 2 m across and 0.25 m deep. The base of the pit contained a pebble layer, above which were deposits of ash and silt, under yellow sand with small pebbles.

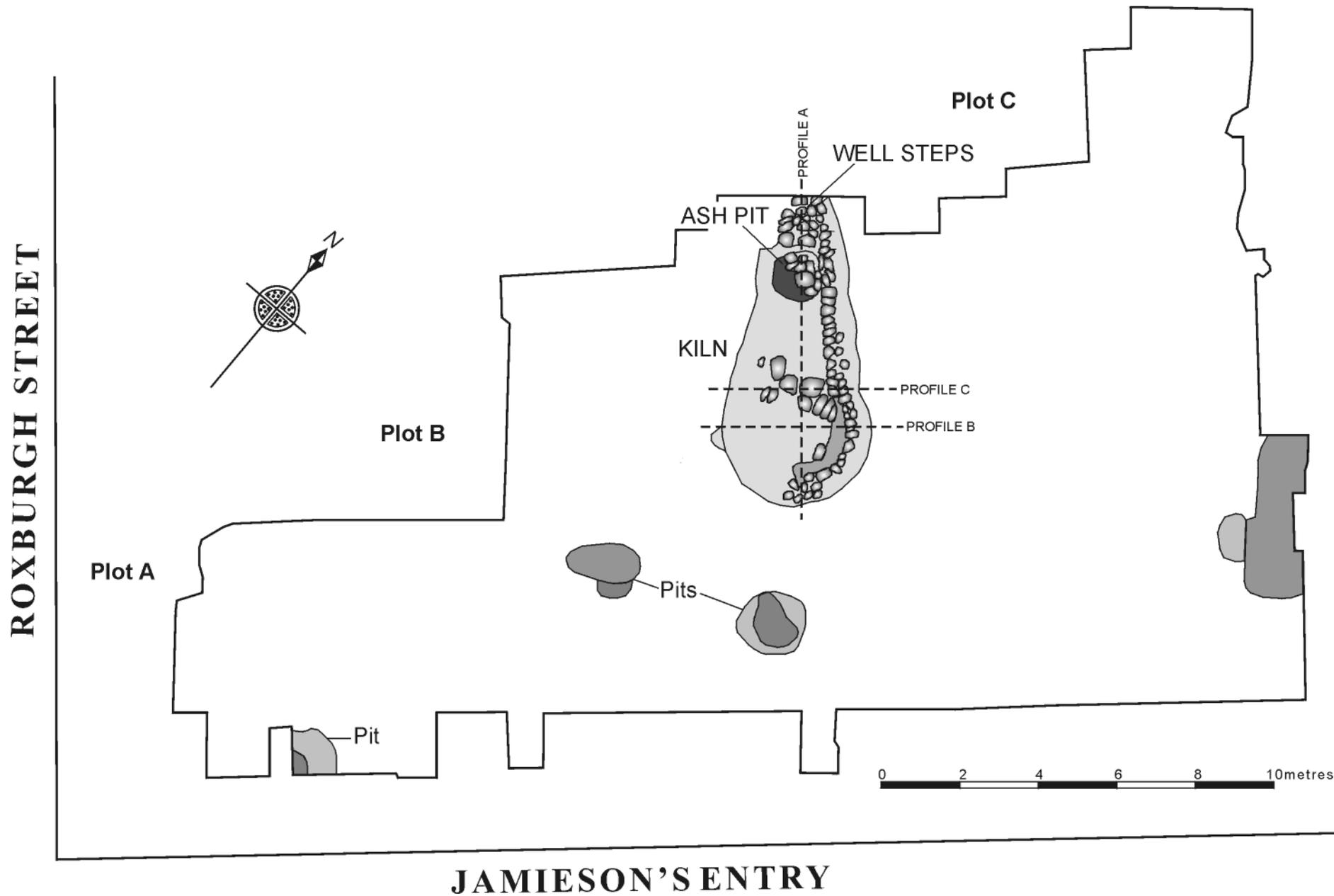
A number of other pits assigned to this phase may belong to a later phase. To the rear of the frontage was a small, oval pit, 0.4 m deep, truncated to the north by a larger, oval pit. The earlier pit had a U-shaped profile and was filled with gravel and orange-brown silt. The later oval pit, 1 m deep, was filled with dark brown silt with gravel and some large, roughly shaped, river-worn stones. This larger pit may have been intrusive from a later phase, as it was situated below a wall of Building B (Phase 7) and was visible when that wall was removed.

East of these pits was another pit, 0.6 m deep. Its lower fill of gravel and silt contained the skull of a horse. Its upper fill consisted of silty material, with quantities of brick, which suggests that this pit, too, may have been intrusive; it was sealed by levelling for a cobbled surface of Building A (Phase 5).

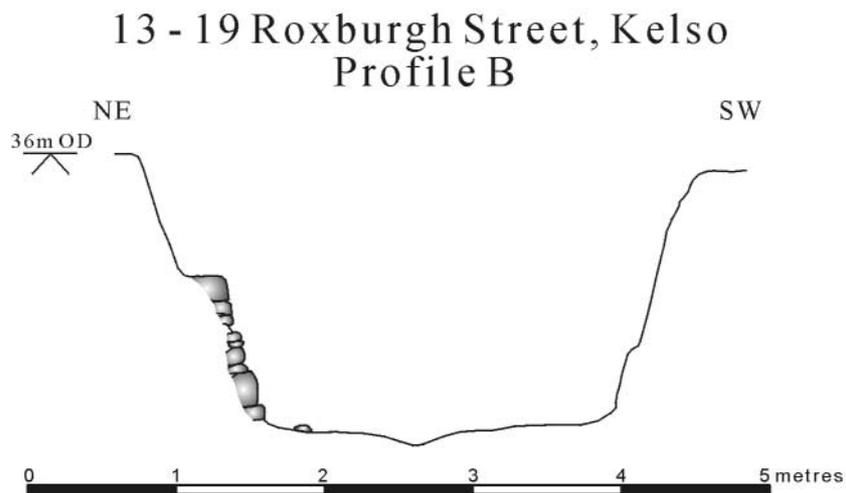
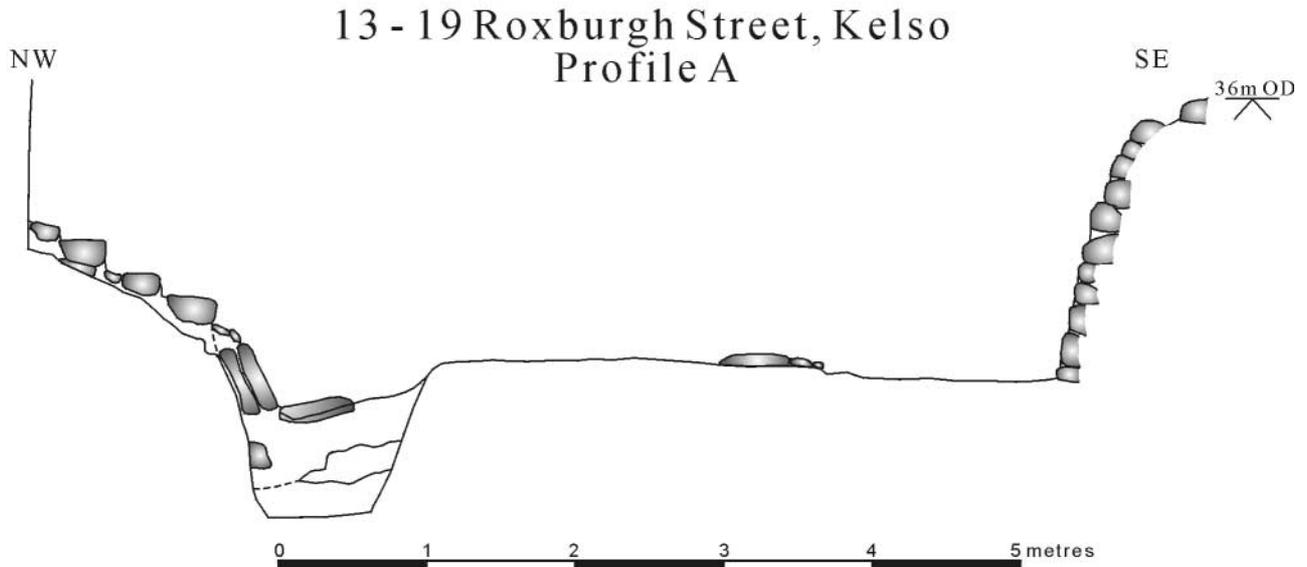
At the rear or eastern end of the property there were two other pits containing medieval finds, the larger extending into the east baulk. They were cut through the natural gravel, silt and sand, and the larger of the two, at least, was probably a quarry pit. The smaller pit was oval in shape (but truncated by



Illus 5 13-19 Roxburgh Street, Kelso: Phase 1



Illus 6 13-19 Roxburgh Street, Kelso: Phase 2



Illus 7 13–19 Roxburgh Street, Kelso: Profile A, Profile B, Profile C

the larger pit), 0.17 m deep, and filled with silty loam and gravel. The larger, sub-rectangular pit, 0.85 m deep, had vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled with sandy silt and gravel.

Plot B (illus 6)

After the well had been backfilled, the wall and steps leading to it appear to have been re-used in the construction of a stone-lined kiln (illus 7–8). A steep-sided, flat-based pit, with maximum dimensions of 7.8 m by 3.8 m, had walls made of boulders similar to the lining of the steps of the well. The kiln wall butted against the earlier wall. The kiln was

aligned roughly NW/SE, with the flue leading from the stone steps at the north end to the circular fire chamber at the south end. The fire chamber was approximately 2 m diameter and contained several, large, burnt sandstone slabs forming a hearth. The slabs were dated to the later 16th century by archaeomagnetic analysis by Dr Tarling (University of Newcastle) (see Appendix 1). The interstices of these slabs were partly filled with a greasy, charcoal-rich silt, which was sampled by Dr Brian Moffat for pollen analysis and produced evidence for both wheat and barley in some quantity (see Moffat, below). The flue was 3.3 m long and 0.9 m wide. At its north end a stone-lined ash pit had been cut into, or utilised, a depression in the top of the backfilled well.



Illus 8 13–19 Roxburgh Street, Kelso: the kiln from the south-east

Partially overlying the hearth slabs was bright red clayey silt, and in the flue and ash pit a thin layer of charcoal-rich silt remained. These appeared to be the only deposits resulting from use of the kiln.

After the partial robbing of the kiln walls, which survived to a height of 1.9 m on the east side, a series of shallow deposits of grey to mid-brown silts accumulated in the fire chamber, perhaps indicating a period when the kiln site was abandoned, after its demolition but before its backfilling and levelling. The infilling of the kiln consisted of a series of dumps of material consisting of yellow-brown sandy silts, dark grey silts, sand, gravel and boulders. There was no indication of a superstructure for the kiln, except for a slight step between the upper two courses of the lining at the south-east end, where it survived to ground level, and a shallow cut in the south-west side of the of the kiln pit at ground level, although this was not matched by one on the north-east side opposite it. The step at least may indicate a base for supporting a timber floor.

Phase 3 – Mid 17th century (*illus 9*)

Plot A

*Building A (*illus 9*)*

About the middle of the 17th century, a long, stone-walled structure of three rooms, aligned

SE/NW, was erected. The structure was 4 m wide internally and at least 19 m long, but its foundations only partially survived later demolition and destruction. Fragments of the north and south walls, associated floors and the settings for cruck timbers or posts were found. At least two phases of occupation were apparent (the second phase will be described in Phase 4). Building A was probably the structure represented on the 1684 map made after the ‘great fire’ of that year (RHP 42577). Since the south wall faced the close, it may be inferred that the passage between the middle and eastern rooms originated at this period.

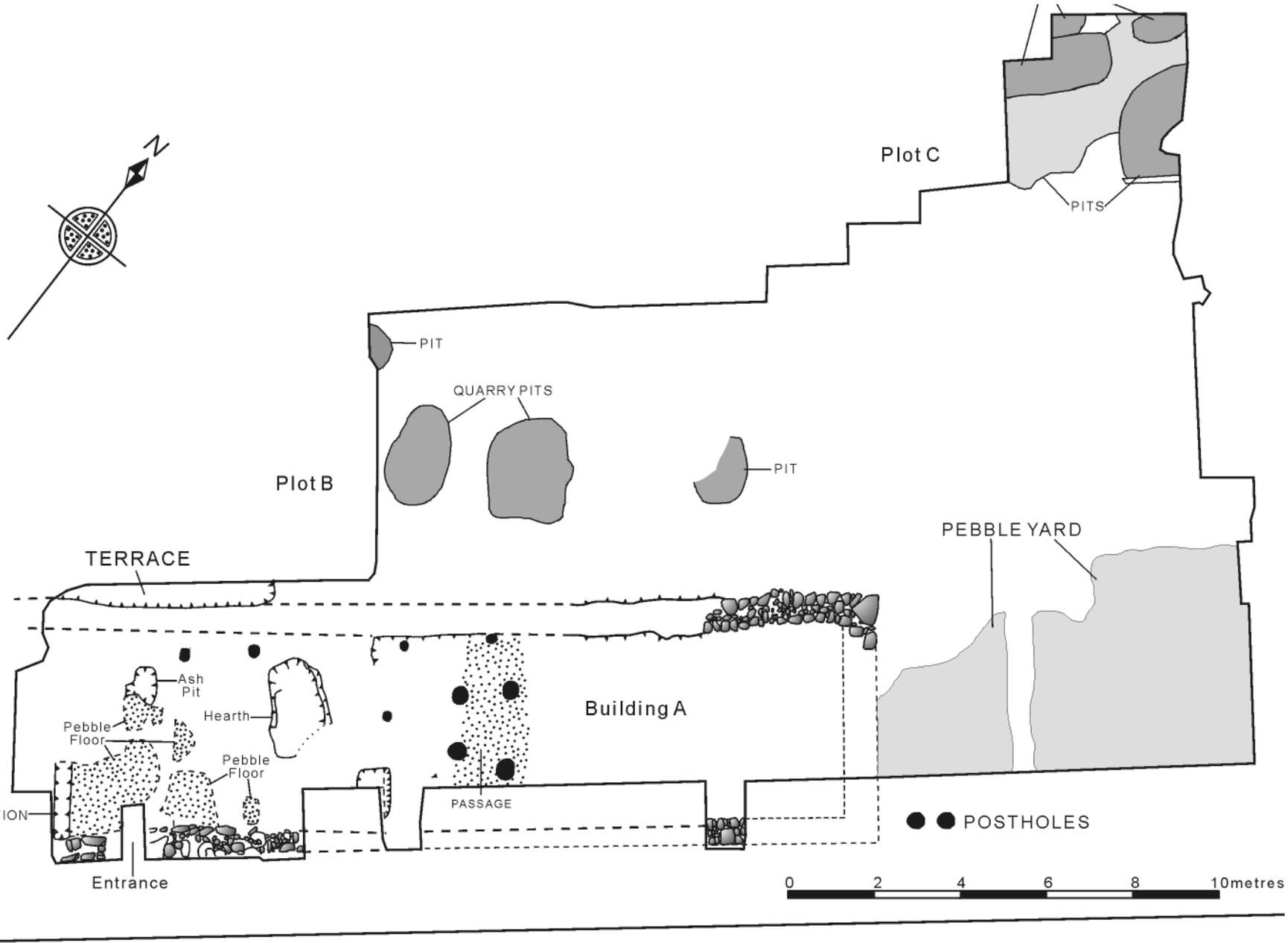
The walls, 0.7 m to 0.8 m wide, were constructed of clay-bonded, river-worn boulders, with large facing stones and a core of small stones, generally without foundations. Of the south wall, three separate sections survived, the longest measuring 3 m. At the west end, a gap, at least 0.5 m wide, may have been a doorway, but its east side was obscured within a narrow baulk (0.6 m wide). Where the wall lay directly over the pit or well of Phase 2 and the shallow pit which succeeded it (see above), a foundation was provided, in the form of a clay-bonded wall, two courses in height, to whose inner face some pieces of plaster adhered. This plaster was earlier than the secondary floor layers.

Approximately 10 m further east, another short section of wall was seen in a small extension, 1 m wide, in the southern baulk. This piece of wall was of slightly narrower and more regular construction and stood two courses high, but occupied the same line as the wall to the west. It is possible that this section was rebuilt in early 18th century following the great fire.

Of the north wall only a 4 m length survived at the rear of the building, one course high, set on a ridge of red-brown silt; the latter continued for a further 3 m to the west. West of this ridge the south edge of the wall line was indicated by a shallow terrace (probably as a result of levelling for a floor), about 2 m long, where the inner face of the wall had stood. The east end of the north wall was terminated by a large triangular stone, which occupied the full width of the wall. One small piece of mortar adhered to the inner face of the middle of this section of wall. At the front (west) of the site, the course of the north wall was defined by a terrace, 5 m long, which cut away the subsoil to the north. Of the rear (east) wall of the building, only a single outer facing stone and a few core stones remained.

Only the eastern edge of the western (front) room in the first phase of the building was recovered. A U-shaped slot, 0.2 m deep, for a partition at the west edge of the site, along the line of the baulk, divided the western and middle rooms. Its silty fill was covered by a charcoal-rich layer that had subsided into it.

The floor surfaces or make-up layers in the middle room survived only in patches. It is, therefore, difficult to relate these isolated sequences with the other features or changes of use elsewhere in the building. Adjacent to the south wall were several features (not



JAMIESON'S ENTRY

Illus 9 13-19 Roxburgh Street, Kelso: Phase 3

illustrated): a pit, 0.5 m by 0.4 m and 0.25 m deep, filled with brown silt and charcoal; a hearth pit, 1.9 m by 0.9 m across, with a blackened surface and a fill of burnt material in red silt and sand; a third pit, of similar dimensions, with a fill also showing evidence of burning; a rectangular scoop, 0.4 m long by 0.2 m wide by 0.18 m deep, filled with mid-brown silt and charcoal; and another scoop, 0.5 m by 0.3 m in size, containing a large stone. One stake hole, 0.06 m long by 0.04 m wide by 0.06 m deep, was noted in the same area. It is not clear if these features were for domestic or industrial use.

All of these were sealed by small spreads of pebbles, which together extended over an area of about 4.5 m by 3 m, the first laid floor of the middle room. To the north of, and cutting the pebbled floor surface, was an irregular pit, 0.2 m deep, with a U-shaped profile, filled with charcoal, a few large angular stones and fine yellow sand. It may have served as an ash pit, as there were no signs of burning *in situ*.

Along the line of the north wall, four shallow pits, 0.1 m to 0.3 m diameter, with a maximum depth of 0.1 m, probably served as settings for posts or crucks. They were about 1.5 m apart, with a gap of 3 m in the middle of the row. The spacing between the post settings could indicate either a simple cruck building or supports for an upper floor or half-loft. No corresponding settings were found along the south wall, although it is possible that the posts or cruck timbers could have been either set within the wall or placed on the ground or on padstones.

Towards the middle of the line of the north wall of the building a terrace, 2.5 m long with a right-angle return at its west end, determined the inside of the north wall line (see above), and was presumably to provide a level floor in the interior of the building. An area of lenses of silt and charcoal, approximately 2 m by 1 m, may have been the remains of floor or occupation levels.

Near the centre of the building was a sub-rectangular pit, possibly a hearth, 0.25 m deep, with its main axis across the building. There were traces of charcoal at the base, and its fill contained more charcoal. To its south-east was a steep-sided, sub-rectangular pit, 0.35 m deep, which extended under the south baulk. Traces of a possible timber lining were evident along its eastern edge. A small posthole, 0.3 m deep, in the eastern half of the room was filled with silt and charcoal.

A subrectangular strip of red-brown silt, 1.6 m wide and about 0.08 m thick, occupied the full width of the building and formed a slightly raised floor level. It was cut by four shallow (0.5 m to 0.15 m) postholes, which may have held uprights for partitions on each side of a passage across the width of the building, dividing the middle and eastern rooms. The northern setting at the eastern side was re-cut and contained a packing stone.

Beyond the passageway the eastern room was devoid of features as a result of later levelling for floor surfaces and robbing.

To the rear of Building A, a yard surface of compacted pebbles was laid down over the disturbed subsoil, although no trace of the surface remained in the north-west corner of the yard.

To the north of Building A, at the western end of the site, the edge of a shallow gully extended into the north baulk. It had a pebbled layer in its base and was filled with orange-brown silt. This feature was possibly a terrace for a yard or building platform in Plot B to the north, although its southern edge marked the line of the north wall of Building A.

Plot B (illus 9)

During this phase this property contained several pits. These were not clearly defined until the natural red silts had been excavated, although the darker and damper fills were visible as amorphous features in the natural subsoil.

Extending into the western limit of excavation was a small, steep-sided, flat-based pit, 0.33 m deep, filled with brown silt. East of that, a sub-rectangular, vertical-sided pit, 1 m deep, was cut down through natural gravels into sand. It was filled with brown silty loam, from which was recovered a coin dated 1623 (Catalogue No 132). About 1 m to the east was a similar, slightly larger pit, 1.4 m deep, also cut through natural gravels. The lower infill was redeposited natural, in which a lens of charcoal-rich material, containing pottery, was the only indication of domestic refuse. The rest of the pit was filled with lenses of red-brown silty loam and dark grey silty loam. These two large pits seem to have been quarry pits for the natural gravel or sands.

Cut through the infill of the kiln was a subrectangular pit, filled with dark loam with charcoal, mortar and stones, from which was recovered a coin of 1663 (Catalogue No 137).

Plot C (illus 9)

In the northern corner were several intersecting pits, whose relationships were obscured by later cultivation (see Phase 5) and by contemporary animal disturbance. The earliest pit was broad, shallow (0.3 m deep) and irregular in plan, and extended SW/NE across the trench. Its fill was yellow-brown, sandy silt. This pit was cut through natural sand. At the northern corner of the site a sub-rectangular pit, 0.6 m deep, was filled by yellow-brown, silty sands. Extending into the eastern limit of excavation was a third pit, also broad and shallow (0.2 m deep) and filled with mid-brown silt with lenses of yellow sandy silt. At the north-west corner of this area was the edge of another pit, filled with sandy loam with a lens of silt with charcoal. It was truncated to the south by an oblong pit, 0.6 m deep. Its lower fill was yellow-brown sandy silt, above which was brown silty loam.

Apparently predating these pits were some stakeholes (not illustrated), cut into the subsoil at the base. These may, in fact, have been associated with the cultivation furrows of Phase 5, their relationships not having been observed.

Phase 4 – late 17th century (*illus 10*)

Plot A

*Building A (*illus 10*)*

Building A continued in use with three rooms, but with different internal arrangements between the western and middle rooms.

The partition in the beam slot at the west baulk was replaced by a new partition set in a slightly irregular beam slot, situated in line with the westernmost post setting beside the north wall-line. The slot contained charcoal-rich silt at the base, 0.6 m long and 0.1 m wide, close to its west side and about 0.6 m from its north end: this was probably the remains of a sill-beam. At the southern end of the charcoal/sillbeam was a posthole, 0.3 m across and 0.1 m deep, with a post-pipe, 0.15 m across, at the very end of the sill. The southern end of the partition slot was less well defined and no trace of the timber sill was evident. It butted the south wall at its south end.

Immediately to the south of the posthole in the partition slot, there was a second slot at right angles, truncated to the west by a 19th-century cellar. This slot also contained a burnt timber in its base. On the northern edge of this slot was a vertical-sided, round posthole, 0.2 m in diameter and 0.4 m deep, filled with silt and charcoal fragments.

In the western room there were various earthen floor deposits, of which the main one contained a coin of Charles I, minted in 1635–6 (Catalogue No 131). Beside the south wall was a small shallow scoop, filled with silt and clay patches, which may have been a posthole or a part of the floor surfacing.

A number of silt spreads formed the basis of a new pebbled floor surface in the new middle room. The new floor occupied the full width of the building but only survived in the western end of the room. Cut through the pebbled floor was a small posthole, 0.2 m diameter and 0.15 m deep, filled with silt and charcoal.

The central hearth of the previous phase was replaced by a shallow scoop, filled with clay and cinders. This may have been a hearth area or an ash pit for a possible hearth immediately to its east. This hearth consisted of a shallow sub-circular scoop, whose lower fill consisted of pebbles in silt with charcoal, above which was silt with charcoal, mortar and red sand inclusions.

The timber-lined pit by the south baulk was replaced by a slightly larger sub-rectangular pit immediately to its east, aligned across the axis of the building. At its base, near the south edge was a shallow sandy patch (0.2 m diameter), the whole

complex possibly indicating a post setting within a post pit. The pit was filled with clayey silt with charcoal flecks and stones.

In the eastern room, at the east or back wall of the building, of which only two stones remained, there was some evidence for a hearth or an end wall chimney breast, which was later extensively robbed. A number of spreads, possibly associated with a fire place at this end of the building, pre-date the laying of the cobbles of the next phase. Small spreads of silt, including a patch of ash, were observed by the north wall. At the south baulk, and also predating the cobbles, two roughly squared stones were set in mortar on a NW/SE axis. These were perhaps kerb stones for a hearth.

To the rear of Building A the gravel surface continued in use with some repairs effected. New pebble surfaces were laid over silty clay make-up. Immediately to the rear of the building, a small, shallow pit, 0.1 m deep, was truncated by a sondage; it was filled with silt.

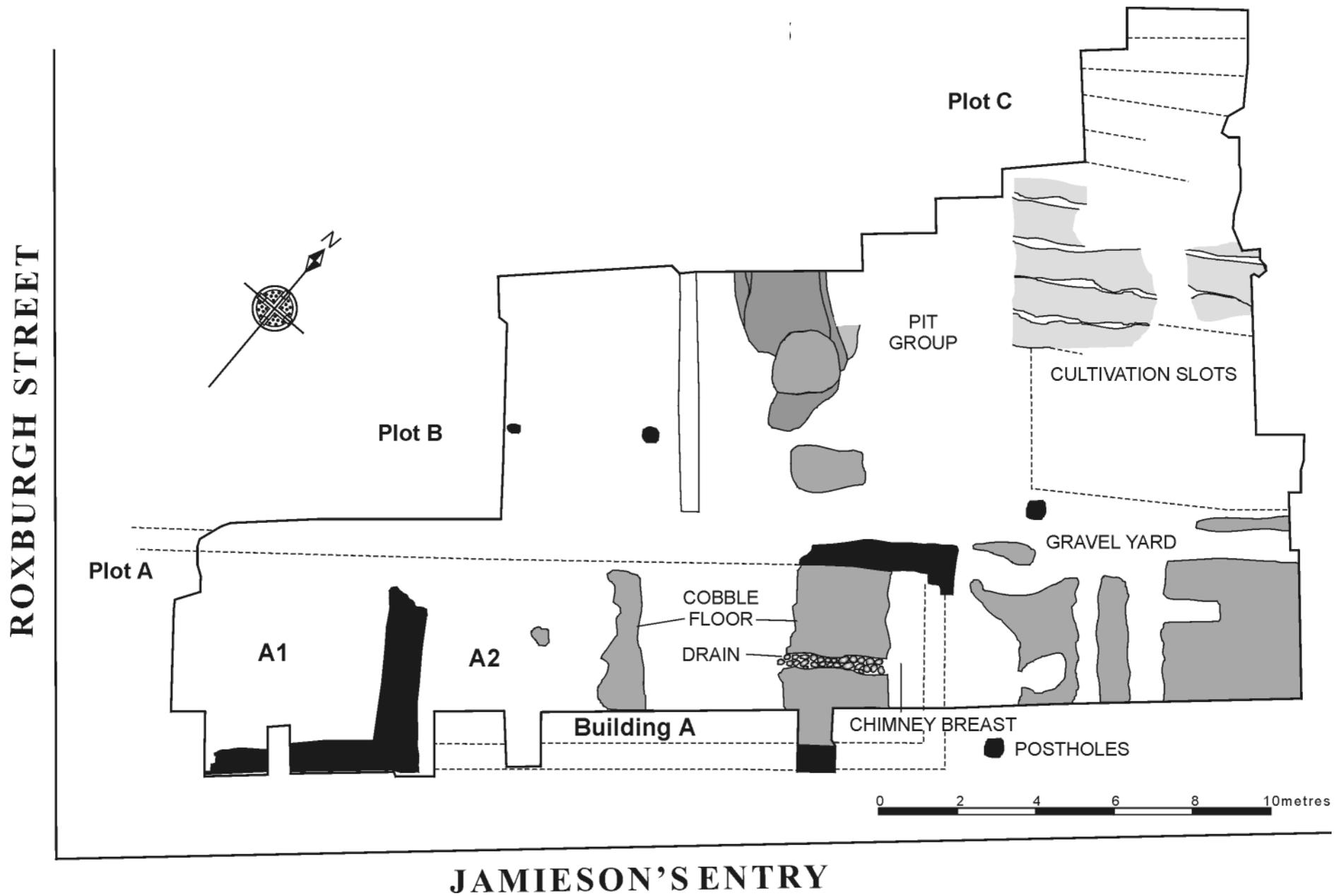
At the end of this phase the destruction of Building A occurred. The western and middle rooms were covered in spreads of burnt deposits, one of which yielded a coin of Charles I, dated 1632–9 (Catalogue No 134). The slot for the partition wall between these two rooms was filled in and covered by a variety of dumps, often rich in charcoal but also including layers rich in coal. These were probably part of the levelling of the site for re-use after the fire. The hearth area and pits were levelled, being infilled by charcoal, burnt clay and mortar-rich deposits. There was no evidence of burnt material in the rear half of the building due to truncation by later construction activity. The yard surface to the rear of the building was also covered by a thin layer of charcoal.

*Plot B (*illus 10*)*

This phase saw a change in use to cultivation in the western half of the property. Three broad, shallow furrows, up to 0.2 m deep, lay on a NE/SW alignment. Despite the cutting of a series of pits at their north-eastern, there was no indication that the furrows extended beyond the line of the pits. To the west the northernmost furrow appeared to end at the western limit of excavation and the other two were narrowing to a butt-end there. Between the two southern furrows was a narrow slot of unknown purpose.

In the base of the southernmost furrow there were about 65 stakeholes randomly spread along its length (not illustrated). Most were round, with some square or rectangular, and they varied from 0.15 m to 0.3 m in diameter, having both vertical and sloping profiles. These stakeholes, which may be associated with cultivation, were filled by burnt material, similar to that filling the furrows.

The furrows were filled with charcoal-rich silt with fragments of plaster, daub, nails, burnt pot sherds and melted glass, probably debris from the fire of



Illus 10 13-19 Roxburgh Street, Kelso: Phase 4

1684. This material may have been used in cultivation to aid drainage, but as it was not *in situ* destruction debris, the cultivation furrows, probably, post-date the fire.

East of the furrows two small pits, of unknown purpose, were cut into the silty subsoil. A shallow, oval scoop was filled by dark brown silt with charcoal flecks. To its north was the edge of a shallow pit, 0.15 m deep, truncated by a sondage and filled with crumbly, red-brown silt. East of these was a possible posthole, 0.2 m diameter and 0.15 m deep, with sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with grey-brown silt with small stones and charcoal flecks.

Plot C

In the northern part of the site a shallow scoop (not illustrated), 1.3 m by 0.6 m across, was filled by dark brown silt with charcoal. At the northern corner of the excavation was an area of tightly-packed cobbles, sloping gently away to the north and possibly subsiding into the earlier pits of Phase 3 (not illustrated).

Phase 5 – 18th century (*illus 11*)

Plot A

Building A (*illus 11*)

Building A was rebuilt after the fire, re-using the same external wall lines. This may account for the slightly different nature of that part of the south wall, which appeared in a small extension from the south baulk. The interior of the building was divided into two rooms, A1 to the west and A2 to the east.

A clay-bonded stone wall, 0.9 m wide, was constructed at a slightly oblique angle to the south wall and extended the full width of the building. Some traces of plaster were found on its west face. The former doorway in the south wall was blocked with boulders.

Room A1 was largely covered by a floor of dark grey sandy silt, but within this spread were charcoal-rich patches as well as coal. Towards the south part of the room was a levelling layer of mid-brown silt and charcoal, interleaved with the main destruction deposit and the floor surface. Beneath it were several features (not illustrated), probably associated with the clearance of the destruction levels and with the reconstruction. In places where this make-up layer was absent, the floor surface lay directly over the burnt deposits, especially around the edges of the room.

In Room A2 there was evidently extensive levelling prior to the construction of a new cobbled floor, set in clayey silt. The surviving extent of the cobbles was not as great as the bedding. In the rear part of the building, an extensive area of cobbling, across the full width of the building survived. In the middle of

this area, a double row of larger stones extended along the axis of the building and may have served as a drain. The cobbles were, in general, medium sized, weathered stones, set in a shallow scoop. The eastern edge of the cobbles seems to be intentional, as it was in line with the kerb stones of the previous phase. The fire-place and chimney breast at the east wall may still have been in use.

Towards the end of the phase, the east room was demolished and robbed. Two pits, of unknown function, were dug through the demolition material (not illustrated).

The area to the rear of the building continued in use as a yard. The area was levelled by a layer of silt with much burnt material. Gravel spreads, up to 0.2 m deep, covered most of the area, although not surviving beside the end of the building. The gravel was covered by clay and gravel and charcoal-rich loam spreads, through which were cut three pits of unknown purpose (not illustrated).

Plots B and C (*illus 11*)

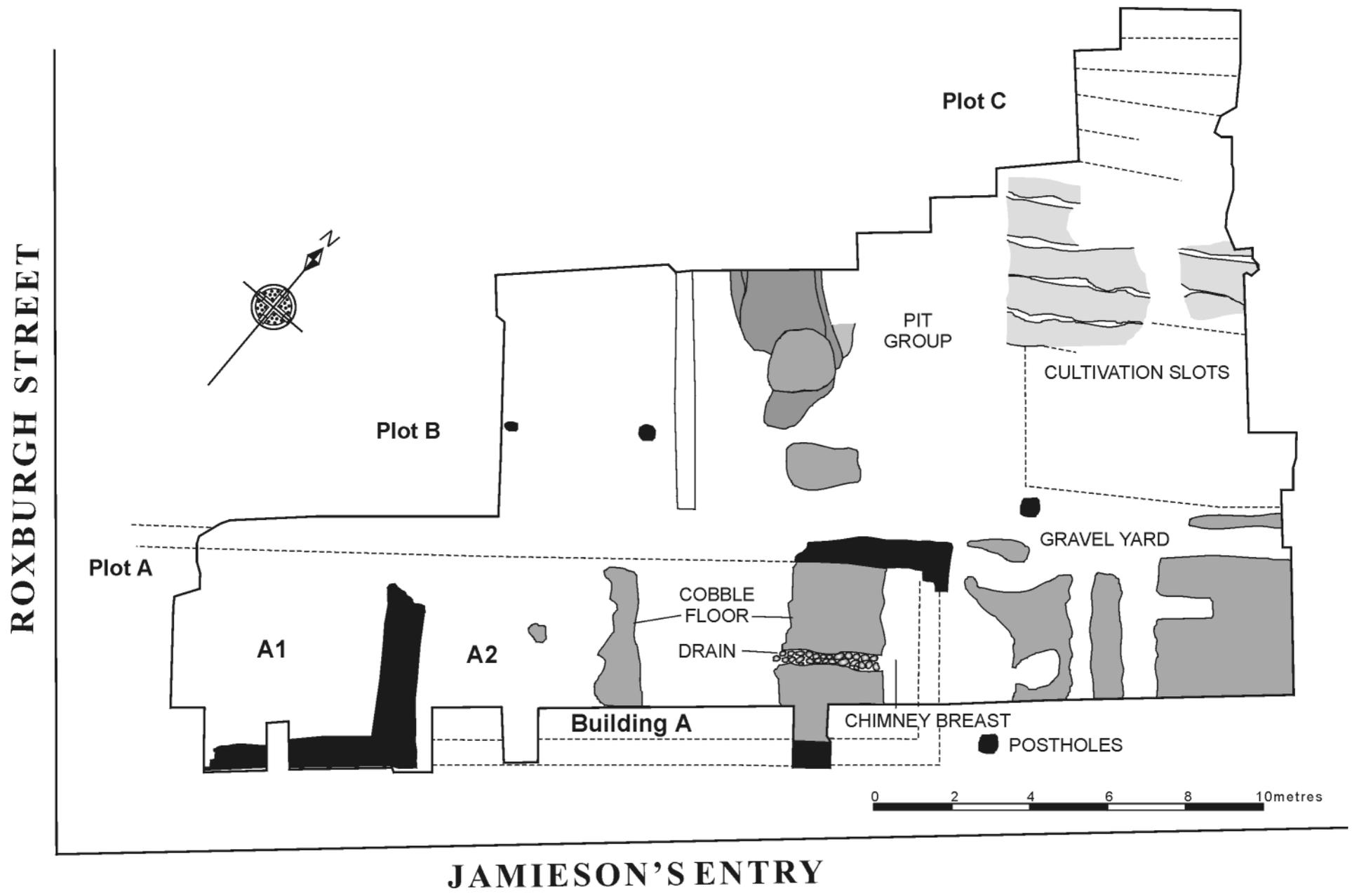
In this phase the furrows of Phase 4 went out of use and were slightly shortened by the cutting of a series of pits, presumably over a period of time, at their east end. More cultivation slots occurred to the rear of the site, extending into Plot C to the north.

Two small postholes were cut between the two southern furrows. To the west, an oval posthole, 0.3 m by 0.2 m across and 0.1 m deep, was filled with silt. Further east, a subcircular posthole, c 0.45 m in diameter and 0.2 m deep, was filled by brown silt. (The cultivation of the furrows may have obscured the layer from which the features were originally cut.)

The postholes and the furrows were filled by various layers spread over the area. The spreads were of grey-brown to dark brown silt, either levelling or build-up associated with continued cultivation. They were definitely cut by only the latest pit in the group at the east end of the furrows.

Of the earliest pit in the group, only the east side survived, filled by mid-brown silt. Cut into it was a subcircular pit, c 1.6 m in diameter, filled with dark silt with much charcoal and burnt domestic debris, under silt lenses, mortar and limestone rubble. Its topmost fill was mortar, 0.25 m thick. Cutting the north-west side of that pit was another, with sloping sides and a curved base. It measured c 2 m diameter and was filled by silt with a large amount of burnt debris, under a loam also containing burnt debris and lenses of ash. That pit was in turn cut by the edge of a pit extending into the northern limit of excavation, with steep sides and a flat base. Its lower fill was light brown sandy, clayey silt, above which was grey clayey silt with charcoal flecks. Another pit in the middle of the sequence, 2.5 m by 2 m across and 0.45 m deep, was filled by a thin layer of ash and charcoal under clay silt containing mortar and ash.

Cutting these pits, as well as the furrow fills, was a



Illus 11 13-19 Roxburgh Street, Kelso: Phase 5

subrectangular pit, 2.3 m by 2 m across and 0.5 m deep. It contained red/purple ash and charcoal, above which was grey-brown, silty loam. The latest pit in the sequence was filled by clay with purple-brown ash, charcoal and mortar, and was sealed by a spread of brown clay silt with mortar and charcoal fragments.

Cut into the upper fill of the east end of the southern furrow was an irregular, shallow pit, 1.9 m by 1.2 m across and 0.4 m deep. The primary fill was of hard-packed cinders and ash under looser black/purple cinders and ash. Although evidently an ash-pit, it predates the walls of Building C in Phase 6 and cannot be easily related to any earlier activity.

The north-eastern end of the property became an area of cultivation during this phase. The cobbles of the preceding phase were covered by dark brown silty loam, up to 0.5 m deep. At least twelve furrows, on NE/SW alignment, extended from the northern limit of excavation as far south as Plot A. At the north and south extremes the furrows were not evident in plan due to disturbance, in the north caused by several phases of cultivation and in the south to later construction activity. However the furrows were observed in section. The furrows were at least c 6 m in length, from 0.6 m to 1 m wide and survived to a maximum depth of 0.2 m. They were filled with mid- to dark brown silts or silty loams. In the base of one of the furrows were some stakeholes (not illustrated). Dark brown silt in the disturbed area of the furrows at the south of the property may have been a cultivation soil.

At the southern limit of the furrows was the edge of a small pit (not illustrated), 0.15 m deep, of unknown function, cut into the natural silt and truncated by the sondage. It was filled by grey-brown silt under mid-brown, crumbly silt.

In the area between the pit sequence and the furrows at the eastern end of the property were silts, mid-brown, gravelly silts and grey-dark brown clayey silts, with no trace of the furrows. However much of this area was excavated as a sondage, which may have hindered the recognition of the furrows, but equally they may have been removed by later construction, the silt deposits possibly being make-up or levelling material for a later occupation or floor.

Phase 6 – Later 18th and early 19th century ***(illus 12)***

Plot A

Building B (illus 12)

At the beginning of the 19th century Building B was constructed with five rooms (B1 to B5 from west to east). These, however, were probably not all constructed at the same time. It is possible that Room A1 of the previous building was merely improved, the walls being repaired or rebuilt to form

Room B1. This is the building depicted on Wood's map of 1823 (*illus 4b*).

Room B1 at the front of the property measured 4.3 m wide by at least 5.6 m long internally (the front wall was not within the extent of excavation). Essentially a re-use of Room A1, the south and east walls were rebuilt on the earlier foundations. The north wall was so fragmentary that it is difficult to determine if it was a rebuild or a completely new construction, although it occupied the line of the Building A's north wall. The north wall continued eastwards as far as the eastern end of the building, although it is clear that it was not all of one build. Room B1's north wall was 0.9 m wide and at least 5 m long, built with large, river-washed boulders with traces of an infilling of small and medium sized stones.

Within the room was a levelling deposit of sand with mortar and some gravel. Three narrow slots aligned across the width of the room indicated joists supporting a wood floor. A fire-place against the back (east) wall of the room was marked by a shallow pit, 0.05 m deep, in front of a recess in the east wall; it contained sand, which may have been a setting for hearth stones. Set within the fire-place was a large (0.3 m across) burnt sandstone block.

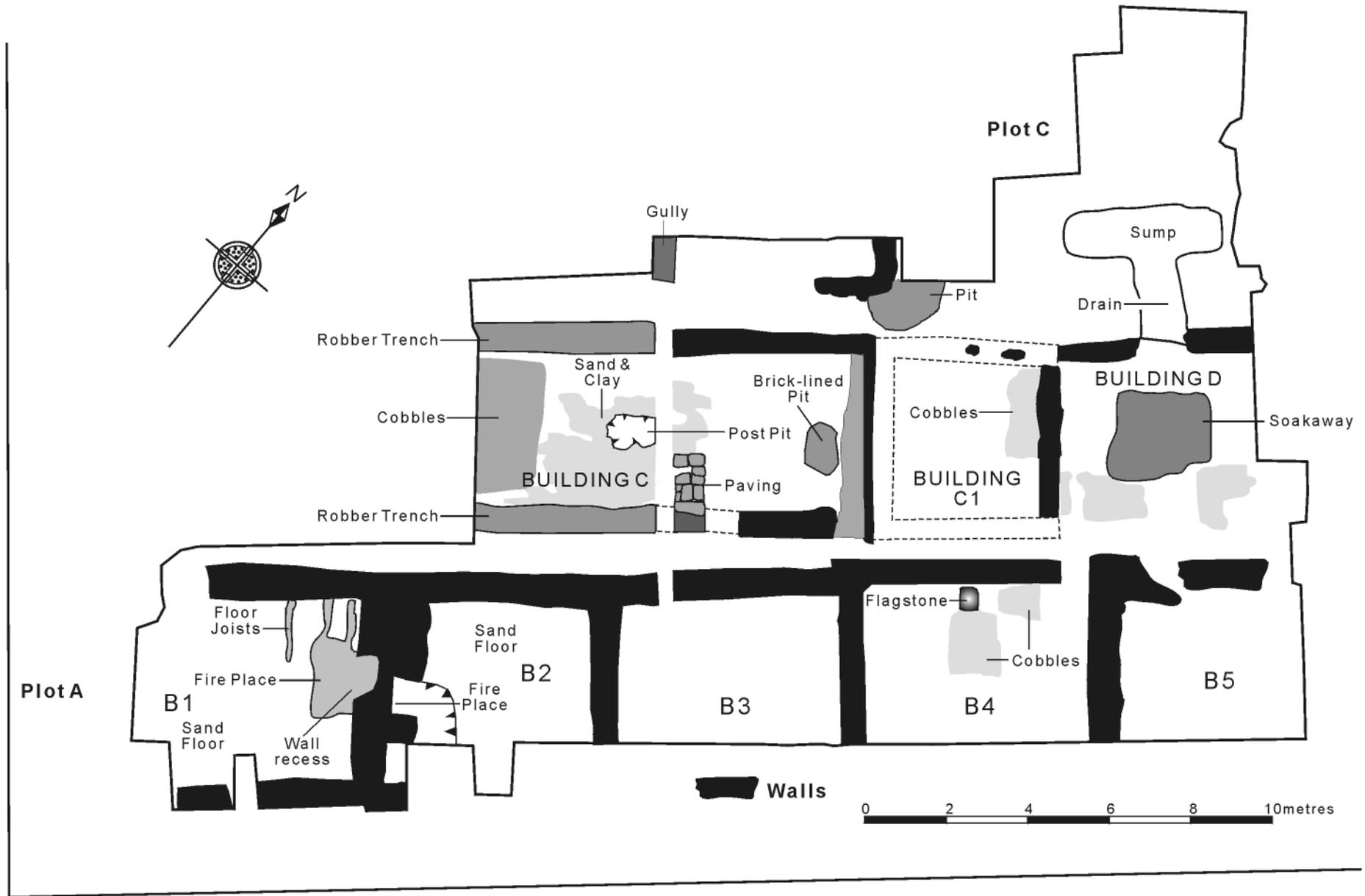
To the east of B1, the north wall was better preserved, slightly narrower, and with fewer large facing stones. It continued eastward with no obvious change in build for 10.6 m. It was 0.7 m wide and composed of clay-bonded, river-worn stones and sandstone, although part of the eastern end of the wall was mortared. Roughly mid-way along this particular length of wall was a wall of similar construction at right angles, forming the back (east) wall of Room B2.

Room B2 measured 4.3 m wide by 4.2 m internally. Built against the east wall of room B1 was an additional wall, 0.7 m wide, which incorporated a fire-place at roughly the mid point of the wall. The interior of the room was mostly covered by a spread of clay sand with mortar, perhaps the make-up for a flagstone floor. A brick-lined ash pit was seen in the baulk section to the south of the fire-place. It measured 0.35 m across, 0.35 m deep and was filled with layers of ash and burnt material. A stony layer at the base of the cut formed a foundation for the brick construction.

Room B3 to the east had internal dimensions of 4.3 m in width and 5 m in length and appeared to have been of two phases. The east wall was of somewhat different construction from the north wall, being similar to the north wall of the adjacent Room B4; it probably represents an extension to Building B, involving the rebuilding of the east wall of Room B3. It was 0.6 m wide and comprised large, mortared boulders with a rubble core.

Within B3, but pre-dating the construction of its surviving east wall, several make-up layers of mortar-rich silt, sand and gravel. The east wall was set in a shallow foundation trench, later than these make-up deposits, but possibly following a pre-existing wall line.

ROXBURGH STREET



JAMIESON'S ENTRY

Illus 12 13-19 Roxburgh Street, Kelso: Phase 6

The north wall of Room B4 was off-set from the north walls of the rooms to the west, and was of similar construction to the west wall. This possibly marks an extension to the original building. Internally the room was 5.5 m long and at least 3.8 m wide. Its east wall was set in a shallow trench, but only a few clay-bonded boulders survived. Unfortunately its relationship with the floor levels within B4 was obscured by an intrusive pipe trench immediately to its west.

Room B4 was floored, above levelling deposits of clayey loam and orange-pink clay with mortar inclusions, with cobbles and flagstones, which survived only in the north-east corner.

The north wall, 0.6 m wide, was composed of large, clay-bonded boulders; it continued towards the east baulk to enclose Room B5. This room was 4.4 m long and at least 3.7 m wide. At its west end, on the south side, was an area of sandstone slabs, which may have formed a foundation for the wall. At this point there was a large boulder set in mortar in the north wall. Both the north and west walls post-date levelling deposits of clayey loam and sand. No floor surface was observed in B5.

A narrow passage separated Building C to the north and Building B to the south. There may have been a build up of material between these two properties over time. Two clayey silt layers were noted toward the west end of site. One pre-dated the north wall of the Building B, the other accumulated against that wall. Later disturbance, when the gap was mostly infilled by walls, means that there was no clear relationship with Building C.

Plot B

Building C (illus 12)

Before the construction of this building some levelling deposits of sand, clayey silt and clayey sand, with mortar, charcoal and cinders, were laid down to level the cultivated ground.

The walls of the structure itself were from 0.6 m to 0.75 m wide and survived to a maximum height of 0.8 m. They comprised medium sized cobbles and some irregular sandstone blocks, loosely mortared. No foundation trenches were evident, the walls being generally built on the ground surface. However where the walls crossed earlier pits or furrows, a wider foundation course was provided, of less regular construction and clay-bonded, presumably to infill depressions or anticipate possible subsidence. Only 3 m of both the south and north walls survived in these depressions, the rest having been robbed. Of the east wall, only the east face survived later construction, extending across the full width of the building. The west wall lay beyond the limits of excavation. The building covered an area 4 m wide and at least 9.5 m long.

Some changes in the internal arrangements of the building occurred during its existence, and a number of make-up layers, surfaces and settings were observed within the building.

Toward the west end of the building were two areas of cobbles, set on a bed of clay with mortar inclusions, and separated by a line of larger stones. Continuing eastwards of this line was a similar line of stones and brown gravel set on a bed of clay and sand with mortar inclusions; these may have formed a drainage gully in the floor, similar to that in Room A2 (Phase 5). The cobbles to the north of this alignment were more regularly set in neat north/south rows than those to the south. Within the larger, southern area of cobbles were two rectangular stones with square sockets set in their upper surface. These socketed stones stood proud of the rest of the cobbles, and may have held upright posts of a partition or entrance. Above the cobbles were occupation deposits containing plaster, indicating the finish of the interior faces of the walls. The socketed stones within the cobbled area were still visible in these occupation deposits.

There was further evidence for internal partitioning. On the east side of the cobbled area two pits pre-dated at least part of it. The larger pit was sub-rectangular, 0.56 m long, 0.3 m wide and 0.2 m deep. Immediately to its south was a similar, but smaller pit. The fills of both pits contained cinders, and both pits were partially covered by large stones, possibly the remains of a flagstone floor. These pits may have held uprights for a partition at the edge of the cobbled area or for roof supports, before the cobbled and paved areas were laid down.

East of the cobbles there were deposits of yellow sandy clay covering an area 3.8 m by 2.8 m. These were probably floor levels or bedding deposits. An area of paving, of large red sandstone flags, was associated with these floor levels and may once have been more extensive. Beneath this paving was an oval pit, 0.35 m deep, filled by black cinders, which could not be directly related to the floor levels of the building (not illustrated).

A post pit, 1.1 m by 0.6 m in extent, was cut through the floor surface and filled with dark brown silt and cinders. It contained a post pipe, 0.4 m in diameter and 0.3 m deep. At the western edge of the pit, two small stakeholes, 0.03 m across and 0.1 m deep, were filled with decomposed wood.

At the east end of the building was a spread of yellow-brown sand. Set almost centrally near the east end of the building was a brick-built fire pit, 1 m long and 0.8 m wide, lined with a rectangular brick revetment, measuring 0.6 m by 0.3 m. This pit could be contemporary with internal surfaces of the building.

Above the west end of Building C was a demolition deposit, which contained a large proportion of charcoal and cinder, marking the end of use of this end of the building and forming the make-up for Building E in Phase 7.

Building D (illus 12)

The structural sequence to the rear of Building C is confused as the area was occupied by a series of wall lines on the same alignments, subject to rebuilding and robbing. Nor is it clear if these walls formed

buildings or enclosed yards. The most likely interpretation of these is as follows.

To the east, or rear, of Building C, and on roughly the same alignment, was a low stone wall, 8.5 m long and 0.6 m wide, much disturbed by later activity, including the sondage. Parts of the wall underlay the north wall of the later Building C1. It was set in a shallow foundation trench, cut into the red-brown silty subsoil and the cultivated soil overlying the latter. It was faced only on the south side and formed a revetment of the cultivated ground to its north. About midway along its course was a southward return, 2.75 m long and 0.65 m wide, composed of clay-bonded boulders faced on the east side, but with only one stone surviving from the face of the west side, adjacent to the north wall: the west side of the wall had been disturbed subsequently by a wall of Building C1 on the same line. This wall was also set in a shallow foundation trench. Demolition deposits occurred on both sides of this wall.

Building C1 (illus 12)

Overlying the wall lines of 'Building D' were more wall lines, apparently of a structure, with internal dimensions of 4.1 m SW/NE by 3.8 m, adjoining Building C.

Only the east wall of the building survived, the other walls being removed by later rebuilding and robbing. It comprised two structural elements: a foundation built on top of the cross wall of 'Building D', measuring 3 m long and 0.6 m wide, and set in a foundation trench filled with orange clay and sandstone chippings, under a narrower, mortared wall. Overlying the rubble layers associated with the eastern part of 'Building D' was mortar in gravel and sand, which may have been a further part of the demolition or a levelling surface for 'Building C1' or a yard.

Inside the building were two levelling layers, of purple-grey ash in a clay and mortar mix under more mortar. These were sealed by a bedding layer of sand for a cobble layer, which only survived against the north-east wall, although the bedding covered the whole of the interior.

Beyond structure C1, to the rear of the property, there was a yard area. It would seem that the revetment wall of 'Building D' was still in use as the northern boundary to the yard. At its southern limit, there were two areas of cobbles, set on sand bedding; the southern edge of the western area continued the line of the south wall of 'Building C1', although no trace of a boundary wall survived because of the disturbance caused by the construction of a later wall on this line, while the eastern area slightly overlay the wall line. There were other degraded cobble patches and trample layers within the yard limits, the yard having undergone some changes during its period of use.

North of the yard area various layers of clay silt accumulated, some relatively rich in ash and charcoal, others with lenses of clay. Through these were cut a T-shaped drain and sump, presumably to drain

the cobbled yard. Unfortunately the sump's relationship with the yard area and the revetment was obscured by a later wall construction. A channel, 2 m long and 1.1 m wide, covered in stone slabs, ran north from the yard area into a subrectangular sump. The sump, 0.8 m in depth, was lined and covered with more stone slabs and lay at right angles to the channel. A re-cutting of the sump appears to have taken place at some point, perhaps for emptying or cleaning. This was backfilled with gravel. The drainage channel had some green brown sticky silt at its base and the upper stone-work had collapsed into the drain.

After this drain went out of use, it was probably replaced by a square, vertical-sided soakaway, cut into the cobbled surface in the yard and backfilled with yellow-grey sand and large boulders under yellow gravel.

To the north of Building C, C1 and the yard some activity was noted, although this was at the limit of the excavation. A pit at the northern baulk, at least 2.5 m by 1 m, was filled by silty loam and stones. Above it were the remains of a corner formed by two walls, one, parallel to Building C, measuring 2 m in length and 0.4 m in width. At right angles to this, at its east end, another wall, 0.8 m in length, extended into the baulk. West of these walls a gully was revealed in an extension to the site, possibly a drain running NW/SE and filled with stones. At the northernmost part of site, beyond the stone sump, was garden soil. The walls and drain perhaps indicate another building in the adjacent property to the north.

Phase 7 – Late 19th century (illus 13)

Plot A

Building B (illus 13)

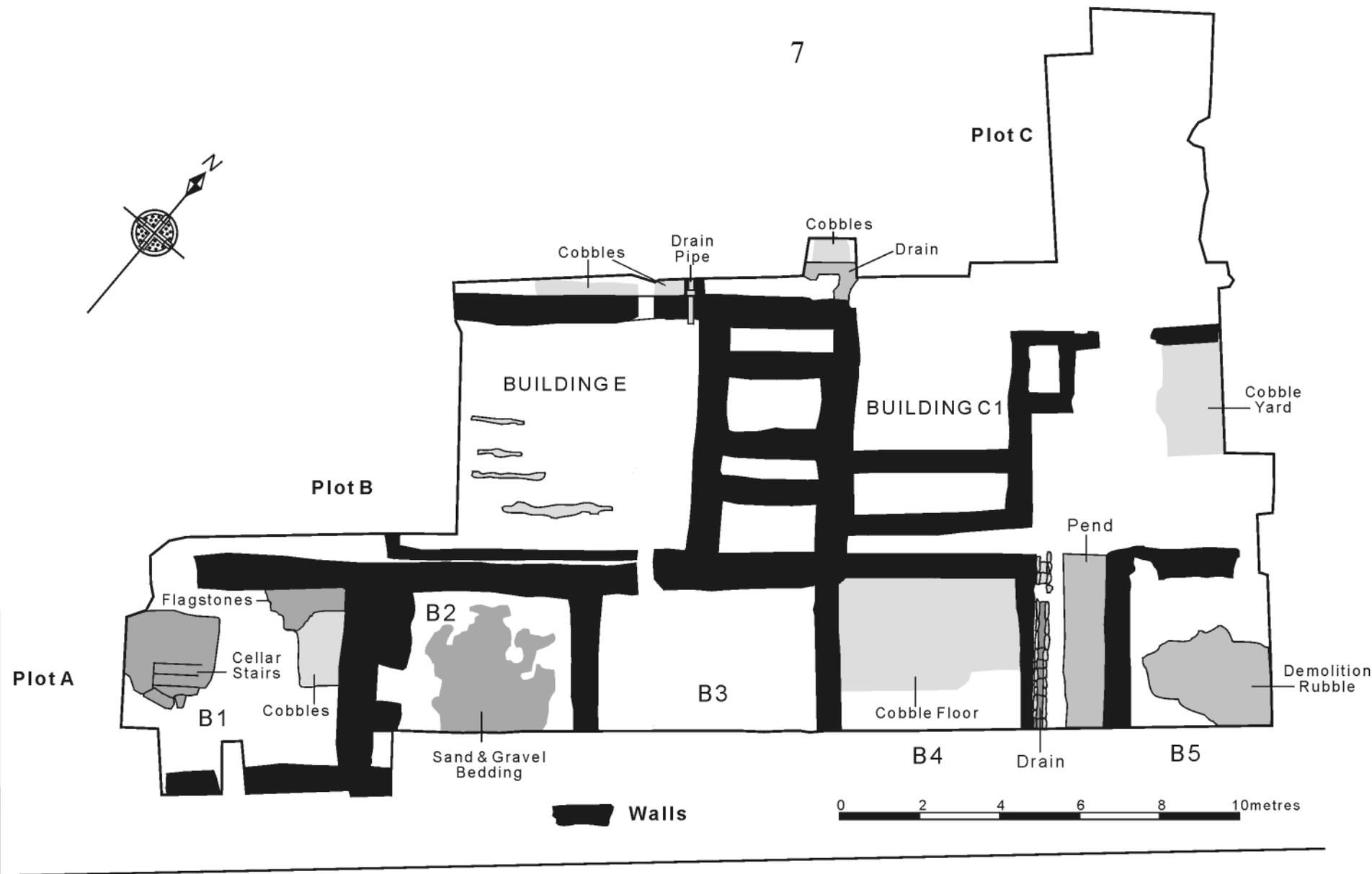
Building B underwent internal changes at the front of the structure and a certain amount of rebuilding to the rear of the property.

The interior of B1 was resurfaced with a spread of sand with mortar, a setting for the cobbles and flagstones, which survived in the north corner of the room but may have covered a larger area or the whole room. The fire-place had gone out of use and was blocked with clay-bonded boulders.

In Room B2, although the fire-place remained unblocked, the ash pit was no longer in use and the hearth may have been reset. A shallow scoop in front of the fire-place, filled with sand and gravel with mortar and coal, was possibly the setting for a new hearth. The rest of the interior was mostly covered by gravel and sand, possibly a setting for a flagstone floor of which only fragments remain. Several patches of sand, mortar, clay and cinders, mainly at the edges of the room, may have been patching or levelling of the area.

Room B3 does not appear to have changed internally. There was no evidence of a floor surface.

ROXBURGH STREET



JAMIESON'S ENTRY

Illus 13 13-19 Roxburgh Street, Kelso: Phase 7

Room B4 underwent some structural changes and perhaps a change of use. A new east wall replaced the earlier one, 1 m to its west, enclosing an area 4.7 m in length. Only partly preserved, the wall was 0.4 m wide and, although few stones survived, it could be traced from the north wall to the south baulk. Within the room a floor of densely packed cobbles was laid on a bed of mortar, but did not survive in the southern side due to the later laying of concreted flags.

A pend, 2 m wide, was inserted between Rooms B4 and B5, leading through to the back of Plot B to the north. At the west side of the passage, against the east wall of B4, an open drain, 0.3 m wide, of hollowed out sandstone slabs, was set into the cobbles.

The west wall of Room B5 was also rebuilt on a new line, the room being shortened to at least 3.4 m in length. Within the room, toward its south-east corner, was a pile of large stones, about 0.2 m deep lying over mortar, possibly from the demolition of the room. Its northern half had been disturbed by later activity.

Plot B

Building E (illus 13)

At the west end, or front of the property, Building C was replaced by the wider Building E, which butted against the walls of Building B to the south and of the property to the north. The building comprised a main room to the west and a narrower room to the east subdivided into four areas.

The walls were constructed of sandstone, with some brick and rounded stones bonded by mortar. The north and south walls of Building C were robbed out, while the foundations of the east wall were re-used for a new wall, 0.5 m wide, which was extended in length to meet the new north and south walls of this wider building. The joining sections of the north and south ends of the wall were less well founded on loosely mortared rubble and cobbles, over make-up layers of clay silt. The north wall was up to 0.8 m wide, but the south wall was narrower (0.3 m wide), since it was built against the north wall of Building B. Both the north and south walls were set in foundation trenches, up to 0.6 m deep. The internal dimensions for Building E were 10.5 m SW/NE by 5.7 m.

Internally at the front of the building there were four shallow gullies, possible beam slots for floor joists, cut into a make-up layer and the infills of the robber trenches for the north and south walls of Building C. The largest of slots was 2 m long and 0.2 m wide and all were filled with plaster and mortar, some containing traces of wood. In the middle of the building was an area of small coal fragments, 0.8 m by 0.8 m, and a shallow depression, 0.6 m long, 0.3 m wide and 0.1 m deep, filled with coal and cinders; these may have been associated with the ovens (see below). The front half of the interior of

Building E was disturbed and covered by demolition debris.

To the rear of the building were a number of walls, thought to be the internal arrangement for the ovens of a bake house. A wall, 0.8 m wide and set in a deep foundation trench, ran the width of the building, 2.3 m to the west of the east wall, which had been thickened on the inside for part of its length. Between and adjoining the east wall and the partition wall, three short walls, c 2 m in length, 0.6 m wide and stood 0.6 m high, without foundation trenches, divided the east end of the building into four unequal 'rooms'. They were constructed of large stones mortared together. In between these walls there was a build up of layers, either oven deposits or make up layers.

Outside the building to its north was a yard or path, indicated by a narrow strip of cobbles at the edge of the excavation. At some point subsequently, a drain pipe was inserted in the north wall and the repair effected with brick. At the north corner of Building E was a small section of stone drain with cobbles at the edge of the trench.

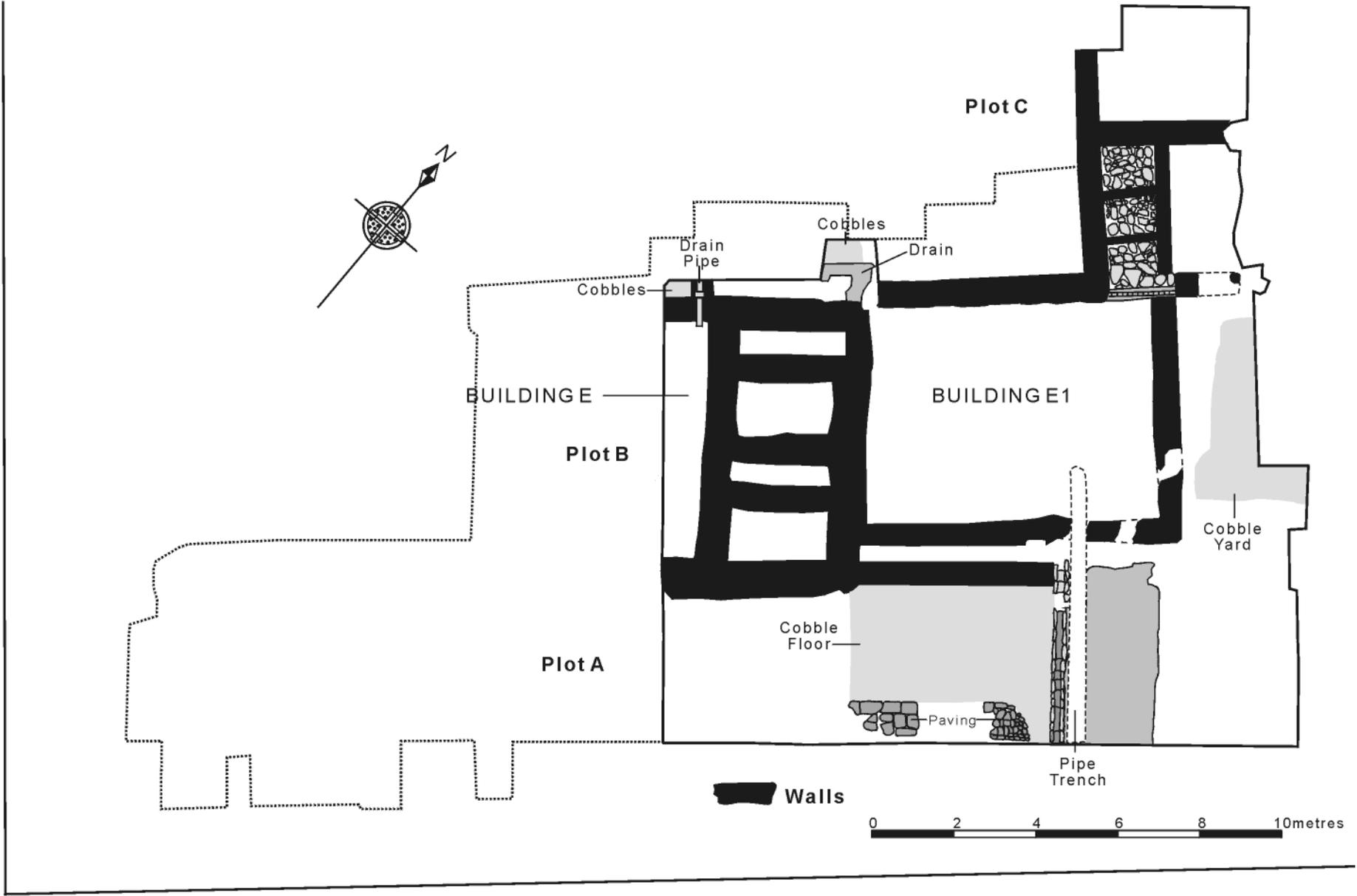
Building C1 (illus 13)

To the rear of Building E, 'Building C1' appears to have been adapted from the earlier phase. The same wall lines were re-built, additions made and new surfaces laid down, although the sequence is as confusing as in the previous phase.

The area of the building was divided in two. The surviving east wall of C1 was rebuilt and the cobbled interior was covered by light brown clayey silt. The line of the north wall was marked by a robber trench, dug at the end of this phase. A new wall was inserted in a shallow foundation trench, between and at right angles to the east walls of Buildings C1 and E. The wall was of mortared boulders, 4 m long, 0.5 m wide and 0.6 m high. Parallel to it to the south, was a new south wall, constructed in a similar fashion but in a wider, deeper foundation trench. The east wall between these two walls was similarly constructed, measuring 1.5 m in length and 0.6 m in width. A deep trench was dug along the east wall of Building E and a narrow wall constructed against it. There were some vestiges of a cobbled surface in the interior of the northern part of the building.

The yard area at the rear of Building C1 underwent alteration with the construction of a small coal shed, with internal dimensions of 1.1 m by 0.8 m, against the east wall of C1. The floor surface was of ash, soot and coal fragments. After the infilling of the soakaway, the yard was then at least partially re-surfaced. Spreads of gravel and hard-packed clay and cobbles in small areas covered the yard. A thin layer of brown clay was observed overlying some areas of cobbles, and a layer containing charcoal was above the site of the soakaway. Extending into the eastern baulk was a pit, 2 m across and 0.4 m deep, filled with gravel (not illustrated).

ROXBURGH STREET



JAMIESON'S ENTRY

Illus 14 13-19 Roxburgh Street, Kelso: Phase 8

Plot C

To the north of the yard, the earlier garden soil remained in use.

Phase 8 – Early 20th century (*illus 14*)

Plot A

*Building B (*illus 14*)*

Rooms B3-B5 seem to have been dismantled, their sites becoming yards, floored with flagstones, concrete or cobbles. New pipe trenches were inserted.

Plots B and C

*Building E1 (*illus 14*)*

In this phase the eastern half of the property, occupied by Building C1 and the yard, was completely rebuilt, being replaced by the much larger Building E1 and a new yard area. This was added on to the back of the bake-house, Building E.

The south wall of Building C1 was extended eastwards and new east and north walls (0.8 m wide) constructed, making a structure with internal dimensions of 7.5 m by 5.8 m. The north wall line continued to the east, but little remained of this wall. At the back of the building a new cobbled area was laid over spreads of ashy material.

To the north of the new building, three sheds, with floors of large cobbles covered by coal, were built against boundary walls with the adjacent properties to the north. The surviving superstructure of the north wall of E1, where the sheds butted onto it, was made of brick. These sheds encroached on Plot C, which was presumably conjoined with Plot B.

In the cobbled area to the north of Building E a stone-lined well (not illustrated) was cut through the west side of the earlier well steps of Phase I, and pits of Phase 5. It was oval rather than round, 1.5 m by 1.3 m across, and set in a vertical-sided pit, about 3.5 m across. It was filled with rubble, which was similar to the remaining lining. The exact stratigraphic position of this well was not resolved, and it could have belonged to the cobbled yard of Phase 7, since it was cut from that level.

Discussion

This excavation has provided evidence that 13–19 Roxburgh Street was within the occupied area of the

settlement of Easter Kelso from the 13th–14th centuries, with evidence of wells, a possible building platform parallel to the modern street, and pits for both rubbish and quarrying. In addition the corn-drying kiln is indicative of an open yard area behind the street-frontage during the 16th century, if not earlier. Such activity does not distinguish it as being urban or rural, since kilns have been encountered in both urban and rural locations, eg, at Perth (Coleman 1996, 706–7 and 730) and Chapelton, Angus (Pollock 1985, 363–8). Two kilns in the town of Kelso and two others on the abbey's Almonry lands are recorded in a rental of the abbey of c 1567 (*Kelso Liber*, 528, 529); it is possible that the kiln at Roxburgh Street is one of them. The rent roll suggests that Kelso was primarily a rural rather than an urban settlement at that date (see Historical Background, above).

The infilling of the backlands of the building plots during the 18th and 19th centuries indicates the main period of urban expansion, but activity in the 17th century suggests that there may be continual occupation of the site from the medieval period onwards.

So far as can be said from the admittedly scrappy 17th-century evidence, the medieval building tradition continued into the post-medieval period. Walls were of boulders bonded with clay and roofs cruck-framed, if the shallow post settings along the insides of the 17th-century walls of Building A were indeed for that purpose and not for an upper storey or half-lift. However no structures on the site were well enough built for more than a single storey until the 19th century and the use of clay bonding persisted until then. Pantile roofing may well have been common from the 18th century and the use of brick in fireplaces and ash pits was evident from the same period. Diamond-shaped window panes were found in late 17th-century levels, but no lead comes.

Until the 17th century most pottery was in the medieval tradition of White Gritty cooking pots and jugs and late medieval reduced wares. The 17th-century levels produced one slipware assiette, possibly a local copy of a Dutch type, but it was not until the 18th century that widespread importing of stonewares and slipwares became common. Clay pipes were evident from the 17th-century levels and glass from wine bottles was common from the 18th century (and pieces of wine-glasses). The presence of an inn in the 19th century suggests an interpretation of the 18th-century Building A as a stable for the inn on the street front and it would explain how Jamieson's Entry developed into a right of way.