
2 Introduction

Construction of an extension to the Kirk Hall at Cramond, Edinburgh (NGR: NT 1907 7685), required Scheduled Monument Consent, as the Kirk Hall lies within the scheduled area of Cramond Roman fort. Consent for the building works was granted by Historic Scotland on condition of a programme of archaeological excavation on the affected area. An evaluation carried out by Headland Archaeology in October 1998 (Terry 1998) comprised excavation of three trenches adjacent to the Kirk Hall. A trench on the east side revealed a ditch of Roman date, while in one of the trenches to the west of the building part of a cobbled surface, possibly the Roman road

leading to the fort, was identified. Full excavation of the footprint of the proposed extension was therefore necessary and this work was carried out by Headland Archaeology in January 2001 (Dalland 2001).

A mechanical excavator was used to remove up to 1.1m of modern overburden, consisting of soil mixed with modern building rubble, revealing features cut into the underlying gravel subsoil. The layer of modern disturbance immediately overlay the subsoil, indicating that some recent truncation of the features may have occurred.