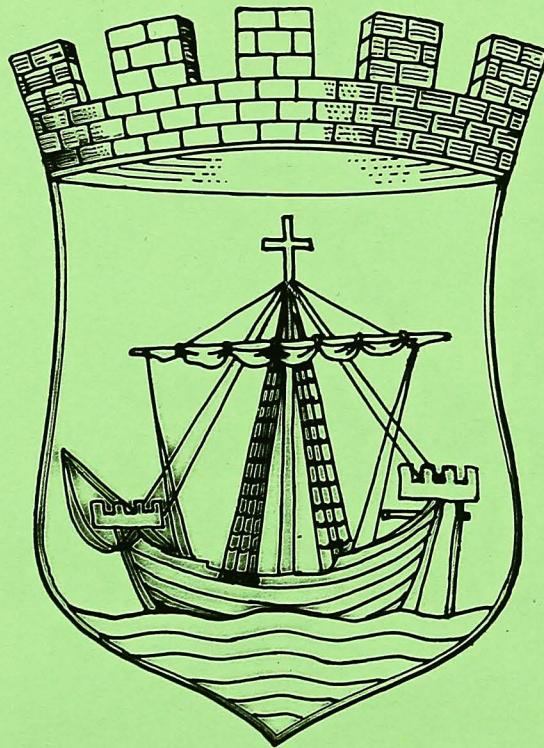


Historic

# INVERKEITHING

the archaeological implications  
of development



Anne Turner Simpson  
Sylvia Stevenson

Scottish Burgh Survey  
1981

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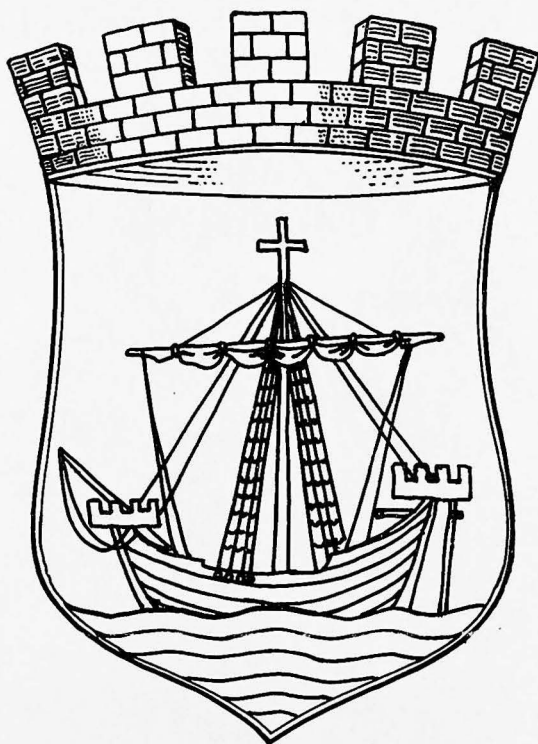
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# INVERKEITHING

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of development



Anne Turner Simpson  
Sylvia Stevenson

Department of Archaeology,

Scottish Burgh Survey

1981

University of Glasgow

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## PREFACE

This report of the history and archaeology of the former burgh of Inverkeithing is one of a series of such reports on the historic towns of Scotland. The reports have been commissioned by the Ancient Monuments Inspectorate of the Scottish Development Department with a view to providing the necessary background information upon which to base a policy for urban research in the future. They are also aimed at providing local authority planning departments with the historical and archaeological information necessary to enable them to assess the archaeological implications of any planning applications.

Each report contains an historical report compiled by Anne Turner Simpson with an archaeological report and a series of illustrative plans compiled by Sylvia Stevenson and drawn by Sheila Taylor. The reports attempt to identify those areas within the burghs which were developed at various periods of their history up to approximately 1800, and to locate within those areas sites which are of particular historical importance. Areas of 19th century growth and modern suburbs have not been examined.

The survey team would like to acknowledge the help and support of Dunfermline District Council: Mr. T.W. Shepherd, Director of Physical Planning and members of his staff, especially Mr. Norman; the staff of the Archaeology Division of the Ordnance Survey, Edinburgh; the Historic Buildings Branch of the Scottish Development Department; Mr. J. Wordsworth of the Scottish Urban Archaeology Unit and Mr. W.C. Brown, reference Librarian at the Central Library Dunfermline. The survey team would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Professor Leslie Alcock and Mr. Eric Talbot who supervised the project at Glasgow University.

Note:- The views expressed herein are those of the survey team freely given, and do not necessarily represent official policy.

Cover:- The Coat of Arms of the burgh of Inverkeithing as depicted in Bute, MacPhail and Lonsdale, 1897, 186.

# History

'Inverkeithing is one of that group of little burgh towns which stud the north shore of the Forth from Crail to Culross, and exhibit for the most part unequivocal traces of having decayed from the grandeur and importance which they enjoyed as the emporia of trade and commerce previous to the union of the kingdoms' (Beveridge, 1867, 31).

## INTRODUCTION

Site: Inverkeithing is situated on the northern side of the Firth of Forth, three and a half miles south-east of Dunfermline and two miles from the Forth Rail Bridge. It grew up at a natural point for communications, a short distance north of the narrowest crossing point of the Firth of Forth and beside its own sheltered harbour. The Keithing Burn, which gives the town and parish its name, flows from Bellknowes, and is reinforced by the Pinketon Burn from Duloch and the Scotsmill Burn near Burnside before emptying into the bay.

Place Name: The name Inverkeithing signifies 'mouth of the Keithing', but the meaning of the river-name is contentious.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Burgh Status: Inverkeithing first appears as a burgh in the reign of Malcolm IV. Dunfermline, Cambuskenneth, Kelso, Holyrood and Scone all had property in Inverkeithing by Malcolm's grace. William the Lion, Malcolm's brother and successor, granted the burgh a wide trading area between the Leven and Devon Waters, a grant which was ratified in 1223 and 1259. Inverkeithing participated in the General Council of 1357 and attended Parliament regularly from 1471 (Pryde, 1965, 10).

Medieval: Much of Inverkeithing's fortune in the middle ages was due to the fact that it was situated at a very advantageous position on the Forth, and also at the junction of many trade routes. William the Lion, in a c.1178 x 1189 charter, allowed the burgesses to levy toll and customs and all dues pertaining to the burgh between the River Leven and Devon, by water and land and from boats and ships. This document stipulated that no one could take tolls or carry on trade within these marches without the licence of the burgesses (Barrow, 1971, 285). As has been pointed out (Duncan, 1975, 483), granting this leave to the community was far greater than the crown had done for Rutherglen some

ten years earlier or Ayr c.1205. Compacted on its advantageous trading position and territory, it appears that twelfth century Inverkeithing was sophisticated politically, with its burgesses giving licences to trade, and there is also strong evidence that its prepositii, who were normally the king's reeves, acted very much on behalf of the community (Duncan, 1975, 483).

From its situation, in close proximity to the narrowest part of the Firth of Forth, and consequently on the line of the most direct route from Edinburgh to Dunfermline and the north, it was inevitable that Inverkeithing should be brought into frequent contact with the sovereign of Scotland (Stephen, 1921, 333). Inverkeithing's strategic position allegedly attracted a colony of Jews in 1270, who wanted to establish a settlement on the peninsular lands between Inverkeithing and North Queensferry, and made an application to Alexander III making a good offer for the ground. The application was turned down due to the fact that the land had been granted to Inverkeithing, and the project came to naught (Cunningham, 1899, 13-14). Alexander III had at least one more connection with the town as he rode through it on the way to his death in March 1286.

All the fourteenth-century monarchs had a connection with the burgh. For example, Robert I issued two charters from there in the autumn of 1316. Although Robert II was frequently in Inverkeithing, the special connection between the burgh and Robert III and his queen, Annabella Drummond, has never been satisfactorily explained. Tradition strongly affirms that the queen resided with more or less regularity in the house in Queen Street sometimes described as 'the Palace'. It may be quite true that the queen sometimes did stay in Inverkeithing, and it is probable that the hospitium of the Grey Friars provided her with shelter to which on that account the designation 'Palace' may have been attached in local conversation (Stephen, 1921, 337-8). By a charter of January 1398-9, a stipulation provides for the payment to the Queen in her lifetime of 100 shillings due to the crown from the burgh rents (RCAM, 1933, 159). Arms of Robert III and the Drummond family appear on the market cross and also on a medieval baptismal font which was discovered in the church early last century.

Trade in the middle ages seems to have been very healthy. The reports to the Exchequer throughout the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries

were significant. In 1369 the figure was £217 2s 9d Scots; in 1387, £131 11s 3d, and in 1443, £97 7s 4d (Stephen, 1938, 88). Inverkeithing in 1416 exported wool, fleece and hides worth £78 0s ½d, while Kinghorn exporting the same products managed only £3 0s 5d (ER, ii, 385, 287). Inverkeithing, at the hub of trade in medieval Scotland, was chosen to be the venue for meetings of all the royal burghs to 'trete apoune the welfare of merchandis the gude rewell and statutis for the commoune proffit or borrowies' (Nicholson, 1974, 445). There is no record however if these meetings were ever convened, although many scholars have pointed to this 1487 Act of Parliament as a forerunner to the Convention of Royal Burghs.

Early Modern: In a commercial sense, Inverkeithing fell upon dark days in the sixteenth century. In the imposition of a national stent in 1535, Inverkeithing protested to the king's council that the burgh had 'dekeyit and fallen into povertie' and compared their doleful state to Kinghorn's which was described as 'full of riches' and possessing a large number of sea going vessels. The royal officials referred the matter to Edinburgh's town council who agreed to restrict Inverkeithing's contribution (Stephen, 1921, 14). Inverkeithing again renewed its protestation of poverty on the occasion of the 1554 stent, and once again it was reduced. By the end of the century, a great amount of burgh property, including the Cruikis (first granted to Inverkeithing by William the Lion), had to be feued off to pay for harbour repair and other civic projects. Its 1597 stent reflects the burgh's doleful state. In that year Inverkeithing was taxed at a rate of ten shillings, well behind both Kinghorn and Pittenweem, who tied at eighteen shillings (RCRB, ii, 10).

The twin disasters of plague and war visited the town in the seventeenth century. As early as 1608-9 an epidemic of the plague broke out, although the war did not come until the 1640s. Parliament in 1645 stented many towns to supply men and money for their army. Inverkeithing was expected to supply £90 and ten soldiers monthly for a short period, while Kinghorn contributed £126 and fourteen men and Pittenweem sent fifteen men and £135. In addition to the money, Inverkeithing contributed to the Parliamentary army, a battle was fought near the town between English and Scottish forces in 1651. The burn was said to have run with blood for three days, while the plain on which the battle was fought was 'like a harvestful of corpses' (Ballingal, 1872, 41).

Eighteenth Century: Inverkeithing's economic picture does not stay static in the eighteenth century. Daniel Defoe, visiting the seaport in the first quarter of the century, notes that the town was large, populous, but 'decayed as to what it formerly had been'. He did also note that there had been an increase in linen manufacture here since the Union, and that the market for provisions was also very considerable, 'the country round being very fruitful' (Rogers, 1973, 627). Bishop Pococke, carrying on this theme, noted in 1760 that 'there are many inhabitants in it who are contented with the products of a few acres of ground and apply to no kind of business' (Kemp, 1887, 283). The reporter in the Statistical Account in the 1790s seemingly has a very mixed view of his parish. Truthfully, the trade picture he paints is not all that bright, but he blames burgh elections and elections of members of Parliament as having an unhappy influence upon the morals of the people (OSA, 1794, 512). However, our correspondent was able to list a wide variety of trades and manufactures that were carried on in the parish, chiefly coal.

As early as the reign of David II in the fourteenth century, coal had been mined in the parish, and continued to be so on a humble scale until the final decade of the seventeenth century, when the town council ordered borings to be made in the common lands (Stephen, 1938, 100). Coal was mined extensively in the neighbourhood throughout the eighteenth century, and it was exported through the harbour at Inverkeithing. By the turn of the nineteenth century, 25,000 tons of coal were shipped annually, and as many as forty to fifty vessels sometimes lay waiting for a cargo of that commodity (Sibbald, 1803, 301n). The main works of the parish at Halbeath had once belonged to a Dutch firm, but according to the Statistical Account 'it is now worked by a company of our own countrymen who carry it on with spirit and have brought it to a flourishing state' (OSA, 1794, 507).

Several 'experienced workmen' worked at an iron foundry, and lead mining provided another form of employment. Late eighteenth-century Inverkeithing could also boast a distillery and a brewery, as well as a tan works, soap works, and a salt pan and timber works. The five incorporated trades of hammermen, bakers, weavers, tailors and shoemakers served a population of 880 townsmen (Stephen, 1921, 19; OSA, 1794, 512).

## BURGH MORPHOLOGY

Street Layout: One mid-nineteenth century writer was especially struck by the site of Inverkeithing which he described as standing on an eminence of nearly thirty feet above sea level, overlooking the Bay which bears its name; and which bay, when viewed from the top of Castleland Hill early on a summer morning, at high water, can only be compared to the beautiful bay of Naples, though much smaller in size (Barbieri, 1857, 189). While we in the late twentieth century perhaps cannot share his enthusiasm, the topography of the site has had a marked effect on the development of the burgh.

The town therefore occupies a sort of terrace on rising ground, sloping down to the sea, and consists mainly of one broad street, the High Street (Beveridge, 1887, 32). The expanse of High Street is relieved at each end by an island of buildings. At one island group at the east end of the town the thoroughfare forks, sending a branch up the slope past the church, and another down the hill towards the Keithing Burn (Geddie, 1922, 48). This route, which led to the burn, was known, in former days, as Mill Wynd or Mill Raw. Present-day Church Street indicates that ancient passage to the parish church, while connecting the two thoroughfares is a narrow way, Heriot Street, known in the medieval burgh as the way to St. Erat's Well.

Fifteenth-century documents refer to Algier's Wynd and a tenement in the South Raw of the burgh. Other early references include the Wynd, and later Dunfermline Wynd, for Hill Street, while the Wynd was also an appellation for Townhall Street. The road that now constitutes Alma Street was described as the Gouhall, and Commercial Street like Alma Street, is a nineteenth century introduction built to take the place of Port Street when railway construction closed the latter to vehicular traffic (Stephen, 1921, 6; 1938, 17). Port Street had had a wide variety of names including Shore Wynd and Coal Wynd. In the eighteenth century, carriers, mainly women, took coal in creels down Port Street to the harbour (Inverkeithing Past and Present, n.d., 28).

Market Area: It must be conjectured that the market area of the medieval burgh was in that area known as the Cross. Inverkeithing once boasted a weekly market and five yearly fairs, one of which, the Lamma Fair, survives to the present day. The reporter in the Statistical Account noted that the town's markets and fairs dealt with

cattle, horses and other livestock as well as coarse linen, shoes and goods (OSA, 1794, 502). A flesh market stood in King Street from 1732 until 1815. Although the flesh market no longer exists, the market cross does, standing not in its original position but in Bank Street. In 1796 it was reported that the cross was in a 'dangerous condition of disrepair' and the Town Council ordered that it be examined. Two years later the General Post Office in Edinburgh suggested that, on account of the recently established mail coach, the cross should be removed from the main street. Thus, the cross was taken down from its site in Townhall Street at a cost of £14 (Stephen, 1921, 23-24). The octagonal shaft of the cross rises from a graduated base and its capital is moulded and enriched with roses, while on the sides are shields bearing the arms of the Drummonds, the royal arms, and arms of the Earls of Douglas (RCAM, 1933, 159; Stephen, 1921, 24). Above the capital is a cubical sundial, on which sits a unicorn supporting a shield and bearing a saltire. Both the sundial and unicorn are alleged to date from 1688 (RCAM, 1933, 159).

Defences: By the terms of an Act of Parliament of 1503, the inhabitants of Inverkeithing were charged with building a wall seaward with ports of stone and lime (APS, ii, 243, cl.20). It is unknown whether this project was carried out, for in 1557, the inhabitants were charged 'to big dikes and fowseis and to have stafe slungis in reddiness to the portis thairof' (Stephen, 1921, 5-6). 'Stafe slungis' were a type of catapult, and thus it would appear that on central government's instigation, the burgh was preparing for a state of war. Traces of the wall remained until the eighteenth century, for Daniel Defoe in his tour describes the burgh as 'an ancient walled town', whereas a diarist, Sir T. Cave, in 1763 notes that the 'little town of Inverkeithing was once walled round...as all those in the coast towns have anciently been' (Stephen, 1921, 5-6). William Stephen identified the course of the wall as running from the shore at the harbour westward to the South Port and the Roman Road, along Roman Road by the West Port to the northwest of the old school playground and thence eastward by the North Port to the Mill Dam, and then southward by the East Port to the burn in the vicinity of the south end of a garden in King Street (1938, 16-17). Portions of the wall remain. The Ordnance Survey has identified sections at NT 1283 8278 - 1284 8282 and NT 1289 8272 - 1294 8296, the former on the east side of

Roman Road, and the latter projects from the foundation of a boundary wall near Abbot Place (Ordnance Survey Record Cards, Reference NT 18 SW 2; Stephen, 1938, 17).

Ports: The ports of the burgh survived longer than its wall which was removed at an unknown date. In July 1773 the need for stone in repairing and laying new roads turned the town council's attention towards putting Inverkeithing's gateways to utilitarian work. It appears that the North, East and West Ports were removed at that juncture, although portions of the South Port were not only in evidence on 8 October 1775, but survived until the present century (Stephen, 1921, 5; 1938, 17). The East or Mill Port stood in King Street, while the West Port was located in Hill Street apparently at a point immediately to the east of Roman Road and North Port stood in Church Street (Stephen, 1921, 5). The South Port was situated at the junction of High Street and Hope Street in line with Abbot Place (Stephen, 1938, 16).

Harbour: As Inverkeithing largely owes its origins to the sea and trade, it must be assumed that there was a harbour here from earliest times, although little is known about it until the Early Modern period. Petitions for harbour repair were common in the sixteenth century, and in 1577 we find a report that revenue of £9 was forthcoming from the harbour which 'does not unhide ye self' (Stephen, 1921, 114). Harbour repair was intense in the 1580s with £18 being spent in 1582, and £12 13s the following year. In 1587 the Convention of Royal Burghs assigned Inverkeithing £20 for the upkeep of a harbour which they had described as 'decayit' (Stephen, 1921, 114; RCRB, i, 268). Matters had not improved in the next decade for in 1593, the burgh craved support for harbour repair (RCRB, i, 445), and later set in feu portions of their common land to raise funds contrary to an Act of Parliament. Deliberate sabotage of the harbour occurred in 1651 in an effort to prevent Cromwellian vessels from entering. The ships that were sunk and the great stones which were placed at the mouth of the channel had the effect of ruining the harbour: and the burgh's resources were not equal to bring about a remedy. Central government ordered a collection throughout the nation's churches and from Carnock, as well as other parishes, 'there was a contribution intimate for repairing the harbour of Inverkeithing' (Cunningham, 1899, 47).

Although increased traffic and trade might have led to a construction

of a new pier in 1683, harbour fortunes were mixed in the eighteenth century. One observer writing in 1728 noted that Inverkeithing was 'a pretty seaport with a good harbour if it were kept clean' (Stephen, 1921, 16). In 1738 the town council agreed to lengthen the pier by sixty feet and in 1768 the town council invoked the help of the Convention of Royal Burghs for general harbour repair. However, it appears that in 1775 the harbour was again in a very ruinous condition, and work continued until the end of the century, including, in 1792, the erection of a Ballast Pier (Stephen, 1921, 17). The increase in coal exports perhaps provided the impetus to this work.

### BUILDINGS

Castle: Inverkeithing, although an early royal burgh, was an anomaly for it did not have a castle.

Church: The church was not mentioned specifically until the reign of William the Lion (Barrow, 1971, 58). It is assumed that the medieval church consisted of a nave, choir and a tower, and William Stephen judged the size of the choir was thirty seven feet nine inches in length and twenty seven feet five inches in breadth (1921, 231).

At the Reformation it appears that the choir fell into disuse, and by the eighteenth century was used for burials (Stephen, 1921, 244). The nave on the other hand underwent extensive repair work in 1625, including the partial rebuilding of the side walls and the addition of ridge roofs (Stephen, 1938, 42). Further repairs were carried out in 1675, 1692 and 1767, but not to the extent of structural alterations. The reporter in the Statistical Account alluded to the 1767 work and noted that the church was large enough to contain the parishioners. It was a little singular, he continued, 'in outward appearance being covered with three roofs of equal dimensions which are supported by two rows of arches within the two side walls'. Our contributor ended his discussion by insisting that 'it could easily be made a handsome, commodious and elegant edifice' (OSA, 1794, 508). Tragedy struck, however, in October 1825, when the church was destroyed in a fire, and only the tower was saved.

Chapel: A chapel of Inverkeithing was mentioned in a mid-twelfth century document in connection with the possessions of Dunfermline Abbey (ESC, 1905, 206). A charter of Malcolm IV indicated that the chapel was not within the burgh (Barrow, 1960, 221), and as late as

1601, a sasine in dealing with two roods on the east side of Hope Street, (which was outside the burgh boundaries) refers to a piece of land called the 'chapel yairdis' (Stephen, 1921, 259). Where the exact site of this property was is not clear, but an old building which stood in the rear of no. 8-14 Hope Street was up to the last century termed the chapel (Stephen, 1938, 46).

Hospital: A bull of March 1196 confirms, among other possessions of Dryburgh Abbey 'the hospital of Innerkethyn'. The hospital land of Inverkeithing was mentioned in c.1400, and also it is twice mentioned in an altar charter of 1453, from which we learn that it was situated beside the Brade Croft (Cowan and Easson, 1976, 182; Stephen, 1921, 25). The sickman's yard still appears on record in 1550, but there is no definite indication of a hospital (Cowan, 1976, 182). Stephen identified this perhaps as being part of the endowment of the hospital, which may have stood outside the South Port (1921, 25).

Friary: The early history of the friary is unclear, and in 1559 Mark Flucar, 'guardian of the Cordeliar Friars' set two acres of land belonging to the monastery to John Swyntoune. This charter was signed 'at the ruins of the said place' showing that the buildings had been partially destroyed (Millar, 1895, ii, 190). Out of the 'ruins of the said place', is a remarkable survival in the form of the hospitium of the friary. 'The Palace' or hospitium is located on the east side of Queen Street has the appearance of a late seventeenth century tenement, 'but on examination its walls were found to represent part of the western range of the cloister buildings... and to date mainly from the fourteenth century' (RCAM, 1933, 153). Three-storeys in height, the building has an L-shaped plan with its wing projecting eastward in alignment with the south gable (RCAM, 1933, 153). It was known as 'Rothmell's Inn' after a seventeenth century owner and until early this century was used as a dwelling house. In the 1930s the town council converted it into a community centre, and in 1974, the upper floor was opened as a town museum (Inverkeithing Past and Present, n.d.,2).

Tolbooth: A tolbooth at Inverkeithing dates to at least 1550. The present structure was built in 1770 and stands in Townhall Street. Nothing is known about the pre-1770 building, although in the late seventeenth century, judging by the large number of escapes from its prison, the tolbooth must have been in deplorable condition. Matters,

however, did not reach a head until December, 1769 when the town council, considering the condition of the tolbooth, agreed that it should be taken down, widened and repaired. Masons, quarriers and workmen were employed to carry out the task (Cunningham, 1899, 43). In September, 1770 the new town house was ready and contained, besides a prison, 'some convenient rooms for holding the bailie courts, the meetings of the council and public entertainments' (OSA, 1794, 502). Like the church, the tower of the present town house is in fact older than the main structure. The first stage of the tower belongs to a period prior to the seventeenth century, while the second and third stages date from mid-eighteenth century (Stephen, 1921, 26).

School: The earliest mention of a schoolmaster in the burgh occurs in 1582, although there is not an actual mention of a school building until nearly a century later. In 1672 the fraternity of bakers and maltmen offered a sum of money to pay for the building of a school, but the money was handed back and a school was not erected until 1675. It was re-erected in 1775.

Houses: Inverkeithing can boast of numbers of dwellings which were built in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. At least one house, Roseberry House, dates from the sixteenth century, but was greatly altered in the seventeenth and had a wing added in the eighteenth (RCAM, 1933, 157). Thomsoun's House in Bank Street is noted for its decorated lintel dated 1617 (Inverkeithing Past and Present, n.d., 3), while fish teas can be had in one inscribed 'God's Providence is Our Inheritance' (Scott-Moncrieff, 1962, 47). William Stephen identified the eighteenth century as a watershed in the history of house building in the burgh, for many were then built of stone. By and large, most dwellings would have tiled their roofs, but there is evidence that, in certain instances 'divotts' were being used up at least to 1749 (Stephen, 1938, 71). The town council at that time took steps against 'ruinous and uninhabited' houses and if the owners would not repair them the magistrates would either offer the houses for sale at a fixed price or demolish them (Stephen, 1938, 71). The council also watchdogged the behaviour of residents, and ordered in 1792 that water was not to be thrown out of windows over forestairs, and similarly carpets were not to be shaken out (Stephen, 1928, 72).

Mill: The burgh mill was located at the lower end of King Street and formed part of the barony of Inverkeithing. In the mid-fifteenth

century, the mill was acquired by the burgh and for many years formed a profitable source of revenue. By the eighteenth century there was some difficulty in letting the mill and in 1779 the mill was rebuilt, a flour mill being added (Stephen, 1921, 18-19). A wauk mill, along with a dye-house on the same property, was built at the lower end of a garden in King Street in 1773, but this was soon converted into a mill for meal, and later a sawmill (Stephen, 1938, 97-8).

Well: An early well existed on the east side of the church in Heriot Street at a point identified by Ordnance Survey investigators as NT 1308 8299 (Ordnance Survey Record Cards, reference NT 18 SW 6). This well was referred to in a charter of 1219, but it is not identified until a sasine of 1588 where it is called Eriot's Well, a form which later became St. Heriot's Well (Stephen, 1921, 229). The well is still intact, although covered up with a large flagstone. Another early well, St. John's Well (NT 1305 8314) is located on the west side of Chapel Place (Ordnance Survey Record Cards, NT 18 SW 7).

# Archaeology

## SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The medieval single street plan of Inverkeithing is still clearly discernable today. The frontages of the historic core, the High Street, Church Street, Heriot Street and King Street have remained largely unchanged during the last two hundred years. The backland properties to the east and west of the High Street have not undergone infill development during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries characteristic of so many other Scottish towns subsequent to the industrial revolution, and the building ratio today in the town centre is practically identical to that in the nineteenth century.

The town centre lies within a conservation area, but in the long term, re-designation of the conservation boundary is proposed together with additions to the present number of listed buildings. Redevelopment has taken place along both east and west Church Street which has involved the demolition of the pre-existing buildings, and a retreat in the frontage line on both sides of the street. The previous backland areas between NT 129 829 and NT 128 828, have new domestic development, as has the area between High Street and Roman Road at NT 128 827. The burgh chambers have been extended off Queen Street (NT 129 827). On the High Street frontage, the buildings between 37 and 51 High Street have been replaced and extended back into the burgage on the same frontage line. The King Street frontages within the East Port have also been renewed (see map 2). To the west of Roods and Roman Road, housing development has taken place on previously undeveloped land over the last ten years. These constitute the main recent developments in Inverkeithing.

For the future, a local plan is at present in preparation. Environmental improvement schemes have been put forward for the site at the corner of Roman Road and Hill Street (NT 128 828), the north side of Port Street, and new housing is envisaged for the Port Street site and the area to the rear of 40 to 50 High Street (NT 130 827). The site at the corner of Bank Street and Townhall Street is to be redeveloped (NT 1303 8290) as also is 20 Townhall Street (NT 1306 8293).

The above represent the present plans which will affect the historic

centre to a greater or lesser degree.

### Future Investigation

The policies outlined below are not listed in order of importance, but are intended to provide guide lines for future research as opportunities arise through renovation and redevelopment (see page 16 ff for full discussion).

1. To establish the earliest date of settlement on the site of the present town, and to provide evidence of early economic and social development.
2. To trace the course of the sixteenth century town wall and establish the existence of any earlier town defences. To confirm the site and plan of the town ports.
3. To identify any variation in town plan, road alignment and width, not already identified.
4. To establish the physical nature and sequence of town buildings, before the seventeenth century, and to identify any secondary use of buildings and backland development for commercial or industrial purposes in earlier periods.
5. To record the plan of both the fourteenth century church and its immediate predecessor, and establish the presence of any earlier church on the site.
6. To examine the site of the Friary to determine the date of foundation, and the plan, extent and physical nature of the Friary buildings.
7. To locate the site of the early chapel, and to recover the plan and chronology of the building.
8. To establish the site and plan of the twelfth century hospital.
9. The site of the early harbour is probably now largely destroyed. Deeper research in the surviving documentary evidence may provide additional information relating to its development.

### Areas of Archaeological Priority

1. Area one is defined by the railway line to the east, Abbot Place to the south, High Street to the west, and King Street to the north. The backland properties on the east side of the High Street have remained

undeveloped for, at least, two centuries. Current development options under consideration, include the utilization of the vacant lots between the Friary Gardens and Abbot Place as a car park, the backland between High Street and the railway (NT 130 827), for housing development. Further housing and environmental improvement is scheduled for the rear property between Port Street and Roseberry House. Redevelopment is also proposed for the site of 1 Bank Street (recently demolished). This area is of immediate importance as it includes not only previously undisturbed burgage properties protected from development since the nineteenth century, as access has been limited by the railway, but also some minor redevelopment along the old frontages of Bank Street, Port Street and Abbot Place. Recent exploratory work (see page 16 ) at NT 1298 8276, NT 1310 8283 and NT 1312 8288, has provided no conclusive evidence of early occupation in these areas, and indicates that future efforts should be concentrated on street fronting sites as they become available. The archaeological levels revealed as a result of the demolition of property at NT 1303 8289, would suggest that the potential survival of deposits on the street frontages is good.

2. Area two is not currently threatened by development and consists of those parts of the west side of High Street, Church Street and King Street which have not been subject to redevelopment (see map 2). This area includes some of the oldest recorded structures in the town, the friary, the church, the sites of the North, South and West Ports, possible fragments of the town wall and Fordell's Lodging. If further development is envisaged on the south east side of the High Street, the possible existence of remains of the twelfth century chapel should be borne in mind (see page 26 ) and also, the site of the twelfth century hospital (see page 27 ). There is little cellarage on the west side of the High Street which argues for the possible survival of archaeological levels. North of the church, the old burgh school has been cleared (NT 1306 8299), and the site landscaped. The build-up of churchyard deposits over the centuries means that this area is now at a considerably lower level than the church. The clearance of housing from the west frontage of Church Street (NT 130 830) has revealed bedrock outcropping on the periphery of the newly created parking areas, which suggests that the survival of archaeological deposits is doubtful here.

3. Area three is defined by the railway to the west, and the Keithing Burn to the east. some redevelopment has already taken place here on both sides of King Street, but no further work is envisaged in the immediate future. The site of the East Port lies in the road at NT 1323 8296, and the site of the burgh mill just to the east of this port on the Keithing Burn. The town wall may also be traceable in this area (see page 19 ) though there is at present no concrete evidence.

#### Recommendations

With the exception of some minor development on Bank Street and Townhall Street (see map 2), no frontage redevelopment is at present proposed for the historic centre. Opportunities for archaeological investigation on the High Street, Church Street and Heriot Street, seem, therefore, likely to be limited. However, the inevitable eventual need to replace and repair existing buildings and services on street frontages will provide some opportunities for exploratory work and proposed development in the backlands to the east of the High Street will provide further opportunities for investigation.

The following recommendations are made in the hope that they will enable the maximum amount of information to be extracted from the minimum amount of disturbance.

- a. Any future proposed renovation projects on present street fronting property could usefully be monitored, particularly where structural alteration is involved at ground level. It is possible that archaeological deposits survive below buildings without cellars, and beneath structural walls and pends in those with cellars. It is also possible that the remains of earlier buildings survive behind a later facade.
- b. Any proposed road improvements, repairs to, and extension of, existing services, such as gas, electricity, water etc. which would involve soil disturbance on the street frontages, could be profitably monitored.
- c. A policy of selective trial trenching as opportunities arise in street fronting gap sites and backland areas threatened by future development would usefully indicate the most productive archaeologically sensitive areas.

### PREVIOUS WORK

Under the threat of impending development, outlined on page 12, five sites of potential interest in the burgh were examined in August and September 1981.

1. A watching brief was established in Bank Street (NT 1304 8288) on the site of a new domestic development. No deposits earlier in date than the nineteenth century were identified on the frontage.
2. The demolition of a building at the junction of Townhall Street and Bank Street (NT 1303 8289) allowed some exploratory work to be carried out on the underlying deposits. Traces of the mortared foundations of an earlier structure together with some early post-medieval pottery lay beneath the last building on the site. The earlier foundations were superimposed upon a series of much worn and repaired cobbled surfaces some of which incorporated fourteenth-century pottery comparable with Yorkshire wares, which in turn sealed an oven shaped feature. The cobbling may have formed a part of the market area before the construction of the island property in the medieval period.
3. Trial trenching was carried out on backland adjacent to the friary (NT 1298 8276) in advance of future redevelopment. The small area examined revealed some medieval features including an oven or kiln, but no structural remains.
4. Three trial trenches at NT 1310 8283 showed no significant feature of medieval date. Medieval plough soil ran beneath the present burgage boundary wall to the north-east. The recovery of eighteenth-century bottle glass suggested that the dovecot at this position dated from the eighteenth century.
5. Backland off Port Street (NT 1312 8288) was investigated. Medieval garden soil beneath more recent garden soil was confirmed to a maximum depth of 1.75m. Two medieval pits were identified and partially investigated (ex. inf. J. Wordsworth).

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

#### Early Settlement

The origins of the settlement of Inverkeithing are obscure. Stephen

(1938, 14) claimed knowledge of a charter of MacBeth in the eleventh century granted to the monastery of St. Serf, Lochleven. In this charter, mention was made of a boundary, consisting of the 'road leading to Hinhirkethy', which may, perhaps, be interpreted as Inverkeithing. If this is so, it is the earliest mention of a settlement here. The earliest known baron of Inverkeithing was Alexander Fraser, one of three brothers who came to Scotland in the time of Malcolm Canmore (1056-93). He married Mavilda, widow and heretrix of the lands of Inverkeithing. A charter granted to Dunfermline Abbey in 1129 by King David I, bestowed upon the Abbot and monks of that place, 'the Ship of Inverkeithing (Innirkeithin). In the twelfth century, the lands of Inverkeithing were in the possession of Gospatric, Earl of Dunbar, and in 1139, his son Waldeve, gave the church of St. Peter in Inverkeithing to Dunfermline Abbey (Millar, 1895, 188). The first authentic notice of the town as a burgh is in a bull of Pope Alexander III to the Abbey of Dunfermline in 1163. In this bull, the words 'burgo de Innirkeithin' occur, and as the bull confirms a grant made by Malcolm IV, Inverkeithing was obviously an important settlement, and a burgh, before 1163 (Cunningham, 1903, 2). The original charter granted by Malcolm is now lost, and the oldest extant charter is a confirmation document granted by William the Lion - one of the witnesses to this document was the Countess Ada, and the writ must have been granted between the date of William's succession in 1165, and the death of the Countess in 1178 (Cunningham, 1902-3, 309).

In 1164, Malcolm IV, in a charter to the Abbey of Kelso granted to that Abbey a toft in 'burgo meo de Innerkeithin'. The erection to a royal burgh, must have, therefore occurred at or before that time (Cunningham, 1903, 3).

There is no castle at Inverkeithing, which is unusual, neither was there an early religious house to provide impetus to settlement. Most probably the position close to the peninsula that formed the north shore of an ancient ferry, coupled with the bay to the south of the town which would early have provided a sheltered anchorage from the easterly gales, provided the initial impetus to settlement.

There is very little evidence for early medieval settlement in Inverkeithing. It is suggested, therefore, that every opportunity should be taken in the historic centre to recover information to establish the earliest date of settlement, and provide evidence of economic and social development.

### The Town Defences

Inverkeithing was one of the towns charged in 1503 to provide ports of stone and lime, being described as those where 'thair commone guids on the wallis of thair toune to the sea side'. It is not clear from the documentary evidence whether this ruling was obeyed, as in 1557, the burgh was instructed 'to big dikes and fowseis and to have stafe slungis in the reddiness to the portico thereof'. Stephen identified the course of the wall built at that time (see page and map 3). The Ordnance Survey Investigator in 1959 (O.S. Record Card NT 18 SW 2) commented that very little evidence remained for the line of the wall, but he did isolate two probable surviving portions. One stood between NT 1283 8278 and NT 1284 8282 on the east side of Roman Road. Part of this wall of random rubble masonry with a modern coping, still stands. It is on average 9' 10" (3.0m) high. Inserted in the wall, and apparently contemporary with it, are a number of gateways, some blocked. A second fragment also still exists between NT 1289 8272 and NT 1294 8268, extending for approximately 215' (66.0m) south-east of the site of the south port, along the north wall of Abbot Place. Only the lower courses remain here.

Originally, the burgh was confined within the limits of the town ports. Of these there were four. The instructions to build ports in stone and lime made in 1503, may imply that prior to this date, the ports were constructed in wood. Stephen (1938, 16) favours this theory, though there is no definite evidence for this, he also claims that the predecessor of the stone wall was a ditch and wooden palisade which raises the interesting question as to whether the later wall followed the line of the earlier defences or whether the line of the wall and the site of the ports was dictated by interim burgh expansion. The north port was situated in Church Street at NT 1305 8308. The extent to which the level of Church Street, north of the church, was raised in the early nineteenth century during work on the new turnpike road, is not certain, but it may have effectively sealed the foundations of the sixteenth-century port beneath the present road surface. The south port occupied a site at the south end of the High Street at NT 1289 8273. This access to the burgh survived longer than the other three. Until the early years of this century, it constituted the rear wall of 'Mr. Kilgour's workshop', and was described by Stephen (1938, 16) as containing loopholes, small externally, and sloping inwards into broad rectangular recesses (O.S.

25" XLIII, 2, 1895). This building which jutted out from the east side of the street across the end of Queen Street, has now been demolished, and there is now no trace of the port. Bedrock outcrops close to the site of the port (see map 2) and the potential survival of deposits in this area is not good.

The East Port previously stood in King Street at NT 1323 8296 immediately above the site of the mill. This gate, as well as the North and West Ports was demolished in 1773, for the purpose of repairing Hill Street, Alma Street and Port Street and no trace now remains. King Street at this point, shows evidence of many recent road repairs, and the area seems likely to be heavily disturbed. The West Port was situated across Hill Street at a point immediately east of Roman Road (NT 1285 8284). Whether the foundation of this structure survives beneath the present street is not certain.

Observation of future road works in the vicinity of the reputed sites of the four ports would be useful in determining the survival of archaeological deposits in these areas.

#### The Town Plan

The street plan of modern Inverkeithing is still dominated by the original medieval single street. The reporter in the Old Statistical Account (1794, 501), described the town then as consisting of 'one street with another turning off "near the middle" besides some wynds'. In the closing years of the seventeenth century, however, houses were being erected outside the ports of the burgh on the north, south and east sides, a process which accelerated in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries on the lines of what are now Hope Street, Chapel Place and Alma Street. The official reporter in the 'Report Upon Parliamentary Boundaries' (RBS, 1832, 91) stated that on the south-east side of Inverkeithing Bay several villas had lately been built (Preston Crescent), but in other respects the town appeared 'stationery'.

Boreland Road, east of Chapel Place was only constructed in 1784 (Stephen, 1938, 115) and the Coaldross (Heriot Street) was converted into a 'proper' road in 1796. A short distance to the north of the church, the highway dipped considerably, and was raised in level only when the north turnpike was constructed in the early nineteenth century. Similarly, west from Roman Road, Hill Street, was at a much lower level than at present until the middle of the nineteenth century when it

underwent improvement, having previously risen abruptly over the present site of Sea Cliff (Stephen, 1921, 5).

Commercial Road was constructed to replace the ancient Port Street, (when the building of the railway closed the latter to vehicular traffic) and link with Harbour Place, an ancient access road to the harbour.

The most recent developments in Inverkeithing have taken place at the north end of the town along Church Street, in the backlands of the west High Street properties, and on previously undeveloped land to the west of the backland boundaries. Some old property boundaries have been destroyed in the course of these developments, but there has been no alteration in the basic street plan of the historic centre, and the number of seventeenth century buildings still extant in the burgh suggest that the streets have not undergone any drastic alteration in width since that date. Mears (1912-13, 348) comments, however, that the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries saw the encroachment of buildings on the street by some 15 ft (4.5m) to 20 ft. (6.1m), and in cases where older structural fabric is to be found incorporated in later improvements, the door of the earlier building is generally 6 ft (1.8m) to 8 ft (2.4m) back within the passageways. What may be presumed to have been the market place (NT 130 829) has been developed with an island property. A recently demolished building at NT 1303 8289, incorporated a lintel dated 1599 which may or may not have been the date of that structure, but which was preceded by an earlier building. However, recent trial trenching on this site would seem to confirm that this was the early market place of the burgh (see page 16).

#### Early Buildings and Materials

A surprising number of buildings dating from the seventeenth century survive in Inverkeithing. Writers in the earlier part of this century suggest that many more existed at that time. However, the present building line on the High Street, the south end of Church Street, Townhall Street and Heriot Street incorporates seventeenth century property, and suggests that the present street width and frontages have remained consistent for some considerable time.

The church apart, the earliest known extant building in the burgh is the hospitium of the grey friars (see page 25 ), parts of which date

from the fourteenth century,. Many of the buildings described by Stephen in the third and fourth decade of this century, have now vanished. The house of the Holbournes of Menstrie previously stood adjacent to the churchyard gate on the south side of the church tower. Stephen (1921, 34) claimed that although the original appearance had been modified, the massive thickness of the walls and other features suggested a construction date not later than the sixteenth century. The Royal Commission investigator surveying the building a few years later (RCAHMS, 1933, 158) attributed some features to the seventeenth century, and it is likely that alterations and repairs were carried out at that date.

In the 1920s, a double tenement with two external staircases, dating from the seventeenth century, existed on the site of 11 to 15 High Street. This building was partially demolished in 1921, and has since been replaced by the present building.

An impressive tenement known as the Gala Tower stood until 1890 on the site of the present bank building (NT 1298 8289) in the High Street. This may have been the large and ruinous tenement on 'the west side of the King's Way in Inverkeithing' which Henry Kinglassie and his wife acquired in 1611. A stone dated 1612, presumably from the Gala Tower, is incorporated in the wall of the present bank, and suggests that repairs were carried out by Kinglassie in the year after his acquisition of the property (Stephen, 1921, 36).

A small building on the south side of Fordel Lodging (NT 1302 8296) which was demolished in 1913 was dated by Stephen to the early sixteenth century, with a seventeenth century addition on the north side (Stephen, 1938, 18). The older part of the dwelling had two entrances, one giving access to a vaulted ground floor chamber, and a second by a passage through the building, to the original outside stair at the rear. All that now remains of this dwelling is the scar of the vaulting on the north gable of the Queens Hotel (NT 1302 8296). Mear's Plan (1912-13, 346, fig.4) suggests that the structure was cut back into the rear slope.

In common with most other Scottish towns, the dwellings of the early burgh were most probably of timber. Houses were very seldom wholly of stone before the end of the fifteenth century. Public buildings were the first to achieve more solid construction. Indirect evidence of the flimsy nature of pre-sixteenth-century buildings is provided

by the recorded fires which raged through the burgh at various times. In 1379, for example, the exchequer gave a grant to the town for the relief of sufferers (Stephen, 1921, 44). Another outbreak in 1419-20, also caused considerable damage (Stephen, 1938, 18). Wooden dwellings may have survived into the eighteenth century, as a sale of household goods during this period listed a 'chimney', this article, probably of iron, provided the means of egress of smoke from the domestic fire (Stephen, 1938, 71). The continued insubstantial nature of some domestic structures in the town in the eighteenth century is re-enforced by a record in the minutes of the Kirk Session in 1736. An out-lay of twelve shillings was made of 'divetts' (turf) to the house in the Millraw (King Street). Stephen (1938, 19), implies that the 'divetts' mentioned were used in wall building and not for roofing as was more usual. Probably repairs were being carried out to the seventeenth century buildings which are recorded as having lined this road as late as 1928 (RCAHMS, 1933, 159).

Only archaeological investigation can provide evidence of the nature of pre-sixteenth century town buildings. The possibility of structural traces other than of stone should be borne in mind.

The evidence as to the nature and usage of early town buildings other than as dwelling houses is limited. Most early industrial activity appears to have been carried out in the harbour area, traces of which will have been obliterated by later development. In 1286, for example, a reference is made to the local manager of the King's Salt Pans, but no details are forthcoming about the salt industry until the late sixteenth century when George Gordon of Lawton and his wife erected on ground on the west shore of the harbour, a salt work of one pan. At about the same time, salt work of three pans was built by James Abercrombie. Further work continued throughout the seventeenth century in the same area at the foot of Abbot Place. The site is, however, now occupied by the Paper Mill, and it is unlikely that any remains of the pans survive. There is little other evidence for industry in Inverkeithing, the burgh appears to have relied heavily on the harbour trade, together with the linen industry and some tanning. The latter occupation together with that of shoemaking, noted in the Old Statistical Account, are the ones which are most likely to survive in the archaeological record, and the study of surviving town minutes and Sasine registers are most likely to pinpoint the sites of such industrial pursuits.

On the slope above and below the cemetery at Inverkeithing (NT 125 823) are cultivation terraces which may have had some connection with the medieval burgh. The terraces lie obliquely to the slope of the hill, (Graham, 1938-39, 293). Prior to the construction of the cemetery, the Ordnance Survey investigator was of the opinion that the terraces were probably continuous (O.S. Record Card NT 18 SW 24).

They are now incorporated in modern field boundaries, and have, in the past, been ploughed. Current plans for this area involve environmental improvement, and the possible construction of footpaths across the terraces. The date of these features is not certain, and the prospects of recovering information from them seems slim, however, any soil disturbance in this area may provide some indication as to their date and relationship to the burgh.

### The Church

The early history of the parish church of Inverkeithing, is obscure. A place of worship was certainly established by the early twelfth century, as in 1139, Waldeve, son of Gospatric, bequeathed the church of Inverkeithing to the Abbey of Dunfermline. The 'Registrum de Dunfermlyn' records a deed conveying the gift under the brief title 'Waldenus filius Gospatricii de eccia de Invirkethi'. This gift was confirmed to the Abbey by a bull from Pope Lucius III in 1184 (Henderson, 1879, 49).

Two known churches have preceded the present building on the same site. There is now no visible trace of the twelfth century church. Workmen who constructed the vestry at the east end of the church, reported in course of preparing the foundations, that they had laid bare a wall. From the description given, Stephen (1921, 231) identified this wall as the north side of the apse of a Norman church. This early church was superceeded in the thirteenth century by the building dedicated by Bishop de Bernham of St. Andrews in 1244, described on page 8. Repairs to the fabric of this church are recorded as early as the fourteenth century, and writs dated 1311 and 1314 establish that work was carried out on the choir at that time. The tower also appears to date from the fourteenth century (RCAHMS, 1933, 152), though the upper part was probably added in the sixteenth century.

This thirteenth century building was badly damaged by fire in 1825, and subsequently rebuilt on the foundations of the previous church, and fourteenth century tower being retained. The north wall of the

earlier choir is now below ground level beneath the present wall which does not lie quite in alignment with the earlier masonry. The medieval wall protrudes beyond the present line by 11" (0.28m) at the east end, a distance gradually reduced westwards to 6" (0.15m) in the middle of its length (Stephen, 1921, 232). This north side of the choir apparently showed none of the buttress features exhibited by the south side, which led Stephen (op.cit.) to conclude that a building of some kind was appended to the north wall of the choir. On the east and south sides of the choir, modern masonry is plumb with the medieval work which rises above the ground in varying heights. The choir was disused after the Reformation and was probably cut off from the nave soon after 1560. It has been used as a burial ground for some considerable time, and contains a tombstone date 1606 (RCA-HMS, 1933, 153).

The course of the medieval nave is represented by the line of the present walls, and externally measured on the north side 67' (20.4m), on the south 69' (21.0m) and across the east side 66' (20.1m). The remains of two responds at the west end of the church, several feet below the present floor, determine the old floor level and the width of the nave which was circa 26' (7.9m) the aisles being 16' (4.8m) in width.

In 1793, the church was re-floored partly in freestone and partly in wood. The bed of the pavement consisted of sea sand upon soil. The level of the churchyard had gradually risen over the centuries until in the eighteenth century it was several feet above the level of the church floor. In 1807-8, the west entrance in the tower was opened, and as the street surface was also considerably above the level of the floor, a flight of thirteen steps had to be built to provide access to the body of the church (Stephen, 1921, 247). It was not until 1825 that the level of the church floor was raised 2'6" (0.76m) and a further 1' (0.3m) in 1900.

Despite the many rebuilding and repair programmes which successive churches have undergone, the potential for survival of early remains and archaeological deposits in and around the present church seems good. The site of the fourteenth century choir seems likely to have suffered the greatest disturbance, through burial and more recently, the insertion of a storage tank and associated concrete raft.

However, any future work proposed for the fabric of the lower part of the nave, beneath the present floor level, or disturbance to the immediate churchyard deposits could be usefully observed. The main objectives are to record the plan of both the fourteenth century church and its immediate predecessor, and establish the presence of any earlier church on the site.

#### The Friary (NT 129 827)

The origins of the Franciscan Friary at Inverkeithing are obscure. A dubious reference by inference, is found in a bull of Pope Clement VI in 1346, which, in erecting a friary at Lanark, also, authorizes the erection of another on a site granted by David II 'far from the attacks of enemies'. This proviso may have been applied to the foundation at Inverkeithing (Cowan and Easson, 1976, 126). A more specific reference to the house is found in 1384/5, when the bailies of the burgh in accordance with a grant of Robert II, remitted to the friars minor a sum due from a tenement in Inverkeithing which the friars inhabited (op.cit.). There are few other documentary references to the friary and its inhabitants at present known. Only the warden of the community is identifiable in the sixteenth century. At the Reformation, Mark Flucar 'Guardian of the Cordelier Friars' disposed two acres of land belonging to the monastery to John Scot of Spencerfield, and the place and garden of the monastery in feu to John Swyntoun (Millar, 1895, 190).

At the time of signing of these charters in 1559, the place of lodging of the friars is described as being in ruins, and today only the hospitium remains of a previously extensive group of buildings. The hospitium, part of the west range of the cloister, dates essentially from the fourteenth century, but underwent considerable remodelling in the seventeenth century. On the east side of the building was situated the cloister garth, with, at its north-eastern extremity, three vaulted chambers, forming part of the undercroft of a north range. These are mainly of fourteenth century date, but as poor adjustment to the back wall shows, they were to some extent reconstructed at a later date (RCAHMS, 1933, 154). Immediately, to the south of these three chambers, and attached to them, are the foundations of other buildings excavated in the earlier part of this century. The positions of the friary church, dormitory and refectory etc. cannot at present be correctly located. However, in 1825, the ruins of what

was thought at that time to be a chapel were identified as probably a part of the friary (Millar, 1895, 190).

Below the buildings, and flanked to the north and south by high walls, stretched the monastic orchard originally down to the shore (Stephen, 1938, 55). The original grounds have during the last century and a half been curtailed and disturbed by the railway cutting (NT 130 826), and the development of the paper mill on the site of the old west harbour. The friary remains will remain undisturbed being presently occupied by a public garden and children's playground.

The friary garden has remained undeveloped and is, at present, unused, though future development plans involve property to the north (NT 130 827) and south (NT 129 826) (see map 2). Any future proposals for the friary site should be closely monitored as there is no clear evidence for the foundation date, the lay-out of the buildings, or the later history of the house.

#### The Chapel

In addition to a church, Inverkeithing possessed in the twelfth century a chapel which in 1159 was granted by Malcolm IV to Dunfermline Abbey. The king conceded and confirmed to the church of the Holy Trinity and to the abbot and monks in free and perpetual gift, the 'capella de Invurkethin' along with two tofts near or adjacent to the chapel (Henderson, 1879, 55). Confirmation of this gift by Pope Alexander III on 1163, and by several successive bishops of St. Andrews between 1159 and 1238, reiterate the existence of this foundation.

Unfortunately, the site of the chapel cannot be clearly identified. The charter of Malcolm IV suggests that it did not lie within the burgh, and comparisons of the boundaries mentioned in the document of 1159 and seventeenth century writs which make mention of the 'chapel yard' suggest that the building was situated in the vicinity of 2 Hope Street (NT 1289 8271) (Stephen, 1938, 46).

This building is listed but now derelict and there are no immediate plans for either the structure, or its associated backland. The soil cover to the rear is thin, and bedrock outcrops on the north-east side of Abbot Place, the potential survival of archaeological deposits does not therefore, seem good. Any future work proposed for the street frontage between 2 and 14 Hope Street and the associated backland would, however, be of interest in the hope of locating the site of

the chapel, recovering its plan, and establishing its chronology.

### The Hospital

A papal bull dated March 1196, confirmed amongst other possessions of Dryburgh Abbey, the hospital of Innerkethin (Cowan and Easson, 1976, 182). There is apparently no further mention of this building in the documentary record, until 1453, when an altar charter twice refers to a hospital (domos infirmorum) situated beside the 'Brade Croft', 'with six pieces of land lying on the slope or incline above it'. Stephen (1921, 25) isolated two areas bearing the name 'Brade Croft' in the burgh, and from the description given in the charter identified the site of the hospital as lying on the west side of Hope Street, in part on the site of numbers 1 to 11. Stephen further claimed that the hospital would have been situated within the burgh port, and as the Brade Croft lay immediately without the south port, the site of the hospital was probably on the north side of the Croft between High Street and Roman Road. This placing is not entirely consistent with the supposed course of the burgh walls, the position of the South Port, or the site identified by the Ordnance Survey (NT 1283 8268). The west side of Hope Street without the South Port, has now been partially redeveloped. A housing development (Greig Court) has been constructed just north of the supposed line of the burgh wall between Roman Road and High Street. Outwith the South Port, old street fronting property and garden areas survive, and any future development to the rear of 1-11 Hope Street may provide some evidence of earlier usage. Similarly, areas presently in use, as car parks between Roman Road and High Street (NT 128 827 and NT 128 826), both areas suggested as the possible site of the hospital, may provide future opportunities to establish the site of this twelfth century building.

### The Harbour

The known history of Inverkeithing harbour is discussed briefly on page 7. The present harbour area has been greatly altered by localized industrial development from the eighteenth century onwards, and also by infilling of the bay head area with ballast and domestic refuse. The origins of the town lie to some extent in its coastal position (see page 17) but little is known of the early history of the harbour and its associated trade. Inverkeithing Bay is a naturally

enclosed basin with headlands on the north and south, known respectively as East and West Ness. This basin must, in its pre-eighteenth century form, have provided shelter for vessels from an early period. The earliest known reference is dated to circa 1150 and refers to the 'passagium et Navem de Inverkeithin' which may suggest that a twelfth century terminus to the Forth Ferry existed at Inverkeithing (Graham, 1968-69, 245). At a slightly earlier date, David I bestowed in 1129, the 'ship of Inverkeithing' upon the abbot and monks of Dunfermline with the proviso that the king's person, court and messengers etc, should have free passage to and from him.

The port is mentioned in three fourteenth-century documents and another of 1565, but no specific mention is made of harbour works in any of these references. By the late sixteenth century, however, some progress must have been made, as there is recurrent reference in surviving records to expenditure on repairs to the harbour, and by 1666 the nature of such artificial works is revealed in references to 'Peers and heids' (Graham, 1968-69, 245). A further description is found in 1703, when Adair describes the 'large and convenient Key of Stone' along the shore below the town. Graham (op.cit.) considered that this 'Key' was most probably that either built or repaired in 1686. Adair locates this probably seventeenth-century key in describing "the rivolet that enters the north-west corner of the bay, running along by it 'the key' makes a sort of narrow channel down to the entry" which would identify the early harbour with the mouth of the Keithing Burn, and probably the 'Shore' adjoined it on the west.

The Old Statistical Account (1794) recorded the building of another quay in 1794 joining with the one at the burn mouth and flanking a west harbour. This quay could, in Graham's opinion (1968-69, 245), be represented by the Mid Pier (NT 1315 8252). There is no surviving record of the formation of the quay on the east of the harbour which was apparently extended by circa 150' (45.7m) in 1825. Neither quay however, shows any features of archaeological significance. Both the shore described by Adair and the west harbour mentioned in the Old Statistical Account have been obliterated by the expansion of the paper mill (NT 130 825) adjacent to the present harbour. Land reclamation is continuing in the old mouth of the west harbour with refuse dumped south of the Mid Pier (NT 131 825).

The degree of disturbance which has taken place through land

reclamation, industrial use and railway construction, suggests that little is likely to remain of any early structures associated with the early harbour. Graham (1968-69, 245) was unable to identify any early masonry in the present wharfage and it seems likely that none remains. The potential of this area is not good in archaeological terms, though any future proposals involving disturbance of existing masonry on both east and west sides of the harbour might be observed in the hope of identifying earlier structures and the chronology of the existing works.

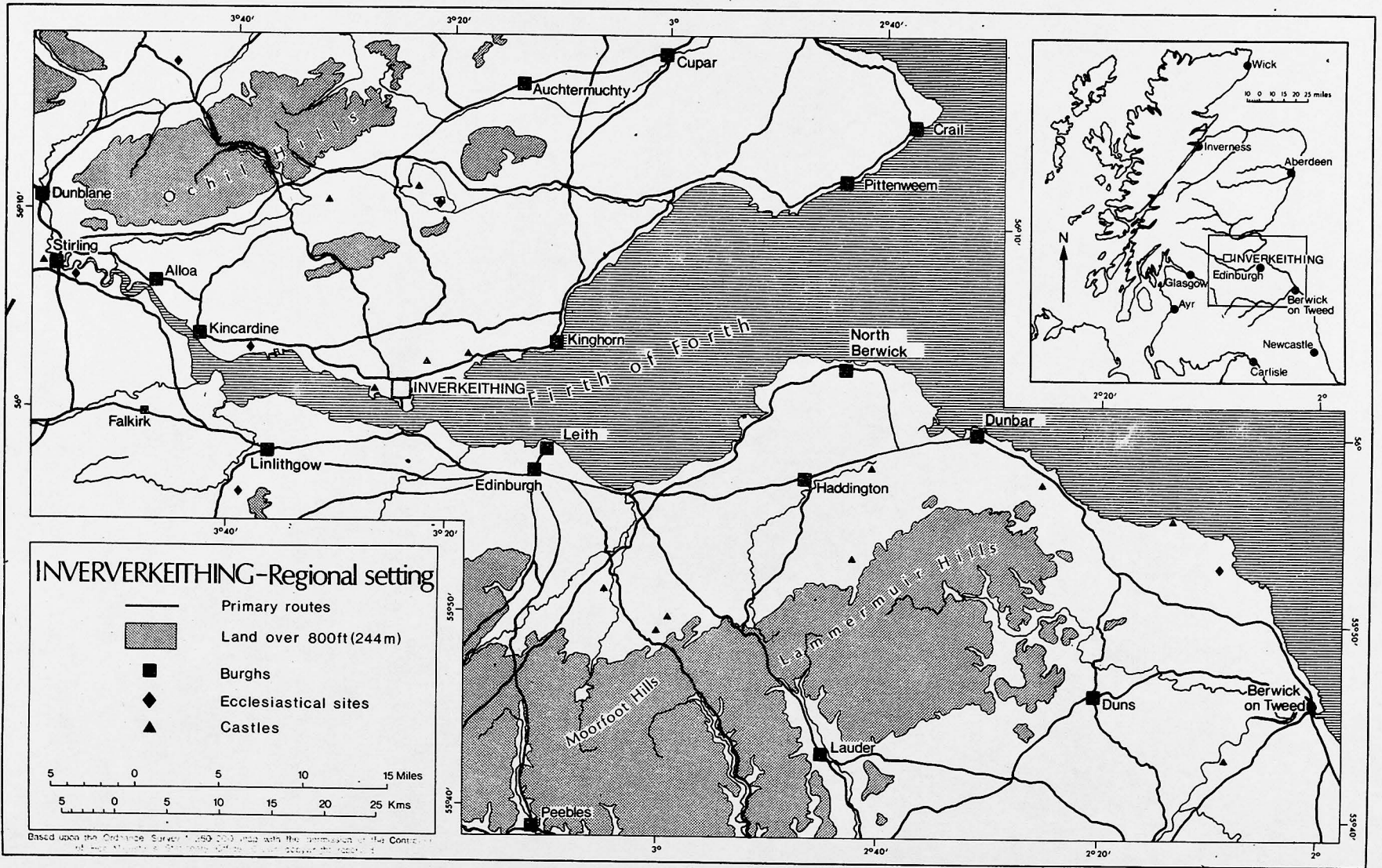
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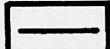
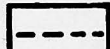







CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

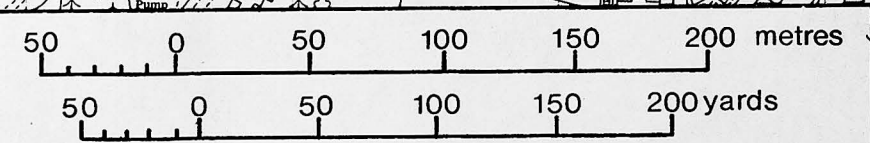
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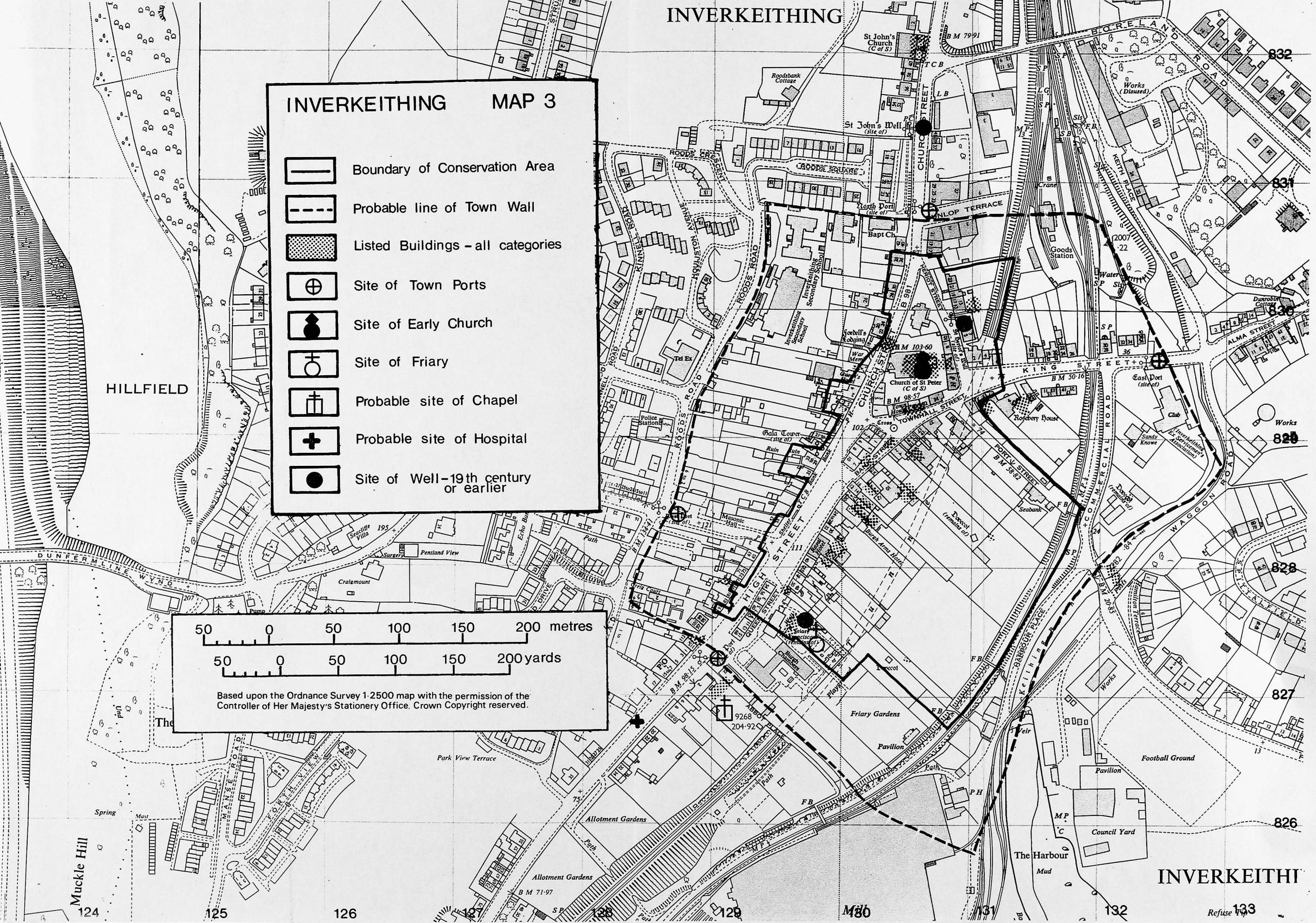
Map 1

INVERKEITHING MAP 3

-  Boundary of Conservation Area
-  Probable line of Town Wall
-  Listed Buildings - all categories
-  Site of Town Ports
-  Site of Early Church
-  Site of Friary
-  Probable site of Chapel
-  Probable site of Hospital
-  Site of Well - 19th century or earlier



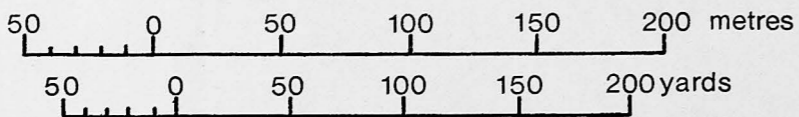
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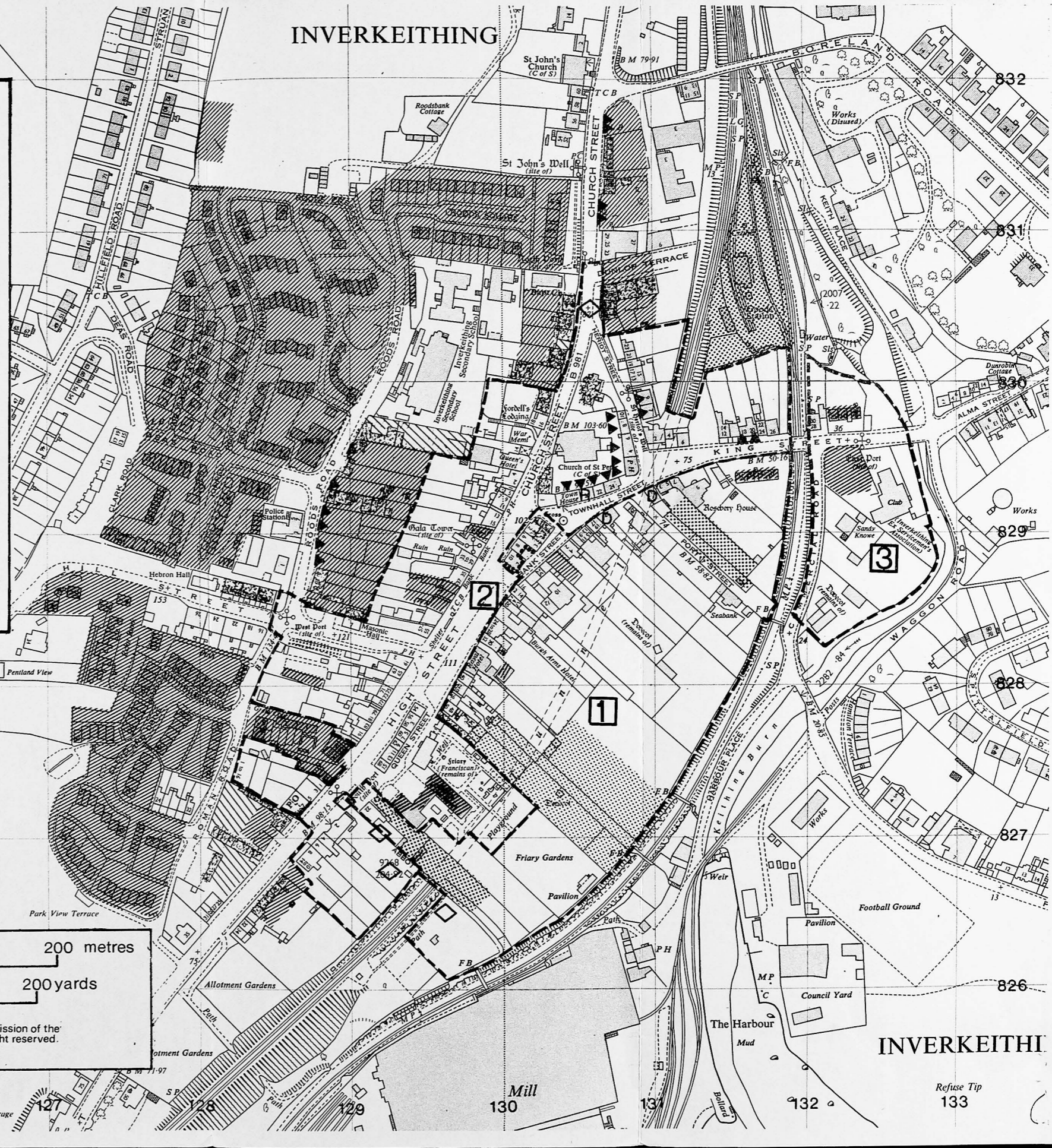
# INVERKEITHING

## INVERKEITHING MAP 2

- 1-3 Areas of archaeological interest
- Areas effectively re-developed
- Areas proposed for re-development
- R Property to be renovated
- Demolished property
- Car parks
- Cut into slope
- Frontages with visible cellars
- D Derelict property
- ◇ Rock outcrop



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# INVERKEITHING

Refuse Tip  
133

125

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Muckle 1

M 90  
A 90

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