Historic
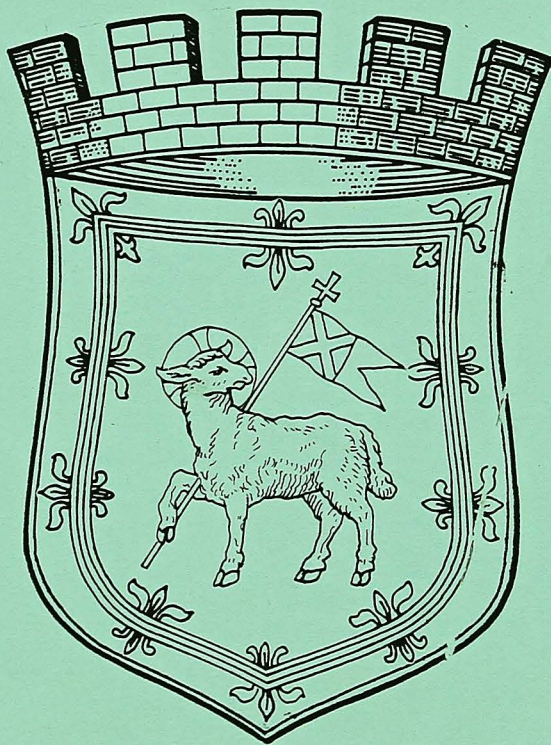# PERTH
the archaeological implications
of development

Anne Turner Simpson
Sylvia Stevenson

Historic
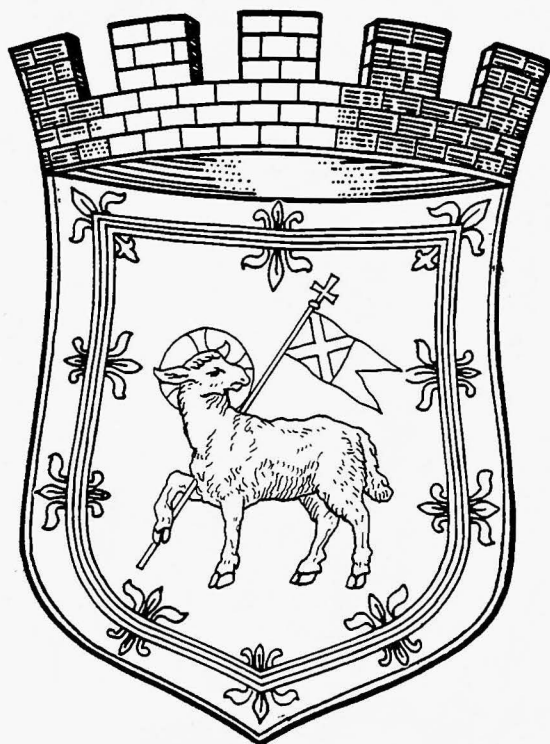# PERTH
the archaeological   implications of development

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Sylvia Stevenson

CONTENTS

PREFACE

This report of the history and archaeology of the former burgh of
Perth 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
Mr. W. Lindsay and the Urban Archaeology Unit, especially those
members of the team with special responsibility for Perth, Miss L.
Blanchard and Mr. M. Spearman ; the staff of the Archaeology Division
of the Ordnance Survey, Edinburgh ; and the Historic Buildings Branch
of the Scottish Development Department. The survey team would also
like to thank 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 Perth as depicted in Bute,
        MacPhail and Lonsdale, 1897, 313.

History

INTRODUCTION

Site: Perth owes its origin and subsequent prosperity to trade.
The burgh lies on the right bank of the River Tay some twenty-one
miles (32·5 km) west of Dundee and forty-five miles (76 km) north
of Edinburgh. In a wider context, Perth was at the point where the
Tay became tidal, where ships at high tide could make for the sea,
yet being shallow enough to ford, a strategic point on the trade
routes from north to south. The town lies on a gentle plain rising
a few metres above the level of the river, and punctuated at either
end by two meadows formerly the insular North and South Inches. To
the north of the burgh flows the River Almond, a stream which pro-
vided power for the town's medieval mills. The River Earn empties
into the Tay downriver from Perth.

Place-Name: The well-wooded hills which surround the town, which
Groome noted in his Gazetteer (1903, iii, 1305), might provide a
clue to the origin of the place-name. Although there have been se-
veral conjectures as to its meaning, W.F.H.Nicolaisen identifies it
as being comparable to the Welsh 'Perth' meaning 'brake, bush, a
copse' (Gelling (ed.), 1970, 150). Since the thirteenth century it
has also been known as St.John's Town or St.Johnstoun in honour of
St.John the Baptist, to whom the parish church was dedicated. Today
the name St.Johnstoun is most commonly associated with the local pro-
fessional football team.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Burgh Status: Perth is on record as one of David I's (1128-1153)
burghs, and there is a surviving charter granted to the burgh by
William the Lion (1165-1214). Perth was in Parliament from the earli-
est period of burgh representation, the mid-fourteenth century (Pryde,
1965, 4).

Conventional History: It is only the early twelfth century that
fact begins to take over from fiction as regards the history of Perth.
The river crossing, the rich agricultural hinterland, and nearby Scone
must together have encouraged the eventual settlement at Perth. Through
Perth early traders made for Dunfermline, on to Inverkeithing, the
junction of commercial routes from Eastern Fife, and on to the Queen's

and Edinburgh Ferry. The kings of Scots had anciently been in-
augurated at the ancient cultural centre of Scone, and there Alex-
ander I founded an order of Augustinian canons. Monarchs through-
out the twelfth century frequently resided at Scone and it is
'highly probable' that burgh and abbey acted complementary - a
place for king's rents to be consumed by his court (Duncan, 1973,
32).

Time has long since passed to knock one finely held myth about Perth
on the head. It was not the ancient capital of Scotland. The facts
that Scottish kings issued charters at Perth, held Parliaments and
general councils there, resided in its Dominican Friary, and had
the Exchequer Accounts audited there, are not of themselves enough
to make Perth the capital of Scotland. It was not until the second
half of the fifteenth century, which witnessed a manifold increase
in the civil service and royal bureaucracy, and meetings of the
Three Estates on a frequent basis in Edinburgh that Scotland acquired
a true capital. The medieval Scottish monarchy was peripatetic.
Kings travelled throughout the kingdom to numerous centres eating up
their rents, showing their faces to the populace, dispensing justice
and keeping the peace. Even the itinerary of James I (1406-1436),
who is sometimes credited with trying to make Perth the capital, does
not show that he resided there more often than he did in Edinburgh
(Balfour-Melville, 1936, 258).

Nevertheless throughout the middle ages, parliaments and general
councils often met in Perth or Scone because of its geographically
central position within the kingdom. The religious houses associated
with both places could be used to house the court and other notables
on such occasions. The earliest specific building in Perth mentioned
in connection with the sealing of a royal act was the Dominican Friary
church. In 1266 the Treaty of Perth between Alexander III and Magnus
IV of Norway was accomplished in ecclesiam fratrum predicatorum apud
Perth (APS, i, 78). The friary church was also the venue for a 1365
general council (APS, i, 137). General councils appear to have vir-
tually the same participants as parliaments although they lacked the
judicial function. A general council of James I held at Perth in 1427
was attended by barons, freeholders, bishops, abbots, priors, sheriff
and burgesses, and a Parliament of April 1429 is recorded to have met

'in the accustomed place' (APS, ii, 13, 15, 17). It appears that
some parliaments of James II were held in the burgh's tolbooth as
well as the Dominican Friary church. Thereafter until the construc-
tion of a purpose-built Parliament House in 1644 near St. Giles,
most Scottish Parliaments convened in Edinburgh tolbooth.

Perth's central position did lend itself to various meetings and
assemblies in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. One of the
first conventions of royal burghs was held at Perth in 1555. The
church of the 'reformed religion' convened General Assemblies at
Perth in 1563, 1597 and 1618. Only four parliaments met in Perth
in the seventeenth century. On three occasions it was because
plague was rife in Edinburgh, and on the fourth occasion, in 1651,
the capital was in Cromwell's hands.

When Crown collided with Covenant in the Civil Wars of the 1640s,
Perth played an active role in the conflict. The burgh's sympathies
were strongly Presbyterian and it is doubtful that the townsfolk had
even observed the 'Anglican' Five Articles of Perth agreed to in the
General Assembly of 1618. When war broke out in 1640, Perth burgesses
marched off to help in the siege of Newcastle-Upon Tyne (Stavert, 1981,
29). The battle of Tippermuir, fought near Perth in 1644, resulted
in a victory for the royalist General Montrose who entered the burgh
and lodged 800 prisoners in the parish church (Simpson, 1958, 30).
However, in the following year the army of the Covenant displaced
the Royalists, but to add to the misery of war plague broke out in
the city.

The tides of wars and of time change quickly, and so it was that
Charles II in 1651 spent some time in Perth 'as the crowned captive
of the Covenant' and in the parish church of St.John's was forced to
listen to lengthy sermons (Simpson, 1958, 32). However, by the end
of the year, Charles had been forced to flee Perth by Cromwell's army
who maintained their hold on the town through the construction of a
citadel.

The town was again strengthened and fortified by the Jacobites in
the risings of 1715 and 1745. James VIII had been proclaimed at the
market cross in 1715 and in the following year the Old Pretender was
lodged in the burgh for three weeks just prior to the collapse of the
rebellion. In September 1745, the Jacobite Army under the command of
Prince Charles Edward arrived in Perth, and once again the Old Pretender

was proclaimed at the Cross. Before the army moved south £500 was
extorted from the burgesses of Perth for its support. While in re-
treat from Derby the Jacobite army paused only briefly in Perth.
Shortly, the Duke of Cumberland and his troops were billeted on the
town, and Perth town councillors presented him Gowrie House
for his personal use.

Perth owed its origins and subsequent prosperity to trade. Baldwin
the Lorimer, Henry the Bald the goldsmith, Provost John Mercer and
others played a part in the development of the burgh's economy. In
a letter of 1124 Alexander I announced to the merchants of England
that the canons of Scone might have a custom-free ship to reach them
without impediment at Scone (ESC, 1905, 43). During the reign of
David I, Perth outstripped other burghs in ship-customs and a size-
able number of gifts from burgh rents went to endow religious foun-
dations many of which were outwith the reaches of the Tay (Duncan,
1973, 32). Revenue sources were important to medieval as to modern
governments. Malcolm IV as well as David I had done, and relied on
income from Perth and bestowed monies from it at will.

William the Lion's 1205 charter of privileges to Perth mentions the
basic commodities on which the burgh was to build its later fortunes:
hides, cloth, wool and timber (RRS, ii, 430-2). Indigenous and foreign
merchants notably Flemings, exported wool to the Low Countries where
by 1300, Scottish wool, while not the fine quality the English pro-
duct was nevertheless was sought after. In the first custumar's
account for foreign trade in 1328, Perth was noted to have exported
wool, fleece and hides (ER, i, 87-9). Over the next two and a half
centuries Perth rarely deviated from that norm. Only occasionally
were wool, fleece and hides joined by salmon, rabbit skins and wool-
len cloth. The timber trade probably remained strictly an inland
matter. An order of the privy council in 1576 noted the practice of
floating timber down rivers and lochs, from the Highlands to neighbour-
ings like Perth (Grant, 1930, 550). An earlier reference in 1469 notes
that timber was brought from Perth to be used in the construction at
Linlithgow Palace (ER, vii, 657).

Perth burgesses supplied the royal household with many goods. Baldwin
the Lorimer, a Fleming, paid a rent to his twelfth-century monarch
one terret and two horse harnesses per year. His contemporary, Henry
the Bald the goldsmith, apparently was a trusted moneyer of the king's
newly-established mint at Perth. In the early thirteenth century,

William the helmet-maker was granted a 'place' in Perth in ex-
change for an annual rent of two iron helmets to the king per year
(RRS, ii, 471-2). By the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries goods
as diverse as satin doublets, silken gowns, black cloth for hose,
velvet, wooden axes and spears were supplied for the crown's use
(TA, passim).

Although the silken gowns and satin doublets were possibly not
made in Perth, the textile industry played a major role through
many centuries. The textile industry does appear however to have
had an inauspicious beginning. William the Lion's charter of pri-
vileges to the burgh specifically excluded weavers and fullers from
membership in the merchant guild. However, in 1601, Perth received
three Flemish weavers including a spinner woman, sewer and wool-
comber (RCRB, ii, 117). A similar proposal to bring weavers over
from Middleburgh and Zeeland was made in 1621.

By the eighteenth century it was clear, that linen dominated the
textile industry in Perth. Shortly after the Union of Parliaments,
Daniel Defoe toured Scotland and remarked that, 'the chief business
of the town at present is linen manufacture which is so considerable
here that all the neighbouring country is employed in it (1753, iv,
178). The quality of linen was rigourously controlled by the local
stampmaster on behalf of the Board of Trustees for Manufactures
which had been established in Edinburgh in 1727. The medical officer
of Cumberland's army noted that the North and South Inches were used
for the bleaching of linen cloth 'of which they have a great manu-
facture here' (Anon, 1825, 77-8). Many of the linen merchants had
their premises in the Kirkgate, and as with the wool trade of the
middle ages, much of the production was exported to Flanders and
the north of Europe (Penny, 1836, 2; Groome, 1885, iii, 185).

In the early modern period, eight craft incorporations emerged. The
largest were the glovers, bakers and hammermen, the latter including
blacksmiths, plumbers, armourers, gunsmiths, brass and pewter workers,
silver and goldsmiths. Weavers, wrights, tailors, fleshers and shoe-
makers made up the five incorporations (Hunt, 1889, xxiv). These
craft incorporations established monopolies over a particular type
of work in order to maintain standards and exclude outsiders. Even
as late as the eighteenth century, the shoemaker's guild fought to
prevent the establishment of a public shoemarket in the burgh (Bax-
ter, 1927, 28-9).

The restrictive practices of the craftsmen were also mirrored by restrictive practices of the merchants. Virtually only merchants could deal with overseas trade and only royal burghs could welcome ships and goods from abroad. Since 1124 foreign merchants had been sailing up the Tay at least as far as Perth (Duncan, 1973, 32) and it is possible that the trade would not have been a one-way affair. In general, Perth merchants would have had ready markets in the Low Countries, Germany, the Baltic and France.

For example, in 1246 Alexander II promised that he would see that merchants of Perth paid all debts they owed at Bordeaux (Duncan, 1973, 47). In an attempt to halt goods being landed at the baronial burgh of Dundee, Perth secured from Robert I an order which declared all ships which cleared the Drumley sandbank had to land their goods at Perth. An exception was made for Dundee's annual trade fair, or if goods aboard the ships had been specifically ordered by Dundee merchants (Barrow, 1981, 90). When Dundee ultimately became a royal burgh Perth lost much trade to her. In 1691, shortly after the period when royal burghs lost their monopoly on overseas trade, Perth complained to the Convention of Royal Burghs about regalities, baronies and 'other unfree place in the sheriffdom' which deprived her of trade (RCRB, iv, 570).

BURGH MORPHOLOGY

Street Layout: The physical layout of Perth was determined by the nature of its site a low plain beside a fordable river crossing. Until late eighteenth and early nineteenth century expansion, Perth remained a strikingly compact burgh, its growing population kept within its bounds, over the centuries, by royal policy, tradition and, later, fortifications and the establishment of religious houses. At Perth there was a crossing of north and south trade routes, as well as commercial routes from east to west. A traveller entering the town from the south passed through the South Street Port, ambled down South Street and turned at the Watergate into High Street. Until the late eighteenth century the only exit from Perth to the north was the Castle Gate, or Skinnergate, a narrow thoroughfare whose outshots 'projected far enough to admit friendly contact of hands across the street' (Cant, 1806, 9). However, it is the inconvenience of the entrance to the town from the south, with its marked dog-leg at Watergate, which has led Professor Duncan to surmise that an earlier, pre-burghal routeway entered Perth at the site of the South Street Port

and in a straight line joined up with the High Street at its junction with Watergate (Duncan, 1977, 467).

Watergate is part of the nucleus of the burgh as burgages running from it would suggest (Duncan, 1977, 467). The original burgh axis, however, was probably north and south, running on the line of Kirkgate and Castle Gate (Skinnergate) with the church at the south and the castle in the north. The axis was radically altered along an east-west line apparently before the end of the twelfth century, allowing for a much more generous layout on an alignment indicated by South Street and High Street. The line of High Street crossed Watergate, where the merchants had their wharves, and on to the Tay crossing (Barrow, 1981, 89). Perth is not unique in this switch of axis for both Ayr and Inverness had major axis changes in their earlier burghal careers. And like Ayr and Inverness Perth's burgage pattern and medieval street pattern has survived to a remarkable extent.

A charter of 1178 x 1187 granted to Arbroath Abbey, one full toft outwith the king's burgh of Perth between the two ports (RRS, ii, 273), and a gift of 1178 x 1195 to Cambuskenneth Abbey identifies the toft as being in nouo burgo meo de Perth (RRS, ii, 304). It has been assumed that the former grant implies that by 1180, Perth had already expanded and outgrown its David I boundaries, and the 'new burgh' of William I was founded in addition to the west of the burgh (RRS, ii, 273n, 304n; Duncan, 1977, 468). Perth retained these boundaries until the improving fever of the late eighteenth century, when, in addition to the market cross, town walls and ports being demolished, large numbers of streets were laid out. George Street improved access to the bridge and provided an improved exit from the town to the north, whereas travellers from the south enjoyed the convenience of Prince Street. The small suburban hamlet of Bridgend grew in size and importance. Lands formerly belonging to the Dominicans and Franciscans were also feued. These two religious institutions, along with the Carthusian Monastery (latterly the King James VI hospital) had for centuries marked the southern western and northern extents of the town.

Market Area: Perth's market area was delineated by the tolbooth and market cross. The tolbooth was near the east end of the High Street making easier the collection of tolls levied on ships and

cargoes (Stavert, 1981, 11). The market cross stood in the middle of the High Street between Kirkgate and Skinnergate. It is unknown when it was first erected. Cromwell ordered the demolition of the market cross to supply building materials for the construction of the citadel upon the South Inch. A replacement cross, erected in 1669, was taken down in 1765 as it was considered an impediment to traffic (Marshall, 1865, 475).

Harbour: Perth's topography is not polarised on the church and castle, but on the Watergate and wharf (Simpson, 1958, 12). Easy access from all parts of the town to the harbour has been one of the guiding motives of the street system. The importance of the harbour to Perth's early fortunes is clearly shown in the 1124 letter of Alexander I to the merchants of England. It is 'unlikely', in Professor Duncan's words that these merchants would have sailed beyond Perth (1977, 467). Little is actually known however of the old harbour. Originally, it adjoined the bridge (the 'Old Shore'), but it was moved during the seventeenth century to the south-east end of the town near the Cromwellian Citadel ('the South Shore'). The harbour was deepened and improved in the 1830s prior to the coming of the railways.

Bridge: The importance of Perth as a commercial centre was undoubtedly enhanced by its position as the lowest bridging point of the River Tay, at least until the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. One of the earliest references to the bridge of Tay at Perth occurs in 1209 when the structure was said to have been destroyed by flood. It must have been rebuilt quickly for in 1214 Alexander II, having been inaugurated at Scone, met the cortege bearing his father's body for burial at Arbroath 'at the bridge of Perth'. References to its needing repair occur frequently throughout the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

Royal grants and diligent work of the town council witnessed the completion of a new bridge over the Tay in 1617, but this bridge was swept away in an awesome flood in 1621. In a subsequent reference that same year, Perth's Tay Bridge was described as 'the onlie saife and certaine passage betwixt the north and south parties of this realm in all kyndes of weather...' (APS, v, 689; Smout, 1963, 111). Until the second half of the eighteenth century, a ferryman plied goods and traffic across the Tay. Efforts were made throughout the seventeenth century to rebuild the structure. All was

to no avail.   It was left to the improving tendencies, financial
backing, and goading of the Earl of Kinnoull, to commission John
Smeaton, architect of the Eddystone Lighthouse, to construct a
new bridge at Perth in 1766. It is to this outstanding engineer's
credit that his structure, with its hollow spandrels and graceful
beauty, is still standing.

BUILDINGS

Castle: Although there is no direct evidence with which to date
the original castle it is first mentioned in a 1157 x 1160 charter
of Malcolm IV conferring on Dunfermline Abbey both the parish church
of St.John's (a grant first made by his grandfather), and the chapel
of the castle at Perth (RRS, i, 209). Early in his reign, David I
had a mansio in the burgh (ESC, 1905, 65), but it is unclear when
the castle was built. It is also unclear, what part, if any, the
castle played in the riotous event of 1160, when Malcolm IV, on his
return from Toulouse,was besieged unsuccessfully at Perth by the
Earl of Strathearn and his adherents. Chroniclers make no specific
mention of the castle.

What is clear is that Perth castle had a short history. In 1209,
the river Tay flooded causing serious damage to the town. King
William I, who was in residence at the time was forced to make his
escape in a small boat. The flood destroyed both the standing struc-
ture and its castlehill (Duncan, 1973, 39-40). There is no evidence
that the castle was ever rebuilt. A few years previous to the flood
the merchant community won the right to have their own guild, and
it may be perhaps that their feeling of pride and independence
scotched any hope of the king's sheriff returning to a refurbished
castle at Perth. It was during the first half of the thirteenth
century that the crown built Kinclaven Castle, and the sheriff moved
his storehouses there (Duncan, 1977, 469). Part of the castle site
was granted to the Dominicans in the 1240s (Duncan, 1973, 40-1).
Henceforth the Dominican Friary was to be the usual residence of
Scottish monarchs when they were in Perth, until its destruction in
1559.

Walls: Baldwin the Lorimer, the Fleming who had promised his monarch
one terret and two horse collars annually in exchange for his Perth
toft, also undertook to work on the walls of the burgh (RRS, i, 186).
This 1153 x 1156 charter is the first reference to the Perth town walls.

Professor Duncan believes that the town was at least pallisaded
in this period, while a century later when they are referred to
as muri, Perth's town walls were built of stone (Duncan, 1977, 474).
Barbour's epic poem The Bruce notes that the 'walls war all of stane'.
This is hardly surprising for in the first half of the fourteenth
century, Perth's history was dominated by the see-sawing events and
changing fortunes of the Scottish Wars of Independence.

After the outbreak of these wars, documentary evidence to the forti-
fications of Perth survives in increasing quantity much of it in
English archives. The burgh in both phases of the Wars of Indepen-
dence served as an English forward supply base. Edward I in 1306
issued orders for the strengthening of the walls and fortifications
including the construction of a ditch and peel. The location of the
peel is unknown, but it was not constructed on a pre-existing castle
site as in the case of Linlithgow. Robert I besieged the town in
1313 and Barbour provides us with a graphic description of Bruce and
his men wading through the water of the ditch, scaling the stone walls
with ladders, capturing the town, and ultimately slighting the walls.

The successful 1313 siege left Perth in Scottish hands until after
the death of Robert I in 1329. Taking advantage of the minority of
David II, and with the tacit support of Edward III, Edward Balliol
invaded Scotland, and occupied Perth after his victory at Dupplin
Moor in 1332. Chronicle opinion differs as to the state of the walls,
but it is clear that Edward Balliol and Edward III both did much to
strengthen and fortify them. These 'Edwardian' walls were to remain
more or less intact until the mid-eighteenth century.

Between the collapse in the mid-fourteenth century of Balliol's
attempts to win the Scottish throne, and the Civil Wars of the
seventeenth century, little is known of Perth's town walls. The
Civil Wars and Cromwellian occupation again focussed attention on
the question of defending Perth. Although Perth maintained fairly
strong covenanting sympathies in the 1640, it was not unexpected
that, following Charles II's coronation at Scone and subsequent
Parliament at Perth in 1651, troops under Cromwell would push north.
Perth surrendered after a siege lasting only one day. To make the
town secure, a trench was dug. It does appear that Cromwellian troops
were the last to ever repair the walls.

Citadel: A large citadel on the orders of the Cromwellian general,
Monk, was ordered to be built on the South Inch. Apart from its

military function, the construction of a large citadel was meant
to overawe the town psychologically. As with similar forts built
at Ayr, Leith and Inverness, the citadel was square-shaped with a
bastion at every corner, and surrounded by earthen ramparts and a
water-filled ditch. Construction took two years (1652-54) and
materials for the fortress were gathered from buildings demolished
in the town: the grammar school, domestic dwellings, even tombstones
from Greyfriars churchyard (Marshall, 1849, 221). In 1660, Charles
II granted the citadel and its contents to the burgh and community.
In its turn the citadel was pillaged. A 1682 ordinance allowed one
citizen to use material from the citadel to erect a dyeing workhouse
in Castle Gable.

Church: The first reference to the parish church of St.John's occurs
in an 1128 grant of the church to the Benedictines of Dunfermline
(ESC, 1905,). . The church was in direct line with the castle
and communicated with it through the channels of Kirkgate and Castle
Gavel. It was placed well back from the hubbub of the market place
and harbour. Bishop David de Bernham of St. Andrews consecrated
the church in 1242 and it is presumed that by this date the choir,
at least had been completed (Simpson, 1958, 13).

Nothing today remains above ground of that thirteenth-century con-
secrated structure. In 1440 the monks at Dunfermline and the town
council agreed to the rebuilding of the choir and porch of the parish
church. By 1448 it is assumed that the choir was completed and a
new nave was thrown up by the end of the century. The attractive
steeple was completed by 1511. The waning of the middle ages saw
Perth parish church in its finest hour: the reforming zealots would
leave the structure largely intact, but strip the interior of its
many fine altars and images.

For the needs of reformed worship its bulk and shape were unsuitable,
and it is clear that the church soon fell into a ruinous state (Simp-
son, 1958, 25). In 1585 the Kirk Session decried the church's deplo-
rable condition, but it was not until 1598 that the town began to
repair the church in earnest. By the end of the century, not only
had work been completed, but the church itself had been divided into
three places of worship; the East (choir), West (nave), and Middle
(transepts and crossing) Parishes. The church structure remained in
that condition until the massive restoration work of the mid-1920s.

Chapels: In addition to the parish church Perth had a number of
chapels. A chapel dedicated to the Blessed Virgin at the castle
was damaged in the great flood of 1209, and seems to have been re-
built at some distance from the river (Marshall, 1816, 381). A
chapel dedicated to St.Anne had a hospital associated with it as
did a chapel dedicated to St.Katherine (Marshall, 1856, 383). The
chapel of the hospital of St.Leonard was mentioned in a papal bull
of 1184 and the hospital in 1227 (Cowan and Easson, 1976, 187). Two
other hospitals and chapels dedicated to St . Mary Magdalene and
St.Paul were founded for the reception of the poor (Cowan, 1976,
187-8).

Friaries: The Dominican friary is popularly said to have been
founded by Alexander II in 1231, although the first known grant
to the house was in October 1241 (Cowan, 1976, 119). The land gran-
ted to the friary was where the castle had stood and included the
king's garden, and the friars were also allowed to have a water supply
from a conduit taken from the mill dam at the king's mills (Stavert,
1981, 17). Royal grants, guests and patronage conspired to make the
Perth Dominicans among the wealthiest in Scotland. A zealous mob
attacked the buildings as early as 1543, and in May 1559 it was des-
troyed along with the other friaries in Perth. A slightly later,
but far poorer foundation had been the Carmelites of Tullilum, on
the outskirts of Perth. One of the last friaries to be founded in
Scotland was the order of Observant Grey Friars who were granted
lands by King James IV on the South Inch. At the Reformation their
former property became a municipal burying ground.

Perth boasts the only Carthusian monastery founded in Scotland. Known
as the 'Vale of Virtue' the monastery was built about 1429 just be-
yond the south-west corner of the corner near the site of the present
King James VI hospital. Perhaps because the order's raison d'etre was
strictly cloistered self-sufficiency, the prior and brother were free
of feudal services, tolls and customs, and they were allowed to take
a conduit from the lade for a water supply (Stavert, 1981, 20). Its
founders, Joan of Beaufort and her consort King James I were both
buried there. It was the first religious house in Perth to be des-
troyed by the reforming mob in May 1559.

Mills: Mills at Perth are on record as early as David I's reign,
but it was not until the end of the fourteenth century that the crown

gifted them to the burgh. The mills of Perth could only have used water brought from the Almond. One mill lade flowed under the present-day Methven Street and Canal Street, while the northern lade follows a coarse marked by Murray Street, Mill Street and George Inn Lane (Stavert, 1981, 15).

Archaeology

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The economically important medieval burgh of Perth has today achieved
new significance as a valuable source of early artifactual and struc-
tural evidence of Scottish urban life. Since the early 1970s, this
evidence has been under threat through the enactment of the first
large scale urban improvement scheme since the early nineteenth cen-
tury. Until 1972, development in and near the ancient town centre was
sporadic and took the form of the redevelopment of isolated plots
rather than the clearance and rebuilding of large sections of the old
town. Before the 1970s, only one small archaeological investigation
had been carried out in Perth (see page 19) though reports from the
nineteenth century suggested that a wealth of material did survive (see
page 28). Ten years ago, the underground remains of an estimated twen-
ty medieval tenement sites had been destroyed by rebuilding (Simpson,
1972, 21), today that number is far greater, but largely through the
efforts of the Urban Archaeology Unit, Perth and Kinross District Coun-
cil and many supporters, much information which would otherwise have
been lost has been recovered through excavation (see page 19 ff). The
Local Plan for Perth Central Area, published by the District Council
in 1979 contains policies which will affect the survival of the site
of medieval Perth. The proposals listed in this plan will be implemen-
ted over a period of approximately ten years, achieving completion by
1989.   Some have already been carried out, and others will provide
opportunities for further investigation of early burgh history (see
map 2).

Sites under immediate threat

1. The site of 116 to 132 High Street, together with the Old Fire Station
   (centred on NO 1180 2360) has been demolished and the area cleared in
   preparation for redevelopment.   Despite cellarage of some depth on
   the High Street and King Edward Street frontage, deposits dating between
   the twelfth and sixteenth centuries survive with varying degrees of con-
   tinuity. Present archaeological investigation (March 1982) has revealed
   both structural and artifactual evidence which may shed light on the
   plan, development and chronology.

2. A large redevelopment scheme has been proposed for St. John's Square,
   and Meal Vennel frontages and backlands (NO 117 235). Investigation

of this extensive site, although archaeological levels may have suffered considerable disturbance from the intensive piling necessary to support the 1960s housing and commercial complex at present occupying St. John's Square, is of particular importance. The frontages of Meal Vennel have seen little development since the eighteenth century, and deposits here may show greater continuity than has been found elsewhere in the town. Evidence of early medieval expansion may be detectable here, also information relating to the usage of land, and the date, plan and comparative size of the burgages,

3. The site of the thirteenth century Carmelite Friary of Tullilum has recently been cleared of derelict tenements and is shortly to be redeveloped with a series of warehouse units. The exact site of the religious house has now been accurately placed, as documentary and cartographic evidence suggested, at NO 1082 2380 (see page 34). The extent and degree of survival of medieval deposits in the vicinity of the site are good, and with these objectives in mind, the Urban Unit is carrying out an exploratory excavation on the site (May, 1982).

4. The sites of 8 to 14 South Street, and 1 to 5 Speygate (NO 120 234), have been cleared in preparation for redevelopment. The South Street frontage has some cellarage, though early medieval levels most probably survive, at some depth. Investigation of this site could give valuable information on development to the north of the town defences and adjacent to two medieval thoroughfares.

5. Work is imminent on gas main improvements which will involve trenching both across the site of Cromwell's Citadel (NO 1200 2306) and along Tay Street. The interest here is threefold. Firstly, it may be possible to identify the ditch of the Cromwellian fortification now no longer visible on the ground. Secondly, trenching along the waterfront may provide an opportunity at the Canal Street, Tay Street junction to identify the defences at this point. Thirdly, Tay Street was built out over the Tay bank in the late nineteenth century, effectively concealing all traces of early wharfage and associated settlement. It may be possible to identify here medieval occupation levels.

6. Mill Street is to be widened into the backland areas currently occupied by temporary car parks. This will provide further opportunities to examine the line of the town defences and the usage of backland areas at an early date.

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 23 ff for full discussion).

1. To attempt, through excavation, to recover the earliest possible date for the initial settlement of the burgh, and to provide evidence of the nature of its economic and social development.

2. To establish a sequence of development in the town defences and ports. to confirm the existence, course and dimensions of the wall and ditch, the methods used in construction, and evidence of repairs.

3. To identify any sequence of planning in the layout and expansion of the burgh, and to determine any variation in street alignment and width.

4. To establish the structural nature of town buildings prior to the eighteenth century through excavation, and, in conjunction with documentary research, to determine the commercial and industrial usage of buildings other than dwelling houses in the associated backlands.

5. To investigate the origins of the parish church of St. John, and determine the plan and date of previous buildings on the site and the extent of the kirkyard.

6. To identify the surface area, the disposition of the Friary buildings and associated kirkyard of the Dominican House.

7. To assess the degree of survival of pre-sixteenth century deposits on the site of the Franciscan Friary.

8. To confirm the site and any surviving remains of the Carthusian House of Perth.

9. To confirm the degree of survival of archaeological levels at the site of the Carmelite Priory.

10. To confirm the site and identify any surviving remains of the chapels and hospitals of Perth.

11. To determine the fortified limits of the early castle, and to recover the chronology and plan of its associated buildings.

12. To confirm the site and plan of the Cromwellian citadel.

13. To establish the existence and structural sequence of any early wharfage along the river frontage.

Areas of Archaeological Priority

Excavations and surveillance carried out in the burgh over the last
ten years have been encouraging both in terms of the depth of sur-
viving archaeological deposits and in the quality and variety of
structural and artifactual remains, which it has been possible to re-
cover (see page 19 ff). A continued joint policy of documentary re-
search, watching brief and exploratory excavation, as opportunities
arise, can be confidently forecast to produce profitable results.
The immediate priorities have been discussed on page 14ff. With regard
to the remainder of the burgh, the medieval limits as indicated by the
town defences can be taken as the boundary of archaeological interest
(see map 2), but with the addition of known sites outwith the walls
including the Dominican Friary, the Carthusian House, the Greyfriars
Monastery, and the medieval suburb, identified by excavation, west of
South Methven Street, and the documented suburbs of Castle gable and
Bridgend.
The following sites are mentioned specifically as being under threat
during the next seven years, they are not listed in order of priority,
and their mention does not exclude from importance, the adjacent fron-
tages and backlands in the event of alteration or addition to existing
development proposals within the boundary marked on map 2.

1. The Intra-mural medieval settlement defined by Mill Street, South Meth-
   ven Street, Canal Street and the River Tay, has proved a valuable source
   of archaeological material. Continued surveillance along the existing
   frontages and in the associated backlands as sites become available
   through redevelopment can only add to existing knowledge. Although
   many of the proposals put forward in the Local Plan (P.K.D.C. 1979)
   have now been carried out, the final seven years of the programme will
   see further redevelopment in the historic centre. The Star Buildings
   and 32 Canal Street (NO 1190 2235) have now been demolished and investi-
   gation may provide information relating to the town defences. On the
   South Street - Speygate junction (NO 1200 2342) buildings have been
   cleared for redevelopment, and in spite of cellars on the South Street
   frontage, the site may profitably be investigated for information re-
   lating to town development. The seventeenth century Earl of Atholl's
   house reputedly stood in this vicinity. Existing proposals provide
   for rebuilding the frontage and on the backland. 3 King Street and
   11-15 Canal Crescent (NO 115 234) are scheduled for redevelopment.
   Investigation here may provide further opportunities to examine the
   defences, as also may the proposed construction of the telephone exchange

extension on the Canal Crescent/Charterhouse Lane junction (NO 116 233).
The present car park in Charles Street on the site of the old Wash House
(NO 117 233), will eventually be redeveloped for commercial or housing
purposes. This site may have relevance in tracing the line of the town
defences. Proposals to level the ground at the Horse Cross/Bridge Lane
junction (NO 119 237) coupled with general environmental improvement,
may provide opportunities to examine burgh expansion, and also the site
of the 'Red Brig Port'.

Any future proposals for the Watergate, Kirkgate and the eastern end of
the High Street should be closely examined, as this is one of the oldest
parts of the burgh, and may provide information relating to the initial
development of the settlement.

2. The Dominican Friary (NO 117 238) situated outwith the town defences,
   is not currently seriously threatened by redevelopment.

3. The Carthusian House (NO 1154 2339). It may be possible to determine
   the boundary of this site during proposed work in Charterhouse Lane (NO
   116 233), and Canal Crescent (see map 2). Proposed re-habilitation at
   17-23 King Street may also provide information in the event of work being
   carried out below present ground level.

4. The Franciscan Friary may be affected by environmental improvement schemes
   to south of the present graveyard. These, however, promise to be super-
   ficial and will probably not affect any previous archaeological deposits.

5. The Medieval suburb (see map 2) to the west of South and North Methven
   Street has been proved by excavation (see page 21). Further development
   here, would serve to illustrate the chronology of town expansion, the
   commercial and industrial usage of the periphery of the burgh, and the
   chronology of the mills, bakeries and granaries in the vicinity of the
   town lade.

6. The Cromwellian Citadel. Although no trace now remains, the site having
   been cleared in the eighteenth century, proposals to insert a new gas main
   across the site may provide new evidence.

Recommendations

a. To continue, with urgency, in the face of current development proposals,
   the programme of monitoring and excavation which has proved so success-
   ful during the last few years.

b. To pursue a programme of documentary research amongst the abundant
   archive material of the burgh to complement and assist archaeological
   investigation and interpretation of threatened sites.

c. To carry out a cellar survey over the area of the medieval burgh,

to assess the probable maximum continuity of deposits from the twelfth century to the present day.

d. Considering the degree of structural alteration which many Perth buildings have undergone, it would be worthwhile keeping a watching brief in future instances of renovation and/or demolition, in the hope of identifying early structural remains behind a later facade or beneath present ground floor levels.

PREVIOUS WORK

Since the formation of the Urban Archaeology Unit, a branch of which has special responsibility for Perth, the site of the medieval burgh has been successfully and systematically explored by watching brief and excavation as opportunities have become available through redevelopment. It is through the efforts of this team that details of medieval town life have been recovered. The soil conditions in Perth are such that many artifacts and structures not normally preserved, have survived in startlingly good condition. The importance of Perth in contributing to the early written history of urban Scotland cannot therefore be overstated.

The following represent reports of published excavations in the burgh, and are representative of the occupation deposits and structures found beneath the present streets and buildings.

1. During excavation of the foundations for an extension to the General Accident building on the corner of Watergate and High Street (NO 120 236), a sequence of occupation deposits, were uncovered, sealing remains of wattle-work and posts. Sherds of medieval pottery were found in the overlying midden (Stewart, 1955, 22; Anon, 1955-56, 460).

2. Structural alterations in the cellar of Grampian Travel in George Street (NO 120 236) in 1967 provided an opportunity for excavation and the identification of a medieval well and cobbled surface. Some early medieval pottery was recovered from the site (Stewart, 1968).

3. A small trial trench was opened in St.Anne's Lane, in advance of redevelopment, to assess the existence and depth of any surviving medieval levels. An extensive midden deposit was uncovered containing medieval pottery, food debris, leather, cloth and other artifacts. No structural remains were found. The deposit probably dated from the late twelfth to mid-fourteenth century (Thoms, 1975, 41).

4. A large site between High Street and Mill Street was investigated prior

to the construction of the Marks and Spencer store (NO 118 236).
One trench sectioned the late thirteenth century town wall and
external ditch. Other areas showed respectively, traces of indus-
trial activity associated with the tanning industry, the plan of
the old Parliament House, wattle structures associated with burga-
ges in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, and a stone building
of the fourteenth century. Large quantities of artifacts, including
textiles, leather, wood, bone, glass and pottery were recovered
(Bogdan, 1976, 52; Bogdan, 1977, 30).

5. Excavation of a double cellar at 59, George Street (NO 1196 2380)
   produced some food debris, pottery, and a small pit circa 3·0m. be-
   low present street level (Blanchard and Spearman, 1978, 31).

6. Some structural remains, several posts and fragments of wattle and
   daub, together with medieval pottery and animal bones were excavated
   on the site of 65-67 South Street (NO 1186 2349) prior to building
   operations (Blanchard and Spearman, 1978, 31).

7. A watching brief was carried out at 165 High Street (NO 1177 2364)
   at a stone lined well discovered by workmen clearing a back yard.
   Nineteenth-century pottery was recovered. (Blanchard and Spearman,
   1978, 31).

8. During renovation work at NO 1157 2364, two trenches excavated by
   workmen produced midden material, a further two, traces of wattle
   structures, and two others artifactual evidence (Blanchard and Spear-
   man, 1978, 31).

9. An excavation was carried out on the site of 21-22, Mill Street (NO
   1165 2375) at the rear of Boots and on the line of the northern defences
   of the town. Structures included a sequence of medieval furnaces, a
   post medieval oven, partly robbed in the seventeenth or eighteenth cen-
   tury and the south edge of the town ditch. No traces of the town wall
   were however, located (McGavin, 1979, 41; McGavin, n.d.,1-13; McGavin,
   1980, 39-40).

10. Excavations carried out in Kirk Close (NO 117 236) produced evidence of
    wattle structures, of fourteenth century date, constructed on sill beams
    with sand floors and associated midden areas. A fifteenth century stone
    lined oven inside an L-shaped sill beam structure was also identified.
    Finds included much environmental material, textile, leather, wooden
    bowls, coins, bone and pottery (Blanchard and Spearman, 1979, 41-2).

11. A trial trench was cut in a small yard at 45 Canal Street (NO 118

234) to assess the archaeological potential of this area. A sequence of pits, a gully and a beam slot dating from the thirteenth to the fourteenth century was uncovered beneath a sixteenth century stone house with an external gravelled yard and stone lined drain. Later occupation dated from the nineteenth century. Finds included, local and imported pottery, food debris and a coin of James III. (Blanchard and Spearman, 1979, 42; Blanchard, n.d., n.p.).

12. A watching brief was carried out on the site of 97 High Street (NO 118 236). To the rear of the modern frontage cellars, organic midden deposits extended to a depth of 2'7" (0·8m) piling on the site suggested that archaeological deposits were much deeper. Oak and birch timbers were recovered together with medieval pottery (Blanchard and Spearman, 1979, 42).

13. A watching brief in the Speygate Car Park (NO 119 234) in a trench abutting the rear of the Sheriff Court building, produced evidence of archaeological deposits to a depth of 8'6" (2·6m) below street level. A range of medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered. (ex.inf. M. Spearman).

14. Exploratory work was carried out in advance of redevelopment between 1978 and 1981 in Canal Street to establish the nature and depth of archaeological deposits in this part of the town. The excavated trenches showed early property boundaries, a number of intercutting pits, and some traces of stone buildings. Finds included local and imported pottery, several coins, (two provisionally dated to c.1470 and a third to 1370) a wide range of iron objects and some detritus from metal working (Spearman, 1982, n.p.).

15. An excavation was carried out on the Clydesdale Bank site off South Methven Street in 1979 (NO 115 236). Three trenches were cut, and all showed large scale dumping of garden soil on the site, thinning to Mill Wynd and containing a considerable amount of medieval pottery. Beneath these post-medieval deposits some structural features, probably of medieval date, were identified, including a large hearth, some cobbling and a possible plot division. A ditch in Area 3 could represent the western town ditch. The fill included a substantial quantity of bovine horn cores, suggesting that horn working had been carried out in the vicinity. (Spearman, n.d., n.p.; Blanchard and Spearman, 1980, 39).

16. Sherds of medieval pottery and human remains were found on the site of the old graveyard of the parish kirk to the north of the church in St. John's Street (NO 119 235).

17. A number of piles were inserted to re-inforce the standing building at 1, High Street (City Chambers) NO 120 236. In the course of this work over two seasons, organic midden material to a depth of 6·0m was identified, together with a large quantity of medieval finds including pottery, decorated leather and textiles. The stone foundations of earlier buildings were located and some large jointed timbers, perhaps representing elements of the medieval harbour wharfage, tolbooth, chapel and bridge known to have existed in the vicinity (Blanchard and Spearman, 1980, 39; Blanchard and Spearman, 1981, 47).

Apart from the artifacts recovered in the course of the aforementioned excavations, some earlier finds are recorded. Most of these are not from a satisfactory archaeological context, but give some indication of the chronological range of material recovered from the burgh.

1. A brass of Caesar Augustus was found in 1790 when a north section of the town wall was demolished to make way for the erection of the George Inn, George Street (NO 1200 2376). In 1796, this coin was in the possession of Mr.James Ramsay, Provost of Perth, its present whereabouts is, however, unknown (O.S.A. 1796, 494; NSA, 1837, 7-3; MacDonald, 1917-18, 246).

2. A denarius of Tiberius, reputedly found on the site of the Parliament House at Perth (NO 1187 2367) at the beginning of the nineteenth century is held in Perth Museum (MacDonald, 1917-18, 236).

3. Two worn Roman coins, one of Licinius I and a billon coin of Nero, both minted in Alexandria, were recovered from the same level at a depth of 22' (6·7m) during the excavation of a 30' (9·1m) trench, in Perth. The Roman issues were associated with a silver penny of Edward I. Present whereabouts uncertain (Robertson, 1960-61, 147).

4. A hoard of Scottish silver and billon coins were discovered contained in a bag in the Castle Gable, Perth, circa 1803. The hoard was deposited some time after 1488. Present whereabouts unknown. (Metcalf, 1977, 47; Metcalf, 1960-61).

5. A hoard was discovered in 1812, probably during the rebuilding of a house near to Parliament Close in the High Street and not during the demolition of the Parliament House as suggested by the New

<u>Statistical Account</u>. The coins were silver pennies and halfpennies chiefly of the reigns of Bruce, Balliol and Alexander, and were probably deposited between 1318 and 1360. The present whereabouts of the hoard is not known (Metcalf, 1977, 41; Baxter, 1930, 238).

6.   In late 1896, an earthenware purlie-pig was discovered in a heap of rubbish carted from excavations for the foundations of a new post office in the <u>High Street</u>. The vessel contained 25 sixteenth-century gold coins, of foreign origin, Those recovered consisted of one of John of Portugal, 11 of Francis I of France, 10 of Louis XII of France and 3 of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain. The hoard was deposited in the National Museum in Edinburgh (MacDonald, 1896-97, 237).

7.   The excavation of foundations for a new building at the corner of <u>St. John's Place</u> and <u>King Edward Street</u> in 1920 (NO 1185 2360) led to the discovery of a hoard in a deposit of circa 6' (1·8m) of accumulated domestic refuse. The hoard lay about 1'6" (0·4m) below the surface and was composed of some 1,128 gold and silver coins of the four James'. A large proportion of the coins were deposited in the National Museum in Edinburgh (MacDonald, 1920-21, 278-281; Balfour Paul, 1920-21, 24).

8.   A Viking sword was discovered in the <u>Watergate</u> (NO 120 235). No further details available (Shetelig, 1954, 72).

9.   A Spindle Whorl, crudely decorated, 1" (0·03m) in diameter was discovered in 1909 during excavations on the site of the City Hall,. Donated to Perth Museum in 1917 (Museum Index No. 1481) (O.S. Record Card No.12. SW 9).

10. A small three legged pot of brass was discovered in <u>Mill Street</u> in the late nineteenth century. No further details available. (Anderson & Black, 1887-88, 341).

11. A bronze pin with a cylindrical head at right angles to the shaft was discovered in the late nineteenth century during the laying of foundations for a house in the <u>High Street</u> (Anon, 1887-88, p.111).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

Early Settlement.

The early recorded history of Perth is discussed on page 1 ff. Before the twelfth century, there is no evidence to suggest that a settlement

existed. Largely on the basis of the apparently grid iron plan, coupled with occasional stray finds of coins in the burgh, early writers have attributed Roman origins to the town. However, there is currently no evidence for Roman Settlement at Perth, though much activity can be detected in the immediate environs (P.C.T. 1972, 5).

The importance of Scone in the Dark Ages, and the position of Perth at the point where the Tay became tidal, suggests it to have been a recognised river crossing and docking point for some time before the first recorded mentions of the burgh in the twelfth century. Excavation has proved the existence of a flourishing settlement by that time (ex.inf. M. Spearman) but as yet archaeological investigation has failed to produce evidence of any earlier structural development.

Future work in the burgh will continue to attempt to recover the earliest possible date for initial settlement, and provide evidence of the nature of its economic and social development.

The Town Defences

The defences of Perth have a long but in some respects rather obscure history. It is true, however, that Perth was an enclosed settlement in the fortified sense, unlike the majority of medieval burghs in Scotland. At what date these defences were first built is not certain. Charter evidence occurs as early as the twelfth century (see page 9) and in 1312, Robert Bruce is credited with assaulting the 'moat and walls' to effect the liberation of Perth from the English.

The structural nature of the defences changed through the centuries. Wyntown describes the structure built by Edward Balliol's army after Dupplin Moor in 1332. 'The towne syne thai closyd all and envyrownd wyth a mude wall' (Mackenzie, 1933-34, 124). Such a structure could be quickly raised employing clay and timber. By 1336, however, 'the mude wall dykis thai kest down' and upon the instructions of Edward III the walls were rebuilt in stone by the local religious houses (Bogdan and Wordsworth, 1978, 7). By the sixteenth century, the defences were obsolete and frequently in disrepair.

The position of the fortifications can be roughly indicated by the line of Canal Street, Canal Crescent, South Methven Street and Mill Street. The fourteenth-century stone wall incorporated stone towers at intervals along its length, features,particularly well seen on Louis Petit's plan of Perth (1715-16). Two of these were of particular note, the Monk's Tower (NO 1209 2334), at the Canal Street junction, demolished together with Gowrie House in 1807, and the Spey Tower (NO 1201 2335), later

used as a prison which was removed in 1766. Excavation has provided
evidence of the site of two further towers at NO 1156 ·2373 and NO
1203 2375 (Ordnance Survey Record Card NO 12 SW 5). (See map 3).
Repairs were carried out to the defences by Cromwell in the mid-seven-
teenth century and also during the Jacobite risings in the eighteenth
century, but in the latter part of that century, gradual demolition
took place in the course of urban expansion. In 1762, the town wall
from 'the Highgate Port to the north-west bastion' was demolished and
the remaining section, and a part of the north wall removed in 1763.
(McLaren, 1932, 3). One of the last sections of the city wall to be
removed appears to have been that demolished in Mill Street in 1834
to allow the building of a spinning mill (Peacock, 1849, 12). The
Ordnance Survey (O.S. Record Card NO 12 SW 5) have identified a vennel
off the High Street which is said to incorporate the remains of the
city wall (NO 115 236) and similarly, a 46' (14·0m) stretch of wall in
Barrett's Close (NO 1196 2374) is said to be a part of the defences.
This latter section, however, is only 8" (0·2m) thick, and its coursed
rubble construction suggests a relatively recent date. Excavation has
revealed the foundations of the wall at a number of points in the burgh.
A stretch about 12' (3·6m) long was uncovered at the north end of Skin-
nergate (NO 1193 2373) by the Red Brig Port (O.S. Record Card NO 12
SW 5) and excavations in Mill Street (NO 118 236) have produced
traces of the late thirteenth century wall (see page 20). The ports
provided access to the burgh. The South Port was situated at the west
end of South Street (NO 1156 2348). The Turret Bridge Port at the wes-
tern extremity of High Street (NO 1156 2363), the North Port at NO 1177
2374, and the Red Brig Port at the north end of Kirkgate (NO 1193 2373).
The southern exit to the town was protected by the Spey Tower, NO 1201
2335. The restriction in width of the carriageway at these entrances
to the town, and the inconvenience to wheeled traffic, necessitated
their entire removal in 1766 (McLaren, 1932, 4). No trace now remains
above street level, though at NO 1177 2374, the port was identified
during drainage excavations. The tops of the gateway here were to be
seen only a few feet above the level of the lade (O.S. Record Card NO
12 SW 5).

The remaining element of the medieval defences was the surrounding ditch.
This feature mimicked the course of the wall, and was supplied with
water from a lade diverting the flow from the River Almond. Excavation
has proved that this ditch was both wide and deep and frequently recut.

Although no surface trace of this feature now remains, its course
can be followed partly in the facades of some of the remaining buil-
dings which are partially erected over it and have suffered subsid-
ence as a result. The town lade at the King's Mills (NO 115 237)
has been culvetted to the Tay at Perth Bridge westwards, and a branch
flows southwards from North Methven Street past St.Paul's Parish
church crossing at the South Street Port into Canal Crescent and
Canal Street eventually entering the sewers (Baxter, 1932). Future
development may provide valuable opportunities to establish a se-
quence of development in the town defences and ports, and allow con-
firmation of the course and dimensions of the walls and ditch, and
the methods used in construction.

As a post-script, it might be added that the town was refortified
during the Jacobite uprising of 1714-15 both by the military and the
townspeople. These works are unrelated to the medieval defences, and
lie to the north, south and west of the town.   The course of these
works is best seen on Louis Petit's Plan (1715), and the general area
is now totally built up and there is no visible trace remaining. How-
ever, their presence should not be ignored in the event of future
redevelopment.

The Town Plan

The morphology of the burgh is discussed on page 6 ff but a number of
problems relating to its development remain. Archaeological investi-
gation can make a substantial contribution towards the solution of these
problems. The street axis of the burgh was in all probability once north-
south, with the earliest development along Watergate, Skinnergate and
Kirkgate on alignment with the early castle on the north side of the
settlement. By at least the twelfth century, this alignment was radi-
cally altered, presumably to create greater scope for expansion. Exca-
vation at points along the High Street (see page 20) has already indi-
cated substantial settlement by the thirteenth century (see page 20). At
least one stage in development may theoretically be identified as ter-
minating along Meal Vennel which thus formed the early western boundary
to the burgh (ex.inf. Mr. Spearman). But what is reasonably certain,
from both the documentary and archaeological evidence, is that the growth
of the town had been arrested by the fourteenth century, with the construc-
tion of the Edwardian defences. The fifteenth century saw further expansion
with the development of the suburbs of Castle Gable and New Row. Proposed

redevelopment on either side of Meal Vennel will provide excellent opportunities for examining the morphology both of this part of the burgh, and the excavation of complete burgage plots. Future work must continue as opportunities arise, to examine the frontages of the major streets of known antiquity such as Watergate, Kirkgate, Skinnergate, High Street and South Street to amplify existing knowledge of the development of the burgh.

Early Buildings and Materials

Only a few Scottish burghs have revealed exciting evidence of early structures. In the case of Perth, the damp soil conditions and great depth of occupation deposit have combined to preserve virtually unique evidence of thirteenth century town houses, their associated buildings, and property boundaries. Such survivals, together with a wealth of environmental evidence and normally perishable domestic debris, have combined to make the historic centre of Perth one of the most important sources of information for early Scottish town life. Excavations during the last ten years have provided ample structural evidence which it is only possible to discuss here briefly.

Examination of the structural remains from High Street and Kirk Close by Dr. Hilary Murray (1980, 39), has led to the identification of three basic kinds of construction dating between the late twelfth to the fourteenth century. The first, using wattle as a means of walling, has four different techniques of construction using combinations of posts and wattles either on a sill beam lying directly on the ground surface, on a stone foundation, or with uprights set directly into the ground. A second construction method utilized planks set in a sill-beam either lying on the ground surface or on a stone foundation. Such a building was located in the High Street, as also was a clay walled structure with some incorporated strengthening timbers which comprises the third category.

The majority of street frontages in Perth have undergone considerable disturbance through intrusive cellarage, and in many cases levels later than the fifteenth century have not survived beneath the immediate frontage. However, the remarkable depth of deposits has preserved twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth century levels virtually intact, and the chronological sequence is more complete in the backlands. The minimal disturbance which has occurred on the Meal Vennel frontage will allow

closer examination than has been possible until now of the early burgh frontage development in Perth. The majority of the buildings mentioned above were associated with early backland development, rectangular in plan, and of varying length, the long axis parallel to the rig. The width was on average between 6'2" (3·5m) and 6'5" (4·5m), a dimension probably dictated by the width of the back rig. (Murray, 1980, 44). Remains such as these have been uncovered over the centuries though frequently misinterpreted. Cowan (1904, 5) records nineteenth century discoveries of buildings and paved streets 15' (4·5m) below the present street around St. John's and St. Paul's Churches. Specifically, he mentions a 'subterranean stable' of 'neatly wrought twigs of trees' but wrongly associates them with pre-historic periods.

The majority of the burgh street frontages and backlands within the confines of the defences outlined on page 24 , are of potential interest archaeologically. Excavation has shown a high degree of preservation of early structural material in all parts of the town and it is reasonable to claim that investigation will be productive in virtually every case. Of the more substantial town buildings of the sixteenth century onwards, the foundations have largely been removed by later redevelopment and cellarage on the street frontages. More notable buildings such as Gowrie House (NO 1203 2345) have known sites but lie beneath nineteenth century and later development.

One of the particularly interesting aspects of Perth, is the wealth of material evidence of trade and industrial life in the burgh which has been revealed by archaeological investigation. A combination of charter evidence and sasine coupled with the results of excavation has been instrumental in identifying the localities in which industry was carried on from an early period. As early as 1366, there are references to Perth's waulkers and weavers, part of South Street is still known as the 'Weaver's Land' and here was the hall and brewhouse of the incorporation which was chartered by Queen Mary in 1556. In the first part of the eighteenth century, the handloom weavers were concentrated mainly in Mill Wynd, New Row and Thimble Row (P.C.T. 1972, 11). Curfew Row, from an early period, until the early nineteenth century was occupied on both sides by the malt barns of the brewers, but from 1836, the remains of these buildings were occupied as a tannery. (Penny, 1836, 4).

Dyeing was a long established industry in Perth, probably first introduced by German settlers in the twelfth century (Baxter, 1930, 112). Certainly, a charter of William the Lion (1210) mentions dyeing, and refers to the practise of confiscation for breach of the law forbidding dyeing of cloth without express permission of the Crown in the reign of David I (Baxter, 1930, 78).

Metalworking has been identified on the Canal Street site excavated in 1981 (see page 21) with the recovery of clay moulds, crucibles and slag.. Other known metalworking sites in the burgh include the west side of Meal Vennel which in the seventeenth century was occupied by a series of smithies.

Continued research into the buildings, industrial and commercial past of Perth will be very worthwhile. The depth of archaeological deposits and the variety and condition of the recovered artifacts provide a rich archive for future study.

The Parish Church of St. John.

The parish church of St. John is situated at the junction of St. John Street and St. John's Place (NO 1194 2353). The history of the present building cannot be traced back beyond 1126, but tradition attributes to it a far more ancient origin in the fifth, sixth or seventh century. This cannot be substantiated by fact. There is a strong early Christian presence in the immediate vicinity of the burgh, but as yet there is no documentary or artifactual evidence to suggest the presence of a church before the twelfth century.

The present building was reputedly erected by David I in 1126 and consecrated by Bishop of St.Andrews, David de Bernhame in 1242. The choir and tower were restored by Robert Bruce in 1328 with further rebuilding of the choir in 1400. It is recorded that the Church Parsonage house and tithes were gifted by David I to the Abbey of Dunfermline, and land in front of the street leading to the castle from St. John's Church was granted by William the Lion to Henry Bald. The main fabric is thought to be basically not later than the fourteenth century or early fifteenth century, though some parts of the present church may date from the twelfth or thirteenth century.

The structural history of the church is discussed more fully on
page 11. Two phases which have affected the archaeology of the
site are the widening of St. John's Place, which took place in the
early nineteenth century, causing the demolition of the north wall
of the north transept and the truncation of that transept so that
the vault of the Mercer family now lies partly beneath the street
(Hunter, 1932, 3). In the second case, considerable reconstruction
work was found necessary early this century due to subsidence amongst
the pillars of the nave. Before this work was carried out, a pit
was excavated in the nave to ascertain the nature of the sub-soil,
in the course of which operation many human remains were exposed.
A minute of the Kirk Session for January 1589 records that there
were to be no more burials within the Kirk and no future raising
or breaking of the Kirk floors. Hunter (1932, 11) records that
this decree was largely ignored, but the majority of burials here
must still pre-date the seventeenth century. There is, however,
no recorded trace of any earlier building being identified at that
time. Substantial foundations were laid beneath the pillars of the
nave, and any surviving evidence of earlier buildings in 1598, 1771
and 1773 (see page 11) were demolished in the restoration work car-
ried out in the 1920s, and were found to include finely moulded
and carved stones in secondary use, most probably derived from the
monastic buildings destroyed at the Reformation.

The churchyard appears to have occupied the area to the north of
the church. It was apparently surrounded by a wall and bounded on
the west by the College yards and the recreation ground (MacLaren,
1906, 168). The area is now totally built up, though sherds of
medieval pottery and human remains have been discovered to the north
of the church (see page 22).

Any future renovation at the church could be usefully monitored in
the hope of identifying any surviving traces of earlier buildings
on the site, and similarly a watching brief on the locality to the
north of the church may provide some indication as to the extent
of the associated graveyard.

The Dominican Friary

The Dominican Friary at Perth was built outside the limits of the
thirteenth century settlement. The property of the Friars appears
to have covered a considerable area to the north of the city wall,
west of the site of the castle. The Ordnance Survey centres the
Friary at NO 1178 2386 (O.S. Record Card NO 12 SW 6), but the site
of the buildings has been variously recorded by earlier writers at
the corner of the present Kinnoul Street and Carpenter Street (NO
1168 2390), the east or south-east side of Atholl Crescent (NO 117
239) on the site of the Middle Free church (NO 1176 2388), adjoining
the north port (NO 1177 2374) and Blackfriar's Wynd (NO 1182 2385).

The date of foundation of the Friary is not certain. Unsupported evi-
dence suggests that it was erected by Alexander II in 1231. It is
known that the church was dedicated in 1240, and it is probable there-
fore that the thirteenth century date is correct. Later thirteenth-
century royal grants to the Friary confirm the status of the house.
A further grant by Alexander II in 1242 confirmed to the Friars the
'King's garden' and a pipe of water from the mill dam of the King's
mill at Perth (Fittis, 1885, 148). The Friary continues to appear in
the documentary record at regular intervals throughout the succeeding
centuries, until, in May 1559, its buildings were despoiled by reli-
gious zealots, and subsequently the lands and revenues were granted
to the burgh by James VI.

No clear description exists of the Friary buildings. Cowan (1904, 101)
claims that the entire property was surrounded by a high wall, and
MacLaren (1906, 169) claimed that the Friary well was to be seen in
the garden of 5, Atholl Crescent (NO 117 238). The buildings appear
to have been cleared at an early date, though Fittis (1885, 148) asser-
ted that fragments remained before the building of the Mission Hall.
They do not appear on the 1715 plan of Perth, and most probably were
partially demolished to provide materials for the construction of the
Cromwellian citadel. By 1823 (Wood) the site had been partially de-
veloped in the planned northern extension to the burgh, but subsequent
disturbance appears to have been minimal, the area at present being
occupied by gardens and car parks. The Friary burial ground apparently
lay partially to the west of the Blackfriars Wynd. Drain digging in
the mid-nineteenth century exposed several stone vaults containing
human remains in this general area, and a sasine dated 21st May 1785,
describes a property boundary'lying without the castle - gavil Port,

in the gate called the Curfew Row, bounded betwixt the common vennel
sometime passing to the Blackfriars on the east...the ground origi-
nally called the Kirkyard of the Blackfriars...on the north'. Some
clearance has already taken place in this area and tarmac car parks
laid (NO 117 238) - considering the depth of deposits found in the
town, and the apparently minimal disturbance in the general area, it
is possible that the foundations of the Friary and the area of the
burial ground may still be identifiable.

Proposed clearance of housing in the near future between Carpenter Street
and Kinnoull Street (NO 117 238) will provide opportunities to examine
this area for archaeological deposits and perhaps provide some definition
of the Friary site.

The Franciscan Friary

The site of the Franciscan Friary lay to the south of the Medieval town
in the north-west corner of the present Greyfriars cemetery (NO 1196
2332).

Uncorroborated evidence suggests that the Friary was founded by Lord
Oliphant in 1440, but this, together with an alleged charter of the
provost and baillies of Perth to the Vicar General of the Observants
in Scotland, and a bull of Pope Pius II confirming the erection of
the Friary by Oliphant, both dated 1460, are regarded by Cowan and Easson
(1976, 132) as spurious. These authors point out that the absence of
Perth from the group of Observant houses which had their property con-
firmed to them by James III in 1479 would argue for a foundation date
in the late fifteenth century, possibly after the accession of James IV
in 1488. The first firm evidence of its existence occurs when the Friary
was the beneficiary of a royal grant in 1492, its subsequent existence
was unremarkable, and its buildings were largely destroyed by the Re-
formers in 1580.

The disposition of the Friary buildings is now uncertain. They probably
survived the Reformation by less than a century, as documentary sources
indicate that the high enclosing walls of Greyfriars were demolished to
provide raw materials in the construction of the Cromwellian citadel in
the mid-seventeenth century, and it is possible that the Friary buildings
suffered a similar fate (Peacock, 1849, 602).

At present, the site is occupied by the Greyfriars burial ground. Much
disturbance has obviously occurred through repeated internments since
the Friary and its grounds were authorized by the town council as a
public cemetery for the burgh in 1580. No surface trace now remains

of the site, and it seems doubtful if the foundations could ever be recovered. However, any future improvements in the graveyard, could allow an assessment to be made of the degree of survival of pre-sixteenth century deposits.

The Carthusian House

The reputed site of the Carthusian House in Perth is now partially occupied by a garage (NO 1154 2339) and the hospital founded by King James VI in 1569. The Priory was founded in 1429 by James I almost wholly on the croft of a Perth burgess, William de Wynde. Documentary sources describe the croft 'on which the foresaid House of the 'Valley of Virtue' was founded between the garden of Baldwin Seres on the east, the street which leads to St. Leonards on the west, the land of Andrew Pitscottie on the south and a land which belonged to the late John de Spens of Bothquhopil, on which land also a part of the said house was founded on the north'. The building work was supervised by a Cistercian monk, Friar John of Bute (Fittis, 1885, 219). Fittis (op.cit) claims some knowledge of the plan of the priory, presumably based partially on continental parallels and those remains surviving in England. An orchard existed on the west side of the complex, probably represented by "Pomarium" marked on Rutherford's plan of 1774. These lands were purchased in 1642 by the Glover's incorporation and cultivated as arable land until 1763 when they became garden ground. In 1777 the land was feued out for building purposes. The main gate of the Priory lay opposite the south end of the New Row. The burial ground was probably on the south side of the building.

Probably because of its royal connections, and the fact that the Priory church contained the relics of its founder James I and his Queen, the Carthusian house was richly endowed. However, in 1559, the buildings were virtually destroyed by the religious zeal of the reformers. Knox describes the event 'within two days these three great places, monuments of idolatry, to wit the Black and Greyfriars, and the Charterhouse monks a building of a wondrous cost and greatness, was so destroyed that the walls only did remain of all these great edifications'. Bishop Lesley claimed that the 'mob' levelled the Charterhouse 'lest that any remains of so magnificent buildings and so splendid a place should remain to posterity' (Fittis, 1885, 247-48). The only surviving fragments of the Priory were apparently the gateway, which was subsequently taken down and re-erected at the south-east porch of St. John's Church to be removed at the end of the eighteenth century, and the dovecot, also within the precinct of the Charterhouse, the repair of which was ordered by the

Kirk Session in 1633.

No overt traces now remain of the Carthusian House. However, considering the depth of occupation deposit normally identified in Perth, and despite the reported extensive cellarage in the general area, it is possible that the foundations may be traced. Indeed, in 1972, Perth Civic Trust reported that work in the gardens adjoining the hospital exposed foundations and midden deposits which could tentatively be identified with those of the Charterhouse. These signs are encouraging, and any future proposals for redevelopment in this area should be closely monitored with a view to confirming the site, and identifying any surviving remains of the Carthusian House.

The Carmelite Friary

The house of the Carmelite Friars of Tullilum was situated at the west end of Long Causeway, south of that road, sited by the Ordnance Survey at NO 1082 2380 (O.S. Record Card No. 12 SW 57). By tradition, it was one of the first Carmelite houses to be founded in Scotland, when in 1262, Richard, Bishop of Dunkeld endowed the Friars with a 'spacious house or monastery and a stately chapel' here (Fittis, 1885, 201). There are few extant charters of this house, the earliest known being a royal confirmation of David II dated 1361. The exchequer rolls of Scotland in the fourteenth century throw some light on the Friary finances, but neither these nor the donation charters of the fifteenth century give any clear impression of the layout of the buildings. It does become clear, however, that by the sixteenth century, fewer donations were made to the Friars and the buildings had become ruinous. Extensive repairs were carried out to the nave of the church 'the west wing of their house there, and also the gables' (Fittis, 1885, 207), by George Brown, Bishop of Dunkeld in 1514. Further repairs were required to the house in 1551, and a charter of that year between Alexander Thomson, Prior of the Carmelites, and John Gray, Burgess of Perth, records a loan transaction for that purpose. The religious unrest in Scotland in 1559 led to the demolition of the Carmelite House and the dispersal of the brethren.

The present suburb of Dovecotland represents the erstwhile site of the Friary and its precincts. There is now confirmatory evidence as to the site. In 1740, land at Dovecotland was converted into a garden by Robert Comb, and several 'images' and 'ancient coins' were recovered during levelling (Fittis, 1885, 211). More recently, the gardens attached to properties on the south-side of Long Causeway have on numerous

occasions produced human bones indicating the presence of the associated burial ground of the Friary (O.S. Record Card No.12 SW 57).

Recently, the derelict tenements and waste land at (NO 108 238) have been cleared for redevelopment. The tenement frontage was cellared, and is now backfilled with hardcore in preparation for construction work (ex.inf. M. Spearman). Much of the area has lain open since the eighteenth century, and minimal disturbance of archaeological deposits has taken place. Investigation of the site is in progress by the Perth Archaeological Unit to assess the degree of survival of archaeological levels, and to confirm the site of the Carmelite House,which they have now succeeded in doing with the discovery of robbed foundations, fragmentary walling, floor levels and stained glass. Some skeletal material has also been uncovered (ex. inf. M. Spearman, May, 1982).

The Chapels and Hospitals

There are ten known medieval chapels in Perth, and several of these have associated hospitals. The site of these buildings is indicated below together with a summary of present knowledge concerning them, and an assessment of their potential interest and the probable survival of remains.

The Chapel of St.Mary - stood on the site now occupied by the municipal buildings (NO 120 236) at the west end of the old bridge across the Tay at the foot of the High Street. The exchequer rolls for 1400-1 confirm this site in an entry 'for renewal of the steps of the chapel of the Blessed Mary at the Bridge of Perth'. It seems likely, however, that a chapel building stood on this same site before 1210. The Book of Pluscarden records that in that year, there was so great an overflow of rainwater at Perth and elsewhere, that it knocked down and carried away the bridge and a chapel' (Fittis, 1885, 270). The exchequer rolls continued throughout the fifteenth century to record payments made by the exchequer, the burgh, and the crown for repairs and services at the chapel. In November 1596, the Kirk Session ordered that the chapel be converted to use as a 'Hospital house for the entertainment of the poor'. Some structural work was carried out on the building at this time as the Session instructed James Adamson, master of the hospital 'with all diligence to buy timber and other materials for the furtherance of this work'. The direction which this work took is not certain, but it is possible that an addition was made to the existing structure. The demolition carried out in the town by the Parliamentarians in search of ready building materials for the citadel included 'the hospital containing many large

rooms and three storeys high' which Fittis (1885, 272) suggests may have been that hospital associated with the chapel of St. Mary. The hospital, therefore, appears to have functioned between c.1598 when inmates are first recorded, and 1651, when it was either demolished or seriously damaged. The chapel subsequently came into use as a venue for council meetings, and a part of it was converted into a Tolbooth. The remaining parts of it, an old tower and a doorway, were demolished in 1878, in preparation for the construction of new Municipal buildings on the site. (MacLaren, 1906, 164). It seems doubtful that any structural remains now survive here, as the site is now occupied by the substantial Victorian local government offices, however excavations beneath the present structure during piling work in 1980 (see page 22) did reveal traces of earlier foundations which though not proven to be so, could represent traces of the chapel.

The Chapel and Hospital of St. Anne - stood by tradition 'in a garden between the school and salt vennels' on the east side of St. Anne's Lane (previously known as School Vennel) and to the south of St. John's Church. Some slight confusion does, however, exist as to the actual site. McFarlane (1792) marks the chapel on the west side of St. Anne's Lane, while Rutherford (1774) locates it 'circa 65 links east of the Lane'. In this vicinity, large quantities of human bones were discovered, but it is not clear whether or not they were to be associated with St. John's Church burial ground, or that of the chapel and hospital. The Ordnance Survey place the site at NO 1194 2350 (O.S. Record Card NO 12 SW 19).

The date at which the chapel was founded is not certain. It is possible that the establishment owed its foundation to the Donyngs, a prominent Perth family in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries (Fittis, 1885, 281). However, Cowan and Easson (1976, 187) suggest that the hospital at least was founded by the Rollos of Duncrub. Whoever the founder, however, both the chapel and the hospital were in existence before 1488, when a dispute arose over a presentation to the foundations. Various mentions occur in the documentary sources throughout the first half of the sixteenth century. However, in 1559, the chapel was destroyed in the wave of religious fervour that swept Scotland at that time. The hospital survived until 1586 when the inmates were removed to the 'new' hospital of St. Mary's Chapel at the foot of the High Street (Fittis, 1885, 283).

No further mention is found of the hospital of St. Anne after this date and the structure most probably fell into decay and disuse. The site

occupied by the chapel and hospital is now largely developed, and
has never been investigated archaeologically, though a leather shroud
has been recovered from 39, South Street, which may or may not suggest
the locality of the chapel burial ground. A small trial excavation
in 1975 in St. Anne's Lane (NO 119 235), in advance of redevelopment,
revealed no structural evidence of medieval occupation, but a thick
deposit of midden material probably dating on the evidence of the in-
cluded artifacts between the late twelfth to the mid-fourteenth century
was located. Undisturbed natural lay at a depth of 11'6" (3·5m) below
the present ground level (Thoms, 1975, 41). The chapel and hospital do
not therefore, appear to have been located here, but the depth of the
surviving deposits beneath the thirteenth and nineteenth century de-
velopment suggest that investigation further into the backland between
St. Anne's Lane and South Street may be profitable. The reputed crypt
of St.Anne's Chapel remains in the cellars of premises at NO 1194 2351,
but his is not certain.

The chapel of the Rood - is thought to have stood 'at the South Street
Port, on the north side' (Fittis, 1885, 287). An action of 'removing'
raised in July 1577, and recorded in the Register of Decrees of the
Sheriff Court of Perth, locates the chapel near 'Potterhill',and the
east end of the bridge of Perth. Fittis considers that the chapel may
have owed its existence to a near-by leper hospital referred to in the
above mentioned action of removing 'the road that passes from the House
of the Lipper folks to the last furrow of the headriggs...' a relation-
ship referred to indirectly in the Kirk Session Records for 12th May
1595' the Lipper-croft be-east the Brig of Tay lying beside the Potter-
hill...' (Fittis, 1885, 288). Some confusion obviously exists in re-
lation to the actual site of this chapel, and further documentary re-
search may be the best way of approaching this problem.

The Chapel and Hospital of St. Katherine - were situated at the north
end of Claypots Wynd and extended nearly as far east as the north end
of Thimble Row (NO 1128 2377). The hospital and chapel were founded
and constructed by John Tyrie, provost of the collegiate church of
Methven, for the benefit of poor travellers. The charter was dated
19th June, 1523. According to this document (Fittis, 1885, 291), the
hospital was set at the west side of the chapel with a chamber and
garden for the chaplain. The working life of the chapel was of short
duration, and to all intents and purposes terminated at the Reformation.
In 1567, the last chaplain, James Tyrie, conveyed to Patrick Murray of
Tibbermuir "all the haill the lands, houses, biggings and yards of the

Chapel of St. Catherine the Virgin, lying contiguous on the west part
of the burgh of Perth, betwixt the lands of Claypots on the east and
north, the lands of Thomas Marischall of Pitcarrie on the west, and
the High Street on the south' (Fittis, 1885, 292). The chapel did
not apparently suffer immediate destruction at the Reformation. The
Kirk Session Minutes for 2nd December 1594, indicate that a baptism
had been celebrated in the building a short time previously, and Fittis
(1885, 292) comments that 'until a comparatively recent date, moulder-
ing remains of the chapel and hospital still cumbered the site' though
no date is specified. About 1862 fragmentary statuary was recovered
from the floor of a byre at Claypots. This was obviously of ecclesi-
astical origin, and may have come from the chapel. Some eight years
later, construction work to the rear of the byre carried out by D. &
J. Morrison, joiners, led to the discovery of building foundations
which may represent those of the chapel of St. Catherine. There is
obviously scope for further investigation here, both documentary and
archaeological. It should certainly be possible to locate the premises
of D & J Morrison from the nineteenth-century trades directories.

The Loretto Chapel - stood on the north side of South Street in Loretto
Court (NO 1161 2354). It was founded about 1528 by Edward Gray, rector
of Lundy, Perthshire. Tradition attributes to the chapel a tower, sur-
mounted by a crown, but there is no real evidence as to its physical ap-
pearance. Fittis (1885, 295) claims that the chapel stood on or near
what in the late nineteenth century was the site of the original seces-
sion church, with a garden on the west and a burying ground on the north.
The site of the burying ground is confirmed by a sasine dated 4th Novem-
ber 1728, in favour of Alexander Robertson and Agnes Campbell his wife,
granting 'a foretenement of land...on the south side of the Northgate
of Perth, bounded by the Kirkyard of Mary of Laureto now of John Mercer,
writer, on the south' (Fittis, 1885, 296). Additionally, in 1947,
during maintenance of essential services, the skeletons of two women
were found beneath Loretto Court, which must be associated with the
chapel (O.S. Record Card No.12 SW 12). The foundation seems only to
have survived about thirty years, being seriously damaged by the wave
of iconoclasm which accompanied the Reformation in Scotland.

There is no evidence at present available to chart the post-Reformation
history of the chapel building. However, in the nineteenth century,
traces of the building were almost certainly identified during the
demolition of an old house. Walls of great thickness were found with
vaulted chambers beneath having foundations of 'great depth'. Within

the vaults were large quantities of human bones, sold by the owner
of the property at 6d a cart load for manure (O.S. Record Card No.12
SW 12). The site is now (March 1982) covered by a car-park.

The Chapel and Hospital of St. Paul - stood on the south side of High
Street at the north-west corner of Newrow by Milne Street. (c. NO.1143
2365). Its position is marked on both Rutherford (1774) and McFarlane's
(1792) plans of Perth. The chapel and hospital were founded in 1434
by John Spens of Glendouglas for strangers, the poor and infirm (Cowan
and Easson, 1976, 188). In common with the other chapels in Perth,
this house was also damaged at the Reformation and the chapel and hos-
pital remained in ruins for some considerable time. In 1583, an un-
successful attempt was made to renovate and re-found the hospital (Fit-
tis, 1885, 289) in the chapel buildings, and the site remained in lay
hands until in 1595, when the Hospital Managers obtained letters from
the Lords in Council to remove the tenants with their goods and gear
from St. Paul's Chapel and Yard. (Fittis, 1885, 289). This order im-
plies that the buildings were still in a habitable condition at the
end of the sixteenth century. Of the subsequent history of the estab-
lishment, nothing is known. In the nineteenth century, great quantities
of human bones were excavated in St. Paul's Close during the laying of
building foundations. A draw well was also identified on the north
side of the close at this time (O.S. Record Card NO 12 SW 18). There
is no current threat, and the site is at present occupied by a sub-
stantial red sandstone building at 268 High Street.

The Chapel of St. Lawrence - was situated in the Castle Gable (NO 118
237) on land known as 'chapel hill'. The chapel site survived in the
documentary record as a boundary marker long after its disappearance.
A disposition date 4th April, 1705 describes a tenement 'on the north
side of the Miln Lead as bounded by the chapel and cross on the east',
and a reference still later in the eighteenth century dated December
1768, refers to a 'tenement of land on the east side of the Castle Gavel
or Chapelhill of the burgh' (Fittis, 1885, 188). The date of foundation
is not certain, but the chapel was certainly established before 1405,
when the building together with the rents and profits, was conveyed by
Royal Charter to the Dominican Friars (Fittis, 1885, 187). Payments
to the chaplain from the burgh fermes ceased in 1422, and the Exchequer
Rolls suggest that the building fell into decay. The rolls for the years
1429, 1430 and 1431, all threaten that payment of endowments to the
Dominicans for the support of the chapel would be withheld until the
chapel was repaired. However, the structure continued to decay. Some

attempt was eventually made by the Friars to convert the building
and its adjoining land to secular use as is indicated by charters
erected between 1477 and 1502. By 1543, the chapel had been seized
by the Town Council and the ruins and rubbish cleared away, so that
in this year, the site is described as 'waste land' (Fittis, 1885,
188). The area of Castle Gable is now largely built up, and future
prospects for investigation seem limited.

The Priory, Chapel and Hospital of St. Leonard - this small religious
complex was situated to the south-west of the town outwith the boun-
dary of the medieval burgh. The plan of Perth dated 1792 (MacFarlane)
shows the site immediately to the east of St.Leonard's Cottage, this
area now lies beneath the railway sidings (NO 1124 2293). The foun-
dation dates of these buildings are not certain. The chapel of the
hospital appears in a papal bull dated 1184 (Cowan and Easson, 1976,
187) and these two buildings were established by this date if not before.
There appears to have been a 'church' dedicated to St. Leonard at Perth
as early as 1163, in which year the monks of Dunfermline Abbey were con-
firmed in the gift of its patronage by Pope Alexander III. This 'church'
was most probably the chapel of St. Leonard, as the Abbey of Dunfermline
also had a controlling interest in the chapel, the revenues of which
partially endowed the hospital. Some confusion exists as to the foun-
dation of the Priory here. Spottiswood lists the Priory amongst the
Cistercian nunneries, but in a list of Scottish houses dated 1282,
references to 'black nuns' (Dominican), appear, and a reference of 1212
refers to 'black monks'. However, the house of St. Leonard as a speci-
fically Augustinian foundation is mentioned in a papal letter in 1292/3
and the Prioress is recorded as having sworn fealty to Edward I in 1296.
The history of the foundation in the fourteenth century is uncertain,
and there are few references until 1434 when the hospital and nunnery
were annexed to the Carthusian House in Perth. In 1438, the Prioress
of St. Leonards resigned all claims to the foundation, and the priory
was suppressed. The hospital and the chapel, however, appear to have
continued to function until 1542/3 under the patronage of the Carthusian
House (Cowan and Easson, 1976, 151), and the graveyard apparently con-
tinued in use until the early seventeenth century when in 1608, plague
victims were buried there (NSA, 1837, 36). The plan and disposition
of the buildings is not certain. Fittis (1885, 277) claimed that the
chapel lay on rising ground to the east of the main priory building.
The graveyard of the Priory was disturbed in the nineteenth century
when long cists and human bones were dug up in considerable numbers on
the supposed site, during extensions to the general railway station.

(PSAS. 1902-3, 236). Further possible traces were identified in 1880
during demolition of buildings at Carr's Croft. A number of hewn
stones were recovered in the course of this work, the architectural
detail of which suggested ecclesiastical origins.

The site is now totally inaccessible to archaeological investigation,
but should further opportunities arise, it would be useful to attempt
to recover the ground plan of this building.

The Castle

The existence of the castle of Perth was apparently of short duration.
A fortification at Perth has documentary mention between 1157 and 1160
in the 'Regesta Regum Scottorum' I No.157. This is apparently the
earliest reference (Simpson and Webster, 1972, 186) to a site which
was reputedly destroyed by a Tay flood in 1209/1210. Thereafter, the
official royal residence at Perth became the Dominican House and the
castle seems never to have been rebuilt. The fortification stood on
the north side of the lade from the River Almond which served as a
'moat' at the foot of the city wall, and to the west of what was later
known as Curfew Row (NO 1187 2381). The castle buildings apparently
extended northwards from the lade to what was later called Friar's
Croft Street known as Castle Gable because of a portion of the ruined
castle wall which survived in it (Cowan, 1904, 67). Part of the ruins
remained until c.1870 when they were demolished. The castle courtyard
is believed to have included the ground known as Skinner's or Glover's
Yard upon which the Free West Church and School were erected in 1843
(Fittis, 1885, 147). Today the site is occupied by the Perth Museum
and Art Gallery, and no trace of the castle remains in what is now an
intensively built up area. Some artifactual finds have been made on
the site (see page 22) but these are demonstrably later than the re-
puted date of the destruction of the castle and cannot be chronologically
related to it.   The depth at which they were found, however, 5' (1·5m)
suggests a considerable depth of over-burden above natural and it is
possible that as elsewhere in the town, thirteenth century and earlier
deposits have survived the disturbance associated with later develop-
ment.

Any future work therefore, proposed for the immediate vicinity of the
present museum building could be usefully monitored in the expectation
of determining the limits of the early fortification, the plan of the
associated buildings, and the chronology of the site.

The Cromwellian Citadel

Nothing now remains of the fort built by Cromwell on the South Inch
of Perth in 1652. The site has been identified by the Ordnance Sur-
vey at NO 1200 2306 (O.S. Record Card No.12 SW 22). In plan, the
fort was square each side measuring 266 yards (243·8m) with a bastion
on each intersecting angle surmounting a high earth rampart and en-
closed by a deep moat. Construction materials were obtained from
trees cut from the king's hunting park at Falkland, and from many
town buildings demolished as a convenient quarry for materials. The
burgh schoolhouse was demolished for this purpose, as were the high
walls of the Greyfriars monastery, some one hundred and forty dwelling
houses and garden walls, the former hospital, three hundred tombstones
and the stone pillars and abutments of the bridge (Peacock, 1849, 602;
Marshall, 1895-96, 278). The rampart was constructed of earth and sand
dug from steep-sided trenches cut into the Inch with a width of 100'
(30·4m) at the top, which subsequently became the defensive moat (Penny,
1836, 6).

In 1651, the citadel was given to the city in compensation for the
losses sustained in its building. Subsequently, in 1661, the interior
buildings were demolished, though one was retained and used as a caval-
ry barracks until the early nineteenth century (MacLaren, 1906, 166).
During the eighteenth century, considerable disturbance took place of
the site. The road into Perth from the south had originally entered
the town via Craigie and the Priory of St. Leonard. About 1760, this
road was moved and brought through the South Inch and, as is shown by
Rutherford's Plan (1774), through the centre of the Cromwellian forti-
fication.

A brief revival of importance occurred in 1746 during the retreat of
the Jacobites from the south, when the old fortifications were strenghened
(Fothergill, n.d., 7).

About 1780, infilling of the ditches, then about 10' (3·0m) deep, was
in progress and council records for 1788 record the decision to level
the site, using sand to infill the adjoining trenches and hollows
(Fothergill, n.d. 7), the 'mounds' were therefore gradually demolished,
sand was taken away for use in paving the streets, and the ditches were
filled with rubbish carted from the town as well as sand (Penny, 1836,
6). No finds were recorded during this clearance operation, except a
seam of wheat, about 9" (0·2m) burned and reduced to charcoal and most

probably associated with the Cromwellian occupation (Penny, 1836, 7). No trace remained of the fort at the time Penny was writing and during the nineteenth century, and further disturbance of the site occurred with the railway line crossing from the west through the north portion, and further bisection by new streets and buildings as the town expanded southwards.

Although this site is not strictly speaking a component of the medieval burgh, its building contributed directly to the destruction of a good proportion of the sixteenth and early seventeenth century town, and in any case, the fort as an ancient monument and a part of history of Perth in its own right should not be neglected. The examination of the site, should logically be confined to the surrounding moat, as the documentary evidence suggests that all structural and defensive features of the interior will have been removed by eighteenth century clearance, and later disturbance. It may be possible, however, to recover some architectural fragments relating to the sixteenth century town from the moat, and also, the reference to the deposition of town rubbish here in the eighteenth century suggests that some artifactual and environmental evidence of town economy at that period may be recoverable.

Proposals to lay a new gas main trench across the site may provide this opportunity (see page 15) in the near future.

The Harbour

In the medieval period, Perth was a port of considerable wealth due to its excellent geographical position at the lowest fording point on the River Tay and on one of the main north/south road routes through Scotland. St. Joseph has suggested that the Romans created a beach head in the 1st Century AD on the site now occupied by Perth in support of the Agricolan campaign. There is, however, no evidence at present of any Roman settlement here. The earliest record of the sea port occurs in 1147, when a grant of can from its shipping is recorded in a Holyrood charter. Further mentions occur in fourteenth century charters, but none of these apparently refer to permanent harbour works. Graham (1968-69, 261), however, considers it safe to assume that quays did exist by this date on the river frontage of the burgh.

A charter of 1600, shows that the harbour, at that time, termed the 'old shore', was situated at the east end of High Street downstream of the bridge destroyed in 1621 (NO 121 237). The docking facilities

appear to have moved downstream as the centuries progressed, most probably because of gradual silting of the river. A board of Ordnance Plan of 1715-16, indicates a small basin with a quay at the mouth of the canal then occupying Canal Street (NO 120 233) which may have developed together with a quay frontage of about 100' (30·4m) to service the Cromwellian citadel (see page 42). Reid (1809) indicates the site of the 'Coal Shore' on this quay, with the 'Merchant Quay' at the South Inch, and the 'Lime Shore' further south, but there is no indication of the presence of a built quay at these points. South of the modern harbour, there was a quay at Friarton, from where a gun, previously used as a pawl, was recovered from the river bank (Scotsman, 23rd September, 1968). The gradual formation of an embankment along the riverside and the construction of Tay Street took place in the 1870s (MacLaren, 1932, 5), and has effectively obliterated all trace of the old harbour site. It is impossible to assess at this present time in the absence of any exploratory investigation the degree of survival of archaeological deposits over the whole area. However, two points should be borne in mind. Firstly, there is apparently a considerable depth of accumulated deposit overlying early levels (see page 22) brought about by human and riverine deposition. Secondly, assuming that this depth of deposit remains undisturbed by later development on the river frontage, the soil conditions in the burgh have proved very favourable to the preservation of normally perishable artifacts of leather fabric and wood (see page 22) and the close proximity of the river greatly increases the likelihood of artifactual and structural remains associated with early wharfage surviving. Consolidation work beneath the municipal buildings in 1980 led to the discovery of massive jointed timbers which may represent some early wharf structure. However, there is currently no firm evidence to support this interpretation. An opportunity was, however, provided to confirm the depth of early deposits in the area which is encouraging for the future.

Any future proposed work on the river frontage or beneath Tay Street would be of great interest archaeologically in the hope of establishing the existence and structural sequence of any early harbour works.

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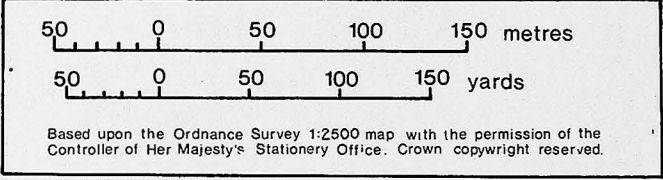
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Map labels

Main map:

- Brechin
- Montrose
- Forfar
- Blairgowrie
- Dunkeld
- Cupar Angus
- Arbroath
- R. Tay
- R. Almond
- Dundee
- Firth of Tay
- PERTH
- R. Earn
- St. Andrews
- Auchtermuchty
- R. Eden
- Crail
- Pittenweem

Coordinate labels: 3° 40′, 3° 20′, 3°, 2° 40′ (top and bottom); 56° 20′, 56° 10′, 56°, 55° 50′ (right and left)

Inset map (Scotland):

- Stornoway
- Ullapool
- Wick
- Inverness
- Elgin
- Aberdeen
- Oban
- Dundee
- PERTH
- St Andrews
- Stirling
- Glasgow
- Edinburgh
- Berwick on Tweed
- Ayr
- Dumfries
- Belfast
- N
- 0 10 20 30 40 miles

Legend

PERTH - Regional setting

- —— Primary routes
- Land over 800 ft (244m)
- Castles
- Ecclesiastical sites
- Burghs

Scale bars:
5 0 5 10 15 miles
5 0 5 10 15 20 25 kms

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MAP 1

Legend

Symbol	Description
	Areas of prime Archaeological Interest
	Sites effectively Re-developed
	Sites proposed for Re-development
	Derelict Buildings
	Demolition Sites
	Buildings with cellars / basement area
	Car Parks, temporary or permanent
	Proposed route of new Gas Main
R	Renovated Property

50   0   50   100   150 metres

50   0   50   100   150 yards

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DOVECOT LAND

PERTH BURGH

PERTH MAP 2

PERTH

Legend

Symbol	Description
—·—	Boundary of Conservation Area
▨	Listed Buildings - all Categories
⛪	Medieval Chapels and Hospitals
✝	Medieval Religious Houses
⌂	Site of Castle
----	Possible Boundary of Cromwellian Citadel
▲	Site of Archaeological Excavation
⬡	Site of Bridge (destroyed 1621)
⊓	Presumed Line of Medieval limit of Burgh
○	Medieval Suburb
⊞	Site of Tower
⊕	Site of Town Ports
⛾	Parish Church
T	Site of Tolbooth

DOVECOT LAND

PERTH BURGH

FIRST WARD

PERTH

50 0 50 100 150 metres

50 0 50 100 150 yards