

Historic Dunblane

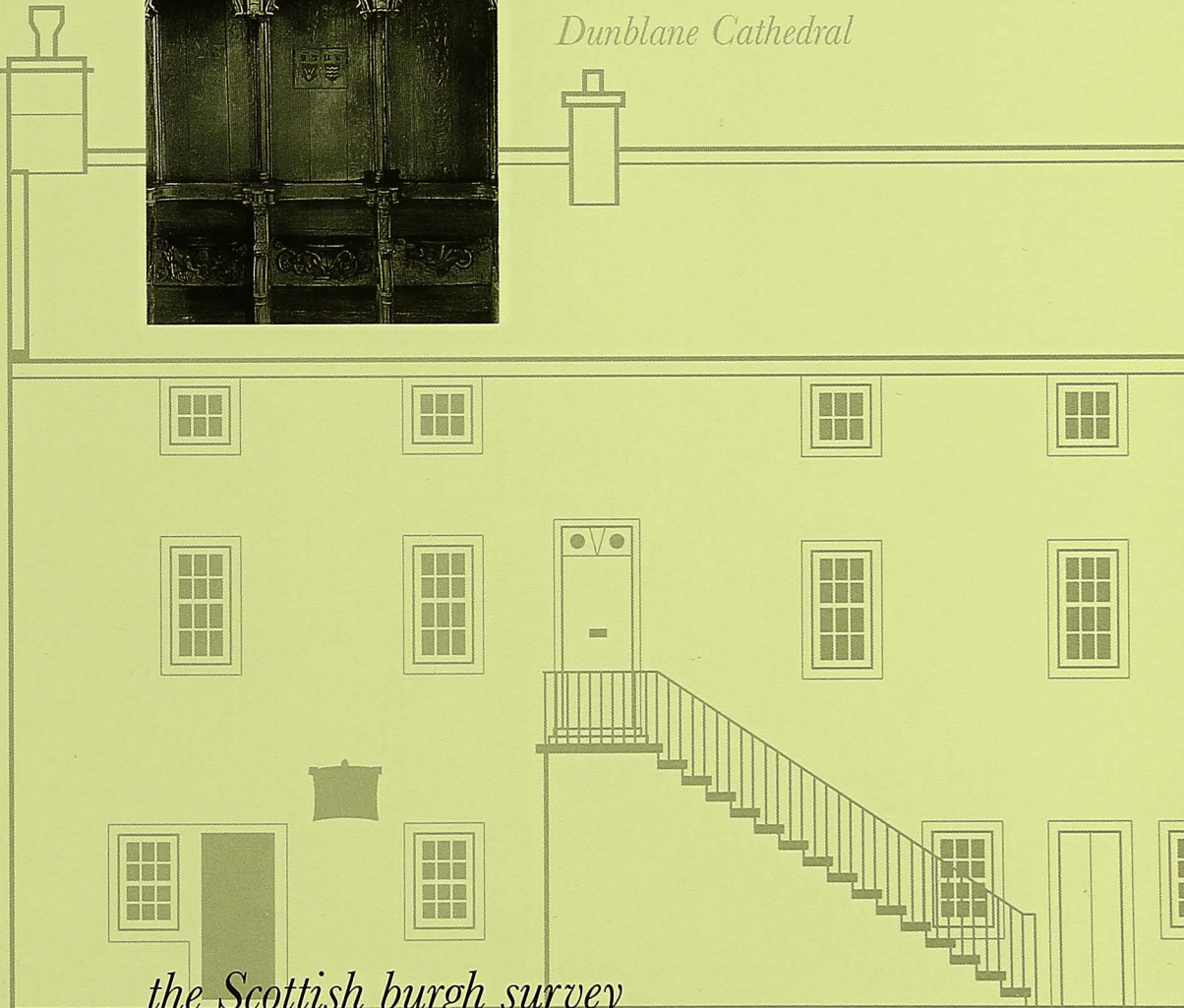
E Patricia **Dennison**

Russel **Coleman**



*THE Chisholm Stalls, choir stalls in
Dunblane Cathedral*

the dean's manse



the Scottish burgh survey

the Scottish burgh survey

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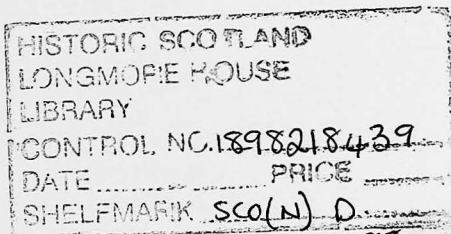
The Chisholm Stalls These stalls were constructed during the episcopacy of Bishop James Chisholm (1487–1545). Such features, with their ornate carving, would have added to the impact of the impression the cathedral made on visitors, and hence its prestige.

Historic Dunblane

the archaeological implications of development

E Patricia **Dennison**

Russel **Coleman**



the Scottish burgh survey

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APS	<i>The Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland</i> , edd T Thomson & C Innes (Edinburgh, 1814–75).
Barty	A Barty, <i>The History of Dunblane</i> (Stirling, 1944).
Cowan & Easson	I B Cowan & D E Easson, <i>Medieval Religious Houses. Scotland</i> (Glasgow, 1964).
DCM	Dunblane Cathedral Museum.
DES	<i>Discovery and Excavation in Scotland</i> .
HMSO	Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
GAJ	<i>Glasgow Archaeological Journal</i> .
JSFDC	<i>Journal of the Society of Friends of Dunblane Cathedral</i> .
NMRS	National Monuments Record of Scotland.
NSA	<i>The New Statistical Account of Scotland</i> (Edinburgh, 1845).
OSA	<i>The Statistical Account of Scotland, 1791–1799</i> , ed Sir John Sinclair. New Edition, edd I R Grant & D J Withrington (Wakefield, 1973).
PSAS	<i>Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland</i> .
RCAHMS	Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland.
RMS	<i>The Register of the Great Seal of Scotland</i> , edd J M Thomson <i>et al</i> (Edinburgh, 1882–1914).
RPC	<i>The Register of the Privy Council of Scotland</i> , edd J H Burton <i>et al</i> (Edinburgh, 1877–).
RRS	<i>Regesta Regum Scotorum, 1153–1406</i> , edd G W S Barrow <i>et al</i> (Edinburgh, 1960–).
RSS	<i>Register of the Privy Seal of Scotland (Registrum Secreti Sigilli Regum Scotorum)</i> , edd M Livingstone <i>et al</i> (Edinburgh, 1908).
SCAS	Stirling Council Archives Service.
SFDC	Society of the Friends of Dunblane Cathedral.
SHS	Scottish History Society.
SRO	Scottish Record Office, Edinburgh.
SUAT	Scottish Urban Archaeological Trust.
TA	<i>Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland</i> , edd T Dickson <i>et al</i> (Edinburgh, 1877–).
TSNHAS	<i>Transactions of the Stirling Natural History and Archaeological Society</i> .

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The name of Dunblane appears to be of great antiquity—it is believed to refer to the seventh-century Celtic saint, Blane, traditionally said to have founded a religious community in the locality. This was an appropriate beginning for a town whose subsequent fortunes were largely dependent upon those of the cathedral at its centre. In the thirteenth century the early church of Dunblane was dismantled and work began on Bishop Clement's new cathedral, an edifice which was much praised by John Ruskin 600 years later. It developed over the succeeding centuries, and by the fifteenth century Dunblane was being styled a 'city', defining its dependence on the cathedral. Its presence created a need for quality housing for the clergymen, and several local landed families also had houses in the town. The burgh became noted for its markets and fairs—the royal household is known to have purchased horses and oxen at Dunblane. During the Reformation, the cathedral suffered through the dissipation of its assets to laymen, and the building and its associated manses declined rapidly through neglect. This had a detrimental effect on the burgh, which declined likewise, although a few important buildings, such as the Leighton Library, were erected in the late seventeenth century. Dunblane continued to function as a small market town over the succeeding centuries, developed a number of trades, and even enjoyed a brief heyday as a spa during the nineteenth century. The arrival of the railway in the 1840s made Dunblane more accessible, and today it is a popular commuter town. The street pattern and many old buildings, particularly around the old cathedral core, however, are strong reminders of Dunblane's historic past.

This is one of a series of reports on the historic burghs of Scotland—known collectively as the *Scottish Burgh Survey*—all of which have been commissioned by **Historic Scotland** and its predecessors. The main aim of the survey is to identify those areas of the present and historic burgh which are of archaeological interest and therefore require sensitive treatment in the event of any proposed development or other ground disturbance. It is designed primarily as a manual for the use of local authorities and archaeological curators. As an essential prerequisite, however, to this assessment of the archaeological implications of development, it also describes and illustrates the geography and topography of the town, its known history and archaeology, its historic standing buildings and the origins of its street names—all of which will be of interest to the wider public, be they inhabitant, visitor or student.

Historic Dunblane was prepared for Historic Scotland within the **Centre for Scottish Urban History**, which is part of the Department of Scottish History, University of Edinburgh. Dr E Patricia Dennison, Director of the Centre for Scottish Urban History, and Mr Russel Coleman, of the **Scottish Urban Archaeological Trust**, are co-authors of the report, while Mr Kevin Hicks, of the **Centre for Field Archaeology**, University of Edinburgh, is cartographer and illustrator. Dr Alan MacDonald of the Department of Scottish History acted as research assistant; assistance was also received from Ms Sharon Adams, Mr Jim McCormack and Ms Ruth Grant, all postgraduates in the Department of Scottish History. The project is supervised by the Head of the Department, Professor Michael Lynch, and managed for Historic Scotland by Olwyn Owen, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, who is also general editor of the series.

The research on historic Dunblane was carried out during June and July 1995. This survey was entirely funded by Historic Scotland with help from the Centre for Scottish Urban History. The report has been published with financial assistance from Stirling Council and Historic Scotland. Further copies may be obtained from **Scottish Cultural Press**, Unit 14, Leith Walk Business Centre, 130 Leith Walk, Edinburgh, EH6 5DT.

the Scottish burgh survey

D

- 1 Use the colour-coded map on the foldout at the back of the book **figure 27** and/or the **general index** to locate a particular site (normally the site of a development proposal).
- 2 If the site is in a **blue area**, any development proposal is unlikely to affect significant archaeological remains. No action is needed.
- 3 **Green areas** (light and dark green) are designated as potentially archaeologically sensitive. If the site is in a green area, it is possible that a proposal involving ground disturbance may encounter archaeological remains. Seek appropriate archaeological advice as early as possible.
- 4 **Red areas** are Scheduled Ancient Monuments or properties in the care of the Secretary of State for Scotland, and are protected by law. Consult Historic Scotland.
- 5 Use the map on p 38 **figure 16** to determine into which area of the burgh the site falls (one of Areas 1–5), and turn to the relevant area in the **area by area assessment** for a fuller account (pp 39–73).
- 6 Use the **general index** and, if appropriate, the listing of **street names** (pp 83–5) for rapid access to information specific to a site, street or named feature of the town.

step 1

As a working manual, the first point of reference is the colour-coded map on the foldout at the back of the book **figure 27**.

The **red areas** are **protected by law**. Under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 all development proposals which affect them require the prior written consent of the Secretary of State (Scheduled Monument Consent) in addition to any planning permission required. These provisions are administered on behalf of the Secretary of State by Historic Scotland. *All applications for planning permission which affect either the site or setting of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (red area) must be referred to Historic Scotland*, acting for the Secretary of State in terms of Section 15(j)(v) of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Scotland) Order 1992 and Section 5(e) of its Amendment (No. 2) Order 1994. All enquiries regarding prospective development proposals in or adjacent to red areas should be referred to Historic Scotland for advice as early as possible.

The **green areas (light and dark green)** are **potentially archaeologically sensitive** and may retain significant sub-surface archaeological information. Consultation should take place with the local authority archaeologist, where any development proposal or enquiry involving ground disturbance is being considered, including car parks, road schemes, environmental improvements, landscaping and drainage schemes, as well as the usual range of development and re-development proposals in built-up areas. There is no necessity for a consultation where ground disturbance is not in prospect, such as applications for change of use of a building. There may, however, be a requirement to obtain planning permission or, in the case of a listed building, listed building consent or, if demolition works are proposed within a conservation area, conservation area consent. In such instances, early consultation with the staff of the local authority planning department will always be helpful.

If in doubt whether consultation is necessary, please refer to the local authority archaeologist and the local authority planning department. It is important to note that sub-surface disturbance within historic standing buildings may also affect archaeological

remains, and that some standing buildings may retain archaeological features within their structures. Please seek advice as required.

The **blue areas** denote those parts of the historic burgh which **may be archaeologically sterile** and where archaeological consultation is probably not necessary. In practice, there is rarely a hard dividing line between the green and the blue areas. If in any doubt, check the account of the relevant area in the **area by area assessment** (see step 2), and seek archaeological advice as appropriate.

step 2

In this new series of burgh surveys, each survey has been organised locationally, in order to assist speedy consultation on any proposed development site. In the case of Dunblane, the historic core of the town has been divided into five arbitrary areas, Areas 1–5, which are shown on the plan on p 38 **figure 16**. The second step for the user, then, is to consult this plan and to determine into which area a specific enquiry falls.

step 3

Each area is assessed individually in the **area by area assessment** (pp 39–73). The commentary for each area is prefaced with a detailed plan of that area. Archaeological, historical, geographical and geological factors of particular relevance to the area are all discussed, and an assessment of the archaeological potential is made. For ease of reference, even if a dividing line between areas is shown as the middle of a street, discussion of the area includes any elements within the street up to the opposite frontage. The importance of an integrated approach to the historical and archaeological information is implicit in the design of this report: the history and archaeology are presented together on each page rather than consecutively.

This integrated, area-based approach has involved some repetition of information in the area by area assessment, in order that users are not required to cross-reference more than necessary when dealing with a specific enquiry. Although such repetition would not be normal in a work of interest to the general public, it was felt that it would be permissible here in order to facilitate the work of primary users: local authority planners and other curators of the archaeological resource.

historic standing buildings

historic buildings reinforces the above sections by providing basic historical and architectural information about the historic standing buildings of the town; where relevant, it also provides the area location and an assessment of the archaeological potential of specific buildings. *It should always be borne in mind that historic standing buildings may also contain archaeological remains, both beneath their floors and within their structures.* Some of these buildings may be listed and consequently subject to listed building control. Where listed buildings contain, or may contain, architecturally or archaeologically significant building fabric, the planning authority is obliged to make efforts to ensure that this is preserved and not adversely affected by proposed building works.

objectives for future fieldwork and research

Any report of this nature cannot be definitive. During its preparation, a series of archaeological and historical objectives for future fieldwork and research have been identified; these are listed at pp 79–81. They will be of particular interest to urban historians and archaeologists, and to those responsible for management of the archaeological resource in historic Dunblane.

referencing

The report contains a comprehensive **general index** as well as a listing of **street names** giving basic historical information and, where relevant, area location. A **bibliography** and a **glossary** of technical terms have also been included. Previous archaeological work and chance finds are listed and referenced by area.

The data accumulated during preparation of this survey and draft copies of the completed work, as well as all unpublished reports of any small-scale excavations and watching briefs, are housed in the **National Monuments Record of Scotland**, John Sinclair House, 16 Bernard Terrace, Edinburgh EH8 9NX, telephone 0131 662 1456, facsimile 0131 662 1477/1499.

**full reference
to this report**

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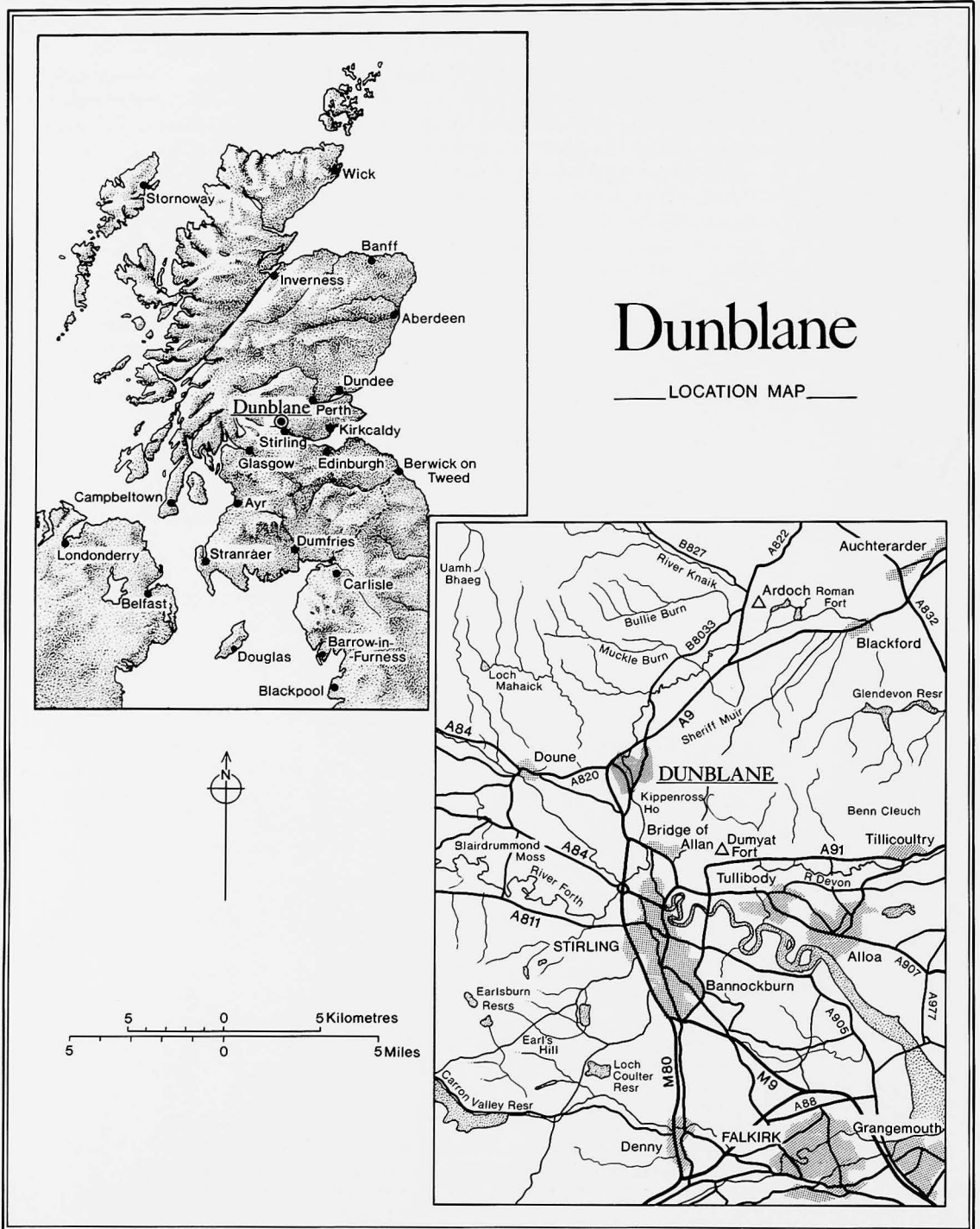


figure 1

Location of Dunblane
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Dunblane is situated on the banks of the Allan Water, approximately 8 km north of Stirling **figure 1**. It owes its existence to the presence of the cathedral **figure 10** and to its location as the sole fording point across the Allan Water.¹ This fording point was later spanned by a bridge **figure 8**, first constructed in the early fifteenth century. Its place name is said to be derived from an early historic saint, Blane, who is reputed to have founded a colony of monks here in the seventh century AD (*see* p 15).

Dunblane lies just north of the Forth–Clyde line, which separates highland and lowland Scotland **figure 1**.² South-west of Dunblane, the low-lying valley of the Forth cuts a huge swathe between the Highland hills to the north and the Campsie Fells and Touch Hills to the south. To the east of Stirling, the valley was blanketed by extensive peat-mosses up to 4 m deep until the eighteenth century.³ This natural phenomenon severely restricted movement, forcing travellers, merchants and armies to seek the only safe route across the Forth, through Stirling. This strategic importance explains why so many battles were fought nearby: Stirling Bridge (1297), Bannockburn (1314), Sauchieburn (1488) and Sheriffmuir (1715).

Following the construction of the railways in the nineteenth century and the ensuing influx of wealthy merchant commuters from Glasgow, there was an expansion of grand Victorian suburbia, particularly in Stirling and Bridge of Allan, but also around Dunblane.⁴ This trend continues today, with the construction of the M9/M80 south of Dunblane, and the upgrading of the A9 to the north, making the town increasingly attractive to commuters **figure 2**. Formerly within south-western Perthshire, Dunblane became part of Central Region after regionalisation in the early 1970s. Dunblane now lies within the area administered by Stirling Council, one of the new unitary authorities which came into being on 1st April 1996.

geology

South-east Scotland has a long and complex geological history, and is endowed with a wide variety of rocks and physical features. Tectonic movements along two major dislocations of the earth's crust—the Southern Uplands Fault and the Highland Boundary Fault—have created three principal structural and physiographic divisions: the Highlands, the Midland Valley and the Southern Uplands.⁵ Dunblane lies in the central division, the Midland Valley.

The Midland Valley has, in effect, dropped down between two great faults, the Highland Boundary Fault to the north, from Stonehaven to the Firth of Clyde at Helensburgh, and the Southern Uplands Fault to the south, from Dunbar through New Cumnock to Glen App. Here, Old Red Sandstone and Carboniferous rocks are preserved within a trough *c* 80 km wide, resulting in a broad lowland tract of better farming and industrial development. Old Red Sandstone in the north passes eastwards beneath the rich soils of Strathmore, and is separated by the hard igneous and volcanic rocks of the Sidlaw and Ochil Hills and Campsie Fells from the industrial south. Here, fairly intensive farming surrounds and serves the four-fifths of the population of Scotland which has concentrated around the coal-bearing rocks and oil-shales and their attendant heavy industry. Within this undulating lowland landscape, there are sharp irregularities of igneous rock, forming conspicuous landmarks; for example, North Berwick Law and Traprain Law, near Haddington in East Lothian, the dolerite hills of Fife, the Castle Rock of Stirling, and the volcanics of the Bathgate Hills and Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh.⁶

Dunblane and its environs are dominated, and largely surrounded, by three tracts of high ground **figure 1**.⁷ The most northerly of these, formed of Dalradian rocks and Lower Old Red Sandstone sediments, lies to the north and north-east of Callander and rises to a height of over 664 m OD at Uamh Bheag. These hills are bounded to the south and south-east by the valleys of the River Teith and Allan Water, both eroded from softer Old Red Sandstone sediments. To the east and north-east of Dunblane and low-lying Strathallan lie



figure 2
Dunblane from
the air
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the Ochil Hills, where Lower Old Red Sandstone volcanic rocks rise to over 720 m OD at Ben Clach (Cleuch). The Ochil Hills extend south-westwards to Stirling, where they almost meet the third tract of high ground, comprising the Gargunnock, Fintry and Touch Hills.

The main features of the present-day landscape were probably in place by the end of the Tertiary period (around 2 million years ago), but were considerably re-shaped during the subsequent Quaternary period (which includes the most recent ice age and extends up to the present day).⁸ Boulder clay, sands and gravels were deposited in the deeper of the valleys, and on the lower ground these deposits gave rise to the numerous drumlins and glacial drainage-channels, common features of the area around Dunblane and particularly fine examples of ice-retreat.⁹ In Dunblane itself, there are several large mounds of sand and gravel, including Laighhill and Holmehill **figure 3**.¹⁰

During the Quaternary period, there was movement of land relative to sea.¹¹ As the ice sheets melted, the water locked up was released and the sea level rose, flooding many river valleys and depositing thick layers of clay. In Dunblane, a series of four alluvial terraces along the Allan Water, the highest of which is near Kippenross House, were probably deposited during this period when the sea in the Forth valley stood at a much higher level.¹² The loss of the great weight of the ice sheets also caused the land to rise, and for a long period there was a complex interplay between the rising levels of land and sea.¹³ Once exposed, the land took on a cover of vegetation which is now preserved locally as a layer of peat, buried beneath the marine clays of the Forth valley.¹⁴ Radiocarbon dating of these peat beds indicates that the Carse Clays were deposited approximately 8500–5500 years ago.¹⁵ Later, as the sea rose faster than the land, beach gravels were laid down. Finally, the land emerged and many of these beaches, often referred to as ‘raised beaches’ now lie up to 15 m above present sea level.¹⁶

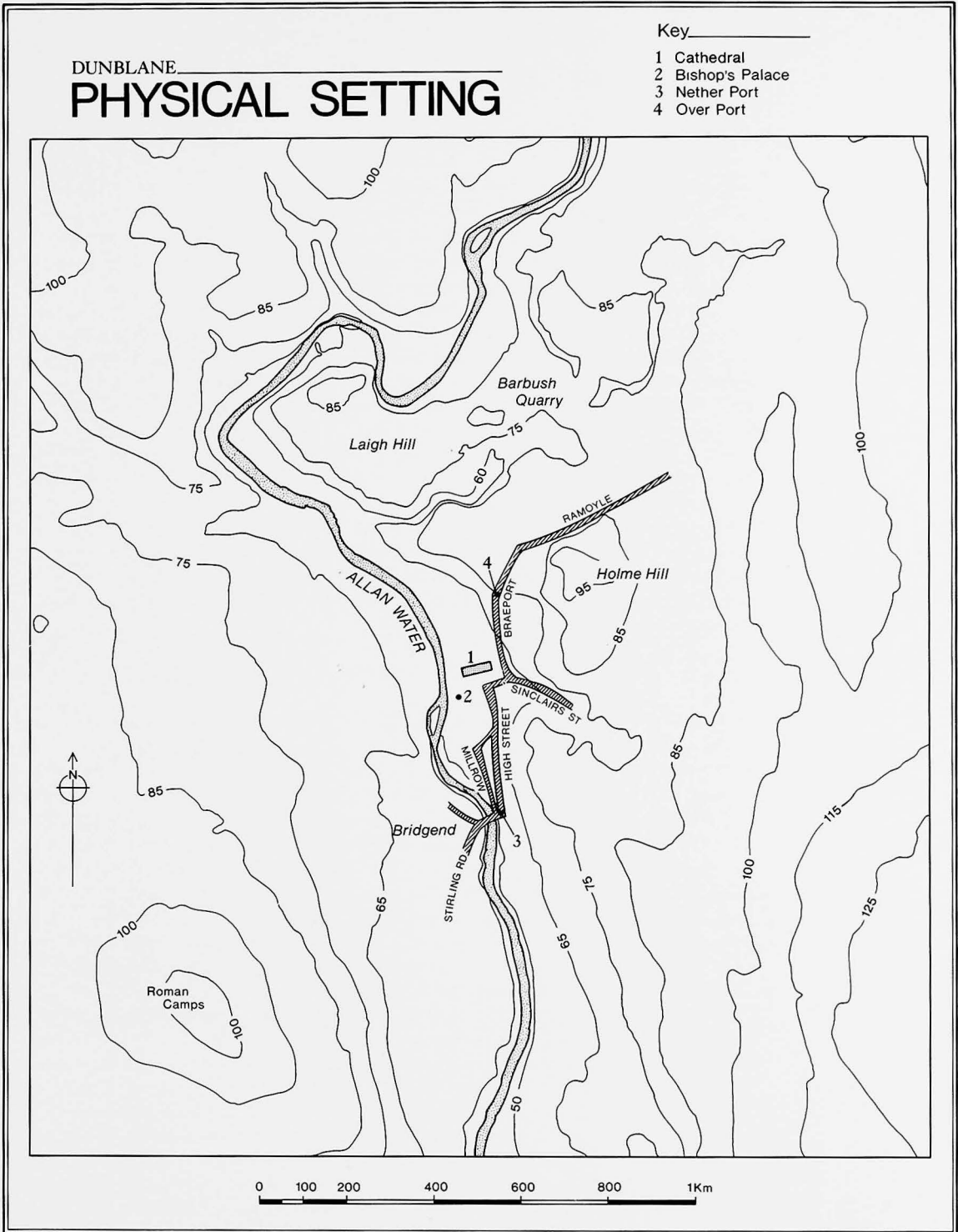


figure 3

The physical setting
of Dunblane
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It was probably from this latter period that the first human occupation in the area is recorded. Antler implements, dating to the Mesolithic period (7500–4000 BC) have been found associated with stranded whales at four locations in the Carse of Forth; these were probably used in the cutting up of the carcasses.¹⁷ Oyster shell middens of similar date have also been found along raised beaches on the southern shore of the Forth, particularly around Grangemouth. These represent the food remains of groups of hunter-gatherers who roamed the area, exploiting the coastal resources.

soils, climate and land use

The area north and west of Stirling, around Dunblane, Doune and Bridge of Allan, is almost entirely rural, and where the Carselands have been drained there is good agricultural land. The low-lying area of the Teith valley and Strathallan also provides good agricultural land, especially for cattle rearing.¹⁸ On the higher ground, extensive peat-covered tracts, forming grouse moors and deer forests, predominate.¹⁹

The soils around Dunblane are developed on drifts (material transported and deposited by wind, water or ice) derived mainly from sandstones of Lower Old Red Sandstone age. The drift itself comprises thick, compact sandy loam or sandy clay loam till, but on some ridges sandstone rock lies close to the surface. The overlying soils, mainly brown forest soils with gleying, are part of an extensive belt which lies south-east of the Highland Fault and extends from Loch Lomond north-eastwards to Strathearn and the River Tay at Perth, providing both arable and permanent pasturing. The terrain is mainly lowland and the climate warm and moderately dry. Rainfall is on average 800–1100 mm per annum.²⁰

Along the course of the Allan Water in particular, the soils are developed on fluvioglacial sands and gravels derived from Old Red Sandstone sediments and lavas. The terrain here is characterised by mounds and terraces, lying between 50 to 150 m OD. Despite problems with stoniness of the soil and drought, rotation of arable crops and grassland is followed on this land, although generous additions of fertilisers are required for optimum yield.²¹

physical setting and the topography of the burgh

The morphology of the burgh has largely been determined by the local topography **figure 3**. The medieval core of Dunblane developed along a narrow terrace on the eastern bank of the Allan Water, surrounded on three sides by hills: Laihghill to the north; Holmehill to the east; and, to the south, the hill on which St Blane's House stands today. The cathedral sits on a plateau at the foot of Holmehill, from which point the ground falls sharply down to the Allan Water. The present-day High Street is almost U-shaped **figure 2**. In the south, the medieval High Street climbs gradually from the bridge over the Allan Water along the edge of a ridge up to the cathedral, an ascent of some 10 m. Entering the town from the east, in a gap between two hills, is the modern section of the High Street. Built in the early nineteenth century, this extension to the medieval High Street connected The Cross or Cathedral Square with the Perth Road. Previously, the traveller would have entered Dunblane from Perth to the north-east by the Braeport.

The siting of the High Street is clearly of importance to an understanding of the morphology of the burgh. It lies at the foot of the hill on which St Blane's House stands, skirting along the lip of a narrow terrace before the ground slopes sharply down to flat ground, formed in a bend in the course of the Allan Water. The narrowness of the terrace on which the High Street stands must have severely restricted the land available for burgage plots. On the west side, there is virtually no space available, whilst on the east side considerable terracing must have been required to reduce the effect of the slope.

This suggests that the High Street was not established as the main thoroughfare of the town until after the bridge had been built in the fifteenth century.²² Millrow was perhaps the earlier thoroughfare, and would have provided access to both the ford across the river, slightly upstream from the present bridge **figure 8** (see pp 19), and the mill which is known to have stood nearby probably since the fourteenth century **figure 24**. At the north end, Millrow entered The Cross (or Cathedral Square), the market place of Dunblane. The nether or south port into the town probably stood on the east side of the bridge at the foot of the High Street, giving access to Millrow and High Street (see p 69). The north or over port was situated on Braeport, probably just south of the bend in the road as it curves eastwards to the settlement of Ramoyle (see p 49). The tolbooth and market cross stood at the north end of The Cross, where the present entrance into the kirkyard stands (see p 58).

notes

- 1 C McKean, *Stirling and The Trossachs: an Illustrated Architectural Guide* (Edinburgh, 1985), 80.
- 2 J B Stevenson, *Exploring Scotland's Heritage: The Clyde Estuary and Central Region* (Edinburgh, 1985), 9.
- 3 McKean, *Stirling and The Trossachs*, 3.
- 4 *Ibid*, 4.
- 5 C J Brown & B M Shipley, *Soil Survey of Scotland: South East Scotland. Soil and Land Capability for Agriculture* (The Macaulay Institute for Soil Research, Aberdeen, 1982), 2. The three major land divisions (Highlands, Midland Valley and Southern Uplands) follow J B Sissons, *The Geomorphology of the British Isles: Scotland* (London, 1976).
- 6 E Edmonds, *The Geological Map: an anatomy of the landscape* (HMSO, London, 1983), 18.
- 7 E H Francis, I H Forsyth, W A Read & M Armstrong, *Geology of the Stirling District* (Edinburgh, 1970), 1.
- 8 *Ibid*, 6.
- 9 *Ibid*, 6.
- 10 *Ibid*, 273.
- 11 *Ibid*, 6.
- 12 *Ibid*, 288.
- 13 J V S Megaw & D D A Simpson, *Introduction to British Prehistory* (Leicester, 1979), 10.
- 14 Francis *et al*, *The Geology of the Stirling District*, 6.
- 15 *Ibid*, 6.
- 16 Megaw & Simpson, *Introduction to British Prehistory*, 10.
- 17 Francis *et al*, *The Geology of the Stirling District*, 285.
- 18 *Ibid*, 3.
- 19 *Ibid*, 3.
- 20 Brown & Shipley, *Soil Survey of Scotland*, 389.
- 21 *Ibid*, 79.
- 22 A Barty, *The History of Dunblane* (Stirling, 1944), 42.

archaeological and historical background

pp 11-37

D

Some archaeological work has been undertaken within the historic core of Dunblane, particularly in the last few years, all concentrated around the cathedral. A number of stray finds have also been reported, again mostly from in and around the cathedral. Further afield, a wide range of prehistoric and historic sites and finds have been recorded from around the burgh. A basic introduction to the prehistory and early history of the area is, therefore, included here, in order to place individual sites and finds in context and to provide a broader framework within which to study the origins of the medieval burgh.

prehistory

The settlement of Scotland took place around 7,500 BC against a background of complex climatic fluctuations and rising and falling ocean levels. This was the Mesolithic period (literally meaning Middle Stone Age), when much of Scotland was covered in dense woodland, which supported a rich variety of game, particularly red deer. The few settlements of this age known in Scotland tend to cluster along the coastline and river-banks. These communities exploited the sea for fish and shellfish, followed the herds of woodland game through the seasons and supplemented their diet with wild plants and berries. Unfortunately, their semi-nomadic existence has left little trace in the landscape, but shell middens and flint tools are common finds along former river-banks and coastlines.

In the Carse Clays of the Forth valley, the skeletons of twelve whales have been found, stranded in pre-Neolithic times, and testament to higher sea-levels. Of these, four were found in association with antler tools. The stranded whales would have provided an unexpected harvest of meat, oil and bone for the population, and the tools were used to strip the carcass of its flesh. Unfortunately, these exciting discoveries came to light in the last century and the scope of the investigations was limited. One antler tool, however, a mattock found at Meiklewood, has since been dated to 6000 years before present and this agrees with the sea-level evidence.¹

Shell middens are a common feature along the former shorelines of the Forth valley, but few have been excavated. One that has, at Nether Kinneil, produced evidence of more recent occupation, an important reminder that not all these sites are necessarily Mesolithic in date.² In Dunblane itself, fragments of worked red deer antler were discovered in the nineteenth century in a layer of peat in Kirk Street.³ Although the background leading to their deposition and the period to which they date remain unclear, these antler fragments may represent the earliest evidence of human settlement, however temporary, in the area now occupied by Dunblane.

Around 3500 BC, people began to live a more settled existence in response to changes in the environment, including more favourable soil conditions, and to ideas introduced from continental Europe. Large areas of woodland were cleared, partly by burning and partly by cutting down trees with stone axes, livestock was kept and the land was farmed for crops. The four stone axes found along the Allan Water (at national grid reference NN 78 01) and at Glenwhilk Farm exemplify the sort of tools that were used in clearing the woodland. The more elaborate tools, for example an axe from Glenwhilk Farm with an hour-glass perforation, may have been used for ceremonial rather than purely agricultural purposes. The fragments of Grooved Ware (a distinctive type of Neolithic pottery) from Barbush, also belonged to these early farming communities. Again, few traces of the settlements of these Neolithic (New Stone Age) peoples survive, but the landscape bears testament to their presence in the form of ritual enclosures (or henges) and burial mounds.

Ritual is strongly evident in the lives of these early farming groups in their treatment of the dead, who were buried in monumental tombs. These communal stone-built cairns or barrows, constructed of wood and turf, sometimes contained large numbers of burials. The types of burial monument vary considerably from region to region, no doubt reflecting regional traditions and, perhaps, the origins of the societies which used them.⁴ The tombs probably became a focus for ritual where elaborate ceremonies took place, perhaps in celebration of the ancestors. There are few passage graves or chambered

cairns in central Scotland and the Lowlands, but there is a regional variation of a type known as Clyde/Carlingford cairns, which predominate in Galloway, Arran, Bute and the southern part of Argyll.⁵ These, typically, comprise a roughly rectangular burial chamber, roofed with large slabs or with a corbelled vault and set within a trapezoidal mound. The chamber, located at one end of the mound, is divided internally into smaller compartments, where a number of bodies could be laid, and the entrance opens out into a façade. Often concave or crescentic in plan, the façade provided a focus to the tomb by creating a forecourt where ritual and ceremony could take place.⁶ Four cairns of this type (generally less distinctive than the west-coast examples) can be found in Strathearn, north of Dunblane, at Rottenreoch, Clathick, Cultoquhey and Kindrochat.⁷

By about 2500 BC, the tradition of monumental tombs was in decline and new types of monument were being erected, such as stone circles which incorporated an awareness of the rising and setting of the sun and moon in their design.⁸ The Bronze Age also marks the introduction and development of new styles of pottery (for example Beakers, Food Vessels and Cinerary Urns, many of which accompanied burials), unenclosed settlements and metal-working. A large number of stone circles survive in Perthshire, and a particularly fine example can be found at Kinnell, near Killin, one of the most westerly of this regional grouping.⁹ It stands in the parkland surrounding Kinnell House, home of the MacNab of MacNab, and measures approximately 10 m in circumference. There are six stones in the circle, with the two highest stones standing side by side at the south-western corner. The undoubtedly fine condition of this stone circle may be due to 'improvements' in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, when it was fashionable to have antiquities in the grounds of great houses.¹⁰

A new emphasis on single grave burials emerged around the same time. Personal possessions were often placed in the grave, perhaps for use by the deceased in the afterlife, by relatives or others taking part in the funeral ceremony. The quality and quantity of these grave goods may reflect the position of the individual within the overall social hierarchy. A number of Bronze Age burials have been found near Dunblane, representing two different traditions; inhumation and cremation. In both traditions, the body, or urn in which the cremated remains were contained, was often placed within a small stone-lined cist beneath a stone cairn, although some cremation urns were placed in pits. Very often the cairn has since been robbed away, leaving only the cist intact. Some of these were single, isolated burials, but some were part of larger cemeteries. Cairns were often reused on a number of occasions and, as a result, can contain a number of secondary burials, inserted into the flanks or top of the mound. One such example is Fairy Knowe at Hill of Airthrey, near Bridge of Allan.¹¹ This large round cairn was excavated in the nineteenth century and found to contain a central cist with an inhumation at the base and a secondary burial, represented by a beaker, higher up in the body of the cairn. Only part of the cairn was excavated and more secondary burials are likely to be present in the unexcavated parts. Alongside the Doune Road, west of Dunblane, a cairn was discovered during gravel extraction in the late nineteenth century. Four cists were found in total, although two were destroyed during the work. Two, however, produced grave goods, a bronze dagger accompanying one, while in the second, a Food Vessel accompanied a cremation urn.

Three cists were discovered in Dunblane, close to the Cathedral (*see* p 40). One cist was found at the Cathedral Hall in 1903, one outside the north-west corner of the Cathedral in 1928 and another alongside the main north wall in 1975. No grave goods were recovered and only the latter produced skeletal remains—of two adults and a child.

Despite the abundance of evidence for monuments and rich burials in the Neolithic and Bronze Age, knowledge of the subsistence base which supported these societies and the settlements in which they lived is poor.¹² By the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age, however, settlements begin to dominate the archaeological landscape. These include numerous fortified settlements, ranging from large hillforts to enclosed villages and isolated single family dwellings. The end of the Bronze Age, around 600 BC, was a time of considerable change. Iron tools and, increasingly, weapons begin to appear in the

archaeological record. Although less defensive types of settlements also existed in the Iron Age, society seems generally to have been more competitive, with the emergence of tribal groups perhaps competing for territory and natural resources.¹³

later prehistory and the Roman period

It was this Iron Age society which the Romans encountered in the first century AD. According to Ptolemy, the classical geographer, whose map of the Roman world was compiled around AD 140, Dunblane was probably within the tribal domain of the Maeatae, whose capital may have been at Dumyat, near Bridge of Allan.

The Roman conquest of Britain commenced with the invasion of the Emperor Claudius in AD 43. In the first century AD Roman armies campaigned in Scotland, reaching north-east Scotland on land and also circumnavigating the island. A number of forts were constructed to establish their control. Roman forces were withdrawn from most of Scotland in AD 87/88 and finally withdrew to the Tyne–Solway isthmus *c* AD 105, where Hadrian's Wall was to be built in the AD 120s.

As the northern frontier of the empire Hadrian's Wall was short-lived, for in AD 138 Hadrian's successor, Antoninus Pius, ordered his army to advance into central Scotland and begin construction of a second great barrier, the Antonine Wall. Construction of the Wall appears to have commenced after a victory in AD 142 (recorded in a coin issue late in that year), and building probably continued into the AD 150s. It is possible that Antoninus' motives for building the wall were similar to those behind Claudius' invasion of Britain in AD 43—the need for a military victory to bolster the reputation of a new emperor—but it is likely that there was also a certain degree of military necessity involved.

The Wall stretched for some 60 km between Bo'ness on the Forth and Old Kilpatrick on the Clyde, with forts roughly every two miles and fortlets at every mile. New forts were also established south of the Wall, many on or close by sites of abandoned forts. Some forts were also established north of the Wall, up to the Tay. Trouble on the northern frontier in the mid to late AD 150s may have led to the abandonment of some forts, and perhaps the whole system, but many were refurbished or rebuilt within a relatively short time.¹⁴ This re-occupation proved to be temporary, as most of the forts in Scotland were again abandoned sometime in the decade AD 160 to 170, and the army withdrew to the line of Hadrian's Wall, which was now once again the northern frontier of Roman Britain. Some forts in Dumfriesshire and up to the Tweed were retained as outposts, but by about AD 180 even these were abandoned, with the exception of Netherby, Bewcastle, High Rochester and Risingham.

There was one final episode in the history of Roman Scotland. For a variety of reasons (of which a 'little local difficulty in Britain' was only one, and possibly spurious) the Emperor Septimius Severus, together with his sons Caracalla and Geta, arrived in Britain to mount a major campaign in the north, specifically against two tribes—the Maeatae, whose territory seems to have been Stirlingshire and Strathmore, and the Caledonians who were based further north.¹⁵ Probably accompanied by a fleet, Severus and his army advanced beyond Hadrian's Wall in AD 208, through eastern Scotland and up the east coast. Despite his taking the title *Britannicus*, 'conqueror of Britain', Severus' celebrations were short-lived. A major rebellion by the native tribes was suppressed the following year. Severus himself died in Britain in AD 211. Construction work on a new fortress at Carpow, on the Tay near Newburgh, began *c* AD 212, suggesting that the Romans intended to stay, but Severus's successor, Caracalla, returned to Rome and abandoned the Scottish conquests.¹⁶ Hadrian's Wall was again reinstated as the northern frontier of Britain, with the four outpost forts retained. Thereafter, the native tribes were quiet for several generations, but by the late third century AD the Picts—probably a new power grouping amongst the tribes—and others were putting increasing pressure on the northern frontier. Hadrian's Wall appears to have been garrisoned until the early years of the fifth century AD, before Britain was finally abandoned by Rome.

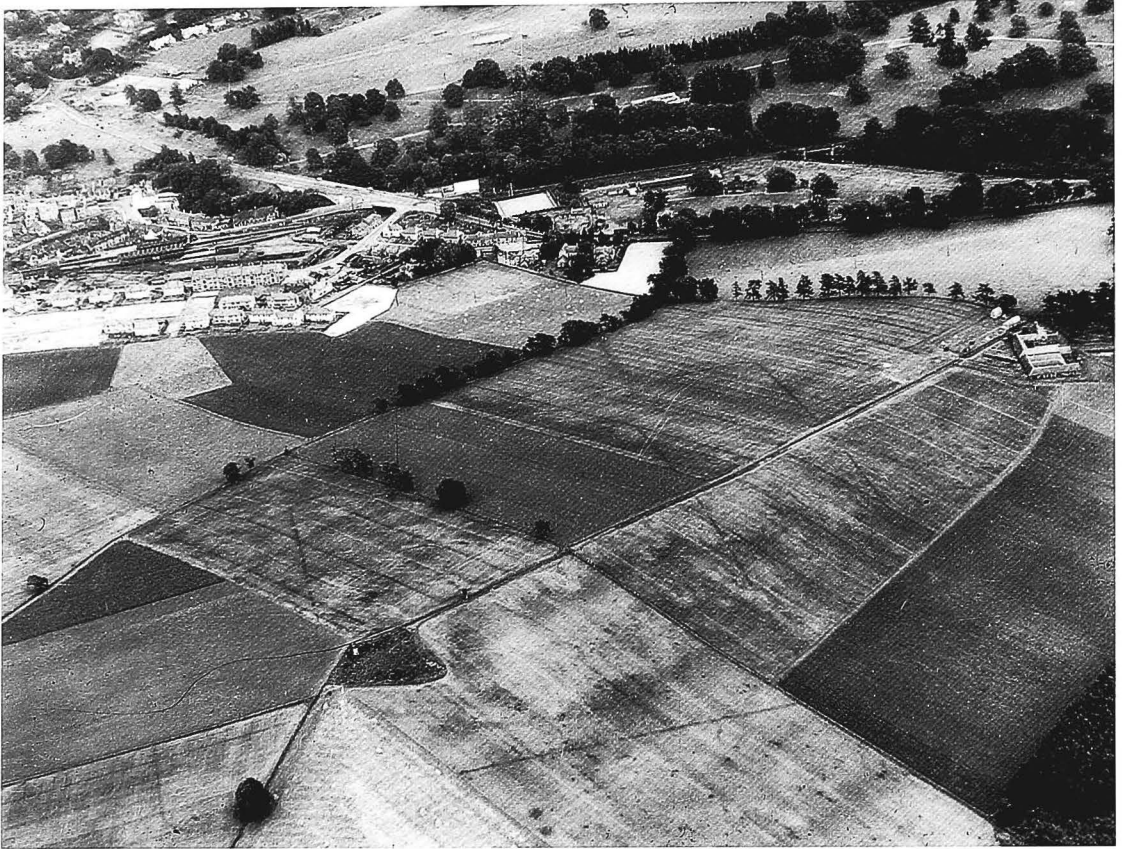


figure 4
Roman temporary
camps at Hillside
from the air
1945

Two Roman temporary camps lie a short distance to the south-west of Dunblane **figure 4**. The site was originally identified by aerial reconnaissance in 1945 and was later confirmed by archaeological excavation and survey in 1966 and 1967.¹⁷ The camps were initially thought to be contemporary, comprising a small inner enclosure, measuring 5.8 ha (14.4 acres) within a larger enclosure of 13.2 ha (32.6 acres), but they are now thought to represent two separate camps, the second camp inserted within the larger, earlier camp. Approximately 40 per cent of these camps now lie under modern housing schemes.

Within the camps the sub-soil varied from clay to bed-rock. No dating evidence was recovered for either the construction or occupation of the camps. Late medieval or post-medieval pottery was found, probably deriving from later manuring of the fields: midden from neighbouring farmyards, containing household rubbish such as pottery and animal bone, would have been used to fertilise the fields.

An archaeological site assessment was carried out on the inner enclosure, including the area around the western gateway, in advance of a housing development in 1995. The gateway was found to have been reduced or narrowed by an extension of the ditch, probably during construction of the second camp, and a *tutulus* was added.¹⁸ Dating for these camps remains difficult, but the Flavian or Agricola period is possible.¹⁹ During his penultimate campaign in AD 83, Agricola appears to have split his army into three separate units, perhaps more for defensive than offensive reasons.²⁰

Considerable interest has attached to the smaller camps, measuring around 12–16 ha (30–40 acres) in size. Ardoch, Strageath, Dornock and Dunblane all lie at suitable marching intervals between the Forth and the valley of the Earn **figure 3**.²¹ The location of the Dunblane camps may indicate the presence of an, as yet, undiscovered section of Roman road. A road has been identified north of Dunblane and continues to the east end of the Gask Ridge and beyond, but south of Dunblane the course of this road is not known until it reappears in the western suburbs of Stirling.²² There is also a local tradition that the old Darn Road, leading into Dunblane from the south, may have been a Roman road and may have joined with Braeport, to the north.

There are few native settlement sites known to be contemporary with the Roman occupation of this area. An ever-increasing number of new sites is being identified by aerial photography, but without archaeological excavation their exact dating remains uncertain. The fort on Dumyat Hill **figure 3**, near Bridge of Allan may date to this period.²³ Protected on the east side by steep crags and by two stone rampart walls on the west, the fort commands magnificent views over the Forth to Stirling and beyond. Field survey suggests that the stone ramparts may belong to an early phase, with a smaller enclosure, or dun, later established on the very summit of the hill; alternatively it is possible that all the defences belong to the same phase of occupation. The name of the hill, Dumyat, has been interpreted as meaning 'Dun Myat', the fort (dun) of the Maeatae, a local Late Iron Age/Early Historic tribe. This may have been their capital. The nature of the defences suggests it was occupied sometime between the late first millennium BC and the early first millennium AD, in which case it could be contemporary with the Roman occupation of the area. The relationship between the Maeatae and the Romans, however, is uncertain.

the early historic period

Major changes in the political and religious organisation of Scotland ensued following the withdrawal of the Romans. Four distinct territorial groupings, or kingdoms, appear in the historical and archaeological record. The mainland and islands north of the Firth of Forth and Firth of Clyde, with the exception of Argyll, were inhabited by the Picts. The Picts were not a 'new' people, but an amalgamation of indigenous Iron Age tribes, a process begun in the third century AD. A number of smaller tribes were absorbed into two confederations, the Caledonii and the Maeatae, and by the end of the century these peoples were being referred to as the Picts. Strathclyde was home to the Britons, whose capital lay on the north side of the Clyde at Alcluith (Dumbarton Rock); and on their north-western border, in Argyll, were the Scots, who arrived from Ireland in the fifth century AD and, by the following century, had established the kingdom of Dalriada. Finally, the Anglian kings of Northumbria were in control of much of south-east Scotland.

It was the Scots who eventually dominated, but not until the mid ninth century AD when Kenneth mac Alpin (843–58) established royal, political and cultural supremacy over the Pictish kingdom. The Scots had, in fact, been gradually drifting eastwards to settle in Pictland, probably in response to increased Viking attacks in northern Dalriada and along the Atlantic seaboard. The Picts also suffered by the loss of control of both Orkney and Shetland. By the early eleventh century, the Scottish kings had also gained control of Strathclyde and Northumbrian Lothian.

The gradual conversion of the Pictish kingdom to Christianity began towards the end of the sixth century AD. From his base at Whithorn in Wigtownshire, St Ninian is reputed to have led the first mission to southern Pictland in the early fifth century. The process was given new impetus by St Columba in the later sixth century from his base at Iona and progressed to completion before the end of the seventh century by monks working from Iona and other monasteries in its far-flung parochia.

A long tradition maintains that the name 'Dunblane' signifies 'Blane's fort'. This reputedly refers to a Celtic saint, Blane, born on the island of Bute of an Irish family,²⁴ who in the early seventh century, while on his third missionary tour of Scotland, founded a Culdee community here. The element 'dun' signifies a fortified spot or stronghold; it was perhaps located on Holmehill, to the east of Dunblane town centre. Here, surrounded by steep slopes but with a considerable area of flat ground on the summit suitable for building dwellings, a small community could live in security.²⁵ In support of this, it is argued that earthworks on the hilltop indicate the early settlement.²⁶ A low dry-stone wall was reputedly visible here before Holmehill House and grounds were established in 1820. A wall with a possible opening to a tunnel is still visible on the west side of the mound on which the house once stood; it probably pre-dates Holmehill. It has been suggested that



figure 5
Ninth/tenth-century
carved stone in
Dunblane Cathedral

the local topography indicates the broad outline of an early monastic enclosure comprising Holmehill and the plateau on which the cathedral now stands.²⁷ It has also been posited that it was traditional to locate the related church a little removed from the settlement; and the favoured site for the church is the lower-lying land to the west of Holmehill, where the present cathedral now stands.²⁸

None of this can, as yet, be verified. The reference to the Britons burning ‘St Blane of Kingarth’s chief seat’ in an account of the reign of Kenneth mac Alpin in the *Chronicle of the Kings of Scotland*²⁹ is, for some, evidence of a Culdee settlement at least by the ninth century.³⁰ The township may have been attacked in 912 by King Ronald of Denmark and his supporters, but confirmation of this depends on whether one interprets the place-name of the settlement he harried as Dublin or Dunblane.³¹

Two further pieces of evidence seem to support the notion of an early Christian establishment. Two sculptured stones now standing in the north-west corner of the cathedral **figure 5**, discovered in 1873 beneath the floor of the chapter house, may date to the ninth and tenth centuries, suggesting religious associations for this site at the time.³² There are also reputed associations of Culdees under the bishopric of Dunblane: a late thirteenth-century list of religious houses and their orders includes Dunblane and has Celi-de listed as the order.³³ A community of Culdees is known to have been sited at Muthill, which had close associations with the diocese.³⁴ Whether this authenticates Culdees at Dunblane itself is uncertain.

the medieval period

During the reign of King David I (1124–53), there was a major reorganisation of the church and its dioceses. It was at this point that a bishopric of Dunblane was either reconstituted or founded; there is firm evidence of its existence by 1155.³⁵ Whether this bishopric was initially based on Dunblane or on Muthill is not clear. The first recorded archdeacon in 1165 x 1175 used the title ‘Muthill’, although his successors favoured ‘Dunblane and Strathearn’; ‘Dunblane’ did not become the norm until the mid thirteenth century.³⁶ Early bishops assumed the same duality in their title.³⁷ It is clear, however, that there was some form of ecclesiastical establishment in Dunblane and an associated settlement may have clustered nearby. A stone church seems to have been built, although only small traces of it now remain.³⁸ Close by, and almost certainly free-standing, was a stone tower which may have functioned both as a belfry and a defensive structure (p 41). It still stands four storeys high, with an original doorway, elevated well above ground level, still in use. Additions date from c 1500.³⁹

From the episcopate of Bishop Clement (1233–58) the status of Dunblane was on a surer footing. He found, on his accession, that the church at Dunblane was in a poor condition, in spite of the patronage of the earls of Strathearn. Whatever possessions and endowments it had had in the previous century, these now appeared to have been dissipated; the place of worship was virtually roofless, either from neglect or because work was never completed; the church was ministered to by only one rural chaplain; there was no residence for a bishop and insufficient funds to provide for him; and the see may have been vacant for ten years.⁴⁰ Such was the dilapidation that Clement travelled to Rome for an audience with Pope Gregory IX to gain support. The mission was successful. The bishops of Glasgow and Dunkeld were instructed to visit the diocese and ensure that a fourth of all the tithes in the diocese were to be assigned to the bishop. With this, he was to provide a dean and a chapter. If this provision was not forthcoming, the seat of the bishopric was to be transferred to the abbey of Inchaffray.⁴¹

In the event, Bishop Clement achieved considerably more; and he left to Dunblane an important legacy. Six years of wrangling for the rights of his diocese and the quarter teinds, most notably with Walter Comyn, earl of Menteith, and the abbey of Inchaffray,⁴² brought moderate, but adequate, success. Out of the patchwork of churches and monasteries associated with Dunblane he forged a true diocese: an income was established for himself, the archdeacon and the other dignitaries; four canons *ex officio* (the abbeyes of

Lindores, Cambuskenneth, Arbroath and Inchaffray) were established; and other canonries with prebends were set up.⁴³ He was now in a position to build a worthy cathedral.

The old tower was retained,⁴⁴ but it seems that the church building was taken down. It was to be replaced with a cathedral that John Ruskin was to describe 600 years later, in 1853: 'He was no common man who designed that Cathedral of Dunblane. I know not anything so perfect in its simplicity, and so beautiful, as far as it reaches, in all the Gothic with which I am acquainted.'⁴⁵ The orientation of the cathedral is not true east/west, as is the norm, and the tower, somewhat misaligned with the new building, partially blocks the south aisle. This is probably explained by the nature of the ground: the land to the north-east of the cathedral is boggy and would have proved unsuitable for the laying of foundations, which is perhaps why Bishop Clement opted to slew the ground plan away from the normal orientation. First to be constructed was the sacristy and chapter house, which could be used for worship while the rest of the cathedral was under construction. Above it, accessed by a narrow wheel staircase, was a similar sized room, which may have functioned as a treasury and chapel, as the remains of a piscina of an altar are still in evidence. The next stage was the building of the nave. Finally, the choir was constructed. At the east end of the south aisle of the nave, in the chapel of St Nicholas, there is evidence of a modification of the design, the original intention being to vault the aisles.⁴⁶ It is probable that the work was not fully completed by the time of Clement's death, but the design and final form were of his inspiration.⁴⁷

Such a huge undertaking would have had a profound effect on the settlement pattern of the surrounding district. The workforce required to build the cathedral would have needed dwellings close by; the canons would then need residences and the bishop a palace; and the cathedral would attract a population that would not only benefit from its protective aura, but would also provide services and essential supplies for the ecclesiastical establishment.

The matrix of a seal in the British Museum with the legend 'S' Commune Burgi Dunblanensis', thought to be of thirteenth- or fourteenth-century origin, is possibly evidence that Dunblane by this time had been created a burgh.⁴⁸ It was certainly of sufficient size that Edward I considered it worth pillaging for lead in 1304, to assist the siege of Stirling Castle. Doubtless much of this lead would come from the cathedral itself, even though Edward specifically instructed that 'churches be not uncovered over the altars'.⁴⁹ In 1319 King Robert I (1306–28) promulgated an act from Dunblane, which suggests that the town was of relatively high standing.⁵⁰

It is difficult to obtain a clear picture of the townscape at this period. First urban settlement would probably have clustered beside the cathedral; it is known that the manses of the canons **figure 6** stood nearby, mostly on the routeway leading north, called Kirk Street and Braeport (*see* p 49). The east and south frontages of the cathedral yard were probably built up gradually, as doubtless was the main pathway leading to the ford, which was a little to the north of the present bridge, across the Allan Water. The ford was the first crossing point over the Allan on the main route from Glasgow to Perth; this strategic position would also attract settlement, possibly on both sides of the river. The pathway on the east side was called Millrow, so named from the mill which stood beside the Allan Water, probably from the fourteenth century.⁵¹ This mill belonged to the bishops of Dunblane until post-Reformation times, when it passed to the Cromlix estate. Whether there were true suburbs at Ramoyle and Bridgend by the fourteenth century is uncertain; indeed there is a local tradition, supported by some, that Ramoyle was older than Dunblane, and was, in fact, the first settlement site of Dunblane.

The manses were relatively prestigious buildings, probably of stone, as was the bishop's palace **figure 7** which stood south-south-west of the cathedral. The homes of the townspeople, however, would have been of simple design and structure, single-storeyed and built of wood with thatched or turfed roofs. The habits of the ordinary people would have been equally simple. Although the cathedral would attract the services of various craftsmen, probably all inhabitants relied to some extent on agricultural pursuits.

figure 6

Possible remains
of the archdeacon's
manse

**figure 7**

Remains of the
bishop's palace



Vegetables would have been grown in the backlands of the houses, and animals would have been reared there too, as well as being at liberty to roam the streets and the fields surrounding the town. The atmosphere would have been essentially rural.

A clearer picture emerges of Dunblane in the fifteenth century. One of the most significant events in the history of the town was the building of the first bridge over the Allan **figure 8**. This was effected by Bishop Finlay Dermoch, around 1409. Built of stone, the structure is said to have been 3.6 m wide and 12.9 m long (12 ft x 42 ft).⁵² Originally, the bridge had an arch in the centre, the roadways at both sides once being lower. The yellow dressed stone of its original structure may still be seen from the north side. The suburb on the west bank of the Allan, if it was already in existence, would have received a stimulus to growth by the construction of the bridge; it was sufficiently substantial to be given a separate name—Bridgend—by 1443, when it was confirmed as one of the see's possessions to Bishop Michael (Ochiltree) of Dunblane by James II (1437–60).⁵³ In all probability, it was some short time after the building of the bridge that the High Street **figure 9** was constructed. This seems to be confirmed by the fact that the tenements on the east side of the High Street had substantial burgage plots running back from the frontages, whereas lack of space on the west, where the tenements abutted onto the



figure 8
Bridge over the
Allan Water c 1855

figure 9
Millrow and High Street



pre-existing Millrow, prescribed truncated burgage plots (*see* p 67). This new street linked the bridge with the cathedral and the market, the commercial focal point of the town.

As a burgh of some age, but erected into a free burgh of barony in favour of the bishops of Dunblane in 1442,⁵⁴ Dunblane received from the crown various privileges, one of the most important being the right to hold markets and to charge dues, or tolls, from those attending. Collection of these tolls took place either at the town gates—or ports—or at the most important municipal building, the tolbooth. Ports were sited on the main routes into the market place, which, for Dunblane, meant the main arteries moving south and north out of the town. The south, or nether, port was placed on the stone bridge, probably at the east end. The north, or over, port stood on the brae leading to Ramoyle, hence the name 'Braeport'. Ports functioned not only as toll collection points, but also as control posts in time of plague and at night, when they were regularly closed at curfew. Dunblane, being a cathedral town, had another collection point—for the bishop's tithes. This was the tithe or teind barn that stood outside the over port on the west side of Braeport, near the spot where the modern house 'Bishop's Barn' is now sited.

There are no contemporary descriptions of the tolbooth or the other important features of medieval markets, the market cross and the town's weighing machine, the tron. They may have stood on the same site as those in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, to the south of the cathedral, facing down the open market place, which was once called The Cross, and is now known as Cathedral Square. As well as functioning as the focal point of the market, the market cross was the site for public announcements, such as instructions to shut the town ports in times of potential danger; proclaiming that no one should be allowed to purchase goods before the start of the fair and thus 'forestalling' the market; and the 'cursing'—or outlawing—of the murderers of Cardinal Beaton in 1546.⁵⁵

Contemporary records do, on the other hand, give some insight into the economy of the town in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. In 1497 the torn arras cloth of King James IV (1488–1513), who often resided in Dunblane, probably at the bishop's palace, was mended at a cost of forty shillings.⁵⁶ Wrights and masons were paid fourteen shillings 'drink silver' by the crown for services rendered to the cathedral in 1501.⁵⁷ An interesting specialism of the town was the making of 'flokki's, a cloth with raised nap for smoothing the moulds of guns. A royal messenger was sent on horseback to buy a stone of flokki's at a price of four shillings in 1513.⁵⁸ Most significant, however, was Dunblane's function as market and fair.

Three fairs were held in Dunblane by this time: one at Whitsun, a second on 10 August on St Blane's or St Lawrence Day and a third on All Hallows Day.⁵⁹ On 19 May 1502 (four days after Whitsunday), two horses were purchased in Dunblane for King James IV;⁶⁰ three years later, one of the court retainers, Martin Bailye, paid forty-four shillings to Riche Balzee for a 'lital nag' and a 'furnist sadill';⁶¹ and in 1506, according to the *Treasurer's Accounts*, one Andrew Aytoun was despatched to Dunblane with £20 to buy four cart horses.⁶² In 1531, Dunblane again supplied horses for the royal retinue: £20 was given to one Robert Gib to buy horses at Dunblane fair.⁶³ Eight years later, the royal hunting party at Glenfinlas required extra horses. Ten were hired from Stirling and seven from Dunblane, the rate paid being two shillings a day.⁶⁴ If the crown looked to Dunblane for horses, doubtless so did many lesser persons.

Clearly, however, the livestock market also dealt in other animals. On 9 August 1513, one month before the battle of Flodden, the *Treasurer's Accounts* show that £300 was earmarked to buy oxen at Dunblane fair. Four days later, 143 oxen were purchased by the master of works and the master flesher, at a cost of £208.⁶⁵ It seems that here were active preparations for the war effort, as oxen could be used not only as transport for pulling artillery, but also for food. That Dunblane could supply so many oxen at one fair is clear indication that it was drawing supplies not only from the immediate hinterland, but possibly also from much further afield in the Highlands. Its attraction was such by 1611 that it prompted James, marquis of Hamilton, to request a change of day for Hamilton's fair, which had become unprofitable because it clashed with those of Dunblane and Carnwath.⁶⁶



figure 10
Nave of Dunblane
Cathedral

Life in the town, however, was dominated by the cathedral; and much of the history of Dunblane is the history of the cathedral. Although a burgh from the thirteenth or fourteenth century, it tended from the fifteenth century to be styled a ‘city’, thus defining its dependence on the cathedral.⁶⁷ As well as being the ecclesiastical superior, the bishop was the principal landowner in the district, and no doubt dominated town, as well as diocesan, life. Dunblane was small and not a wealthy diocese; in the 1550s, for example, it raised an income of £640 per annum, compared with the £3400 per annum of Dunkeld, the other Perthshire diocese.⁶⁸ It was able to maintain and adapt the cathedral fabric to the changing liturgical and devotional life of the church until the Reformation, although a supplication to Rome in 1419 for assistance in this maintenance suggests somewhat strained circumstances.⁶⁹ The cathedral building was probably never without builders, joiners and masons embellishing both the exterior and the interior. The parapet of the choir was re-built and stalls, still to be seen at the east end, were added during the episcopacy of Bishop James Chisholm (1487–1545). At the same time the tower was heightened by two storeys. Both the nave **figure 10**, which some consider the most successful feature,⁷⁰ and the choir would have been richly adorned with statues, stained glass, pictures and lavish trappings on the altars. The most important of these was the High Altar, close against the east wall, under the east window, with its altarpiece depicting the works of its patron, St Blane, and possibly also St Lawrence.⁷¹ Dunblane had close associations with St Lawrence, the Spanish arch-deacon of Rome, martyred in 258, as well as St Blane. The coat of arms of the burgh bore a representation of both saints and quite possibly their dual importance to the town was reflected in the altarpiece.

The cathedral was not merely the place of worship for the prebends and other ecclesiastical personnel. It was also attended by the ordinary townsfolk. The nave of the cathedral was their parish church,⁷² and the cathedral burial ground was possibly their burial ground. A local tradition that the north-east corner was the cemetery for plague victims has not, as yet, been verified archaeologically. It was from the cathedral grammar school that certain local boys received their education. Although geared to the raising of choristers and clerics, this was the only school available in the town in the Middle Ages.

The bishop’s palace **figure 7** was the most imposing building, after the cathedral. Later illustrations show it to have been a large, impressive structure with circular towers, large windows and tall chimneys. An associated lodge and stables stood near to The Cross. There is also a fairly well established tradition of a number of underground vaults and

passages (possibly drains) connecting the palace with other buildings. Recent excavations carried out between 1994–7, in advance of an extension to the adjacent Cathedral Hall, have suggested that the palace comprised north, south and west ranges (only a fragment of the west range survives above ground), each linked by a circular stair-tower. The whole complex was grouped around a central cobbled courtyard (*see* p 41).

By the fifteenth century, the manses of the associated canons were impressive, stone-built, quality structures. They included the manse and croft of the dean or, perhaps more correctly, the archdeacon; the manse of Monzie, sometimes referred to as the manse of Comrie; the manses of Abernethy, or Abbot of Arbroath's manse; the manse of the chancellor, also known as the manse of Logie; the manse of the treasurer;⁷³ and the manse of Balquhider, known to be sited on the east side of the main thoroughfare.⁷⁴ The contemporary Scottish Churches House stands on the site of one of these manses, possibly the archdeacon's house, and the chapel to the rear was created from a pre-sixteenth-century cellar.⁷⁵ Whether this had previously functioned as a chapel is unclear. In 1371, a papal dispensation, for marriage within the forbidden degrees of consanguinity, was granted to Robert Stewart, third son of the Earl of Strathearn and Countess Margaret Stewart of Menteith, on condition that they build a chapel in Dunblane and endow it with an income of twelve merks.⁷⁶ There is, however, inadequate evidence to be certain that this was effected in Dunblane town or diocese; and the cathedral itself also housed various chapels.⁷⁷ A reference to the chapel of Dunblane in 1621, when the bishop issued a bill against one Grissell Anderson that she should deliver the registers of the same to himself, may be to this particular chapel.⁷⁸

In 1516, a house and croft with its pertinents, situated at Bridgend, was referred to as the 'Spittell Croft and Merzonis Acre', possible evidence of a hospital on this site.⁷⁹

The influence of the cathedral and the legal business transacted in the various church courts attracted wealthier members of society, and several local landed families chose to maintain town houses in Dunblane. The Earl of Menteith, the owner of the estate of Kilbride, for example, maintained a residence where the Bank of Scotland now stands. The noted Drummond family also had a Dunblane town house. It was, perhaps, here that the ill-fated Lady Margaret Drummond, daughter of John, first lord Drummond and mistress of James IV, and her two sisters were poisoned. The king provided £20 annually for two priests to chant for her soul from the time of her burial in 1501 in Dunblane Cathedral, where her uncle Walter Drummond was dean until his death at Flodden.⁸⁰ Close connections between these landed families was the norm. Sir Malcolm Drummond, lord of that ilk (died 1470) was the father of James, whose daughter Janet married Edmund Chisholm of Cromlix, a member of another notable family. Their son William was to become the bishop of Dunblane.⁸¹ A number of tenements in the town were owned by wealthy local landowners, many of whom supported altars in the cathedral from their rentals.⁸² The Stirlings of Keir, for example, possessed land called Greenyards near the Millrow, which was dedicated to the support of St Michael's Altar in the cathedral.⁸³ In 1472, they were also assisting the chaplain of the altar of the Virgin Mary.⁸⁴

An essentially rural atmosphere prevailed, however, in spite of the presence of such prestigious buildings and personages **figure 26**. This was accentuated by the crofts surrounding the town. St Michael's Croft and others were situated in Kippenross Park, or Cow Park, south of the town, near Darn Road.⁸⁵ The Darn Road was a pathway of some antiquity, leaving the High Street where the New Road now joins it; it led southwards to the meal mill of Kippenross and Cow Park and also to the road to the back vennel behind the High Street. Also south of the High Street was Dovecot Croft, once dedicated to the altar of St Blaise. The Backcroft, forming part of the cathedral's endowments and, later, in post-Reformation times, in the Cromlix estate, stretched from Ramoyle to south of Anchorfield. Also in this area was the croft of St Nicholas, which stood to the north of Holmehill, near Ramoyle. A number of other crofts lined the pathway from Sinclair's Wynd to Mintoehmyre, the low ground below the present Dunblane Hydro. The stretch of land between Ramoyle and Laighhills, part of the latter being the flood plain of the

figure 11Site of the palace
gardens

23

Allan Water, was cultivated as crofts. The bishop's palace had extensive gardens to the north and to the Allan Water on the west **figure 11**, where the 'Bishop's well' was sited; and across the water, north of Bridgend, was open countryside and meadows pertaining to the bishopric.⁸⁶ Most of the townspeople still maintained land or acres on the town's outskirts for both cultivation and stock rearing. In all probability, the majority of inhabitants relied to some extent on home-grown produce for subsistence. The poor were ever present, James IV giving nine shillings in 1505, for example, to the impoverished of Dunblane.⁸⁷

the Reformation period

The Reformation was to have a profound effect on the built environment of Dunblane. Never a particularly wealthy diocese, the dissipation of the cathedral's assets to laymen in the sixteenth century was to undermine its financial well-being. Although there is evidence of repairs and improvements to the cathedral during the episcopate of James Chisholm, there seems to have been some deterioration during the bishopric of his half-brother, William Chisholm. Some of this neglect may, perhaps, be attributed to absence on the part of the bishop. William Chisholm, as many previous bishops of Dunblane, was active politically and much involved in state affairs. His nephew, also William Chisholm, succeeded him in 1561. He, too, functioned as a royal ambassador, visiting Rome, for example, on behalf of Mary Queen of Scots (1542–67) in June 1565 in an attempt to gain papal dispensation for her marriage to Darnley.⁸⁸ It would appear that, even before the Reformation parliament, Bishop William Chisholm, senior, was disposing of diocesan assets to his illegitimate children and other relatives.⁸⁹ This policy was to accelerate in the following decades.

There seems to have been little malicious damage to the cathedral fabric, other than the destruction of the trappings of Catholicism—images, adornments of the altars and the like. Traditional myths of damage to the cathedral building and casting down of the market cross by reformers, in the belief that this was a Catholic symbol, are ill founded. The market cross continued as the accustomed site of important proclamations from 1565 to 1568;⁹⁰ was still standing in 1572, 1575 and 1582;⁹¹ and remained so until at least 1594.⁹² The cathedral, certainly, deteriorated in the mid to late sixteenth century, but mainly through neglect rather than wilful damage. There was little or no support for the reformed ideas amongst the cathedral personnel. Of the known cathedral establishment, it seems that only the dean conformed, somewhat belatedly, to serve as a Protestant clergyman. Much of this may perhaps be explained by the strong support within the chapter, both before and for some time after the Reformation, for conservatism, personified in the Chisholm bishops; this was a feature of the prebends, 25

per cent of whom were Chisholms, but it was also significant amongst the lesser clergy. Sir Edmond Chisholm, the chaplain, and perhaps the same person as the sub-dean, was a relative of the bishop; the chaplain of the altar of Our Lady had been presented by the patron of that altar, James Stirling of Keir, the bishop's son-in-law; one chaplain, Learmonth, seems also to have been related to Robert Learmonth, curator in the 1550s of James Chisholm, son of the bishop, and tutor of Jane Stirling, grand-daughter of the bishop; and the bishop himself was patron of three of the cathedral altars.⁹³ The retention of two thirds of their chaplainry might also have encouraged conservatism, but the sums of money involved were not great. The altar of St Blaise provided £20, but those of St Michael, St Nicholas and Our Lady only £16, £13 6s 8d and £4 respectively. The common land of the vicars choral realised merely £68.⁹⁴

This loyalty to the old ways inhibited the establishment of a Protestant ministry. To compound this, the dissemination of the cathedral assets to the relations of the bishop, immediately after the Reformation, resulted in the impoverishment of the cathedral. The estates of local landed families, such as the Stirlings of Keir, into which one of the bishop's daughters was married, or the Cromlix family, the laird of which was the bishop's brother, were to benefit enormously.⁹⁵ Indeed, in 1590 the Chisholms of Cromlix were created hereditary bailies of Dunblane, with the right to exercise justice within the town and to have ownership of the town mill, once the possession of the bishop.

In such circumstances, adequate maintenance of the prestigious ecclesiastical buildings proved impossible. The cathedral soon fell into disrepair. By 1586 it was reported that the kirkyard dykes were broken and that, since the nave was no longer watertight, repairs were needed imminently on the roof of the cathedral. A measure of the affection of the townspeople for their church was their offer to make the building watertight at their own expense, as long as the bishop maintained it thereafter, as had been the custom.⁹⁶ In the event, this offer was not accepted and sometime around the turn of the century the roof of the nave collapsed and was to remain in this state until the late nineteenth century. Until these repairs were effected, the choir of the church functioned as the parish church. The palace also declined. By 1579 it was referred to as being 'deserted', although there was no mention of it being ruinous.⁹⁷ In 1586, the minister, Mr Andrew Young, had his dwelling in a part of the palace yards, which suggests that the palace remained unused as a dwelling.⁹⁸ It, too, would collapse over the ensuing decades **figure 26**.

It is also clear from contemporary sources that the manses and the property that supported the cathedral altars declined rapidly through neglect. As early as 1567, John Learmonth, the chaplain of the altar of St Blaise, was dispersing tenements and lands in Dunblane 'because of the great cost of rebuilding', in particular the Dovecot Croft, other lands and a tenement and garden on the High Street.⁹⁹ The manses of Abernethy, Comrie and Balquhider were still in the possession of their Catholic owners; but by 1573, William Scott, canon of Dunblane and prebendary of Monzie, had alienated his 'ruinous' manse, retaining merely a room and a stable.¹⁰⁰ Various confirmations of charters in the *Register of the Great Seal* are clear indication that there was a rapid dispersal of property, largely because of the expense of upkeep. The archdeacon of Dunblane, James Chisholm, gave to his kinsman, Sir James Chisholm of Dundurn, a house and garden to the north of the cemetery. The treasurer, William Murray, transferred a piece of ground and a garden on the east side of the 'king's road', that is Kirk Street or Braeport. Tellingly, a confirmation of 1592 refers to 'the lands and ruined houses within the city of Dunblane in that part of the city called Holmehill'.¹⁰¹

The effect of such events on the morale of the townspeople is not recorded, but there was clearly an impact. It was noted, for example, that the grammar school was in straitened circumstances in 1586. There was no longer sufficient provision for the schoolmaster, Mr Duncan Niven, nor for poor scholars.¹⁰² The Sunday market still functioned, but to the detriment of church attendance. It was mooted that the day should be changed, but as this was likely to meet opposition, a compromise was reached, whereby all merchandise would cease until the sermon and prayers were ended. It was also noted that if there was no market the 'pure toun wald decay allutterly'.¹⁰³

the seventeenth century

Commerce, however, continued at a certain level. The appeal made by the Duke of Hamilton in 1611 that his town's fair should be changed because of the detriment done to it by the Dunblane and Carnwath fairs, although doubtless exaggerated, does at least indicate a measure of economic activity in Dunblane (*see* p 59). The tolbooth, along with the market cross, remained the secular focal point of the burgh community. In 1609, it was functioning still as the town prison, as it was in 1615 when Jonet Murriache was imprisoned for suspected witchcraft.¹⁰⁴ Dunblane, however, was a town deprived of much of its *raison d'être*.

Contemporary comments on Dunblane are not flattering. Richard Franck, visiting in 1656, spoke of 'dirty Dumblain', with 'reliques of a ruinous hep of stones'. He considered that the houses, although stone-built, were 'low and little' and 'dirty' and the streets 'narrow'. The market place and lack of merchants clearly did not impress him, there being little or no trade 'except now and then a truck with a brandy-man, a tobacco-merchant, or a brewster-wife, for ale, tobacco and strong waters [were] the staple of the town'. Other than the palace and cathedral, Dunblane apparently had nothing of which to boast.¹⁰⁵ Thirty-three years later, Thomas Morer was only a little less harsh, finding the town 'very ordinary', with insufficient to commend it, other than the cathedral and the new Leighton Library.¹⁰⁶

The extant documentary sources reveal little of the urban setting, the main purpose of the majority being to record church business.¹⁰⁷ Here and there, however, there are glimpses of the seventeenth-century town. A number of standing, or recently demolished, buildings are known to have been in existence at this time. One of the most interesting was Allanbank, which stood at the head of Millrow, near the 'common way which passes to the mill',¹⁰⁸ on the site of the current children's playground. The earliest document referring to it dates from 1633, although it is possible that the house was older.¹⁰⁹ Millrow appears to have been fairly well built up, with laigh, or low, houses and closes leading past the tenements, giving access to the backlands. One of the tenements, near to the mill dam, also had a granary.¹¹⁰

The High Street, however, was the more important thoroughfare, leading as it did from the bridge to the market square. It is thought that an inn has stood on the site of the Stirling Arms Hotel from at least the seventeenth century. Such a site, at the crossing point of the river, would have been an ideal place for a hostelry, perhaps even in the days when the Allan had to be forded. Balhadie House, further up the High Street, was possibly constructed around 1695, as a town house for the Drummonds of Balhadie (*see* pp 61–2).¹¹¹ Two other properties, known to have been erected in the seventeenth century, stood at The Cross—the dean's manse **figure 12** (*see* p 44) and the Leighton Library (*see* pp 60–2). The former was built sometime around 1624 for Dean James Pearson of Kippenross. Its lower storey, displaying the arms of Pearson, is typical of stone buildings of this period.

Across the road stands the Leighton Library, purpose-built to house the library of Bishop Robert Leighton. Bishop Leighton clearly held an affection for Dunblane. He not only made provision for a library in the town but also provided £1,024 Scots for the support of the poor in Dunblane parish.¹¹² A letter from his nephew, Edward Lightmaker, in 1684, sheds light not only on the proposed building material of the library, but also on the condition of certain properties in Dunblane:

The desyre of this worthy man (was) that I should transmit one hundreth pounds for the accommodating a chamber somewhere neir the church for his books . . . He supposed a roome might be built for this use out of the stones of the ruinous walls that are without the Church or of the Bishops ruined house, and desired that the room be built of convenient largeness, and good lights, and handsomely furnished with presses and shelves and some desks for reading at them, and chairs and stooles to sitt on.



figure 12

The dean's manse,
now the Cathedral
Museum

The practicalities of supervising the building works were the remit of Viscount Strathallan, the first Viscount Strathallan and Lord Drummond of Cromlix, whose town house stood directly across the street.¹¹³

This area of the town, being close to the market place, would have been the most heavily developed. It is known that in later centuries the thoroughfare was considerably narrower than it is at present, and that houses were set well into the street, in front of the houses on the present building line, on the west side. This may have been a feature in the seventeenth century also. What is clear is that the top of the High Street was lined with properties looking down the street. One of these buildings was the tolbooth, after 1650 situated to the east of the cathedral gate. This may also have been the site of the earlier tolbooth; but it does seem that in 1650 a new tolbooth was constructed and, for it too, the Bishop's ruined palace proved a useful quarry.¹¹⁴ The tolbooth functioned as the town gaol, as well as being the collection point for market tolls and the administrative centre of the town. The jugs—iron rings which restrained a culprit—were kept here; alternative punishment might be branding or scourging through the town.¹¹⁵ It is clear from the kirk session records that much local discipline fell within the remit of the session, which imposed punishments of wearing sackcloth, being placed in the branks—an iron headpiece with an iron bit that went in the mouth—or whipping.¹¹⁶ The market cross stood nearby, in front of the cathedral gate. Congestion in what was such a confined area must have been such that, on market and fair days, space was at a premium. The cathedral grounds, usefully contained within walling and buildings, proved an ideal enclosure for the cattle for sale.

A photograph of an early nineteenth-century partial reproduction of a *c* 1690 map **figure 13**¹¹⁷ indicates clearly that the east side of the cathedral precincts was also built up. A row of houses stood between Kirk Street and the cathedral policies and may have extended into the present churchyard. A stile, called Riccarton's Stile and rebuilt in 1814, was the demarcation line between the town and the cathedral. This still stands and is probably on the line of the rear of the dwellings on the west side of Kirk Street, although the exact limits of kirkyard and buildings are as yet uncertain.¹¹⁸ The impression gained today is, yet again, of wider thoroughfares than in centuries past.

The close links of church and education continued in the post-Reformation years. It has been argued that the parish school was situated in either the apartment above the

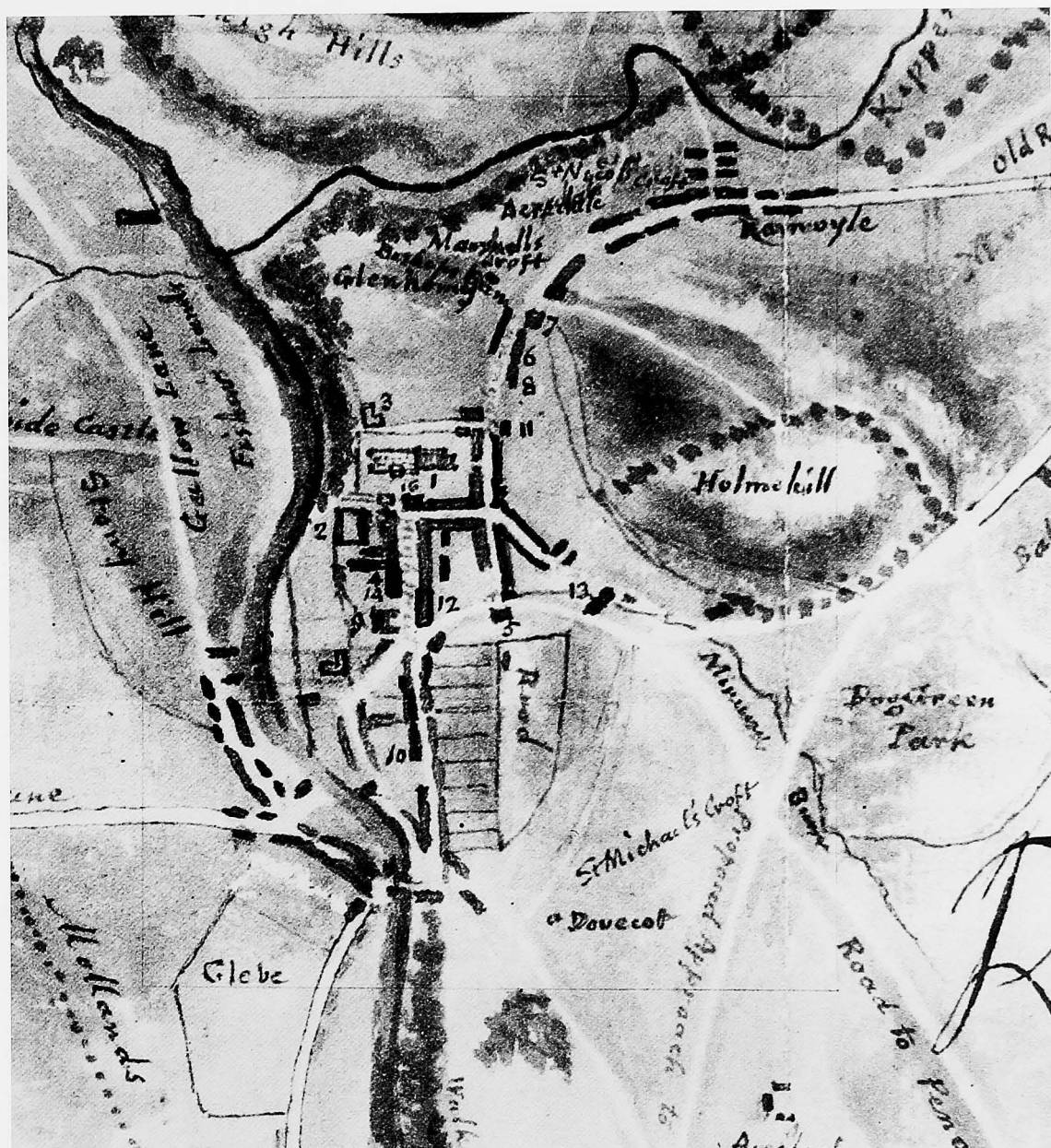


figure 13

Nineteenth-century
copy of a
seventeenth-century
map

chapter house or in the chapel itself.¹¹⁹ This physical closeness probably accentuated the considerable influence which the kirk session had over the routine running of the school. The copy of the c 1690 map **figure 13**, refers to the 'school house' in its key, but the relevant number, 15, is not immediately apparent on the map. This may perhaps be explained by the fact that some parts of the original have been marked over in an attempt to achieve greater clarification, while others which were not marked over are now scarcely visible. The number 15 is now, perhaps, too faint to be seen clearly, unless it is on the building line on the north-east corner of the cathedral wall. The key does suggest that the school was transferred to a separate building, possibly on the north-east side of the cathedral precincts **figure 14**. The schoolmaster often functioned as session clerk, reader and precentor, which encouraged still further the ties of church and school. The session also considered its remit to extend to any non-parochial teachers. In 1656, for example, one John Brown, a non-resident in Dunblane, but often a teacher on a casual basis, requested a 'testimoniall' or certificate of licence to teach. After the minister asked all the elders 'if thai had anything to say against his honest carriage and specialle if thai had seen him drunk at any time, they all being posit, declarit they know nothing against his carriage

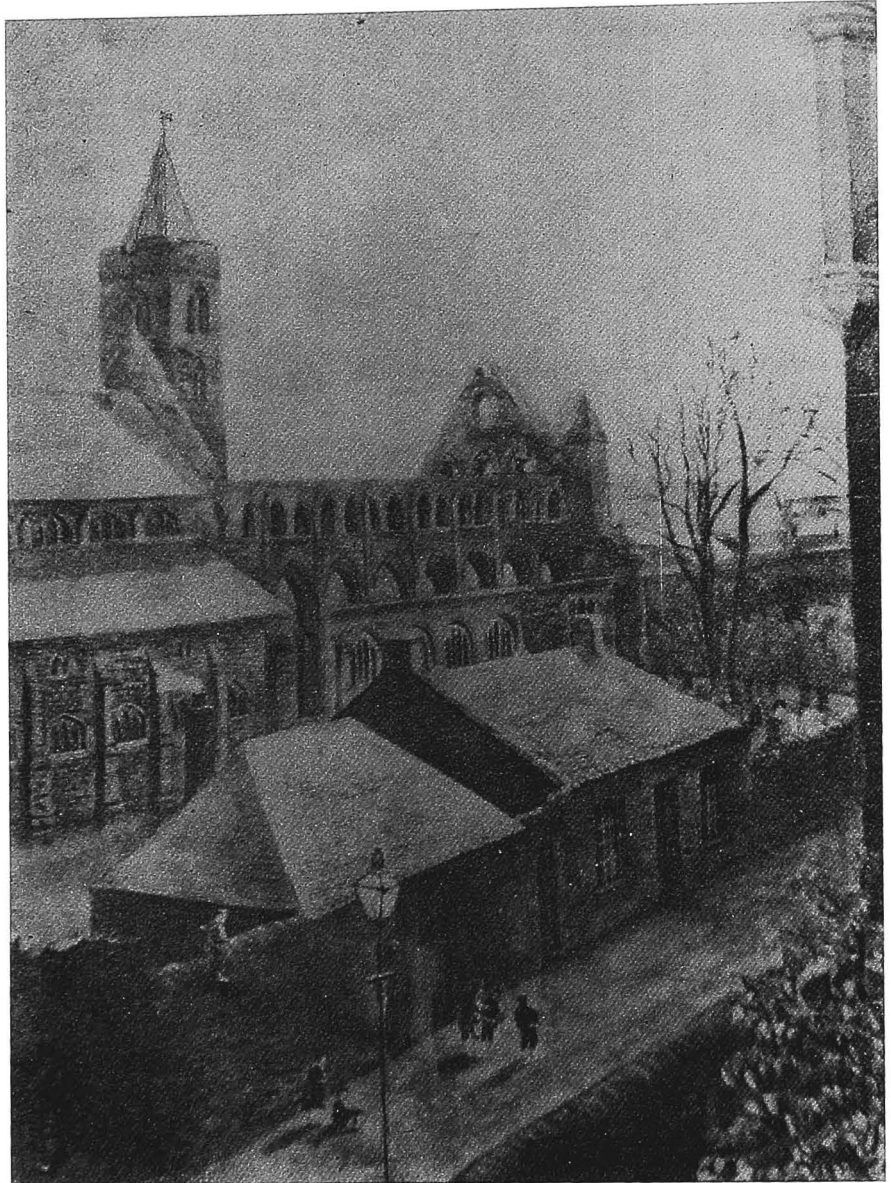


figure 14
Site of
the parish school

and could not positivieie say thai saw him drunk', he was granted a licence.¹²⁰ The support of the session for poor pupils during this century is striking. Not only were parents encouraged to send their children to school; but the session was prepared to make financial assistance available to those who could not pay the fees or purchase the necessary books.¹²¹

There is no evidence as to whether the suburbs of Ramoyle and Bridgend were developing greatly during this time, other than the copy of the late seventeenth-century plan already noted **figure 13**. Ramoyle can be seen gradually extending along the main thoroughfare, but the gap sites indicate that there was no pressure for space in this area. Bridgend, although not as elongated a suburb, shows intensive building near to the bridge, with settlement stretching out, but there are gap sites here also. It is interesting to note on this map a pathway called Gallow Lane. One local tradition is that the gallows stood in the region of the present Keir Street. The seventeenth-century evidence suggests, however, that they may have been further to the east.

This same copy of the plan is very telling about the state of Dunblane proper in the second half of the seventeenth century. There appear to be gap sites in Millrow and even in the High Street. Although the intensity of building is clustered around the market

place and cathedral, it is highly significant that there is virtually no repletion, that is, building in the backlands, which would have been expected in a burgh if it had an important market. This lack of pressure for space immediately suggests that Dunblane did not have a large population.

This is largely confirmed by the returns made for Dunblane on an assessment for the Hearth Tax on 26 February 1694.¹²² Only sixty-six properties are listed as having hearths. Probably this did not include Ramoyle and only one property from Bridgend appears in this list. It would seem that Dunblane proper had only sixty-five properties with hearths. Unusually, however, there are recorded only two properties with one hearth and twenty-two with two hearths, the rest having more. Small accommodation was the norm in Scottish towns at the end of the seventeenth century, and the question must be raised as to whether in some cases the hearths of two adjoining properties are being added together. If so, this is unusual and it may be inadvisable to make conclusions about sizes of houses from these figures. The details of households, however, are carefully monitored and population figures can, very roughly, be estimated from this source. According to the evidence, the majority of the properties housed two families—forty-eight in all; this would account for 216 people if it was estimated that each householder supported 3.5 others. Seven premises may have housed one or two families, as these are listed with both a female and a male name and it is unclear whether they are husband and wife or two separate households, with the head of one a widow. In these properties, on the same assumptions as to size of households, there were perhaps between thirty-one and sixty-three occupants. Ten properties housed single households, suggesting forty-five occupants. Immediate families might account for a population of somewhere between 292 and 324. Most of these families, particularly those living in shared premises, would not have had live-in servants. There were, however, certain prestigious dwellings in Dunblane, and these might be expected to have supplemented the numbers of indwellers with servants: the Viscount of Strathallan, with thirteen hearths; Mr Gasper Kelly, dean of Dunblane, with eight hearths; Alexander Drummond of Balhadie, with seven hearths; and Mr Robert Douglas, 'bishop of Dunblane', with six hearths. All of these probably had manservants or maids living in. To be added to the total are the poor: ninety-one are listed, but no distinction is made in the record between the town and the landward poor. The tendency for the poor to drift to towns may have marginally increased the overall population of Dunblane. Even so, on this evidence, its population could not have been more than between 400 and 600.

Dunblane is described in seventeenth-century documentation as either a 'town' or a 'city'.¹²³ It continued to have bailies which suggests that, to some extent, it still functioned constitutionally as a burgh.¹²⁴ A 1656 account of the revenues and excise income of burghs in Scotland, however, does not mention Dunblane;¹²⁵ and, more significantly, when a register of all burghs in the realm was compiled in 1692 Dunblane was not included.¹²⁶

It is clear that the town continued to hold markets and fairs, which attracted the surrounding populace sufficiently for complaints to be made by Stirling at the beginning of the seventeenth century that it was being harmed financially.¹²⁷ It is also clear from Edinburgh's records that Dunblane's fair continued to attract merchants and packmen from further afield. In 1647, it was proclaimed throughout Edinburgh that no inhabitant was to attend the fair at Dunblane because 'the plague of pestilence is informed to be raging at the pleasour of God in thes quarteres'.¹²⁸ In 1665, Stirling was still aggrieved at the trading practices of Dunblane. Unfree men, with officially no right to deal in merchandise since they were not members of a guild, were encroaching on the prerogative of the merchants of Stirling. It was decided that a complaint should be put to the provost of Perth, in order that he might prevent such malpractice in Dunblane and Doune.¹²⁹ This seems to have met with little success as, four years later, there was a complaint against the magistrates of Perth that they were permitting freemen of Perth to reside in Dunblane and Doune, and still tolerating unfree men in various parts of Perthshire to trade, to the detriment of the Stirling guild merchants.¹³⁰ A month later, this complaint was supported by the Convention of Royal Burghs.¹³¹ In that same year of 1669, however, Dunblane was granted a fourth annual fair, to be held on 1 March, for the benefit of the surrounding

region, since it was at some distance from the royal burghs of Perthshire. It was also confirmed that it should continue to hold its weekly market, now on a Thursday, for the sale of 'horses, cattle, sheep, fish, flesh, meal, malt and all sorts of grains, merchant commodities and other things used and wont'. Lieutenant General William Drummond, first Viscount Strathallan and Lord Drummond of Cromlix, was to continue to have full power to collect the tolls and customs at the fairs and markets.¹³² This did not always meet with the approval of others. In 1697, the Convention of Royal Burghs deemed that the tolls raised by Viscount Strathallan at his fair at Dunblane were to the detriment of nearby burghs.¹³³ Local trades and crafts would find the weekly market an outlet for their products and an opportunity to gain supplies from the agricultural hinterland. Weavers, bakers, carpenters, slaters, vintners, writers and masons feature in the documentary sources,¹³⁴ but seventeenth-century tomb-stones also indicate that there were shoemakers and farmers in the town.¹³⁵

the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries

Dunblane was to continue to function as a small market town, although it suffered to some extent with the abolition of episcopacy in 1689. No longer the seat of a bishopric, there was no further call for cathedral functions and officials, which had in some measure encouraged local landowners to establish their town houses in the burgh. In future, the cathedral would have the status merely of a parish church; and to support the parish minister, a glebe of approximately four acres was set aside in 1697, to the west of the main road from Dunblane leading south by Bridgend.¹³⁶ The economy of the town would henceforth be underpinned by the four annual fairs and the weekly market, and also by its trades.

There is evidence of a number of trade guilds in the town by the eighteenth century. The hammermen, weavers, skinnners, cordiners and masons were all incorporated, with deacons and treasurers as officers of their guilds,¹³⁷ as were the tailors.¹³⁸ It is known that the incorporation of skinnners had property, as in 1742 they sold their 'new' house and a yard in the Millrow to the kirk session for 650 merks.¹³⁹ There were also maltmen, brewers, baxters, wrights, lorimers and merchants in the town.¹⁴⁰ Vintners, wigmakers, booksellers, joiners, beltmakers and flax-dressers swelled their numbers. There was as well, according to one visitor to the town in 1760, a small factory producing linen, thread and shoes which were then exported to Glasgow.¹⁴¹ Dunblane also had at least one carrier and there were weavers in Bridgend.¹⁴² The professions were represented by a sheriff substitute, a surgeon, schoolmasters, writers and a commissary clerk.¹⁴³ One of the most renowned schoolmasters of the eighteenth century was William Coldstream, appointed in 1743. Many of the sons of the local nobility came to him for an education, lodging in his home in Dunblane.¹⁴⁴ Another who was to have held a post in Dunblane was Robert Burns. He visited the town in 1787, staying at the Stirling Arms Hotel. He was later appointed excise man for Dunblane, but died before being transferred to the town.¹⁴⁵

Dunblane parish had a resident surgeon and four writers to the signet by the 1790s,¹⁴⁶ but the impression of the burgh itself is of an unpretentious country town, although the list of borrowers from the Leighton library, and their chosen reading, would suggest that the townspeople were not illiterate and uneducated.¹⁴⁷ It is clear that the session's policy of assistance to the poor, both in terms of financial assistance and purchase of reading material, especially bibles, continued.¹⁴⁸ Indeed, it was thought that Dunblane would be a suitable place for a school to teach children from the Highlands in 1716; but, in the event, the presbytery chose Callendar as the location.¹⁴⁹ By 1792, there were three schools in addition to the parish school.¹⁵⁰

John, master of Sinclair, arriving with the Jacobite army in October 1715, was to complain that 'there was but one street in that country village, which was so narrow that two horses were all that could stand or march in a front'. According to the schoolmaster, Mr McGouan, the town had, around 1724, 'a great many houses belonging to gentlemen and others'. In all, McGouan reckoned there were 330 houses.¹⁵¹ Pococke wrote in 1760

that Dunblane was 'although a poor town as to buildings . . . very pleasantly situated on the river Allan, consisting chiefly of one street built parallel to the river'.¹⁵² This pleasant aspect was also commented on by another visitor in 1799, who then estimated that there were about 2,000 inhabitants.¹⁵³ The parish itself, which measured 9 miles by 4, was reckoned to have 2,725 inhabitants in 1755;¹⁵⁴ and by 1791, 2,750.¹⁵⁵

There is little evidence of a changing townscape in the eighteenth century or the first part of the nineteenth. Although some impressive houses, such as that of Viscount Strathallan remained, many of the homes of the indwellers were poor. They were described in the eighteenth century as being very thick-walled, but tapering to the roof, often only 6 ft (1.8 m) high, with roofs made of tree trunks overlain with divots for thatching.¹⁵⁶ The swelling numbers of poor in the parish¹⁵⁷ added to the impression of poverty. One feature of the town deplored by the local minister in 1792 was the number of ale houses. He felt that twenty-nine in the town and twelve in the rest of the parish was unduly profligate for a parish population of 2,750.¹⁵⁸ The bishop's garden, or orchard, was now called the bishop's yard;¹⁵⁹ it had been the garden of the minister until the eighteenth century, but it was later used by the townspeople as a bleaching green. The Sheiling Hill, which stood between the green and the mill, was the spot where grain was flailed and subsequently heated to produce malt for the local breweries. Further downstream, Hugh Pearson of Kippenross planted the Beech Walk along the bank of the Allan in 1742.¹⁶⁰

The exterior of the cathedral had changed little in appearance. The precincts continued to function very much as in medieval times: as a site for markets and communal amusements. The school pupils were permitted to participate in a further pastime on cathedral property—once a year a cock-fighting competition was held in the 'vasterie', probably the east section of the chapter house.¹⁶¹ The choir was maintained as the parish church, requiring at times considerable upgrading. Alexander Whyte, mason and elder, was called in on a number of occasions between 1746 and 1766 to make emergency repairs to the east and west lofts and their seats.¹⁶² There were also lofts on the north wall. It was noted, moreover, that the steeple, the clock and bells were in urgent need of repair in 1747; and, two years later, that the windows on each side of the pulpit were affording insufficient light.¹⁶³ Whyte was responsible for repairs to all of these. The pulpit had by now been transferred to the south wall of the choir; and the entrance to the parish church was from this side, protected from 1747 by a porch, also built by Whyte.¹⁶⁴ There was also by now a doorway to the east loft, called Balhadie's Loft as well as the west Great Door.¹⁶⁵

Dunblane was to see much of the activity associated with the disputes between the crown and the exiled Stewarts. There is no explicit evidence that the townscape was changed by such events, but the passing of armies and the billeting of troops in their town could not but have affected the lives of the townspeople. In October 1715, the Jacobites were received with some warmth: the Master of Sinclair was invited to dine at Lord Drummond's house, Balhadie, and his troops were accommodated in the church and the tolbooth.¹⁶⁶ Local support for the Stewart cause was led by prominent families, such as the Stirlings of Keir and the lairds of Cromlix, Kippendavie and Balhadie.¹⁶⁷ The troops of both Jacobites, under the Earl of Mar, and the Hanoverian government, under the Duke of Argyll, were to pass through Dunblane immediately prior to the battle on 13 November at nearby Sheriffmuir.¹⁶⁸ Argyll and his troops were to move through Dunblane, crossing over the bridge, to camp south of the town on the night after the battle. His forces were back in Dunblane in the following January.¹⁶⁹

Support for the Stewart cause continued amongst the local landed families, although the enthusiasm of the townspeople, who suffered from billeting and pillage of their town, may have been more muted. It may be significant that no Dunblane rebels were listed after the '45 campaign, although thirteen were cited as coming from Doune.¹⁷⁰ According to tradition some of the Jacobite army, including Prince Charles Edward Stewart, lodged in Balhadie House on 11 September 1745.¹⁷¹ The kirk session records noted that 'the smallness of the collection now and afterwards . . . is owing to the uncertainty of public worship in regard that the Young Pretender came to this place on Thursday last with an



figure 15

Sinclair's Street,
with burgage plots

army of Highlanders and others . . . which created great disturbance in the country'.¹⁷² In the February of the following year, government troops under the Duke of Cumberland were welcomed into the town. Whether this revealed true support for the Hanoverians or merely diplomacy on the part of the town is unclear. Cumberland was accommodated overnight at Allanbank House, the home of Bailie Russell. An incident on his departure throws light on the contemporary topography of the town. While passing Strathallan's house, opposite the Leighton Library, boiling water or oil was aimed at Cumberland by a maidservant, reputedly of the household of Drummond of Balhadie. Her successful escape was effected by a back route, along the Minnie Burn. This burn ran from Kippenross Park, by Balhadie House and to the rear of Strathallan's Lodging, whence it crossed the main thoroughfare. It then passed down the side of Millrow. Although in parts culverted, there were various openings, for the convenience of the townspeople for drawing water. One opening was at the rear of Strathallan's house. At the top of Millrow it was also open, and at this point the Millrow was bridged.¹⁷³ Although now almost totally culverted, the burn may still be seen near to and at its junction with the Allan Water.

Dunblane entered the nineteenth century as a small, somewhat impoverished burgh. Many of its inhabitants continued to find occupation as weavers, in the burgh itself and in Ramoyle and Bridgend.¹⁷⁴ There were, by 1845, three manufactories in the parish, one of which was in the town itself, and a number of private looms. In 1818 there were some 700 handloom weavers in the town;¹⁷⁵ and in 1838 silk weaving was introduced.¹⁷⁶ It was felt, however, that 'at present there is a very great depression and want of employment'.¹⁷⁷ At the May fair in 1837, only seventeen cattle were put forward for sale, and these, it was said, were of inferior quality.¹⁷⁸ The town, however, was to enjoy a brief heyday as a spa. A well house was set up on Laihills in 1828, which for a while attracted a number of visitors. The Stirling Arms Hotel, then known as the Head Inn, attracted custom, but Ramoyle was a favoured resting place, being near to the spa.¹⁷⁹

The townscape was to see much change over the coming years. In 1827, for example, it was agreed that all passageways between the houses on the periphery of the churchyard and the churchyard itself should be closed.¹⁸⁰ Before long, these same houses would be demolished, leaving only the eastern gate, Riccarton's Stile, as a reminder of the enclosure of the churchyard by buildings. The encroaching properties at the head of The Cross would likewise be demolished in the course of the century. There were two Secession chapels in the town and the Episcopalians, prior to building their own church, rented rooms in the town.¹⁸¹ The old mansion belonging to Lord Strathallan was demolished and

replaced by a new gaol, which had eight cells and a house for the gaoler; its foundation stone was laid in 1842.¹⁸² A report in 1837 had indicated that the old tolbooth was without heating and window-glass; escapes from it were frequent.¹⁸³ Holmehill House (now demolished) was built around 1820, commanding a splendid view over Dunblane, and perhaps partially removing potential evidence of early Christian settlement. Burgage plots on Sinclair's Street were to disappear from the street plan, assimilated into the policies of Holmehill House **figure 15**. The town, however, was to retain its rural character. Haining Farm, on the site of the present car park, north of the cathedral, was remembered into this century by a Dunblane resident who milked the cows there every morning at four.¹⁸⁴ There were complaints that some houses were proving inhabitable, even into the nineteenth century, as a result of the practice of piling dung in the closes.¹⁸⁵ This somewhat confirms the view of a visitor in 1843, that Dunblane was 'miserable, irregular and dirty . . . the houses thrown together as if by accident or earthquake and dunghills profusely scattered on either side'.¹⁸⁶

Major restoration work on the cathedral in the 1870s was to transform it to much of its past structural beauty and the town also benefited from this care. The coming of the railway in the 1840s had already made Dunblane more accessible. Dunblane Hydropathic Establishment, opened in 1878, was perhaps the sign that Dunblane was moving into better times. Many of the old buildings, however, were to survive into the twentieth century. Regrettably, a number, such as Allanbank House, were not appreciated by certain sections of the local authorities; they were deliberately allowed to deteriorate and were subsequently demolished in the 1960s,¹⁸⁷ as was the nineteenth-century gaolhouse. The street pattern and many old buildings, particularly around the old cathedral core, however, are strong reminders of Dunblane's historic past.

notes

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| <p>1 C Wickham-Jones, <i>Scotland's First Settlers</i> (London, 1994), 69.</p> <p>2 <i>Ibid.</i>, 69.</p> <p>3 D B Morris, 'Mammalian remains found in peat moss at Dunblane', <i>TSNHAS</i>, xv (1892-3), 10-46.</p> <p>4 T Darvill, <i>Prehistoric Britain</i> (London, 1987), 63-4.</p> <p>5 R Feachem, <i>Guide to Prehistoric Scotland</i> (London, 1977), 35.</p> <p>6 A Ritchie, <i>Scotland BC</i> (Edinburgh, 1988), 29-30.</p> <p>7 Feachem, <i>Guide to Prehistoric Scotland</i>, 57.</p> <p>8 <i>Ibid.</i>, 75.</p> <p>9 Stevenson, <i>Exploring Scotland's Heritage</i>, 140.</p> <p>10 <i>Ibid.</i>, 140.</p> <p>11 <i>Ibid.</i>, 142.</p> <p>12 Darvill, <i>Prehistoric Britain</i>, 103.</p> <p>13 <i>Ibid.</i>, 133.</p> <p>14 L Keppie, <i>Scotland's Roman Remains</i> (Edinburgh, 1986), 16; for contrasting views on the Antonine occupation see G B Bailey, 'The provision of fort-annexes on the Antonine Wall', <i>PSAS</i>, cxxiv (1994), 299-314 and</p> | <p>N Hodgson, 'Were there two Antonine occupations of Scotland?', <i>Britannia</i>, xxvi (1995), 29-49.</p> <p>15 Keppie, <i>Scotland's Roman Remains</i>, 16.</p> <p>16 <i>Ibid.</i>, 18.</p> <p>17 A S Robertson, 'The Roman camp(s) on Hillside Farm, Dunblane, Perthshire', <i>Glasgow Archaeological Journal</i>, i (1969), 35-6.</p> <p>18 Anon, 'Archaeological Assessment at Highfields, Dunblane' (Scottish Urban Archaeological Trust, unpublished site report, 1995).</p> <p>19 G Maxwell, 'Agricola's campaigns: the evidence of the temporary camps', <i>Scottish Archaeological Forum</i>, xii (1981), 25-54.</p> <p>20 G Maxwell, <i>The Romans in Scotland</i> (Edinburgh, 1989), 54-5.</p> <p>21 <i>Ibid.</i>, 55.</p> <p>22 <i>Ibid.</i>, 73.</p> <p>23 Stevenson, <i>Exploring Scotland's Heritage</i>, 129.</p> <p>24 R W Fraser, <i>The Kirk and the Manse</i> (Edinburgh, 1857), 184.</p> <p>25 A Barty, <i>The History of Dunblane</i> (Stirling, 1944), 20.</p> |
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- 26 C A Raleigh Radford, 'The medieval cathedrals of Dunblane', *JSFDC*, xi, pt iv (1973), 106.)
- 27 Raleigh Radford, 'Medieval cathedrals', 103–15.
- 28 J H Cockburn, 'Church life in the time of St Blane', *JSFDC*, v, pt iii (1936), 13; Raleigh Radford, 'Medieval cathedrals', 104.
- 29 A O Anderson (ed), *Early Sources of Scottish History, 500–1286* (Edinburgh, 1922), 288.
- 30 Raleigh Radford, 'Medieval cathedrals', 104.
- 31 Anderson, *Early Sources*, 403.
- 32 J C Lusk & J F Miller, *Dunblane Cathedral* (SFDC, 2nd ed, 1993), 5.
- 33 Anderson, *Early Sources*, 700. Cf A D S MacDonald & L R Laing, 'Early ecclesiastical sites in Scotland: a field survey, part ii', *PSAS*, cii (1969–70), 132.
- 34 I B Cowan & D E Easson, *Medieval Religious Houses: Scotland* (London, 1976), 204.
- 35 D E R Watt (ed), *Fasti Ecclesiae Medii Aevi ad Annum 1638* (SRS, 1969), 75.
- 36 *Ibid.*, 88.
- 37 Cowan & Easson, 204.
- 38 Raleigh Radford, 'Medieval cathedrals', 108.
- 39 Lusk & Miller, *Dunblane Cathedral*, 19.
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- 41 Barty, 24.
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- 43 For fuller details of the struggle to gain the quarter teinds and the eventual settlement, see J H Cockburn, *The Medieval Bishops of Dunblane and their Church* (London, 1959), 46–56.
- 44 J G Dunbar, *The Historic Architecture of Scotland* (London, 1966), 152.
- 45 Quoted in McKean, *Stirling and the Trossachs*, 81.
- 46 R Fawcett, 'Dunblane Cathedral, evidence for a change in design of the nave', *PSAS*, cxii (1982), 577–8; R Fawcett, *Scottish Medieval Churches* (Edinburgh, 1985), 46–7.
- 47 Cockburn, *The Medieval Bishops of Dunblane*, 56–8.
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- 56 *TA*, i, 327.
- 57 *TA*, ii, 97.
- 58 *TA*, iv, 116.
- 59 Barty, 50.
- 60 *TA*, ii, 36.
- 61 *TA*, iii, 151.
- 62 *TA*, iii, 197.
- 63 *TA*, v, 427.
- 64 Barty, 50.
- 65 *TA*, iv, 446, 515.
- 66 *RPC*, ix, 182–3.
- 67 *RMS*, iii, no 1257.
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- 69 Barty, 39.
- 70 Dunbar, *Historic Architecture*, 152.
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- 73 Barty, 71, 70.
- 74 *RMS*, v, no 1288.
- 75 McKean, *Stirling and The Trossachs*, 84.
- 76 W Fraser, *The Red Book of Menteith* (Edinburgh, 1880), i, 128–9.
- 77 D McRoberts, 'Dunblane Cathedral', 37–52.
- 78 *RPC*, xii, 481.
- 79 Cowan & Easson, 196.

- 80 Cockburn, *Medieval Bishops*, 182–3.
- 81 D Malcolm, *A Genealogical Memoir of the Most Noble and Ancient House of Drummond* (Edinburgh, 1808), 57.
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- 83 Barty, 67.
- 84 W Fraser, *The Stirlings of Keir and Their Family Papers* (Edinburgh, 1858), 244.
- 85 Barty, 67.
- 86 *Ibid*, 67, 72, 40.
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- 90 *TA*, xi, 354; xii, 71.
- 91 *RMS*, iv, no 2056; *TA*, xiii, 20; *RPC*, iii, 491.
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- 102 Kirk, *Visitation*, 39.
- 103 *Ibid*, 37.
- 104 *RPC*, viii, 80–23; x, 329.
- 105 P Hume Brown (ed), *Early Travellers in Scotland* (Edinburgh, 1891), 194–5.
- 106 *Ibid*, 287.
- 107 Documentary sources consulted include SRO CH5/1/2 Act Book of the Commissariat of Dunblane, 1552–5; SRO, CC6/15/2 Miscellaneous Legal Documents, including Stewart of Ardvorlich, 1678–1718; SCAS CH2/101/1, Dunblane Kirk Session Records, 1652–88; SCAS CH2/101/2, Dunblane Kirk Session Records, 1692–1714; SCAS CH2/123/1 Dunblane Presbytery Records, 1616–28; SCAS CH2/123/2 Dunblane Presbytery Records, 1648–52; SCAS CH2/101/39, Schoolmaster's Pocketbook, 1690s/1700; SRO CC6/1/1 Commissary Act Book, 1631–7; SRO CC6/1/2 Commissary Act Book, 1663–8; SRO CC6/1/3 Commissary Act Book, 1668–73; SRO NP1/23 Protocol Book of Andrew Drummond, 1561–83; SRO NP1/23A Protocol Book of James Drummond, 1561–70; SRO NP1/9 Protocol Book of Robert Rollock, 1541–52; SRO NP1/70 Protocol Book of John Buchanan, 1616–25; SRO NP1/16 Protocol Book of Duncan Gray, 1554–72.
- 108 DCM, Box 5, 5/2a 23/10/1633.
- 109 DCM, Box 3, 3/3/vi/i, Notes on Allanbank and other properties in Millrow.
- 110 DCM, Box 5, 5/2b 3/10/1671; 5/2b 12/5/1673.
- 111 McKean, *Stirling and The Trossachs*, 85.
- 112 *OSA*, xii, 306–8.
- 113 J M Allan, 'The work was much forslowed': building and restoring the Leighton Library', *JSFDC*, xvi, pt i, 13.
- 114 Barty, 83.
- 115 *Ibid*, 148.
- 116 *Ibid*, 98.
- 117 It was referred to as Sheriff Hugh Barclay's map in 1936 by SFDC (I am indebted to Mr A Wilson for this information). There are various photograph copies in the archives of DCM; one hangs in the museum itself. J H Cockburn, in *JSFDC*, ii, pt iii, expresses some reservations as to its detailed accuracy.
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- 119 H Hutchison, 'Church influence on schooling in Dunblane, 1650–1700', *JSFDC*, xi (1970–3), *passim*.
- 120 SCAS, CH2/101/1, Dunblane Kirk Session Records, 1652–88, 16 Oct 1656.

- 121 SCAS, CH2/101/2, Dunblane Kirk Session Records, 1692–1714, 6 May 1694; 4 March 1694; 26 Sept 1697, for example. For more detailed discussion of the church's role in education, see Hutchison, 'Church influence on schooling in Dunblane'.
- 122 SRO E 69/19/1, Hearth Tax Returns, Presbyteries of Dunblane and Auchterarder and Parishes of Culross and Tulliallan, fos 28r, 28v, 29v, 30r.
- 123 *APS*, iv, 477; iv, 582; iv, 610; vii, 77; vii, 532, for example.
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- 129 R Renwick (ed), *Extracts from the Records of the Royal Burgh of Stirling, AD 1519–1666* (Glasgow, 1887), 248.
- 130 W B Cook & D B Morris (edd), *The Stirling Guildry Book: Extracts from the Records of the Merchant Guild of Stirling* (Stirling, 1916), 72.
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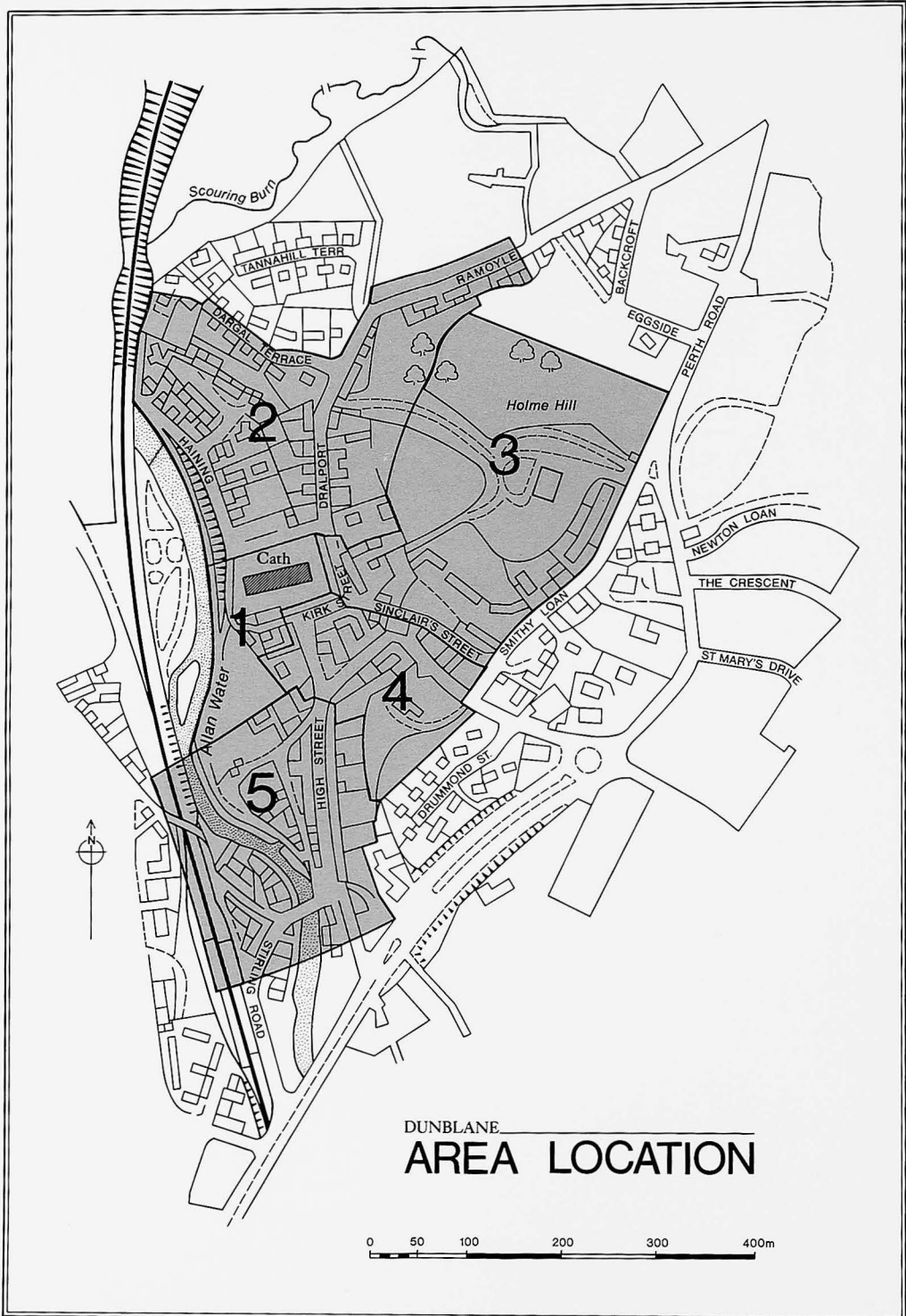


figure 16

Area location map
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introduction

The medieval core of the burgh has been divided into five areas **figure 16**: two central areas (Areas 1 & 4), one area to the north and one to the east of the cathedral (Areas 2 & 3), and one in the south of the town (Area 5).

The Allan Water represents an easily recognisable limit to the development of the town and forms the western boundary of Areas 1 and 2. The grounds of Holmehill House and St Blane's House mark the eastern boundary of the survey area. In the north, Dargai Terrace provides an arbitrary limit, whilst in the south-west, the railway line on the western bank of the Allan Water has been taken as the boundary. The junction of Beech Road and Perth Road marks the extreme south end of the study area.

area 1

Allan Water/The Haining (south side)/Kirkyard/Cathedral Cottage gardens/Manse (west side)/Allanbank House (north side) **figure 17**

description

This small area takes in the cathedral, the remains of the bishop's palace and the grassy triangle on the eastern bank of the Allan Water. The cathedral stands on a plateau overlooking the town, with hills to the north and east, and is surrounded by the kirkyard. Immediately outside the western gateway into the kirkyard, the ground slopes steeply down to the Allan Water. Adjacent to the kirkyard and enclosed by a high stone wall is the Cathedral Hall. A narrow winding vennel connects Cathedral Square with the path alongside the Allan Water. To the south of the path are the gardens of Cathedral Cottage, Cross Cottage, St Clement's House and the ruins of the bishop's palace **figure 7**. From here, the ground slopes steeply westwards down to a grassy triangle formed in a bend in the Allan Water **figure 11**.

historical background

A long tradition maintains that the name 'Dunblane' signifies 'Blane's fort'. This, it is said, refers to a Celtic saint, Blane, born on the island of Bute of an Irish family, who in the early seventh century, while on his third missionary tour of Scotland, founded a Culdee community here. The element 'dun' signifies a fortified spot or stronghold; and this, reputedly, was located on Holmehill, to the east of Dunblane town centre (*see area 3*). It has been suggested that it was traditional to set the related church at a little distance from

archaeological potential and future development

There are currently no specific proposals for development in the Local Plan (1994) which will affect this area. An archaeological assessment, followed by more exploratory work, has recently been carried out in advance of an extension to the Cathedral Hall. Two vaults, part of the north range of the bishop's palace, were uncovered and the remains have now been preserved *in situ* beneath the new building (*see pp 45–7*).

This is the most archaeologically sensitive area within historic Dunblane. The historic standing buildings, together with the results of recent excavations and stray finds recovered from here over the years, clearly demonstrate the range and quality of archaeology present.

The cathedral is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and, therefore, any proposed development here requires the consent of the Secretary of State for Scotland (for further guidance regarding Scheduled Monument Consent *see p 1*). Major development here is unlikely, but environmental improvements and the insertion of new services, both within the historic building and in the kirkyard area, will almost certainly disturb archaeology.

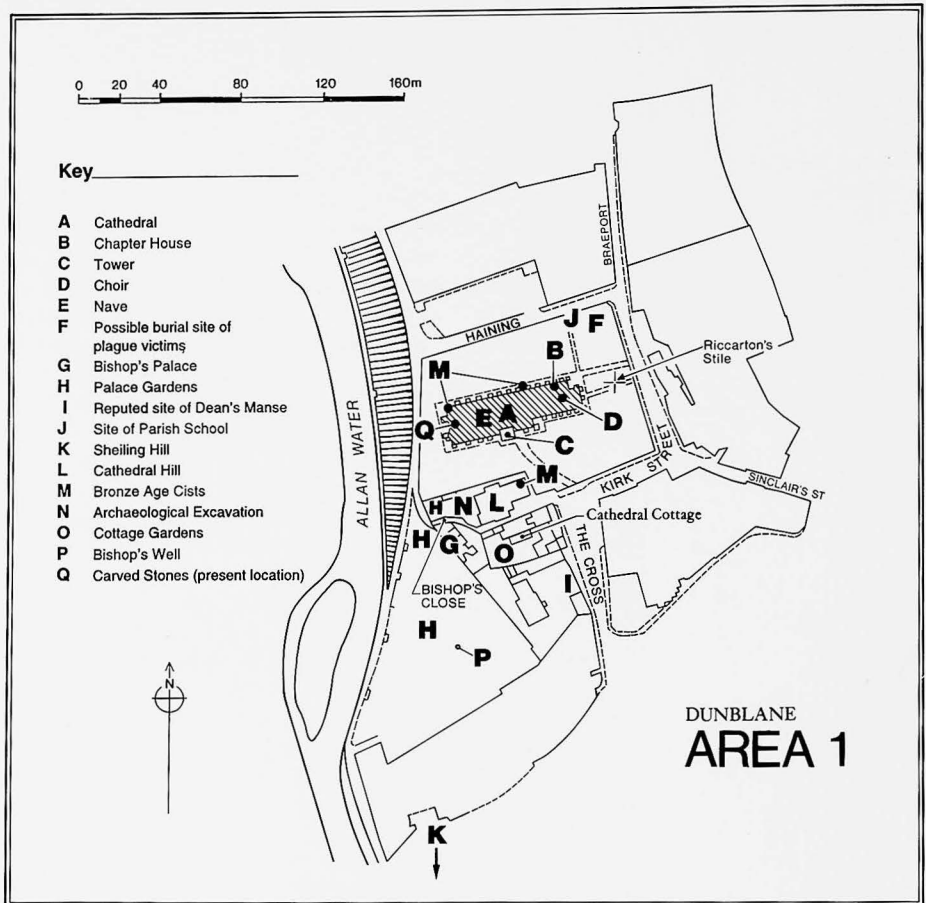


figure 17

Area 1

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the settlement; the favoured site for the church is the lower-lying land to the west of Holmehill, where the present cathedral now stands **A**.

Two pieces of evidence seem to support the notion of an early Christian establishment here. Two sculptured stones, **figure 5**, discovered in 1873 beneath the floor of the chapter

archaeology

Over the last two centuries, improvements inside the cathedral have brought to light a number of important discoveries. In 1873 the floor-levels of the choir and chapter house were reduced and in 1889–93 a sub-floor chamber was excavated for a new central heating system in the Lady Chapel. At a depth of 0.61 m, two sculptured stones were found **figure 5**, dateable to the ninth, tenth or eleventh centuries. A stone coffin containing two disturbed skeletons was also found during groundworks in the choir. Any further groundworks may expose earlier phases of the cathedral and, perhaps, remains of an earlier church. Burials almost certainly survive, preserved beneath the present floor surface. Camden's *Britannia*, first published in 1586, described the nave as being 'full of modern gravestones'; moreover Bronze Age cists **M** have been recovered from the north and north-west ends of the cathedral and below the cathedral hall.

Little is known as to what might lie beneath the kirkyard. There has already been some disturbance here, caused by the insertion of drainage, gas, water and electricity pipes; and centuries of use as a graveyard will have had a considerable effect on the earliest archaeological levels. A sizeable workforce would have been needed to build the church. It remains unclear where the earliest settlement in Dunblane was, but it is quite possible that timber buildings to accommodate the workers were ranged around the early church, of which traces might survive within the churchyard.

A roof-raggle on the east face of the tower is probably an indicator of an external porch over the south doorway of the cathedral. Another raggle is visible on the west side of the tower and may represent a structure extending westwards. Remnants of both

house **B**, now standing in the north-west corner of the cathedral, may date to the ninth, tenth or early eleventh centuries, suggesting religious associations for this site at the time. There are, also, reputed associations of Culdees with the later bishopric of Dunblane: a late thirteenth-century list of religious houses and their orders includes Dunblane and has Celi-de listed as the order. A community of Culdees was also known to have been sited at Muthill, which had close associations with the diocese. Whether this authenticates Culdees at Dunblane itself, however, is uncertain.

During the reign of David I (1124–53) there was a major reorganisation of the church and its dioceses. It was at this point that a bishopric of Dunblane was either reconstituted or founded, and there is firm evidence of its existence by 1155. Whether this bishopric was based initially on Dunblane or on Muthill is not clear, but it is certain that there was some form of ecclesiastical establishment in Dunblane in the twelfth century. A stone church seems to have been built, although only small traces of it now remain. Close by, and almost certainly free-standing, was a stone tower which may have functioned as both a belfry and as a defensive structure **C**. It still stands four storeys high, with an original doorway, elevated well above ground level, still in use. Additions to the tower date from c 1500.

During the episcopate of Bishop Clement (1233–58), the status of Dunblane was put on a surer footing. Six years of wrangling by Bishop Clement for the rights of his diocese and the quarter teinds, to which Dunblane was entitled, brought moderate, but adequate, success. He was now in a position to build a worthy cathedral. The old tower was retained; but it seems that the church building was taken down. It was replaced with a cathedral that John Ruskin was to describe 600 years later, in 1853: ‘He was no common man who designed that Cathedral of Dunblane. I know not anything so perfect in its simplicity, and so beautiful, as far as it reaches, in all the Gothic with which I am acquainted.’ The orientation of the cathedral is not true east/west, as is the norm, and the tower, somewhat misaligned with the new building, partially blocks the south aisle. This can probably be explained by the nature of the ground. The land to the north-east of the cathedral is boggy and would have been unsuitable for the laying of foundations, which is perhaps why Bishop Clement opted to slew the ground plan away from the normal orientation. First to be constructed was the sacristy and chapter house, which could be used for worship while the rest of the cathedral was under construction. Above it, accessed by a narrow wheel staircase, was a similar-sized room, which may have functioned as a treasury and chapel, as

history

archaeology

structures may survive below ground. There is a local tradition that the north-east corner of the kirkyard was set aside for plague victims. If the opportunity arose, archaeological investigation might be able to confirm this.

South-west of the cathedral lie the ruins of the bishop’s palace **figure 7** & **G** and recent excavations **N** have provided a valuable insight into this hitherto little understood building. It survives as a block of four vaulted chambers, with the lower part of a circular stair-tower. The floors of the chambers lie up to 1.1 m below the present ground level. Slezer’s late seventeenth-century view of the town **figure 26** shows the palace as derelict and roofless, but enough detail exists to suggest a substantial building, with great tall chimneys, large windows and circular towers. The site has never been archaeologically excavated, but rubbish clearance in the 1960s recovered some unstratified sixteenth-century pottery. Apparently derelict by the late sixteenth century, the ruins proved a convenient quarry for later building works in the town, notably the Leighton Library (see **area 4**).

The extent of the palace is still not clear but there are references to ruins extending as far as the library. On the north side, it had been levelled by the late nineteenth century. In 1903, while digging foundations for the Cathedral Hall, workmen uncovered a 90 ft (27.4 m) long vault, running parallel with the wall separating the kirkyard from the Cathedral Hall garden. The roof had been broken in many places and the vault itself had been backfilled with rubble. The arched roof of a second vault has also been uncovered on the kirkyard side of the garden wall.

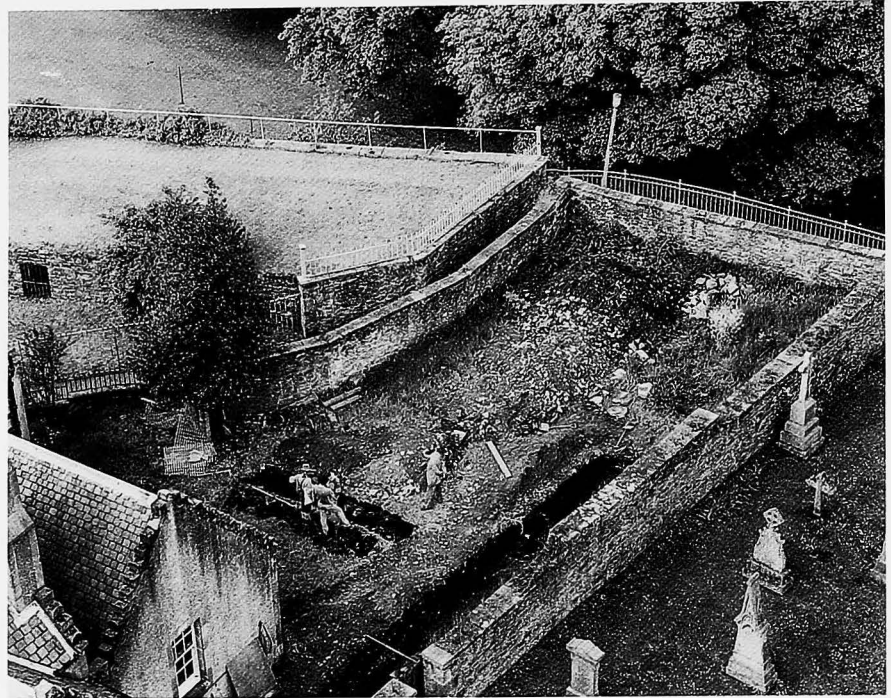


figure 18
Site of excavation,
the bishop's palace

the remains of a piscina is still in evidence. The next stage was the building of the nave **figure 10.D**. Finally, the choir **E** was constructed. At the east end of the south aisle of the nave, in the chapel of St Nicholas, there is evidence of a modification of the design, the original intention being to vault the aisles. It is probable that the work was not fully completed by the death of Clement; but the design and final form were of his inspiration. Edward I considered it worth pillaging for lead in 1304, to assist the siege of Stirling Castle. Doubtless much of this lead would come from the cathedral itself, even though Edward specifically instructed that 'churches be not uncovered over the altars'.

Dunblane was a small and not a wealthy diocese; in the 1550s, for example, it raised an income of £640 per annum compared with the £3,400 per annum of Dunkeld, the other Perthshire diocese. It was able adequately to maintain and adapt the cathedral fabric to the changing liturgical and devotional life of the church until the Reformation, although a

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Recent trial excavations **N** & **figure 18**, in advance of a proposed extension to the Cathedral Hall, uncovered a further length of partially robbed-out vault and the remains of a cobbled courtyard surface. Probably the western end of the same vault found in the Cathedral Hall, it was similarly backfilled with rubble. The roof of the vault lay *c* 0.8 m below the present ground surface. Although the ground plan and full extent of the palace remains unclear, it has been suggested that the main palace block faced the cathedral, with the gable walls facing the Allan Water. The upstanding vaults **G** might have formed part of a southern annexe, or west range, connected to the main block, albeit at an unusual angle, by a circular stair tower. The archaeological implications for the palace are therefore considerable. It has been shown to extend under Bishop's Close into the garden of, and under, the Cathedral Hall. It may equally extend in all directions from the visible ruins, into the grounds of the modern manse and the gardens of adjacent houses, as well as into the kirkyard.

A further discussion of the archaeological implications and development of the cathedral and bishop's palace can be found in the **historic buildings** section (see pp 75–6).

The grassy triangle south-west of the bishop's palace **figure 11**, alongside the Allan Water, was originally the bishop's garden **H**. A well, referred to as the Bishop's Well **P**, was situated here, although no trace survives today. It was under cultivation by successive ministers from the late seventeenth century and was later used as a bleaching green in the eighteenth century. Although this part of the town has escaped development, it is unlikely

supplication to Rome in 1419 for assistance in this maintenance suggests somewhat straitened circumstances. The cathedral building was probably never without builders, joiners and masons embellishing both the exterior and the interior. The parapet of the choir was re-built and stalls, still to be seen at the east end, were added during the episcopacy of Bishop James Chisholm (1487–1545). At the same time the tower was heightened by two storeys. Both the nave, which some consider the most successful feature, and the choir would have been richly adorned with statues, stained glass, pictures and lavish trappings on the altars. The most important of these was the High Altar, close against the east wall, under the east window, with its altarpiece depicting the works of its patron, St Blane and possibly also St Lawrence. Dunblane had close associations, not only with St Blane, but also with St Lawrence, the Spanish arch-deacon of Rome, martyred in AD 258. The coat of arms of the burgh bore a representation of both saints and quite possibly their dual importance to the town was reflected in the altarpiece.

The cathedral was also the place of worship for the ordinary townsfolk. The nave of the cathedral was their parish church and the cathedral burial ground was possibly their burial ground. A local tradition that the north-east corner was the cemetery for plague victims has not, as yet, been verified archaeologically **F**. It was from the cathedral grammar school that certain local boys received their education. Although geared to the raising of choristers and clerics, this was the only school available in the town throughout the medieval period. The cathedral grounds also had a further use for the townspeople. Congestion must have been considerable in the market place (*see area 4*) on both market and fair days (*see pp 58–9*). The cathedral grounds, usefully contained within walling and buildings, proved an ideal enclosure for the cattle for sale.

To house the cathedral establishment a palace **figure 7** was required for the bishop and residences for the canons **figure 6**. The palace **G**, which stood south-south-west of the cathedral, was constructed of stone. It was the most imposing building in the town, after the cathedral. Later illustrations show it to have been a large, impressive structure with circular towers, large windows and tall chimneys **figure 26**. An associated lodge and stables stood near to The Cross. There is also a fairly well established tradition of a number of underground vaults and passages (possibly drains) connecting the palace with other buildings. Recent excavations carried out between 1994–7 in advance of an extension to the adjacent Cathedral Hall have suggested that the palace comprised north, south and west ranges (only a fragment of the west range survives above ground), each linked by a

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archaeology

that much evidence of former use will be preserved here.

previous archaeological work and chance finds

Cathedral Hall, NN 781 013 M

Bronze Age cist

In 1903 workmen digging a drainage trench opened a cist, 1.37 m below the contemporary ground surface. The cist was constructed from four rough slabs of local sandstone cut into boulder clay. The fill contained two teeth 'evidently human'. The burial was probably of Bronze Age date. Robertson (1903–4), 39.

Dunblane Cathedral, NN 7811 0138 M

Bronze Age cist

A cist was discovered in 1928 within a few feet of the north-west corner of the cathedral. It was slab-built, but lacked a cover slab and grave deposit. On the grounds of size and construction it was probably of Bronze Age date. Barty, 16.

circular stair-tower. The whole complex was grouped around a central cobbled courtyard (see pp 45–7). The bishop's palace had extensive gardens to the north and to the Allan Water on the west **H**, where the 'Bishop's well' was sited. King James IV was a frequent visitor to Dunblane and probably resided at the bishop's palace.

The canons had manses clustered near the cathedral. Most were situated in Kirk Street (see **area 3**) and Braeport (see **area 2**). The dean's manse **I**, however, reputedly stood to the south of the bishop's palace.

The Reformation had a profound effect on the built environment of Dunblane. Never a particularly wealthy diocese, the dissipation of the cathedral's assets to laymen in the sixteenth century undermined its financial well-being. Although there is evidence of repairs and improvements to the cathedral during the episcopate of James Chisholm, there seems to have been a level of deterioration during the bishopric of his half-brother, William Chisholm. It would appear that, even before the Reformation parliament of 1560, Bishop William Chisholm, senior, was disposing of diocesan assets to his illegitimate children and other relatives. This policy was to accelerate in the following decades.

There seems to have been little malicious damage to the cathedral fabric, other than the destruction of the trappings of Catholicism—images, adornments of the altars and the like. The cathedral certainly deteriorated in the mid to late sixteenth century, but this was attributable more to neglect than to wilful damage. Adequate maintenance of the prestigious ecclesiastical buildings proved impossible. The cathedral soon fell into disrepair. By 1586, it was reported that the kirkyard dykes were broken and that, since the nave was no longer watertight, repairs were needed imminently on the roof of the cathedral. A measure of the affection of the townspeople for their church was their offer to make the building watertight at their own expense, as long as the bishop maintained it thereafter, as had been the custom. In the event, this offer was not accepted and sometime

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Dunblane Cathedral, NN 781 013 M

Bronze Age cist

A stone cist was discovered in 1975 alongside the north wall of the cathedral. It lacked a cover and was constructed with ten irregularly-shaped sandstone slabs. Inside were the skeletal remains of one child and two adults. The size and construction of the cist suggests a prehistoric date. Gordon (1976), 34.

Lady Chapel, Dunblane Cathedral Q & figure

sculptured stones

Two sculptured stones were found during restoration work in 1872. One stone slab of fine-grained, red sandstone c 6 ft 2 in (1.88 m) in height, bears a Celtic cross carved in relief on one face, enclosed within a beaded edge to the stone and terminating in spirals at the upper end and serpents at the bottom. The second face depicts symbols and figures of animals and men. The design suggests that it dates from the tenth or eleventh centuries AD. It probably functioned as a flat cover for a sarcophagus or shrine. The second slab was 2 ft 9 (0.88 m) in length, ornamented on the edge only, and probably dates to the ninth or tenth centuries AD **figure 5**. It was probably used outside the church as a prayer station. Cockburn (1956), 77; Ralegh Radford (1973), 107.

Dunblane Cathedral

finger rings

Two finger rings were found during the nineteenth-century restoration. The fifteenth-century silver ring has a square bezel and a scalloped outline, projections at each angle and a beaded inner border with quatrefoils at the angles. The stone is missing. The

around the turn of the century the roof of the nave collapsed and was to remain thus until the late nineteenth century **figure 10**. Until these repairs were effected, the choir of the church functioned as the parish church.

The palace also declined. By 1579 it was referred to as ‘deserted’, although there was no mention of it being ruinous. In 1586, the minister, Mr Andrew Young, had his dwelling in a part of the palace yards, which suggests that the palace continued to be unused as a dwelling. It, too, collapsed over the ensuing decades, and became a quarry for the building of the seventeenth-century tolbooth and Leighton Library (*see area 4*).

As time went on, pressure for space in the market area (*see pp 58 & 60*) was intensified by encroachment of houses on the west side on The Cross and building also developed along the southern boundary of the cathedral grounds (*see area 4*). A photograph of a reproduction of a c 1690 map **figure 13** (*see p 26*) indicates that the east side of the cathedral precincts was also built up. A row of houses stood between Kirk Street and the cathedral policies. A stile, called Riccarton’s Stile, rebuilt in 1814, was the demarcation line between the town and the cathedral. This still stands and is probably on the line of the rear of the dwellings on the west side of Kirk Street. If, however, it was to the front of the properties, the foundations of the houses would now stand at the east end of the cathedral churchyard.

The close links of church and education continued in the post-Reformation years. It has been argued that the parish school was situated in either the apartment above the chapter house or in the chapel itself. Although the copy of the c 1690 map **figure 13** refers to the ‘school house’ in its key, the relevant number, 15, is apparently missing from the map. Certain sections of the original have been marked over in an attempt to achieve greater clarification, but some features have not and are now scarcely visible. It is possible that the number 15 is now too faint to be seen clearly, unless it may be noted on the

history

archaeology

bronze finger ring, with an elliptical bezel engraved with a Gothic ‘H’ and a palm leaf beneath a crown, has been dated to the sixteenth century. MacRitchie (1919–20), 14.

Allan Water

finger ring

A talismanic medieval silver finger ring was retrieved from the Allan Water sometime prior to 1876, and is now on display in the Friends of Dunblane Cathedral Museum.

Dunblane Cathedral

glass

A fragment of pale blue glass, possibly medieval in date, was discovered in the cathedral. Gibson Craig (1862–4), 63.

Bishop’s Palace, NN 781 013 G

pottery

Fragments of a large pottery vessel, dating to the sixteenth century, were excavated from the ruins of the palace and are now on display in the Friends of Dunblane Cathedral Museum.

Cathedral Hall, Dunblane, NN 781 013 N & figure 18

walls, vaults and floor surfaces In advance of an extension to the Cathedral Hall, an archaeological assessment was carried out to determine whether the adjacent standing ruins of the medieval bishop’s palace extended further north into the proposed development area. The four trenches excavated in 1994 in the garden to the west of the

building line on the north-east corner of the cathedral wall **figure 14**. The key does suggest that the school became housed in a separate building, possibly on the north-east side of the cathedral precincts **J**, where a number of buildings may be noted.

The cathedral suffered, to some extent, with the abolition of episcopacy in 1689. No longer the seat of a bishopric, there was no further call for cathedral functions and officials, which had in some measure encouraged the local landowners to establish their town houses in the burgh. In future, the cathedral would have the status merely of a parish church.

By the eighteenth century, the bishop's garden or orchard, to the west of the palace, was now called the bishop's yard **figure 11**; and its function had changed, being the garden of the minister until later in the century, from which time it was used by the townspeople as a bleaching green. The Sheiling Hill **K**, which stood between the green and the mill (*see area 5*), was the spot where grain was flailed and subsequently heated to produce malt for the local breweries.

The exterior of the cathedral changed little in appearance. The precincts continued to function very much as in medieval times: as a site for markets and communal amusements. The school pupils were allowed to participate in a further pastime on cathedral property—once a year a cock-fighting competition was held in the 'vasterie', probably the east section of the chapter house.

history The church property served another function in 1715, when Jacobite troops were accommodated in the church and the tolbooth. Prince Charles Edward Stewart's men

archaeology

hall revealed the demolished and backfilled remains of two separate vaults. Aligned east to west, the vaults are thought to form part of the north range of the bishop's palace. A cobbled surface was found to the south of the vaults.

Further archaeological work, carried out in 1995 to enable the foundations of the new building to be inserted without damaging the remains of the vaults which had been preserved *in situ*, provided more information on the ground plan of this north range. Historic Scotland also commissioned a measured survey of the standing ruins and a geophysical survey of part of the adjacent kirkyard. In 1997, a watching brief was carried out during the construction of the Cathedral Hall extension. This identified more of the courtyard, which was found to extend further south beneath the narrow close that runs between the Cathedral Hall and the standing ruins of the bishop's palace. Another possible vault fragment was also found to have been incorporated into the south wall of the kirkyard.

The results of all this work, together with documentary references to the discovery of vaults beneath the Cathedral Hall and in the kirkyard itself, has enabled a reconstruction

were back in the town on 11 September 1745. The kirk session records noted that ‘the smallness of the collection now and afterwards . . . is owing to the uncertainty of public worship in regard that the Young Pretender came to this place on Thursday last with an army of Highlanders and others . . . which created great disturbance in the country’.

The choir was maintained as the parish church, requiring at times considerable upgrading. Alexander Whyte, mason and elder, was called in on a number of occasions between 1746 and 1766 to make emergency repairs to the east and west lofts and their seats. There were also lofts on the north wall. It was also noted that the steeple, the clock and bells were in urgent need of repair in 1747; and, two years later, that the windows on each side of the pulpit were affording insufficient light. Whyte was responsible for repairs to all of these. The pulpit had by now been transferred to the south wall of the choir; and the entrance to the parish church was from this side, protected from 1747 by a porch also built by Whyte. There was also a doorway to the east loft, called Balhadie’s Loft.

The nineteenth century was to bring improvements to the lot of the cathedral. In 1827, for example, it was agreed that all communications between the houses on the periphery of the churchyard and the churchyard itself should be closed. Before long, these same houses would be demolished, leaving only the eastern gate, Riccarton’s Stile, as a reminder of the enclosure of the churchyard by buildings. Major restoration work on the cathedral in the 1870s was to transform it to much of its past structural beauty; and care for its fabric is still an on-going concern, in particular of the Society of the Friends of Dunblane Cathedral and Historic Scotland.

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to be made of the bishop’s palace. This is now thought to comprise three ranges (north, south and west), linked by two circular stair-towers, with the three ranges grouped around a central courtyard. *DES* (1994), 89; *DES* (1995), 14; Hall (forthcoming).

A small artefact assemblage was recovered during the assessment. The majority of the finds came from the demolition deposits recorded in all four trenches, and from the overlying garden soil contexts. Among those recovered from demolition deposits were fragments of bottle glass, including a neck fragment and part of a substantial, slightly kicked-up base bearing a scar which indicates the attachment of a pontil rod during its manufacture. Other finds included a small, copper alloy fitting, made by casting, and a crudely-shaped slate disc. The finds from the demolition deposits indicate an eighteenth- to early nineteenth-century date range. Garden soils overlying the demolition debris yielded a nineteenth- to early twentieth-century assemblage. An inscribed grave-stone, dated 1732, was also found to have been re-used as a paving slab in one of the garden paths. *DES* (1994), 8–9.

area 2

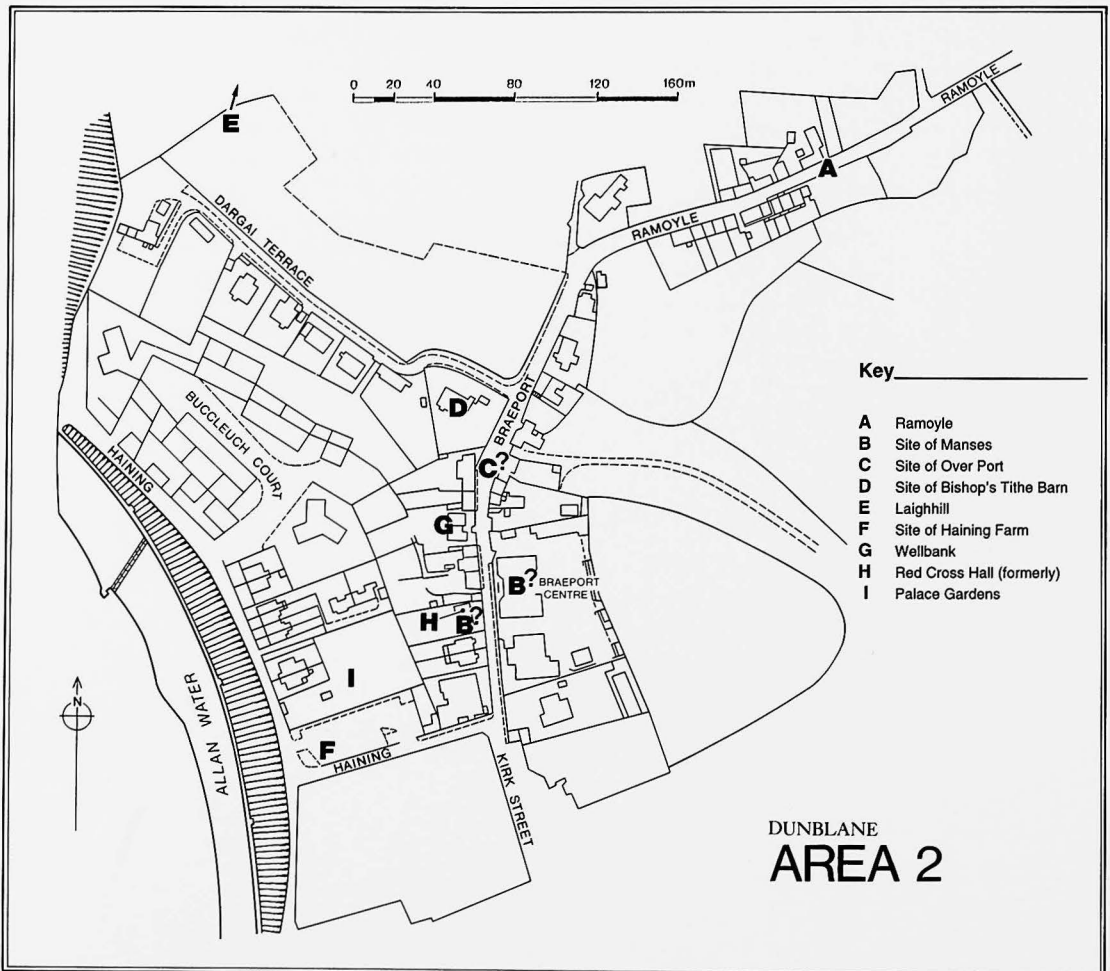
Allan Water/The Haining (south side)/Holmehill House grounds/Ramoyle/Dargai Terrace

figure 19

description

This area comprises residential housing and the suburb of Ramoyle **A**. North of the Haining is a large car park that accommodates the numerous visitors to the cathedral and town. Beyond this, fronting onto the Allan Water, is a row of small villas with gardens extending eastwards. Buccleuch Court is a modern development comprising flats and residential housing. Dargai Terrace marks the edge of the Victorian town and here are situated a number of large villas which command spectacular views across to the cathedral and the hills to the south of Dunblane. Similarly, Victorian villas, together with smaller cottages, line the west side of Braeport, the steep slope from the cathedral up to Ramoyle. The east side of Braeport is largely taken up by the former public school, part of which is now the Braeport Centre. From the bend in the Braeport northwards, towards Ramoyle, is a mixture of villas and cottages with occasional modern infill. The gardens to the rear are relatively small in comparison to those on the opposite side of Braeport, and back directly onto the former grounds of the Holmehill estate. The steep slope here has restricted the size of these plots, and some terracing can be seen, particularly behind the Braeport Centre.

figure 19
Area 2



The suburb of Ramoyle consists of an excellently preserved row of cottages that line both sides of the narrow, winding road. Although the origins of settlement at Ramoyle may be considerably older, the present houses were built as accommodation for the weavers' families that worked in the mills. The cottages huddle closely together with their front doors opening up directly onto the pavementless roadway. The gardens of these cottages, as with those on the east side of Braeport, back onto the grounds of the former Holmehill estate.

historical background

Many of the medieval canons' manses stood on Kirk Street (*see* Area 3) and Braeport (*see below*). By the fifteenth century, these were impressive, stone-built, quality structures. They included the manse and croft of the dean or, perhaps more correctly, the archdeacon, which was definitely in Kirk Street (*see* Area 3); the manse of Monzie, sometimes referred to as the manse of Comrie; the manse of Abernethy, or Abbot of Arbroath's manse; the manse of the chancellor, also known as the manse of Logie; the manse of the treasurer; and the manse of Balquhider, known to be sited on the east side of the main thoroughfare, although their exact location is not certain **B**. Some post-Reformation manses may not have been on the sites of their pre-Reformation predecessors. Nineteenth-century maps suggest that a number of the manses were on the west side of Braeport; but this has yet to be proved, by either documentary or archaeological evidence.

archaeological potential and future development

There are no specific developments proposed in the Local Plan (1994) for this area.

The archaeological potential of Area 2 is confined largely to Braeport, the flat ground between the Haining and Buccleuch Court and the suburb of Ramoyle. There has been only one opportunity for archaeological excavation to date in Area 2, and no chance finds have been reported.

The manses **B** of the canons and associated clerics of the cathedral lined the Braeport. These were impressive, stone built dwellings with land attached. At the north end of the Braeport, at its junction with Dargai Terrace stood the bishop's tithe or teind barn **D**. Today, the Bishop's Barn, a modern house, marks the spot. In the street itself, stood the over port **C**, slightly further down the hill from the teind barn towards the cathedral. Nothing remains of any of these structures above ground today.

The writings of travellers and documentary records indicate that many of the manses escaped the destruction of the Reformation, surviving as ruins as late as the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Wellbank **G**, built in 1863, is thought to stand on the site of the abbot's manse, or manse of Abernethy, and the former Red Cross Hall **H** on the site of the prebend of Monzie's manse, although no remains were visible here in 1863.

Nineteenth-century villas and cottages now line the west side of Braeport, with some set back slightly from the street frontage. Many have large, mature gardens that slope down the hill, westwards towards the Allan Water. The lack of modern development in this part of the town suggests that the remains of the manses and crofts that once lined the Braeport may survive. Whether their foundations are preserved beneath the later villas and cottages, or further back in the gardens, however, is unclear.

Equally, the foundations of the over port **C** may be preserved below the modern street surface. Recent excavations in Elgin in 1995, for example, exposed the remains of its tollbooth buried beneath a later building on an 'island' in the High Street, proof that early structures can survive even the most intensive development.

Little is known of the east side of the Braeport. Manses are known to have stood further south, to the east of Kirk Street, where the Scottish Churches House (*see* area 3) stands today. The steep slope down from Holmehill may have offered less space on the east side of Braeport, attracting settlement to the west side, where more land was available for the more prestigious manses and crofts.

It is clear from sixteenth-century sources that the manses and the property that supported the cathedral altars declined rapidly through neglect after the Reformation (*see* p 24). This area of Dunblane, with its high proportion of ecclesiastical buildings was to suffer greatly. By 1573, for example, William Scott, canon of Dunblane and prebendary of Monzie, had alienated his 'ruinous' manse, retaining merely a room and a stable. Various confirmations of charters in the *Register of the Great Seal* are clear indication that there was a rapid dispersal of property, largely because of the expense of upkeep. The archdeacon of Dunblane, James Chisholm, gave to his kinsman, Sir James Chisholm of Dundurn, a house and garden to the north of the cemetery. The treasurer, William Murray, transferred a piece of ground and a garden on the east side of the 'king's road', that is Kirk Street or Braeport.

To the north of the manses on Braeport, in all probability, was one of the town's ports, although again its precise location is not known. Dunblane received from the crown various privileges when it received burghal status (*see* p 19), one of the most important being the right to hold markets and to charge dues, or tolls, from those attending. Collection of these tolls took place either at the town gates, or ports, or at the most important municipal building, the tolbooth. Ports were sited on the main routes into the market place, which, for Dunblane, meant the main arteries moving south and north out of the town. The south, or 'nether', port was placed on the stone bridge, probably at the east end (*see* area 5). The north, or over, port stood on the brae leading to Ramoyle; hence the name 'Braeport' C. Ports functioned not only as toll collection points, but also as control posts in time of plague and, at night, when they were regularly closed at curfew. Dunblane, being a cathedral town, had another collection point—for the bishop's tithes.

history

archaeology

A common feature in many historic burghs is the movement of boundaries, such as market places, streets and private property boundaries and, in particular, kirkyard boundaries. This has been highlighted by recent excavations in St Andrews, Dunfermline and Perth. Although the cemetery of the cathedral is neatly enclosed by a wall, its boundaries are likely to have moved over the centuries. It is therefore a distinct possibility that burials may lie beneath the Haining and beyond, although none was observed during archaeological monitoring of the installation of the new street lighting in the Haining in 1996. The north side of the Haining gradually developed as a street frontage in its own right in the nineteenth century. The present car park may be on the site of the farm steading.

The land to the north and east of the Haining was largely open space, being the former gardens and orchards of the bishops I. By the later sixteenth century, however, when the manses were becoming ruinous through neglect, land was being given away; for example, a house and garden on the north side of the cemetery was given away by the archdeacon of Dunblane. There are a number of mature gardens in this area and the remains of these later crofts, and perhaps evidence of associated agricultural activity, may survive. Dargai Court marks the edge of the archaeologically sensitive area.

The suburb of Ramoyle A comprises a wonderfully atmospheric row of cottages that once accommodated the families of the weavers. There is a tradition that Ramoyle may

This was the tithe or teind barn that stood outside the over port on the west side of Braeport, near the spot where the modern house, Bishop's Barn, is now sited **D**.

North of the over port and teind barn stood the suburb of Ramoyle. How early settlement grew up here is uncertain, but some hold the view that this was the earliest settlement area, rather than Dunblane proper (*see* p 17). Little is known of its history, although a copy of a seventeenth-century plan **figure 13** (*see* p 27) shows Ramoyle gradually extending along the main thoroughfare, but the gap sites indicate that there was no pressure for space in this area.

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, many found occupation as weavers, both in the burgh itself and in Ramoyle and Bridgend. There were, by 1845, three manufactories in the parish, one of which was in the town, and a number of private looms. In 1818 there were, reputedly, 700 handloom weavers in the town; silk weaving was introduced in 1838.

The stretch of land between Ramoyle and Laighhills, the latter being the floodplain of the Allan Water, was cultivated as crofts from the Middle Ages, but the town was to have a brief heyday in the nineteenth century as a spa. A well house was set up on Laighhills in 1828 **E**, which for a while attracted a number of visitors. Ramoyle was a favoured resting place, being near to the spa.

The town, however, retained its essentially rural character. Haining Farm, according to the seventeenth-century map, was on the site of the bishop's stables, but, by local tradition, was on the site of a manse **F**. This is now developed as the car park north of the cathedral. The farm was remembered into this century by a Dunblane resident who milked the cows there every morning at four.

history

archaeology

have been an early settlement in its own right rather than merely a suburb of medieval Dunblane but there is, as yet, no historical or archaeological evidence to support this. There has been some development here in recent years, particularly on the north side of Ramoyle, as the road bends eastwards from Braeport. Any further developments here should be archaeologically monitored.

previous archaeological work and chance finds

The Haining, NN 781 014

cobbles, stonework and pottery

The installation of new street lighting in the Haining in 1996 prompted the need for an archaeological excavation and watching brief. An area of cobbling was discovered, bedded onto clean sand which, in turn, overlay a layer of compact clay containing fragments of nineteenth-century pottery. A large dressed sandstone block, with a semi-circular groove, was revealed, but not disturbed, 5 m to the north-west of the cobbles and directly below the modern kerb-stones. No other features were discovered during the cutting of the cable trench. The cobbles and sandstone block probably relate to the farm that stood here before the site was redeveloped as a car park. *DES* (1996), 102.

area 3

Holmehill House/Smithy Loan (north side)/Sinclair's Street (south side)/Kirk Street (west side)

figure 20

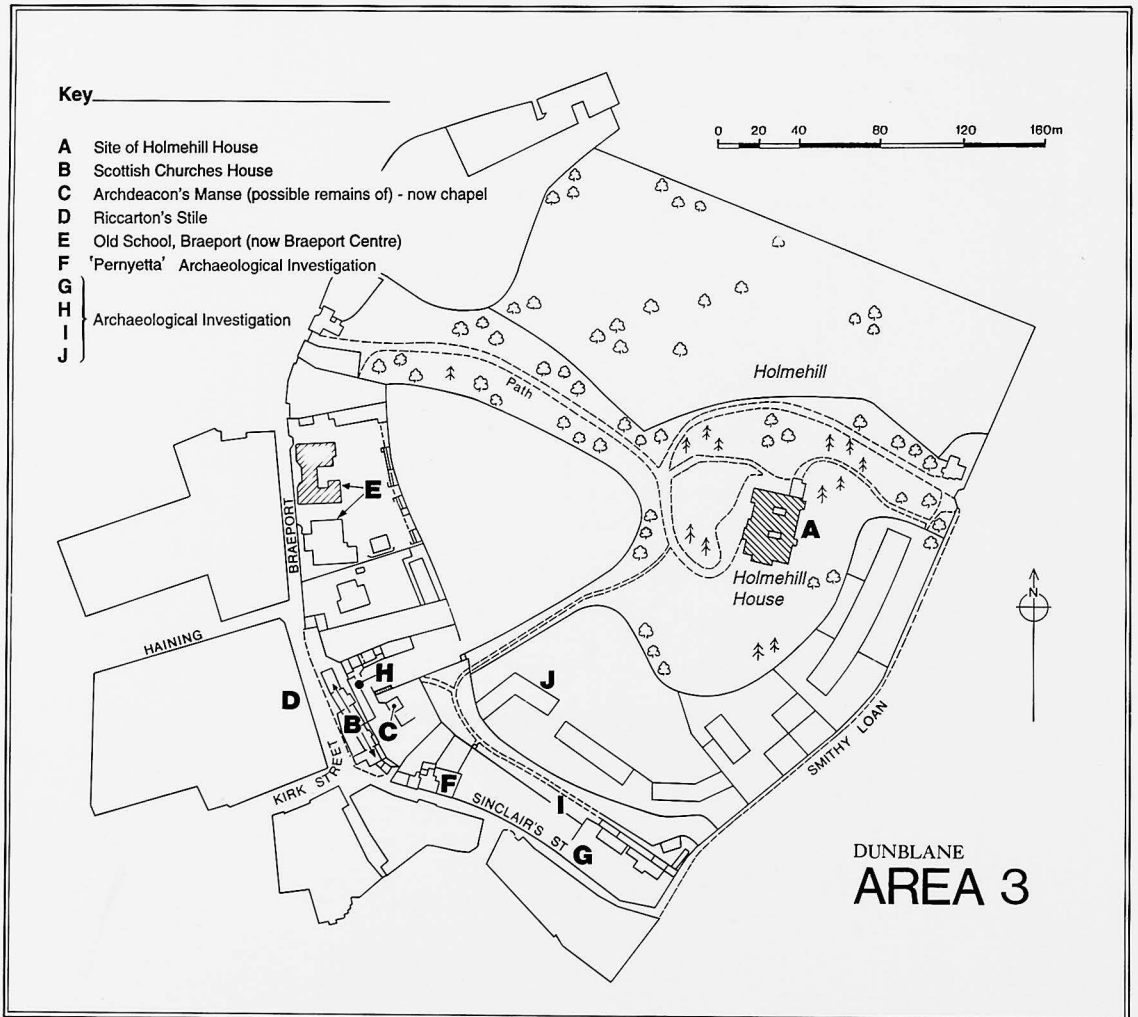
description

This area wholly incorporates the once extensive grounds of the recently demolished Holmehill House **A**, and includes the northern stretch of Kirk Street and Sinclair's Street. The north-western boundary of this area is defined by the gardens of the houses fronting onto Braeport and Ramoyle.

After being allowed to fall into a state of disrepair, Holmehill House **A** was demolished in 1980. The once extensive grounds have, in recent years, been parcelled off for development, particularly around the fringes of the estate. A high stone wall on the north side of Sinclair's Street, however, is a useful reminder of the former extent of the grounds. Residential and sheltered housing now predominate along the north side of Sinclair's Street and along the west side of Smithy Loan, extending up the steep slope on a series of terraces. At the western end of Sinclair's Street, which slopes down to the junction of Kirk Street and the cathedral, is a cluster of small eighteenth- and nineteenth-century houses. On the east side of Kirk Street, and with a wonderful view of the cathedral, is

figure 20

Area 3



Scottish Churches House **B**. Originally a row of cottages, they have since been amalgamated into one property. Behind the whitewashed frontage are several terraces cut into the steep slope of Holmehill. Here stand the possible remains of the archdeacon's manse **figure 6. C**, a single surviving vaulted cellar of what may have been a more extensive building, and the warden's lodge.

historical background

A long tradition maintains that the name 'Dunblane' signifies 'Blane's fort'. This, it is said, refers to a Celtic saint, Blane, born on the island of Bute of an Irish family, who, in the early seventh century, while on his third missionary tour of Scotland, founded a Culdee community here. The element 'dun' signifies a fortified spot or stronghold; and this, reputedly, was located on Holmehill. Here, surrounded by steep slopes but with a considerable area of flat ground on the summit, suitable for building dwellings, the small community could live in security. In support of this, it is argued that earthworks on the hilltop indicate the early settlement.

None of this can, as yet, be verified. The reference to the Britons burning 'St. Blane of Kingarth's chief seat' in an account of the reign of Kenneth mac Alpin (843–58) in the Chronicle of the Kings of Scotland is, for some, evidence of a Culdee settlement at least

archaeological potential and future development

There are specific developments proposed in the Local Plan (1994) for this area, a large part of which is privately owned (Holmehill estate). The old school on Braeport **E** is currently vacant however, part of it is now in private hands and it is proposed to extend the Braeport Centre.

The archaeological potential of this extensive area is largely confined to the narrow strip comprising Kirk Street and the north side of Sinclair's Street. The grounds of Holmehill House **A** have, in recent years, begun to be parcelled off for residential and sheltered housing, particularly along the lower slope of the hill. The stretch of Sinclair's Street between the dwelling called 'Pernyetta' **F** and Smithy Loan, for example, has now been effectively developed.

Holmehill itself has been the focus of much attention as the site of earliest settlement, and perhaps part of a monastic enclosure. This is largely due to a tradition which records dry stone walling encircling the hill. The one opportunity afforded so far to investigate any part of the hill proved negative **J**, revealing only the natural sub-soil. The house which occupied the summit of the hill, Holmehill House **A** (demolished in 1980), was built in the early nineteenth century. The grounds must also have been laid out around this time but no finds or features were reported. Further development on the hill should be accorded a high archaeological priority and monitored closely.

The lower slopes of Holmehill have proved an attractive place for settlement since the early medieval period. The earliest settlement in Dunblane is likely to have clustered around the early church, in what is now Kirk Street. Although the buildings fronting onto Kirk Street have an open outlook to the cathedral, this is a quite recent development. Up until the nineteenth century, both sides of Kirk Street were built-up; there had been tenements either side of the street since at least the seventeenth century. The townscape here has, therefore, changed considerably in the last century, with Kirk Street widened and the kirkyard perhaps encroaching eastwards.

The east side of Kirk Street is largely taken up by Scottish Churches House **B**, a row of eighteenth-century cottages amalgamated into one larger building, with more recent additions at the north and south ends. There has been considerable terracing behind the street frontage, and the one opportunity to investigate this area **H** recovered nothing earlier than the nineteenth century. Behind the Scottish Churches House, on a narrow terrace, are the supposed remains of the archdeacon's manse **C** & **figure 6**. Partially

by the ninth century. The township may have been attacked in 912 by King Ronald of Denmark and his supporters; but precise confirmation of this is dependent on whether one interprets the place-name of the settlement which he harried as Dublin or Dunblane.

The earliest urban settlement would probably have clustered beside the cathedral; and it is known that the manses of the canons stood nearby, mostly on Kirk Street and Braeport (*see* p 49). These were, by the fifteenth century, impressive, stone-built, quality structures. They included the manse and croft of the dean, or perhaps, more correctly, the archdeacon **figure 6**, and others. The contemporary Scottish Churches House **B** stands on the site of one of these manses, possibly the archdeacon's house, and the chapel to the rear was created from a pre sixteenth-century cellar. Whether this had functioned as a chapel previously is unclear. In 1371, a papal dispensation, for marriage within the forbidden degrees of consanguinity, was granted to Robert Stewart, third son of the earl of Strathearn and Countess Margaret Stewart of Menteith, on condition that they build a chapel in Dunblane and endow it with an income of twelve merks. There is, however, insufficient evidence to ascertain whether this was effected in Dunblane town or diocese; and the cathedral itself also housed various chapels. A reference to the chapel of Dunblane in 1621, when the bishop issued a bill against one Grissell Anderson that she should deliver the registers of the same to himself, may be to this particular chapel.

In the sixteenth century, and particularly after the Reformation, adequate maintenance of the prestigious ecclesiastical buildings proved impossible. It is clear, from contemporary sources, that the manses and the property that supported the cathedral altars declined rapidly through neglect. By 1573, William Scott, canon of Dunblane and prebendary of Monzie, had alienated his 'ruinous' manse, retaining merely a room and a stable. Various

history

archaeology

restored inside, with a new floor, and currently in use as a chapel, it comprises a single vaulted chamber. There are few clues as to the original extent of this building, but the local topography, an extremely narrow ledge or terrace, suggests this may have been an outbuilding of the archdeacon's manse rather than part of a larger complex. Any further episodes of ground disturbance in and around the Scottish Churches House would merit archaeological monitoring. Although little is known of other buildings on this side of Kirk Street, late sixteenth-century documentary references record ruinous houses in the Holmehill part of the town.

Sinclair's Street is also one of the oldest streets in the town. Cottages still line the western end of this narrow, winding street **figures 15 & 21**, but are strangely missing from the eastern end. Here, the grounds of Holmehill House extended all the way down to the edge of Sinclair's Street. A recent archaeological investigation **G**, carried out in advance of a housing development, revealed the remains of a building that would have fronted gable-end onto Sinclair's Street, sealed beneath a thick layer of garden soil. It had been demolished to make way for the kitchen garden of Holmehill House in the early nineteenth century.

One of the most interesting finds from this area, although no accurate location is known, was the discovery of worked antler fragments preserved in a deposit of peat in Kirk Street. Typical of the Mesolithic period, they may be evidence of the very earliest visitors to the Dunblane area (*see* p 11 *and below*).

previous archaeological work and chance finds

Kirk Street, NN 782 014

worked antler

Three fragments of worked red deer antler, and a complete right and fragmentary left jaw bone, also from a red deer, were recovered from a cutting into a peat moss in the nineteenth century. Fragments of ash and hazel wood were also found. The peat moss is thought to extend from the east gable of the church, east to Kirk Street and north to the

confirmations of charters in the *Register of the Great Seal* are clear indication that there was a rapid dispersal of property, largely because of the expense of upkeep. The treasurer, William Murray, transferred a piece of ground and a garden on the east side of the 'king's road', that is Kirk Street or Braeport. Tellingly, a confirmation of 1592 refers to 'the lands and ruined houses within the city of Dunblane in that part of the city called Holmehill'.

A photograph of a reproduction of a c 1690 map **figure 13** indicates clearly that the east side of the cathedral precincts, opposite the cathedral manses, was also built up. A row of houses stood between Kirk Street and the cathedral policies. A stile, called Riccarton's Stile, rebuilt in 1814, was the demarcation line between the town and the cathedral, probably on the line of the rear of the dwellings on the west side of Kirk Street **D**, although boundaries are known to have moved and the stile could have been at the frontage building line. In 1827, it was agreed that all communications between the houses on the periphery of the churchyard and the churchyard itself should be closed. Before long, these same houses would be demolished, leaving only the eastern gate, Riccarton's Stile, as a reminder of the enclosure of the churchyard by buildings.

Another major change in the townscape was the building of Holmehill House (now demolished) around 1820, commanding a splendid view over Dunblane, and perhaps partially removing potential evidence of early Christian settlement. Burgage plots on Sinclair's Street, visible in early maps of the town, were to disappear from the street plan, being assimilated into the policies of Holmehill House.

Much of this area was to remain essentially rural until the twentieth century. The townspeople and the church had been long accustomed to supporting themselves with agricultural products and, as a result, a number of crofts surrounded the town. In this

history

archaeology

foot of Braeport. Morris (1892–3), 104.

Holmehill, Dunblane, NN 7829 0136 G

street frontage/kitchen garden

In September 1985, construction work revealed the remains of a building previously fronting Sinclair's Street. The site was previously used as a kitchen garden for Holmehill House (NN 7843 0148), which was built between 1820 and 1826. The remains comprised a well-built stone wall, situated at right angles to Sinclair's Street, with two doorways. A second return wall, parallel to the street frontage, was also visible. The building was terraced into the hillside of Holmehill. It was demolished and the area levelled before the kitchen garden was established, perhaps in the mid nineteenth century, with 2 m of garden soil sealing the remains of the building. *DES* (1985), 10.

Scottish Churches House, Kirk Street, NN 7820 0141 H

trial excavations

Excavations in advance of an extension to Scottish Churches House located nothing earlier than the nineteenth century. Nothing relating to either the cathedral or the archdeacon's manse was recovered. *DES* (1993), 12.

Sinclair's Street, NN 2827 0135 I & figure 21

cheese presses

A watching brief undertaken during the construction of an extension to the property known as *Pernyetta* in Sinclair's Street revealed no archaeological remains. Two cheese presses, however, were discovered during the demolition of the front boundary wall. *DES* (1994), 9.



figure 21
Rear of cottages,
Sinclair's Street

area was the croft of St Nicholas, which stood to the north of Holmehill, near Ramoyle. A number of crofts also lined the pathway from Sinclair's Wynd to Mintoachmyre, the low ground below the present Dunblane Hydro.

history

archaeology

Holmehill, NN 783 014 J

archaeological site assessment

In June 1985, a small exploratory excavation was carried out in advance of development on garden ground. A trench measuring 18 m x 1.5 m produced no structural or artefactual evidence above the undisturbed glacial sands and gravel. *DES* (1985), 9.

area 4

Kirk Street (north side)/Cathedral Cottage/Manse/The Cross/St Blane's House/Smithy Loan (south side)/Sinclair's Street (south side) figure 22

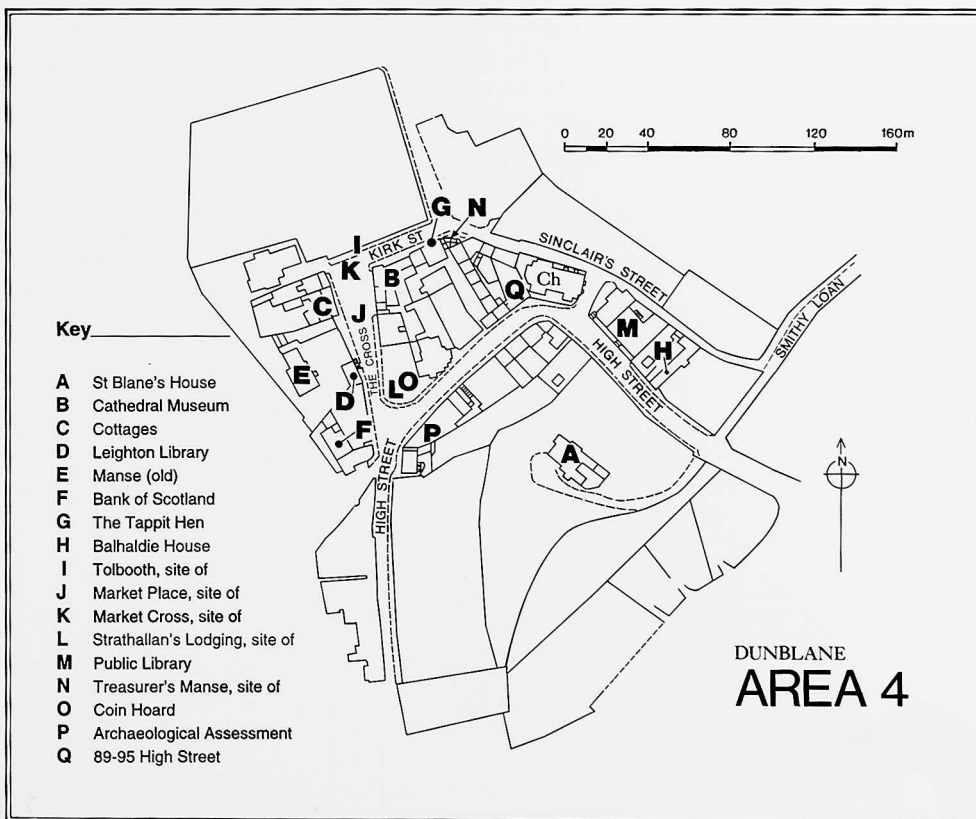
description

Situated to the east of Area 1, this central area incorporates Kirk Street, The Cross, St Blane's House **A** and its grounds, and the north end of the High Street. Many of the buildings fronting onto Kirk Street and The Cross have been recently restored, retaining much of the character of the early modern town and making this area one of the most picturesque and colourful parts of Dunblane.

The buildings along the south side of Kirk Street front onto the kirkyard with fine views of the cathedral. Many have been restored, notably the former dean's house which has now been converted into the Cathedral Museum **figure B & 12**. On the opposite side of The Cross from the museum is a row of cottages **C** and slightly further down the hill, to the south, is the Leighton Library **D**. This seventeenth-century building stands on the edge of the grounds of the manse **E**. The adjacent Bank of Scotland **F** is set back from the street and has its own small area of garden.

The south end of Area 4 marks the point where the High Street curves round before climbing the hill to the east. A row of shops on the south side of the High Street skirts around the foot of the hill upon which St Blane's House stands. Set within extensive grounds, the house commands excellent views across to the cathedral and beyond. The western end of the High Street contains a number of commercial properties. A narrow close between nos 81 and 85 leads through from the High Street to Kirk Street, where it enters Cathedral Square next to the Tappit Hen public house **G**. At the corner of the

figure 22
Area 4



steep bend in the High Street is St Blane's Church. Opposite St Blane's House and fronting onto the High Street is the district library and Balhaldie House **H**.

historical background

The northern part of this area was probably one of the earliest sites settled in medieval Dunblane; in all probability, early urban settlement would have clustered beside the cathedral. Cathedral Square, or The Cross as it was once called, was a continuation of the main route, called Millrow (*see area 5*), from the ford over the Allan Water to the cathedral precincts. The Cross was also a highly significant thoroughfare in the town, as it was here that its markets were held.

As a burgh of some age, probably from the thirteenth or fourteenth centuries (*see p 19*) but erected into a free burgh of barony in favour of the bishops of Dunblane in 1442, Dunblane received various privileges from the crown; one of the most important was the right to hold markets and to charge dues, or tolls. Collection of these tolls took place either at the town gates, or ports (*see areas 2 & 5*), or at the most important municipal building, the tolbooth.

There are no contemporary descriptions of the tolbooth or the other important features of medieval markets, the market cross and the town's weighing machine, the tron. There is no reason to doubt, however, that they stood on the same sites as in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries: the tolbooth **I**, a little to the east of the entrance gate to the cathedral precincts and the cross in the street to the south of the cathedral, facing down the open market place **J**. By the seventeenth century, the south frontage of the churchyard was built up to the east of the gate **figure 13**.

As well as functioning as the focal point of the market, the market cross **K** was the site for public announcements, such as: instructions to shut the town ports in time of potential danger; proclaiming that no one should be allowed to purchase goods before the start of the fair and thus 'forestalling' the market; and the outlawing of the murderers of Cardinal Beaton in 1546.

Until the late seventeenth century, when the number was increased to four, three fairs were traditionally held in Dunblane: one at Whitsun, a second on 10 August on St Blane's or St Lawrence Day and a third on All Hallows Day. The records suggest that the town

archaeological potential and future development

The only specific proposal in the Local Plan of 1994 for development which would affect this area involves an extension to the public library **M** on the High Street into part of an existing building formerly used as a billiard room.

The archaeological potential is largely confined to the north-western corner of this area, with Kirk Street and The Cross being particularly sensitive. Many of the most important features of the medieval town were located here, for example the tolbooth **I**, the market cross **K** and the tron. This was the most heavily developed part of the town, being so close to the market place **J**, and, as a result, competition for space was at its most intense, with much building and rebuilding of properties to be expected over the centuries. Medieval towns were dynamic places, much like towns today, and changes were constantly taking place. Streets were at times narrower or wider, property boundaries shifted and the locations of the tolbooth, market cross and tron were moved as the town developed and grew.

Sinclair's Street is also one of the oldest parts of the town, with cottages and crofts extending southwards from the street. The stretch of High Street from the roundabout at the foot of The Cross northwards, and the associated frontages, is an early nineteenth-century addition to the town plan and is, therefore, less sensitive.

The earliest settlement in Dunblane is likely to have clustered around the church, in what is now Kirk Street. Although the buildings fronting onto Kirk Street have an open

specialised in the sale of horses and cattle. On 19 May 1502, four days after Whitsunday, two horses were purchased in Dunblane for King James IV; three years later, one of the court retainers, Martin Bailye paid forty-four shillings to Riche Balzee for a 'litol nag' and a 'furnist sadill'; and in 1506, according to the *Treasurer's Accounts*, one Andrew Aytoun was despatched to Dunblane with £20 to buy four cart horses. In 1531, the supply of horses for the royal retinue was still to some extent dependent on Dunblane: £20 was given to one Robert Gib to buy horses at Dunblane fair. Eight years later, the royal hunting party at Glenfinlas required extra horses. Ten were hired from Stirling and seven from Dunblane, the rate paid being two shillings a day. If the crown looked to Dunblane for horses, doubtless so did many lesser persons. Clearly, however, the livestock market dealt also in other animals. On 9 August 1513, one month before the battle of Flodden, the *Treasurer's Accounts* show that £300 was earmarked to buy oxen at Dunblane fair. Four days later, 143 oxen were purchased by the master of works and the master flesher, at a cost of £208. It seems that here were active preparations for the war effort, as oxen could be used not only as transport for pulling artillery, but also for food. That Dunblane could supply so many oxen at one fair is clear indication that it was drawing supplies not only from the immediate hinterland, but possibly also from much further afield in the Highlands. Its attraction was such that in 1611 it prompted James, marquis of Hamilton to request a change of day for Hamilton's fair, which had become unprofitable because it clashed with those of Dunblane and Carnwath.

Traditional myths of damage to the cathedral building and casting down of the market cross by reformers at the time of the Reformation, in the belief that this was a Catholic symbol, are ill-founded. The market cross continued as the accustomed site of important proclamations from 1565 to 1568; it was still standing in 1572, 1575 and 1582, and remained so until at least 1594. The Sunday market still functioned, but to the detriment of church attendance. It was mooted that the day should be changed, but as this was likely to meet opposition, a compromise was reached, whereby all merchandise would cease until the sermon and prayers were ended. It was also noted that if there was no market the 'pure toun wald decay alluterly'. The tolbooth, along with the market cross, remained the secular focal point of the burgh community. In 1609, it was still functioning as the town prison, as it was in 1615 when Jonet Murriache was imprisoned for suspected witchcraft.

history

archaeology

outlook to the cathedral, this is quite a recent development. Up until the nineteenth century, both sides of Kirk Street were built-up, with tenements either side of the street since at least the seventeenth century. The townscape here has changed considerably in the last century, with Kirk Street widened and the kirkyard encroaching on the townscape eastwards and southwards.

The south frontage of Kirk Street contains some of the oldest standing buildings in the town, many of which have been restored by the Friends of Dunblane Cathedral. Although this part of the town has escaped modern development, there has been one recent addition. The public conveniences erected at the corner of Kirk Street and Sinclair's Street may stand on the site of the treasurer's manse **N** believed to have stood in Braeport. Little else is known about this building except that it was one of a number of substantial, stone-built manses that, by the fifteenth century, lined Kirk Street and Braeport. The writings of travellers and documentary records indicate that many of these manses survived as ruins as late as the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. There were no reports of any discoveries during the construction of the public conveniences, but any further development in this area should be monitored closely by archaeologists.

The frontages along the south side of Kirk Street and the east side of The Cross contain, for the most part, eighteenth- and nineteenth-century buildings. Two exceptions are the Cathedral Museum **figure 12** & **B** and the Leighton Library **D**, both dating to the seventeenth century. The building line on the west side of The Cross is irregular, indicating that, in the past, houses extended further into the street than they do today.

Richard Franck, visiting in 1656 spoke of 'dirty Dumblain' with 'reliques of a ruinous hep of stones'. The houses he considered, although stone, to be 'low and little' and 'dirty' and the streets 'narrow'. The market place and lack of merchants clearly did not impress him, there being little or no trade 'except now and then a truck with a brandy-man, a tobacco-merchant, or a brewster-wife, for ale, tobacco and strong waters [were] the staple of the town'. In 1650, however, a new tolbooth had been constructed, the bishop's ruined palace proving a useful quarry for the purpose. A water colour, dated 1837, in the Cathedral Museum, shows what might be the tolbooth to the east of the entry and churchyard.

This area of the town, being close to the market place, would have been the most heavily developed. It is known that the thoroughfare was considerably more narrow than it is at present, there being houses set well into the street, in front of the houses on the present building line, on the west side. In so confined an area, congestion must have been such that space was at a premium on market and fair days.

The town's markets and fairs attracted the surrounding populace sufficiently for complaints to be made by Stirling, at the beginning of the seventeenth century, that it was being harmed financially. It is clear from Edinburgh's records that Dunblane's fair continued to attract merchants and packmen from further afield. In 1647, it was proclaimed throughout Edinburgh that no inhabitant was to attend the fair at Dunblane because 'the plague of pestilence is informed to be raging at the pleasour of God in thes quarteres'. In 1665, Stirling was still aggrieved at the trading practices of Dunblane. Unfree men, with officially no right to deal in merchandise since they were not members of a guild, were encroaching on the prerogative of the merchants of Stirling. It was decided that a complaint should be put to the provost of Perth, in order that he might prevent such malpractice in Dunblane and Doune. This seems to have met with little success as, four years later, there was a complaint against the magistrates of Perth that they were allowing freemen of Perth to reside in Dunblane and Doune, and still tolerating unfree men in various parts of Perthshire to trade, to the detriment of the Stirling guild merchants. A month later, this complaint was supported by the Convention of Royal Burghs.

In that same year, 1669, however, Dunblane was granted a fourth annual fair, to be held on 1 March, for the benefit of the surrounding region, since it was at some distance from the royal burghs of Perthshire. It was also confirmed that it should continue to hold its weekly market, now on a Thursday, for the sale of 'horses, cattle, sheep, fish, flesh,

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Along the edge of the street, and in the street itself, there may be preserved the foundations of earlier buildings, in particular the stair towers that provided access to the upper floors. Within the present historic standing buildings, the remains of floor surfaces and other features associated with earlier phases of occupation may be preserved, sealed beneath the modern floor levels. Features may also be sealed within the fabric itself, blocked off by latter additions. The foundations of earlier buildings which pre-date the present standing buildings may also survive.

On the west side of The Cross, behind the Leighton Library, stands the present manse **E**, set within a large garden. Documentary records describe the ruins of the bishop's palace extending up to the Leighton Library, which was largely constructed from stone robbed from the palace **figure 7**. Archaeological remains of the palace may therefore be expected in the grounds of the manse **E** (see **area 1** pp 41–2).

Opposite the Library, on the corner of The Cross and High Street, was the site of the seventeenth-century town house of Lord Strathallan **L** which was demolished to make way for the new town gaol built in 1842. This was, in turn, demolished in 1963 and is now a small public garden. A hoard of coins **O**, deposited in the mid sixteenth century, was found in a building adjoining the gaol when it was demolished in the late nineteenth century. The present Bank of Scotland **F** also stands on a site of antiquity, the Earl of Menteith's residence.

meal, malt and all sorts of grains, merchant commodities and other things used and wont'. Lieutenant General William Drummond, first Viscount Strathallan and Lord Drummond of Cromlix was to continue to have full power to collect the tolls and customs at the fairs and markets. This did not always meet with the approval of others. In 1697, the Convention of Royal Burghs deemed that the tolls raised by Viscount Strathallan at his fair at Dunblane were to the detriment of nearby burghs. Local trades and crafts would find the weekly market an outlet for their products and an opportunity to gain supplies from the agricultural hinterland. Weavers, bakers, carpenters, slaters, vintners, writers and masons feature in the documentary sources, but seventeenth-century tombstones also indicate that there were shoemakers and farmers in the town. Dunblane's role as a market town was to decline by the nineteenth century. At the May fair in 1837, for example, only seventeen cattle were put forward for sale, and these, it was said, were of inferior quality.

There were a number of impressive town houses in Dunblane belonging to local gentry. Balhadie House **H**, still standing but much altered (*see* p 78) was possibly constructed around 1695, as a town house for the Drummonds of Balhadie. The Master of Sinclair, leader of the Jacobite forces in October 1715, was invited to dine at Lord Drummond's house and the troops were accommodated in the church and the tolbooth. According to tradition some of the Jacobite army, including Prince Charles Edward Stewart, lodged in Balhadie House on 11 September 1745. The kirk session records noted that 'the smallness of the collection now and afterwards . . . is owing to the uncertainty of public worship in regard that the Young Pretender came to this place on Thursday last with an army of Highlanders and others . . . which created great disturbance in the country'.

Two other properties, known also to have been erected in the seventeenth century, stood at The Cross—the former dean's manse (now the Cathedral Museum) **B** & **figure 12**, and the Leighton Library **D**. The former was built sometime around 1624 for Dean James Pearson of Kippenross. Its lower storey, displaying the arms of Pearson, is typical of stone buildings of this period, its upper storey being of late eighteenth-century date.

The Leighton Library also remains standing, on the west side of the road. This was purpose-built to house the library of Bishop Robert Leighton who clearly held an affection for Dunblane. He not only provided £1024 Scots to the support of the poor in Dunblane parish, but also made provision for a library in the town. A letter from his nephew, Edward Lightmaker, in 1684, sheds light not only on the proposed building

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On the opposite side of the street from the Bank of Scotland is a large gap site, 92–96 High Street. An archaeological assessment **P** was carried out here in 1990, in advance of development. The foundations of a building that would have fronted on to High Street were exposed. Pottery recovered suggested a date of occupation between the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

As well as lining both sides of The Cross, buildings also looked down the hill to the High Street. The south side of what is now the kirkyard was a developed frontage, with the tolbooth and market cross situated approximately where the present gate is. The tolbooth was certainly rebuilt in the seventeenth century, probably on the same spot. The market cross and tron probably also remained on or near their original sites. Excavations in Elgin in 1995, for example, exposed the remains of its tolbooth buried beneath a later building on an 'island' in the High Street, proof that early structures can survive even the most intensive development.

The upper end of the High Street is of less archaeological interest, being much later in date. There are some standing buildings of interest, notably Balhadie House **H**, possibly built in 1695, which leads off from Sinclair's Street, and nos 89–95 High Street **Q**, which date to the eighteenth century. Crofts and cottages are also known to have lined Sinclair's Street **figure 15**, but concentrated at the western end. Balhadie House appears, then, to

material of the library, but also on the condition of certain properties in Dunblane:

The desyre of this worthy man (was) that I should transmit one hundreth pounds for the accommodating a chamber somewhere neir the church for his books . . . He supposed a roome might be built for this use out of the stones of the ruinous walls that are without the Church or of the Bishops ruined house, and desired that the room be built of convenient largeness, and good lights, and handsomely furnished with presses and shelves and some deskes for reading at them, and chairs and stooles to sitt on.

The practicalities of supervising the building works were the remit of Viscount Strathallan, whose town house stood directly across the street **L**.

It was from this house that boiling water or oil was aimed at the Duke of Cumberland in 1746 by a maidservant, reputedly of the household of Drummond of Balhadie. Her successful escape was effected by a back route, along the Minnie Burn. This burn ran from

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have stood in isolation at least until the early nineteenth century. St Blane's House **A**, set within its own extensive grounds, dates from the nineteenth century and earlier.

previous archaeological work and chance finds

Kirk Street, NN 782 014

worked antler

Three fragments of worked red deer antler, and a complete right and fragmentary left jaw bone, also from a red deer, were recovered from a cutting into a peat moss in the nineteenth century. Fragments of ash and hazel wood were also found. The peat moss is thought to extend from the east gable of the church, east to Kirk Street and north to the foot of Braeport. Morris (1892–3), 104.

NN 7820 0128 O

coin hoard

In 1869, 180 coins were found in a pottery jar during the clearance of a building adjoining the prison. The coins dated to between 1327 and 1547, and had been deposited in the ground for safekeeping probably around the middle of the sixteenth century. They

Kippenross Park, by Balhadie House and to the rear of Strathallan's Lodging (Strathallan House), whence it crossed the main thoroughfare. It then passed down the side of Millrow. Although in parts culverted, there were various openings, for the convenience of the townspeople for drawing water. One opening was at the rear of Strathallan House. At the top of Millrow it was also open, and at this point the Millrow was bridged.

This area of the town was to see considerable change in the nineteenth century. In 1827, for example, it was agreed that all communications between the houses on the periphery of the churchyard and the churchyard itself should be closed. Before long, these same houses would be demolished. The encroaching properties at the head of The Cross would, likewise, be demolished in the course of the century. A report in 1837 had indicated that the old tolbooth was without heating and window-glass; and prisoners frequently escaped from it. The old mansion belonging to Lord Strathallan was, therefore, demolished, to be replaced by a new gaol, which had eight cells and a house for the gaoler; its foundation stone was laid in 1842.

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were forwarded to the Exchequer and dispersed in 1873; thirty were sold at Christie's in 1953. Sim (1868–70), 286–8.

92–96 High Street, NN 7821 0126 P

archaeological assessment

A small exploratory excavation was carried out in January and February 1990, in advance of redevelopment at 92–96 High Street. Two trenches were opened: the first, at the north-east end of the site, encountered no archaeological deposits; the second revealed part of a building aligned with that section of High Street which runs north to the cathedral. The pottery recovered suggests a seventeenth- to eighteenth-century date. SUAT Archive Report (1990, unpublished).

Leighton Library, NN 7818 0129 D

stone-lined channel

Excavation in the basement of this building revealed a narrow, irregular stone-lined channel cut into the earth floor; no finds were recovered. This structure post-dates the sixteenth- to seventeenth-century basement vault; its function was not established. *DES* (1988), 9.

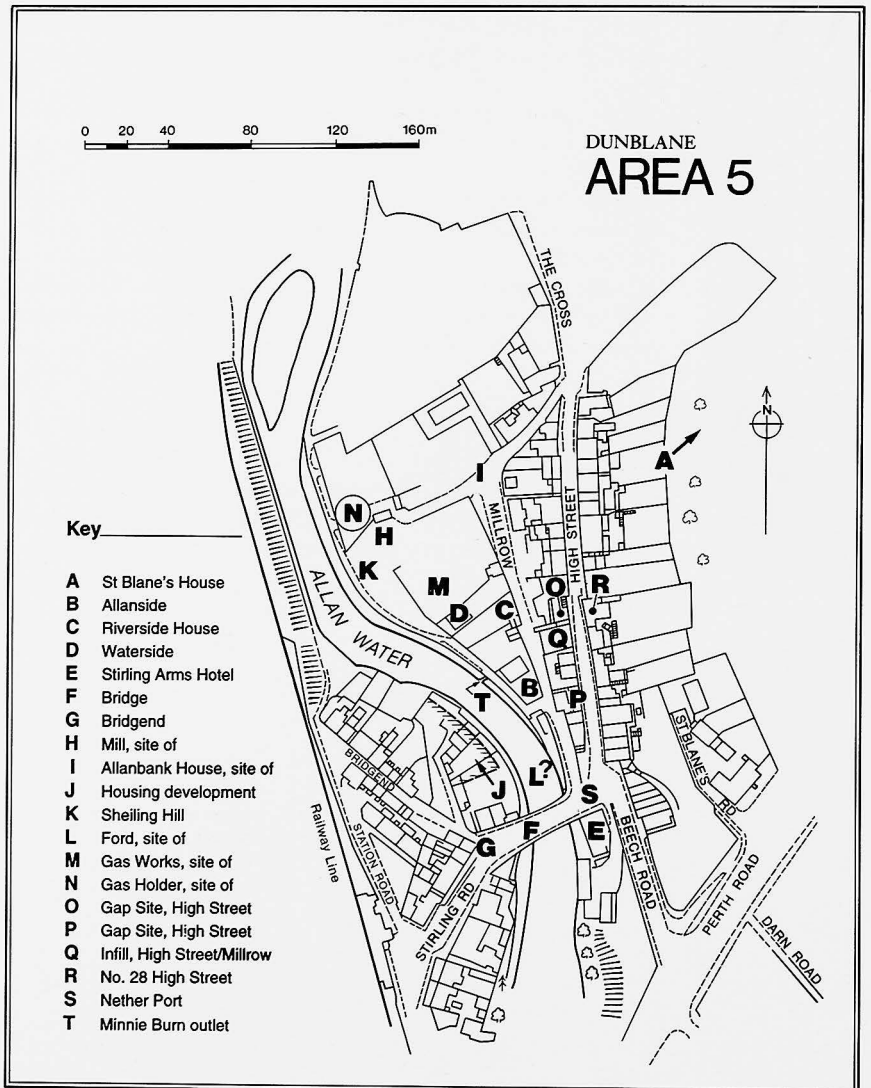
area 5

Railway Line/Station Road/Perth Road/St Blane's Road/St Blane's House grounds/High Street/Allanbank House/Allan Water **figure 23**

description

This area comprises the south end of the town and includes the High Street, Millrow, Dunblane Bridge and the suburb of Bridgend. South of The Cross, the southern section of the High Street is confined to one-way traffic travelling north towards the cathedral. In marked contrast to the north end of the town, particularly around Cathedral Square, the south end of the High Street is poorly preserved with a number of gap sites and vacant properties. In addition, little attention has been paid to the outward appearance of many of these buildings, resulting in a bewildering array of shopfronts that spoil the character of this, the main thoroughfare of the medieval town.

figure 23
Area 5



On the western side of the High Street, there is a steep slope down to Millrow and the Allan Water. Behind the eastern frontage of the High Street, gardens extend to the foot of the hill on which St Blane's House **A** stands, with some evidence of terracing. At the south end of this area, a row of small shops line the east side of Beech Road, with some new development at the junction with Perth Road.

Despite being possibly the oldest street in the burgh, Millrow has a slightly run-down appearance. On the east side of Millrow, the houses are cut into the slope on which the High Street stands, and some have recent additions. A number of gap sites are present and the backs of the buildings which front onto the High Street make rather grim viewing. The north end of Millrow curves round and enters onto High Street. A children's play area, car parking and garages and the grassy bank of the Allan Water make up the north-western end of Area 5. Three villas, however, survive at the south end of Millrow; Allanside **B**, Riverside House **C** and Waterside **D**, all with large gardens. A culverted stream, the Minnie Burn, at the garden wall of Allanside can be seen emptying into the Allan Water.

Facing down Millrow and the High Street is the early nineteenth-century Stirling Arms Hotel **E**, situated on the eastern approach to Dunblane Bridge **F** & **figure 8**. Across the bridge lies the suburb of Bridgend **G**. Similar to Ramoyle (*see area 2*, p 49), this suburb was largely populated in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries by the families of weavers employed in the local mills. The coming of the railway had a considerable impact on Bridgend, and much was demolished to make way for it. Bridgend itself is a pavementless street of small cottages, many restored and colourfully painted white and pink.

historical background

A little to the north of the present bridge over the Allan Water was a ford **L**. This was the first crossing point over the Allan on the main route from Glasgow to Perth. Such a strategic position would have attracted settlement, possibly on both sides of the river. The pathway on the east side became called Millrow. It is so named from the mill **H** which stood beside the Allan Water **figure 24**, probably from the fourteenth century. This mill belonged to the bishops of Dunblane until post-Reformation times, when it passed to the Cromlix estate. It was demolished in the nineteenth century; gas works were sited nearby, which have in turn been removed. To the north of the mill was the Sheiling Hill **K**, where grain was flailed and subsequently heated to produce malt for the local breweries.

By the seventeenth century, Millrow appears to have been fairly well built up, with laigh, or low, houses and closes leading past the tenements, giving access to the backlands. One of the tenements, near to the mill dam, also had a granary. One interesting house was Allanbank **I**, which stood at the head of Millrow, near the 'common way which passes

archaeological potential and future development

There is a proposal in the Local Plan (1994) to pedestrianise the High Street and carry out environmental improvements. There are also a number of long-term gap sites and vacant premises on the High Street which periodically attract interest, but no firm proposals. The car park in Millrow is to be extended to accommodate increased traffic. The building of extra housing is now well under way over the site of the road to the ford at Bridgend **J**.

Area 5 contains what may be one of the earliest streets in the town, Millrow, the nether port, the bridge and suburb of Bridgend, and the ford **L**. The High Street, traditionally the oldest street in most medieval towns, is probably a later feature, built in the fifteenth century after the construction of the first bridge. No archaeological work has been undertaken in this area to date, and no chance finds have been reported.

The earliest settlement in this part of the town is thought to centre on Millrow, attracted here by the mill **H** and the ford **L** which were sited nearby. A mill, drawing water from the Allan Water, is thought to have stood here since the fourteenth century **figure 24**,



figure 24
Site of the mill

to the mill', on the site of the current children's playground. The earliest document referring to it dates from 1633, although it is possible that the house was older. In February 1745, the Duke of Cumberland was accommodated overnight there, at the home of Bailie Russell. Regrettably, Allanbank House was deliberately allowed to deteriorate and was subsequently demolished in the 1960s.

It is known that the incorporation of skippers also had property here, as in 1742 they sold their 'new' house and a yard in the Millrow to the kirk session for 650 merks.

The Minnie Burn passed down the side of Millrow. Although in parts culverted, there were various openings for the convenience of the townspeople for drawing water. At the top of Millrow it was open and at this point the Millrow bridged the Minnie Burn. Although now almost totally culverted, the burn may still be seen near to and at its junction with the Allan Water.

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and was in the possession of the bishops of Dunblane until the Reformation. The ford was situated a short distance further upstream from the present stone bridge.

Little is known of Millrow until the seventeenth century, by which time it was fairly well developed. At the head of Millrow stood Allanbank House I, possibly built in the sixteenth century. Although there is a modern house named Allanbank House, the earlier house stood more or less on the site of the children's playground. The properties on the east side of Millrow were severely restricted by the slope on which the High Street is situated, and may never have had burgage plots. The same problem restricted those properties on the west side of the High Street (*see* p 8). The west side of Millrow, however, had much more space, and the plots could have extended all the way down to the banks of the river.

Unfortunately little is left of Millrow. There are gap sites on the east side and, on the west side, large areas have been turned over to car parking, garages and grassed public areas. The car park marks the site of the gas works M, built in 1841 and demolished in 1952. The gas holder N stood a little further north. It was demolished in the 1970s and the site is now overgrown. South of the gas works, the three villas (B, C & D) along the west side of Millrow may have been erected over earlier medieval properties, evidence of which might survive in the gardens or beneath their floors. Any development of the gap sites on Millrow and any changes of use of the car park should be monitored archaeologically. Environmental improvements along the banks of the Allan Water should also be

How early a true suburb grew up at Bridgend is uncertain, but a clearer picture emerges of Dunblane in the fifteenth century. One of the most significant events in the history of the town was the building of the first bridge **F** over the Allan. This was effected by Bishop Finlay Dermoch, around 1409. A stone structure, it is said to have been 12 ft wide and 42 ft (3.6 m x 12.9 m) long. Originally, the bridge had an arch in the centre, and the roadways at both sides were once lower. The yellow dressed stone of its original structure may still be seen from the north side. The suburb on the west bank of the Allan, if it was already in existence, would have received a stimulus to growth by the construction of the bridge. It was sufficiently substantial to be given a separate name—Bridgend—at least by 1443, when it was confirmed as one of the see's possessions to Bishop Michael (Ochiltree) of Dunblane by James II.

As a burgh of some antiquity, but erected into a free burgh of barony in favour of the bishops of Dunblane in 1442, Dunblane received various privileges from the crown; one of the most important was the right to hold markets and to charge dues, or tolls (*see* p 19). Collection of these tolls took place either at the town gates, or ports, or at the most important municipal building, the tolbooth. Ports were sited on the main routes into the market place, which, for Dunblane, meant the main arteries moving south and north out of the town. The south, or nether port, was placed on the stone bridge, probably at the east end **figure 8**. Ports functioned not only as toll collection points, but also as control posts in time of plague and, at night, when they were regularly closed at curfew.

A copy of a late seventeenth-century plan (*see* p 28) **figure 13** shows Bridgend to have intensive building near to the bridge, with settlement stretching out along the routeways to Doune and Stoneyhill, but with gap sites, indicating that there was no pressure for space in this area. Bridgend housed many of the town's weavers. It is interesting to note on this map a pathway called Gallow Lane. One local tradition is that the gallows stood in the region of the present Keir Street. The seventeenth-century evidence, however, suggests that they may have been further to the east. The minister's glebe can also be noted south of the road to Doune. By the eighteenth century, Bridgend is noted on contemporary maps **figure 25** as a substantial suburb.

It was, in all probability, some short time after the building of the bridge that the High Street was constructed. This would appear to be confirmed by the fact that the tenements on the east side of the High Street had substantial burgage plots running back from the frontages, whereas lack of space on the west, where the tenements

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monitored for evidence of the mill and lade. This is the natural location for other medieval and later industrial features, tanneries for example, as it provided access to the river and is the only flat piece of ground in Dunblane near the river. This is potentially one of the oldest parts of the town and any development should be monitored closely.

The archaeological potential of the High Street is unknown. On the west side, the buildings are underbuilt to compensate for the steep slope down to Millrow. On the east side, the buildings have been cut into the hill on which St Blane's House stands **A**. Burgage plots survive here, one of the few places in the town where they can still be seen, but whether these are fossilised late medieval plots has still to be tested. There are a number of gap sites, vacant buildings and recent developments along the High Street. Gap sites presently exist at the property adjacent to, and on the south of, *no 21* High Street **O**. The ownership of this site is unclear and it does not appear even to have an address. A gap site also exists at the property adjacent to (south of) *no 9* High Street **P**, which has been an open plot or garden since at least 1862. A new building at *nos 15–19* High Street, a garage and stores at 27–37 High Street have effectively infilled the narrow gap between the High Street and Millrow **Q**. There is a distinct kink in the alignment of the street beginning at *no 28* High Street **R**. If the street has been realigned, then earlier street frontages may be preserved beneath the present street surface. The monitoring of any ground disturbance here must be considered a priority, as so little is known about the date and nature of this street, the frontages and the burgage plots.

abutted onto the pre-existing Millrow, prescribed truncated burgage plots. This new street linked the bridge with the cathedral and the market, the commercial focal point of the town.

It is thought that an inn has stood on the site of the Stirling Arms Hotel **E** from at least the seventeenth century. Such a site, at the crossing point of the river, would have been an ideal place for a hostelry, perhaps even in the days when the Allan had to be forded **figure 26**. One visitor to the hotel was Robert Burns. He visited the town in 1787 and was later appointed excise man for Dunblane, but died before being transferred to the town. The hotel was also popular with visitors to Dunblane's short-lived spa in the nineteenth century. It was then known as the Head Inn.

Beside the Stirling Arms Hotel was Darn Road, a pathway of some antiquity. It left the High Street where the New Road now joins it and led southwards to the meal mill of Kippenross and Cow Park, and also to the road to the back vennel behind the High Street. Nearby was St Michael's Croft and others were situated in Kippenross Park, or Cow Park, south of the town, near Darn Road. To the south of the High Street, also, was Dovecot Croft, once dedicated to the altar of St Blaise.

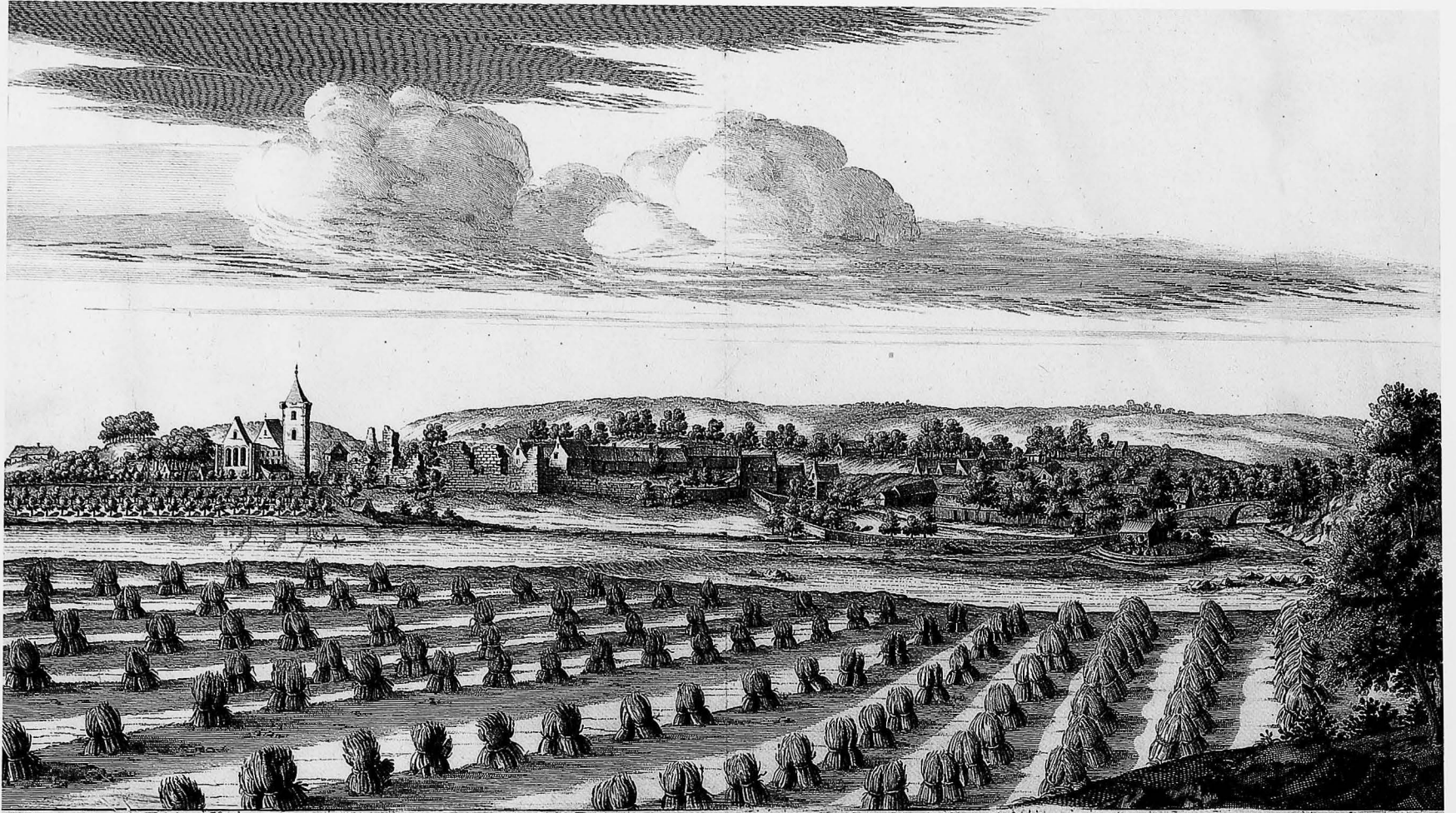
It is possible that a hospital or almshouse stood in or near Bridgend as, in 1516, there was reference to a 'Spittell croft' here.

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On the eastern approach to the bridge, facing up the High Street and down Millrow, stood the nether port **S**, the south gate into the town. The bridge **F** & **figure 8** was widened in the mid eighteenth century and improved earlier this century. One result of these works may have been to destroy all traces of the port. Traces of the original bridge, built in 1409, can still be seen in the later fabric.

Whether it was the building of the new bridge that provided the impetus for the settlement of Bridgend **G**, or whether it already existed, is unclear. Little is known of the early settlement here but there is a tradition of a hospital in the area. Bridgend itself, like Ramoyle (*see area 2*, p 49), was populated by weavers and their families in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, to which period many of the cottages that line Bridgend date. Much of Bridgend was lost to the railway in the nineteenth century. Development here should be monitored as so little is known of this potentially early settlement.



Prospectus Oppidi DUMBLANI. The Prospect of the Town of DUMBLANE.

figure 26

Slezer's view of Dunblane, late seventeenth century

the archaeological potential of Dunblane a summary **figure 27**

an overview

On present evidence, it must be admitted that the overall potential for the survival of archaeological deposits within the medieval core of Dunblane is perhaps limited. Nevertheless, routine monitoring and excavations in many other Scottish towns, especially Perth and Aberdeen, but also in some smaller towns, have demonstrated that medieval and later archaeological remains often survive beneath the modern town. The site of any proposed ground disturbance or development along the main street frontages in the historic section of Dunblane must, therefore, be accorded a high archaeological priority; and arrangements should be made for the site to be assessed, monitored and, if necessary, excavated in advance of the development scheme. Similarly, any proposed ground disturbance of the surviving streets and wynds themselves (for instance, for essential repairs, access to services, or environmental improvements) should also be monitored routinely, because the remains of important features of the medieval townscape may be sealed beneath them—the tolbooth, ports, market cross, tron and wells, for example. Little or no archaeological evidence has yet been found for any of these features.

Dunblane has largely escaped the scale of development seen in so many of Scotland's medieval towns. One result of this has been the limited opportunities for archaeological investigation; and the few offered so far have been biased towards the cathedral and its environs. Of necessity, therefore, this assessment of the archaeological potential of the town has been made with relatively little evidence from archaeological work. The conclusions and recommendations expressed here should be regarded as provisional; and this survey will require periodic review in the light of results from any future campaigns of archaeological fieldwork (assessment, monitoring and excavation) and from other sub-surface investigations.

It is important to stress that the survey was limited to the core of historic (medieval) Dunblane. There is a recognised, but unquantifiable potential for the discovery of prehistoric and Roman archaeological remains, both within and outwith the confines of the historic burgh. This has been demonstrated by the previous discoveries of prehistoric cist burials and possibly Mesolithic worked deer antler. This potential is *not* considered or shown on **figure 27**.

Finally, the potential for archaeological features and deposits to be preserved both beneath the floors and within the structures of historic standing buildings in Dunblane (pp 75–8) must not be forgotten. The archaeological potential of Dunblane's standing buildings is *not* shown on **figure 27**, but the potential of individual buildings is considered in the next section.

Turning to the specific areas of Dunblane (as identified in this survey), previous work and chance finds have demonstrated the archaeological potential of Areas 1, 3 and 4, with Area 1 clearly the most sensitive to ground disturbance or new development. No archaeological work has been undertaken in either Areas 2 or 5 as yet, but the survival of what may be fossilised medieval burgage plots on the east side of the High Street (Area 5), for example, is an indication of its archaeological potential. Much of Areas 2 and 3 has been identified as having low (or unknown) archaeological potential. It must be expected, however, that pockets of archaeological deposits, some perhaps sizeable, could be preserved even within these areas. **figure 27** distinguishes between areas of known potential (shaded green) and unknown potential (shaded lighter green). **All green areas should be treated as potentially archaeologically sensitive.** Effectively developed areas (shaded blue) are probably archaeologically sterile.

area 1

This is the most archaeologically sensitive of the five study areas; its potential has been clearly demonstrated by excavations and chance finds. The cathedral itself is a designated

Scheduled Ancient Monument and any proposed development here, although unlikely, would require Scheduled Monument Consent (*see* p 1). Environmental improvements and the installation of services in and around the cathedral are likely to be necessary now and then, and should be monitored closely. The full extent of the bishop's palace is uncertain, rendering the central part of Area 1 extremely sensitive to development. The grassy triangle by the Allan Water should be regarded as having low (or unknown) potential.

area 2

Although one of the largest of the five areas under study, only the Braeport, and in particular the west side, can be regarded as having known archaeological potential. Here, the manse of the clergy lined the main route into Dunblane from the north. Other important sites in the Braeport were the north port, or over port, and the bishop's teind barn. Much less is known of the east side of the Braeport, and the land to the north of the cathedral was largely gardens and orchards. Kirkyard boundaries have been known to move over the centuries and burials may extend out into the Haining.

area 3

The archaeological potential of Area 3 is perhaps restricted to a narrow strip at the foot of Holmehill, comprising Kirk Street and the north side of Sinclair's Street. Kirk Street may be the site of the earliest settlement in Dunblane and so is particularly sensitive to development. Until the late eighteenth century, Kirk Street was developed on both the east and west sides. There have been considerable changes in the townscape here, with the widening of Kirk Street and the encroachment of the kirkyard eastwards. The archaeological potential of the east side of Kirk Street is demonstrated by survival of a late medieval vaulted cellar located to the rear of the Scottish Churches House and, perhaps, associated with the archdeacon's manse.

Holmehill has long been thought to be the site of an early monastic settlement, but landscaping of the grounds of Holmehill House in the nineteenth century probably destroyed any upstanding remains, if any such existed. The lower slopes of Holmehill, at the east end of Sinclair's Street, have recently been developed for residential and sheltered housing.

area 4

The north-western corner of this area is one of the most archaeologically sensitive areas in the town, and contains some of the oldest standing buildings in Dunblane, notably the Cathedral Museum and the Leighton Library. The Cross was the site of the market place and the remains of the tolbooth, tron and market cross may still be preserved below the present street surface. The section of High Street contained within this area is a nineteenth-century addition to the town plan but some earlier buildings are present. Most of the High Street then, together with the grounds of St Blane's House and the eastern end of Sinclair's Street, is seen as having low (or unknown) archaeological potential.

area 5

The archaeological potential of this area is largely unknown as no work has been carried out here and no chance finds have been reported. Despite this, Area 5 is to be seen as archaeologically sensitive because Millrow and the High Street were two of the main thoroughfares of the medieval town, with Millrow perhaps the earlier. There are a number of gap sites and vacant premises on the High Street and, therefore, development here must be a distinct possibility in the near future. The east side of the High Street also contains what may be fossilised medieval burghage plots. Millrow is mostly open space now but here were sited the ford and mill, and possibly other industrial features. The south

port, or nether port, stood at the foot of the High Street on the eastern approach to the bridge, which, in its earliest phase, dates to the early fifteenth century.

The suburb of Bridgend, although home to weavers and their families in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, may in fact predate the construction of the bridge and so must also be regarded as archaeologically sensitive. An early hospital is also documented and may have been located here.

historic buildings

pp 75–78

D

Townscapes are made and remade over the centuries. As a result, only fragments of Dunblane's original medieval townscape exist, but a number of standing buildings remain either in part or in whole; and their external analysis, when combined with their archaeological potential, can provide an insight into Dunblane's historic past.

In recent excavations in other towns, street frontages have been the most rewarding areas in terms of the preservation of archaeological deposits, in spite of the problem of cellaring. Although there has been no opportunity to examine any of the street frontages in Dunblane, evidence of medieval structures in the form of post-holes and floor surfaces may be expected, sealed beneath the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century and earlier standing buildings. Recent excavations in Perth, Dunfermline and Arbroath have also shown that the width and alignment of the main streets in burghs often changed over the centuries. Earlier cobbled street surfaces and contemporary buildings may be preserved up to three or four metres behind the line of the modern street frontage.

The *tower of the cathedral* is the oldest extant building in Dunblane, standing parallel with the nave and half in, half out, of the aisle of the cathedral. Evidently, when an older church was demolished, its almost certainly free-standing Romanesque belfry-tower was incorporated within the fabric of the new cathedral. It is possible that the lower four storeys of the cathedral tower, constructed from local stone, may have served as a place of defence as well as a place of worship for Culdees before the reorganisation of the diocese in the twelfth century. The upper portion of the tower is distinctively early sixteenth century in date and is noteworthy for the round projections of the parapet at the corners, clearly derived from castles.

The *cathedral* consists of a nave **figure 10** with aisles of eight bays, an aisleless choir of six bays, with a chapel on the north and, prior to the Reformation, at least seven altars. The great west door is remarkable for the fourteen shafts in either jamb. Above this doorway are three large windows of equal size; and over them in the gable is a small oval leaf-shaped window, admired by John Ruskin.

The earliest existing portion of the cathedral, after the tower, is the chapel on the north side of the choir. This perhaps functioned as both chapter house and Lady Chapel and is a small and relatively plain building with five bays. The eastern portion of the cathedral was relatively well maintained during the post-Reformation period and the choir functioned as the parish church, rather than the nave, as had been the practice. After the Reformation, the roof of the nave of the cathedral collapsed and a large part of the building became ruinous. This state of disrepair was not uncommon in the post-Reformation period because much of the wealth of the medieval church had passed into secular hands. A roof-raggle on the east face of the tower is probably an indicator of an external porch over the south doorway of the cathedral. Another raggle is visible on the west side of the tower and may represent a structure extending into the kirkyard.

The cathedral only narrowly escaped the threat of demolition to make way for the railway. It was restored in the late nineteenth century and is now maintained by the Friends of Dunblane Cathedral. The cathedral is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and, therefore, any development here would require the consent of the Secretary of State of Scotland. Major development here is unlikely, but environmental improvements and the insertion of new services, both within the standing building and in the kirkyard area, will almost certainly disturb archaeology.

Over the last two centuries, improvements inside the cathedral have brought to light a number of important discoveries. In 1873, the floor-levels of the choir and chapter house were reduced, and in 1889–93 a sub-floor chamber was excavated for a new central heating system in the Lady Chapel. At a depth of 0.61 m, two sculptured stones were found, dateable to the ninth, tenth or eleventh centuries. A stone coffin containing two disturbed skeletons was also found during groundworks in the choir. Any further groundworks may expose earlier phases of the cathedral and, perhaps, remains of an earlier church. Burials almost certainly survive, preserved beneath the present floor surface. Camden's *Britannia*, first published in 1586, describes the nave as being 'full of modern gravestones', and Bronze Age cists have been recovered from the north and north-west ends of the cathedral.

South-west of the cathedral lie the ruins of the *bishop's palace* **figure 7**. Recent excavations have provided a valuable insight into this hitherto little understood building. It survives as a block of four vaulted chambers, with the lower part of a circular stair-tower. The floors of the chambers lie up to 1.1 m below the present ground level. Slezer's late seventeenth-century view **figure 25** of the town shows the palace as derelict and roofless, but enough detail exists to suggest a substantial building, with great tall chimneys, large windows and circular towers. The site has never been archaeologically excavated, but rubbish clearance in the 1960s recovered some unstratified sixteenth-century pottery. Apparently derelict by the late sixteenth century, the ruins proved a convenient quarry for later building works in the town, notably for the tollbooth and the Leighton Library.

The extent of the palace is still not clear but there are references to ruins extending to the Library. On the north side, it had been levelled by the late nineteenth century. In 1903, while digging foundations for the Cathedral Hall, workmen uncovered a 90 ft (27.4 m) long vault, running parallel with the wall separating the kirkyard from the Cathedral Hall garden. The roof had been broken in many places and the vault itself had been backfilled with rubble. The arched roof of a second vault has also been uncovered on the kirkyard side of the garden wall.

Recent trial excavations, in advance of a proposed extension to the Cathedral Hall, uncovered a further length of partially robbed-out vault and the remains of a cobbled courtyard surface. Probably the western end of the same vault found in the Cathedral Hall, it was similarly backfilled with rubble. The roof of the vault lay c 0.8 m below the present ground surface. Although the ground plan and full extent of the palace remains unclear, it has been suggested that the main palace block faced the cathedral, with the gable walls facing the Allan Water. The upstanding vaults may then form part of a southern annexe, or west range, connected to the main block, albeit at an unusual angle, by a circular stair tower. The archaeological implications for the palace are therefore considerable. It has been shown to extend under Bishop's Close into the garden of, and under, the Cathedral Hall. It may equally extend in all directions from the visible ruins, into the grounds of the manse and the gardens of the cottages on the west of the roadway, as well as into the kirkyard.

The *houses on Kirk Street*, fronting onto the cathedral, consist primarily of stone or harled two-storeyed structures, dating to the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The entire east side of Kirk Street has been built against the steep rise of Holmehill, and has been amalgamated into a series of blocks which together form Scottish Churches House, constructed in the mid eighteenth century. The warden's house block is a two-storey L-shaped plan with a harled and whitewashed surface and one window gable to the street. Incorporated into this block is the former Leighton Manse, constructed slightly later in date, in the domestic Georgian architecture tradition. It now forms the main reception area. Behind this is the chapel which was created from a pre-sixteenth-century cellar, which was thought to have been part of the *archdeacon's house* **figure 6**. Partially restored inside, with a new floor, and currently in use as a chapel, it comprises a single vaulted chamber. There are few clues as to the original extent of this building, but the local topography, an extremely narrow ledge or terrace, suggests this may have been an outbuilding of the archdeacon's manse rather than part of a larger complex.

Surrounding the churchyard is a low Victorian wall. Set into it is *Riccarton's Stile*, which may delineate the frontages or rears of properties that once stood on the cathedral boundary. The churchyard was not used solely as a graveyard. It is known that this area was also used for local fairs and cattle markets. Little is known as to what might lie beneath the kirkyard. There has already been some disturbance here, caused by drainage, gas, water and electricity pipes; and centuries of use as a graveyard will have had a considerable effect on the very earliest archaeological levels. A sizeable workforce would have been needed to build the church. It remains unclear where the earliest settlement in Dunblane was, but it is possible that timber buildings to accommodate the workers were ranged around the early church.

One of the most important events in the history of Dunblane was the building of the *bridge* over the River Allan **figure 8** in the early fifteenth century, on the instruction of Bishop

Finlay Dermoch (1406–19). The original single arched bridge of yellow dressed stone was 12 ft wide and approximately 42 ft in length (3.6 m x 12.9 m) prior to its reconstruction in 1734. It is unclear whether the suburb of Bridgend was in existence before the building of this bridge, but this would prove to be a stimulus to settlement, being on an important routeway (see p 18). In 1849, the south end was widened with red stone. In 1927, a modern girder bridge with balustraded parapets was imposed on the original structure. Traces of the original structure can still be seen in the later fabric. The result of these works may have been to destroy all traces of the nether port, which stood on the bridge, probably at the east end.

The *dean's house* at The Cross, now the Cathedral Museum, **figure 12**, was built in 1624 as the town house of Dean John Pearson of Kippenross, whose coat of arms of a heart impaled by a sword can be seen on the outside wall. It is a plain, tall building with a fore stair. Only the ground floor, however, with its barrel vault is original; the upper storeys, staircase and window were completed during a reconstruction in 1765 and these additions are indicative of changes in financial status.

Leighton Library was a slightly later addition to The Cross. It was built in 1687 at the request of Edward Lightmaker, the nephew of William Leighton, bishop of Dunblane, 1662–72, to house the books the bishop left to the diocese in his will. The two-storey, cream-washed building is of a relatively simple rectangular design with a steeply sloping tiled roof and crow-stepped gables. The east facade is plain with a fore stair leading up to the moulded library doorway. An oval carved stone armorial panel in baroque style is to be seen on this facade. The west facade is slightly more detailed, with round-headed windows.

Within these and other standing buildings in the medieval core of the town, the remains of floor surfaces and other features associated with earlier phases of occupation may be preserved, sealed beneath the modern floor levels. Features may also be sealed within the fabric itself, blocked off by latter additions. The foundations of earlier buildings which pre-date the present standing buildings may also survive.

Other solid stone houses front onto The Cross or Cathedral Square. *Cathedral Cottage* is a prime example of an early eighteenth-century, plain, two-storey, four-window, rubble-built house. A later example is *Cross Cottage*, built c 1840, which is a single-storey rubble-built, slate roofed house with an attic, two windows, two large canted dormers and a central door. The *manse*, rebuilt in the 1960s, contains elements of its original 1829 construction, including the front wall with its Gothic doorway. This group of buildings is particularly important in that all may be sited on the remains of the extensive bishop's palace. There is a tradition that the dean's manse also stood near here, near to the Leighton Library.

One historic standing building on Millrow is *Allanside*, the large two-storey harled and greywashed house below the bridge. Constructed in the late eighteenth century, it was partly removed during the widening of Millrow. It has had many uses by the Secession and Episcopalian churches and the cathedral congregation, before it was converted into a hotel and finally a private residence.

Originally, the U-shaped High Street was a narrow street that reserved its grander houses for uphill and commerce and industry for downhill. This phenomenon is clearly illustrated by the *Stirling Arms Hotel*, which has been in existence as an inn since at least the seventeenth century and is located at the foot of the High Street. It takes its name from the coat of arms of the Stirlings of Kippendavie. In its present form, the hotel dates to about 1770, although it was raised to three storeys in 1905. Just downstream from the bridge over the river at the Stirling Arms is an example of industry—the *remains of a mill*, in existence before 1780. The lade that carried the water which drove the wheel is just visible in an area of reeds, while the stone ruins of the mill are hidden in trees. Originally, it was a waulk mill. When silk weaving was introduced to the town in 1838, the function of the mill changed from strengthening cloth to the production of silk thread.

Because Dunblane was an important ecclesiastical centre, in addition to the various officials of the cathedral having residences within its bounds, many of the leading families

in the district also owned houses in Dunblane. Historically, the most distinguished building on the High Street was *Balhaldie House*—the oldest fully inhabited town house in Dunblane, built c 1695 for Drummond of Balhaldie, who was the principal Jacobite agent in 1745 and is said to have entertained Bonnie Prince Charlie. The original building is the section from the projecting round tower towards Sinclair's Street, but little architectural detail survives. Earlier features, however, may survive hidden behind or within the later fabric of the building.

The *Bank of Scotland*, no 63 High Street, was constructed in the mid nineteenth century as a two-storey wing of the adjoining Georgian-style *Bank House* and stands on the site of the Earl of Menteith's residence. It possesses a single-storey frontal gabled section at right angles to the High Street with a bipartite ornamentally bracketed doorpiece. It is characterised by ashlar chimneys and slated roofs, combined with a four-window frontage and a Roman Doric columned portico.

The *Sheriff Court House* was constructed in neo-Tudor manner on an irregular frontage by William Stirling in 1844; it was altered and extended in 1869 and again in 1886. Other buildings sharing the upper High Street are houses of the late eighteenth century. *St Blane's Church* was built on the corner with Sinclair's Street in 1854 as a replacement for the first United Free Church, built on the opposite side of the street in 1843 and subsequently used as a school, public meeting room and library. *St Blane's House*, which stands on a natural eminence overlooking the bend in the High Street, dates from the eighteenth or early nineteenth century, and probably stood in isolation when first built (*see* p 57).

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, when the High Street was widened, many of the traditional single-storeyed thatched cottages of the 'but and ben' type were replaced, while others were extended a storey in height. Unfortunately, in many instances alterations have been made to the frontages which have all but obliterated the original architecture. The earliest example of cottage architecture on the *High Street is nos 22–24* which dates to 1725 and has the remains of an unusual mason's insignia on a plaque above the doorway. *Nos 85–89*, and *91–95* are mid to late eighteenth-century examples of traditional High Street frontages. A carved S pediment at gutter level serves to date *nos 16–20* to 1756. While *nos 9, 11, 13, 108–112 and 114–116* date to the early nineteenth century, their construction is similar to their eighteenth-century counterparts. Another early nineteenth-century construction is *no 61*, which extends westwards down Millrow. A classic example of simple late-Victorian architecture is provided by *nos 58, 60, and 62*. All these High Street premises offer an insight into life in Dunblane in the past centuries, in spite of the present deterioration of the southern part of High Street.

Although much altered, additional *cottage architecture* can be seen in Sinclair's Street **figure 15**, where much of the housing dates from the mid eighteenth century. The existing cottages tend to be two-storey, two-window structures with harled or rubble-built walls and slated roofs.

The majority of people living in *Ramoyle* and *Bridgend* were wool and cotton hand loom weavers who endured both extreme poverty and overcrowding. In the north-eastern suburb of Ramoyle, the main street is an undulating, narrow street of classic Scots burgh architecture, comprised mainly of eighteenth-century and earlier cottages which were originally single-storeyed and thatched. They were extended upwards from the early 1900s and roofed with slates. Similarly, many of the houses presently in Bridgend date to the early eighteenth century and were originally single-storeyed cottages with thatched roofs. One of the houses at the junction of Bridgend and Stirling Road has a marriage lintel over the door inscribed with the date 1735, while one corner of the building has a weathered insignia of a crown, horseshoe and nails, placed there by the local blacksmith and owner William MacKenzie. Much of Bridgend was lost to the railway in the nineteenth century.

Much of the documentation for the pre-Reformation town appears not to be available. It had been mooted that some of the cathedral records and possibly also those of the town had departed to France with the last Roman Catholic Chisholm bishop. According to records in Dunblane Cathedral Museum, Dr Annie Dunlop investigated this hypothesis. It would be useful if a watch was kept by historical researchers in French archives for material relating to pre-Reformation Dunblane.

There is, however, a wealth of manuscript material surviving which could shed more light on later, historic Dunblane. Dunblane Cathedral Museum, Stirling Council Archives Service and the Scottish Record Office all have substantial relevant holdings; many of them have been consulted for this survey, but in most cases, of necessity, somewhat speedily.

In Dunblane Cathedral Museum, a large number of boxes containing papers relating to specific properties and their preservation have been examined. Many of these date to the

archaeological objectives for the future

Preparation of the Dunblane burgh survey has highlighted a number of directions for future archaeological work. These can be broadly divided into management objectives, priorities for future fieldwork, and other areas which merit further research. Any such list cannot be exhaustive but it should cover the main areas of concern in the foreseeable future.

management objectives

- 1 Wherever possible, it is important to monitor the impact of any development (in its broadest sense) on the potential archaeological resource (the **green** areas on **figure 27**). This will require the routine provision of site-specific desk-based assessments, through to watching briefs, trial excavations and, where necessary, controlled excavation, post-excavation analysis and publication. Over time, the cumulative results will 'calibrate' this assessment of the archaeological potential of the burgh, providing further evidence about the burgh's origins, and its physical, economic and social development through the centuries.
- 2 Developments should similarly be monitored archaeologically to shed more light on the prehistory of Dunblane and on its function in the Roman sphere of influence. Monitoring of quarrying at the nearby Barbush, where a number of archaeological discoveries have been made, and further housing developments at Hillside/Highfields, should also be a priority.
- 3 The degree and nature of cellarage along the High Street were not systematically examined during this preparation of this report. More accurate information would be most useful to managers/curators of the archaeological resource in assessing the archaeological potential of these and other main street frontages in the burgh.
- 4 Engineers' boreholes offer a convenient glimpse of the depth and nature of sub-surface deposits, man-made or not, ancient and modern. It would be useful if the results obtained from engineers' boreholes, in and around the core of the historic burgh, could be gradually collected and collated. Borehole results, especially those in the hands of private contractors, have proved difficult to access, and it might be worth considering mechanisms by which such information could more easily (and preferably routinely) be made available to managers/curators of the archaeological resource.

seventeenth century. There are also heritors' minutes and other miscellaneous documents relating to such matters as local trade disputes. These would merit further assessment, and are particularly well catalogued, albeit by hand, and well conserved. With further assessment, it might be possible to gain a closer view of the topography of the town, as well as its social and economic development.

Stirling Council Archives Service possesses much material, some of which has been transferred from the Scottish Record Office. Most of this consists of ecclesiastical records—kirk session and presbytery registers. The earliest presbytery record dates from 1616 and has a fairly unbroken sequence, except for a gap between 1628 and 1648, while extant kirk session minutes date from 1652. This archive also contains a pocket book which belonged to the schoolmaster of Dunblane and contains Latin exercises and notes on arithmetic, geometry, music, poetry, prayers and conjuring tricks to keep the pupils amused. All these sources were looked at, but would repay more detailed study than the time limits of this survey allowed.

The Scottish Record Office holds numerous potentially informative items. There has been time to examine only a few of these. One possibly rich source is the notaries' protocol books. There are no protocol books which deal with Dunblane specifically, but thirty-nine protocol books, which cover Perthshire, might contain information on Dunblane. Not all of these could be consulted for this survey. Those that were, unfortunately, revealed little, but further researches along this route might be worthwhile.

Act books of the commissariat of Dunblane dating from before the Reformation were also consulted. The information available in these records would be of value to social

history

archaeology

- 5 Opportunities should continue to be taken to increase public awareness of the potential archaeological interest of Dunblane, both generally and within and beneath historic standing buildings. Publication of this survey represents a significant step in this direction.
- 6 Periodic review and updating of this survey would be desirable to take account of the results of any future archaeological work, and of the comprehensive collection and collation of other types of sub-surface investigations eg engineers' boreholes, systematic survey of cellarage on the main street frontages etc. In particular, the colour-coded map **figure 27** should be revised and re-issued at regular intervals.

priorities for future fieldwork

Although some archaeological work has been undertaken in Dunblane, the priorities for future archaeological fieldwork remain fairly rudimentary. The following priorities, however, should be borne in mind during preparations of future project designs:

- 1 Ascertain the date and nature of earliest settlement in Dunblane and confirm whether it developed around the cathedral.
- 2 Define the limits of the medieval burgh and the character and date of any burgh boundaries.
- 3 Assess the nature of the burgage plots, in particular, those that extend eastwards from the High Street.
- 4 Locate important features of the medieval townscape—the ports, tolbooth, market cross, tron and wells, for example—of which no archaeological evidence has yet been found.

historians, giving details of such matters as prevailing occupations and marriages and divorces. The similarly named, but entirely different, post-Reformation Commissary Court records of Dunblane also date from the sixteenth century and contain diverse material, relating to negotiations over land use within the burgh, trade disputes and local road repairs. Extant sheriff court records begin in the early eighteenth century and, as with much of the rest of the material cited here, the information relating to Dunblane itself is likely to be subsumed within records which deal with all or part of the county of Perth. A fuller picture of Dunblane would require a comprehensive analysis of a considerable volume of primary source material.

There are also a number of other possible avenues. The A K Bell Library in Perth houses a substantial number of different types of record, such as minutes of the Commissioners of Supply, which cover the whole of Perthshire. Papers from the Cromlix, Stirlings of Keir and Kippenross estates, all of which impinged on Dunblane, might also repay investigation.

Barty, in his *History of Dunblane*, suggested that there might be useful material relating to freemasonry in Dunblane, the earliest of which dates from April 1695. He was also aware of a table of customs of the City of Dunblane, dated 1741, which was extant when he was researching.

The Leighton Library is a wonderful resource and for a fuller understanding of eighteenth-century Dunblane, would merit careful assessment. William Coldstream, schoolmaster from 1743, for example, deposited his papers in the Leighton Library; and a careful trawl will doubtless produce much more.

history

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| archaeology | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Identify any sequence of planning in the layout and expansion of the burgh, and determine any variations in street alignment and width. 6 Identify the exact locations of the manses within the burgh and in particular, the layout of the archdeacon's house, of which one cellar may still survive. 7 Determine the full extent, plan and chronology of the bishop's palace. 8 Test the hypothesis that Millrow is earlier in origin than the High Street, and that the High Street is approximately contemporary with the construction of the first stone bridge. 9 Locate the mill and other industrial features that were situated along the banks of the Allan Water. 10 Examine the origins of the two settlements at Bridgend and Ramoyle, and determine their relationship within the overall development of Dunblane. 11 Ascertain whether the settlement of Bridgend is earlier or contemporary with the construction of the first stone bridge, and confirm the existence of a hospital there. <p><i>areas for further archaeological research</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 A reconstruction of the layout, extent and physical setting of the burgh would be useful for our understanding of the development of the burgh. This would be particularly useful when assessing the impact of any future development proposals and in presenting the current state of knowledge. |
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street names

pp 83-85

D

- Arnott's Close *Area 4*
 Arnott's Close ran between Upper High Street and Kirk Street and was probably named after sir Lucas Arnott, a chaplain of the cathedral in 1460. In the nineteenth century, Arnott's Close used to be known as Little Ireland and housed a large community of Irish immigrants.
- Bishop's Garden *Area 2*
 The red sandstone terrace dates from around 1905. This area was originally part of the gardens of the bishops of the cathedral.
- Braeport *Area 2*
 The northern gate of the town, the over port, was situated on the brae, in the street outside the present-day community centre. On the west side of the over port was the tithe barn, where the tenth part of all produce and income from the see was stored. The Bishop's Barn, a Victorian villa, now occupies the spot. It is thought that the manse of the abbot of Arbroath stood opposite, with the treasurer's manse adjacent. A number of other manses lined the Braeport, but there is considerable doubt as to the precise position of most of them (*see p 49*).
- Bridgend *Area 5*
 Bridgend developed as a suburb some time after the building of the first bridge over the Allan Water in 1409, although there may have been settlement here before this time. Once established, it extended as far as Calderwood Place until about 1854, when the Doune Road was built. The census of 1841 shows a numerous, but poverty-stricken, population of over 300 people living in Bridgend, mostly employed in weaving. The remains of a silk mill can still be seen downstream from the Stirling Arms Hotel. The arrival of the railway in the 1840s resulted in the demolition of many of the houses and a small brewery in Bridgend.
- Buccleuch Court *Area 2*
 Now occupied by modern flats, this was originally part of the garden of the bishops of Dunblane.
- The Cross *Area 4*
 The Cross has also been known as Cross Street and, more recently, Cathedral Square. Opposite the cathedral, in the centre of the road, stood the market cross. The tolbooth, also used as the town gaol, stood adjacent to the cathedral entrance from at least 1650 to 1842. The Cathedral Museum, on the corner of The Cross and Kirk Street, formerly the dean's house, was built in 1624. The Burgh Chambers, next door to the museum, was built on the site of the town house of the lairds of Kilbryde. Directly opposite is the Leighton Library, erected in 1687, which houses an extensive collection of seventeenth-century and later books.
- The Haining *Area 2*
 The Haining, meaning a hedged enclosure, is a reminder that this area used to be farmland. The Haining was formerly known as 'Meeting House Close' after a church sited on the corner with Braeport, which was demolished in 1835. The north-east corner

of the cathedral churchyard, beside the Haining, is said to have been used as a burial ground for plague victims but, as yet, there is no archaeological or documentary evidence of this.

High Street

Area 5

The High Street, originally 'The High Causeway', is the main thoroughfare in Dunblane, although it did not come into existence until the fifteenth century, probably soon after the bridge was built. Although much narrower in places than it is today, many noblemen and local gentry, such as the earls of Menteith, had their townhouses there. The Stirling Arms Hotel at the foot of the High Street dates to at least the seventeenth century, but an inn may have been on this site from considerably earlier. In the late nineteenth century, the High Street was gradually widened, beginning with the northern end, where the old cottages were replaced with taller buildings.

High Street, Upper

Area 4

Upper High Street was first established in 1820, access to this area previously being by Sinclair's Street and Smithy Loan. At the foot of Upper High Street was Strathallan's Lodging, demolished in 1843 in advance of the building of a new town gaol, in turn demolished in 1963. Balhaldie House, the oldest continuously inhabited house in Dunblane, stands in this street and dates to the late seventeenth century. At the top of the street is St Mary's Episcopal Church, built on land gifted by the Stirlings of Kippendavie in 1845.

Holmehill Court

Area 3

This modern street was built on the former gardens of Holmehill House. The foundations of cottages, demolished in 1820 when the gardens were extended, were found during building work in 1986.

Kirk Street

Areas 3 & 4

Kirk Street extends along the south and east sides of the cathedral precincts to the foot of Braeport. From about the mid seventeenth century, tenement buildings were erected around both sides of the cathedral churchyard, projecting part way into the present roadway. These old tenements were demolished in the nineteenth century. The Tappit Hen, formerly known as the Chimes and the Crosskeys, was where the masonic lodge held its meetings until about a century ago. In the medieval period, the chancellor of the cathedral had his residence on Kirk Street, where the public conveniences now stand. A row of once derelict eighteenth-century cottages line the eastern side of Kirk Street. These were renovated and are now the property of Scottish Churches House, an ecumenical meeting place.

Millrow

Area 5

Millrow was the main street leading from the ford over the Allan. It was named after a meal mill which stood on the east side of the Allan Water, where a car park stands today. A mill may have been in existence here since the fourteenth century, and was in the possession of the bishops of the cathedral. After the Reformation, the mill passed to the Cromlix Estate. Where the children's

playground now stands was the site of Allanbank House. The Duke of Cumberland stayed here in 1746 during his campaign against Prince Charles Edward Stewart. James Gillespie Graham (1777–85), the architect who designed much of Edinburgh's New Town, was born in Millrow.

Ramoyle

Area 2

Situated to the north of Dunblane, at the foot of Holmehill, this suburb of Dunblane may have been an early settlement in its own right. Referred to as 'Ramule', possibly from 'Rath Maol' meaning 'the fort on the bare hill', it was part of the cathedral lands until the Reformation. Today, it is comprised of mainly eighteenth-century cottages which were originally single-storeyed and thatched. In the 1900s they were extended upwards and roofed with slates. Weavers and their families lived here in the nineteenth century, often in extreme poverty.

Sinclair's Wynd

Area 3

see Sinclair's Street

Sinclair's Street

Area 3

This street was named after Henry Sinclair of Ardoch who had a town house here *c* 1536. It was the main road from the burgh to Sherrifmuir, via Smithy Loan and Newton Loan. The street was previously known as 'Sinclair's Wynd' or 'Puddin Wynd', as this was the way to the *pladian*, or cultivated plots near, Anchorfield.

Smithy Loan

Area 4

Named after a blacksmith's smithy, the last in Dunblane, that stood here from the late nineteenth century until the 1940s. St Mary's School was erected on Smithy Loan in 1845 as a day school under the control of the Scottish Episcopal Church. An early Secession Church stood between 1765 and 1857, where the retirement homes stand today.

glossary

pp 87–88

D

almshouse	House for the support and lodging of the poor; sometimes a hospital.
artefacts	Objects made by human workmanship.
backlands	The area to the rear of the burgage plot behind the dwelling house on the frontage. Originally intended for growing produce and keeping animals; site of wells and midden heaps. Eventually housed working premises of craftsmen and poorer members of burgh society.
bailies	Burgh officers who performed routine administration.
baxters	Bakers.
boundaries	<i>see</i> burgage plot
burgage plot	A division of land, often of regular size, having been measured out by liners, allocated to a burgess. Once built on, it contained the burgage house on the frontage (<i>see</i> frontage) and a backland (<i>see</i> backland). In time, with pressure for space, the plots were often subdivided—repletion. Plots were bounded by ditches, wattle fences or stone walls.
burgess	Person who enjoys the privileges and responsibilities of the freedom of the burgh.
calcined	Burnt.
cinerary urn	A form of burial urn dating to the Bronze Age, which contained cremated remains.
cists	Stone-lined graves.
close	<i>see</i> vennel
cordiners	Leather workers.
craft	Trade.
Culdees	Members of a religious movement in the Celtic church.
documentary sources	Written evidence, primary sources being the original documents.
façade	Finished face of a building.
fluvioglacial	Combined action of water and ice.
frontage	Front part of burgage plot nearest the street, on which the dwelling was usually built.
gap sites	Burgage plots not built up or 'biggit'; in a modern context, undeveloped space between two buildings.
guild	Organisation or fraternity for mutual support, whether economic, religious or social.

hinterland	Rural area around a burgh, to which the burgh looked for economic and agricultural support; hinterland likewise dependent on burgh market.
hoard	A collection of metalwork, normally coins, deposited in the ground, often buried for safe-keeping but never recovered.
indwellers	Unprivileged, non-burgess dwellers in a town.
inhumation	A burial of a human corpse.
<i>in situ</i>	An archaeological term describing layers of soil or features undisturbed by later activity.
lorimer	A maker of bits, spurs and other small metal objects.
merk	13s 4d, two-thirds of £ Scots.
midden	Rubbish heaps consisting mainly of food debris and other waste products, often found in the backlands of medieval properties.
natural	A term used by archaeologists to describe the undisturbed sub-soil.
prehistory	Period of human history before the advent of writing.
repletion	<i>see</i> burgage plot
rig	<i>see</i> burgage plot
sherd	Fragment of pottery.
spindle whorl	A weight used in spinning.
tectonic movements	Displacements in the earth's crust.
temporary camp	Often called marching camps, these were constructed for temporary accommodation by the Roman army on military campaigns.
terracing	Cutting into a slope to level the ground surface.
tithes	A tenth of the produce of land and stock, allocated to the Church.
toft	<i>see</i> burgage plot
tolbooth	The most important secular building; meeting place of burgh council; collection post for market tolls; often housed town gaol.
tolls	Payments for use of burgh market.
townhouse	Principal modern civic building.
tron	Public weigh-beam.

<i>tutulus</i>	An outer, defensive earthwork that protected the entrance into a Roman temporary camp.	89
urban nucleus	Original site(s) from which town developed.	
vennel	Alley; narrow lane.	
waulk mill	A fulling mill, used in the preparation of cloth.	
£	£ Scots.	

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Box 3, 3/3/vi/i Notes on Allanbank and other properties in Millrow, by courtesy of Gas Board.

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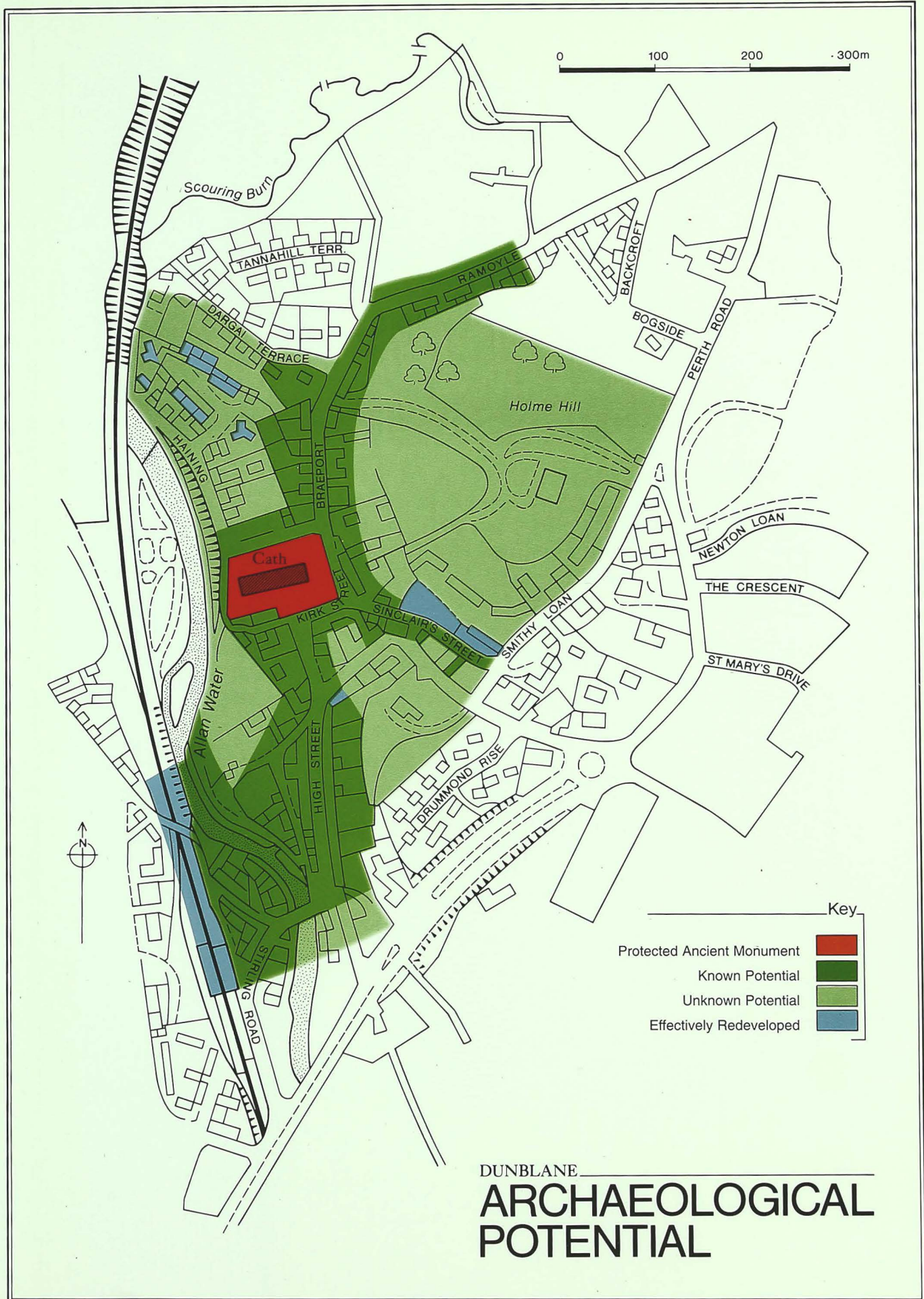


figure 27
The archaeological
potential of Dunblane

Historic Dunblane

Historic Dunblane is a fascinating study of the town's history and archaeology, from its origins up to the nineteenth century. The Celtic saint Blane is said to have founded a religious community here perhaps as early as the seventh century; while the fortunes of medieval and later Dunblane were always dependent on those of the cathedral at its centre. Today, the surviving street pattern and many old buildings are strong reminders of Dunblane's historic past.

This book is part of 'the **Scottish burgh survey**—a series designed to identify which areas of Scotland's historic burghs are of archaeological interest.

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