Illus 1 General location plan.
Introduction

This report describes the archaeological excavations carried out by SUAT Ltd at the Horse Cross, Perth, in advance of the building of Perth Concert Hall. The work was commissioned by GTMS, on behalf of Perth and Kinross Leisure, in response to an archaeological planning condition imposed by Perth and Kinross Council. Excavation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Perth and Kinross Area Archaeologist, David Strachan.

Location (Illus 1 and 2)

The development site was centred on NO 1187 2388, and lay just beyond the north-east corner of the medieval burgh defences. It covered a total area of c8,425m² (0.8425ha), including the footprint of the new concert hall and an area of hard landscaping immediately surrounding it.

This was bounded to the south by Mill Street, to the east by Bridge Lane and to the north by North Port, and was bisected by Castle Gable. The S end of Castle Gable opened out into a public space called Horse Cross, prior to the development in use as a public car park. To the north-east the site was bounded by Perth Museum and Art Gallery, and an 18th-century house (now a restaurant) on the south side of North Port. In the west it took in the former General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation print works (a mid 20th-century extension of the Pullars industrial complex), and part of a private car park serving the print works and government offices based in a 1901 extension of the Pullars works on Mill Street. The site reached almost as far west as Curfew Row, a medieval street running diagonally up from Mill Street to join North Port.

To the north of the site, along North Port, are The Fair Maid’s House 39410, the stables of Lord John Murray’s House 39409, and Blackfriars House 39587, latterly the headquarters of Hydro-Electric, now council offices (Historic Building Numbers in italics).

A little to the south of the site, along Mill Street, is the junction with Skinergate, a medieval street, an open stretch of the town lade and, in Albert Close, what is reputed to be a standing fragment of the city wall.

The site is rather low-lying, and was severely affected in the floods of 1993, in which parked cars filled almost to window-sill height, and the lower floor of the museum was severely damaged. The high ground in George Street to the east is artificial, raised to give access to Perth Bridge, built 1766–71, but the Horse Cross car park area is low even compared with adjacent areas in Skinergate or Mill Street, and probably represents a natural depression in the flood-plain of the Tay.

Place name

The origin of the place name Horse Cross is obscure, the earliest documentary record occurring on Robert Reid’s map dating to 1809 (Perry, History, below). Although horses were known to have been traded in medieval Perth (St John’s toun) and are referred to by John Major in his 1521 History of Greater Britain (Scottish History Society 1892, 39), the specific location of the market is not given. It is unlikely, then, that the name Horse Cross refers to an early horse market or fair in this location. The firm of Wordie & Co operated a carriers’ business (later Scottish Road Services and British Road Services) on a site a few metres to the south, from 1864 onwards. Local lore indicates that in the latter half of the 20th century, horse-drawn carts and carriers could still be hired in this area, in order to convey goods bought in Perth to the outlying farms and villages (I Milne, pers comm). It is possible that the name ‘Horse Cross’ was first given to the site in the late 18th/early 19th century for that reason.

Archaeological potential

The development site was of great importance, on the northern edge of the burgh defences, a possible site of Perth’s lost medieval castle (destroyed in 1209), and of the chapel of St Laurence. It included the whole of the short street called Castle Gable, and lay within the late medieval suburb established mainly on the Blackfriars lands, known to be a centre of various industries right up until modern times.
Work began with a Desk Based Assessment of the archaeological implications of the project, completed in August 2001. This was followed by a Watching Brief on engineers’ boreholes, undertaken between 18th October and 8th November 2001 in the various outdoor parts of the site, mainly car parks.

In 2002, during the period 8th–13th July, a site evaluation was undertaken within the former GA Print Works, then still standing. Two large trenches were machine excavated to confirm the location, extent and quality of archaeological deposits. A small amount of additional work was undertaken on 5th August.

The former GA Print Works was demolished in late 2002. A watching brief was conducted on the final, below-ground stages of demolition, during the period 5th–11th December.

Excavation

Following demolition, archaeological excavation was targeted on the footprint of the new Concert Hall, and especially on the footprint of the auditorium, where a deep well was required to accommodate the mechanism of the movable stage, orchestra pit, auditorium floor and seating, all of which were to be adjustable. Further archaeological excavation was targeted on the areas affected by the less deep parts of the new building.
The excavation was planned in two phases, first on the site of the GA Print Works, on the west side of the road called Castle Gable, and then, following the closure of the car park adjacent to Perth Museum and Art Gallery, on the east side of that road.

Phase 1 of excavation (Illus 5)

Following the demolition of the former GA Print Works, archaeologically controlled machine-stripping of the site began on 12th December 2002, and continued until Friday 20th December. Extensive areas of well-preserved archaeology were revealed, and a team of excavators began thoroughly cleaning and hand-stripping whilst supervised machining continued. Hand stripping con- tinued until Friday 20th December, when work ceased for the Christmas break. When the site re-opened on 6th January 2003, the excavators returned to a deeply frozen site as a result of a period of severe frost. Severe weather continued through much of the first phase, which ended on 28th February 2003. The total area cleared in Phase 1 was approximately 1,350m².

This western phase of the excavation contained many deep deposits forming over the large medieval ditch which dominated this area. Because of this, and because of the very adverse weather conditions in this phase of the work, it was not possible to fully excavate this area. Instead, certain areas were selected for careful hand excavation, notably the many structures and middens over the north end of the medieval ditch, and the chapel and burial ground at the south end of the site. Some other areas were sampled in rapid trenches and sondages. This inevitably led to some loss of detail, but ensured that the major features and phases of activity on the site were identified.

Phase 2 of excavation (Illus 22)

On 22nd April 2003, the excavation team returned to the site following clearance of the Perth Museum and Art Gallery car park, allowing access to a further area of approximately 1,230m² to the east of Castle Gable. The period of fine weather which occurred during the break in operations did not continue, and very wet conditions prevailed, aggravated by the low-lying nature of the site. However, the deposits in this eastern part of the site were generally shallower and simpler than west of Castle Gable, allowing a fairly complete excavation of this part of the site. Work continued until 4th June 2003.

Watching briefs

An intermittent watching brief was conducted on landscaping works surrounding the completed building, during the period 22nd February–17th May 2005.

Historical background

David Perry

The castle of Perth

Between 1157 and 1160 Malcolm IV (1153–65) granted to Dunfermline Abbey the parish church of Perth and the chapel of the castle (RRS, i, no 157). This is the earliest specific reference to the castle of Perth. However, this grant formed part of an exchange between the Benedictine monks of Dunfermline Abbey and the Cluniac monks of the Priory of the Isle of May, whereby May Priory gave up an unlocated chapel in Perth and its teinds from Perth in return for an annual rent of five merks from Perth surrendered by Dunfermline Abbey (ibid, no 158). The implication is that the chapel that had been granted to May Priory was in the castle. The chapel and teinds are said to have been granted to May Priory by David I (1124–53), which would imply that the castle of Perth existed before 1153. The grant of the chapel is not otherwise recorded, but the teinds of the sheriffdom of Perth (smaller than the later county of Perth) had been granted to a proposed monastery of Cluniacs at Rhynd, near Perth, by David I between 1150 and 1153 (Barrow 1999, no 188). It may be that the chapel, presumably in the castle, was granted to the proposed foundation at Rhynd, which foundation was envisaged before 1150 as a daughter house of the Cluniacs of Reading Abbey (ibid, no 166). When the monastery at Rhynd was not realised, the grants to it were later exchanged with Dunfermline Abbey, which already held the parish church of Perth as well as the teinds of the ‘royal household’ (domus) in Perth. The latter had been granted to the church of Dunfermline by David I between about 1124 and 1128 (ibid, no 18). The absence of a reference to the castle in this grant may mean that the castle was not then in existence but that it had been built by about 1150.

References to the castle are few and indirect. William the Lion (1165–1214) confirmed, between 1165 and 1169, to St Andrews Priory the booth of Baldwin the lorimer located at the corner of North Street, now High Street, and the street leading to the castle, now Skinnergate (RRS, ii, no 28). The grant had been made by Malcolm IV, but Malcolm’s charter makes no mention of the castle (RRS, i, no 221). William also granted, between 1196 and 1199, to Henry Bald a property in Perth on the front of the east side of the street leading from the Church of St John the Baptist to the castle of Perth (RRS, ii, no 415). The references indicate that the castle was located to the north of the burgh.

Perth developed as a royal burgh at a classic location for a town: at the junction of routes north to Inverness, north-east to Forfar and Aberdeen, east to Dundee, south-east to Fife, south to Edinburgh, south-west to Stirling and west to Strathearn, at the lowest fording point, later bridging point, of the River Tay, and at the highest navigable point of that river. The castle was strategically located to guard this important position.
It was situated on an eminence on the north side of the burgh, though whether a natural one or an artificial motte is unclear. The castle lay at the north end of a route, now Kirkgate and Skinnergate, from the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, although its exact location is unknown. Fittis (1885, 147) locates it on the west side of Curfew Row, now under the new multi-story car park, with a courtyard on the site later occupied by the Glovers Yards, then the Free West Church, now presently Government offices on the east side of Curfew Row. Fittis also mentions the existence of ruins of the castle cleared away about 1860, but whatever these ruins may have been, they are unlikely to have belonged to the castle. The generally accepted location for the castle seems to have been the east side of Castle Gable, at the corner with North Port. Whatever the location, the meandering nature of the streets in this area suggests that their course was determined by the existence of former natural or artificial topographical features; hills, eminences, ditches or water courses which may relate to earthwork defences for the castle. The name of ‘Chapelhill’ (see below) for an area on the west side of Castle Gable indicates the former existence of an eminence of some sort in this now low-lying area.

The castle is assumed to have been of timber, although this may not have been so. At the north end of Skinnergate, on its east side, lay a property of the constable of Scotland, described in the first half of the 13th century as ‘that land with a stone house (domus lapidea) in the street leading from the north high street towards the Inch, which lies between the said street and the River Tay, viz that stone house and whole land between the said house and the river pertaining to the said house, and the garden outside the walls of Perth, which pertains to the said land’ (Scone Liber, no 80).

If the constable of Scotland had a stone house just inside Perth, is it likely that the king had a timber one just outside?

It has been said that a royal castle may owe its origin to the existence of an earlier royal demesne estate, administered by a sheriff or thane (Duncan 1975, 162). This would apply to Perth, whose importance as a royal estate centre dates from at least the early years of David I, who had a house at Perth (see above), if not even earlier: possibly as early as the 10th century, when nearby Scone was already an important royal inauguration site. That Perth was already an important settlement before the 12th century is confirmed by radiocarbon dates from excavations in Perth (Hall et al 2005). Presumably Perth had developed as a settlement of craftsmen and traders, who converted the rents in kind paid by the king’s tenants, to supply the royal household with provisions and manufactured goods during its periodic sojourns in Perth. The absence of any reference earlier than about 1160 to the castle of Perth has led to the conclusion that the castle and its
access to the burgh, Skinnergate, are later intrusions to the topography of the burgh. This may indeed be so, but it could have happened much earlier than the mid 12th century, if the castle replaced the earlier royal house in Perth.

The castle of Perth does not seem to have had much military significance, but rather served as an administrative base for the sheriff of Perth. The sheriff would have had his administrative centre at the castle, where he collected the king’s revenues and attended to such other royal duties as were required by the king. Nevertheless, the presence of the castle may have helped Malcolm IV resist the attempt by Earl Ferteth of Strathearn and five other earls in 1160 to besiege him in Perth, after his return from France where he had been knighted by Henry II of England. Bower, writing in the 15th century, records that the king was besieged in a ‘tower’, but earlier chroniclers mention only the city or town of Perth (Watt, iv, 259, 456).

About Michaelmas (29th September) 1209 a flood of the Rivers Tay and Almond swept through Perth and disrupted a council called by King William to raise 15,000 merks to meet his obligations to King John of England (Duncan 1975, 255n). An eminence or mound (\textit{montis}), on which an ‘old chapel’ stood, was swept away, destroying several houses and the bridge over the Tay. The castle was apparently swept away in this flood, although it is not specifically recorded as having suffered such a fate; the “old chapel” may have been the chapel in the castle. If the castle had been of stone, its weight may have contributed to the collapse of the eminence on which it stood, especially if the eminence had been artificially heightened to form a motte. The castle of Perth was not rebuilt after the flood, although the memory of its former existence survived in the street name, formerly Castlegait or Castlegavel, latterly Castle Gable. Instead a new castle was built at Kincloven, to the north of Perth, and this became the new seat for the sheriff of Perth.

Chapel of St Laurence

The chapel in the castle seems to have been the only one of the castle buildings that was replaced, by the chapel of St Laurence. The dates of the foundation of the chapel of St Laurence and of its endowment with the payment from the burgh fermes of Perth are not recorded. The chapel was a royal foundation, as the endowment was paid from the royal fermes (rents) from the burgh of Perth, and it was Robert III who granted the chapel to the Blackfriars. The exact location of the chapel is also unknown, although it was recorded as being in the ‘Castelgait’ of Perth in 1362 (ERS, ii, 117). From the mid 16th century and throughout the 17th and 18th centuries and into the 19th century, there are references to the Chapelhill of Perth on the west side of Castle Gable (see index to PKCA, B59/8, B59/9, Burgh Register of Deeds, Old and New Series). Presumably the chapel was situated on the ‘hill’.

On 22 January 1327/8 a payment, not detailed, is recorded in the accounts of the bailies of Perth to the ‘chaplain celebrating in the chapel of St Laurence’ (ERS, i, 66) for the two preceding terms of Whitsunday and Martinmas 1327. Subsequent payments in the Exchequer Rolls record that the annual payment to the chaplain was six merks or £4 each year. Little else is known about the chapel. A payment of 20s for repair to the chapel is recorded from the fermes of the burgh of Perth in 1364 (ERS, ii, 151). In 1405 Robert III granted the chapel of St Laurence to the Blackfriars of Perth, (Milne 1893, 38–9). The Blackfriars are not recorded as receiving the payment for the chapel until the accounting year 1421–2 (ERS, iv, 372). Perhaps the last chaplain died about then. Between 1429 and 1431 the chapel was in need of repair and is described as ‘now destroyed’ in 1431. Although payment to the Blackfriars for the chapel was to be withheld until the repairs were carried out, the Prior of the Blackfriars continued to acknowledge its receipt (ERS, iv, 488, 523, 549). The requirement for repairs to the chapel was not recorded in 1434 (ERS, iv, 584). Payment to the Blackfriars for the chapel of St Laurence continued to be specified until 1493, when the chapel is no longer mentioned in the bailies of Perth’s accounts. Instead, the £4 payment is included with the Blackfriars’ own payment from the burgh fermes of Perth (ERS, x, 393). This practice continued until Martinmas 1558, the last time payment is recorded to the Blackfriars of Perth (ERS, xix, 122).

The absence of the reference to the chapel of St Laurence from payment to the Blackfriars from 1493 presumably means that the chapel had ceased to function as such. The Blackfriars appear to have secularised the chapel by feuing it for 10s to Andro Robertson and his spouse. Some time before 1543 the town council of Perth seized the site of the chapel, described as ‘waste land’, because the friars were not maintaining it as a place of worship. The Blackfriars were indignant and commenced legal proceedings to repossess the chapel, but to no avail (Milne 1893, 40–1, 234). The ultimate fate of the chapel is not recorded, but a reference in 1554 to the ‘Chapel hill’ (NAS, GD79/4/54, David Cock’s charter to the altar of St John the Baptist of an annual out of a land in the Castlegavill, later of the heirs of Edward Patton, Glover, 15 Sept 1554), not to the chapel, suggests that the chapel building had gone, only the site being left. A rent roll of the Blackfriars from the late 16th century refers to ‘St Laurence chapel above the cross’ (Milne 1891, 56; 1893, 269). This and references in a deed, dated 1705, to the ‘Chapel and Cross’ (PKCA, B59/8/30, 433–7) suggest the former existence at Chapelhill of a cross, which may have given its name to Horse Cross. This particular deed, which concerns several properties in the Castle Gable/Curfew Row area, contains references to ‘the Chapel and Cross’, ‘the Chapel and Cross above the same’ and ‘the Chapelhill’. Therefore, the references to a cross, like those to the chapel, need not imply that it was still standing in 1705, but may simply have been copied from earlier deeds. Occasionally
the name of Castle Gable is given as an alternative for Chapelhill in property transactions: in 1781 (PKCA, B59/8/39, 515–19) and 1810 (PKCA, B59/9/1, fo CCLXXXVb–CCLXXXIXa). The Chapelhill appears to have been the former name for the open space on the south-west side of Castle Gable, later known as Horse Cross. The name of Horse Cross does not appear in 18th-century or early 19th-century deeds, but is recorded on Robert Reid’s map of 1809 for the open area on the west side of Castle Gable and north side of the Mill Lade. Apart from the possible cross mentioned above, the source of the name Horse Cross is unknown.

Castle Gable/Curfew Row

After the castle was swept away in the flood of 1209, much of the land to the north of the burgh, where the castle had stood, became redundant. Most, to the west of Curfew Row, Blackfriars Wynd and north of the present North Port, was donated by Alexander II (1214–49) to the Blackfriars, when he founded that monastery about 1233. A small part formed the medieval burgh’s northern suburb based on the streets of Curfew Row and Castle Gable. When the suburb developed is not known. The three streets, later known as Curfew Row, Castle Gable and Blackfriars Wynd, existed in the 14th century. The Blackfriars feued a property in the angle of the junction of Curfew Row and Blackfriars Wynd in 1375 (Milne 1893, 35).

‘Castlegatt’, later Castle Gable, is mentioned in 1362 (ERS, ii, 117). The development of Castle Gable had taken place by the 15th century, when payments to altars and religious houses are recorded from properties there (Milne 1891).

The properties in the triangular area between Curfew Row, Castle Gable and the Mill Lade do not seem to have formed the regular linear rigs stretching back from the street frontage normal in Perth’s High Street and South Street, but instead seem to have been irregular in size and shape. The former open space known as Horse Cross also cuts into the eastern side of the area, which seems to have been primarily an industrial area, for tanning, dyeing and brewing.

A ‘barkhous’ (named from tree bark used in the tanning process) for tanning, is mentioned in 1474 (NAS, GD79/4/144, Charter by James Scott to the altar of Sts Thomas the Apostle and Martyr, Archbishop of Canterbury, 20 April 1474) on the south side of Curfew Row. In the 17th century former ‘bark and lyme potis’ (ie pits) of Alexander Whitehill, and a ‘bark house’ of the late Henry Boig, skinner or glover, and of the late Robert Gill are mentioned in the same area (PKCA, Ms 62, Bundle 7, Title deeds of a property in Curfew Row 1664–1686, nos 1, 2, 6; Note, the ‘bark house’ is sometimes described as a ‘back house’, probably through scribal error). The pits were for soaking the hides in solutions of lime (to de-hair and degrease them), and oak bark (to preserve them). In the 18th century the Glovers Incorporation had lime pits there (PKCA, B59/8/43, 243–6) and there was a tannery on the west side of Chapelhill belonging to the Tannery Company of Perth, which had succeeded to the lime pits owned by Edward Paton in the 17th century (PKCA, B59/8/32, 157–64; B59/8/39, 536–9). Tanning in this area continued into the 19th century, when a leather works is recorded on the Ordnance Survey First Edition of 1860 on the east side of Curfew Row, to the west of the site of this excavation. (There was a separate tannery on the west side of Curfew Row between the late 17th and early 19th centuries, also owned for a time by the Tannery Company of Perth.)

The location of these tanning features is known approximately (the number in italics in brackets refers to Illus 4). Alexander Whitehill’s property (12) lay beyond the western limit of the recent excavation, adjacent to the east side of Curfew Row; Henry Boig and Robert Gill’s ‘barkhouse’ lay south and west of the excavation (13); the Glovers Yards, which contained ‘lime pots’, lay largely to the west of the excavation, possibly extending into the western edge of the excavation (13, 21). The Tanning Company had a tenement on the Castle Gable frontage (26/27), with a yard or vacant ground behind it (part of 21), distinct from their tannery on the west side of Chapelhill (15, 17, 18B, 19) (B59/9/1, fo CCLXXXVb–CCLXXXIXa). This yard appears to contain the pits, possibly for tanning, which were found during the excavation (Phase 5, Area A). If this is so, then the acquisition of the yard by the Tanning Company may not have been to work the pits, but to suppress a rival to their own tannery. The yard appears to have been the large yard (parts of 21, 23) acquired at some time by Andrew Kippen, Deacon of the Grovers, yet, when he sold off the north-east and north-west parts of it in 1756, there was a prohibition on the areas sold being used for the tanning of leather (B59/8/43, 236–40, 247–50).

Dyeing is evidenced by the presence of the ‘lithouse’ or ‘list house’ of Thomas Lisk, lister (dyer) in the middle and late 17th century (Milne 1891, 104, 412). The ‘lithouse’ (30) was located on the north side of the Chapelhill, within the recent excavation area. Lisk’s property is described in 1705 as including a ‘Sclaitt house, workhouse, Backhouse and other houses’ (PKCA, B59/8/30, 433–7). Dyeing may have continued into the 18th century, when Hugh Craigdallie, lister, is recorded in 1705 as a proprietor north-west of Chapelhill (18A), (PKCA, B59/8/30, 433–7) and two dyers, Walter Ponton and Walter Jack, are recorded in 1761 as successively occupying a property (25A, 25B) owned by the Tannery Company between the Mill Lade (25) and the Chapelhill (41) (PKCA, B59/8/39, 536–9); this property was a former ruined, but rebuilt, malt barn of George Wilson (see below). The Tannery Company had a workhouse and yard (15, 18B), presumably their tannery, further west in 1739 (PKCA, B59/8/33, 101–7).

Brewing or malting is recorded by the existence of a barn, kiln and coble (vat for steeping malt), of Isobel
Henderson in 1631, later of her son, David Jackson, and of his heirs in 1667, on the east side of Curfew Row in 1631 (12a) (Milne 1891, 297, 413). These seem to have previously belonged to Bessie Fleming, widow of James Broun, skinner, in 1586, when she leased to her 'gude son', Henry Broun, 'a sclait barne and thak house with ane half kill, half cobill' (B59/8/4, fo 18r). In 1666, when David Jackson succeeded his father, also David Jackson, as proprietor, the property is described as two barns, a kiln and a 'malt couble' and two yards (PKCA, Ms 62, Bundle 7, no 1). By 1726, when Alexander Jackson sold the property to the Glovers Incorporation, there was only one maltbarn, with a kiln, twocobles and two little yards, all occupied by four maltmen, as well as the large yard to the east, commonly already known then as the Glovers Yard (part of 21, 13?) since the Glovers then occupied it, (PKCA, B59/8/32, 157–64). In 1746 the Glovers sold the maltbarn, kiln, two cobles and two 'heather yards' to John Scot or Scott, maltman, in partnership with two others, one of whom was also a maltman (PKCA, B59/8/34, 440–50). The two maltmen, along with two others were the existing tenants of the property. Presumably the heather was fuel for the kiln. In 1667 two other barns, of Edward Paton, glover (17?, 19?, 25A?, 25B?), and of Robert Boig, glover (part of 12), are mentioned nearby (Milne 1891, 414). In 1705 there was a ruinous maltbarn with a kiln and coble between the Mill Lade and the 'Chapel and Cross' (25A, 25B); the maltbarn had been repaired by George Wilson before 1721, when the kiln and coble are still mentioned, although only the maltbarn and coble are mentioned in 1739, when the property was sold to the Tannery Company (PKCA, B59/8/30, 433–7; B59/8/27, 558–61; B59/8/33, 101–7). In 1788 a 'Brew-Seat' of Robert Scott, glover, is mentioned (B59/8/45, 355–9). This can be identified with the tenement (28, 29) of Illus 4 John Pullar & Sons Ltd, Dyers and Cleaners, plan of factory with former properties (adapted from). No date (c 1948–60). (Reproduced by permission of Perth and Kinross Council Archives MS51/P1p [MS51/7/1p]. The circled numbers appear to be the order in which the various properties were acquired by Pullars)
James Scott, maltman, in whose back close was a well. Scott's tenement presumably had at one time included the large yard of Andrew Kippen (see above), since Kippen reserved the right of entry through Scott's back close and the right to draw water from the well for the new owners, when he sold off parts of the yard in 1756, as well as for the possessors of any tenements which may in future be built thereon (B59/8/43, 236–40, 247–50; B59/8/39, 448–51). This well appears to be that which was found in the northern part of the recent excavation (Phase 5, well 158).

In addition to these three industries, there was a mill, known as the Inch Mill (31) in 1705 (B59/8/30, 433–7) at the Lade on the south side of Horse Cross/Chapelhill. This building and its associated buildings remained in use until about 1945, latterly as part of the Pullars industrial works. The northern wall of the mill was found in the recent excavation (Phase 5, wall 118).

The provision for the possessors of tenements that may be built in future indicates that there was already in the mid 18th century the prospect of future developments in this part of the town. The tenements do not appear to have been built until much later —part, if not most, of the yard was still vacant ground in 1788 (B59/8/45, 355–9). In addition to the industrial premises and new residential premises behind the street frontage, the frontage itself contained shops on the ground floor and residential accommodation above (B59/91, fo CCLXXXVb–CCLXXXIXa). In the course of the 19th century, Pullars dyeing and dry-cleaning business acquired all the property in the area between the Mill Lade to the south, Curfew Row to the west, North Port to the north and Castle Gable to the east for the expansion of their works. This expansion included the culverting of the Lade in the second half of the 19th century and the disappearance of the former open ground of Horse Cross about 1945, when the buildings fronting the west side of Castle Gable, demolished in the present development, were erected.

The east side of Castle Gable, in contrast to the west side, was composed of more regularly laid out rigs, stretching back from the street frontage as far as the North Inch or the Balhousie Mill Lade. The street frontage was generally built up, with the rear either used as yards or for industrial purposes, mainly brewing or malting from the records. A new-built barn of Andrew Jackson is recorded in 1667 (Milne 1891, 420), probably part of the ‘maltbarn, kiln and koble, Crossbarn, yard’ mentioned in 1637 (PKCA, B59/8/26, 146v–148r). A maltbarn, kiln and wood yard are mentioned in 1771 when part of the ground on which they stood was sold for the formation of George Street (PKCA, B59/8/43, 60–6). A ’Brewseat with the malt barn, kiln, Coble, stable, byre and yard’ were sold in 1803 by John Miller at ”Balmbreich’ (Ballinbreich) and James Miller, junior, there for £200 sterling to Alexander McDonald, porter (beer) dealer in Perth; the Millers had acquired the property from William Bell, maltman in Perth in 1797 (PKCA, B59/8/54, 427–30).

Only the street frontage of the east side of Castle Gable lay within the area of the excavation reported on here. Derelict or ruinous frontages are mentioned in 1685, when one property is described as having been ‘vacuum and emtie ground’ for the previous three years, and the adjacent property to the south is a ‘ruinous foreland’ (PKCA, B59/8/32, 21–5). The first property was still derelict in 1734, when the Town Council, which had obtained a decreet of possession against the owners in 1685, transferred it to John Anderson, wright, on condition that he erect ‘a Tenement of Land... of Stone and Lime work in a Decent way, two Stories high and a Garret at the least’ within a year and a day; the new building had been erected by 1743 (PKCA, B59/8/32, 21–5 and 597–9). A ‘foretenement of Land’ had been rebuilt by Walter Faichney, glover, in the late 17th or early 18th century (PKCA, B59/8/32, 574–83). By 1726 another ‘tenement of land’ had been demolished and replaced by a stable by William Wilson, wright (PKCA, B59/8/32, 153–7).

This side of Castle Gable may have been less insalubrious in the 18th century than the western side, with its noxious tanning and dyeing. In 1780 one proprietor is described as ‘John Stewart, merchant in the Castle Gable of Perth’ (PKCA, B59/8/39, 383–5, 385–7). Nevertheless the area became less attractive to the merchant classes, who moved out to the new Georgian suburbs by the North and South Inches. In the early 20th century the area was a notorious slum, which became the subject of redevelopment in the 1930s when the east side of Castle Gable was cleared away to allow for the building of the present Perth Museum and Art Gallery. The area between the new museum and the former street frontage was opened up, and became a car park until the recent redevelopment of the Castle Gable/Horse Cross area for the new concert hall.

The archaeological sequence
Adrian Cox

Natural deposits

Identification of undisturbed natural sands and gravels across the site was rendered difficult because of presumed flood deposits. The Castle Gable area was prone to flooding in the medieval period, particularly in 1209, when the hill, on which the castle and its chapel stood, was swept away; the most recent flooding to affect the area took place in February 1993. Apparently undisturbed natural deposits of sands and gravels varied over the site, but were generally about 5m above Ordnance Datum (AOD); from 4.85–5.29m AOD on the W side of the medieval ditch; 5.14m AOD on the E side of the medieval ditch; from 4.59–5.17m AOD on the E side of Castle Gable; and 4.37m AOD at the southern end of the site.
Area A: ditch and western part of site

The earliest phase of activity identified on the site centres around a broad ditch (570, 626) aligned approximately N/S, occupying the western and central areas of the site. The precise origins of this feature are unknown, but its location in this particularly low-lying area of the town, along with the nature of its lower fills, supports the hypothesis that it originated as a naturally-formed depression in the flood plain of the River Tay, which was subsequently modified to serve as part of a defensive feature, probably associated with the castle before its destruction in 1209. It seems likely that the form of the ditch would have been altered and its edges damaged as a consequence of the disastrous flood in that year. Despite careful scrutiny, the eastern edge of the ditch proved difficult to locate archaeologically as a result of erosion and collapse. This explanation may also account for the apparent irregularity of the cut. Differences in the degree of erosion between the eastern and western edges of the ditch may result from differences in the nature of the sediments forming the sides, with the sands on the west supporting a higher-angle slope. It should also be remembered that the eastern side was nearest the river, and therefore more exposed.

Only the western edge of the ditch was readily identified, the eastern edge being indicated by sediments gently sloping westwards, although no cut was apparent. The approximate width of the ditch was about 15m and its depth about 1.4m. The ditch was not fully uncovered and its course is largely conjectural across the site. The W edge of the ditch was located in three trenches excavated by hand: one at the northern end, one at the southern end, and another in between. Elsewhere a trench was excavated by machine across its eastern and central part.

As the castle was not reconstructed after the 1209 flood, the ditch, already damaged by severe scouring and erosion, may have been left to stabilise before forming an obvious repository for the dumping of midden material in later phases. A highly organic layer, observed on the stabilised but eroded remains of the eastern ditch edge, could represent a vegetated ground surface that developed on the degraded side of the ditch, prior to infilling of the remains of the ditch with refuse. As the ditch, in this early form, no longer served its intended function, its deliberate infill seems to have been an appropriate method of levelling up and reclaiming the area for industrial activity or settlement. In the northern part of the ditch the uppermost fill was a layer of broken sandstone fragments (646), 0.45m thick, possibly debris from the destroyed castle.

The area to the W of the western edge of the ditch had been disturbed by later activity. The earliest feature
identified here was an old ground surface of fine yellow sand and pebbles (1339) that directly overlay the natural sand (not illus).

**Area B: chapel site**

*Two hearths* (not illustrated)
This area lay beyond the eastern edge of the ditch. The earliest features comprised two hearths. The eastern hearth (491) lay directly on the natural sand, which had been burned by the heat. It comprised burnt reddish brown and dark brown sand under a layer of white ash. It was sealed beneath a layer of charcoal (489). The western hearth was contained in a pit (1421), c1.2m wide and 0.7m deep. At its base was a thin (0.015m) deposit of charcoal (1422). Above the charcoal were two layers of yellowish brown silty sand (1420, 1253), probably natural deliberately redeposited to fill the pit.

*Stone surfaces, a trackway and pits*  
Above the western hearth was a layer of crushed red sandstone, 0.08m deep (1003 to the E, 1047 to the W). This directly overlay the natural sand deposits, which were observed to be sloping gently upwards towards the east. The deposit was of consistent depth and its surface was fairly level; it presumably represents building material laid down either to level up an undulating surface or as a trackway. A layer of clay (919) overlay the W part of the surface, and overlying the clay deposit was a deposit of gravel (888), apparently forming another trackway, roughly following the line of the eastern edge of the ditch cut. The E part of the surface was covered with a sandy loam (918), into which was cut a group of intercutting pits/postholes (988, 975, 974, 976, 980). To the NE of these, a probable post pit (1257), 0.55m deep, had been cut into silt and loam deposits (1252) overlying the crushed sandstone layer; it contained a packing stone (1255) for a post. The division between Phases 1 and 2 is not entirely clear in this area.
This post could have belonged to or continued in use into Phase 2.

Area C: east of Castle Gable

This area was largely sampled by machine-cut trenches, whose sections were then recorded by hand.

Pebble surface
To the E of the ditch, little evidence of early occupation was found except underneath the road surface of Castle Gable, where a hard-packed pebble surface (1049), possibly a yard surface, was located.

Phase 2: ditch disused and medieval industry (Illus 7)

Area A: ditch and western part of site

Ditch fills, features and a trackway
At its northern end, the western side of the ditch was filled with midden and other deposits (574=590, 610, 607, 602, 598). Above rubble 646 was a possible trackway of sand and gravel (595). Cut into the gravel was a flat-bottomed, round pit (601), 0.4m deep, filled with midden material (600). The whole former ditch was then filled with more midden material (589, 572). Within the midden were two parallel lines of stones on N/S alignment, as well as other stones (553, 580, 587, 608) (Illus 8). These may represent either tumble from a wall, or a stone bank on the west side of the former ditch. Above the midden was a trackway composed of gravel and stone fragments (281, 350, 528) extending E/W across the course of the former ditch. The iron-working slag (Chadburn, below) found in layer 600 was presumably the result of various kinds of waste being added to the midden deposits over the ditch.

At the southern end of the ditch, a pit (567) was cut into the fills (Illus 17).
Layers, charcoal and pits
To the west of the ditch, overlying the natural sand deposits were layers of sand (1338) and silt and clay (1337), in turn overlain by an alignment of coarse rubble (1170), 1.1m in width and running approximately N–S. The stones and deposits underneath represent either the robbing of a stone wall or the remains of a path. Various charcoal-rich deposits (1234, 1246, 1340) above and adjacent to the stones may indicate that this area was used as a workshop area, although this evidence was limited by the E edge of the excavation trench and the W edge of a feature, perhaps the re-cutting of the ditch in Phase 3 (below). Adjacent to the stones was a sub-rectangular pit (1247), 0.20m deep, with steep sides and a flat base; it was filled with sandy silt (1248). Sealing the pit was a patchy clay and sand deposit (1169).

Lying a short distance to the S of the stones 1170 was an oval pit (1103) (not illus), 0.7m deep, that had been cut into the natural sand; it was filled with humic sandy silt (1104). Overlying the pit was a remnant of a surface composed of stone slabs (1105). This had slumped into the fill of the underlying pit, and an attempt had been made to repair it by inserting a stone ‘plug’ over the pit.

Area B: chapel site

Posthole structures and hearth (Illus 9 and 10)
The Phase 1 trackway was replaced by a possible structure. A levelling deposit of sand and gravel (1241) covered the area. The structure comprised two alignments of postholes forming the N and S walls, 5.2m apart. It is possible that the post pit (1257) (Phase 1) formed part of this structure. It was robbed by a later pit (1251), 0.3m deep, and replaced by a stakehole (1425), 0.05m wide and 0.14m deep. The N wall comprised nine square postholes with some smaller postholes on roughly E/W alignment, overall length 5m, while the S wall comprised a line of 11 postholes, overall length 6.5m. Along and between the northern line of postholes was a cluster of un-dressed sandstone blocks (1237), some of which lay in possible foundation trench 1240. These may represent either a remnant of a surface or a wall, or packing for the postholes. No E or W walls were found and it is possible that the ‘structure’ was an open-ended shelter over or around a hearth area.

The walls appeared to be contemporary with the construction of a sandstone hearth (1140), surrounded by a broad zone of burning and charcoal-rich deposits: charcoal 1141 over white ash 1150 over red burnt material 1151. Another area of burning (1193) lay at the E end of the N wall. Two other lines of stakeholes were closer to the hearth area. To the N of the hearth was a line of three postholes, 0.07–0.24m deep, overall length 1.1m. To the S and within the burnt deposits was a line of 15 small postholes, 0.04–0.09m deep, over-all length 3.6m, with three larger postholes. Although clearly representing only a flimsy or temporary structure, the stakes may represent evidence for a shelter or wind-break associated with the hearth. It seems likely that these features represent a workshop. This area did not produce metalworking debris or obviously recognisable industrial residues; but the function of the hearth is presumed to be industrial. The hearth was subjected to archaeomagnetic dating, yielding a date in the range AD1365–95 for its last firing. This is broadly compatible with the ceramic dates for this phase, of 1350 or later, though perhaps later than expected (D Hall, below). The archaeomagnetic date should be treated with some caution, as the hearth was not deeply buried, and could have been slightly disturbed.

Area C: east of Castle Gable

The Phase 1 gravel surface under the course of Castle Gable was covered by a midden (1050) in Phase 2.

Sand quarry pits
The earliest features identified in the area E of Castle Gable were pits, eg 923 and 1325 (1318, 1329, 1332 and 1341 not illustrated) which appeared to represent quarry pits for extracting natural sand, as their fairly steep sides showed no evidence of erosion or collapse and they appeared to have been rapidly backfilled. Some of these pits were cut into each other. This pattern of quarry pits suggests that at least most of the area to the E of Castle Gable may have consisted of open ground.

Phase 3: the late medieval suburb (Illus 11)

Area A: ditch and western part of site

Ditch recut, palisade and bridge (Illus 12–19)
A steep-sided re-cut (640) of the Phase 1 defensive ditch was recorded on its western edge in the southern area. It was up to 1m deep. Along the western edge of this re-cut, closely following its alignment, an irregular line of round and square postholes was identified cutting into the natural sand deposits; similar postholes were found in the other two trenches across the W edge of the ditch. The postholes are considered to belong to this phase...
Illus 9 Phase 2, detail plan of hearth structure.
Illus 10 Phase 2, view of the hearth, to the north.

Illus 11 Phase 3, site plan.
Illus 12 Phase 3, detail plan of postholes on edge of recut ditch.
Illus 13 Phase 3, view of the western edge of the ditch in the northern trench, to the north.

Illus 14 Phase 3, view of the ditch edge in the middle trench, to the south-west.

Illus 15 Phase 3, view of the west edge of the ditch with postholes on the edge in the southern trench, to the west.

Illus 16 Phase 3, section of the eastern edge of the ditch.
**Illus 17** Phase 3, section of the western edge of the ditch.

**Illus 18a** Phase 3, south-facing (above) and north-facing (below) elevations of the bridge.
Illus 18b Phase 3, west-facing (above) and east-facing (below) elevations of the bridge.

Illus 19 Phase 3, view of the bridge, to the north.
and not to Phase 1 because the sand deposit that they are cut into is that through which the re-cut (640) of the ditch was made. At the northern end there were three postholes, 0.14–0.33m deep, with a further seven postholes, 0.1–0.3m deep, some of which may have formed an E/W alignment. In the central trench, where the edge of the ditch was truncated by pitfill 798, a single posthole, 0.14m deep, was located. In the southern trench some of the postholes, 0.09–0.65m deep, had been set in a foundation trench (622, 983), 0.3m deep, on the edge of the ditch. These represent evidence for a line of timber posts, driven into the sand, close to the edge of the re-cut ditch. Some of the posts were paired. The postholes are likely to represent a boundary, perhaps serving a defensive purpose (in the nature of a paling-sade), marking the limits of a demarcated zone.

At the north-western edge of the site, the re-cut ditch was crossed by a stone-built bridge or causeway (1431) (Illus 18a, 18b, 19). This structure was faced on all sides with ashlar blocks, surrounding a rubble core, and it incorporated a chamfered plinth around its base and a semi-circular arch over the deepest part of the ditch, presumably to permit a flow of water beneath it. The structure survived in two sections, overall length some 8m, but broken in the middle of the arch. The western part was 2.8m long, the eastern part 4.2m long, with a gap of 1m between them. The bridge narrowed from a width of about 2m at each end to about 1.4m at the top of central arch and 1.66m at the base. Its maxi-mum height was 1.3m. The stonework was built into the steeply-rising western edge of the bridge, although on its eastern side it had been robbed out, exposing the rubble core, during later construction work on the Castle Gable frontage. There was a notable difference in the quality of the stonework between the north and south faces of the bridge structure, the south side being faced with poorer quality stone. This lends support to the hypothesis that it was the northern face that was generally in view as one approached the bridge, while the southern side faced towards the midden-filled remains of the Phase 1 ditch. It was clear that some of the ashlar blocks had been re-used. The bridge lay partly under the southern street frontage of North Port and partly under the present roadway. It represented a predecessor of that route, before the final infilling of the ditch and construction of the route of North Port. A building opposite, on the northern side of North Port, now occupied by the former Glovers Hall, commonly called the Fair Maid’s House, had been built by 1475, when it was described as ‘a hall with annexed chamber and two cellars’ in two feus by the Blackfriars, who granted half of the building each to John Kinloch and John Frew for a payment of 30s annually (Milne 1893, 74–6).

Following archaeological recording, and the numbering of each block of facing stone, this feature was carefully dismantled and stored.

Area B: St Laurence’s Chapel (Illus 20)

Chapel and graves

Directly overlying the workshop identified in Phase 2 was a substantial deposit of green to brown clayey silt (334/423/623/1149), which was derived from natural deposits identified in the near vicinity. This deposit sealed the earlier hearth structure and appeared to represent the construction of a level floor surface. Due to later disturbance on all sides, its limits, along with associated walls, proved difficult to define, but it is interpreted as an internal surface, presumably representing the floor of a chapel. The possible line of the E wall of the chapel was represented by a shallow gully (444), 0.85–0.9m wide and 0.17m deep, with two stones at the base. Especially on its eastern side, there was evidence that this surface had been subject to repair, as thin, charcoal-rich lenses of material were sealed between layers of compacted silt. A series of graves, all aligned approximately E–W but not forming regular rows, were cut into this surface, and nine articulated human burials, in varying states of completeness, and three groups of scattered human bone were recovered. The grave of SK09 had a possible posthole, 0.17m across and 0.55m deep, perhaps for a grave marker beside its skull. North of the graves were two lines of postholes (480), and various other postholes were located in the graves area but formed no obvious pattern. It is not clear whether they represented internal features in the chapel or date to after the chapel had been secularised, some time before 1543 (see History).

Two of the burials, SK02 and SK09, produced radio-carbon dates of 825 and 850± 35 BP, calibrated as 1150–1290 AD at 95.4% probability, and 1150–1280 AD at 80.2% probability (SUERC-5967 and 5966, GU-12864 and 12863). These dates are somewhat earlier than expected, especially as the burials lay above the Phase 1 hearth with an archaeomagnetic date of AD1365–95, and ceramic dates of 1350 or later.

Pits

To the NE of the graves area, a short distance back from the Castle Gable street frontage, a series of inter-cutting pits had been excavated into the underlying natural sand, which had partially slumped into the sides of some of them. Due to later disturbance, their relationship to the chapel floor surface is uncertain, but they were probably dug before it was laid down. The earliest of these pits (497/498) was cut into the natural and had a flat base; its uppermost fill (501) was a layer of oyster shells and charcoal. That pit was cut by a deeper pit, probably a quarry pit (529/449). Cut into the quarry pit was a pit (446) containing a complete, articulated dog skeleton (445) (Illus 21). Cut into the dog burial was a fourth pit (502) (not illus). The latest pit was Pit 325. The presence of the dog burial suggests that, despite the presence of the chapel, parts at least of this area were available for low-level uses.

Beside these pits was another pit (362), some 0.7m deep, filled with lenses of sand and clay, some of which
Illus 20 Phase 3, detail plan of graves area.
Excavations at the Horse Cross, Perth

Illus 21 Phase 3, view of the dog burial in pit 446, to the north.

Illus 22 General view of the site from Perth Museum and Art Gallery, to the west (excavation second phase).

Illus 23 Phase 3, view of the probable murder victim 1145, to the south-east.

contained mortar. Also in this vicinity was a vertical-sided posthole (488), 0.39m deep, only recorded in a section.

Area C: east of Castle Gable

Tanpit, clandestine burial, flood deposits, sand pit

Lying at the rear of the buildings on the E side of Castle Gable was a sub-rectangular pit or tank (978), 3.1m long, 2m wide and 1.2m deep (Illus 24). Its sides had been lined with timber planks (1024) laid horizontal, small fragments of which survived at its base, on top of a clay lining (1002). A posthole (1026), 0.1m across, 0.33m deep and tapering to a blunt tip, was found at the base of the pit in the NW corner. The pit had been furnished with a stone slab floor (1027), and the profile of the south-facing edge of the pit suggested that a step had been incorporated, perhaps for access. Presumably this lined pit would have been used to hold liquid, although its lowest fill was a thin, layer of black organic silt (1000), possibly a sediment from the pro-cess performed in the pit. It contained a very small quantity of leather; in addition, wood fragments were recovered from a sample. The pit was probably a tann-ing pit, which had been carefully backfilled, apparently as a single episode, with sandstone rubble (998, 999) after it had gone out of use.

Further to the NW, below the footprint of one of the Castle Gable tenement buildings was a shallow pit (1145) from which the skeleton of a young adult male (1235) was recovered (see Human Bone report). Although fully articulated, the body appeared to have been crammed into the pit, just large enough to contain it, in a tightly flexed position, with the left hand raised towards the lip of the pit (Illus 23). The fact that the body had not received a proper Christian burial, like those associated with the chapel on the W side of Castle Gable, suggests that the body was deliberately concealed. The skull had received two severe blows, presumably fatal, indicating that the youth had died in violent circumstances, possibly even been murdered. Two coins were recovered with the skeleton (see Coins report), one English of Edward I or II dating from 1279–1322, the other of David II of Scotland’s third coinage of 1367–71. The Scottish coin was almost unworn, suggesting that the skeleton was buried between 1367 and 1375. That the coins were recovered with the skeleton suggests that either they were concealed about the victim, or that robbery was not the primary motive. The grave was sealed beneath a deposit of clay (1144), which levelled up the grave, above which was a dark gravelly deposit (1135=1349).

The skeleton produced a radiocarbon date of 785 ± 35 BP, calibrated as 1185–1290 AD at 95.4% probability (SUERC-6188, GU-12865). This is obviously much earlier than expected, given the coin evidence for a date of burial around 1370.

North of the grave was a series of compacted charcoal-flecked silt deposits with some organic remains (1079, 1078, 1077, 1076, 1075, 1074). They had accumulated above natural and may represent flooding in the area of Castle Gable. They were over lain by fairly deep, less compacted loam soils which may have represented cultivated garden soils, which also sealed the grave (eg 1072, 1071, 813=815, 886=989, 868, 867).

Behind the Castle Gable buildings a possible ditch (1116), 0.4m deep, was cut into the natural sand. It was filled with grey-green clay (1111). Above it were
Illus 24 Phase 3, detailed plan and section of tank 978.
Excavations at the Horse Cross, Perth

deposits of sand and clay, possible flood deposits (1110, 1109, 1108, 1107); within 1109 was a lens of orange and black burnt sand (1113). Cut through these flood deposits was a shallow pit (1125), 1.3m wide and 0.28m deep. Except for the bottom fill (1123), which was of clay with silt and sand, all the fills (1121, 1124, 1122) were of sand. This was probably a quarry pit.

Phase 4: The post-medieval suburb (Illus 25)

Area A: ditch and western part of site

Midden layers and fences (Illus 26)
An extensive midden deposit (1432 under 1315) built up against the northern face of the bridge within the ditch. Sealed below the later Castle Gable street surface and pavement, the midden material was extremely well preserved. Concentrations of straw, clusters of mussel and oyster shells, along with fragments of wood and scraps of leather, were among the organic materials preserved in this deposit.
Overlying the midden deposits of Phase 3, to the S of the bridge, was a further series of midden deposits, very similar in character (229, 280, 295=380, 169). Cut into the earliest of the midden deposits (229) was a group of seven postholes, 0.15–0.25m deep, of which six appeared to form an approximately E/W line 3m in length. Their fill contained rotted wood fragments. Cut into the uppermost of the midden deposits (169) was an irregular line of 11 rotted posts on E/W alignment, overall length 3.8m. Both alignments may represent former property boundaries within the midden.

South of these deposits another series of midden deposits was located in a sondage, overlying the course of the former ditch. They comprised layers of silt and loam (420, 508, 505) and were sealed beneath a clay surface (457, 397). The copper residues (Chadburn, below) found in layers 295 and 397, and the iron-working slag in layer 420, were presumably the result of various kinds of waste being added to the midden deposits over the ditch.

Area B: St Laurence’s Chapel
Disuse
By Phase 4 the chapel appears to have gone out of use, and the floor surface into which the earlier burials were cut was sealed below thin, compacted loam deposits. Very little evidence for activity survives in this particular area. A shallow scoop, filled with burnt deposits, overlay the rubbish pits to the NE of the area of burials. A little further to the north, a sandy silt deposit (152) survived beneath later cellars near the Castle Gable street frontage.

Area C: east of Castle Gable
Walls, pits and ditches
Near the eastern edge of the site, where few features survived above the natural sand deposits, the possible remains of the base of a wall, approximately 1m wide and 0.3m high, (985) were identified in a machine-cut sondage, below recently disturbed deposits. A foundation trench for the wall was cut into the natural. This wall remnant lay on a WNW–ESE alignment, in contrast to the later tenement walls nearby. A remnant of a possible associated floor surface lay to the north of the wall, overlying the natural sand.

Within the footprint of the Castle Gable buildings, to the NW of wall 985, a flat-bottomed pit (908; fills 907, 909), 0.5m deep, was located. The E side was vertical, but the W side was sloping. There was a small amount of rubble in one of its fills. The pit was sealed beneath a layer of greenish grey clay silt (906), which was itself heavily disturbed by later activity.

The N edge of a possible ditch (1126), over 1.6m wide and 0.78m deep, was located to the E of the Castle Gable buildings. At its base was a thin, charcoal-rich deposit representing the primary fill (1120), above which were two layers of clay. Sealing the ditch was another thick (0.37m) deposit of clay (1064), possibly the same as a layer of clay and stones (1061) which sealed the earlier flood deposits of Phase 3. At the S end of 1061 was an area of orange burnt sandy silt and charcoal (1062). Cut through 1061 was the almost vertical S side of a pit (1115), 0.7m deep. Its lowest fill was orange sand with gravel and clay (1106), above which was a black organic layer (1114). The topmost fill was dark grey humic silt (1060).

A linear cut, 1m in width, 3.5m long and 0.15m deep, aligned approximately NW to SE (818) was cut into the earlier cultivated soil deposits. The function of this feature is uncertain. It ran roughly parallel to the street frontage, and may have been a drainage ditch or an eroded robber trench (not illustrated).

Area D: southern area

Pits
At the southern end of the site several features were cut into the natural sand. A group of amorphous, inter-cutting pits (231, 232, 277, 279) was recorded. They were from 0.3–0.73m deep with fills of predominantly redeposited natural producing few finds. Pottery was recovered from only two of the features (232, 277), suggesting a medieval date for these features. Three other shallow pits, 0.05–0.27m deep, were recorded nearby with medieval pottery recovered from two of them. The purpose of these pits is unknown and their shallow depth suggests that they have been truncated by later activity.

Phase 5: the 17th- and 18th century industrial suburb
(Illus 27)

Area A: ditch and western part of site

Stone walls, wells, tanpits
Deposits of sand (997=1215, 1267, 1266) overlay the bridge across the ditch, forming a thin bedding layer for the construction of a stone wall (856) on a slightly different alignment. The builders of this wall probably discovered the earlier structure beneath it, and used it as a convenient support for the new wall. The wall, set in a trench (952), was of clay-bonded, poor quality, unshaped sandstone rubble, and lay parallel to the street called North Port. It would have been the front wall of the buildings on the S side of that street before they were demolished to make way for the Pullars alterations in the 1940s. Two re-used stone blocks were built into it, one with a chamfered edge, the other L-shaped. Its W end was truncated, but its E end appears to have turned SE, parallel to Castle Gable, although it was too disturbed by modern foundations to be certain. The width of the wall narrowed from 1.14m at the E end to 0.94m at the W end.

Other fragments of stone walls were found, remnants of the buildings that appear on the OS First Edition (Illus 3). These buildings survived in use until the 1940s, when the building latterly used as the GA print works was constructed. A well (158), with a surface of red
Excavations at the Horse Cross, Perth

bricks and whinstone setts (155), cobbles (156) and paving slabs (205) to its W and S, was also located within the backlands. This appears to be the well, mentioned in 1756 as being in a back close when Andrew Kippen sold properties in this area (see Perry, above). A lead pipe seems to have been attached at a later date, served by a pump, for drawing water out of the well. The site of the well was built over by 1809, when Reid’s map shows a building on the site. Another well (129) was found beneath the Pullars Drying Shed, presumably also serving the households and/or industries in the area before Pullars expanded into it.

As well as two walls (225, 226) forming the NW corner at the rear of a building on the W side of Castle Gable, there were two other wall foundations (148, 220) on the W side of Castle Gable. These walls were not load bearing external walls, but instead formed internal coal cellars, tanks or pits underneath the ground floor of the building. Walls 148 were 0.2m thick and lined a pit (147) at the base of which was a floor of sandstone slabs (149). The cellar had been infilled with concrete and rubble. Walls 220 were 0.35m thick, but the area enclosed by them was not excavated.

In addition to the structural remains of the 18th-century buildings, evidence of tanning pits relating to the tanning that had taken place in the 17th and 18th centuries (see Perry, above) was also uncovered. In the 18th century the Glovers Incorporation had lime pots (ie lime pits) there (PKCA, B59/8/43, 243–6) and there was a tannery on the west side of Chapelhill belonging to the Tannery Company of Perth, which had succeeded to the lime pots owned by Edward Paton in the 17th century (PKCA, B59/8/32, 157–64; B59/8/39, 536–9). Tanning in this area continued into the 19th century, when a leather works is recorded on the Ordnance Survey First Edition of 1860 on the east side of Curfew Row, to the west of the site of this excavation.

A series of five clay-lined pits was identified in the central part of the site, cut into earlier midden deposits. The pits appeared to form an alignment, approximately
east to west, and generally increased in size towards the east. The two westernmost pits had vertical sides and incorporated very decayed traces of wooden linings, probably formed by the insertion of stave-built casks, in addition to clay linings. Traces of the encircling hoops of the cask were visible at the edges of the pit in each case. The compact, highly plastic, pinkish clay used to line the pits appeared to have been imported onto the site, as it did not appear in any of the natural deposits on the site itself. In each of the pits, part of their primary fills survived directly above the clay linings of their bases. This evidence survived best in a shallow pit with a bowl-shaped cross-section, near the middle of the series (524). Its primary fill was a reddish-brown, peaty deposit, in which numerous small fragments of wood or bark were readily identifiable. The pits had been backfilled with a mixture of clay and rubble, which, interestingly, contained numerous small pieces of limestone. This may have been derived from the documented lime pits which were in use during the 17th and 18th centuries to the west of the excavated area. The pits had been truncated by a ‘conveyor duct’ constructed as part of the new building erected in the 1940s and demolished in 2002 (PKCA, DGP/1945/8f).

Area B: chapel site

Tannpit
One tanning pit (1139) to the S of the main sequence of pits lay below a cobbled surface in the side of a trial trench (not illustrated).

Area C: east of Castle Gable

Tenements
Removal of the recent street surfaces on the E side of Castle Gable revealed the foundations of a line of tenements that had fronted onto the street before their demolition in the 1930s, when the Museum was extended and Castle Gable area opened up. These buildings were constructed in the 18th, possibly even 17th centuries (see Perry, above), and had undergone significant alteration, which was clear from the insertion of various later services (principally water pipes and sewerage pipes) through some of the walls. Due to the truncation of these remains during their clearance, no associated ground floor surfaces were recovered. However, the two southernmost buildings incorporated deep cellars, cut into the natural sand and gravel, and floor surfaces survived in these. At the eastern extremity of the site another well (1398) was located, which had served the buildings here.

Area D: southern area

Stone culvert and wall (Illus 28, 29)
The former open area of Horse Cross was bisected by a stone culvert (1147), which comprised stone slabs forming the sides and capstones. The floor of the culvert consisted of a single layer of closely-spaced cobbles, which lay on a bedding layer of clean sand, apparently derived from the underlying natural deposits. Only in the eastern part of the culvert, which had been sealed below recent street surfaces, did the capstones survive. Each of these had been carefully cut so that one edge was longer than the other, allowing for the curvature of the culvert, and the small spaces between them had been packed with thin, wedge-shaped sandstone fragments, small pebbles and clay to seal them. The upper surfaces of the capping stones were quite uneven, however, perhaps indicating that they had not been exposed as part of the floor of a building, but had had a floor covering them.

To the S of the culvert an E/W aligned wall (118) was located, the N wall of the former mill that lay astride the Mill Lade. The building was subsequently incorporated into the Pullars Works and was demolished as part of the redevelopment of the W side of Castle Gable by Pullars in the 1940s.
Phase 6: 19th- and 20th-century industry and tenements (Illus 30, 31)

Areas A and B: Pullars works

Industrial buildings
Properties in the western part of the excavated area, on the western side of Castle Gable, were gradually acquired by the Pullars works as part of its expansion during and after the 1860s. From this period until recent times, the Pullars works dominated this area, and several major components of the complex were identified archaeologically. The older part of the Pullars complex was built in 1864–5, and the surviving part of this, between Kinnoull Street and Curfew Row, has recently been converted, as Pullar House, to form offices for Perth and Kinross Council. Parts of the northern (107) and eastern (108) wall foundations of a large drying shed, three storeys in height, constructed in or after 1893 (PKCA, DGP/1893/20) were revealed in the western part of the site. These foundations were extremely deep, cutting through the midden fills of the ditch into the underlying natural gravels, as the builders no doubt appreciated the difficulties of constructing substantial buildings on unconsolidated and water-logged midden deposits. Parts of two related cobbled surfaces survived adjacent to the east wall of this building, with their underlying sand bedding layers sealing the backfilled remains of one of the larger Phase 5 tanning pits. The surfaces were separated by a N/S aligned wall (109), which survived one course high and one course wide (0.34m). The western surface (110) formed part of a ‘Gangway’ recorded on a plan of the Pullars Works in 1914 (PKCA, DGP/1877/9b). At the southern edge of the eastern surface (128) was a drain (167) formed of a line of stones, 2.2m long, 0.34m wide and 0.15m high, with a shallow groove, 0.1m wide and 0.05m deep, on their upper surface. Also set into surface 128 were two lines of ‘kerb’ stones set flush with the cobbles and narrowing from 0.7m apart at
Adrian Cox

their E end to 0.6m apart at wall 109. The wall was presumably merely a boundary to the Gangway as it was not substantial enough to have been of any great height. Extending through the wall was a slot, probably a drainage channel, 0.1m wide, but not related to drain 167.

A later part of the Pullars complex, added in 1901, is now (2007) used as government offices and survives to the south of the site, along Mill Street. The building later to become the General Accident print works was constructed in 1946 along the western frontage of Castle Gable and southern frontage of North Port on the site of part of the Pullars complex, necessitating the demolition of the buildings that had previously stood on the site. The opportunity was taken to widen both streets, the frontage on North Port (939) being set back some 1.3m from the previous frontage (856). The concrete foundations for the brick-built frontage walls of the print works again cut through earlier midden deposits and further obscured archaeological remains on the street frontage itself.

Area C: east of Castle Gable

Tenements
The tenements forming the eastern frontage of Castle Gable remained in use throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries. Among the alterations to ‘modernise’ the properties were the insertion of services (particularly mains water and sewerage), mostly aligned at right angles to the frontage. The cellars at the south-eastern end of the line of tenements had services inserted beneath them, and their cobble and brick floors appeared well-used and had been repaired in places. The buildings were finally demolished as part of a scheme to clear away old and congested properties prior to the construction in 1931–3 of an extension of Perth Museum and Art Gallery, originally built in 1824. At the same time the narrow, dank street of Castle Gable was opened up and widened for use as a car park.

Area D: southern area

Industrial building
The open area of Horse Cross was incorporated into the Pullars works when the building that was latterly used as the General Accident print works was erected in 1946. A large underground oil storage tank was inserted at the same time, effectively separating the southern part of the site from the rest of the excavation. The former Inch Mill, whose northern wall (118) was found during the excavation, was demolished to make way for the new building.

The pottery
Derek Hall

Introduction
This excavation produced 13,609 sherds of pottery ranging in date from the 12th to 19th centuries. It has been examined by eye and where possible identified to a known fabric type.

Scottish Redware (Catalogue 1–60, Illus 32–38)

This fabric has long been identified as a Scottish product which is produced in the vicinity of the major river systems (Hall 1996; Chenery et al 2001; Chenery et al 2005). From the late 12th/early 13th centuries it is the most common local product in the major burghs where there is not an adequate local supply of white-firing clay. Splash glazed jugs are the most common vessel type produced in this fabric, although this assemblage does include the first example of a local copy of a ladle (Cat 58). It is quite striking that in the later phases of this excavation the jugs were being manufactured with frilled bases, presumably a reflection of the fashion for imported German stoneware pots which had this decorative characteristic (Cats 30–32). In fact the complete broken base from context 130 (Phase 4) shows signs of reuse as a container after breakage (Cat 32). In Phase 3 the local potters made cooking pots in this fabric which were then slipped white in an attempt to copy cooking vessels in the far more durable and well-made Scottish White Gritty Ware. This trend did not last, and would seem to date to the 14th century. This fabric type was represented by 8903 sherds in the whole assemblage (69%).

Scottish White Gritty Ware
(Catalogue 61–85, Illus 39–42)

This fabric represents Scotland’s earliest medieval pottery industry, which operated between the 12th
Illus 32 Scottish Redware jug.
Illus 33 Scottish Redware jugs.