

tinsmith, Peter Tait, lived in No 58 in 1861. Thomas Jeffrey, a blacksmith, lived in No 58 in 1870–2. A tailor, J Cunningham, lived in No 56 in 1879–82, and Jane Davidson, a dress maker, lived in Nos 52 and 54 in 1891–4.

Introduction (illus 3)

Excavations, under the supervision of P M Sharman, were undertaken in a garden at the south-west corner of the junction of Roxburgh Street and Chalkheugh Terrace, possibly, the site of 52 or 54 Roxburgh Street, from November 1983 to April 1984 by permission of the owners, Mr and Mrs Robertson. The site lay some 40 m ENE of the River Tweed (NGR NT 7261 3408), on a modern land surface sloping down to the north-east with a gradient of approximately 1:6. Archaeological deposits were some 1–2 m deep, resting on natural deposits of periglacial silts and clays. This site was chosen for the excavations because it was one of the few available on Roxburgh Street where the street frontage was not destroyed by cellars. It was hoped that the excavations would complement those at 13–19 Roxburgh Street, providing the date of the laying out of the street (whether it was a link between Wester and Easter Kelso, or a later development of Kelso proper), as well as the plan, number and usage of buildings along this route, and the nature and source of the materials used in their construction.

Method of excavation

The excavation trench was aligned NE/SW, roughly 8 m long by 4 m wide. Approximately 1 m of topsoil and rubble was removed by pick and shovel, whilst the rest of the deposits were removed by trowel. The collection of carbon and environmental samples was considered inappropriate in view of the recent nature of the deposits. Some mortar samples were collected, but have not been thought worth analysis. Three phases of occupation from the 17th century to the 20th century were identified, which can be summarised as pre-stone building, stone building and post-stone building.

The excavation

Phase 1 – Pre-19th century (illus 16)

The natural deposits consisted of a mix of red silt and hard green clay. Above them were some small patches of stone rubble and brown silty clay, about 0.10 m thick; dark grey-brown silt with occasional stones, 0.05 m thick; and isolated patches, c 0.03 m thick, of orange-brown pebbly silt, possibly a natural silt. None contained any finds.

Near the western corner and extending beyond the limit of excavation was the edge of a steep-sided pit, c

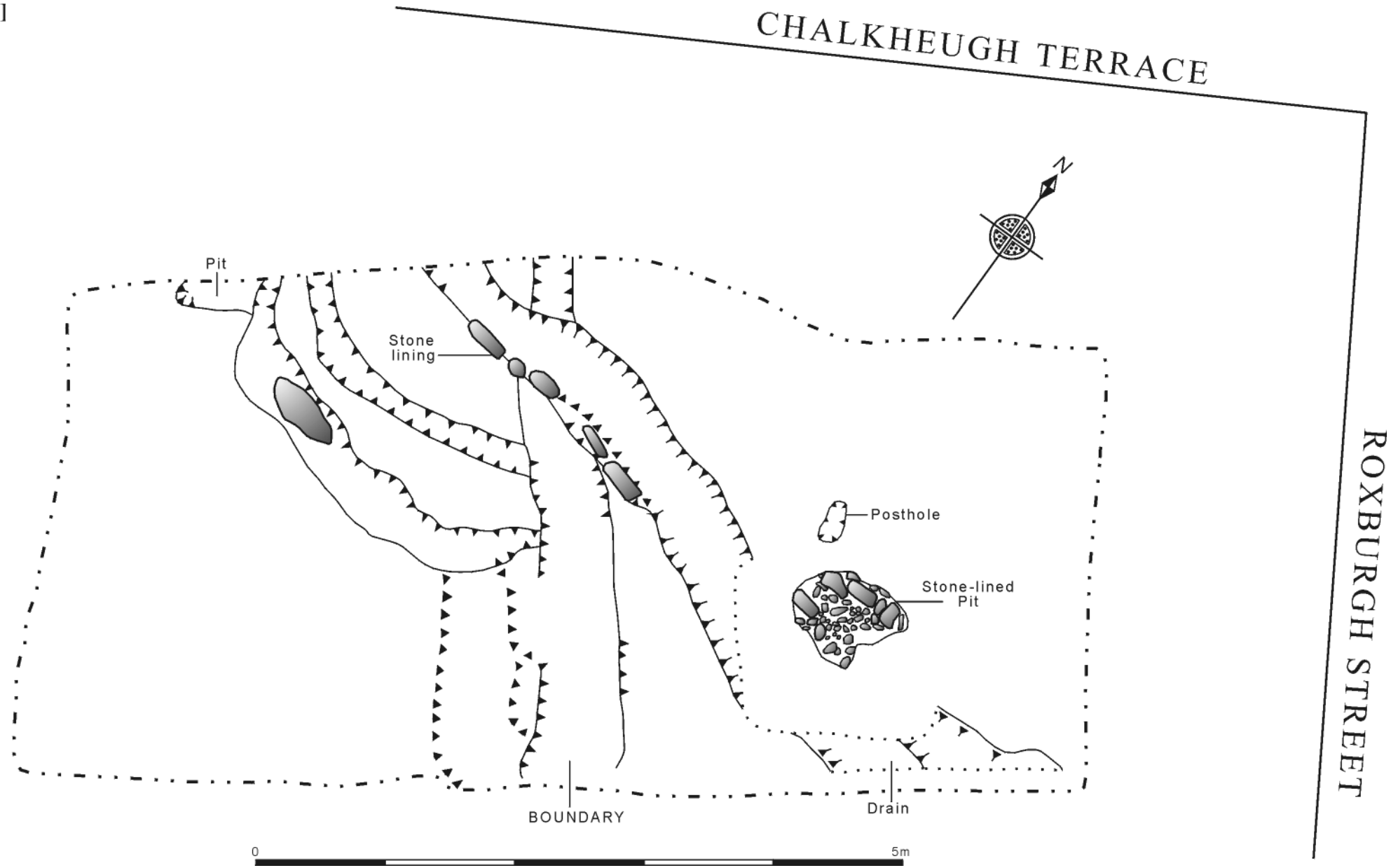
0.40 m long, over 0.20 m wide and 0.20 m deep, filled with green clay and brown silt. This feature was cut by the outer of two concentric gullies. This gully, almost 3.00 m long, 0.30–0.40 m wide and c 0.22 m deep, had several ‘bulges’ along its length. One such bulge was filled with (or created by) a large stone, c 0.60 m in length and c 0.25 m wide, towards the western end of the gully. This outline and the large stone suggested that the feature was filled with other such large stones. At some point these stones were removed and the gully filled in, probably during the eighteenth century, with firm red-orange silt, above which was brown silt, both containing stones and occasional small lumps of natural clay. The inner gully, approximately 2 m long, c 0.25 m wide and c 0.15 m deep, was cut through the deposits above natural. Its fill was orange-brown silt, which became black and greasy under large stones. Both these gullies were probably stone-packed wall trenches.

A little to the south-east of these features was a thin (c 0.04 m) deposit of dark brown silt, about 1.00 m by 0.70 m, which filled a shallow depression.

Cutting that deposit and the inner concentric gully (and, probably, the outer gully as well, although later terracing had removed the relationship) was another gully on NW/SE alignment, extending across the width of the excavation, although bisected by a later intrusion. It was over 3.60 m long, 0.30–0.50 m wide and 0.03–0.12 m deep, and filled with a mix of red and brown silt and green clay, with several stones at its southern end. It was probably a boundary line.

Further east on the site were the remnants of two features, both partly destroyed by later activity, but possibly part of a single feature. Extending into the eastern corner of the excavation was a gully, over 1.20 m long, 0.60 m wide and c 0.50 m deep, and filled with a series of four interleaving red and brown or red-brown silts. These often contained small thin distinct lenses of silt, and were sealed by a layer of dark brown silt and stones. These fills all contained fragments of iron objects and/or lumps of ferrous industrial waste, but no datable finds. The silts would seem to have been the result of water deposition rather than the collapse and gradual infilling of a dry ditch. This would indicate that the gully, was used as a drain before it was allowed to silt up. West of that gully, at the base of a later intrusion, was a stone-built oblong structure (or pit-lining), roughly 0.55 m north/south by 0.85 m east/west, the stones remaining to a height of 0.45 m. The stones were set in a red-brown silt and the natural green clay below; unfortunately there were no finds. Although there was no stratigraphic relationships between the gully and the stone-lined feature, it seems probable that they were connected because of their similar east/west alignment, proximity and depth below the natural ground level: a drain flowing into a soakaway.

Extending diagonally across the site was a gully on east/west alignment, cut into two separate parts by a later intrusion. The gully, c 0.40 m deep and 0.50 m wide, was over 4.60 m long and sloped down from west to east. It contained the remains of a stone



Illus 16 Chalkheugh Terrace, Kelso: Phase 1

lining of upright slabs, as well as other larger stones, probably collapsed sides or capping. The other fills were brown or red-brown silts, from which were recovered a few fragments of iron objects, including nails, ferrous industrial waste and a fragment of lead sheeting. The upper parts of the gully seem to have been deliberately filled in. In the longer section the stones were covered by a mixed deposit of green clay lumps and patches of red and dark brown silt, whilst the stones in the shorter section were covered by red silt with brown patches.

A series of thin, interleaving patches of burnt silt and gravel with patches of green natural clay were deposited in the eastern corner of the site. They obviously related to something beyond the limit of excavation. From them were recovered iron objects (mainly nails and unidentifiable lumps) and lumps of industrial waste. These thin, burnt deposits cannot be closely phased or dated, but are earlier than the floor deposits of the 19th-century house.

There were also some small patches, generally of black silt, some with mortar flecks, scattered around the site of no certain interpretation. These deposits were above the natural clay and underneath deposits datable to the 19th century, but can be dated no more closely than this, although one of them one produced a sherd of sponge-decorated earthenware of the late 18th or 19th centuries, while another contained a shard of window glass. A few unidentifiable lumps of iron and industrial waste were also found.

An oval posthole, 0.20 m across and 0.31 m deep, tapering to a blunt point, was cut into the natural clay. It was lined with stones to create a hole 0.18 m long and c 0.06 m wide, and contained brown silty clay with charcoal, mortar and red silt flecks. No finds were discovered from this.

Phase 2 – 19th century (illus 17)

A clay-bonded stone wall, in two parts as a result of a later intrusion, ran NW/SE across the site, extending into the northern limit of excavation but stopping short of the southern limit, at one side of an entrance. There was a stone well to the south-west of the wall. The wall was based on make-up layers of silt, clay, gravel and stone slabs, the latter forming a fairly level surface, whilst the site was terraced to the north-east.

The wall, 0.50–0.70 m high, 0.80–0.90 m wide and over 3.80 m long, was built of rough stone blocks, sometimes faced, from 0.10 m by 0.15 m to 0.35 m by 0.50 m large. The wall was bonded with a red-brown clayey silt with occasional plaster and cement flecks. Part of the wall was cemented, rather than clay-bonded, possibly when a later gap was created (see below).

A floor or levelling of orange-brown gravel and sand, 0.10 m thick, was laid over the area to the north-east of the wall, within the building. Finds

from this deposit included a few iron objects and lumps of ferrous industrial waste. Cut through the gravel was a pit, about 1.30 m square and 0.90 m deep, with almost vertical sides. At the bottom of the pit was a mix of yellow and green clays and red and brown silts. Lining the pit, above that, were red and cream bricks and faced stones, which left an opening c 0.90 m long by 0.70 m. The lining was built in a single thickness of irregular courses dovetailing at the corners. Red pantiles were also used, as well as one brick covered with a vitreous slag. A mixture of cement, pebbles, sand and black and beige silts was used to fill a gap between the north-western face of the lining and the pit cut.

Its base was covered by a thin (c 0.01 m) deposit of dark brown, almost black, sandy silt. Above that, at the north side of the pit, was a large (0.60 m long, 0.22 m wide and c 0.10 m thick) block of yellow sandstone, whose northern corner was covered by a patch of brown silt and occasional gravel. The main fill was purple, black and grey ash, half-burnt coal, charcoal lumps, slate and stone, with small fragments of burnt and unburnt fish and mammal bone. The upper three fills were thin (0.01–0.03 m thick) brown silts with charcoal and mortar flecks, pebbles, and fragments of slate, coal and brick, the uppermost lapping over some of the brick lining.

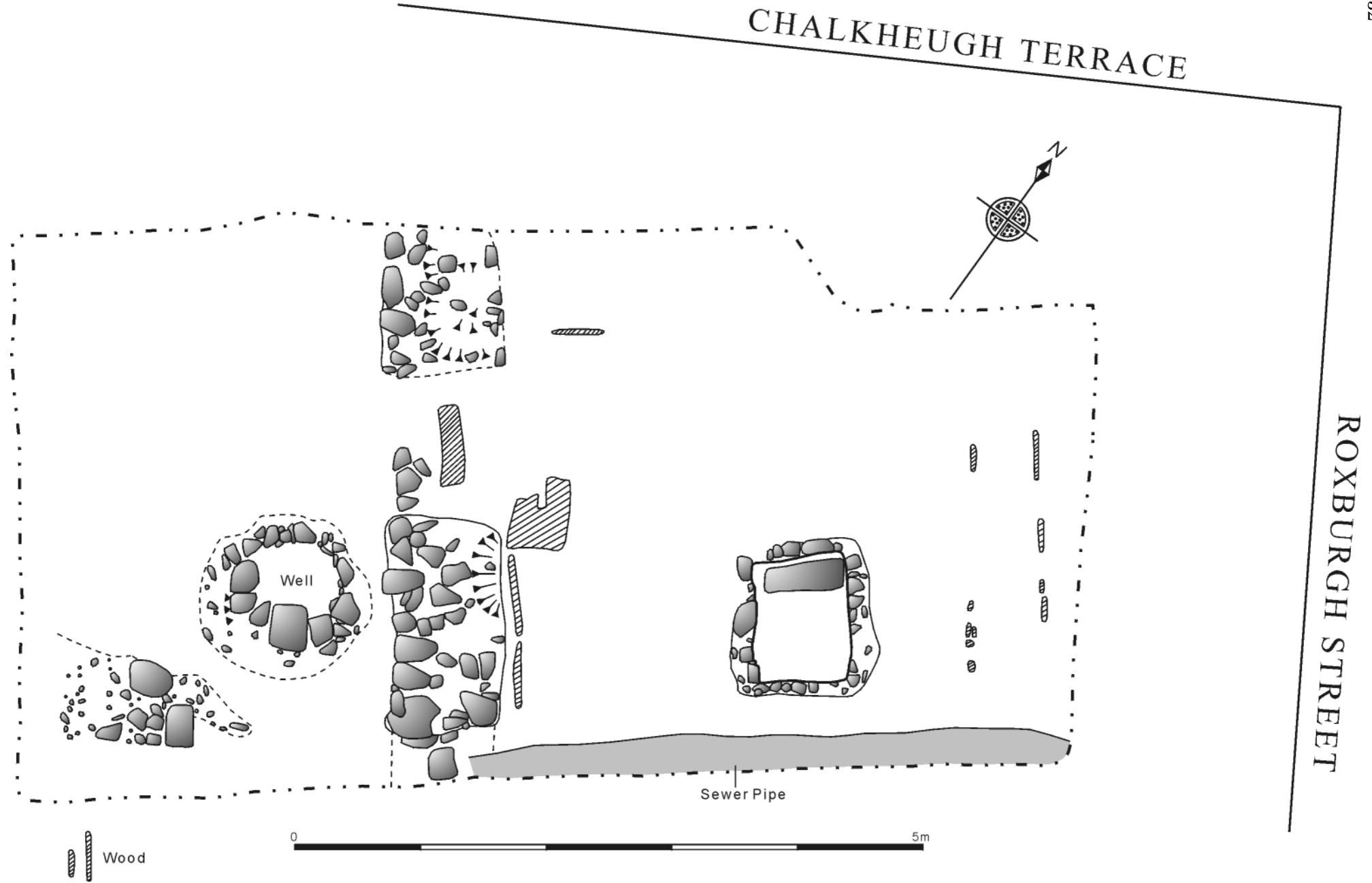
At the western corner of the pit was a depression, 0.25 m deep, filled with dark grey sandy silt with mortar and charcoal flecks and some brick and wood fragments.

Covering much of the interior of the house was soft, green-grey, sandy silt with a little wood, occasional pebbles and lumps of mortar and cement. Above that were fragments of wooden spars, planks and wood stains (all c 0.01 m thick). The wood extended into the gap between the two sections of wall, where a later entrance may have been cut through a window opening.

Outside the building were various deposits and features. A well, 1.50 m deep, lay c 0.20 m to the south-west of the wall. The construction cut for the well had a diameter of c 1.20 m, the stone lining having a diameter of c 0.60 m. The stones (from 0.10 m by 0.10 m to 0.25 m by 0.35 m) sometimes showed tooling marks and were occasionally faced. This lining was usually two stones thick, the outermost stones being pressed into a mixture of green clay with a little red silt, which lined the construction cut. The upper courses of stone were bound by a soft, orange-brown mortar.

Beyond the western corner of the site, and extending beyond the limit of excavation, a stepped, almost vertical-sided pit, 0.36 m deep, was cut through the natural clay (not illustrated). It was filled by a mix of green and brown clay and occasional stones, above which was soft, greasy, almost black silt with mortar, charcoal and clay lumps and occasional stones.

The pit was covered by black and brown silt with occasional stones, above which was a hard deposit of green clay and brown clayey silt, with fragments of coal and occasional pebbles.



Illus 17 Chalkheugh Terrace, Kelso: Phase 2

At the southern corner of the site, and extending beyond the area of excavation, was the edge of an elongated depression, filled with large stones set in green clay with traces of brown silt, under small to large stones in brown clayey silt and a little green clay. At its northern edge was a patch of brown silt and stones mixed with a little clay, sand and mortar flecks.

Subsequently, an opening was knocked through the wall to create a new entrance, 1.00–1.20 m wide. Four stones, presumably part of the former wall, were left within the new entrance, beneath a new floor of very crumbly grey cement, c 0.03 m thick. The southern face was rendered with mortar, whilst the northern was faced with a single thickness of red, occasionally yellow, bricks and a few stones, bonded with a soft, grey cement, similar to that in the new floor. Unevenness in the face was masked by a facing, 0.05 m thick, of plaster or mortar, the whole width of the brick facing being then faced with another layer of plaster or mortar. (The original entrance may have been blocked with clay-bonded rubble, but this was indistinguishable from the similar-looking destruction rubble.)

North-east of this blocked entrance, and running along the edge of the excavation to the eastern corner, was a vertically-sided pipe trench, 0.40 m deep, containing an earthenware sewage-pipe. The trench was backfilled with brown silt and redeposited natural clay and silt, under hard pebbly cement. The trench fill contained lumps of ferrous industrial waste, a 17th-century clay pipe fragment and an early 17th-century copper turner or 2d piece.

The well was backfilled with three layers of stone rubble and mud and occasional lumps of green-grey clay. The fills also contained pieces of red and grey roof tile, roof slates, burnt coal, fragments of leather, leaves and wood (the wood being identified as part of a substantial oak post).

Around the southern edge of the well, and extending over the backfill, was a small deposit of hard, red-orange and purple ash, coke, charcoal and some burnt stones. Sealing and slumping into the well, and covering most of the area outside the building, was a yard surface composed of firm, dark grey-black, clayey silt, which became dark brown towards the base of the layer, with frequent lumps of charcoal and coal, as well as purple ash and mortar flecks. At the southern corner was an area of cobbling set in brown clay.

The whole area was then sealed under the demolition and levelling of the house, comprising cement, brown clay, brick, faced stone, with fragments of roof tiles, slates and window glass. This layer was really a series of dumps and layers, up to 1 m thick, removed as one context for speed.

Phase 3 – Modern (not illustrated)

Several small features were cut into, or constructed on top of, the demolition rubble.

Roughly in the middle of the site was a pit, 0.35 m deep, filled with grey silt with brown clay and white cement. Cutting the edge of this was a gully, over 3.5 m long, 0.48 m wide and 0.15 m deep, extending into the south-western edge of the excavation and fading out as it cut the pit. The gully was filled with a dark purple-brown silt containing fragments of brick, roof tile, cement and window glass (one ‘frosted’). A single line of large (over 0.5 m) boulders, in conjunction with the highest parts of the wall of the demolished building, formed three sides of a rectangular structure, over c 2.00 m long and over 1.00 m wide, extending into the north-western limit of excavation. In the middle of this structure was a shallow pit, c 0.50 m in diameter and c 0.30 m deep, filled with dark brown, clayey silt, in which was an almost complete, foetal or neonatal calf skeleton.

A shallow, roughly circular (c 1.00 m diameter) pit, extending beyond the excavated area, was excavated in the eastern corner of the site. It was filled with dark brown silt, very similar to the soil above, which covered the eastern half of the site, and in which were evidence of cultivation slots.

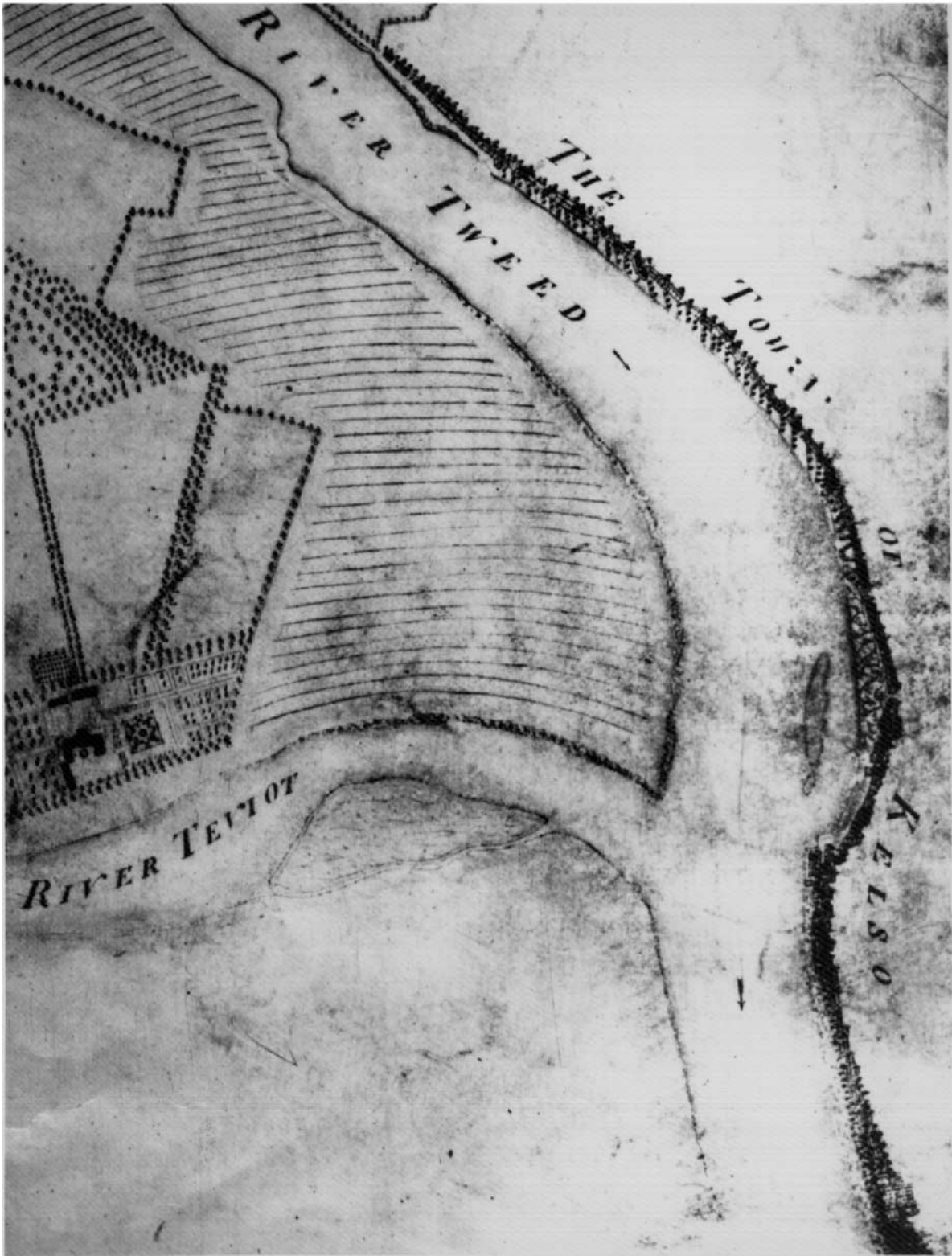
The whole site was covered up to ground level with a soft black garden soil, up to 0.60 m thick.

Discussion and interpretation

Although the excavation has been divided into three phases, (pre-dating, contemporary with and post-dating the 18th- or 19th-century building), the earliest phase in fact can be subdivided into three or four phases. The finds of Phase 1 included pottery and clay pipe fragments dating to the 17th–19th centuries, but it is possible that some of the deposits and features could be earlier. Two residual medieval sherds were found during the excavation.

The two curvilinear gullies, if not contemporary, may have been the foundation trenches for the south walls of two successive wooden structures: the west and north walls would lie beyond the area of excavation, while the east wall was destroyed in later terracing. The rounded corners suggests that the walls were of stake and wattle. The probable line of stones in the outer gully would suggest stone packing. From the length of the trenches, some 2 m and 3 m, they cannot have been dwelling houses, but only sheds or storage huts in a yard behind a building fronting Roxburgh Street.

After these had gone out of use, a NW/SE gully was cut across the site, perhaps as a boundary: as it cut across the natural slope, it cannot have served as a drain. It was roughly parallel to Roxburgh Street and may have been a subdivision across a yard or garden. East of these were a stone soakaway and a drainage gully, which cannot be stratigraphically related to either the structures or the boundary. Cut through most of the above-mentioned features was a stone-lined drain, sloping down from west to east, which silted up during the 18th century.



Illus 18 William Wyeth, The Town of Kelso, 1736 (from RHP 9302) (Copyright: Tods Murray, WS; reproduced by permission of the Duke of Roxburghe)

During the latter part of the 18th, or perhaps even early 19th, century, a series of thin, usually burnt, gravels and silts were deposited at the eastern edge of the site. The burnt nature of these deposits, with their content of ferrous industrial waste and other

ferrous material, indicates the possibility of iron-working near the site during this period.

The site was terraced and a level foundation was laid down for the construction of a building, of which only the back wall and part of the interior was within

the area of excavation. This occurred during the late 18th or very early 19th century, certainly by 1805 (illus 15) and possibly as early as 1782 (illus 4a), if not 1736 (illus 18), when Wyeth's map shows an almost continuously built-up frontage along the riverside of Roxburgh Street. The clay-bonded stone walls (with glazed windows) were harled or rendered, whilst the roof was of clay tiles and/or slate. The original back door was blocked up during later alterations.

A gravel floor was laid over the interior of the house, through which was cut a brick-lined pit, of uncertain purpose. It seems unlikely that it was for storage because, even during excavation, it collected water. It may have been a soakaway, or perhaps an ash pit since its major fill was ash. It is also possible that it was discovered to be unusable because it was prone to flooding and consequently filled in. A small pit was dug into a corner of the feature. The bedding silt for a new wooden floor then covered the interior.

A well was sunk in a yard to the rear of the house, presumably at roughly the same time as the latter's construction. The well tapped the local water table, and still collected water during the excavation. The purpose of two other features, partially within the area of excavation, cannot be determined.

Later, towards the middle of the 19th century, alterations were made to the house. The original back entrance was blocked with clay-bonded rubble, and a new entrance created, partly lined with cemented brick and plaster-faced. This new entrance may have been created through a former window recess, as part of the wooden floor extended into it. A new cement floor was laid down. Probably at some point during the later occupation of the house, a sewage pipe was lain from the Roxburgh Street front to the back of the house and firmly cemented over as far as the blocking of the former entrance.

The well was filled with rubble and rubbish and the area to the rear of the house used as a backyard, partly cobbled.

The building found during the excavation is shown on Gray's map of 1805 (illus 15), with the rear entrance in the middle of the back wall. There was unfortunately no sign during excavation of another structure, also shown on the 1805 map, situated in the corner between the house and yard walls. The 1805 map shows, as does a study of sasine records and valuation rolls, how such buildings were subdivided. This could have led to the more permanent-looking subdivision on the 1858 OS map (OS 1858b), perhaps represented in the excavation by the blocking of the old central rear door and the creation of a new one, central to the subdivision. This door would have led to a rear yard, which sealed the well. The house must have been very like the listed building next door at 50, Roxburgh Street, of two storeys with harled, clay-bonded walls.

The copper alloy pins from the excavation could be connected with the tailor or dressmaker, recorded in the valuation rolls as living on or near the site in the second half of the 19th century. Other objects of copper alloy, including offcuts, could have resulted from the tinsmith's activities; the iron objects and ferrous industrial waste may be explained by the blacksmith. This however assumes that these people practised their craft in their homes. A joiner, painter, coach builder, baker and many others all lived here, but left no identifiable evidence.

Sometime in the second half of the 19th century, between 1858 and 1897 on the evidence of OS maps (OS 1858b, 1898) the building was demolished. After the demolition, various activities took place, including the burial of a still-born or dead calf, after which a good garden soil was imported to raise the ground level up to over 1 m higher than that of Roxburgh Street itself.