# Clyde Archaeology



Inverkeithing Friary, Fife

**Standing Building Survey** 

Project ID: 023















### Clyde Archaeology

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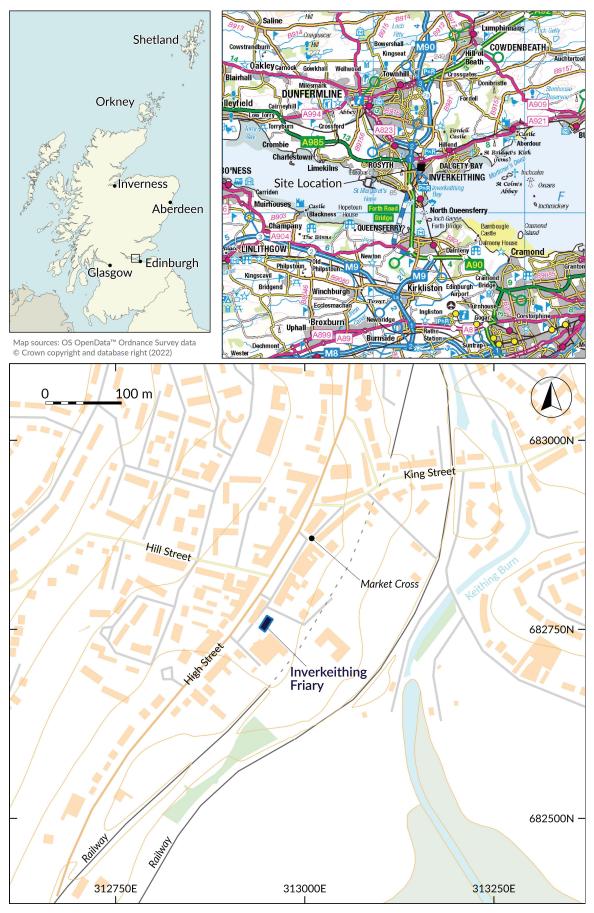


Illustration 1: Site Location

### **Abstract**

A basic standing building survey of the listed category A Inverkeithing Friary Hospitium (LB35100) was undertaken on 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2022 as part of *People Making History* within the wider Inverkeithing Townscape Heritage and Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme delivered by Fife Historic Buildings Trust and Fife Council. The survey was carried out by Clyde Archaeology and Northlight Heritage and concentrated on providing training and participation opportunities for the local community. Both the interior and exterior of the building were recorded which revealed evidence of the medieval and 17<sup>th</sup> century buildings amongst the significant renovation work that was undertaken in the 1930s.

### 1. Introduction

This report presents the results of a basic standing building survey of the listed category A Inverkeithing Friary Hospitium (LB35100) as defined in Historic Building Recording Guidance (ALGAO 2013). The survey was undertaken as part of *People Making History* (Inverkeithing Community Burgh Survey) and provided training and participation opportunities in standing building survey for members of the local community. The Burgh Survey forms part of the wider Inverkeithing Townscape Heritage and Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme being delivered by Fife Historic Buildings Trust and Fife Council and funded by Fife Council, The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic Environment Scotland.

The survey was carried out by Clyde Archaeology, Northlight Heritage and local volunteers on 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

### 2. Location

Inverkeithing Friary is located at NGR NT 1295 8276 within the historic heart of the town. It sits immediately north of the Civic Centre and currently fronts onto Queen Street which runs parallel to the High Street (Illus. 1). The eastern elevation faces out across the Friary gardens.

### 3. Historical Background

### By Douglas Speirs

Documentary evidence relating to the Friary is limited and, surprisingly, little is known of the site's history. What we do know is that, in 1346, pope Clement VI granted licence to the Vicar of the Minister General and the Friars of the Order of Minors in the Vicariate of Scotland to accept the gift of King David II and his wife, Queen Joan, of a site for a new Franciscan friary 'far removed from the attack of enemies' (southern Scotland was then being ravaged by the English). The place eventually chosen was Inverkeithing but the date and the exact process of its foundation are imperfectly understood.

Whether the foundation was actually completed during the reign of David II is not known. All that is recorded of the friary's early history is that, in 1384, King Robert II remitted the annual burghal tax of 2 shillings and 4 pence paid to the Crown by the property 'so that the said tenement [friary] is otherwise free from all payment of this pension and from all secular burdens whatsoever.'

From the dimensions of the plot on which the friary stood, and from the tax the plot formerly paid, it is clear that the friary was erected on what had originally been four domestic burgh rigs. It's likely that Inverkeithing's friary was originally a *habitaculum* (a dwelling) colonised by friars from the Scottish Franciscan mother house in Dundee who had settled in the town and had occupied a tenement of land gifted to them by some unknown benefactor. The royal remission of the tenement's burghal tax in 1384 probably reflects the date at which the new friary was completed, in the sense of having a conventual body of 12 professed monks and a consecrated monastic church and burial ground. The papal bull of 1346 grants generic licence for a friary of 'twelve friars of that Order, worthy of sustenance, dwelling therein decorously and fitly, and to construct and maintain... a church or oratory with belfry and bells and burial ground, and other necessary buildings.'

Whatever secular buildings stood on the site prior to its gift to the Order were clearly remodelled and replaced over time with a typical friary complex, with ranges on the north, south, east and west, all arranged around a central square cloister garth. The friary well can still be seen in the cloister garth today.

Nothing remains of the north range, where the friary church stood, although foundations connected with it have recently been found by excavation. The south range, probably a two-storey building comprising a kitchen with warming room below and a refectory above, now lies under modern buildings (the Inverkeithing Civic Centre).

Foundations of the east range, a two-storey building probably comprising a dormitory above with offices, sacristy and chapter room below, appear to be hidden under mature flower beds whilst the substantial visible vaulted ruins east of the east range were presumably storerooms. Further east, the open land running down to the railway line appears always to have been open garden ground – land described in 16 th century charters as gardens terminating at the seashore.

The west range, the subject of this standing building survey, still stands and, although much altered, the historic building that fronts on to the street today is essentially a mutilated later 14<sup>th</sup> century monastic building. It was the friary's *hospitium*, i.e. its accommodation block for guests and visitors; its size possibly reflecting something of the large number of travellers and pilgrims that passed through the burgh *en route* to or from the ferry crossings of Inverkeithing and North Queensferry.

Although deeply fragmentary, Inverkeithing friary represents the best preserved urban medieval friary in Scotland. It was not spoiled at the Reformation, but feued and asset stripped over time. Its religious buildings were quarried for their raw materials but its secular *hospitium* was converted and applied to residential

purposes. The residential use of the building from the later 16<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and the alterations this involved, has masked its historic origins and its true identity as a monastic *hospitium* was only rediscovered in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, its conversion to public use in the 1930s involved considerable structural change making it difficult to 'read' the building accurately.

### **Previous Surveys**

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) surveyed the friary in the early 1930s when compiling the inventory of monuments in Fife, Kinross and Clackmannan (1933). They noted that:

'in the 17<sup>th</sup> century the main block was remodelled, while the western half of the wing from the first floor upwards was rebuilt. To suit the rearrangement, two fore stairs were added facing the street, while a newel-stair was built at the back within the re-entrant angle' (RCAHMS 1933: 153)

The RCAHMS survey records the layout prior to the renovation works in the later 1930s when the council converted the building for public use (Illus. 2). During this work doorways and windows were blocked and remodelled and lean-tos on the eastern wall demolished.

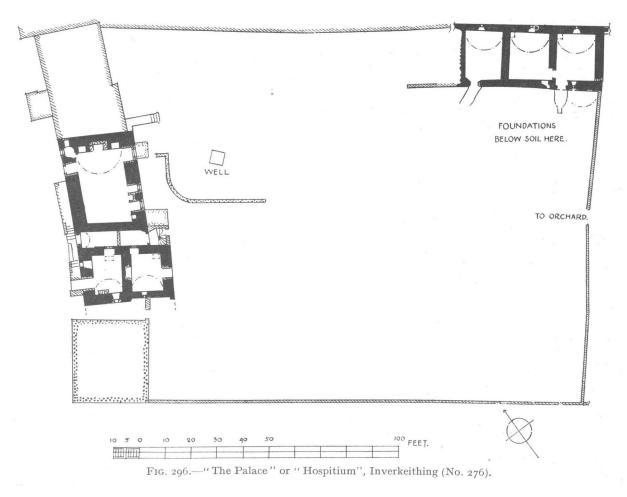


Illustration 2: Plan of the Hospitium recorded by the RCAHMS (1933, p153)

The National Record of the Historic Environment also holds several photos of the friary prior to the 1930s renovation works <a href="https://canmore.org.uk/site/50940/inverkeithing-queen-street-friary-and-museum?">https://canmore.org.uk/site/50940/inverkeithing-queen-street-friary-and-museum?</a> display=image

These clearly show the change in the eastern and western elevations that resulted from the 1930s renovations (Illus. 3-7), including the reinstatement of at least one gothic lancet window above the ground floor door on the western elevation (Illus. 4 & 5), removal of the southernmost stairway on the same elevation (Illus. 4 & 5) and the significant remodelling of the windows and doors on the eastern elevation (Illus. 6 & 7).

Rev William Stephens (1938: 52-54) gives an account of the character of the Hospitium, its 17<sup>th</sup> century alterations and the renovation works undertaken by H M Board of Works between 1934 and 1937. Of the main building he notes the possible existence of a west wing forming part of a cruciform shape to the Hospitium (ibid: 53). He also notes the presence of the stem and leaf tracery decoration (see Room 12 below) suggesting it dates to late 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries (ibid: 54).

Stephens (ibid: 56) also describes its opening following 'restoration' as a public greenspace in the 1930s: 'To the Town Council, led by Provost Fair, is due the credit of transforming the place into a thing of beauty. The Hospitium ... has been restored and was opened by Sir John Wallace, M.P., on September 15, 1935. The enclosure had been converted into a garden and pleasure ground, striking features of which are the rockery on the old walls and the Shelter provided by Caldwell's Paper Mill through the instrumentality of Mr A. Smith, managing director. The Orchard opened as a playfield for children by the Earl of Elgin in September 1934, is splendidly equipped with various means of amusement for the young people.'

The friary is also documented in the Scottish Burgh Survey series (Simpson & Stevenson 1981) who note that, given the history of the friary is not well understood, archaeological evidence may help define the 'foundation date, the layout of the buildings or the later history of the house' (Simpson & Stevenson 1981: 26).

### 4. Aims

The aims of the project were:

- to provide training and participation opportunities for members of the local community in standing building survey; and
- to conduct a basic standing building survey of the interior and exterior of Inverkeithing Friary.



prior to refurbishment in the 1930s. Taken c.1920, Canmore Image SC01106557



Illustration 3: Western frontage Illustration 4: Western frontage during refurbishment. Taken approx. 1934, Canmore Image SC395193



Illustration 5: Western frontage after to refurbishment in the 1930s. Taken approx. 1935, Canmore Image SC395192



Illustration 6: Eastern elevation prior to the refurbishment in the 1930s. Taken c. 1933. Canmore Image SC395188



Illustration 7: Eastern elevation during refurbishment. Taken c. 1934?. Canmore Image SC395189

### 5. Methods

All archaeological work was undertaken following relevant regulations, standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).

### **Desk-based Assessment**

Initially a rapid desk-based assessment of the Friary was undertaken utilising readily available sources including:

- Information from the national database of the historic environment (Canmore) was obtained through their online portal (Pastmap).
- Information from Historic Environment Scotland on designated sites was obtained through their online data portal.
- Cartographic sources including those held in the National Library of Scotland.
- Relevant published books and articles.

### **Standing Building Survey**

The historic building survey followed generally accepted guidance on the recording of historic buildings (ALGAO 2013, Historic Scotland 2003, English Heritage 2016, ICOMOS 1990) and using accepted terminology (Harris 2006 & Pride 1996).

A record of the interior and exterior of the Friary was obtained utilising digital photography, measured sketches and a written record on pro-forma recording sheets. Each room and external feature was individually numbered. Current ground plans produced by Arc Architects Ltd. were used as a baseline upon which additional notes and drawings could be taken. Photographs of the four main elevations were used to make sketches and take notes of external features. Access to the roof space and close examination of upper levels of the external elevations was not possible.

### 6. Results

The summary of results presented below concentrate on the key observations recorded during the survey of the internal rooms and external elevations and do not describe every feature of the building. Details of all numbered rooms and features noted on the external elevations are provided in Appendix 1, Tables 1 and 2 respectively. In the following paragraphs elevation feature numbers are noted in bold and in brackets.

The Friary Hospitium comprised a double storey long rectangular structure with a complex history. For the purposes of this survey the structure was divided into four areas that broadly correspond to possible different buildings (Illus. 8).

#### **External Elevations**

The Hospitium building comprises four main elevations. For simplicity these have been described as North, South East and West, although their true orientation is aligned more to the NNE/SSW). Each of these elevations is summarised and illustrated below.

### Inverkeithing Friary - Standing Building Survey Areas

Note: these ground floor plans have been adapted by drawing provided by Arc Architects.



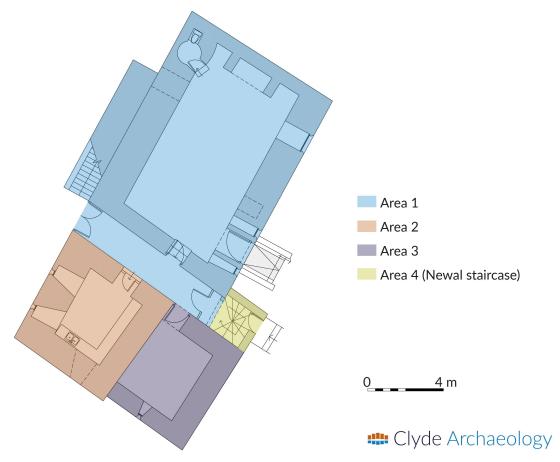


Illustration 8: Survey Areas

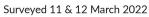
### South facing elevation

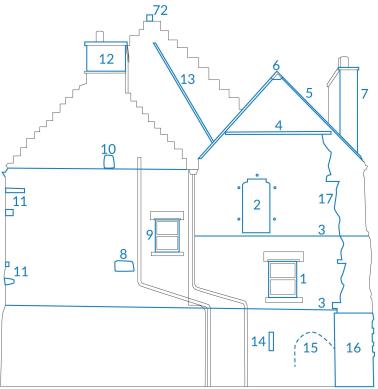
The south facing elevation (Illus. 9) was formed from the southern walls of Area 2 and 3. The top of the southern gable of Area 1 was also visible. Although the southern walls of Areas 2 and 3 appeared on the same alignment the wall of Area 3 was set back slightly (Illus. 8). Two windows (1 & 9) were likely inserted when the buildings were renovated in the 1930s while a slit window on the ground floor of Area 3 (14) was likely older. The blocked window or door (2) is of unknown date.

The rooflines of the two buildings differ, with Area 2 having a crow step and offset chimney (12) while Area 3 had a Cavetto moulding in the cove (5) and a carved apex stone (6). The roof behind the gable of Area 2 was also lower than the roofline of the gable.

### Inverkeithing Friary - South facing elevation

# **##** Clyde Archaeology







Key

Historic Building Features

Drawn by: Date: Scale: David Sneddon 02/04/2022 n/a (sketch)

Note: the photograph and line drawing are for illustrative purposes only and do not represent a measured survey.

Illustration 9: South facing elevation (not to scale)

### Inverkeithing Friary - East facing elevation

# **Clyde Archaeology**





Key

Historic Building Features

Drawn by: Date: Scale: David Sneddon 02/04/2022 n/a (sketch)

 $Note: the \ photograph \ and \ line \ drawing \ are \ for \ illustrative \ purposes \ only \ and \ do \ not \ represent \ a \ measured \ survey.$ 

Illustration 10: East facing elevation (not to scale)

Horizontal lines of projecting stones (3) possibly represent the floor lines of buildings to the south while an upper string course (4) on Area 3 is of unknown purpose. Two possible small blocked apertures (10 & 8) were present on the gable of Area 2 while projecting stones (11 & 16) show buildings continued in this direction, although it is also possible these stones were a 1930s insertion to indicate other buildings existed here.

A former roofline visible on the gable of Area 1 (13) was formed from flat copes. It is of unknown date and does not appear to match either of the two similar features noted on the northern gable (Illus. 11, 40 & 41). A possible base for a stone finial was present at the apex (72).

### East facing elevation

The east facing elevation (Illus. 10) was formed from the eastern walls of Area 1 and 3 along with the Newel stairwell (Area 4). The slightly different orientations of Area 1 and 3 was clear in the eastern elevation where the Newel stairwell (Area 4) had been built against the northern wall of Area 3 (Illus. 8). Here, the slit window (32) and the edge of the internal arch (26) at the end of the passageway (Room 3) were clearly visible on the northern wall of the stairwell Area 4.

The eastern wall of Area 1 contained numerous windows (28) of varying size and shape that all appeared to have been either inserted, remodelled or reinstated during the renovation works in the 1930s (Illus. 6 & 7). A blocked window (29) was also present on the ground floor while the stonework at the lower part of the northern end (33) appeared to be slightly different to the remainder of the wall.

The northern end of Area 3 held several distinct features including a possible blocked circular opening on the side of a chimney breast (24) and a possible blocked attic window (23). The main wall beneath these features also appeared to bow out slightly (25) resulting in sitting proud of the adjacent stairwell (Area 4).

The lower arched window (22) in Area 3 seems to have been reinstated or remodelled as the window in this position shown on an earlier photograph is much smaller (Illus. 6 & 7). A faint suggestion of a blocked doorway (21) was recorded just below and to the left of this window. Projecting stonework (19) could suggest another building once sat on this side while the chimney above (7) was added during the renovations in the 1930s.

### North facing elevation

The northern elevation (Illus. 11) lay on the northern side of Area 1. Several distinct features were present on the single elevation. In the upper parts two former roof lines were present (40 & 41). The upper roofline (40) comprised a rough groove which cut through two blocked up gothic lancet windows (42), the western of which had a more rounded top. The lower roofline (41) was defined by flat copes. Just beneath these rooflines, on the eastern side of the elevation, was a small square blocked up window (39) beneath which lay possible infill (37) that could relate to former walls adjacent to or abutting the north elevation.

On the western side of the elevation changes in stonework (36), including a possible lintel, likely represent phases of modification. On the western edge of the elevation lay a likely blocked doorway (35) on top of which sat a wooden lintel. Adjacent to this no quoin stones were present on the corner of the building (47).

At the base of the elevation lay a patch of old plaster (34) and possible lines marking change in stonework (38, 43 & 44), some of which appeared to reuse dressed masonry (38).

### West facing elevation

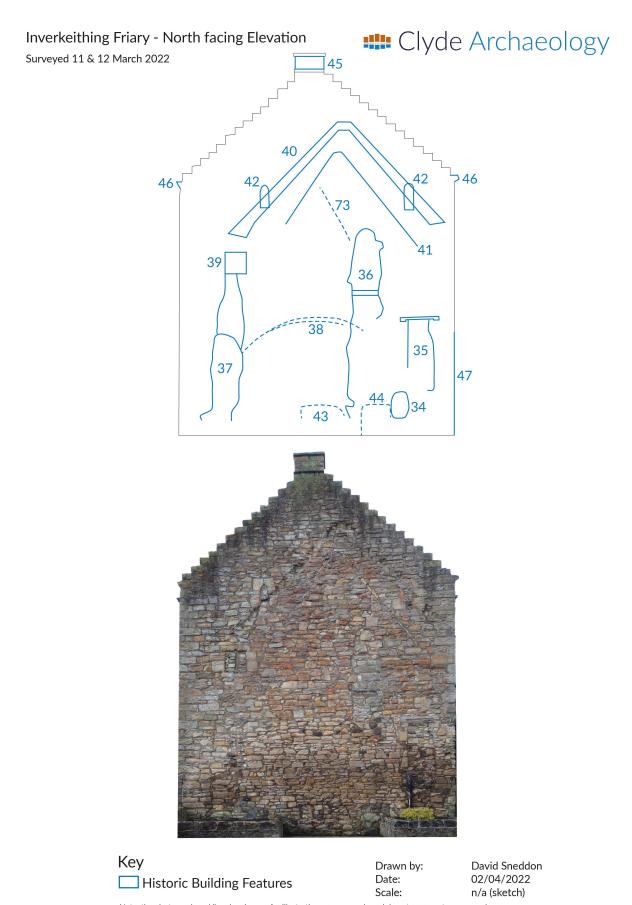
The west facing elevation (Illus. 12) fronts onto Queen Street and currently provides the main access to Areas 1-4 through the street level main door (74) and the door at the top of an external stone staircase. Historic photos (Illus. 3 & 4) indicate that, prior to the 1930s refurbishment, one or two stone steps led up to the main ground floor door (74) suggesting the base of the door may have been lowered.

The southern end of the elevation appears to have been substantially rebuilt during renovation works in the 1930s when the external staircase at this end of the elevation was removed (Illus. 5). It is likely all four windows (50) were inserted at this time. More ragged walls at the southern corner (52) could indicate remains of older walls while the roof line appears to have been either raised or levelled (51).

Two very distinct changes in stonework (18 & 55) represent an area of the wall above the current main door (74) constructed of much more regular stone blocks than seen elsewhere on the elevation. The change in stonework is particularly vertical at the base of the southern edge where it meets Area 2.

Above three possible notches (54) an older gothic lancet double window (70) was reinstated during refurbishment in the 1930s (Illus. 4 & 5). A lintel-like stone sat immediately above these windows and may have formed part of a low course of projecting stone (53) at the top of the wall.

To the north, and close to the base of the external stairway, which were likely rebuilt in the 1930s, lay an unusual recessed area (56) which could have been a former opening, although no lintel was present. Historic photos indicate this feature was here prior to the refurbishment in the 1930s and Stephens (1938: 53-54) suggest it had been a door to the ground floor. Above this lay what appeared to be a line of stone blocks (60) that could represent a former floor level. These continued north but were fainter at the northern end (64). This line ran along the base of a rectangular area with a pointed top (59) which may have represented a former opening. The infilled stone was recessed, however, the stone infill appears flush on historic photos taken prior to the refurbishment in the 1930s (Illus. 4). A possible curved change in stonework (61) above this feature may indicate the opening was once wider.

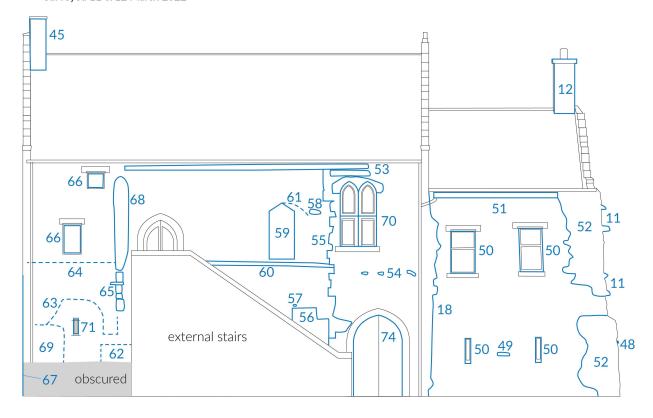


 $Note: the \ photograph \ and \ line \ drawing \ are \ for \ illustrative \ purposes \ only \ and \ do \ not \ represent \ a \ measured \ survey.$ 

Illustration 11: North facing elevation (not to scale)

# Inverkeithing Friary - West facing elevation Surveyed 11 & 12 March 2022

## Clyde Archaeology







Key Drawn by: David Sneddon
Date: 02/04/2022
Scale: 02/04/2022
n/a (sketch)

Note: the photograph and line drawing are for illustrative purposes only and do not represent a measured survey.

Illustration 12: West facing elevation, bottom left obscured by bins (not to scale)

At the northern end of the elevation a slit window (71) corresponds to the location of the current toilet in the former circular stairwell (Room 2) and appears to have replaced a square window which was present prior to the 1930s refurbishment. Just below this a blocked doorway (62), possibly relating to that shown here on the RCAHMS survey prior to refurbishment (Illus. 2) was recorded as was an area of infilling (69) thought to relate to the 1930s refurbishment. Above this lay a line (63) marking a change in stonework while the base of the northern edge had no quoins present (67), see also (47) on the north facing elevation. A distinctive vertical line of stone blocks (65) lay half way up the elevation and appeared to continue into a ragged edge (68). The stonework to the north and south of 65 & 68 was clearly different and could represent significant remodelling of this northern end. Two windows (66) likely inserted/remodelled during the refurbishment in the 1930s were present at the top of the elevation.

#### **Interior**

The friary building was spread over two main floors while Area 3 had an intermediate floor. Each of the internal rooms are summarised and illustrated below.

### **Ground Floor (Rooms 1-5)**

The ground floor (Illus. 13) consisted of three main rooms (1, 4 & 5) all accessed off a vaulted corridor (Room 3) which was likely once an open ended vennel or passageway before the eastern end was blocked by the construction of the Newel staircase (Room 6). Inside the main door, which now forms the western end of the passage, a gap between the vaulted ceiling and an inner rounded arch may be the result of packing material having fallen out (Illus. 14). The original eastern end of the passageway was defined by a pointed stone arch. Heavy iron hinges suggest it was once gated and likely represents the former exterior of the building before being enclosed by the Newel stairwell (Room 6).

The largest of the ground floor rooms (Room 1) was to the north of the passageway (Room 3). It had a high vaulted ceiling and was painted white. The top of the vault appeared off centre in relation to the fireplace which sat at the northern end of the room (Illus. 15). The RCAHMS survey records a wide arched fireplace (1933: 154) meaning it has subsequently been modified as it is no longer arched (Illus. 15). Stephen's account (1938: 52) notes that, other than part of the east and north walls, most of this area had been rebuilt in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

A gap was clearly visible between the inner thick eastern wall and the outer wall containing the windows. No clear evidence was noted for the former doorway in the north-western corner or window in the south-eastern corner previously mapped by the RCAHMS (Illus. 2), but this could be due to the painted stonework.

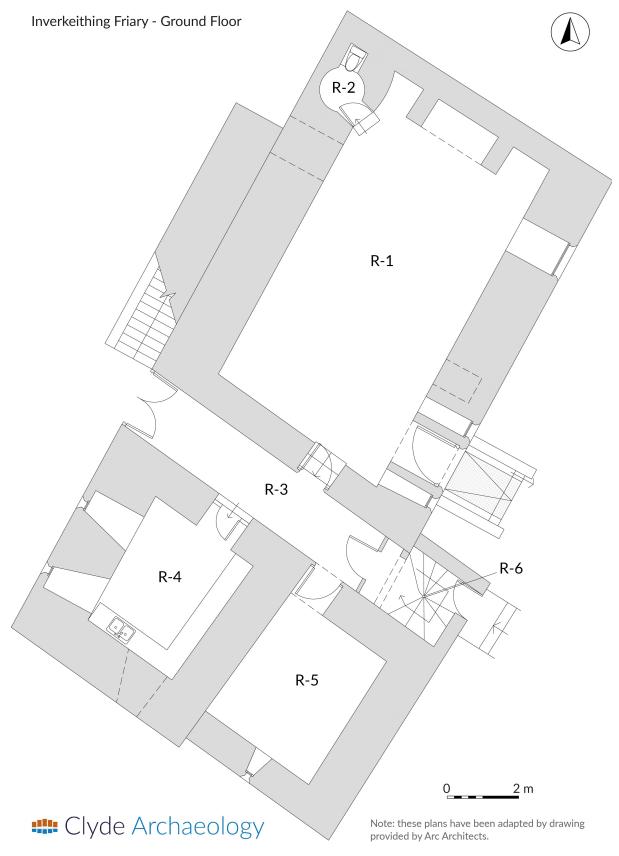


Illustration 13: Ground floor rooms



Illustration 14: Room 3, arches inside front door on W wall



Illustration 15: Room 1, fireplace on N wall and vaulted ceiling

A circular room, currently used as a toilet (Room 2), in the north-western corner of Room 1 likely once held a narrow Newel staircase. A small straight sided alcove on the north-eastern side (Illus. 2, 13 & 16) held the toilet, above which a stepped lintel like stone was present (Illus. 16). A white plastic down pipe above the toilet presumably ran into a black downpipe on the external northern elevation (Illus. 11 & 16), suggesting the alcove in Room 2 corresponds to the blocked doorway (35) on the northern elevation. However, wooden

lintel at the top of the blocked doorway (35) appeared higher than the lintel like stone in the Room 2 alcove. A narrow slit window was also present on the north-western wall of Room 2 behind an extraction fan.



Illustration 16: Room 2 showing circular shape and straight sided recess in NE wall

Room 4 is currently used as a kitchen. It had a vaulted ceiling (Illus. 17) and two deep window openings on the western wall, the northernmost of which had a distinct curve to the wall on the southern side.

Room 5 is currently a store room with a low vaulted ceiling that partially covers a narrow panelled window on the southern wall. The vaulted ceiling showed evidence of being formed from poured concrete in parts while the entrance in the north-western corner overlapped the vaulted ceiling which had been coarsely widened to improve access. A small recess/blocked hole lay in the north-eastern corner, possibly representing an old chimney/flue.

### Newel Staircase (Room 6)

An enclosed square Newel staircase had been constructed onto the eastern side at the corner of Areas 1 & 3, likely in the 17<sup>th</sup> century (RCAHMS 1933: 153 & Stephens 1938: 53). At the base of the stairs a stone slab floor extended just beyond the arch forming the eastern end of the passageway (Room 3), after which the floor was formed by poured concrete made to look like stone slabs. The bottom 5 steps appeared to be concrete and ran up to the doorway into the friary gardens. The sixth step had been trimmed to allow this door to open. The doorway in the eastern wall here may have been added at a later date.

The entrance to Area 3 was formed from dressed stone with rounded corners. Possible knife sharpening grooves were present on the western side of the door surround. A small gothic lancet window was present at the top of the stairs above the door into Room 7 (Illus. 18). The sill of the window was formed from the dressed stone surround of the doorway. A slit window was present in the north-eastern wall (Illus. 19).

### First Floor (Rooms 7-14)

The largest room on the first floor (Room 7, Illus. 20) lay above Room 1 (Area 1) and the ground floor passageway (Room 3). It was formerly used as a museum and had a series of partition walls in the north-western corner forming a small toilet (Room 8), office (Room 9) and entrance vestibule (Room 10). The partition wall of Room 8 and 9 cut across half of the window in the western wall, beneath which the wall was curved. This likely represents a continuation of the circular stairwell forming Room 2 beneath.

The eastern wall had six windows of varying design, all of which appeared to have been either inserted or modified during renovation in the 1930s. Several small recesses with imitation stone backs adorned the walls. The most unusual lay midway along the western wall and consisted of possibly reused gothic lancet window surround (Illus. 21). South of this was a double gothic lancet window reinstated during the 1930s.

Areas 2 and 3 are accessed off the Newel staircase (Room 6). The floor of the lower portion of the hallway leading into Areas 2 and 3 (Room 14) appeared to be poured concrete and rose one step from the stairwell of Room 6. A window modified during the 1930s renovations lay on the eastern wall and the corridor curved to respect it. Beyond Room 15 (see below) the stairs were wooden where they also punctured through the western wall of Area 3 and eastern wall of Area 2. Here, the opening on the western side was formed from a dressed stone surround (Illus. 22). The corners of the stone had been cut flat like the doorway to Room 7 at the top of the Newel stairwell (Room 6). A possible 'W' like masons mark was present on the northern side at the base of the stone surround. A large recess at the top of the wooden stairs in the southern wall corresponded to the external feature (2) visible on the southern elevation (Illus. 9).

Room 11 had modern plaster and woodchip lined walls with a 20<sup>th</sup> century fireplace in the southern wall. The ground plans indicated the wall was very thick on this southern side (Illus. 20) while a slight curve existed on the wall into the south-eastern corner.

Other than the remains of possible medieval decorated plaster, present on the northern wall and protected beneath glass (Illus. 23), only modern wall coverings and fittings were visible in Room 12. Room 13 is currently used as a toilet. The ground plan suggests this room lies within the thick southern wall of Area 2 (Illus. 20).



Illustration 17: Room 4. vaulted ceiling and plasterboard S wall



Illustration 18: Room 6, gothic lancet window at top of stairwell



Illustration 19: Room 6, narrow slit window in NE wall

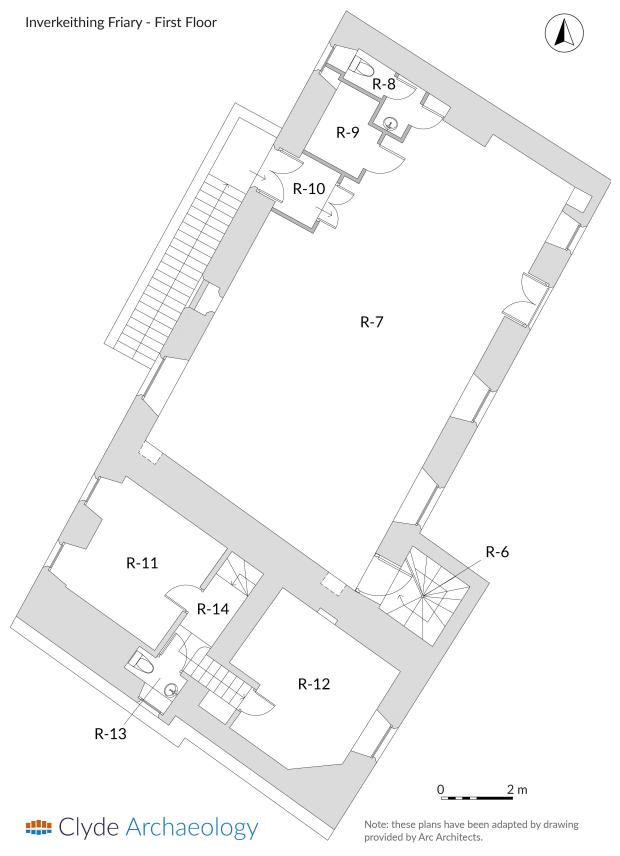


Illustration 20: First floor rooms



Illustration 21: Room 7, internal gothic lancet window in W wall



Illustration 22: Room 14, stone doorway surround half way up wooden staircase



Illustration 23: Room 12, possible medieval plaster

### Intermediate floor (Room 15)

Room 15 (Illus. 24) lay above the low vaulted Room 5 of Area 3 and itself had a low plastered vaulted ceiling. The northern wall appears to be a modern insertion as the vaulted ceiling continued beyond this into the hall (Room 14). A bricked up fireplace sat on the eastern wall while a slight angle in the north-eastern corner was likely a result of the hallway (Room 14) having to respect the window on the eastern external wall.

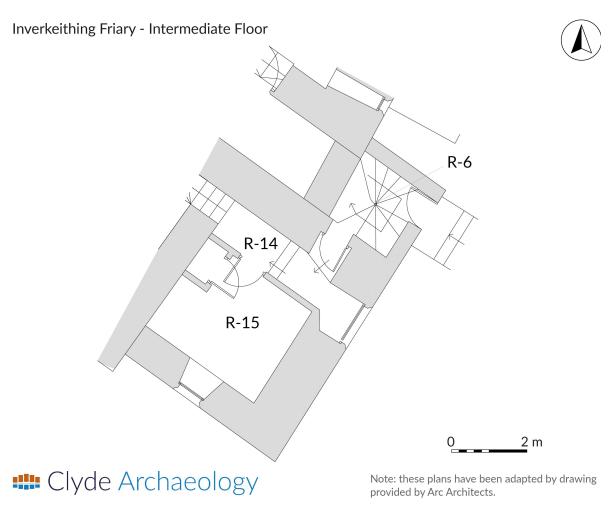


Illustration 24: Intermediate floor (Room 15)

### 7. Discussion

The survey undertaken at Inverkeithing Friary Hospitium has shown that the building has a complex history that is partly recorded in the various layers of construction and remodelling evident throughout. Interpreting the fabric of the building was somewhat complicated by the extensive 1930s refurbishment, which in some cases, resulted in the reinstatement of older features and an attempt to insert new features to make parts of the building look older and acknowledge its long history.

From historical records it is known that major renovation works were undertaken in the 17<sup>th</sup> century when the building was converted into tenements (Stephens 1938) and in the 1930s after the ownership of the

building was passed to the council. Although potentially on a smaller scale there will also undoubtedly have been other unrecorded phases of remodelling, however, the extent of these are unknown.

At a high level Areas 1, 2 and 3 are not all on the same orientation. Although the differences in alignment are small they are significant enough to suggest they represent three phases of building that were perhaps only fully amalgamated in the 16<sup>th</sup> century when joined as a tenement. Prior to the 1930s the RCAHMS survey shows the western elevation of Area 2 being broadly on the same alignment as it's eastern wall (Illus. 2), however, large scale rebuilding of this western side in the 1930s appears to have brought the orientation of this wall more into line with Area 1 (Illus 8). The northern part of this western elevation was also significantly altered in the 1930s but here evidence also exists for reinstatement of a possible medieval gothic lancet window (70) above the current main door.

The walls of Area 1 are not completely rectangular (Illus. 8 & 13) indicating phases of rebuilding are present here too, while significant differences in wall thickness exist, particularly between the southern walls of Areas 2 and 3.

Details on the southern elevation relating to the main building (Area 1) reveals coping stones (13) from an earlier roofline which had a steeper pitch and suggested narrower footprint, further from the current street frontage. This finds parallel with details on the northern elevation, which also includes a lower roofline (41), on a steeper pitch and narrower foot print. These two rooflines may be broadly contemporary but are not 'out of step', with (13) appearing higher and positioned further to the south-east than (41). This suggests they represent gables from two separate smaller buildings, perhaps representing in part the original tenement building passed on from the king to be used as the friary, prior to its full construction by 1384 (Stephens 1938: 51). The incorporation of portions of earlier buildings in part may explain some of the misaligned walls in the current footprint.

The two gothic lancet windows (42) on the north elevation may then represent the expansion of the building into a formal friary through widening and also increasing in height. Given the upper roofline (40) cuts these lancet windows it is more likely this represents the addition of a building to the north, perhaps in the 17<sup>th</sup> century when the friary was converted into tenements.

The majority of the internal features appeared to relate to either 17<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century remodelling and renovation although hints at earlier features were seen in the lancet window at the top of the Newel staircase (Room 6), the likely circular newel stairwell (Room 2) and the arch at the eastern end of the passageway (Room 3) now enclosed by the Newel Staircase (Room 6). Doubt exists over the age of some of the vaulted ceilings on the ground floor rooms (Stephens 1938: 53) which could be 17<sup>th</sup> century or even 20<sup>th</sup> century remodelling. In relation to Room 1, RCAHMS (1933: 154) noted that 'the cellar has latterly been subdivided, and an entresol floor, approached by a wooden stair-case, has been inserted within the southern division'.

The more ephemeral features are more difficult to interpret with any confidence, although some will likely relate to the use of the building in the medieval period, while further historic building features undoubtedly exist hidden behind the current interior fabric of the building. It is also important to note the Friary building does not exist in isolation but forms part of further upstanding and archaeological remains known to exist in the friary complex to the east (Becket 2018).

### 8. Recommendations

Given Inverkeithing Friary Hospitium is a category A listed building (LB35100) and has a complex history it is highly likely that further evidence for historical construction and use of the building is present behind some of the modern interior alterations and additions. If any future refurbishment of the friary is undertaken it is recommended that the works are monitored to allow recording of any significant historic features that may be revealed.

In addition, with the importance of the Friary Hospitium to the history of Inverkeithing and to the community as a civic building, further opportunities for community engagement activities in relation to its future use should be explored.

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### 10. Appendices

### **Appendix 1: Tables**

Table 1: Room details

Room	Floor	Description/Interpretation
1	Ground	Large vaulted room painted white. The top of the vault appears off centre compared to the fireplace. Three windows, all along the E wall, the northernmost being the largest and possibly modified from a previous door. The other two are smaller and raised high on the wall, one being small & rectangular, the southernmost being a single gothic lancet. A gap is clearly visible between the inner thick wall and the outer wall containing the windows. A single exterior door in the SE corner of the room leads to the gardens while the main access is through a door on the S wall then down two modern steps. No clear evidence for the blocked doorway in the NW corner or the blocked window in the SE corner previously noted by the RCAHMS was present, but this could be due to the painted stonework. A large blocked fireplace, that appears to have been modified through time, sits against the N wall. A ragged edge to quoining is visible to the S of the door to Room 2.
2	Ground	Circular room with a small straight sided alcove on the NE side. The room is currently used as a toilet but is likely to have previously been a staircase. The possible remnants of stairs can be seen above the toilet cistern in the alcove while a narrow slit window exists on the NW wall behind an extraction fan. The floor level steps up in the alcove where the toilet is situated. The ceiling has been filled and plastered. Similar plaster-like material fills a square hole above the doorway. A single curved stone lintel forms the top of the doorway. Two iron door hinges are present on the N side of the doorway.
3	Ground	A corridor or hallway entered from street level that slopes down slightly from the W to the E. The floor may have been lowered as the pre-1930s entrance was accessed up 1-2 stone steps. The main doorway is formed by a pointed arch. A higher rounded arch is present immediately inside the door inside which is the higher vaulted ceiling. A gap exists between the vaulted ceiling and the curved arch, possibly the result of packing/filling material having fallen out. A corresponding gap exists between the walls at the SE end of

Room	Floor	Description/Interpretation
		the corridor but this has been sealed. There is a suggestion of a blocked archway on the SW wall immediately inside the front door. Stonework on the E side of the doorway into Room 1 suggest it may have once been in a slightly different position or was a different size. Likely to have originally been an open ended vennel or passageway which has been shortened by the insertion of a modern partition wall and door at the SE end.
4	Ground	Currently used as a kitchen. Two deep arched window openings are present on the W wall and the ceiling is vaulted. The northernmost window has a distinct curve on the S southern side of the opening. The doorway has a similar series of arches to the front door of Room 3 i.e. pointed arched door, internal rounded arch and a vaulted ceiling. The S wall has been faced with plasterboard.
5	Ground	Currently used as a store room. It has a low vaulted ceiling that partially covered a narrow panelled window on the S wall. The vaulted ceiling shows evidence of being formed from poured concrete in parts. The entrance in the NW corner overlaps the vaulted ceiling the edge of which has been roughly widened to improve access. The floor drops a single step from the door which has a deep stone slab lintel. A vertical edge of stone protrudes from the current wall at the edge of the vaulted ceiling, SW of the door. The western wall shows signs of changing masonry midway. A small recess/blocked hole lies in the NE corner possibly representing an old chimney/flue. A low ledge protrudes from all but the NE corner of the E wall's base. This could represent underpinning or have been exposed if the floor was lowered.
6	All	Currently a stone newel staircase between passageway (Room 3), the first floor of Area 1 and Area 3. At the base of the stairs a pointed arch represents the SE end of the vennel/passageway (Room 3) where heavy iron hinges suggest it was once gated. This arch likely represents the former exterior of the building before being enclosed by the stairwell (Room 6). The stone slab floor extends just beyond this arch after which the floor is formed by poured concrete made to look like stone slabs. Opposite the arch is a modern wooden framed cupboard under the stairs which has signs of old plaster on the stone walls. The bottom 5 steps appear to be concrete and run up to the doorway into the friary gardens. The sixth step has been trimmed to allow this door to open and has had a piece of concrete added to the step next to the stair column to make the step useable. All this suggests the doorway in the E wall may have been added at a later date. The entrance to Area 3 is formed with dressed stone with rounded corners on the NE side which is the same design as the entrance into Room 7 at the top of the stairs. Possible knife sharpening grooves are present on the W side of the door surround. A slit window is present in the NE wall. A small gothic lancet window is present at the top of the stairs above the door into Room 7. Although the sill of the window is formed by the lintel for the door, it could be early and suggests the stairwell was a later addition.
7	First	Large open plan room formerly used as a museum. The eastern wall has six windows of varying design, all of which appeared to have either been inserted or modified during renovation in the 1930s. One extends to floor level and opens more like a door, above which one of the stones has a possible masons mark. A small recess is present in the NE corner which has an imitation stone back. A similar recess exists on the S wall next to the doorway to the stairwell (Room 6). In the SW corner a larger floor level recess holds a wooden support from a former museum display. The lintel for this recess is formed from a possible reused window surround. A curve in the wall at this corner could indicate where two different buildings met. Midway along the W wall lies another recess in the style of a gothic lancet window. The backing is imitation stone but the top of the stone surround

Room	Floor	Description/Interpretation
		could be a reused window surround. The arch appears to back onto the external recessed feature (59) present on the western elevation. Just to the south of this a double gothic lancet window could be a reinstated earlier window. Notches worn in the stone either side of the window could be the result of a wooden bar or shutter. A chimney breast is present on the N wall.
8	First	Modern partition walls creating a cloakroom and toilet in the NW corner of Room 7. The base of the window has been boarded up so it is not clear if the curve visible in Room 9 is also present here.
9	First	Modern partition walls creating a store or office. The partition wall cuts across half of the window in the W wall, beneath which the wall is curved and likely represents the continuation of the circular stairwell forming Room 2 beneath.
10	First	Modern partition walls creating a small lobby off the main door on the W wall. One step up into Room 7. As Room 3 & 4 on the ground floor the main door has a pointed arch then a rounded inner arch higher up.
11	First	Modern plaster and woodchip lined walls with a 20 <sup>th</sup> century fireplace in the S wall. The wall here seems very thick. Two modern windows in the W wall. A slight curve exists in the wall into the SE corner.
12	First	Modern plaster and woodchip lined walls. A single modern window in the E wall. A narrow shelved cupboard is present on the S wall while the remains of possible medieval decorated plaster is present on the N wall protected beneath glass. A blocked up fireplace lies in the SE corner.
13	First	Currently used as a toilet. A single modern window lies on the S wall. The ground plan suggests this room lies within the thick S wall of Area 2.
14	First	The floor of the lower portion of the hallway, immediately inside the opening to the stairwell (Room 6), appears to be poured concrete and rises one step from the stairwell. Beyond Room 15 the stairs are wooden. A window modified during the 1930s renovations lies on the E wall and the corridor curves to respect it. A dressed stone surround lines the W side of the hole where the wooden stairs puncture through the wall between Areas 2 & 3. The corners of the stone have been cut flat like the doorway at the top of the Newel stairwell (Room 6). The base of the stone surround may also have been cut at stair level while a possible 'W' like masons mark is present on the N side at the base. A large recess at the top of the stairs in the S wall corresponds to the external feature (2) visible on the S elevation.
15	Mid	Low vaulted ceiling could be a modern addition in the 1930s. A single modern window lies on the S wall while a bricked up fireplace sits on the E wall. A cupboard made of partition walls sits on the W wall just inside the doorway and a modern water tank lies in the SE corner. The walls and ceiling are painted a vibrant lime green. The northern wall appears to be a modern insertion as the vaulted ceiling continues beyond this into the hall (Room 14). Slight angle in the wall in the NE corner is likely a result of the hallway (Room 14) having to respect the window on the E wall.

Table 2: External feature details

Feature	Elevation	Description/Interpretation
1	South	New window possibly inserted during 1930s refurbishment
2	South	Infilled window or door. Five small sockets around the perimeter may have been to hold iron bars
3	South	Projecting stones possibly representing the floor lines of buildings to the south
4	South	String course of unknown purpose. It projects slightly from the building
5	South	Cavetto moulding in the cove
6	South	Carved apex stone
7	South	Modern chimney possibly inserted during 1930s refurbishment
8	South	Possible blocked aperture
9	South	Modern window possibly inserted during 1930s refurbishment
10	South	Possible blocked aperture
11	South	Projecting stones suggesting another building was keyed in
12	South	Chimney not centred on gable and set back
13	South	Old roof line formed from flat copes. It does not appear to match with those visible on the north facing elevation
14	South	Likely earlier slit window
15	South	Possible line marking change in stonework
16	South	Projecting stonework possibly inserted in the 1930s to give the impression a building continued in this direction
17	South	Possible line marking change in stonework
18	West	Clear line marking change in stonework
19	East	Projecting stonework
20	East	Large stones
21	East	Possible blocked doorway
22	East	Expanded window
23	East	Blocked attic window
24	East	Possible blocked circular opening
25	East	Curved or bowed out section of wall. It projects out from the wall of the stairwell.
26	East	Edge of internal arch
27	East	Circular mark or rust
28	East	New and remodelled windows from refurbishment in the 1930s
29	East	Blocked window
30	East	Clear line marking change in stonework
31	East	Stones less weathered than those above

Feature	Elevation	Description/Interpretation
32	East	Slit window
33	East	Possible line marking change in stonework
34	North	Patch of old plaster
35	North	Possible blocked doorway with wooden lintel
36	North	Possible line marking change in stonework and a possible stone lintel
37	North	Infill from possible former wall adjacent to or abutting the north elevation
38	North	Possible lines marking change in stonework reusing dressed masonry
39	North	Blocked window
40	North	Rough groove cut in the gable end for a roof line related to the tenement formerly to the north. It cuts through two gothic lancet windows (42)
41	North	Former roofline/roof copes of tenement/friary prior to being widened and heightened
42	North	Blocked gothic lancet windows. The window opening on right hand side appears more rounded on the top
43	North	Possible line marking change in stonework
44	North	Possible line marking change in stonework
45	North	Chimney not centred on gable
46	North	Skew Putts
47	North	No quoin stones in lower courses
48	West	Gate ironwork
49	West	New stone
50	West	Windows and surrounds inserted during 1930s refurbishment
51	West	Stonework used to level or raise the upper course
52	West	Ragged edging on three possible planes. Likely represent older walls
53	West	Thin layer of stone projecting by by 5-10 cm & lintel like stone above Gothic windows
54	West	Possible notches
55	West	Clear line marking change in stonework
56	West	Recessed area. Possibly blocked opening. Some shell is visible in the mortar
57	West	Metal: possible handrail fixing
58	West	Angled flat stone
59	West	Recessed & infilled possible former opening with a dressed stone frame. No lintel. Could correspond to internal gothic lancet window in Room 7.
60	West	Line of stones possibly representing a floor level
61	West	Possible curved line marking change in stonework
62	West	Possible infilled door
63	West	Line marking the change in stonework

Feature	Elevation	Description/Interpretation
64	West	Faint line of stones possibly representing a floor level. The same as feature 60
65	West	Line of vertical stones
66	West	Windows likely inserted/remodelled during the refurbishment in the 1930s
67	West	Ragged edge. No quoins. Same as 47
68	West	Ragged edge possibly associated with west wing
69	West	Infill from renovations
70	West	Reinstated gothic lancet windows
71	West	Slit window possibly in the location of a square window prior to the 1930s renovations
72	South	Possible base for stone finial at apex of Area 1 gable
73	North	Possible line visible in stonework
74	West	Pointed stone arch doorway currently used as a street level entrance to the building

Table 3: Digital Photographs

Note: large red & white scale in photographs = 0.5m divisions, small red & white scale = 0.2m divisions,

Image No.	Area	Description	Taken from
1	Room 3	Inside of front door showing arches	SE
2	Room 3	Gap between vaulted ceiling and arch above the main door	SE
3	Room 3	Gap between vaulted ceiling and arch above the main door	S
4	Room 3	Gap between vaulted ceiling and arch above the main door	SE
5	Room 3	Inside of front door showing arches	SE
6	Room 3	Filled in gap above rear door	NW
7	Room 3	Filled in gap above rear door	NW
8	Room 6	Sockets cut out of stone on the N side of the stone arch beyond the doorway into Room 3	SW
9	Room 6	Cupboard at the base of the stairs	NW
10	Room 6	Outer arch of passageway at the base of the staircase	E
11	Room 3	Possible former edge of entrance into Room 1	W
12	Room 3	Possible former edge of entrance into Room 1	SW
13	Room 3	Entrance to Room 5	N
14	Room 3	Entrance to Room 4	E
15	Room 4	Vaulted ceiling and NW wall	NE
16	Room 4	Windows on NW wall	SE
17	Room 4	Interior arch above door	SW
18	Room 5	Doorway from inside the room	S

Image No.	Area	Description	Taken from
19	Room 5	Stones removed from vaulted ceiling to improve access	SE
20	Room 5	Gap in vaulted roof in the NE corner of the room	NW
21	Room 5	Boarded narrow window in SW wall	NE
22	Room 5	Stone edge/corner on NW side of vaulted ceiling	E
23	Room 5	Varying stonework on NW wall	SE
24	Exterior	NW facing elevation	SW
25	Exterior	NW facing elevation	W
26	Exterior	NE facing elevation of stairwell (Room6)	NE
27	Exterior	NE facing elevation of stairwell (Room6)	E
28	Exterior	Chimney and possible blocked attic window 23	E
29	Room 1	Chimney breast	SW
30	Room 1	Fireplace & chimney breast	SW
31	Room 1	Fireplace & chimney breast	SW
32	Room 1	Window 1 north	NW
33	Room 1	Window 1 mid	NW
34	Room 1	Gap between walls above Window 1 mid	NW
35	Room 1	Window 1 south	NW
36	Room 1	Back door	NW
37	Room 1	Gap above back door	NW
38	Room 1	Door into hallway (Room 3)	NE
39	Room 2	Door into Room 2	SE
40	Room 2	Ceiling showing circular shape of room	n/a
41	Room 2	NE wall and ceiling	S
42	Room 2	Possible lintel on NE side of room	S
43	Room 2	Possible small blocked opening on SE wall above door	NE
44	Room 2	Lintel and possible blocked opening on NE wall	SW
45	Room 1	Wall and entrance to Room 2	SE
46	Room 1	Wall to SW of Room 2	S
47	Room 1	Possible blocked aperture inside cupboard to the NE of the door to Room 2	S
48	Room 7	Windows in the N half of the eastern wall	W
49	Room 7	Windows in the S half of the eastern wall	NW
50	Room 7	E alcove on S wall	NE
51	Room 7	W alcove on S wall	NE
52	Room 7	Internal gothic arched window on W wall	SE

Image No.	Area	Description	Taken from
53	Room 7	Gothic arched window at S end of W wall	SE
54	Room 7	Chimney breast on N wall	SW
55	Room 7	Possible masons mark on arch above door/window opening on E wall	SE
56	Room 8	General view of partition walls from Room 7	SE
57	Room 9	W wall showing curved area beneath desk at window	SE
58	Room 9	W wall showing curved area beneath desk at window	SE
59	Room 9	Partition wall across window on W wall	SE
60	Room 10	Entrance from exterior	NW
61	Room 10	Entrance from interior	SE
62	Room 12	Possible medieval plaster on the N wall	S
63	Room 12	Possible medieval plaster on the N wall	S
64	Room 12	NW corner of room at door	SE
65	Room 12	SW corner of room	NE
66	Room 13	View into room from hallway (Room 14)	NE
67	Room 11	Window on W wall and fireplace on S wall	NE
68	Room 11	Recess on N wall	SW
69	Room 15	S wall	NE
70	Room 15	Old water tank in SE corner	NE
71	Room 15	Blocked fireplace on E wall	NW
72	Room 14	Doorway between stairwell (Room 6) and hallway (Room 14)	NE
73	Room 14	Window on E wall	NW
74	Room 14	Possible masons mark at base of opening between Area 2 & 3	SE
75	Room 14	Top of stairs at entrance to Room 12	NW
76	Room 14	Opening between Area 2 & 3	SW
77	Room 14	Recess next to doorway to Room 12	NW
78	Room 6	Gothic arched window on W wall at top of stairwell	SE
79	Room 6	Slit window on N wall	SW
80	Room 6	Cupboard under base of stairs	NW
81	Room 6	Doorway at base of stairs on E wall	W
82	Room 6	Arch at base of stairs defining E end of passageway (Room 3)	NE
83	Exterior	SE facing elevation	SE
84	Exterior	NE facing elevation	NE
85	Exterior	SW facing elevation	SW
86	Exterior	NW facing elevation, S end	NW

Image No.	Area	Description	Taken from
87	Exterior	NW facing elevation, N end	NW