

Archaeological Watching Brief
Dunkeld Cathedral
Chapter House Museum
DUNKELD

DK05



Alder Archaeology Ltd
55 SOUTH METHVEN STREET
PERTH PH1 5NX
Tel: 01738 622393
Fax: 01738 631626
Director@AlderArchaeology.co.uk

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
DUNKELD CATHEDRAL CHAPTER
HOUSE MUSEUM
DUNKELD**

DK05

1	<i>Background</i>	1
2	<i>Details of Work</i>	1
3	<i>Interpretation</i>	3
4	<i>Conclusions</i>	3
5	<i>Bibliography</i>	4
<i>Appendix 1</i>	<i>Context Register</i>	4
<i>Appendix 2</i>	<i>Photographic Register</i>	4
<i>Appendix 3</i>	<i>Drawing Register</i>	6
<i>Appendix 4</i>	<i>Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry</i>	7

Illustration 1: Location

Illustration 2: Site Location

Illustration 3: Trench

Author David Bowler, BA, MPhil, FSA Scot, MifA
Illustrator David Bowler
Editor Ray Cachart

ABSTRACT

Alder Archaeology conducted a watching brief on the formation of a fire escape ramp from the new Dunkeld Chapter House Museum, formerly a public convenience, into Stanley Hill, a designed landscape connected with the former Dunkeld House, and now belonging to the National Trust for Scotland. The watching brief was carried out on 21st August 2012 in very wet conditions, and given the site code DK05.

The trench revealed mostly modern deposits and features over natural sand. One deposit 010 of stones and mortar could have been the remains of a very poorly defined wall foundation, but was too fragmentary to interpret with confidence.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Dunkeld Chapter House Museum Trust commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the site of a fire escape ramp being formed to the N of the new museum, formerly a public convenience, at the NW corner of the square surrounding the Market Cross. The affected area was very small, c 25 m² in grassed park and woodland belonging to the National Trust for Scotland, centred on NGR NO 025 426. The work (site code DK05) was undertaken on 21st August 2012 in persistently cold, wet and overcast weather conditions. The requirement was to observe and record the excavations required for the formation of the fire escape ramp.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this investigation was to establish the presence/absence, date, character and quality of any archaeological remains surviving within the development area.

1.3 Reporting

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this watching brief. Copies will be sent to the client, the National Trust for Scotland, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and the Perth and Kinross Historic Environment Record.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

This Watching Brief was specified by the National Trust for Scotland as owners of the land adjacent to the new museum, and in particular of the area into which the fire escape door opens, which required reduction to form an exit ramp.

1.5 Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Dr Shannon Fraser and Ben Notley of NTS for their assistance and guidance throughout this project. The Dunkeld Chapter House Museum Trust funded this Watching Brief.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1 - 2)

The new Chapter Museum is being created in the shell of a former public convenience, a single-storey flat-roofed building of mid to late 20th-century date, located at the NW corner of the public square surrounding the Market Cross and the Duke of Atholl memorial fountain. The site is bounded to the S by the Duchess Anne institute, to the E by the square, and to the N and W by Stanley Hill, an area of wooded parkland belonging to the NTS. The main entrance to the building is from the square, on the E side.

A new fire escape door has been formed on the N side of the building, opening into the parkland of Stanley Hill. The external ground surface is some 0.5 m higher than the

intended internal floor level, so it was necessary to locally reduce the external ground level to form an external threshold and exit ramp. This affected an area of c 25 m², hitherto covered in grass, immediately adjacent to the N wall of the building.

The N wall (012) of the building, towards Stanley Hill, is externally faced with sandstone, tooled and roughly squared, of varying sizes, probably re-used from earlier buildings. The inner skin of the wall is of grey concrete blocks. The wall head stands above the flat roof, and is capped with a coping of flat grey cement slabs. The western part of the wall is aligned E – W, parallel with the end wall of the adjacent Duchess Anne institute. The eastern part of the wall turns to the SE, making an obtuse angle of about 150°, and terminates in a gateway giving pedestrian access from the public square into Stanley Hill.

The new fire escape doorway has been slapped through the E – W aligned part of the wall, just W of the angle. The external threshold has been formed directly in front of the doorway, while the exit ramp rises to the E, and has been formed directly up against the eastern, angled part of the wall.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

The wooded parkland now known as Stanley Hill lay within the policies of Dunkeld House, a winter residence of the Dukes of Atholl from the 16th century until its demolition in 1829.

The house and its environs underwent repeated phases of demolition and redesign, which can be partially traced in early plans, in parch marks visible from the air, and in features found by geophysical survey and trial excavation carried out by the University of Glasgow in 2004 (McAllan et al, 2004), which also reviewed and summarised earlier work.

The present development lay at the very SE corner of the designed landscape surrounding Dunkeld House, at its interface with the town of Dunkeld, whose northern backlands it probably displaced. The site was included in the 2004 programme of geophysical survey, but did not produce any recognisable features.

William Clark's plan of 1748, reproduced in Figures 6a and 7d in McAllan et al, seems to show that the site of the present development was occupied by a house continuing westward the present line of terrace houses along the N side of the public square, ie part of the town rather than of the policies of Dunkeld House.

2.3 Archaeological Method

The watching brief was carried out by David Bowler of Alder Archaeology.

Work began in the threshold area in front of the doorway. This was deturfed using a small tracked excavator with a ditching bucket, and then machine excavated in spits down to the required depth, c 0.5 m below external surface depth. Work then proceeded to the exit ramp, which was deturfed by machine, and excavated eastward in spits, the depth diminishing to the E. Recognition and recording were hindered by the dark and very wet conditions under which the trench was dug. The modern layers and features revealed were planned schematically rather than in full detail.

2.4 Results of Investigations (Illus 3)

In the threshold area, deturfing exposed extensive disturbance.

The turf and topsoil layer 001 included early 20th century glass bottles, and offcuts of roofing felt, probably from the building of the public convenience. Directly beneath this was a square brick structure 002, capped with a stone slab, apparently an access point for cleaning underground drain pipes exiting from the convenience, perhaps marked by an area of disturbance 005. Also exposed was a buff mortar spread 003, associated with various buried telephone cables, the foundation cut 006 of the toilet wall 012, and its fill 008, also associated with buried telephone cables.

Close to the angle of wall 012 was another area of disturbance 009, containing cobbles and large boulders, and sherds of unglazed red earthenware. On examination these proved to be the remains of modern flower pots, complete with the distinctive round hole at the centre of a circular base.

Under all these was a buff yellow sand layer 007, apparently natural, appearing about 200 mm below ground surface, and excavated down to about 0.5 m.

In the NE corner of the threshold area was a deposit 010 of boulders and weak sandy mortar, cut into the natural 007 and surrounded by the upper deposits. This was not well defined, but could have been a wall foundation. It was only exposed when the edge of the excavated area was battered back to a slope.

In the exit ramp area, deturfing exposed a deposit 004 of grey silty loam with many small stones, extending down to the natural sand 007, except locally where there was a deposit 011 of grey crushed stone, identified by the builders as old Type 1 engineering fill.

The flower pot fragments were not retained. The early 20th-century bottles were clearly not ancient objects subject to treasure trove procedures, but are of some local interest, and have been handed to Ben Notley to be kept in the NTS offices adjacent to the site.

3 Interpretation

All the deposits encountered are likely to have been modern, associated with the building and maintenance of the public convenience, except for the natural sand 007, and the possible wall foundation 010.

4 Conclusions

The possible wall foundation 010 was too fragmentary to interpret securely, but it is significant that it appeared at the edge of the excavated area, that is, at the limits of modern disturbance. It is also significant that it appeared close to the surface, and that natural sand 007 is only about 200 mm down.

No further excavation is currently required in connection with the building of the new museum, and therefore no further archaeological work is necessary.

For the future it is significant to note that, as indicated by previous work, possible archaeological features survive just beyond the limits of obvious 20th-century disturbance, and just below the present ground surface.

5 Bibliography

McAllan L, Kellog D, Gondek M, and Jones R 2004 *Dunkeld House: Geophysical Survey and Trial Excavation*. Unpublished report by the University of Glasgow for the National Trust for Scotland.

Appendix 1 Context Register

<i>No:</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	Turf and grey stony topsoil, 150 mm deep. Includes 20 th -cent bottles and roofing felt offcuts. One square bottle, machine made. One round bottle, early 20 th cent.
002	Drainage access. Brick plinth, stone cover slab. 0.6 x 0.5 m.
003	Buff mortar spread, 150 mm deep. Peters out at turn of wall. Embedded cables are modern. Excavated down to formation. Contains large cobbles..
004	Lower deposit E of corner. Grey brown silty loam with many small stones. c. 200 mm deep, over 007.
005	Area of disturbance. Marks line of pipe from drain access 002?
006	Foundation cut of extant toilet wall 012
007	Natural buff yellow sand. Under 003. Appears c 200 mm down. Maximum excavated depth c 0.5 m.
008	Fill of foundation cut 006.
009	Area of disturbance. Contains cobbles and large boulders. Contains base of 20 th -cent flower pot.
010	Wall foundation? Boulders in weak sandy mortar. Cut into natural 007, and higher deposits.
011	Deposit of grey crushed stone, Under 004, extends to c 200 mm down. Old Type 1 fill?
012	Standing stone wall forming N side of toilet block. N face, buff sandstone, tooled and squared. S face, grey cement blocks. Cement slab coping.

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
-----------------	--------------------	-------------

001 – 2	General view of site with Duchess Anne hall behind. Doorway opened up in wall 012.	S
003	Detail of doorway opened up through wall. 012	SW
004	Detail, E end of wall 012, and slope of ground down to work area.	W
005	Detail of doorway, and external grass area to be reduced for fire escape.	S
006 – 7	Start of deturfing by machine. Drain access 002 appearing under turf 001.	E
008 – 9	Detail of drain access 002 with cover slab displaced	E
010	Stripping between drain access 002 and toilet wall 012.	E
011 – 12	Detail of telephone cable in fill of wall foundation 006. Traces of foundation 010 in subsoil	E
013 – 15	Telephone cables in foundation trench 006. Foundation 010 and mortar spread 003. View obscured by condensation inside camera due to cold, wet conditions.	E
016 – 17	Mortar spread 003.	E
018 – 19	Mortar spread 003 exposed E to turn of wall, and N to drain access 002.	E
020 – 21	Detail, Mortar spread 003 petering out at angle of wall.	E
022 – 3	Topsoil stripping E of turn of wall. Layer 004 exposed, with telephone cables.	SE
024 – 6	Disturbed area 005 between drain access 002 and wall. Contains boulders.	E
027 – 30	Digging out disturbed area 005.	E
031 – 3	Digging E of 005 and 002. Exposing disturbed area 010.	SE
034	Natural sand 007 appearing under 005 and 010.	E
035 – 6	Detail of disturbed area 010. Wall foundation?	E
037	Moving into disturbed area 090 at bend of wall.	E
038 – 41	Digging back N into ?wall foundation 010	W
042 – 44	Wall Foundation 010 hidden / removed.	W
045 – 6	Lower deposit 004 exposed E of bend in wall. Various telephone cables exposed.	SE
047 – 51	Stripping deposit 004 to expose disturbed area 009 and natural sand 007	SE
052	Detail of brick door jamb formed in stone wall 012	SE
053 – 4	Digging out disturbed area 009 to expose natural sand 007.	SE
055 – 6	Lower deposit 004 exposed E of bend in wall. Various telephone cables exposed	SE

057	Deposit 004 partly excavated to reveal natural sand 007.	SSE
058	Extending the excavation N to form a battered edge.	SE
059 – 60	Detail of battered edge, and deposit 004 in section.	SE
061 – 3	Excavating deposit 004 to reveal grey crushed stone deposit 011.	S
064	Deposit 004 in section, over grey crushed stone deposit 011 on trench floor.	S
065	General view, toilet wall 012, and E branch of trench.	SSW
066	General view, toilet wall 012, and grey crushed stone deposit 011 exposed in base of trench.	SSW
067-8	Grey crushed stone deposit 011 exposed in base of trench, under deposit 004 (in section).	S
069	General view, toilet wall 012, deposits 004 and 011 in E branch of trench sloped to form ramp. Yellow scale 0.5 m x 0.5 m.	SSW
070	General view, toilet wall 012, deposits 004 and 011 in E branch of trench sloped to form ramp. Yellow scale 0.5 m x 0.5 m.	WNW
071	General view, brick doorway inserted in wall 012. W branch of trench excavated to natural sand 007, now trampled. Interior floor level indicated by steel reinforcing mesh.	SW
072 – 3	General view, brick doorway inserted in wall 012. W branch of trench excavated to natural sand 007, now trampled. Interior floor level indicated by steel reinforcing mesh. Yellow scales, 1 m.	W
074	General view, brick doorway inserted in wall 012. E branch of trench sloped to form ramp. Yellow scale, 1 m.	SE
075 – 6	General view, brick doorway inserted in wall 012. W branch of trench excavated to natural sand 007, now trampled. Interior floor level indicated by steel reinforcing mesh. Drain access 002 left in situ. Yellow scale, 1 m.	E
077	Detail, foundation of wall 002, under inserted doorway. Roots and stones in fill of foundation cut 006.	E

Appendix 3 Drawing Register

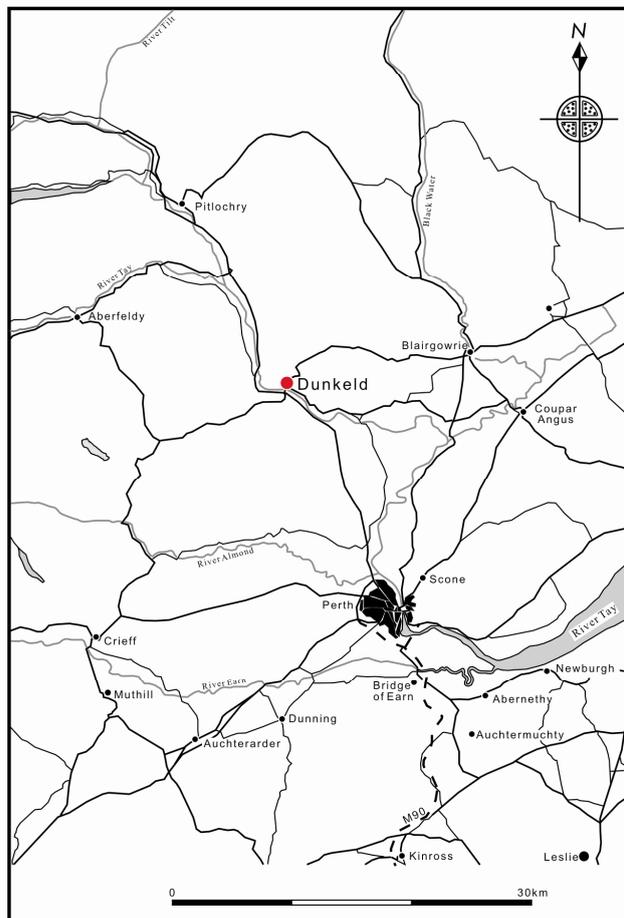
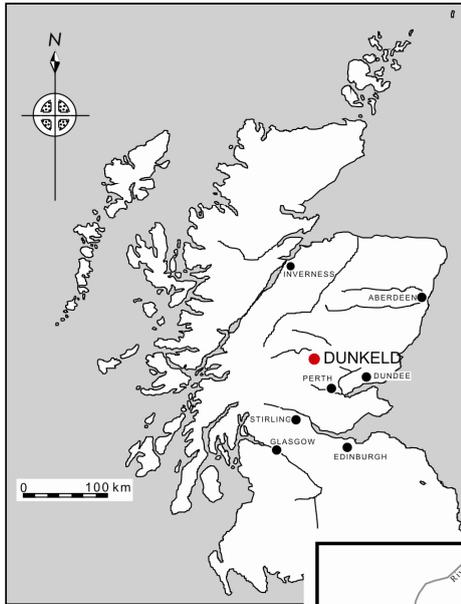
<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	Sketch plan	n/a

Appendix 4 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

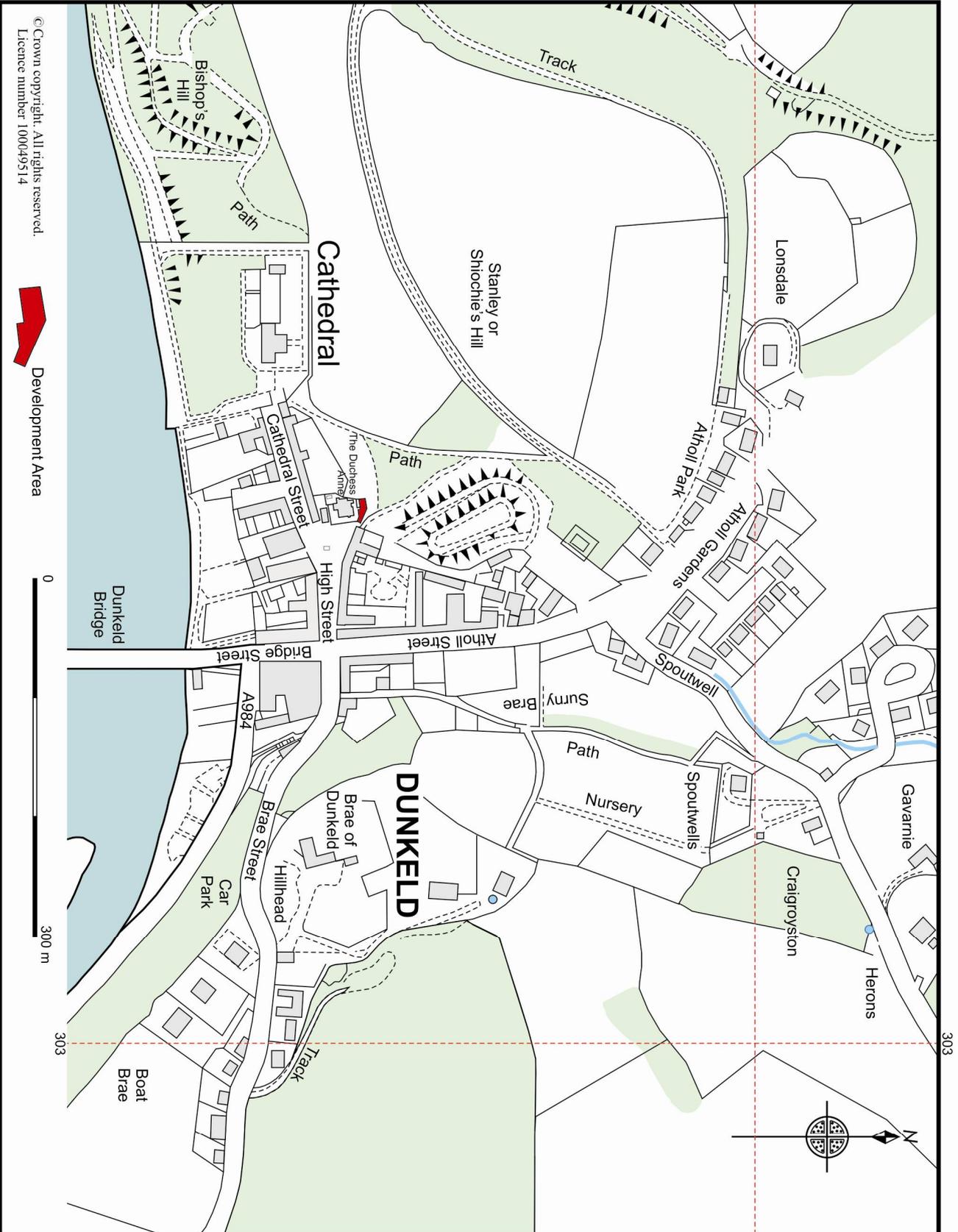
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Dunkeld Cathedral Chapter House Museum
PROJECT CODE:	DK05
PARISH:	Dunkeld and Dowally
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	David Bowler
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Designed Landscape
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	20 th Century Glass and Ceramics
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 0257 4267
START DATE	21 Aug 2012
END DATE	21 Aug 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	Turner R, 1994, Dunkeld House Estate, in C Batey and K Muriel (eds) <i>Discovery and Excavation in Scotland</i> , 86
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Alder Archaeology conducted a watching brief on the formation of a fire escape ramp from the new Dunkeld Chapter House Museum, formerly a public convenience, into Stanley Hill, a designed landscape connected with the former Dunkeld House, and now belonging to the National Trust for Scotland. The watching brief was carried out on 21st August 2012 in very wet conditions, and given the site code DK05.</p> <p>The trench revealed mostly modern deposits and features over natural sand. One deposit 010 of stones and mortar could have been the remains of a very poorly defined wall foundation, but was too fragmentary to interpret with confidence.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	The Dunkeld Chapter House Museum Trust
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Alder Archaeology Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX
ARCHIVE LOCATION	NMRS
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Director@AlderArchaeology.co.uk

Illus 1

Archaeological Watching Brief
Dunkeld Cathedral
Chapter House Museum
Location



DK05



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved.
Licence number 100049514

Development Area

0 300 m

