



Site from multi storey car park, view N

Archaeological Evaluation Backlands of 2 Atholl Place Perth

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
BACKLANDS OF
2 ATHOLL PLACE
PERTH
PE55

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ABSTRACT

Alder Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Nick and Sarah Tulloch to undertake an archaeological evaluation (Alder site code PE55) in the backlands of 2 Atholl Place, Perth. The work was undertaken on the 15th October 2013 in good weather conditions. The site is considered to be archaeologically sensitive because of its location adjacent to the historic core of the medieval burgh and close to the Blackfriars' cemetery to the northwest. Archaeological excavation at Horse Cross found a medieval ditch which probably represented part of the c.12th-century Perth Castle defences. It was considered a possibility that the Perth Castle defences may have extended into the development area. Two evaluation trenches were excavated which bottomed onto natural riverine silty clay deposits.

Trench 01, located adjacent to the site boundary on Blackfriars Wynd, revealed what was considered to be part of an early 19th century building wall with cobble flooring and an adjacent pit. Below the building remains a lower garden soil was encountered which contained medieval pottery sherds. An unstratified, unidentified coin was recovered which was considered to be medieval. The trench reached a maximum depth of 1.50m.

Trench 02, positioned to the N of trench 01, in the backlands close to the centre of the plot, revealed deep garden soils with inclusions of medieval pottery. Two intercutting pits were identified at a depth of 1.40m. The pits contained abundant medieval pottery and some metalwork. The upper parts of the pits appear to have been truncated by later garden activity. The trench reached a maximum depth of 1.60m.

The evaluation found no evidence of the Castle defences but revealed 12th-century pottery from pits which may have been associated with activity from within the Castle.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Nick and Sarah Tulloch commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological Evaluation on the site of a proposed new house build in the backlands of 2 Atholl Place, Perth. The proposed development site is garden ground with a garage at the S end which fronts onto Blackfriars Wynd. The site is centred on NGR NO 1179 2382. The work (site code PE55) was undertaken on the 15th October 2013 in good weather conditions. The requirement was to evaluate 6% of the available area, after deductions in area to account for the garage and site hut, that is, an area of 6.42m².

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 12/00936/FLL.

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. Attention was to be paid to the possibility of finding evidence relating to the c.12th-century Perth Castle defences.

1.3 Reporting

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

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

This evaluation is the final part of a programme of archaeological work designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development.

1.5 Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Mr Nick Tulloch, the developer, for his on site assistance and guidance throughout this project. Thanks are also due to PKHT for their assistance and advice throughout the project and to the ceramics specialist Derek Hall for his identification of the pottery. The evaluation was fully funded by the developer.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

The site forms the S end of the garden ground or rigg running between 2 Atholl Place and Blackfriars Wynd. The residences of Atholl Place were built in the late 18th century. The site is trapezoidal in shape, measuring c 10 x 17m. The S end of the site contains a brick-built garage fronting on Blackfriars Wynd with an adjoining small work room on the N side. These buildings take up a combined area of 56m². There is a 2.20m wide space or passageway between the E gable end of the garage and the E wall of the site. At this location the site S wall contains a bricked up pedestrian entrance

onto Blackfriars Wynd. To the N of the garage and work room the site consists of a grassed garden area. A site hut, measuring 2.22 x 3.33m, has recently been erected in the NE corner of the development ground. The N end of the development area is formed by a newly erected wooden fence 24m to the N of the W frontage corner. The development proposal is for the demolition of the garage and work room and erection of a dwellinghouse at the S end of the plot, fronting onto Blackfriars Wynd.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

The site is adjacent to the historic core of the medieval burgh to the south and adjacent to Blackfriars' cemetery to the northwest. Perth has rich medieval deposits and excavations in 2003 in this area; at the Horse Cross which lies about 80m to the SW of the site, revealed a deep, broad ditch, aligned roughly north-south, with waterlogged fills. The Horse Cross medieval ditch probably represents part of the c.12th-century Perth Castle defences which could possibly extend to the site. Consultation of historical maps, including Buist's 1765 map, shows no evidence of development within the new area proposed for development. The 1860 Perth town plan shows two small structures abutting the wall fronting Blackfriars Wynd with a large open area or courtyard to the N of the structures.

2.3 Archaeological Method

Two trenches, 01 and 02, were excavated down to natural deposits. The trenches were restricted in area due to previously unknown live services such as electric cables and drains. The trenches reached natural riverine deposits and were cleaned and recorded. The combined area of natural reached in trenches 01 and 02 was 4m². The photographic record was made with a Nikon D50 digital camera.

2.4 Results of Investigations

Trench 01 (Illus 3, 4 and 5)

Trench 01 was located in the SE corner of the site, in a restricted area between the garage E gable end and the site E boundary wall, so as to sample the site on its street frontage. This space, a former passageway, leading out onto Blackfriars Wynd, was 2.20m wide and 5.40m in length. The S wall of the passageway had a bricked-up doorway on its E side. The bricks were of the same type as used to build the garage, and may have been inserted at the same time.

A low brick wall (0102) crossed the passageway 2.30m to the N of the SE corner of the passageway. Abutting the N side of (0102) was a tarmac surface (0104). A ceramic down pipe (0103) was located in the middle of the passageway, 1.20m to the N of the S wall. The down pipe was connected to a N-S aligned drain running down the E side of the site and presumably out into the main sewer in Blackfriars Wynd. Connected to down pipe (0103) on its SW side was a drain running from the rainwater down pipe at the corner of the garage. A further pipe leading from down pipe (0103) crossed the passageway in a northward direction. This complex of drain pipes severely restricted the area available for deeper excavation of trench 01. These active drains were left intact to prevent the possibility of flooding the site.



Trench 01 excavated, note drains restricting the trench size, view N

Just below topsoil (0101) the remains of the NE corner of a small structure were exposed. The remains comprised a wall (0107), of mortared rubble and a cobble flooring comprising rounded cobbles (0106) and cassies (0105). These remains had been cut on the S side by a modern drain and on the W side by the gable wall of the garage. This structure may represent a small building shown at this location on the OS Town Plan of Perth, surveyed 1860.

Below the wall and cobbles was a deposit (0108) of mid brown silty loam, a lower garden soil, 0.30m thick, with inclusions of post-medieval pottery and glass. Cut into deposit (0108) was a pit feature, cut (0103) with fills of mixed silty loam (0111) and fragmented stone and mortar (0112). This pit contained a sherd of 19th-century pottery. The pit was cut on its E side by a modern drain extending from down pipe (0103).

Below garden soil (0108) was a further deposit (0109), a homogeneous layer of mid to light brown silt, becoming more clayey with depth, with inclusions of stone fragments and occasional sherds of medieval pottery. Below (0109) was an orange brown clay

silt, (0110) the top of which had been bioturbated by worm and root action. The top of (0110) contained some small medieval pottery sherds. Deposit (0110) was interpreted as natural riverine silt. The trench was bottomed at 1.70m below the site surface.

Trench 02

Trench 02 was located in the mid part of the site 7.20m to the S of the wooden fence marking the N boundary of the site.

Initial excavation into the topsoil (0201) found an undocumented service track (probably for electricity) extending E-W across the site at a depth of 0.30m on the N side of the trench, clearly marked by its distinctive fill of yellow-brown natural silt. Garden soil (0201) comprised black silty loam containing a moderate amount of gravel. The excavation continued on the S side of the cable at a width of 1m. Below garden soil 0201 was a mid brown silty loam deposit (0202) of lower garden soil with abundant charcoal flecks, but not as gravelly as (0201). Below (0202) was a mixed deposit (0203), 0.20m thick. Deposit (0203) comprised mixed garden soil (0202) and pit fills (0204) and (0205). Below deposit (0203), at a depth of 1.60m below the site surface, natural light brown clayey silt was revealed. The bottoms of two pits had been cut into the natural clayey silt, cuts (0208) and (0209). The pits were intercutting and contained ash deposits (0205 and 0206) and sandy silt loam deposits (0204 and 0207). Abundant medieval pottery was recovered from (0203) and the pit fills. Some of the sherds were large and unworn, and do not appear to be redeposited. The pit fills were excavated by machine to a depth of 0.30m in a 2 x 1m sondage at the W end of the trench but were not bottomed.



Trench 02, note pit features cutting into the natural light brown silt, view W

3 Interpretation

3.1

Trench 01

Trench 01, in its upper level, revealed the remains of a structure represented by a wall corner and internal flooring of cobbles, which seems to be depicted on the OS 1860 Town Plan of Perth. The building may represent stabling for horses with a courtyard on its N side. To the N of the building remains was a pit of unknown function dating to the 19th century. The pit may have been associated with the structure as it contained white mortar and stone fragments. Below the building remains were two thick layers of garden soil which seem to indicate intensive horticultural/gardening activity dating from the medieval period, as indicated by the medieval pottery sherds found on the top horizon of the natural at a depth of about 1.50m below the site surface. No evidence of medieval activity was identified apart from horticulture represented by pottery sherds in the lower garden soil.

Trench 02

Trench 02 revealed two layers of garden soil below which was a mixed deposit. The mixed deposit represented mixing of garden soil and pit fills. Two pits were identified at a depth of 1.60m below site surface level. The pit fills contained abundant medieval pottery with some metal and bone. The pits were intercutting and had been truncated and the fills mixed by horticultural activity. It is considered that the pits may have been for the disposal of waste material from activity associated with the 12th-century castle. Apart from the pit fills truncated by later horticultural activity no further medieval features were located.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 Conclusions

Alder concludes that evidence of relevant medieval activity was found on the site in the form of a lower garden soil with medieval pottery sherds and intercutting pits with abundant medieval pottery sherds. The 19th-century wall and cobble floor in trench 01 are not considered to be archaeologically significant. The more significant findings are buried very deeply, at depths of 1.50m in trench 01 and at 1.60m in trench 02. The pottery found in trench 02 is of importance and some of the pottery sherds warrant further study in the form of chemical sourcing to determine their origin.

No evidence of the castle defences was found.

4.2 Recommendations

The developer intends to use concrete strip foundations 1m wide going down to a depth of 1m, to carry a lightweight blockwork and timber structure. This has been deliberately designed to tolerate a degree of settlement during construction, and not to require deep foundations set on inert natural deposits. The finished floor level will be slightly above the present ground surface level. Foundations of this design would

extend through the garden soils but should not be deep enough to impinge upon the underlying archaeology found at depths of 1.50m and 1.60m. Trench 02 is in fact located to the N of the footprint of the new build.

Alder would therefore recommend that no further archaeological work is required prior to or during the groundworks for the new build.

The ceramics specialist recommends chemical sourcing to determine the origin of some of the more significant medieval pottery sherds found in trench 02, but this can be arranged as a part of a broader, nation-wide research project, rather than arising specifically out of the present development.

The final decision with regard to further work ultimately rests with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

5 Bibliography

Cox, A 'Horse Cross Perth' *DES 2003*, 111

OS Perth and Clackmannan Perthshire sheet XCVIII.5 (combined),
survey date: 1860, publication date: 1866

OS Perth 1860 - Town Plan of Perth, sheet XCVIII.5.9 , scale: 1:500, surveyed: 1860

Appendix 1 Context Register

<i>No:</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Phase</i>
	Trench 01	
0101	Topsoil in garden black silty loam	
0102	Modern brick wall between garage gable end and E site wall, very low, at N end of trench 01	
0103	Modern drain, ceramic, vertical, restricting width of trench 01	
0104	Tarmac, pathway along E edge of site at N end of trench 01	
0105	Rectangular cobbles on W side of rounded cobbles c 0.16 X 0.18m	
0106	Rounded cobbles, part of former cobbled surface, on E side of rectangular cobbles	
0107	Base of mortared rubble wall, angle, with cobbles 0105 and 0106 forming floor in angle, wall and floor had been cut by modern drain pipe and E gable of garage, this feature most likely to be small rectangular building as show on OS 1860's plan	
0108	Deposit, garden soil below wall and cobbles, mid brown sandy loam, some darker patches and sandy patches post med pot and glass, lower garden soil below 0101, 0.28m thick	
0109	Deposit, lower garden soil mid to light brown more homogenous than 0108, 0.80m below site surface, becomes more clayey with depth, some stone frags and medieval sherds	
0110	Deposit, orange brown clay silt, below 0109, mottled due to bioturbation, some med pot on surface but otherwise sterile, natural riverine silt, forms trench bottom at c 1.50 from site surface	
0111	Deposit, mixed topsoil and lower silty loam, 19 th C pottery sherd, 0.47m deep, fill of curved pit recorded in S facing section	
0112	Deposit, fragmented stone and white mortar at bottom of pit, part of 0111, shallow layer, c 0.03m thick	
0113	Cut, curved, cut for pit with fills 0111 and 0112, pit cut by ceramic drain on its E side	
	Trench 02	
0201	Deposit, turf and topsoil /garden soil 0.60m thick, moderately gravelly silty loam,	
0202	Deposit, lower garden soil, mid brown, not gravelly, contains abundant charcoal flecks	
0203	Deposit, mix of garden soil 0202 and pit fill, 0204, truncation of pits, over pit fills 0204 and 0205, 0.20m thick	

0204	Deposit pit fill brown sandy loam with inclusions of bone, metal and medieval pottery, 0.24m thick	
0205	Deposit, grey ash on edge of pit cut 0208	
0206	Deposit , grey ash in pit cut 0209	
0207	Deposit, sandy silt loam medieval pottery, component of fill of pit (cut 0209)	
0208	Cut, for pit fills 0204 and 0205	
0209	Cut, for pit fills 0206 and 0207	

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
01	Rear of garage and site of trench 01	SW
02	Rear of garage	SW
03-04	Rear of plot, with shed	N, NW
05	Rear of garage	SW
06-07	Shed and fence	N, NW
08	Garden wall on plot NW side	W
09	Start of excavation for trench 01	SW
10-11	S corner of site trench 01 location	SW
12-13	Vertical ceramic drain pipe at location of trench 01	SW
14	Trench 01 location	SW
15-17	Wall and cobbles 0107	SW
18	Wall and cobbles 0107	NE
19-20	Wall and cobbles remove, deposit 0108	NE
21	Trench 01 excavation continues	N
22	Base of trench 01, deposit natural 0110	N
23	Base of trench 01, deposit natural 0110	NW
24	Base of trench 01, deposit natural 0110	SW
25	Base of trench 01, deposit natural 0110	W

26-27	SW facing section in trench 01, 0112 pit fill	NE
28	Trench 02 being excavated, note newly revealed electric cable on NE edge of trench	NW
29	Trench 01 excavated	SW
30	Trench 02 general, being excavated	SW
31	Trench 02 under excavation	W
32-33	Trench 02 under excavation	W
34-50	General of site, aerial view from top of multi storey car park	N
51	General of site frontage and Blackfriars Wynd	NW
52-54	Bottom of trench 02, showing intercutting pits and natural deposit	NW
55-56	Bottom of trench 02, showing intercutting pits and natural deposit	SE

Appendix 3 Drawing Register

<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	Plan 01 , position of brick wall 0102, not to scale. Plan 02 , cobbles 0105 and 0106 and wall 0107 scale 1:20. Plan 03 , trench 01 as excavated and showing course of drains scale 1:20. Section 01 , part of E facing section of trench 01, scale 1:20 Section 02 , S facing section in trench 01, scale 1:20 General notes and context descriptions for trench 01	1:20
2	Plan 04 , trench 02 as excavated scale 1:20. Section 03 , E facing section scale 1:20	1:20

Appendix 4 Finds Register

<i>Context</i>	<i>Material Type</i>	<i>Details</i>
205/207	Cu alloy	Tube (flattened). Length = 82mm
205/207	Fe	Plate. Length = 87.6mm
205/207	MWD	3 lumps 'heated residue'
205/207	Pottery	7 sherds unidentified medieval Whiteware, possibly Yorkshire type ware (needs chemical sourcing to confirm); consists of 2 rim and 5 body sherds
205/207	Pottery	8 sherds Scottish White Gritty Ware, consists of 2 rims (jug), 6 body sherds (cooking pot)

205/207	Pottery	12 sherds Scottish Redware, consists of 2 base, 10 body sherds (all from jugs)
205/207	Pottery	2 sherds unidentified Whiteware, possibly developed Stamford ware, consists of body sherds from jugs
205/207	Pottery	1 sherd London type Ware, consists of body sherd from jug
205/207	Pottery	1 sherd post-medieval industrial Redware
205/207	Animal bone	1 horse distal tibia, epiphysis fused 2 mammal fragments
0108	Pottery	1 sherd Tin-glazed Earthenware (TGE) 1 sherd slip-glazed industrial Redware 5 sherds medieval Scottish Redware, all from jugs
0108	Glass	1 green bottle base; late 18th/19th century 1 window sherd (aqua)
0108	Animal bone	3 mammal fragments 1 sheep/goat mandible, in fragments 1 large mammal rib articulation
0109	Pottery	1 sherd Scottish Redware, (body sherd with white slip, from jug) 9 sherds Scottish Redware (body sherds from jugs) 2 sherds unidentified glazed whiteware, possibly Yorkshire type ware 3 sherds Scottish White Gritty Ware
0109	Animal bone	1 cattle lower third molar tooth 2 small ungulate rib shfts 6 indeterminate mammal fragments
01 unstrat	Cu alloy?	Small coin; inscription unreadable
01 unstrat	Pottery	1 medieval body sherd
01 unstrat	Stone	1 fragment polished stone plinth, ?marble

Appendix 5 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Archaeological Evaluation Backlands of 2 Atholl Place, Perth
PROJECT CODE:	PE55
PARISH:	Perth
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Ray Cachart
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Medieval backlands, close to 12 th century Perth castle, Blackfriars burial ground and core of medieval burgh
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Medieval Pottery
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	Site centred on NGR NO 1179 2382
START DATE	15 th October 2013
END DATE	15 th October 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	Close to Horse Cross; Cox, A Horse Cross Perth <i>DES</i> 2003, 111
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Alder Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Nick and Sarah Tulloch to undertake an archaeological evaluation (Alder site code PE55) in the backlands of 2 Atholl Place, Perth. The work was undertaken on the 15th October 2013 in good weather conditions. The site is considered to be archaeologically sensitive because of its location adjacent to the historic core of the medieval burgh and close to Blackfriars' cemetery to the northwest. Archaeological excavation at Horse Cross found a medieval ditch which probably represented part of the c.12th century Perth Castle defences. It was considered a possibility that the Perth Castle defences may have extended into the development area. Two evaluation trenches were excavated which bottomed onto natural riverine silty clay deposits.</p> <p>Trench 01, located adjacent to the site boundary at Blackfriars Wynd, revealed what was considered to be part of an early 19th building wall with cobble flooring and an adjacent pit. Below the building remains a lower garden soil was encountered which contained medieval pottery sherds. An unstratified, unidentified coin was recovered which was considered to be medieval. The trench reached a maximum depth of 1.50m.</p> <p>Trench 02, positioned to the N of trench 01, in the backlands close to the centre of the plot, revealed deep garden soils with inclusions of medieval pottery. Two intercutting pits were identified at a depth of 1.40m. The pits contained</p>

	<p>abundant medieval pottery and some metalwork. The upper parts of the pits appear to have been truncated by later garden activity. The trench reached a maximum depth of 1.60m.</p> <p>The evaluation found no evidence of the Castle defences but reveal 12th century pottery from pits which may have been associated with activity related to the Castle</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Developer
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Alder Archaeology Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	NMRS
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Director@AlderArchaeology.co.uk

Appendix 6 Appendix 6 Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork

6.1 Recording Methodology

Alder Archaeology employs a Single Context Recording System that allows full cross-referencing of stratigraphy, finds and environmental samples, as well as site-wide phasing. All features will be planned at scale 1:20, and sections drawn at scale 1:10. Sections and profiles will be drawn and all features will be photographed with metric scale included. Environmental samples will be taken from archaeologically significant contexts, if the analysis of these samples would aid significantly in the interpretation of any features identified.

6.2 Human Remains

If human remains are encountered they will be left in situ and the local police will be informed. If removal is required this will take place in compliance with Historic Scotland's Policy Paper *The Treatment of Human Remains in Archaeology*.

6.3 Products and Reporting

A Data Structure Report will normally be prepared within a period agreed within the Written Scheme of Investigation/ Project Design, after the completion of the fieldwork. This forms the basic level of reporting. Further reporting may be required on the basis of discoveries made during excavations.

A copy of the report and the project archive will be deposited in the NMRS. Further copies will be sent to the client, LAAO and others, as appropriate.

6.4 Artefacts

Finds of objects will be subject to the Scots Laws of Treasure Trove and *Bona Vacantia*. We will report such finds, if recovered, with supporting documentation to the Secretariat of the Treasure Trove Panel for disposal to the appropriate museum.

6.5 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

A brief summary of the results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*.

6.6 General Conditions and Health and Safety

We adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists.

Alder Archaeology Ltd has public liability insurance of £2,000,000. Details of this can be provided on request.

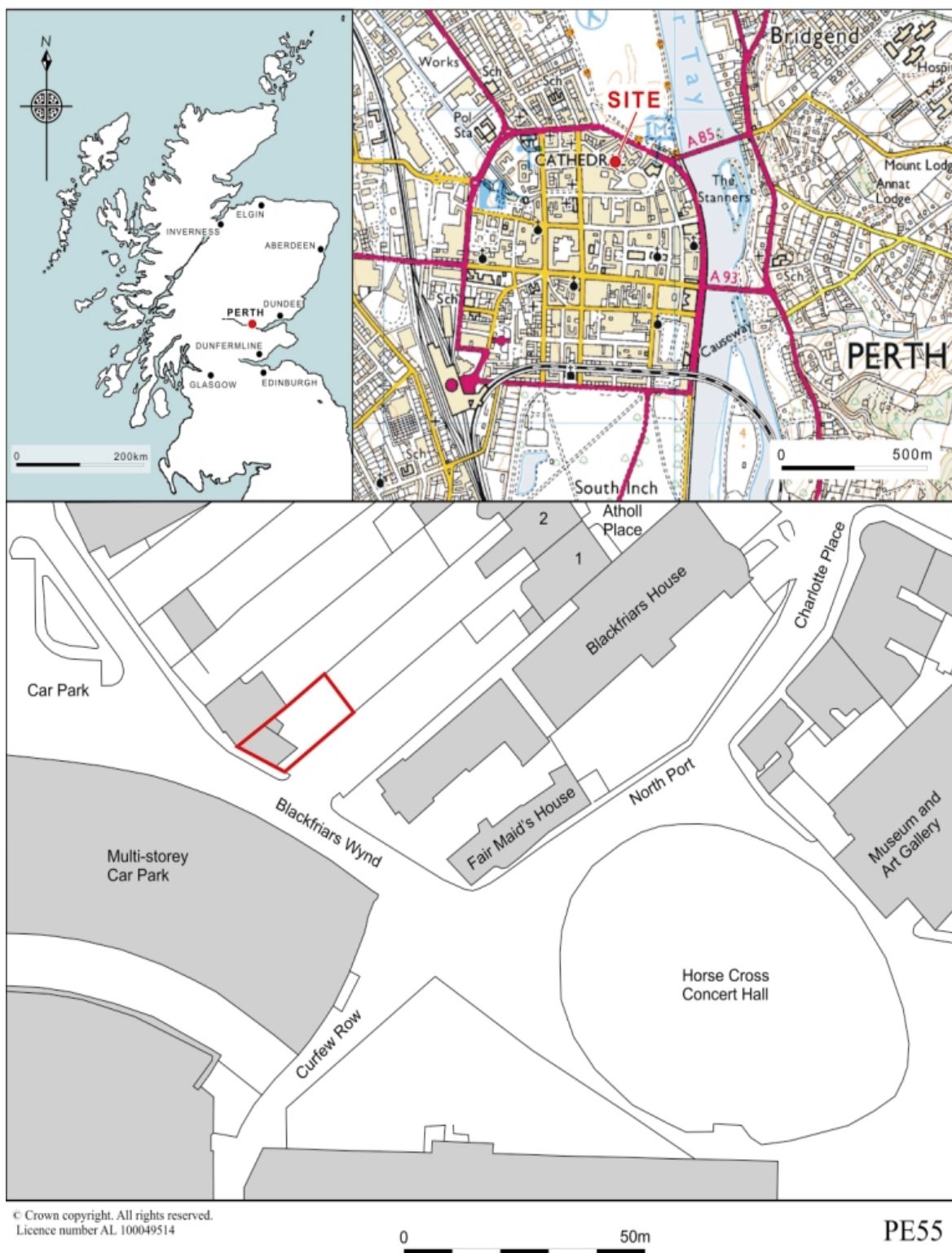
We operate a strict health and safety policy and conforms to the Health and Safety at Work Act. We undertakes Risk Assessments on all fieldwork carried out.

Alder Archaeology representatives will at all times wear protective footwear, high visibility clothing and other appropriate clothing. Hard hats will be worn if there is active plant on site or at all times if the site is deemed a hard hat area.

If lightly contaminated deposits are uncovered disposable boiler suits and gloves will be worn. A source of clean water will be made available for staff to clean hands with. If the health risk posed by site contamination is felt to be too high all further archaeological work will stop in that area.

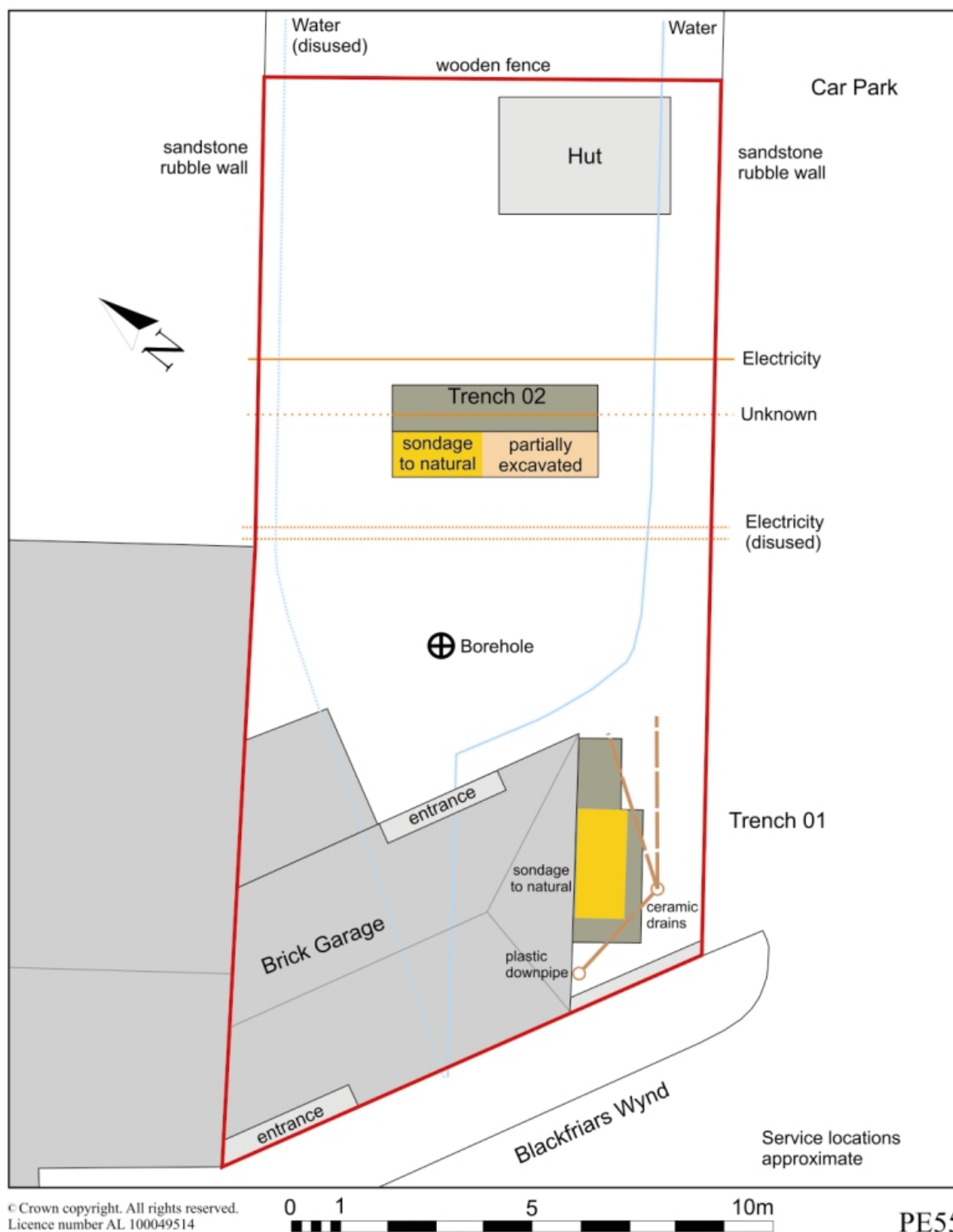
Illus 1

Site Location

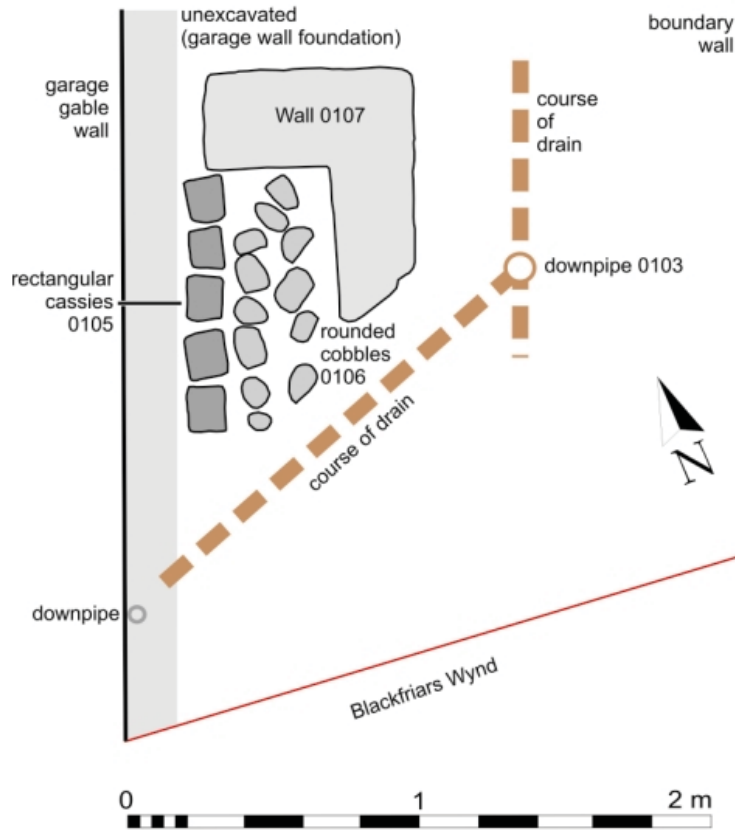


Illus 2

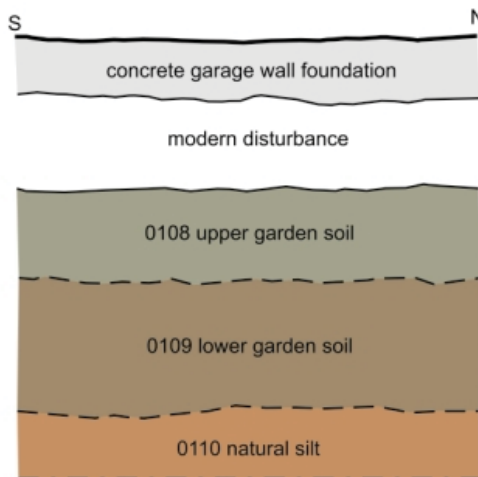
Trench Locations



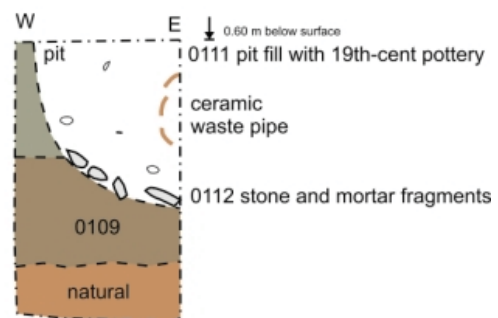
Illus 3 Trench 01, Plan



Illus 4 Sample Section, E facing

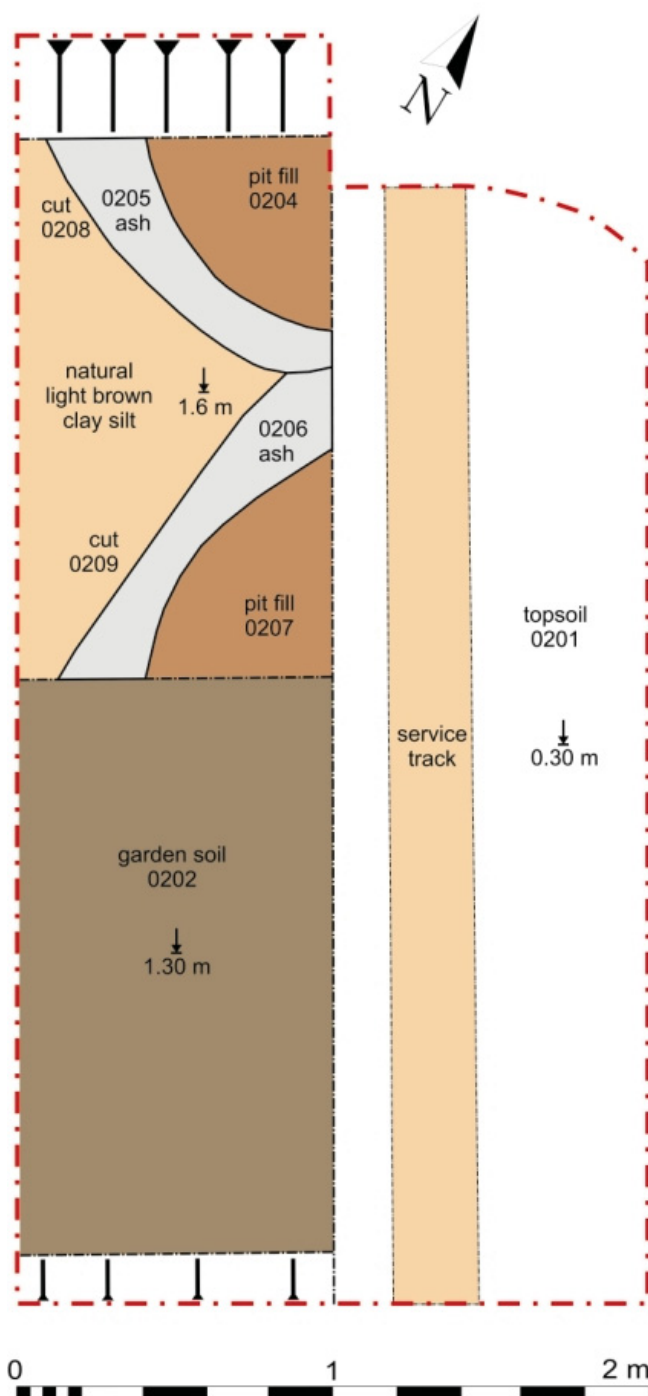


Illus 5 S-facing section

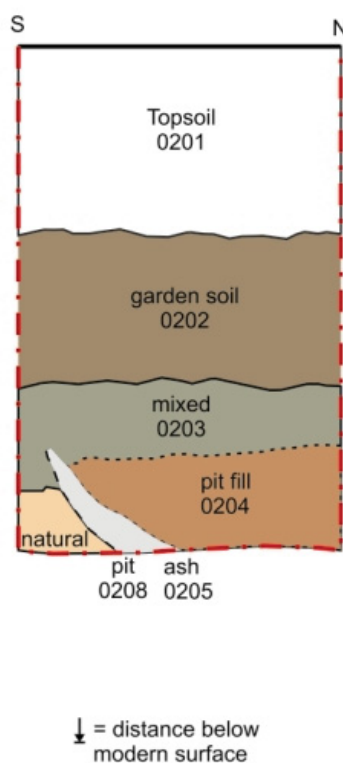


PE55

Illus 6 Trench 02



Illus 7 E facing Section



PE55