

Archaeological Watching Brief
Kinfauns Castle
PERTH
PEX178



Sherds from Chinese porcelain bowl with central medallion and mandarin figures

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
KINFAUNS CASTLE
PERTH
PEX178

<i>1</i>	<i>Background.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Details of Work.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>Interpretation.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>Conclusions.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>References.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Appendix 1</i>	<i>Context Register.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Appendix 2</i>	<i>Photographic Register.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Appendix 3</i>	<i>Drawing Register.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Appendix 4</i>	<i>Finds Register C Smith.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Appendix 5</i>	<i>Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry.....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Appendix 6</i>	<i>Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork.....</i>	<i>19</i>

Illustration 1: Site location plan

Illustration 2: East-facing section of Trench A with location of china sherds deposit

Author	David Perry, MA, FSA Scot
Illustrator	Chris Fyles, MA
Editor	David Bowler, BA, MPhil, FSA Scot, MIfA.

ABSTRACT

Reith Partners (Woodfuel) Ltd, on behalf of their client Mrs Ann Gloag, commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the site of a new biomass heating plantroom and associated works at Kinfauns Castle, Perth, a Grade A listed building within a designed landscape.

The proposed development area is within the grounds of the castle, at NGR NO 1501 2270. The work (site code PEX178) was undertaken during the period 1-11 April 2014 in mixed weather conditions. The requirement was to conduct an archaeological watching brief on the groundworks associated with the development in accordance with Terms of Reference issued by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, dated 28 February 2014.

The grounds had been extensively landscaped in the early 19th century and later and no earlier remains were discovered. A dump of high quality china, including oriental porcelain, was found.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Reith Partners (Woodfuel) Ltd, on behalf of their client Mrs Ann Gloag, commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the site of a new biomass heating plantroom and associated works at Kinfauns Castle, Perth, a Grade A listed building within a designed landscape. The proposed development area is within the grounds of the castle, at NGR NO 1501 2270. The work (site code PEX178) was undertaken during the period 1-11 April 2014 in mixed weather conditions. The requirement was to conduct an archaeological watching brief on the groundworks associated with the development in accordance with Terms of Reference issued by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, dated 28 February 2014.

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference 13/02350/FLL, dated 28 February 2014.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this investigation was to record any surviving archaeological remains within the development area, particularly of the former castle that predated the present castle built in the early 19th century.

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 Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and Perth and Kinross Historic Environment Record.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

This archaeological watching brief 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 Jamie Reith of Reid Partners (Woodfuel) Ltd and John Langley of JML Contracts for their assistance and guidance throughout this project. Mrs Ann Gloag funded this watching brief. George Haggarty advised and made helpful comments on the porcelain sherds.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

The site lies within the grounds of Kinfauns Castle

2.2 Archaeological Potential

Kinfauns Castle was built in 1820-2 by Robert Smirke to replace an earlier medieval castle, possibly dating from the 14th century; the seat of the powerful Charteris family. The location, aspect, style, size of the earlier castle are unknown, although Pont (1583-

96) and Stobie (1783) both depict a tower of four storeys with a wing attached to one side. The present castle stands on a terrace, possibly above where the earlier castle stood (Speake 2006, 11).

2.3 Archaeological Method

Ground-breaking works by the contractors were monitored by one archaeologist. Sample sections were cleaned and recorded.

2.4 Results of Investigations

Area A

A trench for the new pipes, 1m wide and generally 1m deep, but 1.5m at the boundary wall with the driveway, was excavated by mini-digger in an area of woodland on the S side of the boundary wall of the driveway to the service courtyard of Kinfauns Castle, to the W of the castle. The surface of the natural bedrock varied in depth from 1.5m at the boundary wall to 0.5m elsewhere. Above it was a deposit of reddish brown sand with broken sandstone fragments (02), some 0.52m deep. Above that was topsoil (01), up to 0.5m thick. In the W side of the trench, at the base of the topsoil was a dump of broken high quality china, some 0.16m thick, including oriental porcelain, (03), extending some 0.4m into the section.

The bedrock was partly scarped by the foundation trench (11) for the boundary wall (06). The foundation trench was cut into the fill (12) of a depression (13) in the bedrock; a brick fragment was noted near the base of the fill.

Area B

The former outbuilding had been cut into the bedrock. Its concrete floor, 0.09-0.20m thick, and hardcore foundation were laid on the bedrock. The N and W sections behind the former building revealed the slope into which the building had been cut comprised a hillwash soil with two machine-shattered boulders (09) under turf and topsoil (07).

Area C

A new access road for the biomass plant was cut into the boundary wall and bank on the N side of the driveway to the back court. A section in the bank, near the entrance to the new access road, was cleaned and revealed bedrock under hillwash soil with a machine-shattered boulder (09), under an old surface (08), 0.5m thick, under turf and topsoil (07). Further E an extensive modern landscaping deposit (10), over 1m deep, containing broken modern china, scrap metal, animal bone and black cinders/charcoal lay above the natural bedrock and hillwash (07). A sequence of varves, thin sediments of sand and silt, was observed under the modern dump some 2m from the site of the former outbuilding.

3 Interpretation

Area A

This was a landscaped area, with one old tree and several recently planted trees (*leylandii*), the latter to screen the swimming pool. Above the bedrock was a natural deposit of weathered bedrock (02) with topsoil above it (01). A depression in the bedrock had been filled (12), possibly when the castle was built in the early 19th century, judging from the brick fragment recorded in it. The foundation trench (11, fill 05) for the boundary wall (06) of the driveway was cut into it.

Area B

The site of the former outbuilding and new biomass plant was terraced into the bedrock and sloping bank above. The bank comprised natural hillwash soil (09) from further up the hill with under turf and topsoil (07).

Area C

The new access road was cut into a bank, comprising natural bedrock and hillwash (09) under a probable levelling dump to raise the bank (08, 10) which included modern rubbish, above which was turf and topsoil (07).

4 Conclusions

The development site lies within the grounds of the castle that have been extensively landscaped when the castle was built in the early 19th century and more recently. No remains or artefacts from the earlier castle were discovered during this watching brief.

5 References

Bibliographic

Speake, R 2006 *Kinfauns Castle*. Manchester (The Countrywide Holidays Association).

Cartographic

Pont, T [c1583-96] [Lower Angus and Perthshire east of the Tay], Pont 26.

Stobie, J 1783 'The counties of Perth and Clackmannan'.

Appendix 1 Context Register

<i>No:</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Area</i>
01	Black humic loam with roots, 0.4-0.6m thick, topsoil; over 02	A
02	Reddish-brown gritty sand with broken sandstone fragments, weathered bedrock; 0.56m thick	A
03	Dump of broken china, including oriental porcelain, extending 0.4m into W section; 0.16m thick	A
04	Reinforced concrete floor of former outbuilding, partially removed, with hardcore foundation; concrete, 0.09-0.20m thick	B
05	Brown silt with stones, mortar fragments and slate fragments, fill of 11	A
06	Stone wall bonded with mortar, on S side of driveway to service courtyard of castle; 1.6m high above driveway, 0.5m wide on driveway, 0.36m wide at copestones	A
07	Black humic soil and turf, 0.25m thick; over 08	B, C
08	Greyish brown clayey, sandy silt with occasional small to medium stones, 0.5m thick; over 09	C
09	Reddish brown clayey sandy silt, over bedrock	B, C
10	Brown gravelly silt with occasional sherds of broken china, occasional broken clear glass, occasional rusted metal, occasional animal bones and occasional patches of black cinders/charcoal, over 1m thick; under 07, over 09	C
11	Foundation cut for wall 06; cuts 12	A
12	Light yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent small to medium stones, occasional large stones and one fragment of red brick; much root penetration; fill of 13	A
13	Hollow, probably natural, in bedrock	A

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
1	Area A, excavation by machine in tree roots	E
2-5	Area A, excavated trench	NE
6-7	Area B, general	NE
8-13	Area B, E section: bedrock under hillwash under topsoil	NE, E

14-15	Area B, N section in bedrock under hillwash (with machine-shattered boulders?) under topsoil	NW
16-17	Area A, trench along boundary wall 6	N
18-20	Area A, trench along boundary wall 6	NW
21-22	Area A, tree roots in trench	N
23-24	Area A, excavated trench	S
25-26	Area C, machining for new access road to biomass plant	N
27-29	Area C, machining for new access road to biomass plant	E
30-31	Area A, foundations of wall 6	N
32-33	Area C, section at entrance to new access road	NE
34-38	Area C, machining for new access road to biomass plant, showing bedrock under hillwash under topsoil	E
39-40	Area C, machining for new access road to biomass plant, showing bedrock under hillwash (with machine-shattered boulder) under topsoil	NE
41	Area C, machining for new access road to biomass plant, showing bedrock under hillwash (with machine-shattered boulder) under topsoil	E
42-47	Area C, modern rubbish dumped over natural	N, NE
48-51	Area A, bedrock cut into for foundation of wall 6	E
52-56	Area A, fill 12 in cut in bedrock	W
57-61	Area C, sedimentary deposits (varves) at base of section	NE
62-63	Area C, location of sedimentary deposits (varves) at base of section	E

Appendix 3 Drawing Register

<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	Section drawing of dump of smashed crockery 3 and context notes	1:20

Appendix 4 Finds Register

C Smith

A number of broken shards of porcelain and earthenware were recovered, mainly from Context 3. Many of the breaks were recent damage caused by machining. Temporary reconstruction helped determine the form of the vessels. The porcelain vessels were generally bowls or dishes and were in the majority.

About 45 vessels are represented in total, comprising in the main Chinese export porcelain and Continental hard paste porcelain from factories in both Paris and Germany, along with some English bone china, all dating to the late 18th and 19th centuries (G Haggarty, pers comm).



Three main patterns of porcelain dishes and a tureen lid may have been made or decorated in Britain. These bore potters marks and design names in English. One set, with a pale orange/salmon pink coloured border, bore the legends 'Lonecera' (sic) and 'Borage' on the reverse of the vessels and were decorated with honeysuckle (*Lonicera*) and borage (*Borago*) flowers. One other small plain sherd bore part of a legend reading 'dendro' on the reverse in cursive script, possibly part of the word 'rhododendron'.


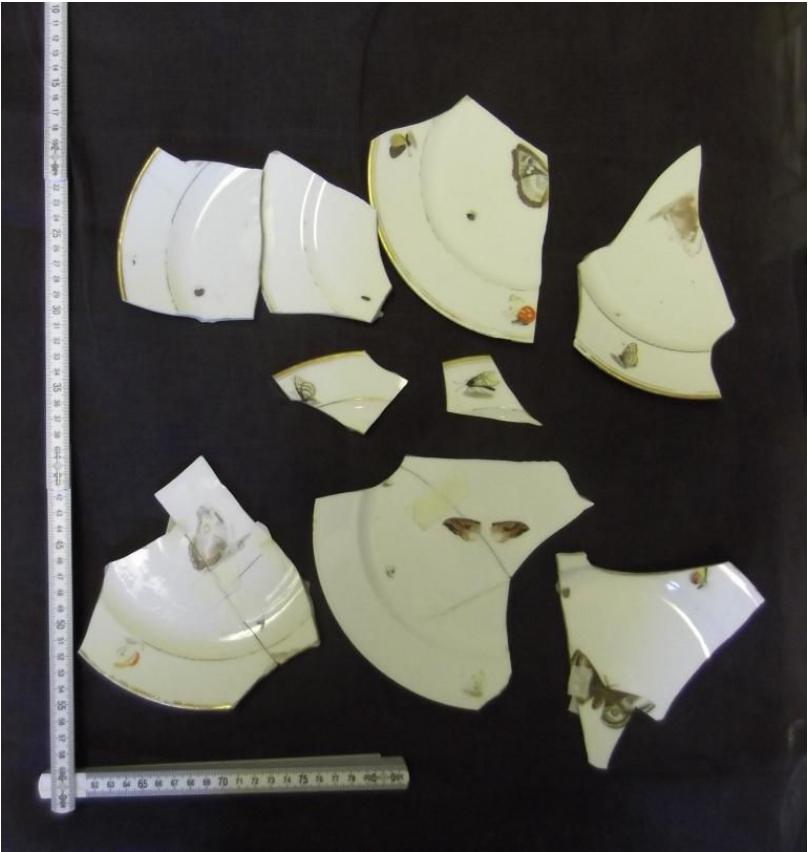
A further set of dishes or shallow bowls, with a yellow border and scattered cornflower decoration, bore potters stamps with three different numbers, 2, 9 and 36, implying factory quality control. One mark read 'B Potter 36 2', in blue lettering with the exception of '2', which was in red. A further type with butterflies and insects bore a blue underglaze legend with the letter 'A'. Because the majority of the fragments, including the more local English-marked pottery, were in fine, expensive, porcelain fabric rather than earthenware, there is little doubt that the vessels were used by the owners and guests of the castle rather than its servants. Only a few fragments of teacups were found (and no saucers) and these, rather surprisingly appeared to be of earthenware rather than porcelain.




The deposit from which the sherds came represents a dump of broken tableware, possibly all deposited within a short time frame in the 19th century.



A small collection of modern standard white earthenware from Context 010 may represent crockery associated with the use of the castle by the military. Two sherds are backstamped with makers' trademarks (G K Booths Ltd) and possible dates of 1940 and 1943, during which period army recruits were billeted at Kinfauns.



The table below lists the main types of pottery recovered and the contexts from which they came.



Context	Description	Details
03	Sherds from 2 Chinese Imari-style porcelain dishes with painted iris design in cobalt blue and rust-red	
03	Sherds from Chinese porcelain bowl with central medallion and mandarin figures	



03	Base of porcelain vessel painted in underglaze blue with Oriental scene	
03	Sherds from porcelain dishes decorated with butterflies and insects; 2 sherds marked with blue letter 'A' under glaze	

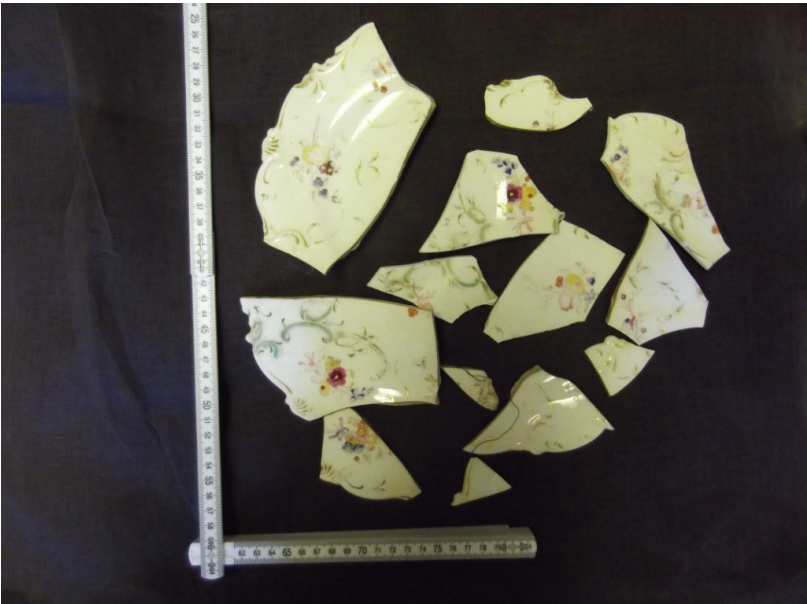

03	Detail of painted insect from above	
03	Small straight sided porcelain dish (octagonal base)	
03	Rim sherds from porcelain bowl/dish with lustrous glaze	



03	Rim sherds from thin porcelain vessel	
03	Porcelain dish with butterfly and flower border; central medallion and Mandarin characters	

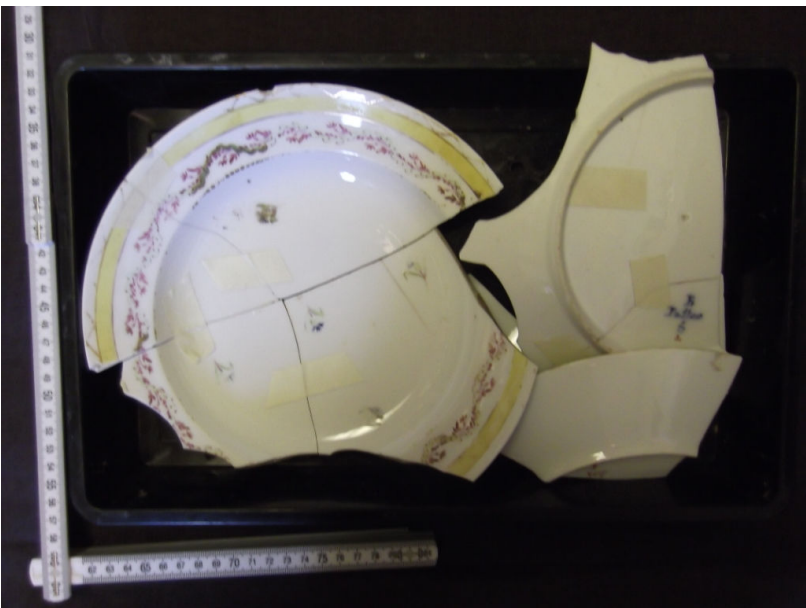

03	Border detail from above	
03	Porcelain character sherd	

03	Shallow porcelain dish with flower and insect design	
03	Insect detail from above	

03	Porcelain vessel with grapes design	
03	Porcelain vessel with design of writing implements, musical instruments, flowers, vases, etc	

03	Porcelain vessel with floral spray design	
03	Tureen lid and dish fragments with honeysuckle and borage design	

03	detail of underside of tureen lid; 'Borage' mark	 <p>A close-up photograph of the underside of a white ceramic tureen lid. The lid is cracked and has a small hole. A blue ink mark, which appears to be the word 'Borage' written vertically, is visible on the surface.</p>
03	Detail of underside of dish; 'Lonecera' mark	 <p>A photograph of a fragment of a white ceramic dish. The fragment is curved and shows a blue ink mark that appears to be the word 'Lonecera' written vertically. The fragment is set against a dark background.</p>

03	Dishes with floral garland and cornflower decoration; English potters' marks	
03	Base view of marked cornflower dish	
03	Tureen lid	in ?stoneware fabric, thick orange-peel glaze. Cobalt blue decoration: peonies, chrysanthemums and blossom. Applied 'leaves' (in 2 large sherds)
03	Earthenware dishes	in orange transfer print. Includes vessel with heavy gilding
03	Earthenware cup and handle fragments;	embossed decoration under glaze
03	Porcelain	various small sherds originating from vessels above
03	Glass	6 clear bottle sherds
03	Tile	1 redware sherd
01	Glass	rim and body sherd from clear vessel, distorted by heat

010	Earthenware	6 modern standard white earthenware sherds from plates and a saucer.
u/s	Porcelain and earthenware sherds	of comparable design with sherds in Context 03

Appendix 5 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Kinfauns Castle
PROJECT CODE:	PEX178
PARISH:	Kinfauns
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	David Perry
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological watching brief
RCAHMS NO(S):	NO12SE 25
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Grade A listed building within designed landscape
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 1501 2270
START DATE	1 April 2014
END DATE	11 April 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Reith Partners (Woodfuel) Ltd, on behalf of their client Mrs Ann Gloag, commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the site of a new biomass heating plantroom and associated works at Kinfauns Castle, Perth, a Grade A listed building within a designed landscape. The work (site code PEX178) was undertaken during the period 1-11 April 2014 in mixed weather conditions. The grounds had been extensively landscaped in the early 19th century and later and no earlier remains were discovered. A dump of high quality china, including oriental porcelain, was found.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mrs Ann Gloag
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Alder Archaeology Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	RCAHMS (intended)
EMAIL ADDRESS:	director@alderarchaeology.co.uk

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

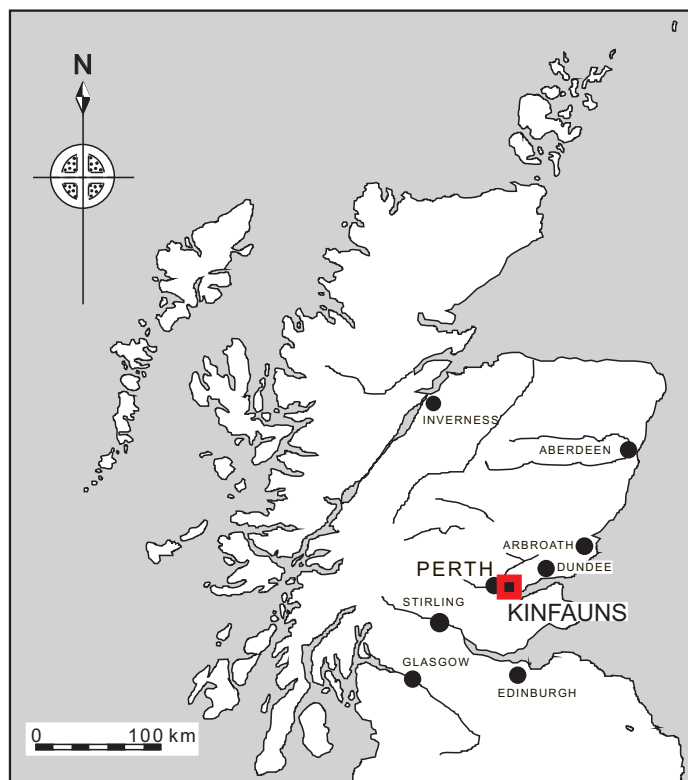
We adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists.

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.

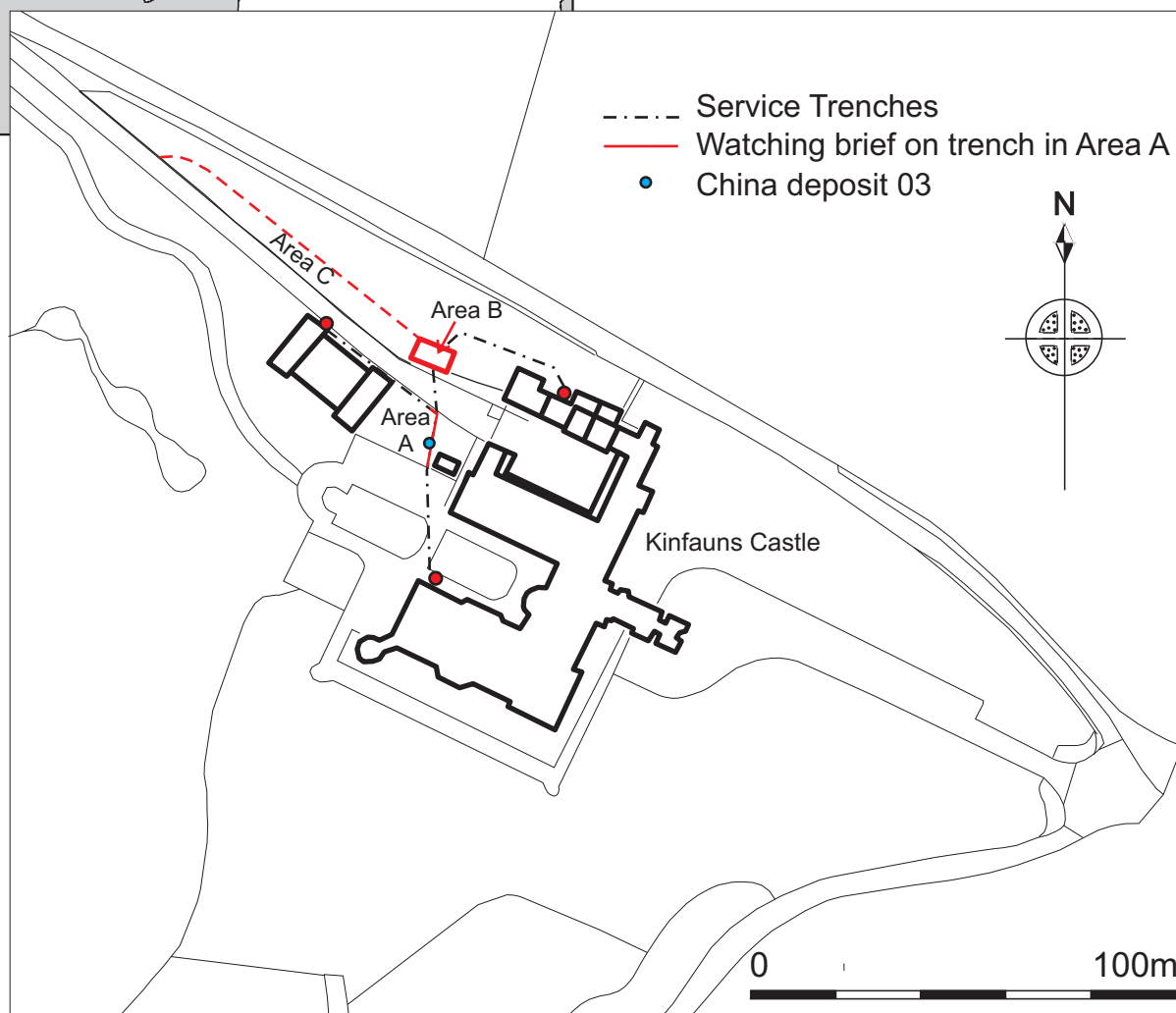
Alder Archaeology representatives will at all times wear protective footwear, high visibility clothing and other appropriate clothing. Hard hats will be worn if there is active plant on site or at all times if the site is deemed a hard hat area.

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.



Archaeological Watching Brief Kinfauns Castle PERTH

Site Location



Illus 2

East-facing section of Trench A
with location of china sherds deposit

