Archaeological Watching Brief Abbey Gatehouse Queen Street COUPAR ANGUS

CG07



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ABBEY GATEHOUSE QUEEN STREET, COUPAR ANGUS

CG07

1	Background	1
2	Details of Work	1
3	Conclusions and Recommendations	5
4	Bibliography	5
Appendix 1	Context Register	5
Appendix 2	Photographic Register	6
Appendix 3	Drawing Register	11
Appendix 4	Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry	12
Appendix 5	Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork	14

Illustration 1: Coupar Angus Abbey Gatehouse. Location

Illustration 2: Excavations

Illustration 3: Selected Photographs

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ABSTRACT

Alder Archaeology carried out a watching brief on the formation of new paths giving access to the ruins of Coupar Angus Abbey gatehouse from Queen Street and from Coupar Angus churchyard. The work also entailed insertion of drains for the recently restored Simprim Mausoleum, and the excavation of a posthole for an information panel, and was commissioned by the Historic Churchyards Project, Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust. It was carried out in November 2012 and January 2013, and given the site code CG07.

In the event, excavation was shallower than expected, because the removal of turf and topsoil generally exposed layers of gravel or sandstone rubble firm enough to serve as a sub-base for the paths, without deeper excavation. The layers seemed to be modern or related to the development and maintenance of the churchyard and the surroundings of the ruins. Only the information panel posthole went deep enough to penetrate these layers and expose a deposit of sandstone and mortar fragments possibly associated with the demolition and decay of the abbey.

The earliest find from the site was a steel coffin handle, of 19th or 20th-century date.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the formation of new paths and related works around the ruins of the Abbey Gatehouse and the newly repaired Simprim Mausoleum at Coupar Angus Abbey. The proposed development area is centred on NGR NO 22340 39738. The work (site code CG07) was undertaken on 13th and 14th November 2012 and 28th January 2013 in changeable but mainly wet and wintry conditions. The requirement was to observe and record ground-breaking works needed to form a gateway and new footpaths, connect the newly installed downpipes on the Simprim Mausoleum to suitable drainage, and install a base for an information panel.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this investigation was to record any traces of structures, features or layers associated with Coupar Angus Abbey, founded in 1164, but today represented only by the standing ruins of the gateway.

The present parish church and graveyard lie within the abbey precinct, but the church is of 19^{th} -century date, and the gravestones are mostly 19^{th} -century or later, although some 18^{th} -century examples survive.

1.3 Reporting

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this watching brief. Copies will be sent to 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 Watching Brief is the only archaeological work required to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the Scheduled Monument Consent for this intervention.

1.5 Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Fiona Fisher of Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust who set up the present project, Oliver Lewis of Historic Scotland, and Allan Robertson and Son, builders, of Scone, who carried out the works on site.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

The Parish Church with its churchyard, and the ruins of the Abbey gatehouse lie on the S side of the burgh of Coupar Angus. The churchyard is a large trapezoidal area, enclosed by a stone wall, bounded on its W side (strictly, WSW), by Queen Street, and on all other sides by open fields. The 19^{th} -century Parish Church occupies the NW corner of the churchyard, and is aligned strictly ENE – WSW, but for convenience may be regarded as aligned E-W.

The Simprim Mausoleum lies in the SW corner of the churchyard, aligned nominally N-S. The standing ruin of the abbey gatehouse lies in a small enclosure just outside the SW corner of the churchyard. At this point Queen Street turns very slightly to the E, and changes its name to the Dundee Road. Directly opposite, Abbey Road meets Queen Street at a right angle, but is in fact little more than a back lane, barely passable to vehicles.

Directly S of the abbey gatehouse is a large stone house of 19th-century construction, and S of that are open fields.

The enclosure surrounding the gatehouse is generally covered in well-mown turf, at the same level as the Queen Street pavement, but separated from it by wrought iron railings set on a low sandstone plinth. The enclosure is bounded on its N side by the S wall of the churchyard. There is a gateway in the NE corner of the enclosure, with five stone steps 015-6 giving access to the churchyard just behind the Simprim Mausoleum, where ground level is some 0.75 m higher than in the enclosure.

Until the present improvements, there was no direct access from Queen Street to the Abbey Gatehouse. It was necessary to walk N up to the church, in the main gates of the churchyard, back down to the Simprim Mausoleum, and then down the steps 015 into the enclosure, a very long detour, and of course impossible for disabled visitors. The area between the mausoleum and the steps was completely overgrown with bushes, and until recently the mausoleum itself had been overgrown and ruinous. This has recently been completely repaired, with new gutters and downpipes.

The present improvements consisted of slapping a new gateway through the wrought-iron railings on Queen Street, creating a new gravel footpath from the new gateway to the foot of the stair 015, clearing the overgrowth of bushes between the stair and the Simprim Mausoleum, creating a new path along the E side of the mausoleum, between the stairs and an existing path within the churchyard, and inserting new drains to connect the downpipes on the mausoleum to existing storm drains. In addition, a base for an information panel was to be inserted at the foot of the stair.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

Because of their proximity to the existing gatehouse ruins, excavations for the improvements described above, although shallow, were liable to expose traces of structures related to the abbey. They might also expose features related to the existing churchyard.

2.3 Archaeological Method

A watching brief was maintained on all the excavations required for the improvements described above. The excavations were digitally photographed in progress and on completion. Layers and features were described as exposed, and areas of excavation marked on an existing plan. Layers and features are listed and described in Appendix 1, while photographs are recorded in Appendix 2

The work was undertaken on three days, 13th and 14th November 2012 and 28th January 2013. The mostly wet and wintry conditions hindered photography, and resulted in some images having to be re-taken several times to produce a useful result. Progress was sometimes intermittent due to the confined nature of the work area, and the

opportunity was taken to photograph items of more general interest in the mausoleum and churchyard, to place the results of the watching brief in a wider context.

2.4 Results of Investigations

Queen Street Gateway

The first intervention was to carefully cut a gap in the wrought iron railings and sandstone plinth, lift away the cut sections, and dig a small trench for a poured concrete threshold, and postholes for galvanised steel box section gate posts set in poured concrete.

These excavations proved to be confined within the foundations of the existing modern sandstone plinth.

Spalding Enclosure

The second intervention was to clear vegetation to the N of the stone stair 015, and to strip turf and topsoil by hand and machine, between the S wall of the churchyard and the S side of the Spalding enclosure, a small rectangle defined by sandstone kerbs, built against the SE corner of the mausoleum. Stripping was continued around the E side of the enclosure to form a path approximately 2.3 m wide, before turning to the W to join the existing gravel path, which runs parallel to the W wall of the churchyard, from the main gates in the N down to the entrance door of the Simprim Mausoleum in the S.

In this area, a reddish brown topsoil 001 with occasional sandstone fragments overlay a deposit 002 of abundant red sandstone chips in brown sandy loam. The kerb of the spalding enclosure seemed to lie on top of this deposit. Some modern glass and a modern (ie 19th or 20th-century) steel coffin handle were found but not retained. This layer was well compacted, and after slight reduction was retained as a bed for the new path.

As the new path turned N and passed to the E of the Spalding enclosure, 002 gave way to a more gravelly deposit 003, apparently an old path surface, which was retained in situ.

A small oblong green sandstone slab 005 was found set into the surface of 003. It seemed to line up with a row of extant gravestones to the N, and was probably the base for a missing gravestone.

All these contexts, 001 - 3 and 005, seem to relate to the management of the existing churchyard, rather than anything earlier.

Mausoleum Drains

The third intervention was to dig a trench in the narrow space between the W wall of the mausoleum and the W wall of the churchyard, in order to connect up an existing drain, marked by an inspection cover at the mid point of the mausoleum wall, with the new downpipe at its NW corner. This trench was then continued around the N side of the mausoleum, across the entrance and path, to connect to the other new downpipe at the NE corner. Plastic drain pipes were laid in these trenches, connected directly to the ends of the downpipes, and two alloy rodding eyes with oval alloy covers were inserted where the plastic pipe turns on either side of the path, permanently marking on the surface the line of the now buried pipe.

On the W side of the mausoleum, the topsoil 008 was a red sandy loam with abundant sandstone and slate fragments. These could have derived from the building of the mausoleum, and/or its subsequent decay and dilapidation, prior to recent repairs. Two small disarticulated bone fragments were reburied as found. The concrete and metal drain cover 006 appeared to be hand made, therefore undatable, but perhaps of early 20th-century date. The exposed foundations 007 of the mausoleum were of sandstone rubble, in places unmortared. A narrow copper pipe directly to the S of the drain cover passes through the mausoleum wall via a ventilator, and may connect up with a large stoneware sink inside the mausoleum. However, the shutoff valve fitted inside the mausoleum is of a type normally used with gas supplies, and it may have connected to a gas light or heater.

On the N side of the mausoleum, the topsoil 009 was a soft brown silty loam with abundant stones. Under this was a layer 010 of crushed red sandstone and mortar, bright red 011 directly in front of the mausoleum door. These could have derived from the construction of the mausoleum, but equally from a previous path surface.

Queen Street Path

The preparation of the path from the Queen Street gateway to the foot of the stair required a special mini-excavator, narrow enough to fit through the gateway without damage, and therefore had to be left to the next day. Turf and topsoil was stripped working from E to W, starting at the foot of the stair, so that the machine could work itself backwards out of the site, taking the spoil with it as it went, to a vehicle waiting in Queen Street beyond the gateway. An area directly to the W of the stair was expanded in preparation for the information panel.

In this area the turf layer 012 was a red-brown humic sandy loam with abundant roots. Under this was a red-brown humic sandy loam topsoil 013. Finally, at c. 150 mm below the surface, was a compacted pebble layer 014, with crushed sandstone towards the E end. This appeared to be an old path, and was retained in situ as a bedding for the new path.

These layers appeared to relate to previous maintenance of the Scheduled area, and subsequent overgrowth.

Information Panel Posthole

The final intervention, in January 2013, was the digging by hand of a posthole, for the insertion of a metal post, set in poured concrete, to support an information panel. This could not be dug until the post and panel assembly was ready, as the open posthole would have collected water and refuse over the winter, and might have been a hazard to unwary visitors.

The posthole 017 penetrated into a sequence of stony topsoil 018, sandstone fragments 019, and compacted sandstone and mortar fragments 020, appearing c. 0.5 m down.

Layers 018 - 19 could have derived from previous maintenance, or from the construction of the churchyard wall directly to the N. Layer 020 could also have derived from this construction or possibly, given its greater depth, from the reworking of demolition and dilapidation layers related to the abbey.

3 Conclusions and Recommendations

Because the excavations generally came down onto well-compacted stony layers which could be retained in situ and used to support the new path, deeper excavations were not required. As a result, excavations were generally confined within layers related to the maintenance of the churchyard or later, and did not disturb the remains of the abbey, except possibly at the base of the new posthole 017.

No further excavations are required in connection with the present improvements, and therefore no further work is recommended.

4 Bibliography

Cachart, R, 2012 Coupar Angus Abbey Gatehouse, Queen Street, Scheduled Ancient Monument No. 1629, Archaeological Watching Brief for new path, interpretation sign and gatepost foundations, Written Scheme of Investigation.

Appendix 1 Context Register

No:	Description
	New Path in SW corner of graveyard, adjacent to Simprim Mausoleum
001	Reddish brown loam topsoil, with occasional sandstone fragments. Very shallow, 25 mm.
002	Abundant red sandstone chips in red brown sandy loam. Under 001. Some root disturbance. Top is 120 mm below threshold 016. Kerb of Spalding enclosure rests on surface of 002. Firm and well compacted, retained in situ as base for new path. Surface rises towards E, requiring slightly deeper excavation. As path turns to N, surface falls again, minimal topsoil cover, minimal excavation required, 20 mm or less. Modern coffin handle and glass bottles, not retained.
003	Replaces 002 as path runs to E of Spalding enclosure. More gravelly texture than 002. Seems to be old path surface. Retained in situ. Exposed by new path excavation to 2.3 m E of Spalding enclosure. Ground falls gently to N. As new path turns to W, edge clips grass between gravestones. Deturfed to depth of 100 mm.
004	Not Used
005	Green sandstone slab set into 003, 120 mm E of E kerb of Spalding enclosure, N edge 820 mm S of N corner of enclosure. Top surface grooved with N-S tooling marks. 220 mm wide x 680 mm long. Slopes down to S, S end still buried. Possible gravestone base, in line with others in row to N.
	Drainage track on W and N sides of Simprim Mausoleum
006	Concrete slab drain cover on W side of Simprim Mausoleum, near centre of Mausoleum. Centre of slab is 2.55 m S of corner of building. Measures 410 x 380 x 100 mm, central hole 140 mm dia, covered with iron plate. Set on loose and fragile walls of rubble and brick, above top of stoneware drain pipe. Wall on N side removed to make way for new drain pipe.
007	Exposed foundations of W wall of Mausoleum. Sandstone rubble, partly unmortared and open.
008	Soil on W side of Mausoleum, excavated for new drain cut. Soft red sandy loam, abundant stones and slates. Two disarticulated bones, not retained. Trench 600 mm wide, 300 mm deep. Expanded around

Mausoleum. Soft
use path, aligned
use path, aligned
use path, aligned
ise path, aligned
. , .
at E end. m down from
hreshold.
d wall.
n deep.
m down.

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

Image No	Description	View
	13 November 2012	
001	Builders' van showing contact details.	Е
002	Simprim Mausoleum from Dundee Road, showing position of central ventilator in W wall.	Е
003 – 5	Gatehouse ruin from Dundee Road, showing newly inserted opening and galvanised gateposts in boundary fence.	Е
006 – 9	Simprim Mausoleum and Gatehouse ruin from Dundee Road. (Multiple exposures to compensate for damp overcast conditions, poor light, problem reflections from road surface.)	NE

010	Detail of Gatehouse ruin from adjacent garden.	NNW
011	Detail of newly inserted opening and galvanised gateposts in boundary fence. Scales 1m	Е
012	Detail of newly inserted opening and galvanised gateposts in boundary fence. Scales 1m	W
013 – 14	Detail of newly inserted opening and galvanised gateposts in boundary fence. Scales 1m	SW
015	Detail of newly inserted opening and galvanised gateposts in boundary fence. Scales 1m	Е
016 – 17	Interior of scheduled area. Intended line of new path, from new gateway to foot of existing stone steps 015. Scale 1 m.	Е
018	Detail, foot of steps 015.	Е
019	Detail, stone sarcophagi.	SE
020	Detail, stone steps 015 leading into graveyard. Scales 1 m.	N
021	Interior of graveyard. Proposed line of new path, with ivy cuttings.	Е
022	Interior of graveyard. Proposed line of new path, with ivy cuttings.	SE
023 – 6	Watson gravestone, against E wall of Mausoleum. Includes three sons, died in Trinidad, Rangoon and in RAF, 8 th May 1918. (RAF founded 1 st April 1918).	W
027	N gable end of Simprim Mausoleum, with stone vents and iron door. Newly restored. Before start of excavations.	S
028	Paton gravestone, W wall of graveyard. Unusually late (2002) example of 18 th -cent Scottish custom of using maiden name for married women.	W
029 – 30	Mauoleum with iron door open showing mortuary table inside.	S
031 – 2	Mortuary table. Cement surface. Hollow top. Central drain hole.	S
033	Mortuary table. Cement surface. Hollow top. Central drain hole.	N
034	Bronze information panel on Gatehouse ruin. Cupar Abbey. Founded by King Malcolm IV 1164. Dedicated 1233. Destroyed 1559. Note spelling of Cupar.	Е
035	Separate MoD-issue RAF gravestone for Howard Watson, against E wall of Mausoleum.	W
036	Detail of gravestone. 18 th -cent style, but date 1802. Broken in two and repaired.	Е
037 – 8	Detail of gravestone. 18 th -cent style, but date 1802. Broken in two and repaired.	W
039 – 40	General view of graveyard from site of new path, with 19 th -cent parish church at N boundary. Splendid purple door.	N
041 – 2	Line of proposed new path, along S boundary wall. Low kerb surrounding Spalding gravestone.	W

043 – 5	Excavation begins, Eastward, between S boundary wall and Spalding enclosure.	N
046 – 7	First leg of new path dug, between Spalding enclosure (left) and S boundary wall and threshold 016, (right). Layer 002 exposed, scales 1 m.	Е
048	First leg of new path dug, between Spalding enclosure (left) and S boundary wall and threshold 016, (right). Layer 002 exposed, scales 1 m.	W
049	Detail. Kerb of Spalding enclosure rests on layer 002. Scales 1 m.	NW
050	Detail. Spalding tombstone.	W
051	The Spalding enclosure, with kerb resting on layer 002. Scales 1 m.	NW
052	Detail, SE corner of Spalding enclosure, kerbstones fastened with iron cramps.	NW
053	Excavation proceeding on E side of Spalding enclosure. Gravelly layer 003 exposed. Scales 1 m.	N
054 – 6	Excavation proceeding on E side of Spalding enclosure. Gravelly layer 003 exposed. Scales 1 m.	W
057 – 9	Modern (19 th – 20 th cent) coffin handle from layer 002. ?Nickel plated. Scale 150 mm.	
060 – 1	Excavation proceeding on E side of Spalding enclosure. Gravelly layer 003 exposed. Stone slab 005 appearing. Scales 1 m.	N
062 – 3	Excavation turning W around N side of Spalding enclosure. Scales 1 m.	N
064	Excavation turning W around N side of Spalding enclosure. Scales 1 m.	W
065	Green sandstone slab 005, with parallel grooves on surface. Scale 0.75 + 0.25 m	N
066 – 7	Green sandstone slab 005, with parallel grooves on surface. Scale 0.75 ± 0.25 m	W
068	Green sandstone slab 005, with parallel grooves on surface. Scale 0.75 ± 0.25 m	Е
069	Green sandstone slab 005, with parallel grooves on surface. Scale 0.75 ± 0.25 m	W
070	Green sandstone slab 005, in line with row of gravestones to N. Scales 1 m.	N
071	Green sandstone slab 005, in line with row of gravestones to E.	Е
072	Concrete drain cover 006 on W side of Mausoleum. Excavating new drain track into soil 008.	N
073	Concrete drain cover 006 on W side of Mausoleum, offset slightly to N of vent. Copper ?gas pipe passes through vent plate. Excavating new drain track into soil 008.	Е
074 – 7	Concrete drain cover 006 inverted, showing imprint of shuttering, and central hole. Top of W supporting wall exposed. N wall removed. Excavating new drain cut into soil 008.	N
078 – 9	Detail, stony soil 008, and top of drain supporting wall. Red brick at base, and top of stoneware drain pipe.	N

080	Concrete drain cover 006 inverted, showing imprint of shuttering, and central hole. Top of W supporting wall exposed. N wall removed. Copper pipe to S od drain.	Е
081	Detail, top of drain supporting wall, and exposed foundation 007 of Mausoleum wall.	Е
082	Detail, vertical. Metal drain pipe from Mausoleum emptying into top of stoneware drain pipe. Large fat juicy worm gives illusion of structure in drain pipe.	
083	New drain track excavated from old drain pipe to new alloy rhone pipe. Copper pipe S of old drain turning to pass through wall.	N
084	Detail of concrete drain cover 006 inverted, showing imprint of shuttering, and central hole. Old torch battery found in drain.	Е
085	Concrete drain cover 006, and completed drain track. Copper pipe S of old drain. Scales 1 m.	N
086	Drain track, W supporting wall, and wall foundation 007. Scales 1 m.	Е
087 – 90	New drain track excavated from old drain pipe to new alloy rhone pipe. Scales 1 m. Copper pipe S of old drain turning to pass through wall.	S
091	New drain track extended E across N front of Mausoleum, cut through soil 009 to expose crushed sandstone layer 010.	SSE
092	New drain track extended E across N front of Mausoleum, cut through soil 009 to expose crushed sandstone layer 010, changing to redder sandstone layer 011 in front of entrance ramp.	Е
093	Detail of red sandstone layer 011.	S
094	New drain track extended E across N front of Mausoleum, cut through soil 009 to expose crushed sandstone layer 010, changing to redder sandstone layer 011 in front of entrance ramp. Scales 1 m.	Е
095	Detail of red sandstone layer 011. Scales 1 m	S
096	Drain track turns 45° S to meet second alloy rhone pipe at NE corner of Mausoleum.	SE
097	Drain track turns 45° S to meet second alloy rhone pipe at NE corner of Mausoleum.	S
098 – 9	?18 th -cent heraldic stone, leaning against W boundary wall. Scales 1 m.	W
100	Drain track meets second alloy rhone pipe at NE corner of Mausoleum.	W
101	Detail, base of rhone pipe, and slight plinth/ scarcement in wall foundation.	W
_	14 th November 2012	
102	Digger begins excavating at foot of steps 015. Working W.	N
103	Turf layer 012 removed to expose topsoil 013.	N

104	Turf layer 012 removed to expose topsoil 013.	WNW
105	Upper works of gatehouse.	N
106	Turf layer 012 removed to expose topsoil 013.	WNW
107	Turf layer 012 removed to expose topsoil 013.	ENE
108	Detail. Drain hole in base of sarcophagus.	Е
109	Digger excavating at foot of steps 015. Working W. Removing topsoil 013 to expose stony layer 014.	N
110 – 3	Lowest step of 015 resting on turf layer 012. Stony layer 014 exposed.	N
114 – 7	Stony layer 014 exposed.	NW
118	Stony layer 014 exposed.	W
119	Stony layer 014 exposed. Detail at site entrance.	WNW
121 – 2	Stony layer 014 exposed.	W
123	Stony layer 014 exposed. Scales 1m.	W
124 – 6	Stony layer 014 exposed. Scales 1m.	Е
127	Stony layer 014 exposed. Detail, E end. Scales 1m.	ENE
128 – 31	Excavating beside stair 015 to prepare base for information panel. Turf 012 and soil 013 slide away en masse to expose stony layer 014.	N
132	Base excavation complete, exposing stony layer 014. Scales 1 m. Note drop from graveyard to gatehouse area, about 0.75 m.	NE
133 – 6	Detail of stony layer 014. Scales 1 m.	NE
137 – 8	General view of excavated path and information panel base area, from stair 015.	WSW
139	W side of Mausoleum. Drainage tracks backfilled. Drain cover 006 reinstated.	N
140	Detail, drain cover 006, offset slightly N of central vent grill.	Е
141	W side of Mausoleum. Drainage tracks backfilled. Drain cover 006 reinstated. Alloy oval in foreground is rodding eye, marking line of new drain.	S
142	N front of Mausoleum. Drainage tracks backfilled. Alloy ovals are rodding eyes, marking line of new drain.	W
143	N front of Mausoleum. Drainage tracks backfilled.	S
144 – 5	Interior of Mausoleum. ?Mortuary table with concave surface and drain hole.	S
146	Interior of Mausoleum. ?Mortuary table with concave surface and drain hole.	SW
147	Interior of Mausoleum. Murray of Simprim, Clemont and Malahide memorials.	SW

148	Interior of Mausoleum. Murray memorials.	W
149	Interior of Mausoleum. Popham memorial.	W
150	Interior of Mausoleum. Murray memorials.	W
151	Interior of Mausoleum. Stone ventilator, E side of door.	N
152	General view of excavated path and information panel base area, from stair 015.	WSW
	28 th January 2013	
022 – 3	Digging posthole 017 for information panel	ENE
024 – 6	Posthole 017 dug. Topsoil 018 and stony subsoil 019 removed. Compacted stone layer 020 exposed.	ENE
027 – 9	Posthole 017 dug. Topsoil 018 and stony subsoil 019 removed. Compacted stone layer 020 exposed. Scale 1 m.	ENE

Appendix 3 Drawing Register

Sheet No.	Description	Scale
1	Sketch plan	
2	Sketch plan of path 014 and posthole 017	

Appendix 4 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Abbey Gatehouse, Coupar Angus
PROJECT CODE:	CG07
PARISH:	Coupar Angus
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	David Bowler
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NO23NW 13.00, 13.01, 13.05 SAM 1629
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Medieval Abbey and post-reformation churchyard
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Steel coffin handle (not retained)
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	Site centred on NO 22340 39738
START DATE	13 Nov 2012
END DATE	28 Jan 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	n/a
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Alder Archaeology carried out a watching brief on the formation of new paths giving access to the ruins of Coupar Angus Abbey gatehouse from Queen Street and from Coupar Angus churchyard. The work also entailed insertion of drains for the recently restored Simprim Mausoleum, and the excavation of a posthole for an information panel, and was commissioned by the Historic Churchyards Project, Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust. It was carried out in November 2012 and January 2013, and given the site code CG07. In the event, excavation was shallower than expected, because the removal of turf and topsoil generally exposed layers of gravel or sandstone rubble firm enough to serve as a sub-base for the paths, without deeper excavation. The layers seemed to be modern or related to the development and maintenance of the churchyard and the surroundings of the ruins. Only the information panel posthole went deep enough to penetrate these layers and expose a deposit of sandstone and mortar fragments possibly associated with the demolition and decay of the abbey.

	The earliest find from the site was a steel coffin handle, of 19 th or 20 th -century date.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	none
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Historic Churchyards Project, Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust
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 5 Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork

5.1 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.

5.2 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*.

5.3 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.

5.4 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.

5.5 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

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

5.6 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.