

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

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LOCAL AUTHORITY:	PERTH AND KINROSS
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Dunning, St Serf's Church And Churchyard
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90271-2009-01
PARISH:	DUNNING
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Claire Casey
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NO01SW 13.00
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	BURIAL GROUND, CHURCH
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 0188 1450
START DATE (this season)	12 March 2009
END DATE (this season)	24 March 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<i>Two visits were made to St Serf's Church, Dunning to monitor remedial works on a drain running under a path through the graveyard to the northwest of the church. The area had been much disturbed during the original installation of the drain and there were no finds or features of archaeological significance.</i>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Historic Scotland
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works 2008-9

St Serf's Church, Dunning

Archaeological monitoring, March 2009

HS PIC Index number: 90271
Project code: HSCO-90271-2009-01



30 March 2009
Kirkdale Archaeology

<u>Site</u>	St Serf's Church, Dunning
<u>N.G.R</u>	NO 019 144
<u>Project Description</u>	Archaeological monitoring
<u>Project code</u>	HSCO-90271-2009-01

Contents

1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 Description	1
3.0 Interpretation and observations	2
A1.0 Appendix 1: List of photographs	3

SUMMARY

March 2009 - Two visits were made to St Serf's Church, Dunning to monitor remedial works on a drain running under a path through the graveyard to the northwest of the church. The area had been much disturbed during the original installation of the drain and there were no finds or features of archaeological significance.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake a watching brief during two separate visits to St Serf's Church, Dunning. This work was undertaken in response to problems that were being experienced with one of the downpipes of the church, which was becoming blocked. After attempts at removing the blockage through the use of rods and a power hose, the problem had been identified as being related to the drainage pipe under the tarmac path that took the rainwater away from the down pipe.

A small trench was dug through the tarmac path on the west side of the north end of the church to expose the drainage pipe.

Two visits were made: one on 12 March and the second on 24 March 2009.

The first reference to the church of St Servanus, or St Serf, was in 1203 when it was granted to Inchaffray by Gilbert, the then earl of Strathearn. Since this period, there have been a number of additions to the structure, and the church itself is now the home of the Dupplin Cross, which marked the supposed site of the Battle of Dupplin Moor. The graveyard is in the care of Perth and Kinross Council, while the area within the tarmac path has been held in care by Historic Scotland since 1979.

2.0 DESCRIPTION

A small trench (700 mm long, 500 mm wide, 500 mm deep) was dug on 12 March 2009 to locate the drain. The possibility of disturbing significant archaeological features in this area was considered to be low, due to the disturbance that had already taken place during the drain's installation.

The pipe was surrounded by a layer of circular and sub-circular gravel and pebbles, which formed the fill for the drain cut.

The trench that was originally opened on the 12 March, 2009, was extended and deepened in order for the trench to be used as a sump for the drain (trench size 900 mm x 820 mm, depth 820 mm).

Below the layer of brown silt with frequent round and sub-rounded pebble inclusions, which surrounded the drainage pipe, a layer of brown clay was exposed. Once the trench had been completely excavated and recorded, it was backfilled with gravel in order to create the sump, which was carried out while the archaeologist was still present.

3.0 INTERPRETATION AND OBSERVATIONS

The previous disturbance within this area for the insertion of the drain would explain the total lack of significant archaeological features and artefacts seen.

A1.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

First visit

#	Description
001	Topsoil
002	Medium brown loam
003	Layer of rounded and sub-rounded gravel and pebbles that surrounded the drain

Second visit

#	Description
001	Topsoil (12cm in depth)
002	Tar surface of path (68cm in depth)
003	Modern plastic drain pipe (10cm in depth)
004	Layer of brown clay (lies 25cm below the surface)

A2.0 APPENDIX 2: LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

First visit

#	Description	From	Date
1	Location of down pipe on the north isle of St Serf's Church	N	12/03/09
2	The location of the start of the drain in relation to the down pipe	W	12/03/09
3	The northern end of the drain as seen in the trench	E	12/03/09
4	Working shot	N	12/03/09
5	The northern end of the drain pipe	N	12/03/09

Second visit

#	Description	From	Date
1	West facing section of sump trench showing the stratigraphy	W	24/03/09
2	Shot of trench showing base and location of drain pipe	N	24/03/09
3	North facing section with drain pipe	N	24/03/09
4	Location shot	N	24/03/09
5	Shot showing the gravel used to fill sump	N	24/03/09
6	The sump once it had been filled with the gravel	W	24/03/09

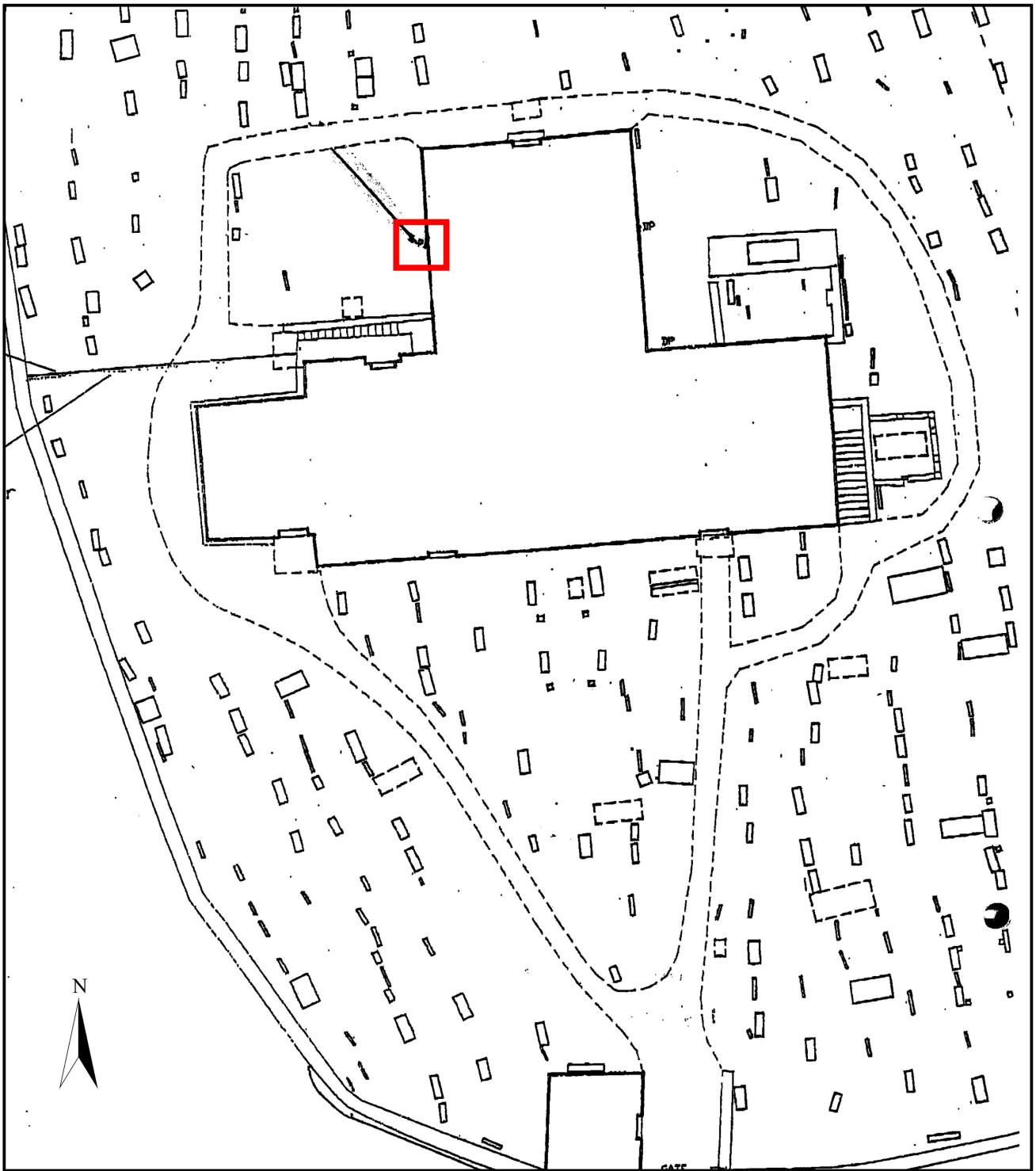


Fig. 1 : plan showing location of works (not to scale)