

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

Updated on 15/06/2007

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Dunkeld Cathedral
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90119-2014-01
PARISH:	Dunkeld and Dowally
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Gordon Ewart
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NO04SW 1
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Cathedral
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 0244 4261
START DATE (this season)	17 March 2014
END DATE (this season)	17 March 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of a small trench ahead of a commemorative tree planting. The results of the excavation revealed the east edge of a broadly rectangular feature (aligned north-south) previously noted during geophysical survey. The feature itself appears to reflect the robbed remains of a wall, bedding trench or tree hole. The latter is least likely as the feature is regular and aligned with the present pathway layout, which was in place during the late 19 th century. Finds associated with the backfill, and by association, the clearance of any residual feature(s), suggest a relationship with a programme of early 20 th -century landscaping.
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 2014/2015**

Dunkeld Cathedral • Monitoring • March 2014

HS PIC Index Number: 90119

SITE: Dunkeld Cathedral, Dunkeld

N.G.R.: NO 023 425 - NO 025 428

DESCRIPTION: Watching Brief during the excavation of a small trench ahead of a commemorative tree planting.

PROJECT CODE: HSCO-90119-2014-01

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INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake a Watching Brief during a small scale excavation at Dunkeld Cathedral, Dunkeld, ahead of the planting of a commemorative tree (Fig.1).

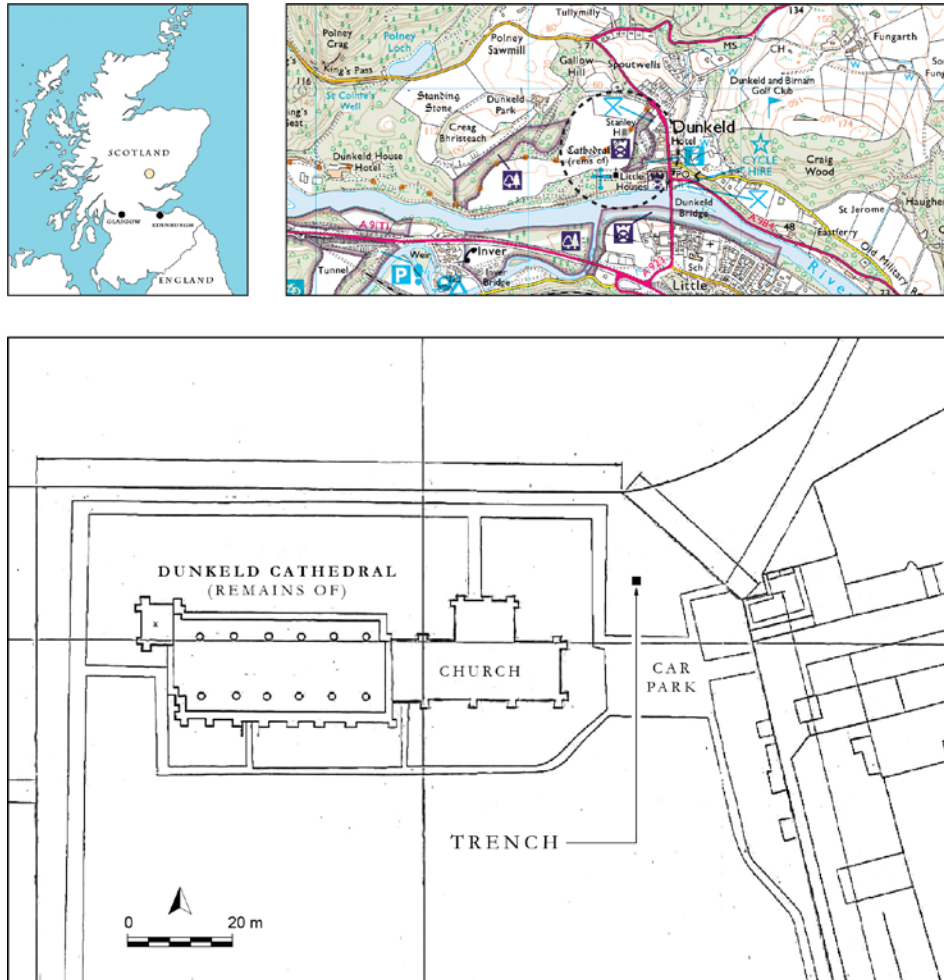


Figure 1: Location plan of the trench.

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The excavation was carried out manually by Historic Scotland staff under archaeological supervision, and took place on 17th March, 2014.

DESCRIPTION

The site of the proposed tree planting was located in a grassed area with immediately N of the car park at the E end of the site. It lay in the NE corner of the Guardianship Area, which was part of the early 19th century designed landscape associated with Dunkeld House.

The trench itself measured 1.5m (N/S) x 1.5m (E/W) in plan and was dug to a depth of 0.6m. Below turf and topsoil, the trench revealed a cut (003) against a pale sandy loam (004). The fill of 003 comprised a

loose, dark silty deposit containing broken brick, fragments of rubble and large quantities of 20th century ceramics and bottle glass (**002**).

Context **002** was excavated to its full depth of 0.6m; context **004** was excavated to the required final trench depth of 0.6m



Plate 1: Post-excitation view of the trench.

CONCLUSIONS

The results of the excavation confirmed the E edge of a broadly rectangular feature (aligned N/S) previously noted during geophysical survey. The feature itself appears to reflect the robbed remains of either a wall line, a bedding trench or a tree hole. The latter is least likely as the feature is regular and aligned with the present pathway layout, which was in place during the late 19th century. Finds associated with the backfill, and by association, the clearance of any residual feature(s), suggest a relationship with a programme of early 20th century landscaping.

The loamy deposit **004** is an imported garden soil and was not fully excavated. It may relate to the earliest version of the designed landscape (early 19th century).

LIST OF CONTEXTS

Number	Description
001	Turf and topsoil
002	Loose stony fill of 003 – dark silt with rubble, roofing slates and mortar fragments
003	E side of N/S aligned cut – straight and vertically sided
004	Light loamy soil with few stones – landscaping deposit / imported soil

LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
1	Site, pre-excavation	S	17/03/2014
2	Cut 003 fully excavated	NE	17/03/2014
3	Cut 003 fully excavated	N	17/03/2014
4	Trench fully excavated	SE	17/03/2014
5	Trench fully excavated	SW	17/03/2014