

## *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*

Updated on 15/06/2007

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Perth and Kinross
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Dunkeld Cathedral
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	HSCO-90119-2015-01
<b>PARISH:</b>	Dunkeld and Dowally
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Paul Fox
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Kirkdale Archaeology
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NO04SW 1
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Cathedral
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NO 0245 4260; NO 0235 4258
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	7 May 2015
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	7 May 2015
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)</b>	
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was maintained at Dunkeld Cathedral during minor excavations: NO 0245 4260: Installation of a memorial marker stone for the Battle of Dunkeld NO 0235 4258: The removal of an existing information lectern and the excavation of a trench to replace an existing grave marker. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Historic Environment Scotland
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<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Archive to be deposited with Historic Environment Scotland

**HISTORIC SCOTLAND PROPERTIES IN CARE  
MINOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS 2015/2016**

**Dunkeld Cathedral • Watching Brief • May 2015**

**HS PIC Index Number: 90119**

**SITE:** Dunkeld Cathedral, Dunkeld, Perthshire

**N.G.R.:** NO 0245 4260; NO 0235 4258

**DESCRIPTION:** Archaeological watching brief during i) the excavation of a trench to install a memorial marker stone for the Battle of Dunkeld,, ii) the removal of an existing information lectern, and iii) the excavation of a trench to replace an existing grave marker.

**PROJECT CODE:** HSCO-90119-2015-01

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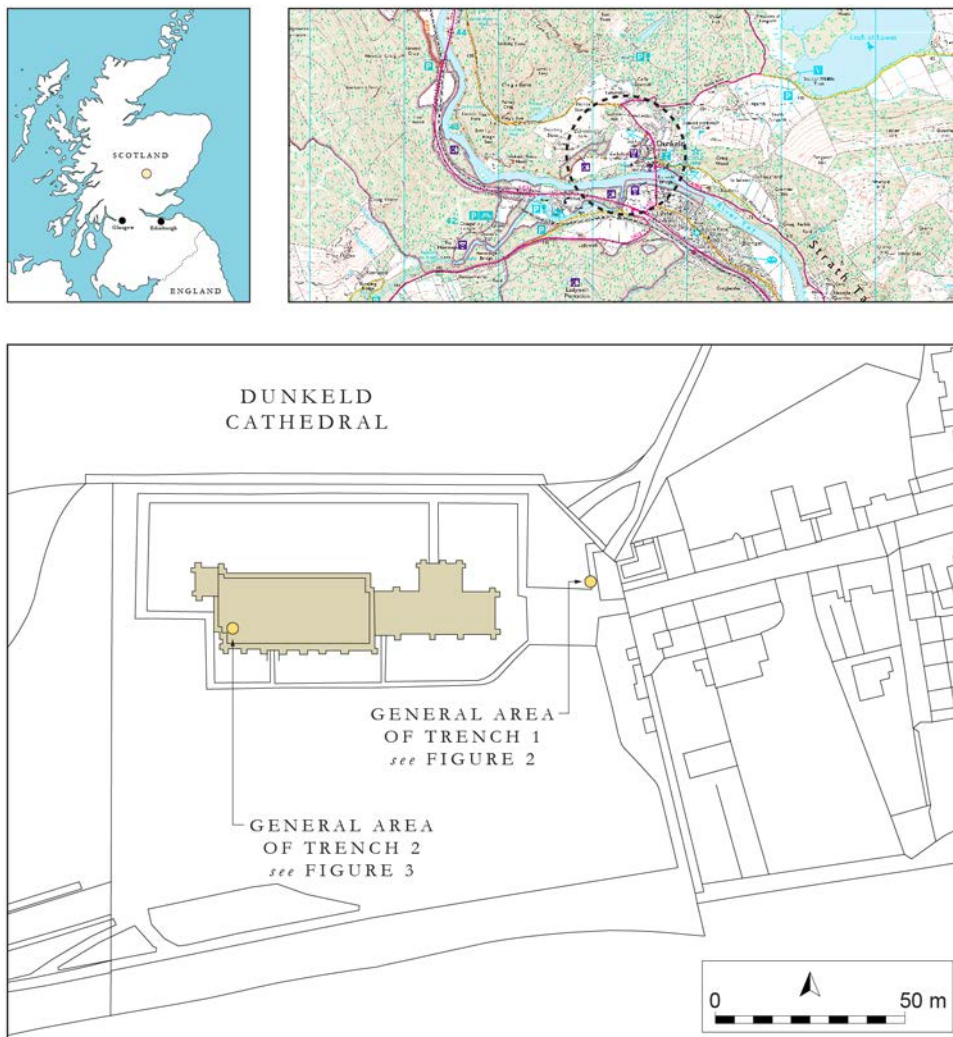
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JUNE 2015

## INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to carry out an archaeological watching brief during a programme of works at Dunkeld Cathedral, Dunkeld, Perthshire (Figure 1). The work consisted of:

1. The installation of a memorial marker stone commemorating the Battle of Dunkeld. This was located on the grassed area on the west side of the path leading to the site hut (Trench 1).
2. The replacement for the existing grave marker to Colonel Cleland within the cathedral nave (Trench 2).
3. The removal of an existing interpretation lectern within the cathedral nave.



**Figure 1:** Plan showing the general locations of the two trenches.

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The trenches were excavated by hand, by Historic Scotland staff under archaeological supervision, and the work was carried out on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2015.

## DESCRIPTION

### Trench 1

Trench 1 was excavated in order to install a memorial marker stone commemorating the Battle of Dunkeld. The trench was located on the grassed area on the west side of the path leading to the site hut, to the east of the cathedral. The trench was triangular in plan and was intended to be excavated to a maximum depth of 0.15m. The trench measured 4.2m N/S by up to 2.05m E/W. Having started to excavate the turf and topsoil in three different positions within the trench, it was clear that there was a disparity between the underlying deposits to the north and south. It was therefore decided to clear down onto the underlying deposit on the north side of the trench and follow this known surface back towards the south. The turf and mid-brown topsoil **101** was 0.12m deep and, when removed, cleared onto a compact layer of orange-brown sandy gravel **102** towards the north end of the trench. This had clearly been truncated by a linear cut **103** forming a feature with a linear northern edge running approximately E/W. The feature was at least 1.6m wide. Cut **103** was filled by a backfilled layer **104** of sandstone rubble (which appeared to be at least partially bonded in a concrete matrix) in a relatively loosely-compacted matrix of dark-brown-to-blackish silt. There was a further cut **105** for the installation of the slabbed path to the east, which truncated layers **102** and **104**. Context **105** was  $\approx$ 0.2m wide (E/W) and was filled by a re-deposited mixture of silt, sandstone and sandy gravel **106**.



**Plate 1:** Context **102** (left) truncated by cut **103** (central) which is backfilled by **104** (right). Context **104** appeared to be a relatively modern demolition layer, and was preserved *in-situ*, with terram used to protect it before backfilling.

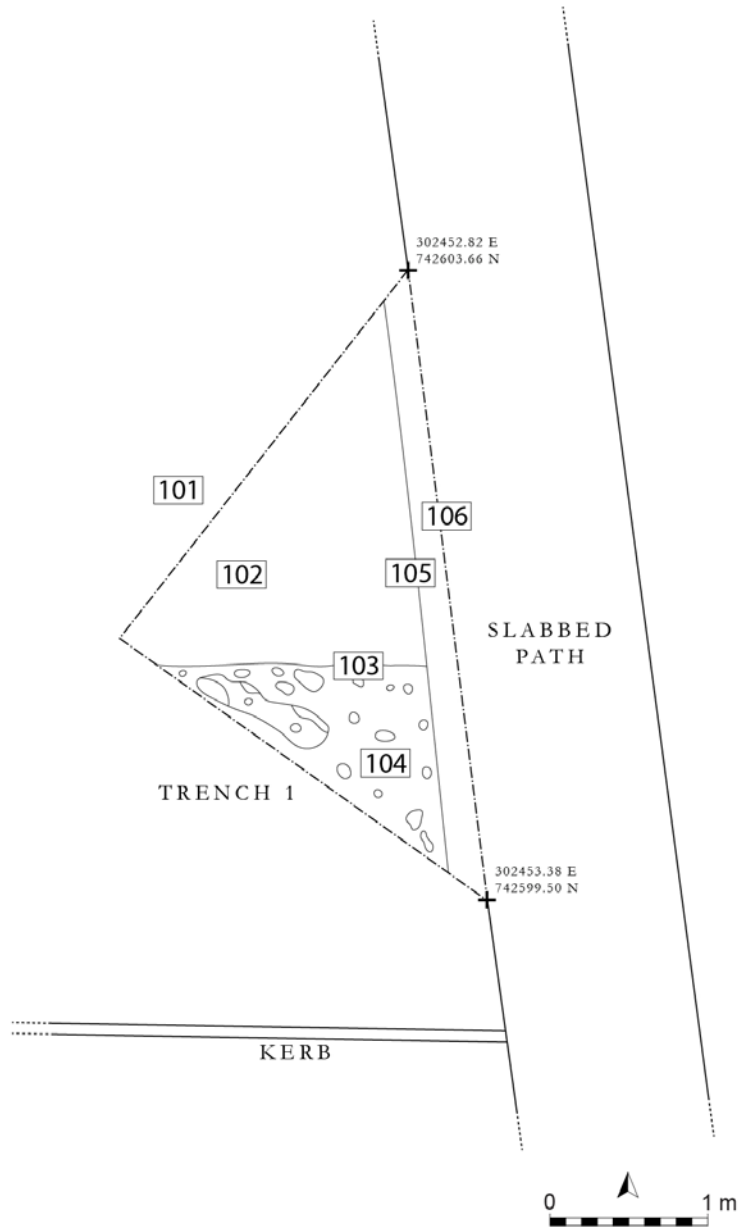


Figure 2: Post-excavation plan of Trench 1.

## Trench 2

Trench 2 was excavated in order to facilitate the replacement of the existing grave marker to Colonel Cleland within the cathedral nave. This process involved the removal of the existing marker and the expansion of this footprint to the east, to form a trench 0.75m E/W x 0.75m N/S with a total depth of 0.27m.

The upper layer of gravel chips **201** was cleared away to a total depth of 0.1m. The existing marker was excavated down its eastern face, rocked out and removed. The gravel was bedded on a mixed re-deposited layer of greyish-brown clay and gravel **202**, some 0.1m deep (the installation of the gravel path

may have required spreading/levelling works creating this layer with a level surface above). Below **202**, two layers were revealed. To the west was a compact layer of clean greyish-brown clay **203** which, given its position and depth at the western end of the nave, must have been clay introduced when the floor deposits of the nave were replaced by deposits appropriate for internments. This deposit stretched eastwards for 0.22m and was exposed to a depth of 0.1m. It was truncated to the east by a sloping cut **204** which had been backfilled with a mixture of industrial-looking gravelly shale and silt, **205**, containing two water-rolled pebbles (not *in-situ* cobbles). This layer again highlighted modern disturbance/levelling within the nave.



**Plate 2:** Post-excitation view of Trench 2, from the west.

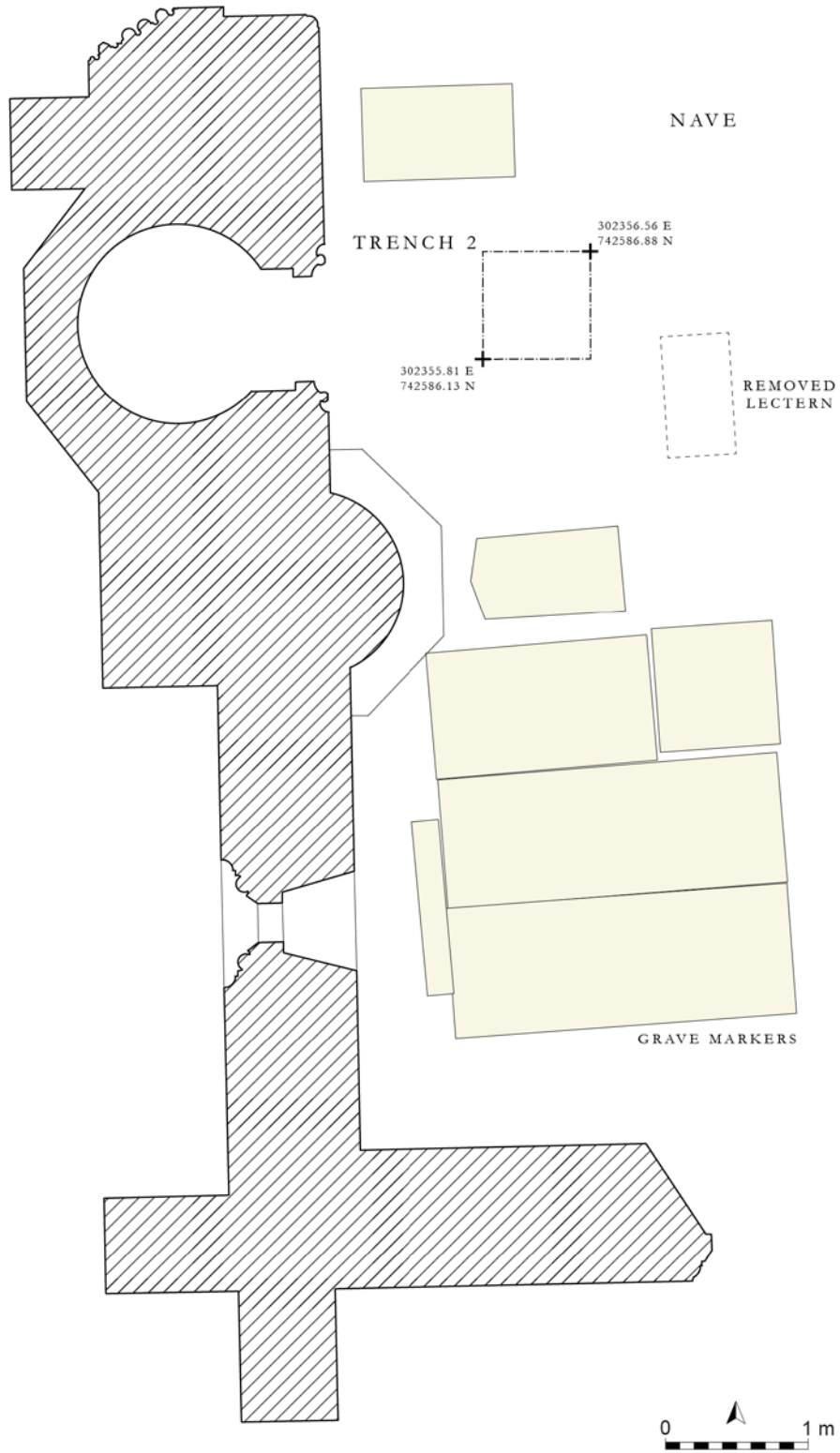


Figure 3: Location plan of Trench 2, including the removed lectern.

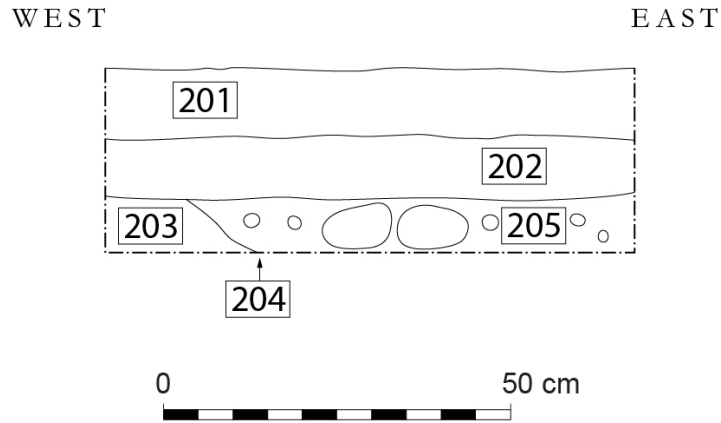


Figure 4: S-facing section in Trench 1.

While Trench 2 was being excavated, the neighbouring information lectern was rocked out of position and removed. It had no concrete base and had been bedded to a depth of 0.15m, which meant that it had only likely penetrated layers **201** and **202**, and had not damaged any features of note.

## CONCLUSIONS

Nothing of archaeological interest was recovered during the works inside the cathedral nave. Externally, Trench 1 indicated that the area has been subject to modern landscaping. It is likely that the feature encountered in Trench 1 (**104**) represents a demolition episode whereby an upstanding masonry structure was reduced. The presence of modern glass and pottery within this layer (not retained) suggests that this may have taken place within the last century. The area should be considered to be one of elevated archaeological sensitivity, and it is therefore recommended that any further ground-breaking work be accompanied by an archaeological watching brief.



## LIST OF CONTEXTS

No	Description
101	Turf and mid-brown topsoil.
102	Compact layer of orange-brown sandy gravel.
103	Cut through 102, backfilled by 104.
104	Sandstone rubble (partially bonded in a concrete matrix) in a relatively loosely-compacted matrix of dark-brown-to-blackish silt.
105	Cut through 102 and 104 to insert the slabbed path.
106	Re-deposited mixture of silt, sandstone and sandy gravel. Backfill of 105.
201	Layer of gravel chips.
202	Re-deposited layer of mixed greyish-brown clay and gravel.
203	Compact layer of clean imported greyish-brown clay.
204	Cut through 203, filled by 205.
205	Industrial-looking gravelly shale and silt containing two water-rolled pebbles. Fill of cut 204.

## LIST OF DRAWINGS

No.	Type	Description	Scale
1	Plan	Trench 1, post-excavation.	1:20
2	Plan	Trench 2, location.	1:50
3	Section	Trench 2, S-facing.	1:20

## LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
1	Pre-excavation shot of Trench 1.	S	07/05/2015
2	Pre-excavation shot of Trench 1.	SE	07/05/2015
3	Pre-excavation shot of Trench 1.	NE	07/05/2015
4	Trench 1, work in progress.	S	07/05/2015
5	Cut 105 and infill 106 for path.	S	07/05/2015
6	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1, showing 101-106.	S	07/05/2015
7	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1, showing 101-106.	SE	07/05/2015
8	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1, showing 101-106.	E	07/05/2015
9	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1, showing 101-106.	NE	07/05/2015
10	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1, showing 101-106.	W	07/05/2015
11	Surface 102, cut 103 and infill 004.	N	07/05/2015
12	Surface 102, cut 103 and infill 004.	NE	07/05/2015
13	Pre-excavation shot of Trench 2.	NW	07/05/2015
14	Pre-excavation shot of Trench 2.	E	07/05/2015
15	Pre-excavation shot of Trench 2.	E	07/05/2015
16	Grave marker ready for removal in Trench 2.	E	07/05/2015
17	Removal of existing information lectern.	NW	07/05/2015
18	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2, S-facing section.	S	07/05/2015
19	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2.	E	07/05/2015
20	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2.	NE	07/05/2015
21	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2.	W	07/05/2015