

Archaeological Excavation of Test Pits at
Logie Old Parish Church
Logie, Stirling

ST20

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION OF
TEST PITS
LOGIE OLD PARISH CHURCH
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Illustration 1: Site location plan

Illustration 2: Location Plan of Test Pits

Illustration 3: Plans and Sections of Test Pits

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ABSTRACT

Alder archaeology was commissioned by Brownriggs to archaeologically excavate a total of four test pits against the N, E and S walls of Logie Old Parish Church. A church on this site is first mentioned in a charter of 1178. The later 1684 church is undergoing structural repairs and the wall foundations needed to be assessed by structural engineers. The excavations took place on 7th June 2010 in good weather conditions. The walls of dressed rubble were founded on fragmented and rounded small to large rubble up to 0.70m in depth. A few medieval/post medieval pottery sherds were recovered indicating burials at that period. Some disarticulated human bone was recovered and reburied in the test pits. No remains of walls predating the 1684 church were identified.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Brownriggs commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake archaeological excavation of engineers' test pits on the site of Logie Old Parish Church at Logie, Stirling. The church is a listed building located at NGR NS 81521 96977 on sloping ground at the base of Carlie Craig. The work (site code ST20) was undertaken on 7th June 2010 in good weather conditions. The requirement was to excavate four test pits each 0.60 X 0.60m with a pilot hole 0.15 X 0.15m where necessary to inspect the foundations and record and assess any other archaeological features. Special attention was to be paid to any human remains discovered in the excavations.

The work was designed to satisfy part of the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development, application reference 08/00669/LBC.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this work was to archaeologically excavate engineers' test pits so that a structural engineer could inspect and establish the depth and condition of the church wall foundations, inside of the church's N and W walls and outside on the S wall. The secondary aim was to identify and record any significant archaeological remains exposed during the excavation of the test pits. The archaeological information revealed will be used to inform any future mitigation strategies which may be required during ongoing alterations and repairs to the church structure.

1.3 Reporting

The present document has been prepared as the final report on these archaeologically excavated engineers test pits at Logie Old Parish Church. Copies will be sent to the client, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and Stirling Council's Sites and Monuments Record.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

This programme of archaeological works was undertaken to satisfy part of the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development, Planning Application 08/00669/LBC. Further archaeological monitoring may be required during future works to the church.

1.5 Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Lorna Main, local authority archaeologist for Stirling Council and Iain McBroom of Brownriggs for their assistance, guidance and on site advice throughout this project.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

Logie Old Parish Church is located at NGR NS 81521 96977 at the base of Carlie Craig on the W side of Logie Burn on ground gently sloping down to the S. A church at

Logie is first mentioned in a charter dated to about 1178 in which it is confirmed to the convent of North Berwick, and in the churchyard are two hogback stones (SMR Nos 1215.02 & 03) of 11th-century date. However, the current remains of the old parish church, comprising two walls (W and S) and a belfry, seem to date to 1684. The church has been cut back into the ground slope. The remains of the N wall are 1.3m high inside the church and are capped with modern copes with railings. On the N side the wall is at ground level. The surviving part of the S wall contains a square-headed door about its centre. To the W of the door there is a small window, evidently not original as it is formed of heterogeneous materials including, as the sill, a stone dated 1598. This was found in 1874 in the ruins near the old Session House, at the E end of the church, (R M Ferguson 1905) and probably came from an earlier church (SMR No 1215.05). On the SW angle of the building there is a tabular sundial dated 1684, very probably the date of the present building.

At the time of the current work the church structure had scaffolding, both on the inside and the outside of the standing walls.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

The excavation of test pits against the W, S and N walls would reveal information about the wall foundations of the current 1684 church. The work also had the potential to uncover remains of the earlier church(es) which are known to have existed on the site. Potentially archaeological deposits that might be encountered would probably include floor surfaces and deposits laid down when the church was in use. It was also considered likely that disarticulated human remains will be encountered, as the construction of the current church probably disturbed earlier burials.

2.3 Archaeological Method

The test pits were hand excavated and recorded using standard archaeological methodology. Some small finds were recovered and some disarticulated bone was recovered and reburied in the pits when they were backfilled.

2.4 Results of Investigations (Illus 3)

Test Pit 01

Test Pit 01 was located on the inside of the church against the N wall, 3.50m to the E of the church W wall. The N wall (0107) comprised mortared dressed rubble and reached a height of 1.30m. In effect it acts as a retaining wall, being flush with the burial ground on the outside of the wall.

The test pit measured 0.60 X 0.60m and reached a final depth of 0.70m. Turf and topsoil (0102) was 0.10m thick and contained a fragment of probable post medieval glass. Below the main dressed wall face of (0107), the rubble foundation of the wall was exposed. The foundation comprised compacted, small, fragmented stone (0103) below the main wall stone. Packed up against (0103) and extending to the S was further medium sized rubble with some large stone (0104). One split field boulder measured 0.42 X 0.33m. Deposits (0103) and (0104) extended forward of the wall for a distance of 0.35-0.40m. On the S side and over rubble (0104) was a deposit of crushed light brown sandstone (0105) 0.09m thick. The various elements of the rubble foundation had a combined thickness of 0.27m.

Below the rubble foundation material was a natural deposit of mid brown slightly clayey silt (0106). Deposit (0106) was excavated to a final depth of 0.68m. It contained occasional medium sized stone and was interpreted as a natural hillwash deposit. No archaeological finds were observed in deposit (0106). The S edge of the test pit had been disturbed by burials, as some bone (not removed) could be observed in a deposit of dark silty loam. There was no remaining evidence of a formal floor for the interior of the church.

Test Pit 02

Test Pit 02 was located against the W wall on the N side of the stairway into the church. It measured 0.60 X 0.60m, and reached a depth of 0.64m. Topsoil (0201) comprised silty clay 0.11m thick, below which was a spread of small/medium stone (0202) varying in depth between 0.24m and 0.38m, which contained the base of a glass bottle near the NE corner. Also below topsoil was a deposit of compacted clay, (0203), 0.29m thick with two large stones and some smaller stone fragments. This deposit also contained a disarticulated long bone (not removed) extending into the E section. Deposit (0204) on the S side of the test pit comprised large/medium stones arranged on an E-W alignment extending into the E section (not illustrated). The alignment may have been the result of disturbance caused by a burial disturbing the wall foundation. The bottom of the wall foundation rubble comprised large rounded stone (0206) below which were small sub rounded stones. Deposit (0206) was set upon the natural hillwash deposit (0205), reached at a depth of 0.55m. The natural deposit (0205) was the same as deposit (0106) found in Test Pit 01. There was no evidence of a formal floor at this location in the church interior.

Test Pit 03

Test pit 03 was located on the outside of the church S wall, 0.65m to the W of church S doorway. It measured 0.60 X 0.60m and reached a maximum depth of 1m. Turf and topsoil (0301) were 0.10m thick. Below topsoil was deposit (0302), comprising dark silty loam with abundant small to medium-sized rounded and fragmented stone. Within deposit (0302) was a moderate amount of disarticulated human bone, some of which was from infant/child burials. Deposit (0302) was the burial ground soil and extended to the bottom of the test pit. Two late/post medieval pottery sherds were recovered from the burial ground soil. The foundations (0305) below the dressed stone of the S wall (0304) at this location comprised medium/small sized stone fragments in a matrix of black silt. Unlike test pits 01, 02, and 04 there were no large stones extending into the test pit forward of the wall. The foundations (0305) were 0.55m high and extended to a depth of 1m below the site surface, set upon the natural deposit of very light brown compacted silt (0303). The disarticulated bones removed from the pit for the excavation were replaced in the pit prior to backfilling.

Test Pit 04

Test pit 04 was located on the outside of the church S wall at the SE corner of the church. It measured 0.60 X 0.60m and reached a maximum depth of 0.60m. Turf and topsoil (0401) was 0.16m thick. Below the topsoil was a deposit of brown clayey silt (0402) with inclusions of small to large rounded stone and two small boulders. Deposit (0402) contained a few fragments of disarticulated bone concentrated close to the S edge of the test pit; it also contained one 19th C bottle base and a late/post medieval pottery sherd. Two boulders (0403) formed the base of the test pit on the E and W sides. The two boulders were somewhat set into the fabric of the foundation rubble

below the wall. Another boulder also belonging to (0403) formed the base of the test pit in the mid part. Context (0404) was foundation packing rubble below the base of the wall. Deposit (0404) was packed between the boulders of (0403) and over the boulder at the base of the pit. Fragments of disarticulated bone were replaced in the pit for the backfilling.

3 Interpretation

- 3.1 Test Pit 01 reached a final depth of 0.70m and revealed compacted small rubble foundation stones (0103), 0.27m thick below the bottom course of dressed stone. The wall foundation was reached at 0.40m below the site surface build upon a natural deposit of silty hillwash. Further rubble and a large split field stone (0104) abutted (0103) on its S side. Burials had disturbed the S edge of (0104) It appears that the rubble and large stone extending S of the main wall foundation may have been an attempt to form a barrier to stop burials undermining the wall structure. In this it seems to have been successful as a burial on the S edge of the test pit was about 0.50m to the S of the N wall. Window glass from the topsoil here no doubt related to the 1684 church.
- 3.2 Test Pit 02 reached a depth of 0.55m and revealed a rubble foundation over hill wash at that depth. Disturbance of the foundation rubble was aligned E-W and contained a disarticulated long bone an indication the presence of a burial. In this test pit the stone and rubble forward of the main wall had been cut through to accommodate a burial.
- 3.3 Test Pit 03 reached a depth of 1m and revealed that the rubble foundation here extended to that depth, constructed upon a natural compacted hill wash deposit. There was no rubble and large stone forward of the foundation, and a quantity of disarticulated bone revealed burial ground soil just below turf directly against the face of the church S wall. Two sherds of pottery indicated that burials were taking place here in the medieval/late medieval period. It is not clear why this part of the S wall did not have foundations extending forward of the wall, perhaps they had been eroded away by many burials at this somewhat choice location so close to the church doorway.
- 3.4 Test Pit 04 reached a depth of 0.60m but did not bottom the foundation stones. The foundation stones comprised small boulders and were forward of the wall, again perhaps to deter burials up against and undermining the wall. Fragments of disarticulated bone indicated there were burials just to the S of the test pit. Two sherds of medieval/post medieval pottery suggest burials taking place at that time.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

- 4.1 The four test pits provided a glimpse of the church's foundations and revealed that the build was in relatively good order. The two interior test pits did not find evidence of a church floor; any stone slabs that may have formed such a floor have probably all been removed to accommodate burials or for reuse elsewhere. Only the foundations in test pit 03 did not extend forward of the wall face. Why this is so is not at all clear, perhaps because of its favoured location near the doorway. Medieval/post medieval pottery sherds associated with burial ground soil revealed that burials were taking place in and outside the church at that time. No evidence of a church predating the present ruin was identified in any of the test pits.
- 4.2 The structure of the wall foundations as revealed within the test pits were recorded by a structural engineer and no further test pits for this purpose will be required. However ongoing alterations and structural repairs to the fabric of the church may require further archaeological monitoring.

4.3 Recommendations for Further Work

If ground breaking around the church is required for repairs or services then archaeological monitoring of such works should take place. The final decision with regard to the need for further archaeological work rests with Lorna Main as local authority archaeologist for Stirling Council.

5 References

- 5.1 *Excavation of Test Pits at Old Logie Parish Church* Method Statement, Alder Archaeology Ltd 2010

Appendix 1 Context Register

No:	<i>Test Pit 01</i>
0101	Turf
0102	Dk brown loam topsoil, topsoil 0.10m thick
0103	Deposit, stone, small, compacted fragments, below dressed rubble of main wall, foundation stones
0104	Deposit, compacted medium sized stone fragments with a split boulder abutting 0103, foundation stones forward of 0103
0105	Deposit, crushed light brown sandstone, construction debris, over 0104
0106	Deposit, clayey silt, reached at depth of 0.35m below site surface, natural hillwash deposit, excavated to depth of 0.35m occasional stone fragments
0107	Structure, main stonework for N wall of church
	<i>Test Pit 02</i>
0201	Topsoil, 0.11m thick.
0202	Deposit, stone fragments medium sized, forming spread, between 0.24m and 0.38m thick, below 0201
0203	Deposit of compacted clay 0.29m thick with two large stones and some smaller stone fragments this deposit also contained a disarticulated long bone (not removed) extending into the E section below topsoil.
0204	Deposit of large/medium stones arranged on an E-W alignment on the S side of the test pit extending into the E section. The alignment may have been the result of disturbance caused by a burial.
0205	Deposit, natural clayey silt hillwash deposit, reached at depth of 0.55m.
0206	Deposit of large/small rounded stone and some lower small sub rounded stone 0.20m thick, forming bottom of the wall foundation rubble over natural hillwash.
	<i>Test Pit 03</i>
0301	Turf, 0.10m thick
0302	Deposit, graveyard soil, abutting stones of S wall, dark silty loam with abundant disarticulated bone, abundant small stone fragments and a sherd of medieval/post medieval pottery
0303	Deposit, compacted light brown silt, natural hill wash directly below wall foundation stones
0304	Structure, S wall upper dressed foundation stones, depth extends 0.35m below site surface, over stones 0305
0305	Structure, S wall lower foundation stones, field stone, not dressed, extending 1m below site surface where they sit on 0303.

	<i>Test Pit 04</i>
0401	Turf/topsoil, 0.16 m thick
0402	Deposit, brown, loose clayey silt below turf, inclusions of small-medium stone and two boulders, one sherd late/post medieval pottery, some disarticulated bone fragments, graveyard soil
0403	Structure, large sub rounded cobbles or small boulders, forming base of test pit, part of church foundations that are 0.30m forward of the standing church wall
0404	Structure, foundation rubble pinnings, part of foundation

Appendix 2 Photographic Register

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
01	TP02 turf removed	W
02	TP01 detail location	N
03	TP01 general location	N
04	TP02 general location, working	NW
05	TP02 stones 0202	W
06	TP01 stones 0104	N
07	TP01 stones 0104, detail	N
08	TP02 stones 0202	W
09	TP02 stones 0203	W
10-12	TP01 bottom stones 0106 of foundation over natural hillwash	N
13	TP02 foundation stones over hill wash 0205	W
14	TP02 foundation stones 0206	W
15	Detail location of TP03	N
16	General location of TP03	N
17-18	General location of TP04	N
19	TP04 turf removed	N
20-21	TP04 foundation stones	N
22-24	TP03 0202 grave yard soil abutting wall	N
25	General of Logie Church S frontage	NW

26	General of Logie Church S frontage	NE
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Appendix 3 Drawing Register

<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	TP01 plan 01 ctx 0103-0106; TP03 plan 02, ctx 0302, 0303; TP01 section 01 S facing ctx 0103, 0104, 0106 and 0107; TP03 section 03 S facing ctx 0302, 0303, 0304, 0304	1:20; 1:10
2	TP02 ctx descriptions, section 02 E facing. Ctx 0202, 0203, 0205, 0206	1:10
3	TP04 ctx descriptions; plan 03 ctx 0402, 0403, 0404; section 04 ctx 0401, 0402, 0403	1:20; 1:10

Appendix 4 Finds Register

ST20 Finds List

Context	Material type	Details
0102	Stone (slate)	Roof tile fragment with part of peg hole
0102	Stone (slate)	Stone counter length=29.6mm breadth=26.4mm thickness=3.1mm
0102	Glass/Fe	Heavily denatured window glass fragment, with 2 straight edges. Concreted with metal oxide/slag. Probably medieval/post-medieval
0200 u/s	Animal bone	Rabbit metapodial, entire
0201	Clay pipe	Stem
0201	CBM	Brick fragment
0201	CBM	3 fragments mortar (1 fragment with smoothed outer surface)
0201	Fe	1 piece oxidised iron
0202	Fe	1 nail head. Oxidised, oval head 1 nail fragment
0202	MWD	3 pieces metallic waste
0202	CBM	3 pieces smooth wall plaster 3 pieces rough mortar
0202	Clay pipe	1 stem
0202	Glass	1 bottle base in green glass. Deep kick-up; moderate denaturing. Probably early-mid 19th century
0202	Glass	1 clear thin window glass fragment; moderate denaturing
0302	Pottery	1 redware body sherd with green and brown patchy glaze; late medieval 1 oxidised redware body sherd with green glaze; late medieval
0302	Stone (slate)	1 roof tile fragment
0302	CBM	1 piece mortar
0402	Pottery	1 redware base sherd; unglazed; abraded; late medieval 1 fine redware rim sherd; possibly modern
0402	Glass	1 green bottle base; deep kick-up with pontil mark; heavily denatured. Probably early-mid 19th century

Appendix 5 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Archaeological Excavation of Engineers' Test Pits, Logie Old Parish Church
PROJECT CODE:	ST20
PARISH:	Logie
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Ray Cachart
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological excavation of engineers' test pits
NMRS NO(S):	NS89NW8.00
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Post Medieval Church on earlier church site
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Medieval/post medieval pottery
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	Site centred on NS 81521 96977
START DATE	7 th June 2010
END DATE	7 th June 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None known
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Alder archaeology was commissioned by Brownriggs to archaeologically excavate a total of four engineers' test pits against the N, E and S walls of Logie Old Parish Church. A church on this site is first mentioned in a charter of 1178. The later 1684 church is undergoing structural repairs and the wall foundations needed to be assessed by structural engineers. The walls of dressed rubble were founded on fragmented and rounded small to large rubble up to 0.70m in depth. Some disarticulated human bone was recovered and reburied in the test pits. Finds included a few sherds of late/post medieval pottery. No remains of walls predating the 1684 church were identified
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Uncertain
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Brownriggs
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	None
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Alder Archaeology Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	NMRS

EMAIL ADDRESS:	Director@AlderArchaeology.co.uk
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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 undertake 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.