

**1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

- 1.1 AOC Archaeology Group undertook an archaeological excavation under the terms of the Historic Scotland Human Remains Call-off Contract between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2007. The work was carried out after developers M&J Ballantyne had revealed a previously unknown burial at Broomlands, Kelso (NGR: NT 7389 3486) during ground breaking works. They reported this to the local police who subsequently requested assistance from Mr. Rory McDonald, Archaeological Officer for Scottish Borders Council. Mr. McDonald then contacted Historic Scotland and requested that the find be dealt with under the terms of the Human Remains Call-Off Contract.
- 1.2 Inspection of the site revealed a short cist that had been partially disturbed by the developers. The bulk of the cremated skeletal remains contained within the cist had been removed by the attending police officer. These remains were subsequently passed on to Mr. McDonald. Further excavation of the cist recovered a cannel coal pendant along with further bone fragments from within the fill of the cut of the cist. Later ground breaking works immediately to the north of the original cist revealed a second short cist. This was in poor condition but was found to contain the remains of an inhumation. All human remains from the site were collected, along with those held by Mr McDonald and after undergoing conservation assessment will be stored at AOC Archaeology Group's laboratory in Loanhead.

**2. INTRODUCTION**

**2.1 Background**

- 2.1.1 A short cist was disturbed during ground breaking works associated with a residential development at Broomlands, Kelso. The capstone had been removed prior to archaeological intervention revealing cremated human remains. The police were informed and the attending officer removed the remains prior to contacting Mr McDonald, Scottish Borders Council Archaeological Officer. Mr McDonald subsequently contacted Historic Scotland, requesting assistance under the Human Remains Call-Off Contract.

**2.2 Location**

- 2.2.1 The site lay to the rear (north) of a new housing development within the area known as Broomlands on the north-east edge of Kelso (Figure 1). To the south lay the A698 road aligned along the northern bank of the river Tweed. The site was bounded to the east by the boundary wall to Hendersyde Park. To the east were further houses with open scrub land rising to the north (Plate 1). The burial was

approximately 1.2 m below the existing ground surface although much of this had been removed during the development works.

## **2.3 Geology**

- 2.3.1 The local geology is made up of riverine alluvial deposits overlying Lower Carboniferous sediments and basic lavas, Upper Old red Sandstones and Silurian greywackes associated with the Whitsome Association (Bown & Shipley 1982)

## **2.4 Archaeological and historical background**

- 2.4.1 There are no known cists in the immediate vicinity of the site. A fragmentary brooch dating from the Romano-British period, discovered by a metal detectorist (NMRS: NT73NW 39), is the only known site listed on the National Monument Records of Scotland (NMRS). The other sites listed in the immediate area are associated with Broomlands House, built in 1719 (NMRS: NT73SW 77). However in the wider area around Kelso there are numerous examples of cist burials, including The Knowes (NMRS: NT73SW 7), Pinnaclehill (NMRS: NT73SW 8), Floors Home Farm (NMRS: NT73SW 9) and Springwood (NMRS: NT73SW 33).

## **3. OBJECTIVES**

The 'Project Design' (Gooder 2007) gives a full account of the project objectives and provides a thorough account of the excavation methodology. In summary the objectives were:

- i) to plan, photograph, sample and excavate the burial, thereby removing the skeletal remains and its contents;
- ii) to carry out a watching brief on any further ground breaking works in the immediate area in order to identify further burials;
- iii) to prepare a data structure report and a costed single phase post-excavation research design.

## **4. METHOD**

- 4.1 In agreement with Historic Scotland, the following methodology, as outlined in the Project Design (Gooder 2007) was carried out:
- i. Upon arrival pre-excavation photography was undertaken.

- ii. Loose sediment/gravel was cleared away from the cist, and an area *c* 1 m wide around the cist was cleaned by hand. Further pre-excavation photographs were taken. Surrounding areas of exposed subsoil were then examined to ascertain whether any additional archaeological features were present. Following further ground breaking works a second cist was revealed.
- iii. Given the capstone had already been removed from the initial cist, the fill was half-sectioned, and half of the fill was removed carefully in spits down to the level of any surviving inhumation material, with appropriate samples being taken. The section was drawn and photographed. Following the removal of the collapsed capstone from the second cist a similar process was undertaken.
- iv. The remnants of the two cist fills were then excavated. No surviving *in situ* inhumation was recorded in the first cist. Surviving skeletal remains were revealed in the second cist and these were fully recorded.
- v. All bone was lifted and bagged as appropriate.
- vi. Control soil chemistry/pollen samples were retrieved from the topsoil and natural subsoil.
- vii. The cists were emptied with further sampling, and the stones were recorded using plans, elevations, and photography as appropriate.
- viii. The constituent stones were disassembled and examined for carvings or other markings. Geological samples were taken.
- ix. The empty cists were then drawn, photographed, and recorded. The bases of the cuts were further excavated to ensure that there were no underlying features.
- x. The position of the excavation area was recorded with regard to local landscape features in order that a location plan can be produced.
- xi. During the course of the fieldwork the box of previously removed bone was collected from Mr. McDonald.
- xii. A costed single phase post-excavation research design will be produced and presented to HS for approval. The document will contain a table clearly setting out the major themes to be explored within the post-excavation programme and methods for addressing issues identified.

## 5. RESULTS

- 5.1 The fieldwork was carried out between 18<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2007 under generally favourable working conditions. Figures 1 to 4 and Plates 1 to 9 present a photographic and graphical record of the excavation process. In total two short cist burials were excavated (Figure 2), both aligned approximately NE to SW. The first of these (Cist 1) (Plate 2) had been disturbed by the builders and the skeletal remains removed prior to the intervention of an archaeologist. These remains comprised fragmentary burnt bone. A cannel coal pendant was also recovered from the cist. The second cist (Cist 2), located immediately to the north of Cist 1, although in a poor condition contained an inhumation. Unfortunately, due to the condition of the bones recovered, it was difficult to ascertain if this was an articulated or dis-articulated inhumation. No other artefacts were recovered from this cist.
- 5.2 The cists were cut into a gravel bank that led down to the River Tweed to the south. The alluvial deposits across the site varied from areas of cobble rich gravels (100) to coarse sand deposits (101) (Plate 3). Both cists were aligned roughly NE to SW and cut into a band of coarse sand that ran east to west across the site. The cists were approximately 2.5 m apart.
- 5.3 The cut for Cist 1 [102] (Figures 2 & 3) had been truncated on the south and east sides by machine reduction but was clearly defined on the opposing sides due to the cobble rich back-fill (103) (Plate 4). The capstone (104) (Plate 5) had been removed prior to archaeological intervention. It comprised a large irregular shaped stone approximately 0.97 m x 0.93 m in size and 0.12 m thick of grey mica-rich sandstone. The side-stones were all *in situ* forming a short cist with internal dimensions of 0.70 m by 0.40 m, although the western end stone was collapsing into the cist (Plate 6) (Figure 4). As with the capstone all four side-stones were of grey mica-rich sandstone. The north side-stone (105) measured 0.98 m in length by 0.57 m high and 0.12 m thick whilst the southern side-stone (107) measured 1.10 m by 0.65 m by 0.09 m. The internal faces of the two side-stones rested on the edges of the two opposing end-stones, with the ends projecting beyond the end-stones. The western end-stone (106) was 0.40 m wide, 0.47 m high and 0.07 m wide and opposite to this the eastern end-stone was 0.31 m by 0.54 m by 0.05 m. No markings of any kind were identified on any of the stones recovered.
- 5.4 The initial fill (109) of Cist 1 comprised grey gritty sand with frequent rounded stone inclusions up to 0.10 m in depth. Unfortunately this had been disturbed prior to archaeological intervention. In addition to this at the western end of the cist some of the backfill for the cist cut had fallen into the cist itself. It was within fill (109) that a cannel coal pendant was recovered. As was stated above the skeletal remains had been removed prior to excavation. Initial inspection of this material suggests the remains of a cremation had been placed in the cist. The floor (110) of the cist comprised firmly packed rounded stones in a grey sand matrix

with occasional clay lenses. This was thought to be the natural alluvial deposit and not a purposely lain floor.

- 5.5 The cut [119] for Cist 2 (Figure 4) was less apparent in plan, particularly on the southern side where it was cut into soft sand, as it did not include the large rounded cobble back-fill recorded in Cist 1. The cist side stones were also in a much poorer condition than recorded in Cist 1 with only the lower portions surviving. Part of the capstone (112) had been dislodged and was recorded to the west of the cist. The rest of the capstone (113) (although this could also have been the upper half of the northern side-stone) had collapsed into the cist (Plate 7). This measured 0.80 m by 0.40 m by 0.08 m comprising of the same grey mica-rich sandstone recorded in Cist 1. The rest of the northern side-stone (114) was badly degraded measuring 1.04 m by 0.30 m by 0.07 m. The base of the side-stone was positioned on two large rounded cobbles, one at either end. Only two small fragments of the southern side-stone (116) survived. Again the east end-stone (115) was badly degraded the surviving fragment measuring 0.62 m by 0.32 m by 0.10 m. The end-stone on the west side had been dislodged and damaged measuring only 0.24 m by 0.28 m by 0.10 m.
- 5.6 On removal of the collapsed capstone the remains of an inhumation were revealed (118) (Plate 8). The bones had been compressed by the capstone and were in a very poor condition with only the larger bones of the arms and legs surviving to any degree. Due to the compressed nature of the bones it was difficult to establish if the inhumation was articulated or not. Initial inspection seemed to show parts of skull surviving at both ends of the cist, although all the teeth recovered were from the south-eastern quadrant. Two femurs were recovered from the north-west quadrant and a number of arm bones were recovered from the south-western quadrant. The remains lay on a layer of firmly packed small rounded pebbles forming a purpose built floor (121). No further features were revealed once the cist stones had been removed and the cuts exposed (Plate 9).

## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The excavation has revealed two different burial practices within two short cists located 2.5 m apart. One burial was a cremation the other an inhumation. The burials were aligned NE by SW, with a single cannel coal pendant recovered from the cremation burial. The proximity to each other would suggest that the two burials may be contemporary to each other although the differing burial practice suggests opposing burial rites occurring.
- 6.2 Dating of the human remains via radiocarbon dating would allow the burials to be placed within their proper archaeological context alongside the various burials, cremations and cists known from the Kelso region.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 A full specialist report on the human remains and a programme of radiocarbon dating will be the main requirements for the post-excavation phase of this project. Completion of these two elements will lead to a fuller understanding of the burials and allow them to be understood in relation to the other excavated burial sites in the Kelso and wider area

8. REFERENCES

Gooder, J 2007 Broomlands, Kelso Project Design' Client report for Historic Scotland

Bown, C.J. and Shipley, B.M. 1982 *Soil and Land Capability for Agriculture, South-east Scotland*, The Macaulay Institute for Soil Research

# BROOMLANDS, KELSO HUMAN REMAINS CALL-OFF: DATA STRUCTURE REPORT

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Type	Description
100	Topsoil	Gravel rich sandy layer with frequent rounded stones and pebbles
101	Layer	Alluvial deposit of course grey sand with occasional small rounded stones
102	Cut	Oval shaped cut for Cist 1. Truncated on east and south sides by machine excavation. Fairly sharp cut of slope with a flat base. Approximately 2.2 m E-W by 1.1 m N-S and 0.30 m deep.
103	Backfill	Back fill of cut [102]. Frequent large rounded cobbles up to 20 cm <sup>3</sup> packed in a sand matrix. The larger stones seemed to be closer to the top of the cut between the cut and the side slabs of Cist 1 with smaller stones to the bottom.
104	Capstone	Irregular shaped stone (removed prior to excavations) 0.97 by 0.93 by 0.12 m in size. Cut from a grey mica rich sandstone.
105	Side slab	Large sub-rectangular side slab 0.98 m long by 0.57 m high and 0.12 m thick. Located on the north side of the cist and aligned E-W. Cut from same type of stone as capstone (104)
106	End stone	End slab of Cist 1, rectangular in shape 0.47 m high by 0.40 m wide and 0.07 m thick located at the west end of the cist. Placed in between the two side slabs to help support them.
107	Side slab	Irregular shaped side slab of Cist 1, 1.1 m long and 0.52 m high and 0.09 m thick. Located along the south side of the cist
108	End stone	End slab of Cist 1, rectangular in shape 0.54 m high by 0.33 m wide and 0.05 m thick located at the east end of the cist. Placed in between the two side slabs to help support them.
109	In-fill	Fill of Cist 1 comprising grey course sand with frequent rounded pebbles plus the cremated skeletal remains. Approximately 0.1 m thick although the cist had been disturbed prior to excavation. Some of the back-fill of the cist cut had also fallen into the cist.
110	Base	A firmly packed layer of rounded pebbles in a course grey sand matrix plus occasional areas of grey clay lenses (natural ground surface )
111	Layer	A layer of mid-brown sand and rounded cobbles located immediately above Cist 2, to the north of Cist 1
112	Stone	A section of dislodged cap stone, approximately 0.50 m west of Cist 2. The stone was 0.58 m by 0.27 m by 0.05 m in size and placed within layer 101
113	Capstone	Badly damaged capstone of Cist 2. It had broken into several pieces and was located within the cist. Was cut from mica rich grey sandstone.
114	Side slab	Side slab of Cist 2, located on the northern side but badly degraded. Approximately 1.04 m by 0.3 m by 0.07 m in size aligned E-W. The stone was sat over two large rounded cobbles, possibly leveling the side slab. Made of mica rich grey sandstone
115	End stone	Located at the east end of Cist 2. It had broken into 2 pieces but formed the east end of the cist. The north side butted up to the south-facing face of side slab 114, but the south side slab 116 seemed to butt up to the north face of the end stone. The stone was a more bluish colour than 113 and 114

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116	Side slab	Remains of the south side of Cist 2. It comprised two small pieces of stone both falling into the cist. The full extent did not survive. The stone was again a more bluish colour as 115
117	End stone	The stone at the west end of Cist 2 had been dislodged and broken with only a small section left measuring 0.24 m by 0.28 m by 0.10 m.
118	Fill	Fill of Cist 2 included the skeletal remains of an inhumation, possibly disarticulated, that were badly damaged due to the collapsed capstone. No secondary fill was recorded.
119	Cut	The cut for Cist 2 was oval in shape although difficult to define on the south and west side due it being cut into sand. The north and east side were cut into a firm gravel terrace with a sharp cut of slope and steep sides leading down to a flat base. The other two sides seemed to have been cut at more of an angle. It measured 1.4 m by 0.90 m.
120	Backfill	The back fill of the cut was difficult to determine as there was very little in the way of packing on the north and east sides and just sand on the opposing sides. Only a few large cobble packing stones were evident.
121	Layer	The floor of the cist comprised a thin layer of compact small rounded pebbles between 0.05 m <sup>3</sup> and 0.10 m <sup>3</sup> within a sand matrix. Occasional bone fragments were recovered from this layer. The layer was lain over the natural sand and cobble surface.

### APPENDIX 2: FINDS REGISTER

Finds No	Context	Material	Description
1	103	Bo	Loose bone fragments in fill of cut for Cist 1
2	109		Cannel coal pendant
3	109	Bo	Bone fragments in Cist 1
4		Bo	
5	118	Bo	Bones from east end of Cist 2
6	109	Bo	Bone fragments in Cist 1
7	118	Bo	Bones from middle section of Cist 2
8	118	Bo	Bones from west end of Cist 2
9	118	Bo	Mixed bone from base of Cist 2
10	118	Bo	Long bones from center of middle section of Cist 2
11	118	Bo	Bones from SW corner of Cist 2
12	118	Bo	leg bones from N side of middle section of Cist 2
13	118	Bo	Bone from S side of middle section of Cist 2
14	118	Bo	Bone from S side of middle section of Cist 2
15	118	Bo	Bone from SW corner of Cist 2



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### APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

#### Film 1

Frame	Subject	From
1-2	Registration shot	
3-4	General site shot	W
5-6	General site shot	N
7-8	General site shot	E
9-10	General site shot	S
11-12	Detail of Cist 1	S
13-14	Detail of Cist 1	W
15-16	Detail of cap stone of Cist 1	S
17-18	Cist 1 showing cut on N & W side	W
19-20	General shot of Cist 1	W
21-22	General shot of Cist 1	N
23-24	Cist 1 excavated to base	S
25-26	Cist 1 excavated to base	N
27-28	Section of geology to east of cists	W
29-30	Detail of end stone (106) of Cist 1	
31-32	shot of Cist 1 showing Cut [102] on west side	S
33-34	General pre-excavation shot of Cist 2	NE
35-36	General pre-excavation shot of Cist 2	NW

#### Film 2

Frame	Subject	From
1-2	Registration shot	
3-4	Section through cut [102] and Cist 1	E
5-6	Detail of east end stone and floor of Cist 1	W
7-8	Detail of east end stone and floor of Cist 1	E
9-10	Cist 1 showing cut [102] on N & E sides	NE
11-12	Cist 1 showing cut [102] on N & E sides	NW
13-14	Cist 1 showing cut [102] on S & E sides	SE
15-16	Detail of side slab (105) removed	
17-18	Detail of end slab (106) removed	
19-20	Detail of side slab (107) removed	
21-22	Cut of Cist 1 with stones removed	W
23-24	General site shot	N
25-26	Pre-excavation shot of Cist 2	E
27-28	Pre-excavation shot of Cist 2	N

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29-30	Excavation shot of Cist 2	E
31-32	Excavation shot of Cist 2	W
33-34	Excavation shot of Cist 2	E
35-36	Excavation shot of Cist 2	W
37-38	Skeletal remains exposed in Cist 2	N

### Film 3

Frame	Subject	From
1-2	Registration shot	
3-4	Skeletal remains in Cist 2	W
5-6	Skeletal remains in Cist 2	W
7-8	Skeletal remains in Cist 2	N
9-10	Post excavation of skeletal remains	
11-12	Detail of cap stone segments (113)	
13-14	Detail of side slab remains (116)	
15-16	Detail of stone (112)	
17-18	Cist 2 with some of stones removed	E
19-20	Cist 2 with some of stones removed	S
21-22	Cist 2 showing cut [119] on N side	W
23-24	General shot showing location of cists	S
25-26	Detail of stone slab (115)	
27-28	Shot of Cist 2 cut [119]	E
29-30	Shot of Cist 2 cut [119]	N
31-32	Post excavation shot of Cists 1&2	N
33-34	Post excavation shot of Cists 1&2	W

### APPENDIX 4: BULK SAMPLE REGISTER

Context	Quantity
109	2
120	1
103	2
102	2
110	1
111	2
121 south	1
121 middle	1
121 north	1

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## APPENDIX 5: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders
PROJECT TITLE:	Broomlands, Kelso
PROJECT CODE:	4077/29
PARISH:	Kelso
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Donald Wilson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Excavation
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Short cists
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Human skeletal & cremation remains
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 7389 3486
START DATE (this season)	18 <sup>th</sup> July 2007
END DATE (this season)	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2007
PREVIOUS WORK	N/A
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	AOC Archaeology Group undertook an archaeological excavation under the terms of the Historic Scotland Human Remains Call-off Contract at Broomlands, Kelso. The work was carried out after the builders had revealed a previously unknown burial during ground breaking works. They reported this to the local police who subsequently requested assistance from Mr. Rory McDonald Archaeological Officer for Scottish Borders Council. Inspection of the site revealed a short cist that had been partially disturbed by the workmen with the cremated skeletal remains having being removed by the attending police officer. Further excavation of the cist recovered a cannel coal pendant along with further bone fragments. Additional ground breaking works immediately to the north revealed a second short cist. This second cist was in poor condition but on excavation was found to contain the remains of an inhumation.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Post-excavation analyses and publication
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Historic Scotland
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Admin@aocscot.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited in NMRS.