



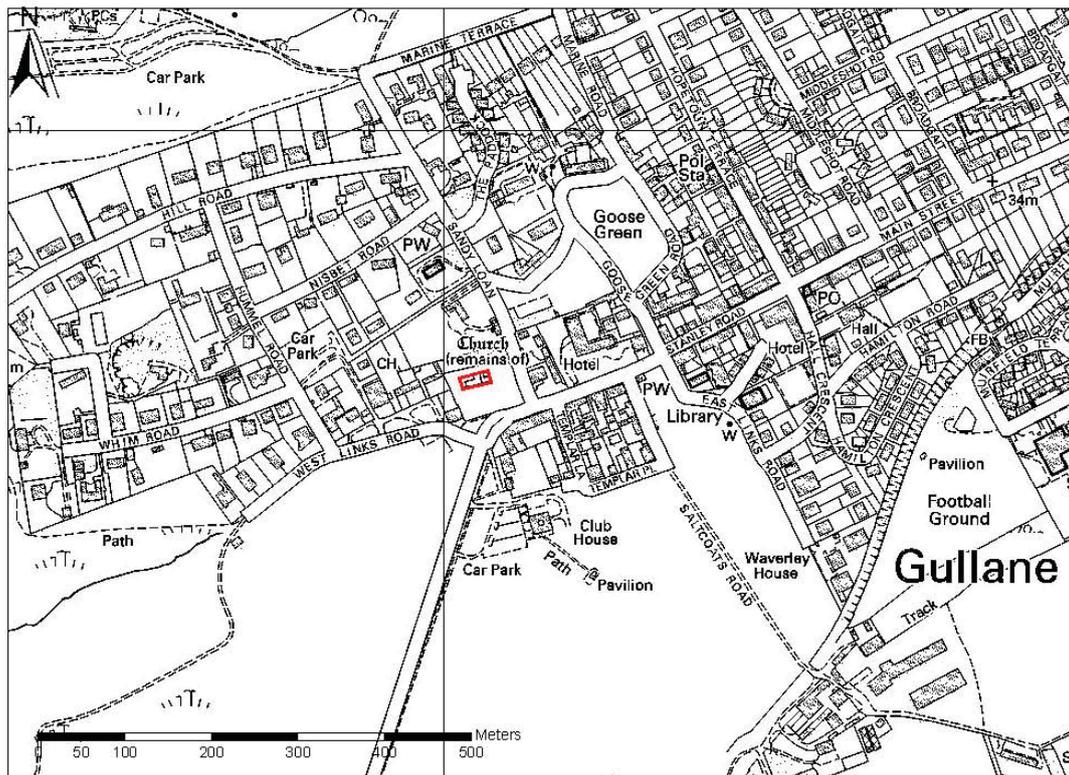
**St Andrew's Kirk, Gullane, SM 757: Archaeological
Investigation Report (Clean and record)**

East Lothian Council Archaeology Service
25th March 2014

St Andrew's Kirk, Gullane, SM 757: Archaeological Investigation Report (Clean and record)

Summary

In March 2014 East Lothian Council Archaeology Service undertook an archaeological investigation (clean and record) at St Andrew's Kirk, Gullane (Illus 1). In December 2013 the East Lothian Council Amenity Services constructed a new free standing pedestrian access into the church; the archaeological works were undertaken as part of the Scheduled Monument Consent for the works. An area 1.9m (N-S) by 1.4m had been excavated in front of the doorway to a maximum depth of 0.38m. Gravel and some of the excavated topsoil had been deposited into the trench to form the bedding for the steps. The archaeological investigation removed the re-deposited topsoil and gravel in order to record the stratigraphy exposed in the excavation of the trench. This revealed topsoil of dark brown sandy silt up to 0.28m deep over light brown silty sand subsoil. The subsoil was only exposed at the north end of the trench, the lower step. Both the topsoil and subsoil contained small fragments of bone and small stones. A number of disarticulated human bones were recovered from the re-deposited topsoil and were reburied. No archaeological deposits had been disturbed by the works.



Illus 1: Site location (Scheduled Area in red)

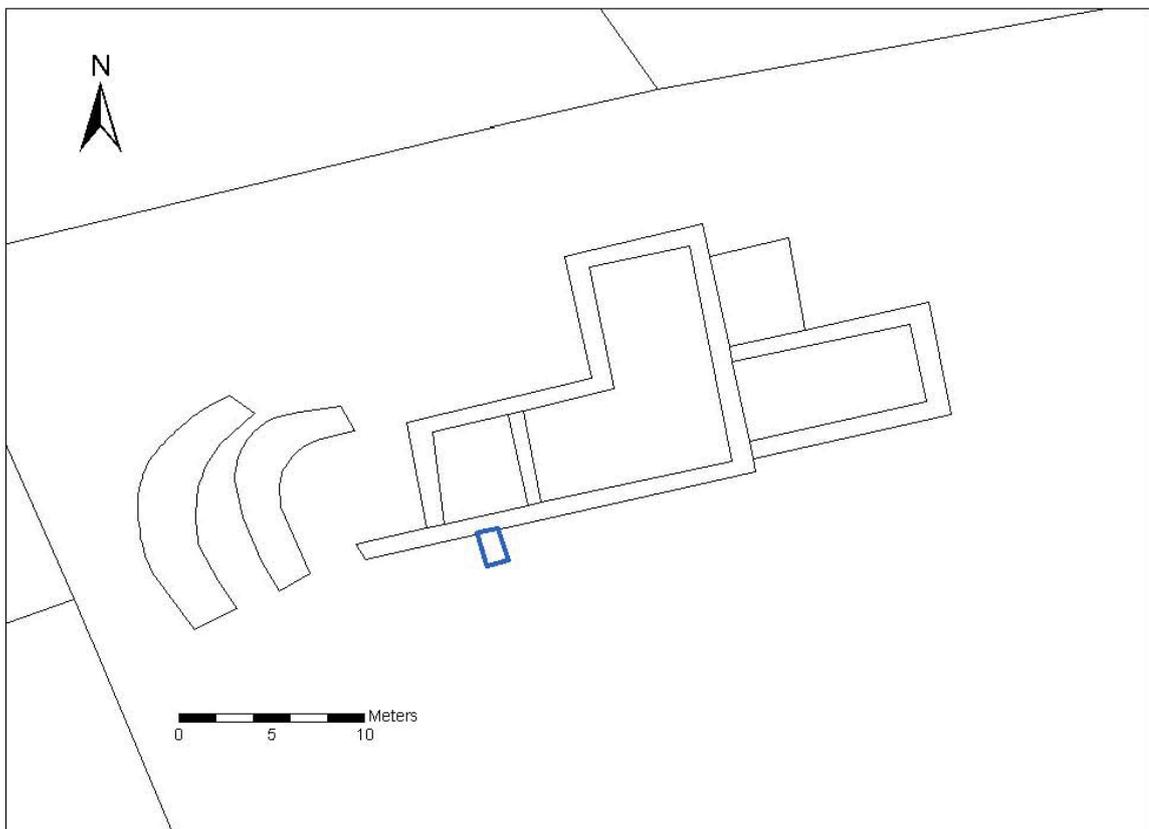
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1 Background

A free-standing pedestrian access down into the entrance at the western end of the church on the south side (Illus 2 & 3; NT48029 82700) was created in December 2013. This is intended to provide a safe way to get to the entrance, and improve access to the interior of the church. This report summarises the archaeological works undertaken as part of the Scheduled Monument Consent application submitted by East Lothian Council Amenity Services for the works.

St Andrew's Kirk was originally built in the 12th century, and was altered and built onto over the next 300 years. It was abandoned in the 17th century, and is now a Scheduled Monument (SM 757).

The archaeological works were undertaken on 17th March 2014 by East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS).



Illus 2: Trench location (outlined in blue) 1:250

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Illus 3: Location of new pedestrian access steps, in front of door

2 Objectives

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (clean and record) of the area where ground-breaking works were undertaken during the creation of the pedestrian access.
- To identify and record any remains of archaeological significance which may have been affected by the development.

3 Method

3.1 General

Work followed the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards, and to the standard conditions of ELCAS for fieldwork.

3.2 Archaeological Investigation – Clean and record

The free-standing pedestrian access to the church was removed to allow the archaeologist access to the area where ground-disturbance took place (Illus 4). The area was cleaned by hand to reveal the undisturbed soil surface and the vertical sections were straightened and cleaned to expose the stratigraphy.

All information identified in the course of the site works was recorded stratigraphically. Archaeological remains were recorded on pro forma context sheets. A pictorial record was made (plans, sections and digital colour photographs) with site drawings made at 1:10 (section) and 1:20 (plan).



Illus 4: The trench after removal of free-standing wooden steps

4 Results

The area excavated for the steps measured 1.9m (N-S) by 1.4m (E-W). The free standing steps and underlying plastic membrane were removed to reveal a layer of compacted topsoil [003]. On cleaning it was discovered that this material was re-deposited; it varied in thickness between 0.01 – 0.03m. It overlay a spread of pinkish gravel [004], up to 0.04m thick. This material had been laid following the excavation of the area to form the access and was confined to the area of the trench; it was subsequently covered with the excavated topsoil to the formation level for the steps.

The re-deposited topsoil and pink gravel were removed by hand and the trench was then cleaned and recorded (Illus 5). The area beneath the top step was up to 0.28m in depth and exposed the topsoil [001] comprising dark brown sandy silt with occasional small stones and bone fragments. The lower step was a maximum 0.38m in depth and exposed up to 0.10m of the underlying subsoil [002], comprising light brown silty sand with occasional gravel, shell and small bone fragments. No archaeological features were exposed within the trench.

Several fragments of disarticulated human bone were recovered from the re-deposited topsoil (Illus 6); these were reburied within the trench. A fragment of tile, two fragments of 19th century pottery and a small horseshoe were also recovered but not retained.



Illus 5: West-facing section of trench, showing topsoil [001] beneath top step and subsoil [002] beneath bottom step



Illus 6: Disarticulated bone recovered from topsoil

5 Conclusion

The archaeological investigation revealed that no archaeological features or deposits were disturbed as part of the works; the disarticulated bone recovered from the topsoil would not be unexpected within a graveyard soil. Following the investigation the free standing wooden steps were placed back into position and the soil carefully compacted. Grass seed was applied to the bare areas of soil to allow the soil to bond and prevent future weather or pedestrian traffic related erosion of the surface.

Site Registers: Context Register

Context no.	Description	Depth
001	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional small stones and bone fragments.	0.28m
002	Light brown silty sand with occasional gravel, shell and small bone fragments. Exposed at N end of the trench, not excavated.	0.10m
003	Re-deposited topsoil.	0.03m
004	Gravel deposit.	0.04m

Site Registers: Photo Register

Photo no.	Direction facing	Description
1	N	Trench after removal of steps
2	E	West facing section
3	N	Trench after removal of backfill
4	S	North facing section
5	S	Trench from inside church
6	S	Close up of lower part of trench
7	W	East facing section
8		Disarticulated bone recovered
9		Finds recovered