



Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services

**Kirk Wynd Cemetery Wall
(Langholm Old Parish Church and Burial Ground),
Dumfriesshire:
Archaeological Monitoring Works**



**by Claire Shaw
13th July 2017**

**1780 Great Western Road
Anniesland
Glasgow
G13 2TL**

**Tel: 0141 959 3168
Mob: 077861 35432
Email: rebeccashaw@archaeologist.com
Website: www.rebeccashawarchaeologicalservices.co.uk**

Contents

1 Introduction	2
2 Background	2
3 Project Works	4
4 Results	4
5 Conclusion	4
References	8
Appendix 1 - Record Summaries	9
Appendix 2 - Discovery & Excavation in Scotland	10
Contact Details	11

Figures

Fig. 1	Site location	2
Fig. 2	Map showing detail of wall that was dismantled	3
Fig. 3a	Roys Military Survey Map of Scotland (1747-55)	6
Fig. 3b	1 st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1859)	6
Fig. 3c	2 nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1:2500 (1899)	6
Fig. 4a	Image showing partial collapse of wall prior to works	7
Fig. 4b	Broken headstone	7
Fig. 4c	General image after partial demolition	7

1 Introduction

This report presents the findings of archaeological monitoring works required by DG Design on behalf of Dumfries & Galloway Council in respect of proposed works to a section of the Kirk Wynd Cemetery Wall, which forms the SE wall of the cemetery at Langholm Old Parish Church and Burial Ground, Langholm, Dumfriesshire (NY 36515 84623) (Figure 1). The proposed works comprise: repairs to the Kirk Wynn Cemetery Wall (which has become unsafe) consisting of the dismantling and rebuilding of a 30m section of south east walling (application no. 17/0928/LBC) (Figure 2).



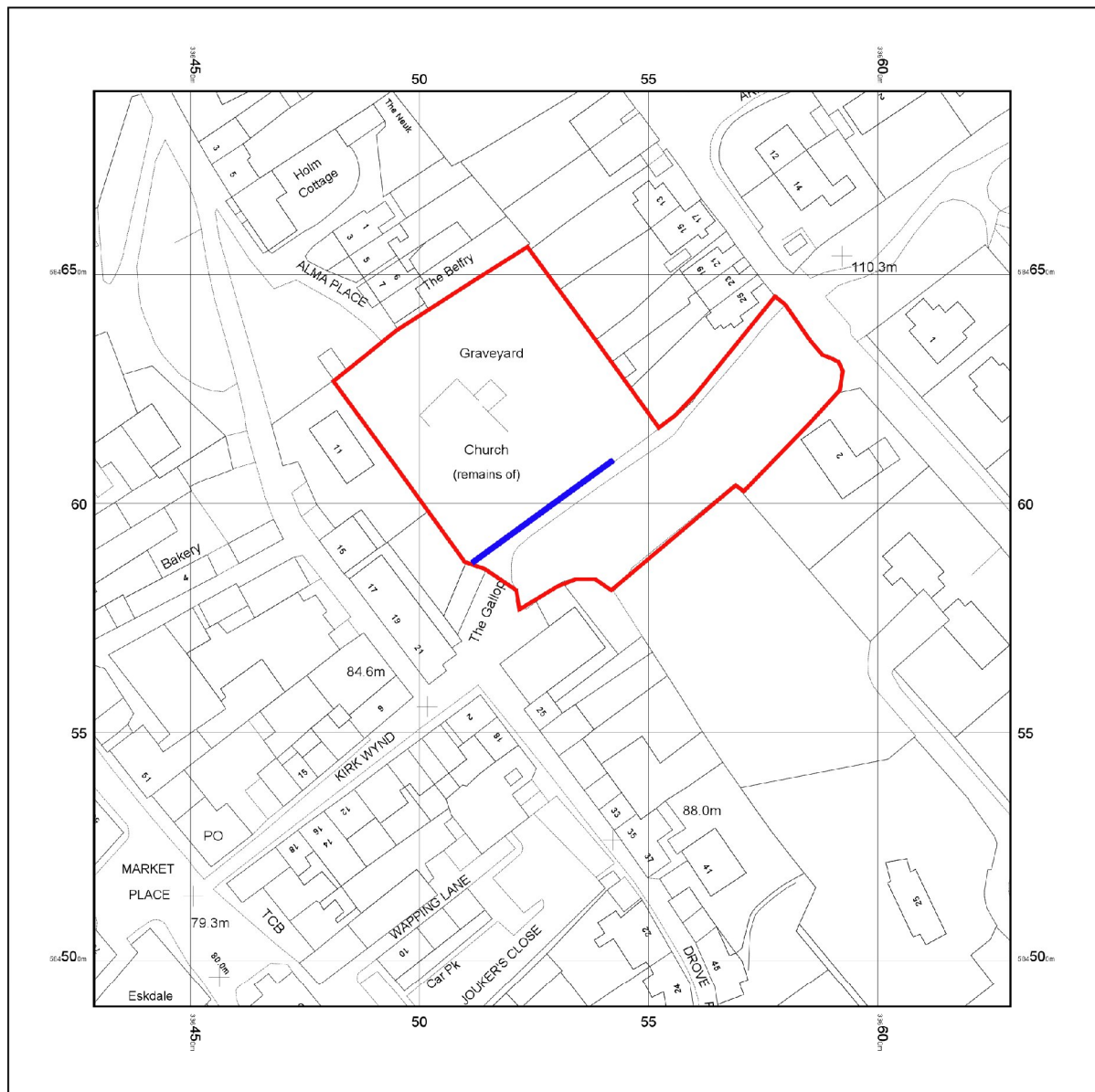
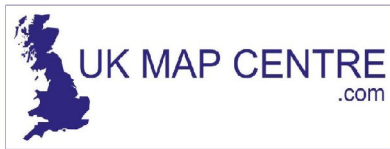
Figure 1 – location plan (kindly provided by Dumfries & Galloway Council)

Langholm Old Churchyard, is category C listed (HES no. LB37136) and comprises a steeply sloping, roughly square area with a lime mortar rubble wall enclosing mainly 18th and 19th C headstones (Figures 4a and 4c). Within the graveyard there are the ruined fragments of the early 18th century church, with the gateway on north western wall.

The proposed works involved the partial demolition of the unsafe section of the cemetery wall that defines the south eastern extent of the graveyard. The specifics required a 30m section of the wall to be reduced to ground level with new foundations to be excavated and the wall to be rebuilt with traditional lime mortar. The original works will required a strip of between 0.3m and 0.5m to be excavated back from the interior face of the wall in order to allow for the rebuild. As the ground within the graveyard is higher than the Kirk Wynd (between 0.8m – 1.2m in height), mostly due to inhumations within the graveyard, there was potential to locate archaeological remains (specifically human remains) during the down taking works. In addition, within close proximity to the wall there were five headstones that required to be temporarily removed as a means of keeping them safe during construction work.

Dumfries & Galloway Council therefore asked for archaeological monitoring works to be undertaken as a condition of the issued planning consent. Dumfries & Galloway Council Archaeology Service have provided guidance on the nature of the archaeological works required. The works were also obligatory to comply with requirements and best practice outlined in OPP5 (Historic Environment Scotland Operational Policy Paper 5).

Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services was appointed to act with regard to the by DG Design on behalf of Dumfries & Galloway Council. Dumfries & Galloway Council Archaeology Service provided guidance on the nature of the archaeological works required.



© Crown copyright and database rights 2017 Ordnance Survey 100048957. The representation of road, track or path is no evidence of a boundary or right of way. The representation of features as lines is no evidence of a property boundary.

Supplied by: www.ukmapcentre.com
 Serial No: 116382
 Centre Coordinates: 336529, 584590
 Production Date: 29/05/2017 08:45:24

Figure 2 – detail of location map
 (section of wall that was dismantled and rebuilt is depicted in blue)

2 Historical Background

Langholm was erected into a parish in 1703 when the first parish church was built, known as *'the kirk up the wynd'*. The church was subsequently rebuilt (on the same site) in 1747 and 1779. The church is marked on Roy Military map (1752-55) (Figure 3a) where it is noted as 'kirk' and depicted as a church located within a square enclosure.

The Statistical Account of Scotland (Vol. XIII) noted the 1779 Church (of which the ruins can be seen within the graveyard) is located to the east of the town on the side of a hill. The location of the church meant that during the winter access could be difficult and by all

accounts the church was basic, with bare soil as the floor and weeds growing inside. The church, which could accommodate 800 people, became disused in 1846 when the present church was built.

3 Project Works

The archaeological monitoring works were undertaken from the 12th to 21st June 2017. The works were agreed with the Dumfries & Galloway Archaeology Service through a Written Scheme of Investigation (Shaw, 2017).

All works complied with the Chartered Institute For Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct, and Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statements.

4 Results

In recent years it had been noted that the wall in question had been showing signs of movement and deterioration. Not only was it bowing slightly but there had also been a partial collapse on its interior façade making it structurally unsafe.

Prior to the demolition of the wall, a total of five headstones were located either adjacent to, or in close proximity to the section of the wall which was to be demolished. Due to the substantial size of each headstone, a scaffold tower was erected with a winch and pulley system as a means of carefully lifting and moving each stone. In addition great care was taken to protect each headstone from damage from the strapping during the lifting procedure. This was done by wrapping each headstone with some padded material. Assessment was made of each stone in regards to its strength as a means of deciding if the headstone was strong enough to be laid flat or if it required to be stored vertically during the construction works. Out of the five stones, only one was deemed too weak to be laid down and appropriate posts were erected to support it. During the removal of the fourth headstone in the sequence (family name Scott) there was a structural incident with the erected scaffold tower and the headstone in question was accidentally broken. The two fragments of the headstone were inspected (Figure 4b) and all small chips from the stone were collected to assist with the repair of this headstone.

Once the headstones were moved a safe distance from the work area, the main work in dismantling the wall was undertaken. The cope stones were removed and laid on the grass within the graveyard reflecting their position on the wall (for reinstatement purposes). The wall was dismantled by hand using hammer and chisel. During the dismantling of the wall fairly modern repairs were observed - as concrete had been used as opposed to lime mortar, which the majority of the wall had been built with.

During a site visit from Dumfries and Galloway Council clerk of works, it was concluded that the current wall foundations were solid enough to build on and there was no need to grub out the existing foundations and excavate the soil behind the wall to accommodate new foundations.

Once the wall (101) was dismantled (Figure 4c) the soil behind the wall was straightened up and in doing so it could be seen that this soil was disturbed ground containing bottles, rubbish, plastic and fragments of modern pottery (102). Within deposit [102] a single human bone was recovered, which was subsequently re-buried in the same location.

5 Conclusion

A programme of archaeological monitoring works was undertaken at Kirk Wynd Cemetery Wall, which forms the SE wall of the cemetery at Langholm Old Parish Church and Burial Ground in Langholm, Dumfriesshire. The works comprised monitoring the demolition of a 30m section of the cemetery wall, as well as the removal of five headstones, that were located adjacent to and incorporated into the wall.

The monitoring works revealed that the cemetery wall had been subject to previous fairly

modern repairs, indicated by cement within some areas of the wall, which made these areas difficult to demolish by hand. The soil located immediately behind the wall had clearly been disturbed as during the removal of the headstones and demolition of the wall, it was found to contain fragments of modern pottery, glass bottles and plastic. This indicates that the wall had more than likely been subject to previous significant repair.



Figure 3a – Roys Military Survey Map of Scotland © National Map Library of Scotland



Figure 3b – 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1859) (1:2500) © Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group – not to be reproduced without permission - 388544381

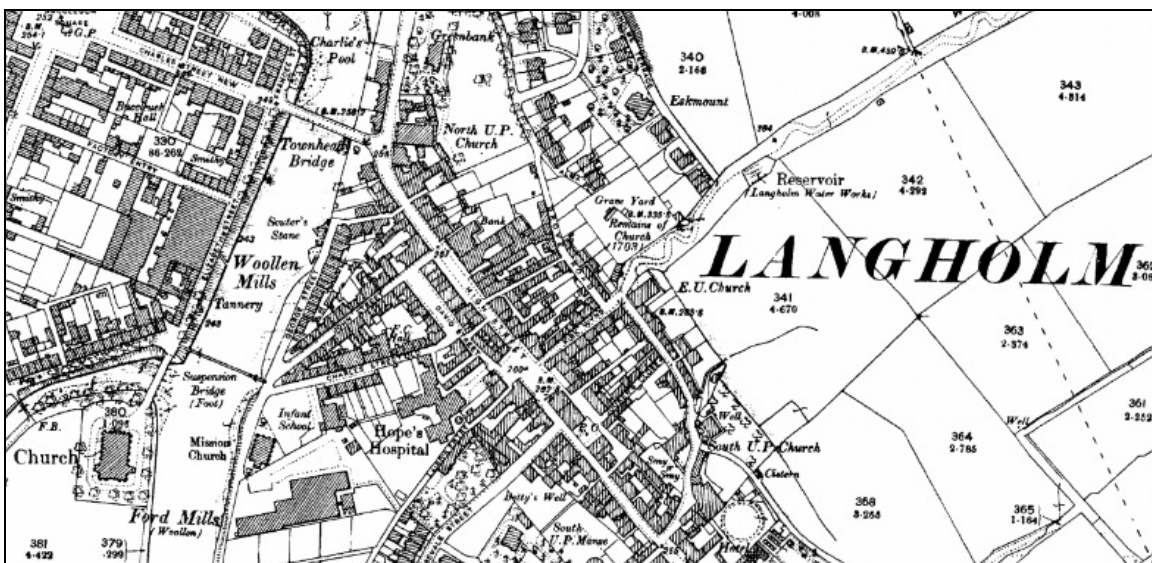


Figure 3c – 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1899) (1:2500) © Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group – not to be reproduced without permission - 388544381



Figure 4a – image showing the partial collapse of the wall prior to dismantling works



Figure 4b – broken headstone (family name Scott)



Figure 4c - general image after partial demolition of the wall, leaving the existing foundations

References

Cartographic

Roy	1747-55	Military Survey Map of Scotland
Ordnance Survey	1859	1 st Edition Ordnance Survey Map, Dumfriesshire (1:2500)
Ordnance Survey	1899	2 nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map, Dumfriesshire (1:2500)

Documentary

OSA	1794	'The Statistical Account of Scotland, Langholm Dumfries, Vol XIII
-----	------	---

Appendix 1: Record Summaries

Photographic Record

No.	Disc No.	B&W Digital No.	Colour Digital No.	Description	From	Date
1	1	1	1	General photograph of the site, prior to commencement of works.	SW	13/06/17
2	1	2	2	General photograph of the site from within the graveyard, showing partial collapse of wall.	SW	13/06/17
3	1	3	3	General photograph of the site from within the graveyard.	E	13/06/17
4	1	4	4	Detailed photograph of wall from the public footpath.	NE	13/06/17
5	1	5	5	Photograph showing the depth of the base of the gravestone (Family name Cowan) prior to removal.	SE	13/06/17
6	1	6	6	Detail photograph of the (Cowan) headstone, once removed from its location.	SE	13/06/17
7	1	7	7	General working shot, preparing the second headstone for removal.	N	14/06/17
8	1	8	8	Detail photograph of second gravestone (family name unclear) once removed from its location.	E	14/06/17
9	1	9	9	General working photograph.	NE	14/06/17
10	1	10	10	Working photograph of the preparation for removal of the fourth headstone (family name Scott)	NE	14/06/17
11	1	11	11	Detail photograph of the third gravestone to be removed (family name unclear)	SE	15/06/17
12	1	12	12	Detail of broken top section of the Scott gravestone.	SE	15/06/17
13	1	13	13	Detail of the broken lower section of the Scott gravestone.	NW	15/06/17
14	1	14	14	Detail photograph of the fifth gravestone to be removed (family name unclear).	SE	16/06/17
15	1	15	15	General working photograph	SE	19/06/17
16	1	16	16	General working photograph	NE	20/06/17
17	1	17	17	General working photograph	SW	20/06/17

Data Structure Report - Langholm Old Parish Church and Burial Ground

18	1	18	18	Detail photograph of animal bone.	SE	20/06/17
19	1	19	19	General photograph of finished section of wall, removed down to foundation height.	SW	21/06/17
20	1	20	20	General photograph of finished section of wall, removed down to foundation height.	SW	21/06/17

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries & Galloway Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Kirk Wynd Cemetery Wall, Langholm Old Parish Church
PARISH:	Langholm
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Claire Shaw
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NY38SE 4
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Category C Listed graveyard
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NY 36515 84623
START DATE (this season)	12/06/17
END DATE (this season)	21/06/17
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
DESCRIPTION:	<p>A programme of archaeological monitoring works was undertaken at Kirk Wynd Cemetery Wall, which forms the SE wall of the cemetery at Langholm Old Parish Church and Burial Ground in Langholm, Dumfriesshire.</p> <p>The works comprised monitoring the demolition of a 30m section of the cemetery wall, as well as the removal of five headstones, that were located adjacent to and incorporated into the wall.</p> <p>The monitoring works revealed that the cemetery wall had been subject to previous fairly modern repairs, indicated by cement within some areas of the wall, which made these areas difficult to demolish by hand. The soil located immediately behind the wall had clearly been disturbed as during the removal of the headstones and demolition of the wall, it was found to contain fragments of modern pottery, glass bottles and plastic. This indicates that the wall had more than likely been subject to previous significant repair.</p>
PROJECT CODE:	017005
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Dumfries & Galloway Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	1780 Great Western Road Anniesland Glasgow G13 2TL
E MAIL:	rebeccashaw@archaeologist.com

ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	Report to Dumfries & Galloway Archaeology Service and archive to Historic Environment Scotland Archives.
---------------------------------------	--

Contact Details

Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services (main office)

1780 Great Western Road
Anniesland
Glasgow
G13 2TL

tel: 0141 959 3168
mob: 07786 135432
email: rebeccashaw@archaeologist.com
website: www.rebeccashawarchaeologicalservices.co.uk

Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services (sub office)

Kirriereoch
Bargrennan
Newton Stewart
Wigtownshire
DG8 6TB

mob: 07786 135432
email: rebeccashaw@archaeologist.com