

**Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief
Kildrummy Church, Kildrummy
Aberdeenshire, AB33 8QU
Cameron Archaeology CA322-2017**



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06-11-2017**

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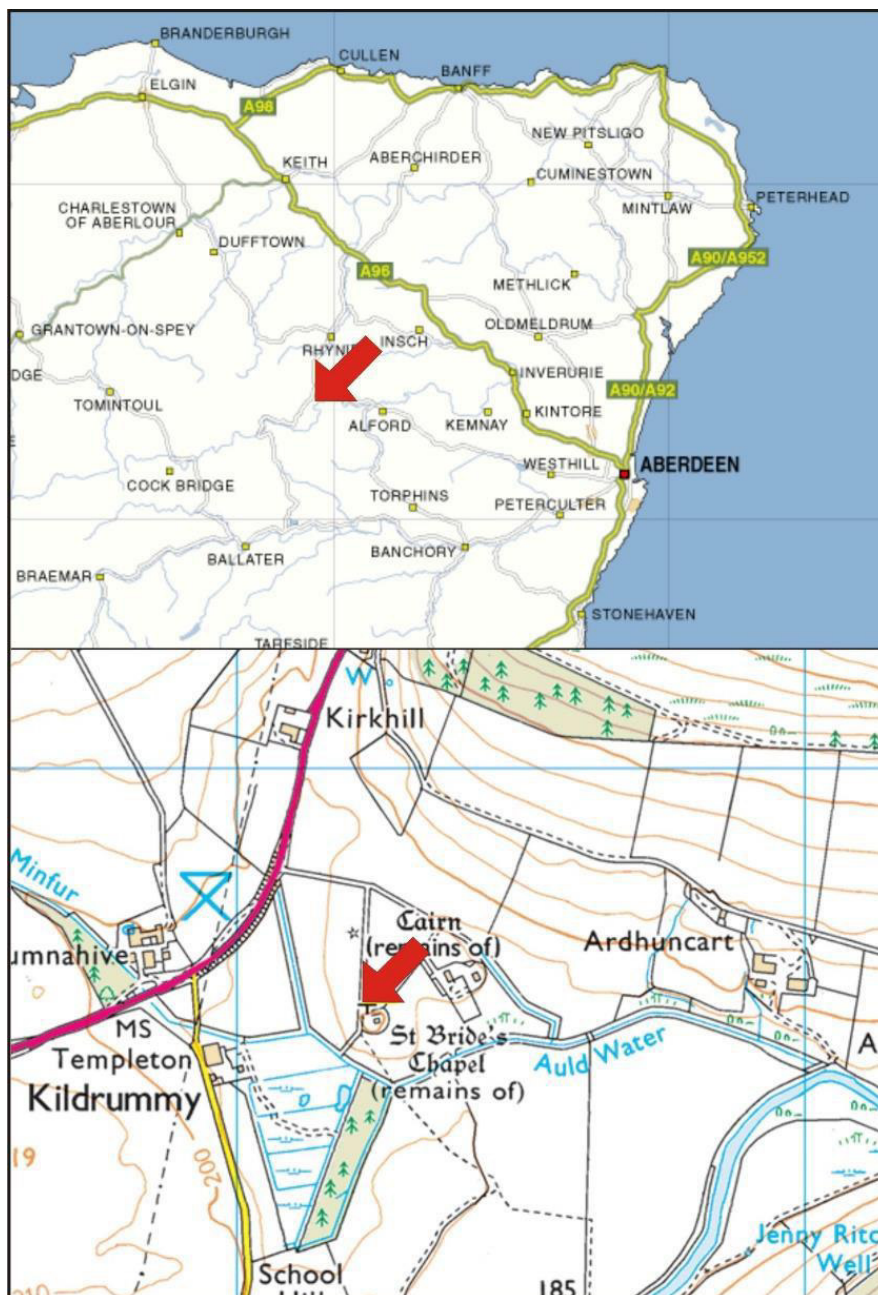
Cover: Trenching underway beside Kildrummy Church.

Summary

On October 26th, 27th and November 3rd, 2017 a watching brief took place at Kildrummy Church, AB33 8QU during trenching for a new drain installation. Despite the close proximity of the trenching to the adjacent graveyard (see cover photo), no finds or features were noted. It is therefore recommended that no other archaeological work is required during the current planning application.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located on the east side of Kildrummy north of St Bride's Church. It is centred on NGR NJ 47221 17585, at 190-200m OD in the parish of Kildrummy.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Ian Fraser, LDN Architects on behalf of The Scottish Redundant Churches Trust. An Aberdeenshire Council planning application APP/2016/3091 for repairs to roof and belcote and relocation of downpipe and installation of underground drainage system was approved on 9 January 2017 and there is a requirement for a watching brief during any ground disturbance.
- 1.3 All the archaeological work was carried out in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) Planning Advice Note (PAN 2/2011) and Historic Environment Scotland's Policy Statement (HESPS) which state that archaeological remains should be regarded as part of the environment to be protected and managed.



Illus 1 Location of Kildrummy Church (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There is one Scheduled Monument within 1km of the proposed development. St Bride's Chapel (Kildrummy Old Parish Church HER NJ41NE0003) is immediately south of the Kildrummy Church and consists of the remains of the parish church of Kildrummy and its burial ground, which is situated on top of a glacial mound within Strathdon. The church was dedicated to St Bride and appears to have been established as a parish church before 1300. The mound on which the church stands may have been the site of a motte and bailey castle (the precursor of Kildrummy Castle) before it became an ecclesiastical site. Much of the church was demolished in 1805 to build the present church, immediately to the NNE. All that remains of St Bride's is the N wall and the later S aisle which served as a burial aisle for the Elphinstone family. The N wall is about 16m long, 3m high and 1m thick. In the centre of the wall there is a medieval tomb recess, with a pointed arch, containing a fine effigy slab in low relief. An inscription on the side of the edge of the slab reads: HIC IACET ALXDAR DE FORBES QUONDAM DE BURCHIS ET MARIOTA ? The inscription refers to Alexander Forbes or the 4th Laird of Brux, who died in the 1560s, and his wife Marjory Forbes. The tomb may have served as an Easter Sepulchre, although its westerly location seems to suggest otherwise. An 18th-century tombstone stands within the recess. A fine 17th-century tombstone, surrounded by a carved stone frame or architrave, is built into the wall W of the recess. All the openings in the wall have been blocked. One opening is located just W of the tomb recess, and the remains of a much-altered splayed window opening lies to the W of that. Just below this window is a socket hole. The wall has a modern coping and has been heavily covered with cement mortar. The tomb recess is protected by a derelict timber and asbestos shelter. The S or Elphinstone Aisle is believed to have been built in 1605 as a burial aisle for the Elphinstone family, although it is possible that an early chantry aisle was simply converted to this use. It was restored in 1862 and is still roofed. The S elevation contains the present entrance to the aisle, although this must be a later slapping through. The S elevation has a crow-stepped gable, while the N gable has flat skews. The west wall has a blocked-up doorway into which has been inserted a 17th-century grave slab. In the interior of the aisle, a finely carved early modern memorial (a triple effigy) is fixed to the N wall (Shepherd 1986, 102; Laing 1828, 473; Simpson 1943, 144; Scott (Fasti Eccles Scot) 1943, 132). The Kirk is on a natural mound which does not appear to have been used as a motte (NJ41NE 38; Yeoman 1988, 131). There is a flint flake (ABDUA: 14186) from the churchyard of Kildrummy Church in Marischal Museum, Aberdeen (NJ41NE 151).
- 2.2 Kildrummy Church (HER NJ41NE0130) is the parish church, built in 1805, replacing the Reformation church on the mound to the S (NJ41NE0003). It is an unusual, bow-fronted rectangular (almost square) church with a large round stair tower attached to the north. It was built using large, roughly squared granite rubble with smaller packing stones; both the steeply-pitched pyramidal (piended) roof and stair tower are slated. On the N end of the round, central stair tower is a tall ashlar-built bellcote with an external bell pull and a carved ball finial. The east and west sides of the tower have a small rectangular door and a rectangular sash and case window above. The square body of the church has two very large pointed-arch windows symmetrically placed in the south wall. In the east and west walls are two small rectangular sash and case windows, which light the gallery and nave below. The interior of the church is arranged around the raised sanctuary against the south wall, with its pulpit and communion table; nearby is a medieval font which came from the earlier church. The furniture of

the interior is not original, but is thought to date to the mid-19th century. There is a gallery on three sides, supported by square columns and accessed via the large stair tower. The stair tower vestibule area has two World War memorials. The original graveyard is on the adjacent mound with a later large extension to the north and east of the current church (Shepherd 1986, 102, Scott et al 1915-61, 132-4; SDD 1960; Hay 1957, 117, 170, 243).

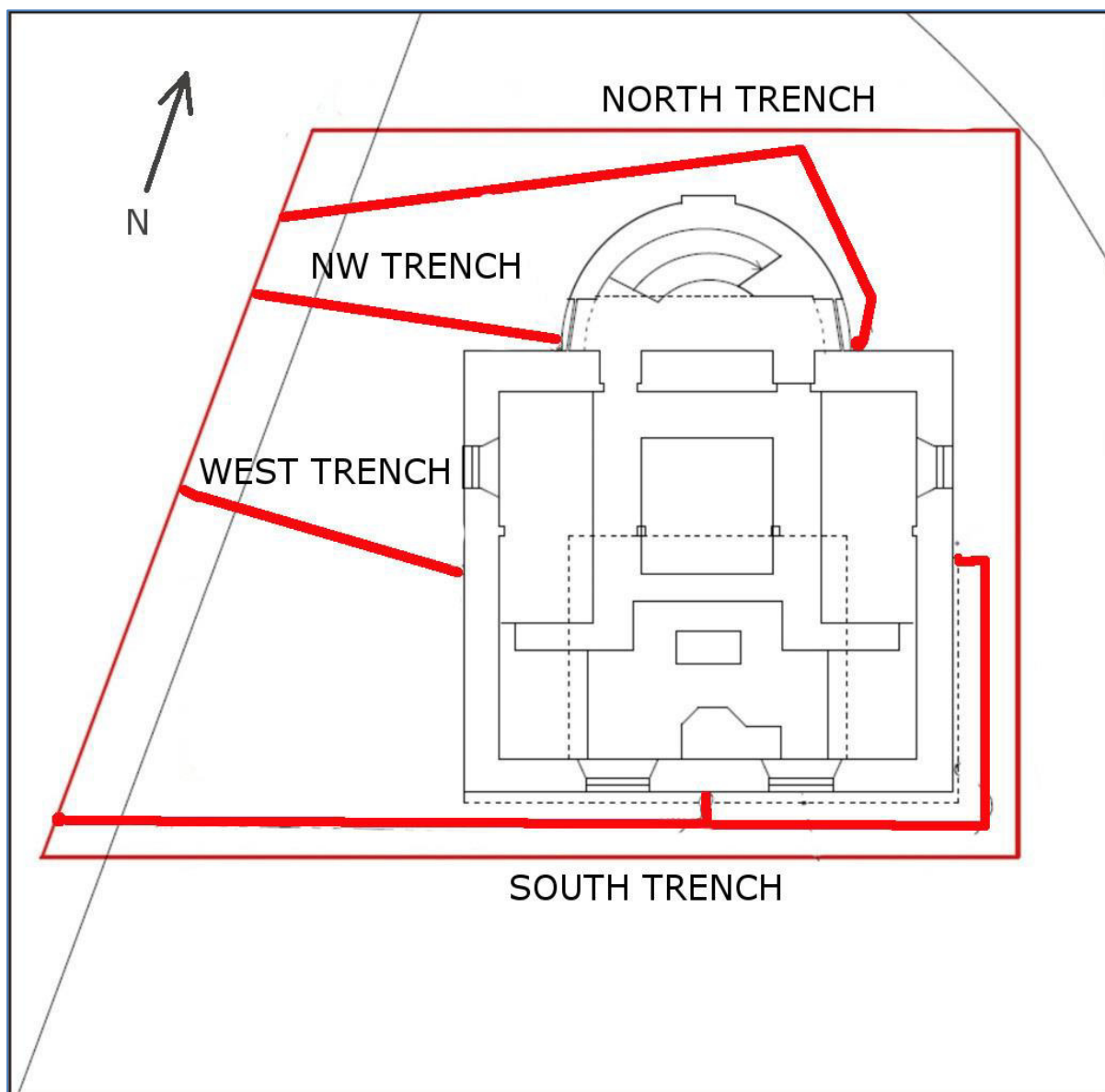
- 2.3 To the E of the chapel is Bear Lodge, Kildrummy Manse (NJ41NE 157). Bear Lodge dates to 1850; the architects were Thomas Mackenzie and James Matthews. It is the former manse of Kildrummy: imposing neo-Jacobean, two-storey-and-attic with twin Dutch gables. Large back wing of 1865 (Shepherd 2006, 77).
- 2.4 To the SW of the proposed development is St Bride's well (NJ41NE0024) the site of a well associated with St Bride's Chapel. Also at Temple Croft (NJ41NE0123) is a Chalybeate Well is marked on the 1867 1st edition OS map. It is not marked as such on the 1888 2nd edition, but a well is marked in the same area.
- 2.5 To the N of the site is a barrow or cairn (NJ41NE0043), complete but a dip in the top suggests that it has been disturbed. The grass- and tree-grown mound measures about 13m in diameter, but it has been heavily robbed and is best preserved on the NE, where it measures 1.2m in height (Shepherd 1991, 77; 2006, 77; 1994, 31).
- 2.6 Castle Hillock is the site of a souterrain (NJ41NE0026) which stood on a mound, as depicted on the OS 1st and 2nd edition which annotates this as 'Site of Erd House', which had been cleared away before 1867. Simpson believed site to be a possible motte, the 'Mons Castrie' in Medieval references. Ploughing in this area has revealed large 'building stones' and soft blackish earth which may have been the remains of a souterrain, but equally may have been part of a later building. OS (1968) noted that several medieval coins had been found on the mound, their location now unknown. The profile of the hillock has been smoothed by cultivation, and there is no evidence of artificial leveling, and no trace of a souterrain (Bogdan and Bryce 1991, 29; OSNB, 116; Simpson 1928, 41; Simpson 1929, 108; Simpson 1943, 134, 137, 144).
- 2.7 There are a number of souterrains visible as cropmarks in a field of cereal crop (NJ41NE0022). This could indicate the site of an unenclosed settlement of prehistoric date. There are also paleochannels and frost polygons visible. (Air photography: AAS/83/14/R3/15, AAS/83/14/R32/1-3, AAS/84/10-12/R24/13-15, flown 8 August 1984, and AAS/84/10-12/R23(2)/12-13.) Also the site of a souterrain at Stone Reive; It was cleared away before 1867. RCAHMS site visit 1997 recorded that nothing is now visible of this souterrain (OSNB 47, 116).
- 2.8 To the W is Kildrummy village (NJ41NE0036). In the 14th century between the motte and church of Kildrummy along the ridge was a village which was a burgh of Barony. It flourished until the 17th Century when it fell into decay and has now totally disappeared. Field names preserve its main features such as Boroughmuir, Milltown, Malt Croft, Tolbooth (Simpson 1928, 41; Simpson 1943, 137, 143; Bogdan and Bryce 1991, 29). Kildrummy tolbooth (NJ41NE0027) fell into disuse after the markets ceased and was demolished prior to the 1st edition OS map (Bogdan and Bryce 1991, 31). Kildrummy Mill (NJ41NE0020) 18th-19thC, 1-storey and attic rubble building with kiln at the end of 1 wing, with circular ventilator; wood and iron breast paddlewheel, 0.68m by 3.76m, survives but wooden launders dismantled (Shepherd 2006, 78; Hume 1977, 104).
- 2.9 There is documentary evidence for an establishment of the Knights Templar at Templeton and Temple Croft, Kildrummy, to the W of the church (NJ41NE 99). No sources are cited.

- 2.10 At Kildrummy a worked stone object (NJ41NE 28), a squarish piece of porphyry, measuring about 90mm across and with an indented hollow on each face, was found in Kildrummy parish and presented to the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland in 1871. Its accession number is NMS: AM6 (NMAS 1892, 53; PSAS 1873, 220). A saddle quern (NJ41NE 35) A granite saddle quern, 573mm x 375mm x 230mm, from Kildrummy is in the Anthropological Museum, University of Aberdeen (Reid 1912, 13, no 205). An imperfect granite mortar from Kildrummy, measuring 153mm x 165mm x 86mm, is in the Anthropological Museum, University of Aberdeen (Reid 1912, 13, no 199). At Ardhuncart (NJ41NE0006) Several flint arrowheads found, some heart-shaped. Also found at NJ4756 1774 and NJ4811 1785 (OSNB 47, 90, 92). A quern (NJ41NE 168) was found at Kirkhill; A broken quernstone found some years ago on Kirkhill Farm (NJ41NE 170) is in the possession of Mr Colin Christie, 2 Meikle Endovie Cottages, Alford, AB33 8EE. It is a top stone of hornfels measuring about 350mm in diameter by 80mm in thickness. Its central hopper tapers from a maximum 60mm in diameter at the top to 35mm at the bottom.
- 2.11 An area of rig (NJ41NE0072) which is revealed by an aerial photograph taken when snow was melting, is not visible from the ground.
- 2.12 Farmsteads in the area around the proposed development shown on the 1st and 2nd Edition OS maps include Templeton (NJ41NE0101), Drumnahive (NJ41NE0099 AND 124), Temple Croft (NJ41NE0122), Nether Tyries (NJ41NE0121), Ardhuncart (NJ41NE0105), Kildrummy School (NJ41NE 91) and Westside (NJ41NE0104). There is a cattle enclosure at Drumnahive (NJ41NE0042) built of stone, complete but overgrown. Westside bridge (NJ41NE 169) runs over the river Don.
- 2.13 There is the remains of a quarry at Ardhuncart Hill (NJ41NE0068). The grass- and tree-grown quarry, which measures at least 60m in diameter and is up to 25m in depth on the E, is situated at the foot of the W flank of Ardhuncart Hill. The entrance to the quarry is on the W and was linked to the public road by a track on the N. Within the NW part of the quarry there is a loading platform, defined by a W-facing, vertical drystone revetment measuring 19m in length from N to S and about 1m in height. The quarry is first depicted on the 2nd edition of the OS 6-inch map (Aberdeenshire, 1902, sheet li).
- 2.14 At Drumnahive there is the site of Kildrummy Royal Observer Corps post (NJ41NE0113) opened in April 1960 and closed October 1968. No trace remains.
- 2.15 Kurdrummie, Kindrummy, Kildrummie appears as a placename on early maps; by the 19th century the church is marked on maps and the 1st and 2nd Edition OS maps.

3 THE WATCHING BRIEF

On October 26th, 27th and November 3rd, 2017, a mini-excavator with a 0.4m wide bladed bucket was used to dig a series of three drainage trenches from the foundations of Kildrummy Church to the sloping ground beyond the fence line immediately bordering the west end of the site (Illus 2). The average trench depth measured 0.5 to 0.6m. The upper portions of the trench stratigraphy (c.0.15-0.20m) largely consisted of made ground and gravels, including areas of tarmac which were cut using a diamond-tipped circular saw.

The eastern area of trenching revealed a mid-brown sandy clay subsoil with moderate water-worn gravel inclusions, while the western portions of the trenches were predominately a 'pure' mid-brown clay free of gravels or inclusions. No finds or features were noted throughout the duration of the trenching.



Illus 2 Plan showing trench locations in red (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017).

4 CONCLUSIONS

It appears that during the early 19th century, levelling in preparation for the church foundations encroached well into the lower edge of the glacial mound immediately to the south. Although the adjacent cemetery which sits atop the glacial mound dates back to at least the 1560s, no archaeological finds (even modern ceramic sherds) or features were noted within the cable trench. Therefore, it is recommended that no other archaeological work is required during the current planning application.

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6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Ian Fraser, LDN Architects on behalf of The Scottish Redundant Churches Trust. for initiating this project and to Claire Herbert, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service for her advice during this work.

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOS

PHOTO ID	DIRECTION FACING	COMMENTS
DSC3939	NE	General site view from SW corner of church lot. Light scrape of surface gravels prior to trenching.
DSC3941	E	General site view from SW corner of church lot. Light scrape of surface gravels prior to trenching.
DSC3979	W	General site view from SW corner of church lot. Light scrape of surface gravels prior to trenching.
DSC3983	W	South trench underway, prior to rounding corner to N
DSC3987	N	South trench rounding north along W side of church

DSC3989	E	West wall trench connection complete
DSC3990	E	West wall trench connection complete
DSC3992	N	West wall trench connection complete, with view of trenching in progress
DSC3965	S	South wall trenching near field terminus
DSC3996	E	South wall trench complete
DSC3998	N	South wall trenching near field terminus
DSC3999	N	South wall trench – detail of stratigraphy with made course gravel surface overlying natural sandy-clays.
DSC4000	E	South wall trench complete
DSC4157	S	General site view prior to trenching along N façade.
DSC4161	N	Trenching starting along N of church. Note parallel blue paint mark in foreground was used for N trench rather than the track next to the machine in photo – remained unexcavated.
DSC4165	SW	NW corner of church – trenching in progress
DSC4168	E	Detail of trench section along NW corner of church
DSC4172	E	Detail of trench section along NW corner of church
DSC4173	W	North trench crossing modern drive heading towards field terminus to W
DSC4176	N	Detail of S facing section, North trench crossing modern drive
DSC4177	E	North trench crossing modern drive
DSC4181	N	NW trench completed
DSC4183	N	NW Trench completed, general view

APPENDIX 2: Archaeological and historical sites within 1km of the proposed site (HES and Aberdeenshire HER online)

Dataset	Dataset UID	Name	Classification
HERABER	NJ41NE0022	MILLTOWN OF KILDRUMMY	Souterrains
HERABER	NJ41NE0036	KILDRUMMY	Village
HERABER	NJ41NE0043	KILDRUMMY KIRK	Kirk
HERABER	NJ41NE0099	DRUMNAHIVE	Farmstead
HERABER	NJ41NE0101	TEMPLETON	Farmstead
HERABER	NJ41NE0104	WESTSIDE	Farmstead
HERABER	NJ41NE0105	ARDHUNCART	Farmstead
HERABER	NJ41NE0072	KILDRUMMY	Rig
HERABER	NJ41NE0068	ARDHUNCART HILL	Quarry
HERABER	NJ41NE0003	ST BRIDES CHAPEL	Chapel
HERABER	NJ41NE0121	NETHER TYRIES	Croft
HERABER	NJ41NE0122	TEMPLE CROFT	Well
HERABER	NJ41NE0124	DRUMNAHIVE	Cottage
HERABER	NJ41NE0006	ARDHUNCART	Cottage

HERABER	NJ41NE0013	KILDRUMMY	Arrowhead
HERABER	NJ41NE0017	KILDRUMMY	Stone
HERABER	NJ41NE0024	ST BRIDES WELL	Well
HERABER	NJ41NE0026	CASTLE HILLOCK	Motte, souterrain
HERABER	NJ41NE0027	KILDRUMMY	Tolbooth
HERABER	NJ41NE0033	GALLOWS HILLOCK	Gallows (site of)
HERABER	NJ41NE0035	STONE RIEVE	Souterrain
HERABER	NJ41NE0042	DRUMNAHIVE	Cattle enclosure
HERABER	NJ41NE0123	TEMPLE CROFT	Bridge
HERABER	NJ41NE0069	KILDRUMMY	Quern
HERABER	NJ41NE0065	KILDRUMMY	Mortar
HERABER	NJ41NE0066	KILDRUMMY	Cairn
HERABER	NJ41NE0113	DRUMNAHIVE	Farmstead
HERABER	NJ41NE0130	KILDRUMMY PARISH CHURCH	Church
RCAHMS	NJ 47500 17300	KILDRUMMY	Rig And Furrow (Medieval)
RCAHMS	NJ 47310 18320	ARDHUNCART HILL	Quarry (Period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	NJ 46840 17690	DRUMNAHIVE	Farmhouse (Period Unassigned), Farmstead (Period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	NJ 46959 17490	TEMPLETON	Farmhouse (Period Unassigned), Farmstead (Period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	NJ 47620 16720	WESTSIDE	Farmhouse (Period Unassigned), Farmstead (Period Unassigned). Westside Of Brux
RCAHMS	NJ 47920 17650	ARDHUNCART	Farmhouse (Period Unassigned), Farmstead (Period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	NJ 46600 16800	NETHER KILDRUMMY	Roundhouse(S) (Prehistoric), Souterrain(S) (Prehistoric). Milltown Of Kildrummy
RCAHMS	NJ 46900 17400	TEMPLETON, KILDRUMMY	House (Period Unassigned). Temple Croft
RCAHMS	NJ 46700 17700	DRUMNAHIVE	Cottage (Period Unassigned), Enclosure (Period Unassigned), Outbuilding (Period Unassigned). Kildrummy, Burn Of Minfur, Gallows Hillock
RCAHMS	NJ 46880 17910	DRUMNAHIVE	Farmstead (Period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	NJ 46490 17900	NETHER TYRIES	Cottage (Period Unassigned), Croft (Period Unassigned). Drumnahive, Burn Of Minfur
RCAHMS	NJ 47550 17860	ARDHUNCART	Cottage (Period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	NJ 47190 18380	KILDRUMMY SCHOOL	Farmstead (Period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	NJ 46620 17620	GALLOWS HILLOCK	Execution Site (Post Medieval), Human Remains (Period Unassigned). Drumnahive, Kildrummy
RCAHMS	NJ 47090 16910	CASTLE HILLOCK	Motte (Medieval)(Possible), Souterrain (Prehistoric), Coin(S) (Medieval). Kildrummy, Mons Castrie
RCAHMS	NJ 46640 17340	KILDRUMMY	Cropmark(S) (Period Unknown), Souterrain (Prehistoric). The Stone Rieve
RCAHMS	NJ 46990 16730	KILDRUMMY, TOLBOOTH	Tolbooth (Period Unassigned). Kildrummy Tolbooth

RCAHMS	NJ 47050 17200	KILDRUMMY	Burgh (Medieval)(Possible), Village (Medieval)
RCAHMS	NJ 47000 17000	KILDRUMMY	Worked Object (Stone). Kildummy Parish
RCAHMS	NJ 47245 17556	KILDRUMMY, ST BRIDE'S CHAPEL AND WELL	Burial Ground (Period Unassigned), Chapel (Period Unassigned), Church (Period Unassigned), Holy Well (Period Unassigned). Kildrummy Old Kirk, Kildrummy, Old Parish Church, Kildrummy Kirk, Kildrummy Church
RCAHMS	NJ 47000 17000	KILDRUMMY	Cairn (Period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	NJ 47000 17000	KILDRUMMY	Saddle Quern
RCAHMS	NJ 47000 17000	KILDRUMMY	Knocking Stone (Period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	NJ 47370 18060	ARDHUNCART	Arrowhead(S) (Flint)
RCAHMS	NJ 47240 17550	KILDRUMMY CHURCH	Flake (Flint)
RCAHMS	NJ 47386 17626	KILDRUMMY, BEAR LODGE	Manse (Period Unassigned). Manse Of Kildrummy
RCAHMS	NJ 47220 17580	KILDRUMMY PARISH CHURCH, CHURCHYARD	Churchyard (Period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	NJ 47100 18000	KIRKHILL	Quern
RCAHMS	NJ 47610 16980	WESTSIDE, BRIDGE	Bridge (Period Unassigned). River Don
RCAHMS	NJ 47090 18080	KIRKHILL	Farmhouse (Period Unassigned), Farmstead (Period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	NJ 47000 17000	KILDRUMMY	Burgh (Medieval)
RCAHMS	NJ 47210 17710	KILDRUMMY	Cairn (Period Unassigned). Kildrummy Kirk
RCAHMS	NJ 47227 17579	KILDRUMMY PARISH CHURCH	Church (Period Unassigned), Font (Period Unassigned), War Memorial (20th Century). Kildrummy Kirk, War Memorial Plaque
RCAHMS	NJ 47240 17560	KILDRUMMY	Natural Feature (Period Unknown). Kildrummy Churchyard, Kildrummy Kirkyard, St Bride's Chapel

APPENDIX 3 MAPS



Illus 3 Gordon's map of Scotland, north of Loch Linnhe and the River Dee and west of the River Deveron c 1636-52 showing 'Kindrummy'. (copyright National Library of Scotland).



Illus 4 Blaeu's map of Aberdeen and Banff 1654 showing 'Kurdrummie'. (copyright National Library of Scotland).



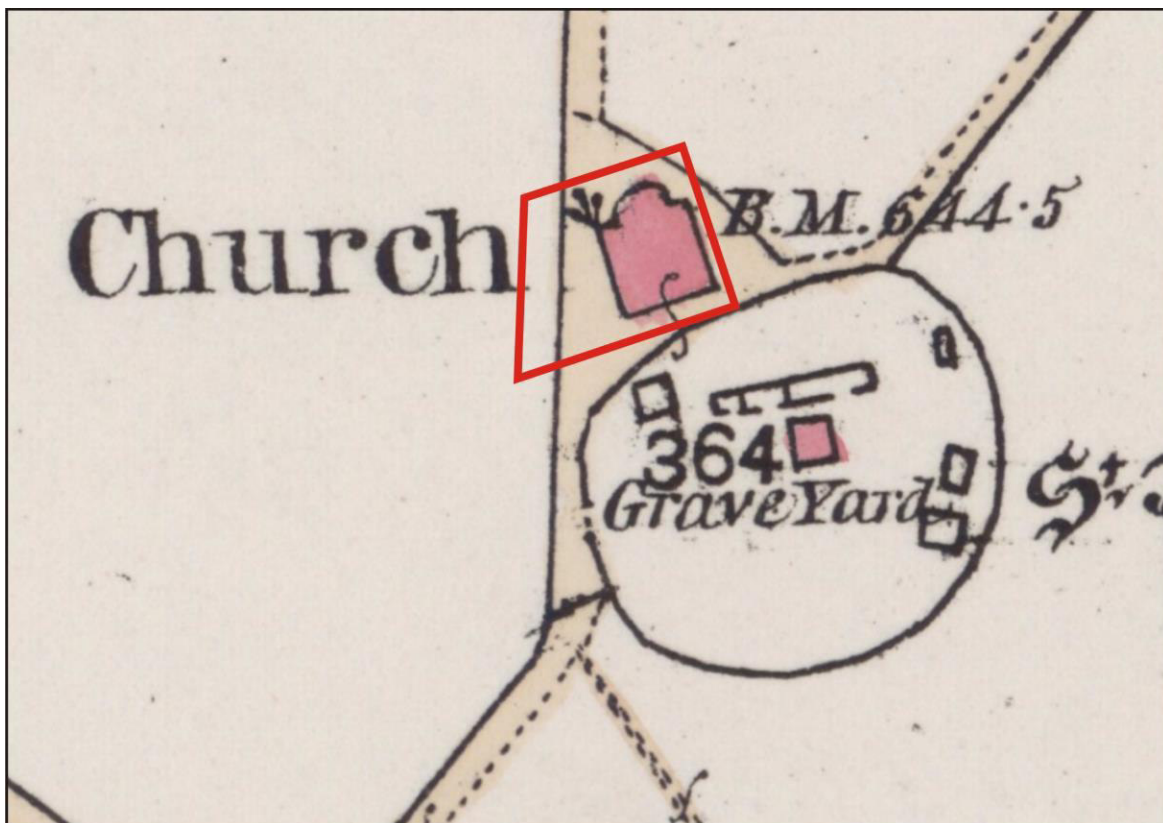
Illus 5 Moll's map of Banff 1745 showing 'Kildrummie' (copyright National Library of Scotland).



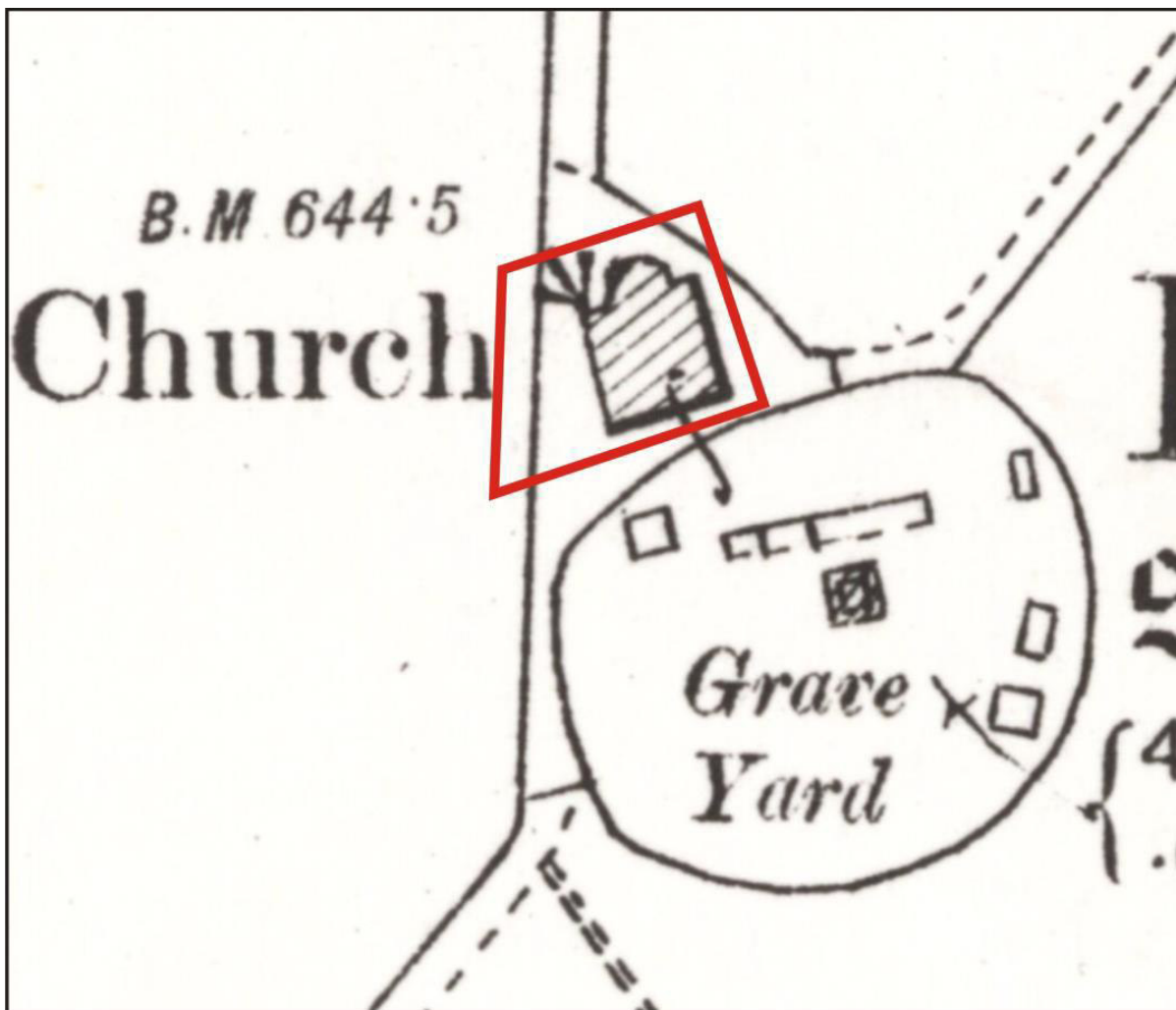
Illus 6 Robertson's 1822 map of Aberdeen, Banff and Kincardine with Kildrummy Church circled (copyright National Library of Scotland).



Illus 7 Thomson's map of Aberdeen and Banff shires, 1826 with Kildrummy Church circled (copyright National Library of Scotland).



Illus 8 First Edition OS map showing site outline in red (copyright National Library of Scotland) Aberdeen Sheet LI.16 (Kildrummy) Survey date: 1867 Publication date: 1870.



Illus 9 Second Edition OS map showing site outline in red (*copyright National Library of Scotland*) Aberdeenshire 051.16 (includes: Auchindoir and Kearn; Kildrummy) Publication date: 1902 Revised: 1900.



_DSC3939.jpg



_DSC3941.jpg



_DSC3979.jpg



_DSC3983.jpg



_DSC3987.jpg



_DSC3989.jpg



_DSC3990.jpg



_DSC3992.jpg



_DSC3995.jpg



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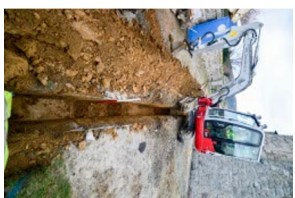
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